

THURSDAY, DEC. 23, 2021

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: Partly sunny.
Breezy, but not as cold.
Tonight: Clouds increase.

HIGH: 45 LOW: 40



Westfield students collect books, make blankets for foster children



Photo provided by Westfield Washington Schools

Maple Glen Elementary School first-grade teacher Christie Buonanno recently did a service project with her class. They have received donations of fleece to make blankets for foster children. A family also donated enough books to go along with each blanket. Foster children often come into a home with nothing besides the clothes on their backs. This time of year, many children find themselves unexpectedly entering the care of DCS. Since there aren't enough families to take them all in, they are forced to sleep in DCS offices. The hope is that these blankets and books can provide a little warmth and entertainment during a tough time in these kids' lives. See more photos at ReadTheReporter.com.

Noblesville, Heights youth programs get \$2,500 each

Tony Etchison Memorial Foundation continues mission of helping children

Submitted

The Tony Etchison Memorial Foundation announces its presentation of \$2,500 to both Hamilton Heights Youth Assistance and Noblesville Youth Assistance to carry out the foundation's mission in Tony's honor – *Love Everyone, Be Kind, and Make a Difference*.

These donations to youth assistance programs in Hamilton County are at the core of the mission to help children in local communities who need it most. Tony would often do many things for children he barely knew, but they needed help. He never once desired any recognition for it because it was the right thing to do. The foundation hopes it can continue to honor Tony in all that it does.

The foundation has been blessed by many private donations over the last two years, and hopefully 2022 will be bring additional opportunities to conduct even more fundraising events. The foundation is looking to host a golf outing in the summer of 2022 as well as other events. Stay tuned for more announcements and information from the Tony Etchison Memorial Foundation in the months to come.

If you would like to learn more about the foundation, its mission, etc. please go to etch21.org for more information. There is also a "Donate Here" button on the home page, along with specific instructions of how to designate your donation to the Tony Etchison Memorial Foundation. Please join in the foundation's mission to help youth.

Shepherd Center, local leaders serve the community in Carmel, Westfield

By DENISE MOE
ReadTheReporter.com

Last Saturday, more than 200 baskets of cleaning supplies and personal care items were delivered to seniors in need throughout the county. In Carmel, City Council member Kevin "Woody" Rider, Carmel Judge Brian G Poindexter, Anne Poindexter, and Hamilton County Commissioner Christine Altman made deliveries while spreading good will and cheer.

In Westfield, City Council President Mike Johns and Plan Commission member Kristen Burkman made deliveries of baskets, volunteering for the day with Shepherd Center.

The Shepherd Center of Hamilton County (SCHC) serves seniors throughout the entire county with the goal of allowing them to remain at home and with as much independence as possible.

The Community Caring Program specifically is designed to allow older adults to age in place safely through volunteer support. Volunteers can help with cleaning, light home maintenance, transportation, and friendly visitation. The counseling program is a holistic approach that impact the well-being of seniors and



Hamilton County Commissioner Christine Altman, Carmel City Judge Brian Poindexter, and Carmel City Council member Kevin "Woody" Rider helped deliver cleaning supplies and personal care items to senior citizens in need last Saturday.

helps ensure quality of life as they age.

Reaching Resources connects seniors with aging resources to help guide, advocate, and support seniors. It is a hub for all things aging in the com-

munity.

Together Today is a program that provides education and healthy activities throughout the county. Attending one event and seeing the smiles is a treasure.

Reporter photos by Denise Moe

Finally, the Guardianship Program promotes the dignity of a person and allows SCHC to serve as a guardian of incapacitated seniors throughout the county when family is not able to serve.

Trumpet virtuoso Byron Stripling igniting January Pops 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.

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



Reporter photo by Cassi Goldsberry

The Carmel Symphony Orchestra recently performed two *Holiday Pops* concerts with their special guest Jon McLaughlin at the Westfield High School auditorium. If you missed that show, don't miss the *January Pops* with Byron Stripling at the Center for the Performing Arts.

In a White House news briefing on Dec. 1, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said the first U.S. case of the omicron variant was found in California in a person who traveled from South Africa on Nov. 22 and tested positive for COVID-19 on Nov. 29.

The omicron variant was first detected in South Africa and led to a rapid spread among young people in Gauteng, the country's most populous province, **Health Minister Joe Phaahla announced Nov. 25**.

U.S. President Joe Biden gave an omicron variant-focused speech on Tuesday as the nation contends with higher case numbers, deaths and hospitalizations from the coronavirus heading into the holidays. **Biden on Nov. 29** called the new omicron variant a cause for concern but "not a cause for panic." He said he was not considering any widespread U.S. lockdown, but urged Americans anew to get fully vaccinated, including booster shots, and return to face masks indoors in public settings to slow any spread.

According to the World Health Organization, omicron cases are doubling every 1.5 to 3 days with documented spread. In the United States, omicron is expected to become the "dominant strain" in the coming weeks, said Rochelle Walensky, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director, on Friday.



**From our family to yours,
We wish you a
Merry Christmas!**





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Carmel’s unemployment rate at 1.2 percent, lowest among all cities in Indiana

The REPORTER

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development on Monday released labor statistics for cities, towns and counties in Indiana, and Carmel once again saw a drop in its unemployment rate.

The rate for November was 1.2 percent, which is down from October’s 1.6 percent. Indiana’s unemployment rate is 3 percent, while the national rate is 4.2 percent. Both of those data points are seasonally adjusted.

Carmel’s unemployment rate is the lowest among any city in Indiana with a population of at least 25,000.

Mayor Jim Brainard said having the best unem-

ployment rate in Indiana is a reflection of how the city has been able to attract highly educated residents who are able to fill high-wage jobs created by the city’s 130-plus corporate headquarters and other local business employers.

“These unemployment numbers show that our local economy is strong and that we are benefiting by having built a city with a high quality of life that can attract the professionals – young and old – who are able to fill the thousands of jobs created by our growing corporate community,” Mayor



Brainard

Brainard said. “Recent Census Bureau statistics show that more than 70 percent of our residents have a bachelor’s degree or higher, and that is why Carmel is the perfect place for corporations to establish their operations here and take advantage of a workforce that can help them grow and be successful.”

[Click here to see the full unemployment report for Indiana.](#)

Hamilton County’s unemployment rate stands at 1.3 percent for November, down from 3.2 percent in November 2020.

Pops

from Page 1

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 musical taste.

The 2021-22 Carmel Symphony Orchestra season is supported by the City of Carmel, the Center for the Performing Arts, the Palladium and Pedcor.



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.
- **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](#).



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I was born and raised right here in Noblesville. I grew up in a home without domestic violence or assault – it wasn’t something I saw, or even heard about. But when I was introduced to Prevail of Central Indiana, I was shocked by the number of individuals who are affected by domestic violence. In 2018 alone, Prevail helped more than 4,000 clients in Hamilton County. (Nearly 80 percent of clients are women and children.) Domestic violence and abuse are hard topics to discuss, so you don’t often hear about them. But at Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville, we’re breaking the taboo and raising awareness for Prevail, an organization that helps families in Hamilton County.

– Mike Bragg, GM of Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville

To help Hamilton County families affected by domestic violence and sexual abuse, you can donate the following items:

- Individually packaged snacks
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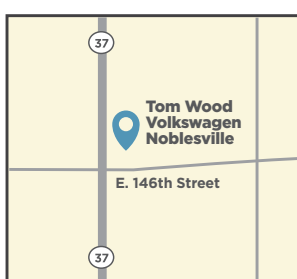
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TEST DRIVE TODAY

Letter to the Editor

Reader: If Westfield’s elected officials can’t lead, then time to elect new leaders

Dear Editor:

If you’ve attended a Westfield City Council meeting, you’ve seen the dysfunction between our elected officials. However, if you’re too busy providing for your family to watch the theatrics, then you’re probably unaware of the poor decisions that impact your daily life.

Our City Council and Mayor prefer arguments to community investments. When the Council criticized Grand Park’s finances in 2020, the mayor avoided an audit by handpicking firms for a citywide review. This six-month project morphed into 13 months of million-dollar lawsuits and finger-pointing between elected officials. Here are some key takeaways from the resulting reports:

"Dysfunctional working relationships between and among the Mayor, Clerk Treasurer and City Council represent a significant impediment to organizational success."

