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TODAY'S WEATHER

Today: FLOOD WATCH from morning and midday rain. Temps falling through the 40s. Rainfall could exceed 2 inches.

Tonight: Wintry mix and snow through the evening.

HIGH: 45 LOW: 16



Carmel Dads Club proud to officially open sports complex



Reporter photo by John Geiger

On Wednesday afternoon, the ribbon was officially cut on the new Carmel Dads Club fieldhouse, called the CDC Sports Complex, located at 5459 E. Main St. The project was financed by the Clay Township administration as part of its 19-part Community Impact program. The 120,000 square-foot fieldhouse, located in Badger Memorial Park, will permit year-round athletic practice and competition. The new facility houses four full-size basketball courts, three batting cages, an indoor turf field and a track area around the turf field. Carmel High School, Carmel Dads Club and Carmel Parks and Recreation will all use this facility for their programming needs. See more photos on Page 4 and at ReadTheReporter.com.

Noblesville First offers ‘Respite Night’

The REPORTER

Noblesville First United Methodist Church, 2051 Monument St., will once again offer a Respite Night from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, March 19 for parents and caregivers of children ages 5 to 18 with mild to moderate disabilities and limited behavior and med-

ical concerns. Caregivers can drop their child and his or her siblings off at the church with educated and trained volunteers and enjoy an evening of relaxation.

March will be the one-year anniversary of the quarterly Respite Nights for the Noblesville community. Pre-

vious themes have been Superheroes, Luau, Winter Wonderland, and March's theme is the Circus. Event organizers will decorate to reflect the big top, play classic circus games, and watch a circus-themed movie. The goal is to provide a safe, fun environment for the children with mild to moderate

special needs and their siblings to allow their caregivers a well-deserved break for a few hours. The church intentionally partners with local therapy and resource centers for families with special needs within the community.

See Respite . . . Page 2

Noblesville gets \$10.3M in new funding for infrastructure, road projects

The REPORTER

The City of Noblesville has received a total of \$12,219,034 from the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization (IMPO). This includes a new award of \$10,359,670 for three major infrastructure projects within the city and increased financial support in the amount of \$1,859,364 for two previously awarded projects. The IMPO governing board approved the grants during its meeting Wednesday morning.

“We are grateful to have IMPO’s and the Noblesville Common Council’s partnership and support with these projects,” Mayor Chris Jensen said. “All of the new projects and the previously awarded trail projects will provide better and safer mobility in our city.”

Noblesville had three of the 30 central Indiana projects that were awarded a total of \$78 million.

“The financial support lessens the burden on our city as we make these necessary improvements to address traffic issues and enhance pedestrian connectivity,” Noblesville City Engineer Alison Krupski said.

Noblesville’s projects include:

Pleasant Street Phase I: \$7M

The Reimagine Pleasant Street project is a multi-year initiative that city officials say will result in improved east-west connectivity and accessibility. The plan for the corridor is to relieve traffic congestion off State Road 32 by connecting Hague Road to State Road 37 and provide an additional bridge crossing over the White River.

“As the 10th largest city in Indiana, this project is crucial to mobility in Noblesville and across Hamilton County, especially considering the growth we have experienced and expect going forward,” Jensen said. “The roadway design will provide Noblesville residents, local businesses, and visitors with many improvements that will enhance mobility and public safety while also honoring the urban character and historic features of the project area.”

Phase I is the largest portion of the three phases and includes work from River Road to 10th Street. The city will solicit bids and select a construction firm later this year, with construction beginning in early 2023. Phases II and III are expected to go to bid in 2023.

[Click here](#) to see a high-resolution image of the Phase I draft.

See Infrastructure . . . Page 2

Massillamany hosts first GOP breakfast as chair



Reporter photos by Denise Moe

Hamilton County Republican Party Chairman Mario Massillamany hosted his first Party breakfast Wednesday morning to a sold-out crowd at the Bridgewater Club in Westfield. The guest speaker was Indiana GOP Chairman Kyle Hupfer. (Above) Chairman Massillamany looks on as Kyle Hupfer addresses the crowd. (Left, from left) Indiana GOP Chairman Kyle Hupfer, County GOP Chairman Mario Massillamany, and County Commissioners Christine Altman and Mark Heirbrandt.

Senate Republican to propose narrower school curriculum bill

By GARRETT BERGQUIST
WISH-TV | wishtv.com

A Senate Republican on Tuesday said she wants to remove many of the provisions in a controversial school curriculum bill.

Arguments have raged at the Statehouse for weeks over [House Bill 1134](#), which would prohibit schools from teaching several concepts related to race and injustice and require schools to have curriculum advisory committees.

On Tuesday afternoon, Sen. Linda Rogers, R-Granger, released a comprehensive amendment she said seeks to address educators’ concerns.

The amendment removes language that sets up a complaint process and allows for lawsuits due to violations of the bill. It takes out language to require schools to be impartial when teaching about historical events.

It also narrows the list of off-limits concepts from eight to three: that one group is inherent-

ly superior or inferior to another, that one group should be treated adversely or preferentially, and that individuals, by virtue of their traits, are responsible for the past actions of those who shared their traits.

The Indiana Democratic Party almost immediately condemned the amendment. Executive Director Lauren Ganapini released a statement saying the bill still falls short.

“Indiana Republicans are finally admitting their culture

wars against public education have crossed the line,” she said in her statement. “The latest version of HB 1134 remains a slippery slope allowing bad actors to demand neutrality on issues, divide communities, and diminish Hoosier values.”

Rogers’ announcement came a day before a Senate committee is scheduled to take testimony and vote on the bill. She said she plans to introduce the amendment for a committee vote at the hearing.

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RESPITE



Photos provided by Noblesville First United Methodist Church
Noblesville First UMC’s quarterly Respite Nights can do great things for kids with certain disabilities.

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from Page 1

The goal of respite nights is to improve the overall health and psychological well-being of parents and caregivers, while simultaneously providing the children an opportunity to have fun and improve their social skills through interaction with peers.

"We hope you are ready for some big top fun because our theme this month is circus," said the church's Director of Family Ministries Ally Hall. "Bring on the lion tamers, clowns, and flying trapeze artists for an evening of sensory-safe fun."

Noblesville First is also seeking volunteers to assist with Respite Night. No experience is required but volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and must attend a mandatory training to receive education related to various disabilities and conditions, behavior management strategies, safety protocol, and communication techniques. There is also an Occupational Therapist on site for the training and the event who helped design the program to ensure the highest care possible for the children. The training will be held on Zoom from 6:30 to 7:45 a.m. on Thursday, March 10.

Find more details and online registration for participants and volunteers at NoblesvilleFirst.com. Questions can be directed to Ally Hall at ahall@NoblesvilleFirst.com or by calling the church office at (317) 773-2500.

INFRASTRUCTURE

from Page 1

Midland Trace Trail: \$1.5M

The 12-foot-wide extension of the Midland Trace Trail will be constructed as a part of the Pleasant Street project. The trail project will be constructed in three phases like the roadway. The trail corridor will ultimately connect from SR 32 to SR 37. The Midland Trace trail provides regional multi-use path connectivity. It will be extended more than two miles from SR 32/Hague Road to SR 37, connecting Westfield and Noblesville. Phase 1 of the project will connect to the existing Riverwalk, which connects to downtown Noblesville and the Plum Prairie Historic District. It will also connect to the future Nickel Plate Trail and Fishers.

141st Street and Promise Road Roundabout (2024): \$1.86M

Noblesville will change the current four-way stop at 141st Street and Promise Road into a roundabout at the border with Fishers. This improvement will lower gas emissions, and city officials say it will better serve motorists and will aid in safely maneuvering the intersection, especially for students on bus routes. Officials say the addition of this roundabout, along with a future roundabout at 141st Street and Howe Road, will significantly improve traffic progression along the nearly three mile stretch of 141st Street east of SR 37.

Trail projects get increase of \$1,859,364

The two previously awarded projects that received additional IMPO funding include the Little Chicago Road Trail and the Stony Creek Trail.

