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HART SPEAKS

from Page 1

There will be a launch party. I will have book signings in my favorite shops in downtown Noblesville. I also have an idea for porch and patio chats and book signings at the homes of my readers. What are your thoughts on that idea?

Back to my being scared. I am. This is right up there with the fear I had when I walked into Don Hinds Ford in 2004 and asked for a job selling cars and trucks. I can only hope this works out the way that career did. My third career at age 66 as a writer/author/speaker.

Writing this book has been a labor of love. I feel like I have birthed another baby, without the actual

physical labor pains. I want you all to like it.

I'm still that little girl in junior high. I want you to be my friend and like me and my book.

All of you who read my columns have been so supportive over the soon-to-be 18 years I have been writing them. I thank you for the thoughts you have shared with me. I'll keep writing my column as long as the good guys at the Hamilton County Reporter allow me.

My brave and oh-so-smart editors are busy correcting my punctuation and grammatical errors, run-on sentences, and copyright errors. Who knew I liked the words "okay" and "actual-

ly" so much? Seems I can fracture a sentence as well as anyone, and that is not a good thing ... but I still do it. They have given up on correcting me for breaking that rule of English grammar. They have done their best to chase my squirrels and follow my rabbit trails.

Who knew writing a book would be so complicated? Even the table of contents is a challenge. Don't get me started on the copyright page. Ugh.

Thank you, Mr. Purvis, for believing in my ability to write all those 50 years ago and even more so today.

And to the teachers who think their words do not matter ... there will be stu-

dents some 50 years from now who are remembering the words you said and the comments you wrote on their papers. When you believe in a student, they learn to believe in themselves. They hear you. I know that well. Your words matter.

And so, it is with both fear and excitement I have finished my book and await its arrival into the hands of my readers. Stay tuned for its delivery date.

Coming soon ... *When the Hart Speaks*.

Janet Hart Leonard can be contacted at janeth-artleonard@gmail.com or followed on Facebook (@janet.hartbaker) or Instagram (@janethartleonard). Visit janethartleonard.com.

ARBORIST

To earn his credentials, Russell completed training courses, passed comprehensive examinations, and accumulated over 10 years of experience in the arboriculture field.

"I am so happy to have achieved these certifications," Russell said. "Be-

coming part of a small group of individuals that are able to help in the overall health and well-being of the largest group of living organisms in the world, brings an amazing feeling of accomplishment. Reaching these personal goals and working in a parks system that has some of the best species in Hamilton County is a true achievement. I'm grateful to

the leaders of the parks department for supporting my professional growth and allowing me the opportunity."

Russell, a graduate of Ivy Tech State College, joined the City of Noblesville in 2003 and has been part of the Parks and Recreation Department since 2019.

About Noblesville Parks & Recreation
The Noblesville Parks

and Recreation Department manages over 876 acres of parkland in the city of Noblesville, including seven developed parks, 109 acres of undeveloped properties and 127 miles of trails, connector sidewalks and greenways throughout the community, in addition to two golf courses and the Noblesville Soccer Fields. For more information, visit noblesvilleparks.org.

VIRTUAL CARE

from Page 1

ultimately allows members to be in control of their recovery process.

"By focusing on each person as an individual, Workit Health allows members to dictate their end goal, whether that is complete abstinence or moderation," Workit Health Co-CEO Robin McIntosh said. "We feel that personalizing addiction treatment through telemedicine is one of the most important pieces of the puzzle. It opens Workit Health's services to all who need help, no matter where they fall on the addiction spectrum."

After McIntosh and Co-CEO Lisa McLaughlin personally experienced the dated traditional recovery

system and found it lacking, they co-founded Workit Health in 2015. Giving people the opportunity to receive evidence-based clinical care – including medication for substance use and mental health – leads to improved outcomes, evidenced by Workit Health's 73 percent retention rate at the 90-day mark.

"It is important to us that Workit Health meet members wherever they are in their recovery journey," McLaughlin said. "During Workit Health's treatments, there is no shame or stigma if someone battling addiction relapses, and instead, helps intervene to re-set their personal path to recovery."