"Some feel that the more recently elected council members have little interest in learning about what the city departments do."

"Contracts and [Grand] park revenues have not been transparently managed ... resulting in room for criticism and concern over stewardship of city resources, conflicts of interest and questionable decisions."

"During the course of our interviews with Westfield officials and staff, we learned that there are similar control-related concerns including ... nepotism"

"A concern common amongst the individuals interviewed is that Mayor Cook's children were buying residential property before it was developed into Grand Junction. There is belief that Mayor Cook's children had inside information ... several years before the public knew."

"Consistent among many of the interviews was a high skepticism with the operations occurring at Grand Park ... There is concern that some entities received special discounts relating to Grand Park ... There is belief that the City loaned \$6 million to Grand Park with no repayment terms or records."

"In February 2019, public information regarding Pro-X [owned by Mayor Cook's nephew] leasing costs for land was requested ... The Pro-X lease is \$36,225 per year ... The lease amount raised concerns by the vendor requesting the information, stating it does not 'seem to make any sense at all for us to pay \$250k-\$300k per acre when Pro-X paid \$10k per acre or less."

"[Clerk Treasurer Cindy] Gossard and her daughter ... [the] Chief Deputy Clerk Treasurer, both work within the same office and share functions that may produce a conflict of interest, including receiving and sending cash/checks, control functions over authorizations and approvals, payroll functions and purchasing card approvals."

"[Clerk Treasurer Gossard's daughter] was listed as the approving user for 105 of Ms. Gossard's 107 purchasing card transactions from mid-July 2018 to December 31, 2020 ... [Her daughter's] purchasing card transactions were approved by Ms. Gossard ... Due to the familial relationship and employment positions, there is a clear conflict of interest with Ms. Gossard's and ... [her daughter's] purchasing card transaction approvals."

The Oct. 25 presentation of the conclusions (viewable at bit.ly/3dC6am7 and bit.ly/3EI0lxO) culminated in the following:

"The core issues that led to this project [to review city finances] centered around concerns of fraud, waste, and abuse. We did not find evidence to support fraud. We did, however, find matters that led ... [us to] conclude waste and abuse."

Infighting, conflicts of interest, nepotism, and taxpayer funded lawsuits instead of police cars and the Monon tunnel under 161st Street? Westfield needs leadership and investment. If our current elected officials cannot provide this, we must elect new leaders who will build a Westfield we can be proud of.

Neil Koglin
Westfield

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.

Which Medicare company is best?

This depends on your ZIP code, health, the medications you take, how much you travel out of state, which doctors you see and what hospital you would prefer to use. Often the “best” plan is financially out of reach, so your budget will determine what is the best option for you.

I know, I know. No one likes to sit down to a protracted discussion about Medicare insurance options. After doing this for over two decades, it no longer hurts my feelings that working with me in not a high point for my clients. But unless you are very wealthy, and money is no object, I insist that you muddle through learning the options that are available to you and hear me out.

“My sister has Anthem, she loves it so that’s what I want to purchase,” is a common statement I hear. I’ll use Anthem as a starting point. Anthem is a very good company and is headquartered here in Indiana. We are one of the top five distributors for Anthem nationally, so I am both very familiar and very fond of Anthem’s Medicare products. It will be hard for you to digest when I don’t recommend Anthem to you.

Based on the doctors you see, and the insurance they accept, you might be better served with Humana, Aetna, or AARP. “But my sister says Anthem is the best plan,” you say. And Anthem may be the best plan for her. You and your sister don’t see that same cardiologist. You don’t take the same medications, and she lives in Nebraska, while you live in Indiana. In other words, there is no “best Medicare plan” – there is only the plan that you and I both feel will best meet your individual needs for next year. And it may change the following year.

I love to use my parents as an example. People assume that married couples will purchase the same type of Medicare insurance plan from the same company. That’s not always the case. My mother purchased a Medicare Supplement Plan G. It costs more upfront each month but has no co-pays for services. While my father purchased a Medicare Advantage PPO with a \$0 monthly cost, he pays co-pays when he uses his plan. They both have been on their plan for years, are very happy and feel that they have the “best” plan. It’s even more interesting since they are also both licensed insurance agents who understand Medicare better than 99 percent of the population.

Medicare insurance plans are priced based on your ZIP code. It’s counterintui-

COLUMNIST



SYLVIA GORDON

tive though. If you live in a big city, you usually pay less than rural areas. Thinking about retiring to Florida? You will pay a lot more for the same plan that you have in Indiana. A Medicare Supplement will cost nearly double in New York!

This concept irks my clients, but it makes sense in a for-profit system. The insurance companies price their plans to make money, and that is based on the cost of medical care in your state. Many won’t file a plan at all in Washington state due to their onerous insurance laws. You have dozens of options in Indiana, but if you want a Medicare Supplement in New York, you have only a handful of companies to choose from.

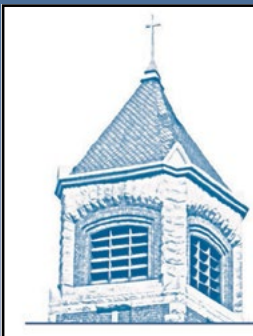
Medicare Supplements cannot change their benefits. As long as you continue to pay your monthly premium, you are guaranteed those benefits, unlike Medicare Advantage plans which change every year. Change isn’t necessarily bad, as Indiana has experienced quite a few years in a row of benefits getting better each year (but I expect that to change in 2023). My point being: What is “best” in 2022 might not be as attractive in 2023.

Licensed insurance agents are strictly forbidden by federal rules from uttering the word “best, better” or any superlative when talking about Medicare Advantage and Part D drug plans. If a lot of this makes no sense to you, join the crowd. Medicare is a very well-run government program. I’m proud to work with Medicare beneficiaries, but I would like the freedom to tell you in plain English what I feel is the “best” plan for you. But I cannot.

Sylvia Gordon is the president of Gordon Marketing, headquartered in Noblesville, where she trains on Medicare and Social Security in all 50 states. You can contact her at sgordon@gordonmarketing.com.

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A box of hope – just in time for Christmas

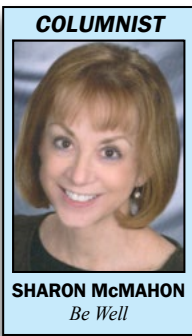
December 1955

Until the age of eight, when my brother was born, I was an “only child” and spent a great deal of time playing or reading by myself; though my other favorite pastime was hanging out with my father, following him around like a little shadow.

My dad was the person who taught me the importance of giving to others. Mom was more focused on running the house and keeping things organized. On Saturdays I would go with my dad on his “rounds” – we visited the bank, the hardware store, filled up the car with gas, etc. I always looked forward to those Saturday times just to “pal around” with Dad in Noblesville. (Some of you will remember American National, Western Auto, G.C. Murphy’s, Phillips 66, etc.)

When I was around the age of five, near the holidays, Dad asked me if I wanted to accompany him on a very special errand. Daddy was a member of a lodge in our town, whose members decided that they wanted to help some local families in need during the holiday season. Names and addresses were distributed, and Dad and I stopped at the local grocery store to pick up some food items and at the “five and dime” store (similar to a tiny Walmart I suppose!) to purchase some small toys. Though I thought it was a neat adventure, I did not of course have an understanding of what real human need was ... my world was secure and cozy, that was all I knew.

So, we purchased our items and off we went ... to an area of town where I had never visited. My dad parked the Buick (he al-



ways drove a Buick) on the street and lifted a large box out of the trunk and carried it to the front door. My first impression was that the door was very dirty. (An odd thing to remember, specifically after so many years, but there you go.) We were loaded down with packages and waited patiently for the door to be answered, and it was ...

My experience with people in general at that point in my life was pretty much limited to my immediate and extended families and Disney television programs. After so many years, I can still visualize the appearance of the mother who answered the door. To me, as a child, she looked both frightened and frightening. Her eyes were red, her face drawn, hair unkempt, and I recall that she was very thin. Behind her were several small children, and nearby in the room were a couple of older kids – older than me at least. I could see that someone was lying on the threadbare sofa, but the mother and children were mostly blocking my view from the doorway.