The Little Chicago Road trail will provide a 10-foot, multi-use path on the east side of Little Chicago Road from Elderberry Road to Carrigan Road, including widening the existing bridge to accommodate the trail.

The Stony Creek Trail will provide a connection under SR 37 along Stony Creek from Clover Road to Mercantile Boulevard. The 10-foot-wide trail will connect existing trails and remove a vehicular barrier to pedestrians. Each of these projects is expected to be constructed in 2023.

The Indianapolis MPO is responsible for planning and programming federal transportation funds in an eight-county central Indiana region, and this funding allocation is an annual IMPO process. The recipients were selected from a highly competitive pool, and each funded project requires a local match and is judged based on relative technical criteria including impacts to air quality, improvements to congestion, pavement quality and safety.

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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Drop off items at Tom Wood Volkswagen in Noblesville, 14701 Tom Wood Way.

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Federal redistricting forces countless precinct changes

Voters will receive notice by mail first week of April

The REPORTER

Hamilton County voters can expect changes to nearly every precinct in the Primary Election on Tuesday, May 3. Indiana is required by state and federal law to redraw its Statehouse and congressional maps following the results of the 2020 nationwide census.

"There were some changes to the Senate and House districts, some county council districts, and some school board districts," said Elections Administrator Beth Sheller. "Some precincts also were combined, split, or given new names."

By law, each precinct must have at least 600 eligible voters and no more than 2,000. There are a few exceptions to this rule. A precinct may not cross a congressional or state legislative district line.

New maps showing these changes can be found at hamiltoncounty.in.gov under the "Election Office" tab and the "Precinct and District Maps" tab. Printed copies of the map are also available in the Elections Office for \$3 per map.



Sheller

"Each voter that moved precincts, had a precinct name change, or has a polling site change, will receive a yellow card in the mail around the first week of April," Sheller added. "This card will let the voter know what precinct they are in and where their polling site will be."

That information can also be found at indianavoters.com. Voters are welcome to call the Elections Office for more information at (317) 776-8476.

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Coroner's Office grateful for quilt donations, more needed



Photo provided

Hamilton County Chief Deputy Coroner Jeff Jellison recently requested the public's help with donating quilts and blankets for the deceased. Jellison wants to use the quilts to replace the typical white sheets as an effort to soften the experience when family members and loved ones have the unfortunate task of identifying a deceased person in the morgue. Jellison said the community has really stepped up by providing several quilts; however, the Coroner's Office is experiencing an unprecedented number of death investigations and more quilts are needed. "Although several people have brought quilts and blankets into the office, none have wanted to be publicly recognized," Jellison said. "I think that speaks volumes for our community. These people just want to support the grieving families." According to Jellison, the quilts will remain with the deceased while in the morgue and will transfer to the funeral home for final arrangements. (Above) Jellison (left) and County Coroner John Chalfin display a recent quilt donation.

Sen. Young seeking answers on inflation's effect on households, businesses, federal budget

The REPORTER

In light of high and accelerating inflation, U.S. Senators Todd Young (R-Ind.) and Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) joined other Senate Finance Committee Republicans in a letter asking the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) for detailed information on the harmful budget effects inflation has on the federal budget, American households, and businesses.

Two selections from the letter appear below:

"Increased inflation leads to more federal spending and more federal revenue. The added revenue stems partly, and unfortunately for taxpayers, from nominal inflationary gains

that do not show up as purchasing-power-adjusted gains for federal taxpayers. The stealth-like nature of inflation taxes, and revenues that flow from them, should not be viewed as an economic plus."

"Adverse effects of inflation on the federal budget, including likely increased payments to service outstanding debt, absorb fiscal space and crowd out a host of national priorities, ranging from low-income support programs to national defense to disaster relief."

The senators also cite a



Young

budget workbook on CBO's website that suggests a persistent 1 percent inflation increase above CBO's baseline projection made early last year could increase deficits by nearly \$2.3 trillion over a 10-year period. They ask CBO for a description of budgetary effects of high inflation, inflation that persists, and higher interest rates that can result from high inflation and possible Federal Reserve responses to inflation.

Click here to read the letter, which was signed by all Senate Finance Committee Republican members.

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CDC Sports Complex now open in Carmel



Reporter photos by John Geiger



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No 'Escape' from Westfield!



Photo provided by City of Westfield

Westfield recently welcomed the newest The Escape Room. Fishers residents Jennifer and Brendon Harbron own, create, and manage the three Indy locations, and they say they are thrilled to open a new location just a few minutes from Grand Park. City officials, chamber members, and friends gathered on Tuesday, Feb. 8 to officially cut the ribbon at the new Westfield location. There are four rooms currently with a fifth and final room in development, giving guests multiple reasons to return. [Click here](#) to book your team-building activity or next family outing.

CoasterStone named Taste of Carmel premier sponsor

The REPORTER

Carmel Education Foundation (CEF) presents **CoasterStone** as the Premier Gift Sponsor for **Taste of Carmel**, which will take place on March 3 at 502 East Event Centre, 502 E. Carmel Drive.

Taste of Carmel tickets are selling fast, and more than 1,000 guests from Carmel and surrounding areas are expected to partake in this annual foodie experience. Highlights include food and cocktail tastings from 45 area eateries, a robust silent auction featuring an array of trips, experiences, and unique items, and a raffle for an electric bike or diamond necklace.

As the Event Gift Sponsor, CoasterStone will provide a one-of-a-kind gift for all guests. As the non-profit funding partner of Carmel Clay Schools, CEF raises funds through events like Taste of Carmel to provide teacher grants, scholarships, and programs benefiting Carmel Clay students, staff, and families.

CoasterStone Owner David Glenn is an advocate of Carmel Clay Schools and says he is honored to further CEF's mission of supporting Carmel students in academic achievement and lifelong learning.

"It is my privilege to be a partner of our public schools, not only as a local

business owner, but as a parent," Glenn said. "I am happy to support our teachers and students by helping to raise funds that provide valuable resources and empowering experiences for all students."

Glenn is a Hoosier through and through and is a proud graduate of Indiana University. When he is not running one of his many businesses, he can be found spending time with his family, coaching soccer and basketball teams, and promoting Indiana in the global market.

Visit TasteOfCarmel-Indiana.com for event information and additional sponsor opportunities. A limited number of reserved tables for 10 guests are available for \$1,000 and general admission tickets are \$60 each. VIP tickets are sold out. General Admission entry is at 6:30 p.m. and includes unlimited tastings, entertainment, and an event gift from CoasterStone.

A special thank you to all event sponsors, which include: State Bank, Citizen's State Bank, Springhetti Dentistry, City of Carmel, Fanning Howey, Finecraft Builders, Pyatt Builders, The Skillman Companies, The Smart Pergola, Qtego, CSO, Dentistry on 116, Church Church Hittle &



Glenn

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About the Carmel Education Foundation

One of the oldest foundations of its kind, the Carmel Education Foundation was created to help Carmel Clay students achieve their full potential. Since 1966, the Foundation has awarded over \$2.1 million in college scholarships to Carmel High School seniors and over \$850,000 in education grants to inspire lifelong learning for Carmel Clay students. CEF is governed by a volunteer board of directors who give their time and energy to accelerate the Foundation's mission by funding grants, awarding more than 80 scholarships annually and expanding resources for Carmel Clay Schools.

Meeting Notice

The Delaware Township Board and Trustee will meet to discuss the Annual Report at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022, at the Delaware Township Government Center, 9090 E. 131st St., Fishers.

Send Meeting Notices to:
Notices@ReadTheReporter.com

Community News

HSE/Fishers FFA, Wayne-Fall Lions Club partner for ham & bean supper

The Hamilton Southeastern/Fishers FFA will hold a drive-thru Ham & Bean Dinner Saturday, Feb. 26 at the Wayne-Fall Lions Club, 11940 E. 191st St. The FFA members will serve meals from 4 to 7 p.m. The menu will include ham & beans, cornbread, cole slaw, a veggie bag, and a dessert for a donation to the FFA.