About Workit Health
Workit Health is the industry-leading provider of clinically proven telemedicine treatment for substance use disorder, offering online therapy, medication-assisted treatment, psychiatric support, and primary care via the Workit Health mobile app. Workit brings the gold standard of substance use treatment into the privacy of people's homes at the moment they're ready for help, allowing people to find long-term freedom from drugs and alcohol with minimal disruption to their daily lives. Workit Health partners with individuals, health plans and employers. More about Workit Health at workithealth.com.

PREVAIL

Advocating for Victims of Crime & Abuse

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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Get help with your energy bills

The REPORTER

Duke Energy reminds Hoosier customers of available state and federal assistance programs to help manage their energy bills. If you or someone you know is having trouble paying their utility expenses, assistance programs are available to help.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP is an income-based program that allows those earning below certain thresholds to qualify for federal energy bill assistance. The qualify-

ing income thresholds are based on factors that include household income and the number of people living in a home. [Click here](#) to learn how to qualify and apply for LIHEAP funds.

Assistance agency funds

2-1-1 is a free service to help customers find local community agencies that can help meet a wide range of needs, including utility bills, housing, food and other essentials, child and elder care, medical expenses and health counseling. To learn about agencies that serve your

area, dial 2-1-1, visit [in211.org](#) online or text your ZIP code to 898-211 for information on where to get help.

Share the Light Fund

Duke Energy's [Share the Light Fund](#) is an energy assistance program designed to help income-qualified individuals and families pay their monthly electric bills. Duke Energy works in partnership with the Indiana Community Action Association and the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's Energy Assistance Program

to distribute the company's assistance funds. Due to high demand, customers should first check with their local community action agency to make sure there are still funds available locally. [Click here](#) to find a listing of service providers by county.

Energy-saving solutions

Duke Energy also offers energy efficiency products, services and information to help customers save energy and money. For more information, visit [duke-energy.com/home/products](#).



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Perry Williams
Noblesville Township Board

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Paid for by the Committee to elect Perry Williams Noblesville Township Board

Songbook Foundation names Emily Rapoza new director for growing library & archives

The REPORTER

The Great American Songbook Foundation in Carmel has hired a new professional to oversee its vast and growing historical collections that preserve and tell the story of classic popular music.

Emily Rapoza will begin March 14 as the Foundation's new Director of Library & Archives. She replaces Lisa Lobdell, who retired recently after serving the organization since 2010.

Rapoza has served most recently as Senior Lincoln Librarian with the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection in Fort Wayne, one of the world's most comprehensive collections of artifacts related to former president Abraham Lincoln. She holds a master's degree in Library and Information Sciences from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as well as a master's in Digital History and a bachelor's degree in History from Ball

State University.

The Songbook Library & Archives, housed in an 8,000 square-foot facility in Carmel, currently comprises more than 500,000 documents, images and artifacts representing composers, lyricists, arrangers, performers and other figures associated with timeless jazz standards and other music from Tin Pan Alley, Broadway and Hollywood. Highlights include the papers of *The Music Man* creator Meredith Willson; musical arrangements written for such artists as Natalie Cole, Rosemary Clooney, Sammy Davis Jr., and Andy Williams; Hy Zaret's original lyrics for "Unchained Melody," one of the 20th century's most recorded songs; and a growing library of sheet music, books and audiovisual materials. The collections serve



Rapoza

as a resource for scholars, journalists and musicians from around the world, including Broadway producers and documentarians from PBS, the BBC and other organizations. More information is available at [The-Songbook.org/Archives](#).

In her new role, Rapoza's responsibilities will include overseeing acquisition, management and digitization of the collections; assisting and tracking researcher requests and visits; developing public exhibits of historical materials; contributing to grant proposals and fundraising activities; and leading community outreach initiatives and collaborative partnerships related to the Library & Archives.

"Emily has experience not only in preserving historical collections, but also in using technology to make the

materials more accessible to researchers and more engaging for the general public," said Great American Songbook Foundation Executive Director Christopher Lewis. "Her skill set and her track record of innovation are ideally suited to our vision for the Library & Archives."



RE-ELECT
Steve SCHWARTZ
for Hamilton County Council Dist. 3

Paid for by Elect Steve Schwartz Hamilton Co. Council, Mike Peters Treasurer

Thanks for reading!