I don’t recall exactly what my dad said to her, but I am sure he was indicating who we were, why we were there, etc. I am also sure that my mouth dropped open completely because still today I recall how shocked I was. When my eyes left the dirt floor, I was able to see more clearly the form on the sofa in the tiny house. It was a man, who was obviously ill. Although of course I never learned what his illness was, only that he seemed quite incapacitated. He may have sat up, but I don’t recall that he ever actually stood up; I believe he was unable to do so. I now realize

as an adult how utterly humiliated he must have been as well. The time frame was the mid-1950s and it was widely considered at that time that a man was the sole provider of his home and family.

The children – and I am guessing at this time, of course, but I believe there were at least five of them – were barefoot (recall that this is just before Christmas – in Indiana!) and were wearing thin and dirty clothes. There was no Christmas tree and I think at that time to me that was just as shocking as anything else!

The large box we delivered was mostly fruit – oranges, apples, pears – and the children immediately began digging into the box, which included staples such as bread and milk, as well some small toys for boys and girls. I consequently learned that Dad had a list of all the genders and ages provided by the coordinators at his Lodge. I then saw the children opening some packages and the contents really surprised me as I did not know we even had these items with us – underwear and socks! (I suppose my mother was in charge of purchasing those.) I could not imagine at the time why anyone would get underwear and socks for Christmas!

The house was cold, there was newspaper taped up to the wall in several places, and now of course I know that was to help keep out the cold air. I am sure there was little if any heat in the house. It was so different from anything I had seen in my short life, though the images that day made such a lasting impression that I can still close my eyes and see it all again.

My dad was born in the 1920s, one of four children, and his father was a coal miner in Kentucky. Most of Dad’s growing up years

were rather poor, I am certain. The financial woes of the Great Depression lingered for many years throughout this country. I believe, though he never said so, that the visit that day had some familiar overtones from his own youth. Members of what Tom Brokaw has often referred to as the “Greatest Generation” seldom talked about their Depression-era experiences – they just used them to make a better life for themselves and their families, and to reach out to others in need. Fortunately for our family my dad secured a job as a young man with General Motors and we had ample income for our needs.

That cold December day in 1955 revealed to me in no uncertain terms the meaning of love – the purest form of love which is that for fellow suffering human beings – the love that causes people to step out of their own comfort zone with a heart and hand for others. As often happens, significant childhood memories stay somewhat buried through our teenage and young adult years, and then settle into our psyches as we become more mature adults.

Seeing for the first time my dad’s compassion for these people (and other instances through the years) made a lasting impression upon me – and one that I will always cherish. I firmly believe that it is due to my dad’s example that I do have a heart and a motivation to help those in need, both human beings and others – all God’s creatures!

There were many similar examples throughout my childhood, but this one is truly memorable to me.

Love is about what we can do to reduce others’ suffering, to give them a reason to hope and a rea-

son to believe that their lives are significant, and that others care about them.

From serving those in the greatest need around the world to those who may live around the corner in our own neighborhoods, love manifests itself in its greatest form by each of us, individually. I feel so completely blessed that growing up I knew that I was loved by my family, and as an adult I have found committed and romantic love with my spouse. I am both thankful and humbled by this.

And I am very grateful that although Dad is no longer here, he left to me the greatest legacy a parent could provide – an example of how to love others and give of yourself because, to me, that is the meaning of love. I hope that I, too, have modeled that behavior to my own children and that they will continue that legacy to my grandchildren and beyond. Generations of love and compassion will give us the power to truly change our world for the better.

What are you doing? In the 1950s there were few organized efforts to reach out to those in need of shelter, food, clothing and yes – toys for Christmas. Thankfully, today there are many organizations, and the need is great. Most of us are blessed with some level of resources to make a difference in our communities and our world. Whether it is your financial resources, your volunteer time, the extra goodies you prepare for family, friends, and neighbors ... and the time you take to smile and wish a stranger well, know that you have made a difference in this world and have shined a light which can radiate onward to others.

Sharon McMahon
“Small Town Girl”

AG Todd Rokita sues Biden administration over mask, preschool vaccine mandates

The REPORTER

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita is helping lead a lawsuit with 23 other states against the Biden administration over what he says are unlawful mask and vaccine mandates applying to all preschool programs funded by the federal Head Start program.

The mask requirement applies to children as young as 2 years old. The COVID-19 vaccine requirement applies to staff and volunteers.

“This mandate is absolute lunacy,” Rokita said. “Forcing masks on 2-year-olds and expecting them to be capable of complying with such an order is absurd. Unfortunately, it’s also exactly the sort of edict we’ve come to expect from leftist demagogues in places of power.”

Enacting it as a rule from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Biden administration bypassed standard notice-and-comment procedures.

Not only is this latest mandate unlawful and draconian, Rokita said, but it’s also completely impracticable.

“Neither the leftist leaders nor their bureaucrats

seem to notice nor care that their administration’s first three vaccine mandates drew sharp rebukes from Americans nationwide and even federal court orders to halt their enforcement,” Rokita said. “Rather than learn any lessons, they have now issued this fourth mandate, which might be the most ridiculous yet.”

As stated in the lawsuit, even the World Health Organization has concluded that “based on the safety and overall interest of the child and the capacity to appropriately use a mask,” “children aged 5 years and under should not be required to wear masks.”

Earlier this fall, Rokita also filed lawsuits against the Biden administration’s first three mandates – an executive order applying to federal contractors; an OSHA rule applying to private employers with 100 or more employees; and a U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services rule applying to health care facilities receiving federal funds.

“Hoosiers, in particular, will not passively accept the trampling of our



Rokita

liberties,” Rokita said. “That’s just not how we are wired. So just as with the first three mandates, we are fighting tooth and nail to protect Hoosiers’ individual rights.”

Head Start is a federal grant program geared to helping infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children from low-income families prepare for the K-12 school experience. Head Start programs are available at no cost to children from birth to age 5.

By forcing vaccinations on staff members (including volunteers) and masks on everyone age 2 and up, with few exceptions, this mandate undoubtedly would prompt many staff members to leave their jobs and result in program closures or shrinkage. Such effects would inflict direct harm on states such as Indiana and run counter to the expressed goals of the Head Start program.

The 24-state complaint against the Biden administration, which is led by Louisiana, can be found [here](#). You can also read a memorandum in support of a preliminary injunction [here](#).

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Thanks for reading The Reporter!

Rep. Victoria Spartz takes deep dive into President Biden's "Build Back Better" proposals

While families around Indiana are forced to fork over more of their paycheck to buy gas and groceries, Washington has no problem spending trillions of taxpayer dollars on socialist policies in their "Build Back Better" bill.

My perspective: Plain and simple, the spending that House Democrats approved in November will benefit the rich and D.C.'s big government machine, while hurting seniors, employers, workers, small businesses, and young people. I grew up in the Soviet Union and know socialism and totalitarianism when I see it, which is why I emphatically voted NO on this bad bill.

Recently, the Congressional Budget Office confirmed that this bill would cost taxpayers \$5 TRILLION and add \$3 TRILLION to our \$29 TRILLION debt.