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INDOT commissioner steps down

WISH-TV | wishtv.com

Last week, Governor Eric Holcomb announced Joe McGuinness stepped down as commissioner of the Indiana Department of Transportation. McGuinness, who was appointed to the role in 2017, has left to become chief executive officer of a new local government infrastructure management consultant company.

McGuinness served as the mayor of Franklin for five years before becoming INDOT commissioner.

The governor's office says during his tenure, McGuinness expedited the completion of the new Interstate 69 from Evansville to Indianapolis by three years, helped communities modernize their transportation networks, and oversaw major investments in north-west Indiana with the South Shore Line double tracking

project and West Lake Corridor extension, among other achievements.

"From day one, Commissioner McGuinness harnessed his local government experience and the many resources at INDOT to find innovative ways to expedite construction projects and create safer work zones all while finishing projects on budget and ahead of schedule whenever possible," Holcomb said in written remarks. "Under his leadership, Indiana continues to offer a world-class infrastructure system, which remains a key engine to our economic growth and safety."

McGuinness has been succeeded by Mike Smith, who previously served as deputy commissioner



McGuinness

and chief financial officer for INDOT.

"Mike brought experience from the fast-paced demands of managing business growth to INDOT, where he has been involved in day-to-day work in a district, developed comprehensive fleet management plans, invested taxpayer money in the best technologies, and developed biennium budgets to maintain and build Indiana's infrastructure," Holcomb said. "That breadth and depth of experience and determination will serve residents and businesses well as we continue making the best use of dollars to provide a top-rated infrastructure network for Hoosiers and our guests."

Smith began his new role on Monday.

#1 Booked School Speaker Nationwide

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Hamilton County Students among Top 100 at Ball State

| STUDENT | TOWN | COLLEGE | PROGRAM | CLASS YEAR |
|------------------------|----------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Christian DuBois | Noblesville | Miller College of Business | Residential Property Management | Senior |
| Mitchell Geis | Westfield | R. Wayne Estopinal Architecture and Planning | Architecture | Senior |
| Ben Heber | Carmel | College of Communication, Information, and Media | Journalism | Senior |
| Lauren Latham | Carmel | College of Sciences and Humanities | History | Senior |
| Lexi Leisure | Noblesville | Teachers College | Teaching Major Elementary Education | Senior |
| Eli Lucas | Carmel | College of Communication, Information, and Media | Public Relations | Senior |
| Tyler Meister | Noblesville | Miller College of Business | Economics | Senior |
| Julia Momper | Fishers | College of Communication, Information, and Media | Communication Studies | Senior |
| Lauren Szymczak | Fishers | College of Sciences and Humanities | Psychological Science | Junior |
| Mary Tragesser-Tina | Atlanta | College of Sciences and Humanities | Biology | Junior |
| Cam West | Fishers | Miller College of Business | Computer Information Systems | Senior |

Note: Students whose names appear in boldface type are in the Top 25.

11 local students make Ball State’s first Top 100 list

The REPORTER

Ball State University has announced its inaugural “Top 100 Students” list. This award recognizes 100 outstanding junior and se-

nior undergraduates who represent the spirit of Beneficence, Ball State’s institutional statue and icon that symbolizes the generosity of the five Ball brothers whose

land donation to the State of Indiana allowed the University to flourish.

Click here for more on the Top 100 program.

Locally, 11 students

from Hamilton County appear on the list, and three of those students were in the Top 25. Those students names appear in boldface type.



Photo provided

The 2021-2022 Indiana FFA State Officers are (from left) Northern Region Vice President Tyler Kilmer, Treasurer Jordyn Wickard, President Kourtney Otte, Secretary Madison Carns, Southern Region Vice President Abby Stuckwisch, and Secretary Nicholas Neuman.

National FFA Week starts this Saturday

The REPORTER

The Indiana FFA Association and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture will celebrate all things blue and gold for National FFA Week Feb. 19-26. National FFA Week remembers more than 94 years of FFA tradition and history while also highlighting and celebrating the success stories of the 735,000 members of the national organization.

“I am incredibly proud of the work FFA members do year-round to support and promote Indiana agriculture,” said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, who also serves as the state’s Secretary of Agriculture. “National FFA Week is a great opportunity for our FFA members to show their community, schools and neighbors what FFA and serving others is all about. I am excited to see the work completed by these young leaders during this weeklong celebration.”

Starting in 1948, the National FFA Board of Directors designated a weeklong celebration to recognize George Washington’s example and legacy as a leader and farmer. For the past 74 years, FFA members across the country have taken part in agricultural, leadership and service-based activities during National FFA Week.

“FFA has a strong history in agriculture and in community service,” said Bruce Kettler, Indiana State Department of Agriculture director. “This week is a great opportunity for FFA members to give back to their

community and their school and to recruit new members to join this outstanding organization.”

Tamara Ketchen, Director of the Indiana FFA Association, is looking forward to seeing all the work done this week in FFA chapters across the state.

“National FFA Week is a time for local chapters to highlight their programs showcasing their success and passion for agriculture,” Ketchen said. “We also use this as an opportunity to recognize community supporters and broadcast the mission of the organization.”

During the week, chapters host a variety of events to educate, advocate and celebrate the agricultural industry. From a school petting zoo to a farmer’s breakfast, these activities pay homage to the dedication and commitment of today’s agriculturalists. During National FFA Week, the Indiana FFA State Officers travel the state to participate in activities with local FFA chapters and their communities.

FFA encourages the next generation of leaders who will change the world. FFA members are future leaders, future food suppliers, future innovators and more. Whether it is through service projects or community gatherings, National FFA Week is a time for FFA members to raise awareness about agricultural education and the role the National FFA Organization plays in the development of agriculture’s future leaders.

New study shows housing as key player in building Hoosier economy

The REPORTER

An economic impact study conducted by the Indiana Builders Association (IBA) in conjunction with the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) shows that home building and remodeling industries in Indiana are key contributors to the state’s economy.

According to the study, the estimated one-year economic impact of building 1,000 single-family homes in Indiana includes \$308.3 million in income for Indiana residents, \$67.0 million in taxes and other revenue for the state and local governments in the state and 4,040 jobs in Indiana.

“Residential construction continues to provide thousands of jobs for hard-working Hoosiers and supplies much-needed housing to meet the increased demand we’ve experienced the past two years,” said IBA President Paul Schwinghammer. “This strong demand continues as the inventory of existing homes for sale remains at record low levels. We anticipate 2022 will be another robust year for the residential construction industry.”

Single-family building permits in Indiana increased 17 percent in 2021 compared to last year. The total number of single-family permits (21,830) for 2021 is the highest number since 2006. Despite the surge in new construction, home builders still face supply-chain hurdles.

“The availability of many building materials has tightened as the demand for new homes has soared. Since the start of the pandemic, many manufacturers and suppliers reduced production and staffing in anticipation of an economic slowdown. The surge in new home sales caught these industries off guard and the recovery to meet the demand has lagged,” Schwinghammer said. “Lumber, aluminum and steel are just some of the materials that have seen triple-digit percentage increases as the cost of a new home has skyrocketed, in some cases, \$100,000 or more within the past 18 months. It is increasingly difficult to provide attainable housing for Hoosier families while the inflationary and supply-chain pressures exist.”

Click here to view the study.

About the Indiana Builders Association

The Indiana Builders Association (IBA) is a statewide trade organization representing Indiana’s home building, remodeling and light commercial construction industry. Established in 1952, IBA has 21 local affiliates across Indiana and is associated with the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, D.C. IBA educates and advocates for the construction industry to positively impact legislative, regulatory and legal issues that affect housing affordability. More information can be found at buildindiana.org.

Surprise billing, balance billing: What you need to know

The REPORTER

New federal laws are in place to protect you from surprise bills in many cases. Keep reading to learn about the basics of the new protections.

What is balance billing?