Guidelines for this election season

The Hamilton County Reporter, your hometown newspaper, is always willing to publish Letters to the Editor, guest columns and campaign announcements in our pages. But with the approach of the May 3 Primary Election, we are establishing some guidelines to keep things fair and balanced.

New campaign announcements, columns and platform articles will be accepted until the end of the business day on Friday, April 15.

Letters to the Editor addressing new topics about the upcoming election or



the policies of individual candidates will be accepted until the end of the business day on Friday, April 15 and will be published on Saturday, April 16.

Letters in response to new topics published in our April 16 edition will be accepted until Wednesday, April 20 and will be published in our Thursday, April 21 edition.

Please email your letters to the editor to News@ReadTheReporter.com.

Letters to the Editor do not represent the opinions of The Reporter or our staff.



Looking for Peace in the Midst of Turbulent Times?

Flying with eagles? Running and not getting tired? Sound good? To do these things I will need to change my glasses so I look at things the way God does. Rather than looking through glasses that are focused on the material, physical world, I need to look at the unseen spiritual world and things eternal. By so focusing my vision, I see that which is truly important and eternal.

He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:29-31)

Do you want to live a peaceful contented life flying with eagles, then turn your eyes and heart to Jesus? Open your heart and listen to Him. Embrace the truth He revealed. Turn your life to Jesus! The good folks at the Stony Creek Church of Christ would be delighted to study with you at a time of your convenience and a place of your convenience. Or, attend one of our services and begin your flight with eagles.



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Sunday Worship 11:00 am
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The history of ice hockey

The Sheridan Student Column is brought to readers by Sheridan High School's 10th grade English class, taught by Abby Williams.

The history of ice hockey has long been a debated subject.

The first official game of ice hockey is declared to have been played in Montreal in 1887, according to the International Ice Hockey Federation. It is said that the *Montreal Gazette* posted the first rules of ice hockey a year after. Further research shows that the first games of ice hockey may have originated and played in England. The earliest rules of this game were likely published in England as well. However,

COLUMNIST



CAYDEN SPENCER
Sheridan High School Student

er, from the 1870s forward, Canada reshaped the sport in its entirety.

From the beginning of recorded history, "stick-and-ball games" have been present in many cultures. Ice hockey falls in this category of "stick-and-ball games." Recordings of these games played in ancient Greece and Egypt have been discovered. Such games were played by Native Americans before Europeans arrived on the continent. Clear evidence is present that "stick-and-ball games" were played in medieval Europe as well. An illustration of curved sticks guiding a ball to a target is shown in the 13th century encyclopedia,

Speculum Maius.

Hockey developed from early versions played in the British Isles. Scotland, Ireland, and England are the main points of interest from which hockey evolved. Many of these games shared similar rules and structures. However, according to the earliest known records of ice hockey, these games were not recorded as actually being played on ice, until a game of shinty played in 1608 in Scotland. Ice skates were likely not used in these games, however. Iron skates were not found in the British Isles until 1660.

When the British royal family returned from the Netherlands, a love for skating was brought with them. Canals provided an ideal space for skating. Skates were likely introduced to

the Fens, a coastal plain in eastern England, by Dutch drainage workers. By 1662, diarist Samuel Pepsy described "people sliding with their skates," which he declared as "a very pretty art."

As history continued to develop and Europeans began to arrive in North America, hockey was eventually an important part of Canadian culture. Canada was known as the dominant power in ice hockey by 1920. Canada dominated Olympic ice hockey for over three decades. Canada has been the biggest and most essential contributor in building the world of ice hockey.

To this day, the sport grows in popularity around the world. I grew up watching ice hockey with my parents. The game has a special place in my heart.

Thanks for reading the Hamilton County Reporter!

Sen. Young leads letter opposing President Biden's PLA mandates

The REPORTER

U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) led a group of 42 Senate Republicans in sending a letter to President Joe Biden opposing the administration's Executive Order that requires project labor agreements (PLAs) on federal and federally-assisted construction contracts.



Young

"Currently, 87.4% of the U.S. construction workforce does not belong to a union," the Senators wrote. "Mandating PLAs will prevent qualified contractors from fairly competing for contracts on taxpayer-funded projects. These mandates will also deny critical construction jobs to local workers and small businesses and increase construction costs. A fair and open bidding process for federal construction projects would guarantee the best value for hardworking taxpayers located in all geographies and regions across the United States."