Here are some examples:

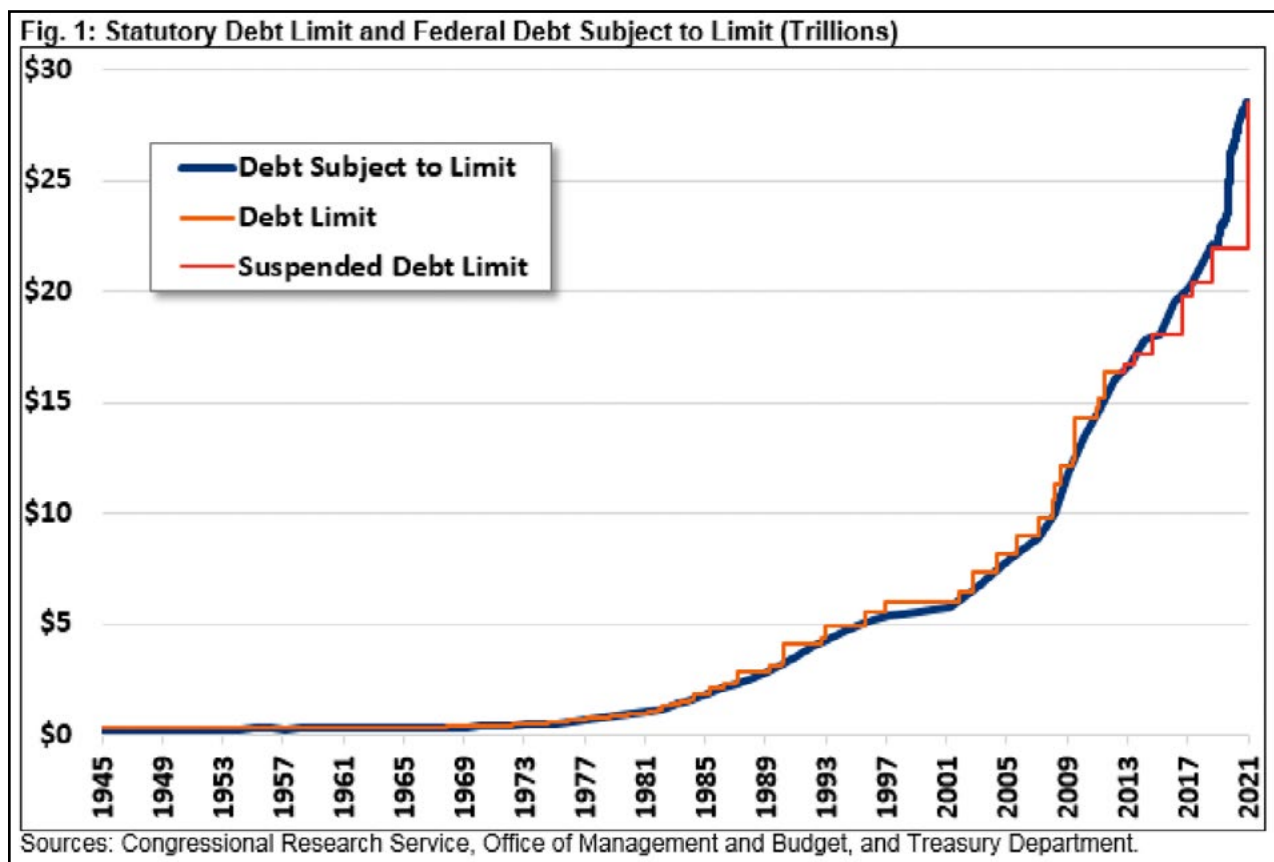
1. Overbearing fines on employers: While Biden's vaccine mandate on businesses was tied up in the court system, that didn't stop Speaker Pelosi from pushing through the fine increases. This legislation authorizes OSHA to fine

businesses up to \$700,000 per violation and gives the Administration \$707 million to enforce the policies. While the legislation passed the House on a party-line vote, I went a step further by introducing legislation to nullify the federal vaccine mandate.

2. Padding the IRS: The Democrats also set aside \$80 BILLION for the IRS to enforce tax collections and add a new reporting requirement for transactions over \$600. The IRS doesn't need to be snooping around in the pocketbooks of American families. So many are simply trying to get by with a paycheck that's dwindling in power thanks to increased inflation from Democratic policies.

3. Handouts to millionaires and billionaires: Buried deep in the bill is a tax cut for the rich, better known as SALT. According to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, the five-year provision would cost roughly \$285 BILLION and overwhelmingly benefit very high earners.

So, what happens now? The House bill is sitting in Chuck Schumer's Senate where it faces a very un-



Graph courtesy of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget

certain future after Senator Joe Manchin announced he could no longer even consider voting for this "mammoth" bill. No matter how the Democrats try to spin it though, this is a bad bill.

'No' on debt limit

If the \$1.7 TRILLION social spending plan wasn't enough, Democrats also pushed through a vote to raise the debt ceiling by roughly \$2.5 TRILLION into 2023.

I voted NO on this mea-

sure because our federal spending is completely out of control.

Furthermore, taking out a second credit card simply is not the solution. We must get spending under control, reform welfare to empower – not suppress – low-income individuals, and balance the budget. The debt can be tackled not by raising taxes on U.S. citizens, but by taking a critical look at the unnecessary spending of the federal government.

Beef & Boards' Chef Odell Ward about to get a taste of retirement

Longtime chef hangs up his apron for the last time this week

Submitted

When Odell Ward prepared for his interview at Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre in 1983, he wanted to make a good impression.

So he shaved off his beard.

But when he arrived to meet with Chef Richard Kolic and his assistant, he was greeted by two bearded men. It was then he realized he need only be himself, and all would work out just fine.

Thirty-eight years later, having been the executive chef for more than 30, Ward is preparing to retire from the dinner theatre that he says he "grew up and grew old" in.

And he'll be the first to tell you – he didn't anticipate staying for nearly four decades. He had opportunities elsewhere over the years, but he was happy to stay at Beef & Boards.

"It was something about Bob and Doug," he said about former owner Bob Zehr and his business partner and current owner Doug Stark. "They're personable. They care about your life. If you're in trouble, if they can help you in any way, they will. You don't find that at most places."



Photo provided

Longtime executive chef Odell Ward will hang up his apron this week as he retires from Beef & Boards after 38 years.

Prior to coming to Beef & Boards, Ward had worked some temp jobs after serving as an aircraft mechanic in the Air Force where he also "cooked off and on." As the executive chef at Beef & Boards, he has been responsible for cooking for hundreds of guests for each performance, Tuesday through Sunday, year-round. At his

side has been Sam Arbabi, his assistant chef, who is also retiring this week after 30 years.

A priority for Ward has been keeping the Beef & Boards buffet "interesting and fresh."

"The joyful part was knowing most customers enjoyed it," he said.

Having to adjust to the changes that came with the

pandemic was a particular challenge as he and his staff had to figure out the logistics of a plated service in a theatre that simply isn't set up for it. But he's proud of his staff and how they were all able to work together to make the adjustment.

Ward admits to doing some reminiscing the past few weeks. He recalled when Chef Kolic left and the top job was offered to him – and he quickly took it. "I thanked Doug the other day for that opportunity," he said.

For his part, Doug Stark, who now owns the theatre with his children, said Ward has been an important part of Beef & Boards' success.

"I never had to worry about the kitchen," Stark said. "We could concentrate on the shows because Odell was always there – he did everything."

Sometimes that even meant fixing some plumbing or completing other repairs, Stark noted.

"He will be greatly missed."

Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre, Indiana's only year-round professional dinner theatre, has been serving up exceptional entertainment since 1973.

Meeting Notices

The Clay Township Board will meet at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2021, at the John W. Hensel Government Center, 10701 N. College Ave., Carmel.

The Fall Creek Township Board will meet to elect 2022 officers at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022, in the Community Room at the Fall Creek Township Trustee's Office, 11595 Brooks School Road, Fishers.

— County —

LEGAL NOTICE OF PLANNED IMPROVEMENT

DES. # 1901694

The Hamilton County Commissioners have developed preliminary plans and environmental documentation for a proposed bridge replacement on 106th Street over Mud Creek, approximately 1.25 miles East of I-69 in Hamilton County, Indiana.

The project proposes the replacement of the existing bridge with a continuous steel plate girder bridge. The new bridge and approach roadway will provide two 12-foot-wide travel lanes bordered by 6-foot-wide paved shoulders on the south side of the bridge and a 2-foot-wide curb and gutter on the north side of the bridge. Termini for this project will be approximately 700 feet west of the end of the proposed bridge and approximately 480 feet east of the end of the proposed bridge. On the north side of the roadway, the two existing wooden pedestrian bridges over Mud Creek and Sand Creek will be removed, and the 8-foot-wide paved pedestrian path will be moved to follow adjacent to 106th Street and will utilize the new 106th Street bridge to cross Mud Creek, creating a longer-lasting and more serviceable pedestrian facility. The removal of the pedestrian bridges will remove obstruction in the channel and improve the site hydraulics and help alleviate flooding. Curb and gutterwork will be utilized along the paved pedestrian path as needed. Road work will extend 700 feet west of the end of the proposed bridge and 480 feet east of the end of the proposed bridge.

The Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan for the project will require of closure of 106th Street at the project area and will utilize a detour that will route traffic through 96th Street and Mollenkopf Road. The detour route is 2.8 miles in length and will last from approximately Spring 2024 to Fall 2024. Provisions will be made for local traffic. There are several existing roadways that would provide access into the area for emergency vehicles. The closure will pose a temporary inconvenience to traveling motorists (including school buses and emergency services); however, no significant delays are anticipated, and all inconveniences will cease upon project completion.

Construction of the project will require approximately 1.00 acre of permanent right-of-way and 0.03 acre of temporary right-of-way with an estimated cost of \$3,395,250. Federal and local funds are to be utilized for the construction of the project. Construction is anticipated to be in the Spring of 2024.

The Federal Highway Administration and INDOT have agreed that this project falls within the guidelines of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) Level 2 environmental document with no significant impacts to wetlands.

Preliminary design plans, along with the CE document are available for review at the following locations:

1. Hamilton County Highway Department Office, 1700 South 10th Street, Noblesville, IN 46060
2. Beam, Longest and Neff, 8320 Craig Street, Indianapolis, IN 46250
3. Online at <https://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/1354/Bridge-187-Replacement>

All interested persons may request a public hearing be held and/or submit comments to the attention of Brian Shaw by email at bshaw@b-l-n.com, by phone at 317-806-3028, or by mail at 8320 Craig Street, Indianapolis, IN 46250 on or before January 6, 2022. In addition, project information, including the environmental document, may be made to interested persons upon request. Persons with limited internet access may request project information be mailed, please contact Brian Shaw by email at bshaw@b-l-n.com, by phone at 317-806-3028, or by mail at 8320 Craig Street, Indianapolis, IN 46250.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in alternative formats are encouraged to contact Brian Shaw by email at bshaw@b-l-n.com by phone at 317-806-3028, or by mail at 8320 Craig Street, Indianapolis, IN 46250. In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, persons and/or groups requiring project information be made available in another language are encouraged to contact Brian Shaw by email at bshaw@b-l-n.com phone at 317-806-3028, or by mail at 8320 Craig Street, Indianapolis, IN 46250.

This notice is published in compliance with: 1) Code of Federal Regulations, Title 23, Section 771.111(h)(1) stating, "Each State must have procedures approved by the FHWA to carry out a public involvement/public hearing program."; 2) 23 CFR 450.210(a)(1)(i) stating, "Provide for the periodic review of the effectiveness of the public involvement process to ensure that the process provides full and open access to all interested parties and revise the process, as appropriate."; and 3) The INDOT Project Development Public Involvement Procedures Manual approved by the Federal Highway Administration on July 7, 2021.

R31

12/23/21, 12/27/21, 12/29/21, 1/3/22

— Cicero —

NOTICE

Cicero Town Council will hold a special meeting on 12/29/2020 at 9:00 am at the Red Bridge Community Building located at 697 W Jackson Street to review and approve claims and transfers.

RL5306

12/23/21

NOTICE

Cicero Stormwater Utility will hold a special meeting on 12/29/2020 at 10:00 am at the Red Bridge Community Building located at 697 W Jackson Street to review and approve claims.

RL5307

12/23/21

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TODAY’S BIBLE READING

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

Philippians 3:7-9 (NIV)

Norman Jay Bailey

June 23, 1942 – December 21, 2021

Norman Jay Bailey, 79, Fishers, passed away on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at his home. He was born on June 23, 1942, to Abram and Dorothy (Rough) Bailey in Columbus, Ind.



Norman was a Right of Way Specialist for 46 years at various civil engineering firms before retiring from American Structure Point. He is a member of Noblesville First United Methodist Church where he was very involved and served as an usher, as well as other United Methodist Churches for 50 years. Norman enjoyed IU basketball and baseball, especially going to spring training for the Cubs and Dodgers. He liked to be outdoors and working in his garden. Norman especially enjoyed traveling with his wife Jane over the past 25 years.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Lovina “Jane” Bailey; sons, Randy (Shawn) Bailey and Rod Bailey; special granddaughter, Karinne Ashley Bailey; grandsons, Randall Caleb Bailey and Ryan Bailey; niece, Robin (Matt) Arthur; and nephews, Scot (Teri) Bailey and Cris Bailey.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Wayne Paul Bailey.

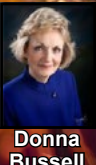
Services will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 28, 2021, at Noblesville First United Methodist Church, 2051 Monument St., Noblesville, with Pastor Jerry Rairdon officiating. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to the time of service at the church. Burial will be at Oaklawn Memorial Gardens in Indianapolis.

Memorial contributions may be made to Noblesville First United Methodist, 2051 Monument St., Noblesville, IN 46060.

Condolences: randallroberts.com



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Elaine R. Skopelja, née Noonan, 68, Westfield, passed away on December 19, 2021, in her home surrounded by loving family. She was born on February 11, 1953, in Hammond, Ind., the daughter of the late William Noonan and Anne Razumich.

Survivors include her loving husband, Chuck Skopelja; children, Brooke (Patrick) Cassidy, Erin (Ozzy) Yesinnar, and Mike (Christina) Skopelja; beloved grandchildren, Rylee, Jackson and Calvin Cassidy, Eva and Luca Yesinnar, and Charlie and Alexandra Skopelja.

She is also survived by her brothers and sisters, Lorraine (Terry) Stage, Paula Bisseker, William Noonan, Mike Noonan, Jim (Gloria) Noonan, Tom Noonan, and Chris Noonan; her in-laws, Lisa (Tim) Armstrong, Ron (Cindy) Skopelja, Tommy (Paula) Skopelja, and Nick (Margery) Skopelja. She also leaves behind her beloved nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, Ryan (Cate) Stage, Colin (Stephanie) Stage, Alison (Andrew) Giorgi, Sean Noonan, Kyle Noonan, Ariel Noonan, Adlai Noonan, Sheminih Noonan, Harper Stage, Brayden Noonan, Jayden Noonan, Melissa DeSutter, Vera DeSutter, Megan (Tim) O’Shea, Cortney (Jared) Mushill, Avery Mushill, Chad (Emily) Armstrong, Nicole Skopelja, Violet Diaz, and Stephen Skopelja.

Elaine was preceded in death by her nephew, Gebrah Noonan; and sister-in-law, Lynda Skopelja.

Elaine graduated from Highland High School in 1971 with top honors. In 1976, she graduated from Indiana University with a bachelor’s degree in history. She continued her education to obtain her master’s degree of Library Science from Rosary College. She was a consummate learner and a wealth of knowledge.

Elaine started her career at the Lake County Public Library as a reference librarian, and her main role was to field questions from patrons on a myriad of topics. Elaine was referred to by her family as the original “Google.” She then went on to hold numerous positions, and upon moving to Westfield, she became a medical librarian at the Indiana Hand Center and eventually at the Indiana University Medical Center. She also served as President of the Indiana Health Science Librarians Association and received countless accolades and recognition. She conducted research and has been published in numerous medical journals on a variety of topics. We are extremely proud of the body of work she produced throughout the years, and the education she provided to so many medical professionals. Library Science was a field of work which she was extremely passionate about, and her passion for educating others continued throughout her career.

To say that Elaine loved reading was an understatement. She was a voracious reader and we’re convinced that the Westfield Public Library should name a wing in her honor. The collected overdue fees throughout her 30-year residence in Westfield should be more than enough to cover the costs. Rita at the Westfield Public library had Elaine on speed dial. We heard Rita’s voice on our answering machine for years as she reported the overdue books needing to be returned. Elaine instilled that same love of reading and visits to the library in her children and grandchildren. There was not one birthday or Christmas that went by without a book included in her gift.

Naturally, her love of reading equated to her being extremely intelligent. She loved history and all things trivia. No one ever wanted to play Trivial Pursuit with her. She annihilated anyone in her path each time she played; we

Elaine R. Skopelja

February 11, 1953 – December 19, 2021



were no competition for her. Little did she know, all that information she had retained throughout the years would help lead her to an appearance on *Jeopardy!*. After years of watching her beat everyone from our living room couch, we couldn’t wait to watch her do it on national television. Despite missing an Indy 500 question, which really irked her, she did a great job and made us so proud.

Elaine also had a love of horses since childhood. She never considered herself an artist, but you could always find a doodle on a newspaper, napkin, or whatever was around with her sketches of a horse or two. She always joked that it was the only thing she knew how to draw. She loved going to the racetrack and never missed a Kentucky Derby or a Preakness. It was her “Super Bowl.” Her love of cats was just as strong, and they were the perfect companion for her as she snuggled up with a good book.