Balance billing occurs when a health care provider bills a patient after the patient’s health insurance

company has paid its portion. The balance bill is for the difference between the amount the provider charges and the price the insurance company sets, after the patient pays any copay, coinsurance, or deductible.

Balance billing can occur when a consumer receives health care services from an out-of-network provider or an out-of-network facility. In-network

providers agree with an insurance company to accept the insurance payment in full. In-network providers agree not to balance bill. Out-of-network providers do not have this agreement with the insurance company. Therefore, in the past they sometimes billed the patient for the amount not covered by insurance.

Some health plans, such as Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) or Point of Service (POS) plans, offer some coverage for out-of-network care, but the provider can still balance bill the patient. Other plans offer no coverage for out-of-network providers and leave the financial responsibility entirely on the consumer.

Balance billing is pro-

hibited in both Medicare and Medicaid.

What is surprise billing?

Surprise billing occurs when a patient receives a balance bill after unknowingly receiving care from an out-of-network provider or an out-of-network facility, such as a hospital. This can occur in emergency and non-emergency situations

Some states have enacted protections for consumers against surprise billing. However, state laws do not apply to self-insured health plans, which account for the majority of people who get coverage through an employer. Now, federal law adds additional protections.

See Billing . . . Page 7

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BILLING

from Page 6

What protections are in place?

A new federal law, the No Surprises Act, protects you from:

- Emergency out-of-network medical bills including air ambulances, and
- Non-emergency services at an in-network facility.

The federal law applies to plans starting in 2022 and will be enforced by the federal government in Indiana. It applies to self-insured health plans offered by employers as well as health insurance companies.

- A facility (such as a hospital or freestanding emergency room (ER)) or a provider (such as a doctor) may not bill you more than your in-network cost sharing amount for emergency services.

This is true even if the emergency services you received were at an out-of-network facility or performed by an out-of-network provider.

- Under your health plan, you are still responsible for cost sharing amounts that may include copays, coinsurance, and deductibles.

- You are also protected when you receive non-emergency services from out-of-network providers at in-network facilities. An out-of-network provider may not bill you more than your in-network copay, coinsurance, or deductible for services performed at an in-network facility. (You can still consent in advance to receive care from an out-

of-network provider in some situations and agree to pay the provider amounts above your in-network copay, coinsurance, or deductible.)

What else should I know?

- You must receive notice of your rights under the new law from your health plan and from the facilities and providers that serve you.

- If you think the protections have not been applied correctly, you can file an appeal with your insurance company or request external review of the company's decision.

- You also can file a complaint with the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

Visit the Indiana Department of Insurance **No Surprises Act** page for additional resources and FAQs with examples of Surprise Bill Protections.

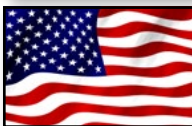
About the Indiana Department of Insurance

The **Indiana Department of Insurance (IDOI)** protects Indiana's insurance consumers by monitoring and regulating the financial strengths and market conduct activities of insurance companies and agents. The IDOI monitors insurance companies and agents for compliance with state laws to protect consumers and to offer them the best array of insurance products available. The IDOI also assists Hoosiers with insurance questions and provides guidance in understanding how insurance policies work.

Christopher Lee Barker

October 16, 1965 – February 9, 2022

Christopher Lee Barker, 56, Kirklin, passed away at his home on Wednesday afternoon, February 9, 2022. Born October 16, 1965, in Noblesville, he was the son of the late Marvin Dale Barker and Sandra Joy (Mason) Barker-Hart.



After graduating from Tipton High School with the Class of 1984, he proudly served his country as a soldier in the United States Army and later continued his education at Ivy Tech Community College.

For a few years, Christopher worked for P.R. Mallory in Frankfort before hiring on with Brock's Grain Dryers, where he worked for the past 10 years.

Christopher loved making memories with his family, and good or bad, that is exactly what he did. Picking on his sisters was always a favorite pastime, but when the kids were born, it shifted his attention toward a whole new crop of potential targets for harassment. However, his sisters were never too far out of mind. He also loved going on family camping adventures.

His love of outdoor activities extended well past the campfires and tents; Christopher also had a little bit of a green thumb. He enjoyed working in the flower beds and fussing with his tulips.

Another of Christopher's favorite past times was attending fall festivals. Somewhere along the way he caught the flea market and garage sale bug. Everyone knows that if you are going to hit a neighborhood yard sale, you must have a plan. Christopher's technique involved riding his bicycle from sale to sale. It beat walking, and he could cover a lot more area in less time, resulting in the opportunity to beat the competition to the goods.

Christopher was one of the good guys – always there to lend a helping hand to friends, family, or a perfect stranger, and he will be greatly missed by everyone whose lives he touched.

Christopher is survived by his son, Christopher Eugene Barker of Lafayette; daughters, Kimberly A. Ireland (Jonathan) of Vincennes, Jennifer M. McCord of Columbia, Tenn., and Lynn N. Barker of Evansville; 13 grandchildren; 1 great-grandchild; brothers, James E. Barker (Angela) of Fortville, Ferlin Ogden of Tennessee, and Billy Hutt of Tennessee; sisters, Joanie S. Isenhower (Craig) of Sheridan, and Sky Hutt of Tennessee; several nieces and nephews; and by his dog, Buddy.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father; step-mother, Effie Jane Bowman-Barker; sister, Clenna Barker; brother, Teddy Ogden; and by his daughter, Jessica Goldy.

Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, February 18, 2022, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th St., Sheridan, with military honors being conducted immediately following visitation.

Graveside services will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday, February 18, 2022, at Lincoln Memory Gardens in Whitestown. Pastor Chuck Barker will be officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to Kercheval Funeral Home, P.O. Box 42, Sheridan, IN 46069, to help defray funeral expenses.

Condolences: kerchevalfuneralhome.com

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NIV)

Freida May James

d. February 16, 2022

Freida May James passed away on Wednesday, February 16, 2022.

She is survived by her four children; four grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and two siblings.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two siblings and one grandson.

Private family services will be held. The James Family has entrusted Randall & Roberts Funeral Home with Freida's care.

Condolences: randallroberts.com

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

Note that * indicates the candidate is the incumbent for that office.
To view precinct and district maps, please visit hamiltoncounty.in.gov/221/Precinct-and-District-Maps.

| | | | | |
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Girls basketball

Millers, 'Blazers play for semi-states Saturday

By RICHIE HALL

The road to the semi-state for the Noblesville girls basketball team has been filled with familiar opponents.

The Millers played all three of their sectional opponents in the regular season, as well as Homestead in the regional semi-finals. Fort Wayne Snider, the team Noblesville beat in the regional championship game, is the only opponent the Millers didn't see prior to the tournament.

Noblesville will get another team it played in the regular-season when the Millers travel to Logansport's Berry Bowl on Saturday for the Class 4A north semi-state. Fifth-ranked Noblesville will take on No. 4 Crown Point, the defending 4A champion at 7 p.m. for a ticket to the state finals.

The two teams met each other earlier in the season at another neutral site, as they played in the semi-finals of the Bedford North Lawrence tournament on Dec. 22. The Millers won that game 57-32, using a box and 1 defense to keep the Bulldogs on their heels for the entire game.

MORE PREPARED

"Crown Point will be more prepared for a box and 1 defense," said Noblesville coach Donna Buckley. "I think we caught them off guard last time."

The Bulldogs will be led by senior Jessica Carrothers, the reigning Indiana Gatorade Player of the Year. Carrothers, an IUPUI recruit, is averaging 21.1 points, 4.4 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 3.7 steals per game. Another senior to look out for is Lily Stoddard, who is headed to Purdue. She contributes 11.7 points and 9.1 rebounds per game.

"Whatever defense we play, we have to know where their two best players are at all times, especially Carrothers," said Buckley. "She can flat out score. She had 42 in the regional championship game."

Crown Point defeated Lake Central 59-38 to win the La Porte regional, this after beating Penn 47-42 in the semi-finals. The Bulldogs, who are 24-3 for the season, hosted Sectional 2, breezing past Portage 71-25 in the first round and Lowell 92-31 in the semi-finals before edging out Merrillville 50-48 to win the title, their fourth sectional championship in a row.