U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) led a group of 42 Senate Republicans in sending a letter to President Joe Biden opposing the administration's Executive Order that requires project labor agreements (PLAs) on federal and federally-assisted construction contracts.

"Your administration should be designing policies that support job growth for all qualified contractors, not placing discriminatory barriers to recovery by attaching strings to infrastructure funding," the Senators concluded.

You can read the full letter at [this link](#).

Sen. Young is the sponsor of the [Fair and Open Competition Act](#), which would ensure the federal government cannot mandate project labor agreements on federal projects, thereby increasing competition and saving money for taxpayers.

CareSource will continue to insure members on Healthy Indiana Plan, Hoosier Healthwise

The REPORTER

CareSource, a nationally recognized health plan, has once again been awarded the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP) and Hoosier Healthwise (HHW) contract by the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA).

CareSource has served Hoosiers since 2016 with CareSource Marketplace and Medicare Advantage health plans, and in 2017, CareSource was selected to serve HIP and HHW members. Since then, the health plan has launched several innovative programs, including the CareSource Reentry Program to ensure the successful transition of justice system-involved individuals back into communities, as well as initiatives to remove barriers to health care, housing, employment, and maternal and

infant health and to improve health equity.

"We are honored to have the opportunity to continue to serve HHW and HIP members and look forward to continuing to work with FSSA on ways to improve the overall health and well-being of all underserved Hoosiers," said CareSource Indiana President Steve Smitherman.

CareSource's programs and community partners have included housing supports with [Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership](#), [Nurse-Family Partnership](#), [mobile vaccine clinics](#), [driver license reinstatement assistance](#), CareSource JobConnect, CareSource Reentry Program and the COVID-19 vaccine scheduling and transportation assistance.

Learn more about [CareSource.com](#).

MARK

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After decades, county government spending oversight has become too cozy. Where is the check and balance?

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Keeping taxes low is a top priority

State lawmakers recently wrapped up the 2022 legislative session, and much of the debate within the Statehouse these past few months centered on tax cuts and refunds. To cut, or not to cut – that was the question. In the end, Hoosier taxpayers won out over efforts to grow government.

Now in the hands of the governor to sign into law, Indiana is on the heels of enacting the largest tax cut in the state's history.

The \$1 billion tax-relief package will drop the state's individual income tax from 3.23 percent to 2.9 percent over seven years. After fully phased in, Indiana will have one of the lowest income tax rates in the nation. Compare this to California at 13.3 percent, Hawaii at 11 percent and New Jersey at 10.75 percent.

As consumers and businesses pay utility bills on everything from electricity to natural gas and phones

GUEST COLUMNIST



CHRIS JETER
State Representative

to water, a Utility Receipts Tax is collected. This tax will be eliminated, and in our efforts to continue paying down state debt, reserves will be used to make a one-time, \$2.5 billion payment toward pre-'96 teacher pension obligations. Already, Indiana has paid down well over \$1 billion in debt over the last year alone. Much like family budgeting, a state's low-debt burden ensures our credit rating is the highest possible. With Indiana's AAA credit rating, it signals to creditors we pay our debts and live within our means, and in turn, we save Hoosier tax dollars, which would otherwise be used on substantial interest payments.

Also like families, Indiana built up a savings to help protect the state against unforeseen economic downturns, like when COVID-19 hit. By the end of fiscal year 2022, which is June 30, the state's budget

reserves are expected to hit a record \$5 billion. Higher than expected revenue collections triggered an automatic taxpayer refund, and Hoosiers can expect a \$125 refund this spring as part of a combined refund of over \$545 million. Another new law recently signed by the governor ensures the maximum number of Hoosiers qualify for the refund.

As a fiscal conservative, my focus remains on limited government spending, trimming waste and keeping taxes low. This tax-cut package is a strong reflection of my commitment to financial responsibility, and I'm looking forward to it becoming law. Indiana's fiscal outlook remains very positive, and Hoosier taxpayers and businesses that endured the pandemic deserve refunds and permanent tax cuts.

After all, it is your money.

State Rep. Chris Jeter (R-Fishers) represents House District 88, which includes portions of Marion, Hamilton and Hancock counties.