She was also an avid Indiana Hoosiers and Chicago Cubs fan, often joining family and friends at the “bucket” game tailgate and yearly trips with family to Wrigley Field to catch a Cubbies game. She loved Chicago in general: the museums, the history, the shopping – just all of it.

Movies and music also played a major role in Elaine’s life. You can almost guarantee that turning on the TV at her house would bring you right to Turner Classic Movies. She loved old movies and comedies. She couldn’t wait to be with her family and gather on the couch to turn on *SCTV* during the holidays. You could also jump in her car and upon starting have classical music, Dave Brubeck or The Beatles blaring for all to hear.

Her love of everything mentioned above never superseded her love for her friends and family. Elaine was kind and loving to anyone she met and was an amazing wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, and friend. We have many fond memories of vacations with both family and friends and countless family get-togethers throughout the years. She hosted Thanksgiving for up to 40 people every year, and she was most happy when she was with her entire family. She adored her grandchildren, and they lovingly referred to her as “Mimi.” They looked forward to spending time with her and enjoying what they termed as “Mimi Days” where she would take them to the library, McDonald’s and the park. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her dearly.

We owe everything to the outstanding medical team at the Community North Cancer Center, led by Dr. Bhatia and Megan Weaver, NP, who after we learned of her cancer diagnosis, blessed us with three more years of time to continue making memories with her. The amount of support, dedication, and grace they showed Elaine and our family as we navigated this journey cannot be measured. We are eternally grateful and indebted to them for everything they did, as she courageously fought this terrible disease.

Visitation will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. on Monday, December 27 at Randall and Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, December 28 at St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church, 17102 Spring Mill Road, Westfield. Interment will be at Hamilton Memorial Park Cemetery, 4180 Westfield Road, Westfield.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Westfield Public Library or the Community North Cancer Center at (317) 355-GIVE (4483) or give@ecomunity.com (please designate that the donation goes to the Cancer Center) in Elaine’s name, preferred.

Condolences: randallroberts.com



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Sports

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

Boys basketball

'Hounds take care of Valparaiso

By RICHIE HALL
CARMEL - When it comes to the defense of the Carmel boys basketball team, senior Josh Whack said something that could also be used as a mission statement for the Greyhounds team.
"Every possession is the biggest possession," said Whack.

Carmel plays by that philosophy, and it gave the Greyhounds another big win Wednesday at the Eric Clark Activity Center. In a match-up of ranked teams, Class 4A No. 3 Carmel beat 4A No. 2 Valparaiso 45-32.

The Vikings had come into the game unbeaten at 7-0 and were averaging 70 points per game. But the Greyhounds were relentless in the middle quarters of the game, and that was more than enough to lead them to the win.

The first period was close, with Carmel finishing the quarter ahead 12-11. Charlie Williams scored four points, while Peter Suder made a 3-pointer. Whack was good on a three-point play and Sam Orme added a basket as well.

The Greyhounds took control in the second period. Orme opened the quarter with a 3, then after a Valpo basket, Carmel went on an 11-0 run. Williams scored six points during that time, including a 4-of-4 effort from the free-throw line. Spencer White threw in a 3 as well.

"We feed off of each other," said Whack. "Anybody on our team can score, so if one person is having a night, we will look to get them the ball."

The Vikings made a foul shot to end the half, and the Greyhounds led 26-14 at the break. Carmel kept rolling in the third quarter, pouring in another 14 points. Whack scored seven of them, nailing two 3s.

Carmel finished the period on a 6-0 run, including a dunk from Jared Bonds while being fouled. Bonds made the free throw for the and-1, and Williams' basket completed the third-quarter scoring, giving the 'Hounds a 40-18 lead.

"I thought it set a pretty good tone for us," said Carmel coach Ryan Osborn. "It got us off to a good start. Built a lead for us."

Valparaiso tried to turn the tables during the fourth quarter, where it outscored the Greyhounds 14-5. Vikings star Mason Jones scored 12 of those points. But the big lead Carmel had built during

All 12 players score...



Carmel's Josh Whack scored 11 points for the Greyhounds during their Wednesday win over Valparaiso at the Eric Clark Activity Center. Carmel won 45-32 to improve to 7-2 for the season.

the middle quarter gave it enough breathing room to hold fast against Valpo's final run.

"Got to finish games," said Osborn. "Got to learn from the last quarter. We got a veteran group and we got to close games."

Williams scored 16 points, including a 6-of-6 effort from the free-throw line. Whack had 11 points. Garwey Dual and Suder each collected eight rebounds, and Dual blocked two shots.

"We're doing some good things," said Osborn. "I don't think you get to the mid-

dle of December and want to be your best. We're certainly not our best, but we're doing some good things. And if we continue to defend and buy into that, then it buys us some time to figure out the offensive end."

Carmel is 7-2 and plays next Thursday at Anderson.

CARMEL 45, VALPARAISO 32				
Carmel	FG	FT	TP	PF
Josh Whack	3-4	3-5	11	0
Peter Suder	1-5	0-0	3	1
Sam Orme	2-8	0-0	5	4
Burke Weldy	0-1	0-0	0	0

Charlie Williams	5-5	6-6	16	5
Garwey Dual	1-4	0-0	2	0
Spencer White	1-2	0-0	3	1
Jared Bonds	1-3	3-3	5	1
Andrew Clevenger	0-0	0-0	0	0
Josh Rauh	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	14-32	12-14	45	12

Score by Quarters
Valparaiso 11 3 4 14 - 32
Carmel 12 14 14 5 - 45
Carmel 3-point shooting (5-16) Whack 2-3, Orme 1-6, Suder 1-4, White 1-2, Weldy 0-1.
Carmel rebounds (29) Dual 8, Suder 8, White 4, Bonds 4, Orme 2, Williams 2, Whack 1.

Shamrocks cruise past Victory College Prep

Westfield scored a nice win at CSI Gymnasium on Wednesday, beating Victory College Prep 95-43.

The Shamrocks were in control from the beginning, going up 27-9 after the first quarter. Cam Haffner scored 12 points during that opening period. Westfield led 51-16 at halftime, with Kai Butterworth pouring 13 points.

The 'Rocks had their biggest point total in the third period, with 29 points. Braden Smith scored 15 points during that quarter, which ended with Westfield ahead 80-35.

"We had a lot of guys contribute," said Shamrocks coach Shane Sumpter.

All 12 Westfield players that took to the floor made at least one basket, thus

scoring at least two points. Smith totaled 23, Haffner had 21 and Butterworth scored 15. Smith made five 3-pointers, while Haffner had three triples.

The Shamrocks are 4-2 and return to action on Thursday, Dec. 30, when they play in the Raymond James Hall of Fame Classic at New Castle. Westfield takes on Connersville at 11 a.m. in the day's first game, then Homestead and Cathedral play the second opening-round game immediately afterwards. The consolation game is set for 6 p.m., with the championship game at 7:30 p.m.

"Proud of our effort," said Sumpter. "We got a few days off here. We'll come back next Monday and we'll start getting ready for the Hall of Fame."

WESTFIELD 95, VICTORY COLLEGE PREP 43				
Westfield	FG	FT	TP	PF
Braden Smith	9	0-0	23	1
Cam Haffner	9	0-0	21	0
Trey Dorton	1	0-0	2	0
Nic Depasquale	2	0-0	4	0
Alex Romack	2	3-6	7	0
Trey Buchanan	1	0-0	3	0
Kai Butterworth	7	1-1	15	0
Sam Bishop	2	0-0	5	0
Jonah Spinner	2	0-0	4	1
Reiner Obay	1	0-0	3	1
Alex Wolf	1	0-0	2	1
Armani Middlebrooks	2	2-4	6	0
Totals	39	6-11	95	4
Score by Quarters				
Victory College	9	7	19	8 - 43
Westfield	27	24	29	15 - 95
Westfield 3-pointers (11) Smith 5, Haffner				

3, Buchanan 1, Bishop 1, Obay 1.

Westfield beat Mishawaka Marian, then the No. 1-ranked team in Class 3A, 53-39 on Saturday. Here is a boxscore from that game.