The Millers had to win three tough games to triumph at the Westfield sectional, beating Zionsville 62-46 in the first round, Carmel 57-48 in the semi-finals and No. 7 Fishers 54-48 in the championship. That led Noblesville to the Marion regional, where it won easily, beating No. 1 Homestead 61-40 in the semis and No. 10 Snider 78-63 in the championship.

Junior Ashlynn Shade, a Connecticut commit, leads almost all the statistical categories for the Millers, at 20.4 points, 9.6 rebounds, 4.2 assists and 3.6 steals per game. Sophomore Reagan Wilson is tied with Shade for first in the assist list, also with 4.2 per game, and is scoring 9.9 points per contest. Freshman Meredith Tippner adds 9.7 points and 6.2 rebounds, while junior Kaitlyn Shoemaker scores 9.3 points per game.

Noblesville had a large crowd cheering the team on at Marion, and another big crowd is expected at Logansport as well to support the 23-4 Millers.

"The community has been amazing every step of the way," said Buckley. "The sectional was packed, and the regional crowd was awesome. We most definitely appreciate all of the support from our amazing community. Noblesville loves sports, and everyone here does a great job of bringing that excitement to the games. Our team is absolutely enjoying the moment. We are so thankful to have the community behind us throughout. Noblesville is a very special place, and we are so thankful for the opportunity to represent it at the semi-state."

tunity to represent it at the semi-state."

NEW OPPONENT

University will also be trying for a semi-state championship on Saturday. The Trailblazers will travel to Jasper for the Class 2A south semi-state to take on a team they've never played before: Forest Park.

Sixth-ranked University and the No. 8 Rangers will tip off at 4 p.m. Forest Park is 24-3 for the season, beginning its tournament run by hosting Sectional 48. The Rangers defeated South Spencer 54-43 in the first round, Evansville Mater Dei 37-26 in the semi-finals and Southridge 42-24 in the championship.

That sent Forest Park to Crawford County, and the Rangers triumphed there to claim their first regional title since 2000. Forest Park won two close games, defeating Eastern Pekin 50-46 in the semi-finals and North Knox 46-39 in the championship, improving its record to 24-3.

Junior Amber Tretter led the Rangers in both games, delivering double-doubles each time. She had 23 points and 11 rebounds in the semi-final, then provided 18 points and 12 rebounds in the championship. Carley Begle added 16 points in the final, while Ali Welp threw in several 3-pointers.

"I believe their balance is what really makes them who they are," said University coach Justin Blanding. "They get contributions from everyone on their roster. They are a tough match up. We just have to be who we are and stick it."

Blanding said Forest Park has some "special players" and acknowledged it will be a difficult task, but "we will be ready. They are long and strong at every position and very blue collar. Their kids work hard and want to win."

The Trailblazers began the post-season by winning the Western Boone sectional, defeating Cascade 63-51 in the first round, Covenant Christian 61-29 in the semi-finals and Park Tudor 41-28 in the championship. (Cascade and Forest Park are tied for eighth in the 2A rankings.) At the Southmont regional, the 'Blazers cruised past Union County 59-24 in the semis and North Putnam 64-38 in the championship.

Junior Payton Seay is University's leading scorer at 15.1 points per game, followed by senior Patty Chikamba with 13.9 points and junior Jessica DuBois at 13.0 points. All three lead the rebounds as well: DuBois is averaging 7.8 per contest, followed by Chikamba with 6.3 and Seay with 6.2. Chikamba also contributes 4.8 steals and 3.4 assists per game.

University is 23-4, compiling that record against a difficult schedule. The Trailblazers have taken on 4A teams such as Cathedral and Lawrence Central, as well as 10 3A teams, meaning that 12 of their 22 regular-season games are against teams from higher classes.

"We wanted to schedule like this in order to prepare the best we could," said Blanding. "We had some tough stretches. The last few weeks of the season we were playing three games a week. One stretch we had Ritter, Tri-West, and Tipton then drew Cascade in the first round of the sectional. We put a lot of miles on the kids but it has worked out well."

"All coaches at some point wonder if their team peaked when you struggle," said Blanding. "We dropped two tough games in a row and everyone was in panic mode." Still, Blanding pointed out that University was "in those games and had chances to win them."

"I think that gave them a lot of confidence and they got stronger going into the tournament," said Blanding. "Our experience also kicked in and they rallied behind one another."



Reporter photo by Kent Graham

Ashlynn Shade has been a force for Noblesville this season, leading almost all statistical categories, including 20.4 points per game. The Millers play Crown Point Saturday in the Class 4A north semi-state at Logansport.



Kirk Green/File photo

Patty Chikamba is scoring 13.9 points per game for University this season. The Trailblazers take on Forest Park Saturday at the Class 2A south semi-state at Jasper.

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State wrestling finals begin Friday

The IHSAA state wrestling finals begin Friday at Gainbridge Fieldhouse, and Hamilton County will once again be well-represented.

Fourteen different local wrestlers have qualified for the tournament this year. Carmel has the most wrestlers at state with five, followed by Westfield with three. Hamilton Southeastern has two qualifiers, while Fishers, Guerin Catholic, Hamilton Heights and Noblesville have one each.

There are 16 wrestlers in each of the 14 weight classes. County wrestlers are competing in 12 of the weight divisions, there are two local qualifiers at 113 pounds (Guerin Catholic's Peter Nguyen and Carmel's Gavin Thompson) and two at 126 pounds (Fishers' Griffin Ingalls and Carmel's Isaac Ward).

In Friday's first round, wrestlers from weight classes 152 to 285 pounds will compete in Session 1, which begins at 11 a.m. The second session starts at 7 p.m., featuring wrestlers from classes 106 to 145 pounds. Each wrestler competes in one match, with the winners advancing to Saturday action.

The quarter-finals begin in all weight classes at 9 a.m., with semi-finals immediately following. Consolation matches start at 4:30 p.m., with the championship matches beginning under the lights at 7:30 p.m.

Here is a list of all the weight classes involving county wrestlers.

106 pounds

Jake Hockaday, Brownsburg (freshman, 39-2) vs. Tamir Halevi, Carmel (sophomore, 19-6)

Jeffrey Bailey, River Forest (senior, 34-1) vs. Ayden Bollinger, Delta (freshman, 34-4)
Nathan Smith, Southport (senior, 47-0) vs. Donald Feeler, Crawford County (senior, 22-2)
Levi Johns, Bluffton (freshman, 39-1) vs. E'Shawn Tolbert, Portage (sophomore, 24-5)
Gavin Jendrens, Crown Point (freshman, 32-4) vs. Julianna Ocampo, New

Haven (freshman, 34-4)
Isaiah Schaefer, Evansville Mater Dei (freshman, 34-3) vs. Oliver Wilson, North Central (junior, 31-5)
Jalen May, Peru (sophomore, 35-3) vs. Seth Aubin, Hobart (freshman, 34-11)
Heather Crull, Northwestern (freshman, 45-3) vs. Luke Rioux, Avon (sophomore, 34-4)

113 pounds

Ashton Jackson, La Porte (junior, 46-0) vs. Peter Nguyen, Guerin Catholic (sophomore, 24-7)
Easton Doster, New Haven (freshman, 40-2) vs. Evan Seng, Evansville Mater Dei (sophomore, 33-4)
Evan Dickey, Cathedral (senior, 37-1) vs. Dylan Bennett, Penn (sophomore, 26-9)
Jackson Heaston, Indian Creek (junior, 40-2) vs. Wyatt Davis, Rochester (freshman, 27-4)
Tanner Tishner, Western (sophomore, 37-0) vs. Eddie Goss, Center Grove (freshman, 31-12)
Johnny Cortez, Lake Central (senior, 34-9) vs. Gavin Thompson, Carmel (junior, 20-4)
Preston Haines, Brownsburg (sophomore, 35-2) vs. Bowen Keith, Cowan (sophomore, 24-8)
Braden Getz, Roncalli (sophomore, 19-1) vs. Trevor Schammert, Hobart (senior, 40-4)