WESTFIELD 53, MISHAWAKA MARIAN 39				
Westfield	FG	FT	TP	PF
Braden Smith	6	2-3	16	3
Cam Haffner	7	0-0	17	3
Trey Dorton	0	0-0	0	0
Nic Depasquale	1	0-0	3	0
Alex Romack	3	0-2	6	3
Trey Buchanan	2	0-0	5	0
Kai Butterworth	3	0-2	6	0
Jonah Spinner	0	0-0	0	1
Totals	22	2-5	53	10

Score by Quarters
Marian 7 13 10 9 - 39
Westfield 10 10 16 17 - 53
Westfield 3-pointers (7) Haffner 3, Smith 2, Depasquale 1, Buchanan 1.

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Girls basketball

Millers take second at tough BNL tournament

Of all the holiday tournament going on over the next couple weeks, there were probably none tougher than the Bedford North Lawrence girls tournament on Wednesday.

Three of Class 4A's top five teams were there, including No. 3 Noblesville. The Millers started the event with a convincing victory over the No. 1-ranked team, defending 4A state champion Crown Point, by the score of 57-32. In the championship game, Noblesville lost to the No. 5 and host Stars 59-40.

The Millers were in control from the beginning against the state champion Bulldogs, leading 11-5 in the first quarter and 28-16 at halftime. Ashlynn Shade scored 12 points in the second quarter.

"I thought we played really well in that morning game," said Noblesville coach Donna Buckley. The coach said the Millers "did a great job on both ends of the floor" of pressuring Crown Point's Jessica Carrothers, the reigning Indiana Gatorade Player of the Year. Carrothers was held to four points, two in each half. In fact, no Crown Point player scored more than six points.

"I think we were great in our box-and-1," said Buckley. "Kaitlyn Shoemaker and Meredith Tippner chased Carrothers all over the gym out of that box-and-1. They were really good."

Shade finished with 22 points, and earned a double-double with 14 rebounds. Tippner collected seven rebounds, Reagan Wilson had five assists and four steals, while Brooklyn Smitherman blocked three shots.

"As a team, we had a lot of kids contribute and were really good on both sides," said Buckley.

The title game saw Bedford North Lawrence get out to a 13-10 lead after one quarter, and the Stars pushed the lead to 29-16 by halftime. BNL then led 48-25 after three periods.

"They were really good," said Buckley. "I thought we played tired and they were awesome."

Buckley noted that the Stars shot the ball well, making eight 3-pointers for the game. Chloe Spreen scored 28 points for Bedford and Karsyn Norman scored 17 points; Buckley said those players "just put on a show."

Shoemaker and Tippner both scored 11 points, with Shoemaker draining three 3s. Shade had seven rebounds and Wilson dished out another four assists.

"Anytime you're going to play two top five teams and you get to travel a little over two hours to do that, it's a great opportunity for our team," said Buckley. "I think we'll learn a lot from this and grow from it."

The Millers are 12-3 and return home to The Mill on Monday to play Fort Wayne Northrop.

Totals 22-55 5-5 57 9

Score by Quarters

Noblesville 11 17 19 10 - 57

Crown Point 5 11 7 9 - 32

Noblesville 3-point shooting (8-23) Shade 2-6, A. Shoemaker 2-2, Wilson 1-4, Tippner 1-3, Ely 1-2, Rollins 1-1, K. Shoemaker 0-5.

Noblesville rebounds (39) Shade 14, Tippner 7, K. Shoemaker 4, A. Shoemaker 3, Wilson 2, Mendez 2, Smitherman 2, McLaughlin 1, Gray 1, team 3.

BEDFORD NORTH LAWRENCE 59, NOBLESVILLE 40

Noblesville	FG	FT	TP	PF
Kaitlyn Shoemaker	4-9	0-0	11	2
Ashlynn Shade	4-12	0-0	9	3
Reagan Wilson	1-8	0-0	3	1
Meredith Tippner	4-12	2-2	11	3
Brooklyn Smitherman	0-2	2-4	2	2
Brooklyn Ely	0-2	0-0	0	0
Ava Shoemaker	1-3	0-0	3	0
Dani Mendez	0-1	1-2	1	1
Totals	14-49	5-8	40	12

Score by Quarters

Noblesville 10 6 9 15 - 40

Bedford NL 13 16 19 11 - 59

Noblesville 3-point shooting (7-27) K. Shoemaker 3-7, Wilson 1-6, Tippner 1-5, Shade 1-4, A. Shoemaker 1-3.

Noblesville rebounds (25) Shade 7, Tippner 4, Mendez 4, Smitherman 4, K. Shoemaker 2, A. Shoemaker 1, Wilson 1, team 2.

Golden Eagles roll past Park Tudor

Guerin Catholic got a nice win at the Eagles Nest on Wednesday, sailing past Park Tudor 54-29.

The Golden Eagles outscored the Panthers in all four quarters, leading 10-5 after one period and 21-13 at halftime. Kathryn Loso poured in 10 points in the first half, while Katie Koger scored eight.

Koger took over in the third quarter, with nine points, including two 3-pointers. Loso added eight points as well.

Guerin Catholic totaled 21 points in the third period and led 42-22 by the end of the quarter. The Golden Eagles never allowed the Panthers more than nine points during a quarter.

Loso finished the game with 18 points, while Koger scored 17.

Guerin Catholic is 8-7 and will be off until Jan. 7, when it plays a Circle City Conference game at Bishop Chatard.

PARK TUDOR 54, GUERIN CATHOLIC 29

Guerin Catholic	FG	FT	TP	PF
Katie Koger	6-9	3-8	17	2
Hannah Weitzel	0-1	0-0	0	3
Halley Buehler	0-2	2-4	2	2
Kathryn Loso	8-12	2-3	18	2
Mia Thompson	1-4	0-0	2	1
Megan Cobb	2-4	1-2	5	0
Caitlyn Sharpe	2-3	0-0	5	2
Ava Bills	1-7	0-2	2	2
Annie Murphy	0-2	1-2	1	0

Sutton Worman 0-2 0-0 0 0

Reagan Haines 1-3 0-0 2 0

Kori Dues 0-0 0-0 0 0

Totals 21-51 9-21 54 14

Score by Quarters

Park Tudor 5 8 9 7 - 29

Guerin Catholic 10 11 21 12 - 54

Guerin Catholic 3-point shooting (3-13) Koger 2-3, Sharpe 1-1, Cobb 0-2, Murphy 0-2, Worman 0-2, Weitzel 0-1, Thompson 0-1, Bills 0-1.

Huskies boys runners-up at Franklin County tournament

Hamilton Heights finished as the runner-up at the Franklin County Tournament on Wednesday.

In their first game, the Huskies beat Triton Central 53-42. Heights led 18-13 after the first quarter, then were up 25-22 at halftime. After a close third quarter, the Huskies ran away in the fourth quarter, at one point getting their lead around 15 points.

"We played well in the second half of the first game against Triton Central," said Heights coach Chad Ballenger.

Luke Carroll reached double-double status with 23 points and 15 rebounds. Isaac Tuma added 15 points.

The Huskies fell to host Franklin County 68-52 in the championship game. Heights led 16-12 after one quarter, but the Wildcats blasted through the second period, pouring in 28 points to take a 40-25 halftime lead.

"The night game, we faced a really good basketball team," said Ballenger. "They've won six in a row. They're 6-2 on the year and they've got three really nice players."

Carroll again led Heights with 19 points and also had nine rebounds. Tillman Etchison scored 16 points and dished out four assists.

The Huskies are 3-5 and will be off until Friday, Jan. 7, when they host Northwestern in a Hoosier Conference East Division game.

"We got some time off, which we need," said Ballenger. "We got a second half of the season that we're looking forward to. I'm pleased with where we're at."