120 pounds

Hayden DeMarco, Chesterton (sophomore, 42-1) vs. Aden Reyes, Cathedral (junior, 31-9)
Hayden Brady, Garrett (junior, 29-4) vs. Jared Dunn, Princeton (senior, 35-5)
Toby Billerman, Perry Meridian (junior, 32-4) vs. Guillermo Rivera, Lake Central (sophomore, 28-10)
Noah Lykins, Columbus East (senior,

36-5) vs. Neil Mosier, Delta (sophomore, 36-3)
Lane Gilbert, Sullivan (junior, 28-1) vs. Elliott Cornewell, Bishop Dwenger (senior, 38-5)
Jayden Lewis, New Prairie (freshman, 36-10) vs. Kyrel Leavell, Warren Central (sophomore, 31-1)
Isaac Ruble, Belmont (senior, 43-1) vs. Dominic McFeeley, Cascade (junior, 39-8)
Braxton Vest, Westfield (senior, 38-6) vs. Christopher Bohn, Munster (sophomore, 42-1)

126 pounds

Aidan Sprague, East Noble (senior, 39-0) vs. Michael Tharpe, Center Grove (senior, 29-12)
Griffin Ingalls, Fishers (junior, 34-7) vs. Matteo Vargo, Penn (senior, 27-2)
Joey Buttler, Whiteland (junior, 36-1) vs. Gavin Cook, Adams Central (junior, 30-7)
David Maldonado, Merrillville (junior, 33-7) vs. Isaac Ward, Carmel (junior, 25-3)
Blake Wolf, East Central (junior, 46-0) vs. Beau Brabender, Mishawaka (junior, 31-8)
Ka'Mari'Yon Nelson, Castle (senior, 40-1) vs. Tony Wood, Jay County (sophomore, 37-3)
Logan Frazier, Crown Point (junior, 30-1) vs. Keaton Morton, Perry Meridian (junior, 31-7)
Keegan Schlabach, Lakeland (junior, 39-9) vs. Braden Haines, Brownsburg (senior, 35-7)

132 pounds

Cheaney Schoeff, Avon (junior, 30-2) vs. Michael Major, Carmel (freshman, 23-8)
Bryce Denton, Penn (sophomore, 22-6) vs. Logan Uhlman, Adams Central (junior, 18-6)
Zeke Seltzer, Cathedral (senior, 39-1) vs. Elijah Brooks, Whiteland (junior, 9-6)
Landon Bertch, Bluffton (senior, 33-2) vs. Eleazar Walker, Mishawaka (sophomore, 38-4)
Anthony Bahl, Crown Point (junior, 33-4) vs. Jasper Graber, Northridge (senior, 23-6)
Wyatt Krejsa, Center Grove (sophomore, 36-5) vs. Brevan Thine, New Castle (junior, 33-3)
Dylan Stroud, Manchester (senior, 36-0) vs. Mason Stanley, Rensselaer Central (junior, 42-7)
Elijah Anthony, Frankfort (senior, 36-1) vs. Brady Ison, Brownsburg (sophomore, 38-2)

138 pounds

Jessie Mendez, Crown Point (senior, 37-0) vs. Evan Roudebush, Bloomington South (freshman, 26-10)
Julius Gerencser, Daleville (senior, 26-3) vs. Ike O'Neill, Westfield (junior, 30-10)
Gavin Garcia, Brownsburg (senior, 40-2) vs. Wesley Harper, Penn (sophomore, 27-6)
Luke Gonzalez, Cathedral (senior, 32-7) vs. Dillon Tuttle, Delta (senior, 33-6)
Bryce Lowery, Roncalli (junior, 37-0) vs. Allan Maggard, Columbia City (senior, 27-14)
Cash Turner, Edgewood (junior, 32-1) vs. Cole Solomey, Kankakee Valley (junior, 40-3)
Cameron Clark, Jay County (sophomore, 22-3) vs. Carson Johnson, Mount Vernon (senior, 34-4)
Lucas Clement, Merrillville (junior, 21-7) vs. Ashton Hayhurst, Castle (senior, 14-1)

145 pounds

Matthew Koontz, Perry Meridian (senior, 39-0) vs. Nate Lommock, Terre Haute South (senior, 31-6)
Gunnar Krause, Knox (senior, 25-7) vs. Benjamin Miller, Lakeland (senior, 45-4)
Hayden Watson, Center Grove (senior, 39-1) vs. Nayl Sbay, Carmel (junior, 21-13)
Brody Arthur, Oak Hill (senior, 42-1) vs. Nick Tattini, Crown Point (senior, 31-6)
Toby Abbott, Cowan (senior, 33-0) vs. Denny Wendling, Frontier (senior, 35-5)
Anfernee Oliver, Ben Davis (senior, 31-8) vs. Rider Searcy, East Central (junior, 44-2)
Aidan Torres, Chesterton (junior, 40-1) vs. Brayden Baker, Garrett (senior, 32-11)
Brac Hooper, Zionsville (senior, 36-3) vs. Blaze Garcia, Brownsburg (senior, 34-6)

170 pounds

Connor Svantner, Valparaiso (senior, 31-1) vs. Braxton Russell, Delta (sophomore, 21-5)
Clifton Johnson, North Central (senior, 37-6) vs. Aiden Farmer, Evansville

Memorial (senior, 36-6)
Brodie Porter, Eastern (senior, 41-1) vs. Ethan Popp, Harrison (sophomore, 36-8)
Codei Khawaja, Floyd Central (senior, 36-2) vs. JJ Braun, Cathedral (senior, 35-7)
Brody Baumann, Evansville Mater Dei (senior, 31-0) vs. Anthony Cashman, Warren Central (sophomore, 38-6)
Eli Johnson, Norwell (senior, 38-1) vs. Isaac Valdez, Mishawaka (junior, 37-6)
Ryan Cast, Hamilton Southeastern (senior, 32-1) vs. Ben Phillips, Charlestown (senior, 40-2)
Jesse Herrera, Highland (senior, 36-4) vs. Landon Buchanan, Jimtown (senior, 39-3)

182 pounds

Luke Hansen, Roncalli (junior, 35-2) vs. Jake Sues, Lake Central (senior, 33-10)
Hunter Page, Monroe Central (junior, 42-2) vs. Gunner Henry, Brownsburg (freshman, 32-2)
Orlando Cruz, Crown Point (junior, 36-1) vs. Tommy Hannon, Bishop Chatard (senior, 21-5)
Reid Schroeder, Southridge (junior, 41-3) vs. Jaquan East, Kokomo (junior, 43-5)
De'Alcapon Veazy, Fort Wayne Snider (freshman, 33-4) vs. Alex Rose, Terre Haute South (junior, 25-7)
Kooper Kinsler, Delphi (senior, 37-5) vs. Evan Tilton, Hamilton Heights (junior, 45-1)
Drake Buchanan, Center Grove (senior, 39-1) vs. Trey Tobias, Northwood (senior, 29-9)
David Nash, East Central (senior, 42-4) vs. Jacob Simpson, Hobart (senior, 39-4)

195 pounds

Gabe Sollard, Evansville Mater Dei (senior, 34-2) vs. Jackson Ingenito, Daleville (senior, 28-6)
Ronin Hammond, Perry Meridian (junior, 24-11) vs. William Clark, Crown Point (sophomore, 33-4)
Armen Koltookian, Concord (junior, 41-6) vs. Samuel Sanders, Terre Haute North (senior, 36-5)
Gage DeMarco, Chesterton (senior, 42-6) vs. Max Broom, Hamilton Southeastern (senior, 31-6)
Connor Barket, West Lafayette (senior, 51-0) vs. Ryan Bovard, East Central (senior, 38-9)
Wyatt Willman, North Posey (senior, 34-6) vs. Alex Deming, Rochester (sophomore, 41-2)
Aataevon Jordan, Franklin Central (senior, 30-1) vs. Christian Chavez, Mishawaka (junior, 33-5)
Jacob Behm, Fremont (senior, 42-3) vs. John Purdy, Castle (junior, 38-3)

220 pounds

Blake Heyerly, Adams Central (senior, 42-1) vs. Jacob Long, Noblesville (senior, 25-8)
Kelton Farmer, Evansville Memorial (junior, 37-5) vs. Juan Grange, Penn (senior, 26-2)
Jackson Weingart, Cathedral (sophomore, 28-11) vs. Julante Hinton, Fort Wayne Northrop (sophomore, 36-6)
Paul Clark, Crown Point (sophomore, 29-8) vs. Tommy Morrill, Columbus East (junior, 37-2)
Nate Critchfield, Evansville Mater Dei (senior, 33-0) vs. Jordan Cree, Rensselaer Central (junior, 43-7)
Chance Harris, Concordia Lutheran (junior, 33-6) vs. Devin Kendrex, Mount Vernon (freshman, 31-6)
Christian Carroll, New Prairie (junior, 18-0) vs. Royce Deckard III, Center Grove (junior, 34-7)
Justin Lewis, Roncalli (senior, 31-9) vs. Brady Beck, Rochester (sophomore, 40-2)

285 pounds

Leighton Jones, Brownsburg (junior, 41-2) vs. Liam Begley, Crown Point (senior, 21-14)
Josh Clark, New Haven (junior, 24-10) vs. Hosia Smith, Cathedral (sophomore, 29-7)
Hunter Whitenack, New Prairie (senior, 27-0) vs. Nate Johnson, Center Grove (sophomore, 29-6)
Mihail Platonov, Westfield (senior, 36-7) vs. Ian Clifford, Columbia City (senior, 25-2)
Marshall Fishback, Rochester (senior, 41-1) vs. Hunter Branham, Frankton (junior, 28-7)
Ashton Hartwell, Columbus East (senior, 34-3) vs. Trey White, Portage (senior, 31-7)
Makhi Watts, North Central (senior, 35-5) vs. Brayden Jellison, Elkhart (junior, 33-8)
Theodore Sparks, Merrillville (senior, 33-5) vs. Jacob Johnson, Franklin Community (senior, 38-3)

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Hamilton Heights college signings

MyKayla Moran signs to play basketball at Hanover College

MyKayla Moran, Hamilton Heights senior, has signed a letter of intent to play basketball for Hanover College in Hanover, Indiana this fall. Hanover College is a member of the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) and a NCAA Division III athletic institution. She is the daughter of Cherry and Ron Moran.

It was the Kinesiology and Integrative Physiology program, beautiful campus, and family atmosphere created by the women's basketball team that made this liberal arts institution in southern Indiana Moran's top pick to pursue her education and play collegiate basketball. She liked the fact that she would have many opportunities to gain hands-on experience with athletic trainers as she works toward becoming a Certified Athletic Trainer. In terms of the women's basketball program, the coaches and players were warm and welcoming. She felt like she could excel in the classroom and on the court at Hanover.

Moran has loved playing basketball since the age of five. She has worked to build her skill set, stamina, and presence on the court during practices, at Accel Indy to train with former Hamilton Heights player, Maddie Herr, and trained with M14 to bounce her game up to the next level.

She credits a lot of her success and development to her parents. Both pushed her to be the best person and player possible and she believes she would not be here today without their support and involvement.

Moran, a member of the National Honor Society and who works for Prairie Lakes Health Campus, is a four-year varsity letter holder. In addition, she was named the Most Improved Player 2019-20, Leading Rebounder in 2019-20 and 2020-21, All-Conference Honorable mention 2019-20, and All-Conference 2020-21.



Hamilton Heights senior MyKayla Moran has signed a letter of intent to play basketball for the Hanover College Panthers in Hanover, Indiana this fall. Moran is pictured with Mason (brother) and parents, Cherry and Ron Moran.

"On behalf of the entire coaching staff here at Hamilton Heights, we wish to congratulate MyKayla on this fantastic opportunity," said Hamilton Heights Girls Basketball Head Coach Keegan Cherry. "We thank her for her commitment to the program and wish her the best as she pursues

her goals as a student athlete at Hanover College."

"MyKayla has worked extremely hard over her high school career to improve her game," added Hamilton Heights High School Athletic Director, Kurt Ogden. "It's exciting to see that the hard work has paid

off for her and she has earned this opportunity to play at Hanover College. Incidentally, she wouldn't have received this offer without working just as hard in the classroom. She is a solid student and a great role model for our program. We wish her well as she prepares for the next level."

Photo by Jennifer Kauffman

Belle Neiling signs to play softball for Franklin College

Belle Neiling, Hamilton Heights senior, has signed a letter of intent to play softball for Franklin College in Franklin, Indiana this fall. Franklin College is a member of the Heartland Conference and a NCAA Division III athletic institution. She is the daughter of Amie and Tony Neiling.

"I fell in love with Franklin College during my first visit," recalls Belle Neiling, of one of Indiana's oldest liberal arts institutions. "Meeting with Softball Head Coach, Angie Bain, sealed the deal." Neiling said she plans to be active at Franklin College and in the community while earning a double major in psychology and sociology and minor in criminal justice to ultimately earn her doctorate in criminal psychology.

Neiling has been playing softball since the age of three and travel ball beginning at age eight. It was shortly after she started travel ball that she set her sights on playing at college. From there she would play year-round, attend camps, work with personal trainers, and build her skill in preparation for this opportunity.

Neiling started her softball career off at Hamilton Heights strong. She has been a varsity centerfield starter all four years and has also been a five-season member of Hamilton Heights Cheerleading squad. She received an All-County Honorable Mention, named Offensive Rookie of the Year, a member of the All-Conference Team, Team Captain, and is among the Top 100 Softball Players in Indiana, Class of 2022.

In addition, she has been among Hamilton Heights' Top 10% since her freshman year, is a member of the National Honor Society and this year's secretary, Spanish and Bring Change to Mind clubs, a volunteer cheer coach, and works at Pizza House.



Hamilton Heights senior Belle Neiling has signed a letter of intent to play softball for the Franklin College Grizzlies in Franklin, Indiana this fall. Neiling is pictured with her family: Parents Amie and Tony Neiling and brothers Theo and Eli.

Neiling credits her parents as being the most influential in her development as a strong student athlete. She also credits her high school coaches, Ken Olovich, Dylan Baber, and Shelby Willis as being instrumental in readying her to play softball at the

collegiate level.

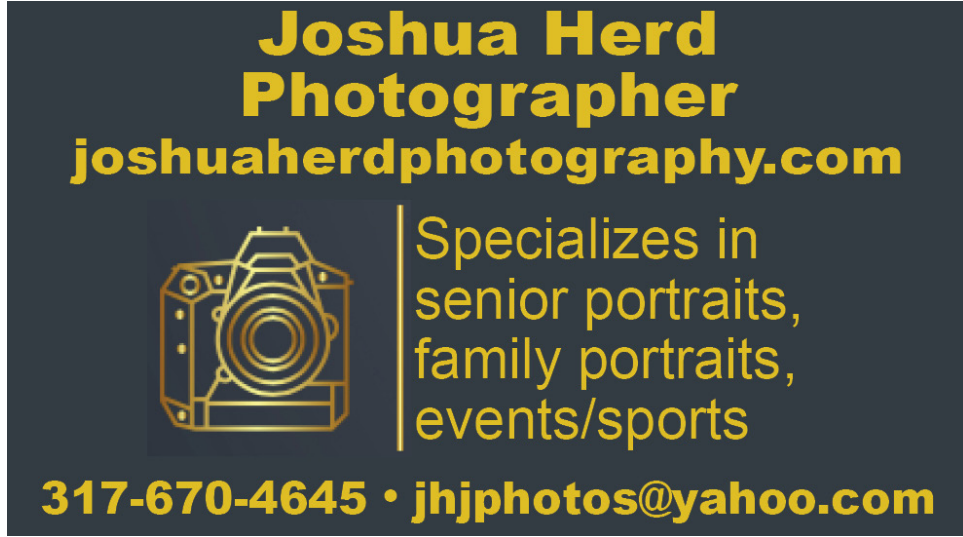
"Belle has been a mainstay in the softball program since entering high school," said Kurt Ogden, Hamilton Heights High School Athletic Director. "She has been a tremendous leader on and off the field and

an excellent role model for her teammates. We will miss her hustle, speed and determination but it's assuring to know she'll be an outstanding representative of Hamilton Heights and continue those same qualities while attending Franklin College."