HAMILTON HEIGHTS 53, TRITON CENTRAL 42

Heights	FG	FT	TP	PF
Luke Carroll	9-16	3-5	23	3
Isaac Tuma	6-9	3-5	15	3
Maddox Bohland	1-2	0-2	2	3
Braden Kinder	3-7	0-0	6	1
Tillman Etchison	2-6	2-2	6	1
Cooper Vondersaar	0-1	1-2	1	0
Evan Williamson	0-0	0-0	0	0
Collin Gilmore	0-0	0-0	0	0
Braylon Collins	0-0	0-0	0	0
Dean Mason	0-0	0-0	0	0
Colin Kuhn	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	21-41	9-16	53	11

Score by Quarters

Heights 18 7 11 17 - 53

Triton Central 13 9 10 10 - 42

Heights 3-point shooting (2-9) Carroll 2-2, Kinder 0-2, Etchison 0-2, Vondersaar 0-1, Tuma 0-1, Bohland 0-1.

Heights rebounds (30) Carroll 15, Tuma 4, Williamson 4, Kinder 3, Bohland 1, Etchison 1, Collins 1, Mason 1.

FRANKLIN COUNTY 68, HAMILTON HEIGHTS 52

Heights	FG	FT	TP	PF
Luke Carroll	6-15	7-9	19	4
Isaac Tuma	2-5	3-4	8	3
Maddox Bohland	1-4	0-0	2	1
Braden Kinder	1-5	2-2	4	0
Tillman Etchison	7-15	1-2	16	1
Evan Williamson	1-1	0-0	3	0
Cooper Vondersaar	0-0	0-0	0	0
Collin Gilmore	0-1	0-0	0	0
Tanner Maynard	0-0	0-0	0	0
Colin Kuhn	0-0	0-0	0	0
Braylon Collins	0-0	0-0	0	0
Totals	18-46	13-17	52	9

Score by Quarters

Franklin County 12 28 18 10 - 68

Heights 16 9 15 12 - 52

Heights 3-point shooting (3-15) Etchison 1-4, Tuma 1-3, Williamson 1-1, Carroll 0-3, Bohland 0-2, Kinder 0-2.

Heights rebounds (18) Carroll 9, Bohland 3, Tuma 2, Etchison 2, Vondersaar 1, Williamson 1.

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NBA standings

Wednesday's games		Oklahoma City 108, Denver 94
Orlando 104, Atlanta 98		L.A. Clippers 105, Sacramento 89
Boston 111, Cleveland 101		Toronto at Chicago, postponed
Milwaukee 126, Houston 106		

Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic	W	L	PCT.	GB	Northwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
Brooklyn	21	9	.700	-	Utah	21	9	.700	-
Philadelphia	16	15	.516	5.5	Denver	15	15	.500	6.0
Boston	16	16	.500	6.0	Minnesota	15	16	.484	6.5
Toronto	14	15	.483	6.5	Portland	13	19	.406	9.5
New York	14	17	.452	7.5	Oklahoma City	11	19	.367	10.0
Central	W	L	PCT.	GB	Pacific	W	L	PCT.	GB
Chicago	19	10	.655	-	Phoenix	25	5	.833	-
Milwaukee	20	13	.606	1.0	Golden State	25	6	.806	0.5
Cleveland	19	13	.594	1.5	L.A. Clippers	17	15	.531	9.0
Indiana	13	19	.406	7.5	L.A. Lakers	16	16	.500	10.0
Detroit	5	25	.167	14.5	Sacramento	13	20	.394	13.5
Southeast	W	L	PCT.	GB	Southwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
Miami	19	13	.594	-	Memphis	19	13	.594	-
Washington	16	15	.516	2.5	Dallas	15	15	.500	3.0
Charlotte	16	17	.485	3.5	San Antonio	12	18	.400	6.0
Atlanta	14	16	.467	4.0	New Orleans	11	21	.344	8.0
Orlando	7	25	.219	12.0	Houston	10	22	.313	9.0

Noblesville college signings

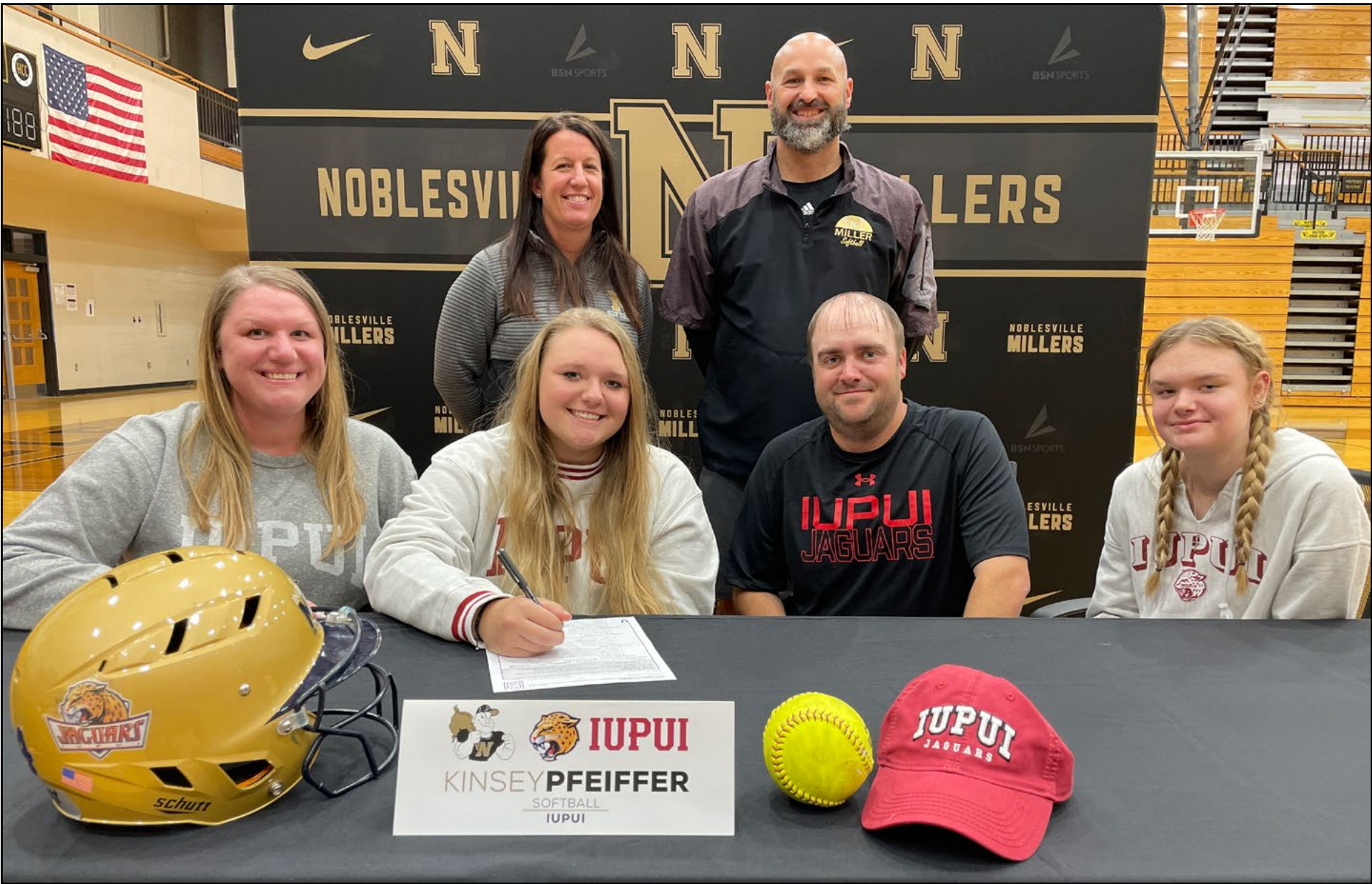


Photo courtesy Noblesville Athletics

Kinsey Pfeiffer has committed to play softball at IUPUI.
Pictured - Front Row (Left to Right): Kacina Pfeiffer (Mother), Kinsey Pfeiffer, Jason Pfeiffer (Father), Kaitlyn Pfeiffer (Sister).
Back Row (Left to Right): Noblesville Softball Assistant Coach Jen Thompson, Noblesville Softball Head Coach Deke Bullard.



Photo courtesy Noblesville Athletics

Nona Reason has committed to play soccer at the University of North Carolina.
Pictured - Front Row (Left to Right): Tiffany Reason (Mother), Nona Reason, Bob Reason.
Back Row (Left to Right): Noblesville Girls' Soccer Head Coach Mike Brady, Noblesville Girls' Soccer Assistant Coach Kristin Hetzel.

Thanks for reading the
Hamilton County Reporter