Photo by Jennifer Kauffman



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NBA standings

| | |
|---|---|
| Wednesday's games Atlanta 130, Orlando 109 Detroit 112, Boston 111 Indiana 113, Washington 108 Brooklyn 111, New York 106 Chicago 125, Sacramento 118 | Portland 123, Memphis 119 Toronto 103, Minnesota 91 San Antonio 114, Oklahoma City 106 Phoenix 124, Houston 121 Denver 117, Golden State 116 L.A. Lakers 106, Utah 101 |
|---|---|

Eastern Conference

| | | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| Atlantic | W | L | PCT. | GB |
| Philadelphia | 34 | 23 | .596 | - |
| Boston | 34 | 26 | .567 | 1.5 |
| Toronto | 32 | 25 | .561 | 2.0 |
| Brooklyn | 31 | 27 | .534 | 3.5 |
| New York | 25 | 34 | .424 | 10.0 |
| Central | W | L | PCT. | GB |
| Chicago | 38 | 21 | .644 | - |
| Milwaukee | 36 | 23 | .610 | 2.0 |
| Cleveland | 35 | 23 | .603 | 2.5 |
| Indiana | 20 | 40 | .333 | 18.5 |
| Detroit | 13 | 45 | .224 | 24.5 |
| Southeast | W | L | PCT. | GB |
| Miami | 37 | 21 | .638 | - |
| Charlotte | 29 | 30 | .492 | 8.5 |
| Atlanta | 28 | 30 | .483 | 9.0 |
| Washington | 26 | 31 | .456 | 10.5 |
| Orlando | 13 | 47 | .217 | 25.0 |

Western Conference

| | | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| Northwest | W | L | PCT. | GB |
| Utah | 36 | 22 | .621 | - |
| Denver | 33 | 25 | .569 | 3.0 |
| Minnesota | 31 | 28 | .525 | 5.5 |
| Portland | 25 | 34 | .424 | 11.5 |
| Oklahoma City | 18 | 40 | .310 | 18.0 |
| Pacific | W | L | PCT. | GB |
| Phoenix | 48 | 10 | .828 | - |
| Golden State | 42 | 17 | .712 | 6.5 |
| L.A. Clippers | 29 | 31 | .483 | 20.0 |
| L.A. Lakers | 27 | 31 | .466 | 21.0 |
| Sacramento | 22 | 38 | .367 | 27.0 |
| Southwest | W | L | PCT. | GB |
| Memphis | 41 | 19 | .683 | - |
| Dallas | 34 | 24 | .586 | 6.0 |
| New Orleans | 23 | 35 | .397 | 17.0 |
| San Antonio | 23 | 36 | .390 | 17.5 |
| Houston | 15 | 42 | .263 | 24.5 |

Pacers beat Wizards, snap six-game skid

By WHEAT HOTCHKISS
Courtesy nba.com/pacers

The Pacers are heading into the All-Star break on a positive note. Indiana (20-40) snapped a six-game skid with a 113-108 win over Washington (26-31) on Wednesday night at Gainbridge Fieldhouse.

The Blue & Gold picked up the victory despite having just nine active players for the game, with just one (Oshae Brissett) who was on the 15-man NBA roster at the start of the regular season.

But the undermanned Pacers found a way to win thanks to a strong collective effort. Six players scored in double figures, with Tyrese Haliburton leading the way with 21 points and 14 assists, dishing out several timely dimes down the stretch.

Two-way forward Terry Taylor added 18 points on 9-of-11 shooting and nine rebounds, while fellow big man Tristan Thompson added 17 points on 8-of-9 shooting and six boards off the bench.

"Just making plays, guys being in the right spots," Haliburton said of the difference in Indiana snapping its losing streak. "I thought (Taylor) and Oshae...those two did a good job down the stretch of being in the right spots at the right times, cutting and slipping out ball screens and all that good stuff. They made some big plays for us down the stretch."

The Wizards jumped in front early in Wednesday's contest and led 21-14 following Kentavious Caldwell-Pope's 3-pointer

with 3:27 remaining in the opening frame. The Pacers stormed back with 10 straight points, taking the lead on Lance Stephenson's three-point play with 1:48 left and then capping the run the next trip down the court, when Haliburton made a no-look pass to Brissett for a two-hand slam in transition.

Anthony Gill hit two free throws in the closing seconds of the quarter to tie the game at 25.

The Pacers opened the second quarter with a 16-4 run, making seven straight shots during that span. Thompson scored six points in the run, while Haliburton added five.

The Blue & Gold led by as many as 13 in the frame, but Washington closed the half with a 12-4 run to climb back within five at 56-51.

The Pacers extended the lead once more with another strong start to a quarter. Haliburton scored on a layup, then connected with Buddy Hield for a 3-pointer for the first five points of the second half.

The Blue & Gold pushed the margin back to 13 on three separate occasions in the third quarter, the final time when Stephenson crossed up Ish Smith on his way to the rim for a right-handed finish that made it 84-71 with 1:34 remaining in the quarter.

But the Wizards closed the period with five straight points thanks to a Deni Avdija 3-pointer and a pair of Kyle Kuzma free throws to make it a single-digit game entering the fourth.

Washington continued to chip away at Indiana's lead in the final frame, making it a 90-87 game on Cassius Winston's three with 8:02 to play.

Five straight points from Thompson — including a massive one-hand slam off a lob from Haliburton — helped Indiana keep the Wizards at bay for a stretch, but Caldwell-Pope's trey with 5:16 remaining trimmed the lead to 95-94.

That prompted a timeout from Pacers head coach Rick Carlisle. The Blue & Gold righted the ship out of the break, with Taylor scoring on the baseline and then Haliburton knocking down a mid-range jumper to push the lead back to five.

After another stoppage Haliburton connected with a cutting Taylor for another basket to make it 101-94 as the clock ticked under three minutes.

Avdija answered with a hook shot at 2:17, but once again Haliburton found Taylor on the other end.

The Wizards weren't done, however. Another Avdija basket and a Caldwell-Pope three made it 103-101 with 1:15 to play.

After a timeout, Haliburton drove to the rack and missed, but Taylor was there to clean it up, converting a basket plus the foul at 1:04.

He missed the free throw, however, and Caldwell-Pope's layup with 42.2 seconds remaining once again made it a one-point game.

But the Pacers had another answer, as Haliburton drove and dished to a cutting Brissett for a dunk with 21.3 seconds to play. Kuzma missed on the other end, and the Pacers sealed the game at the free throw line.

"I saw the opening, I saw Tyrese going to attack," Brissett of his cut. "He draws so much attention because he can finish around the rim really well...I just saw the opening, was able to get down there, and I knew he was going to find me."

Brissett finished with 17 points, five rebounds, and two steals for Indiana. Hield added 15 points, six boards, and seven assists, while Stephenson stuffed the stat sheet with 11 points, six rebounds, four assists, and three steals.

"The guys found a collective will to win this game and made a couple extra plays down the stretch," Carlisle said. "Taylor was great finishing off a couple plays, Haliburton had another great all-around game. We had contributions from a lot of different guys."

Caldwell-Pope had a game-high 27 points for Washington, going 5-for-8 from 3-point range. Kumza was 6-for-12 from beyond the arc, tallying 26 points, 15 rebounds, and six assists.

The Pacers now have an eight-day break before returning to action next Friday, when they tip off a two-game home-stand.





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