Carmel Clay Historical Society makes correction to newsletter

The REPORTER

On Saturday, the Carmel Clay Historical Society (CCHS) announced a clarification of earlier information about its move from the Monon Depot.

CCHS has moved its offices and archives out of the Monon Depot. The archives, but not the offices, have been temporarily moved to Orchard Park El-



ementary. CCHS staff are working remotely while they look for office space.

The public is welcome

to make an appointment to meet by calling (317) 846-7117. However please understand that neither the Depot nor Orchard Park are open to the public. Other arrangements will be made for all appointments.

You can read 2022's first quarterly edition of *The Carmel Signal* at [this link](#).

Hoosiers can choose to become tissue, organ donors when they apply for professional licenses

The REPORTER

More than 20 percent of Hoosiers who hold professional licenses will soon have a new opportunity to sign up and become lifesaving organ and tissue donors, and Indiana has made history in the process.

Authored by State Senators Blake Doriot (R-Goshen) and Ed Charbonneau (R-Valparaiso), [Senate Enrolled Act 260](#) requires the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency to ask all license applicants and those seeking a license renewal if they wish to become an organ and tissue donor. A wide variety of occupations require a professional license, including nurses, hair stylists, accountants, dentists, plumbers, physical therapists and real estate agents, among others.

The bill first passed through the Indiana Senate with a 46-0 vote, then passed the Indiana House of Representatives with a 76-8 vote. Gov. Holcomb signed the bill into law March 7.

"This new legislation will no doubt increase the number of Hoosiers who want to give the gift of life," said Tim Clauson, president of the board of directors of Donate Life Indiana, the organization responsible for managing the state's donor registry and raising awareness for organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation through public education.

Indiana is the first U.S. state to require the donation question to be asked of those seeking professional licenses or renewals.

When the donation question is implemented into the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency's process, it will be the fifth way Hoosiers can register to become organ and tissue donors. They can also say "yes" to donation when applying for a hunting, fishing or trapping license; at local Bureau of Motor Vehi-

cle branches throughout the state; online at [DonateLifeIndiana.org](#); and through Apple's Health app.

When someone signs up as a donor, they are automatically authorized for organ donation at the end of their life if they are medically eligible to donate. Eight lives can be saved through organ donation and up to 75 people can be healed through tissue donation. Others can gain sight through cornea donation. Indiana Donor Network, the federally designated organ procurement organization for 85 of Indiana's 92 counties, coordinates the donation and transplantation process.

"Last year, as a result of Gov. Holcomb's passage of Senate Enrolled Act 288 in 2020, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources began asking hunters, anglers and trappers to sign up as organ donors when purchasing online licenses," Clauson said. "Now, the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency will do the same for licensees. This is one more step in making it as easy as possible for Hoosiers to sign up as organ, tissue and eye donors."

Right now, more than 106,000 Americans are waiting on a lifesaving organ transplant, including nearly 1,100 Hoosiers. More than 4.2 million Hoosiers are registered organ donors.

Despite age or medical history, anyone can sign up to be a donor online at [DonateLifeIndiana.org](#).

About *Donate Life Indiana* Since 1998, Donate Life Indiana has been the state-authorized nonprofit organization responsible for managing the Indiana donor registry. Its mission is to save lives by creating opportunities for all Indiana citizens to sign up on the organization's official state registry while striving to raise awareness for organ,

eye and tissue donation and transplantation through public education. For more, visit [Donate Life Indiana online](#).

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Fishers road construction updates, week of March 14

The REPORTER

State Road 37 & 146th Street

All left-turn lanes are currently restricted on SR 37 and on 146th Street with traffic moved to the interior lanes. Thru traffic and right turns on SR 37 and 146th Street will remain open. Drivers are encouraged to seek alternate routes for all left-turn access. View an alternate route map [here](#).

State Road 37 & 131st Street

131st Street east of SR 37 is currently closed as work progresses on the interchange. SR 37 will remain open both northbound and southbound. [Click here](#)

to view the detour map. 131st Street west of SR 37 is now open. This will allow right-in/right-out access for southbound SR 37 until the bridge is fully complete later this year.

Please drive with caution through these areas. To learn more about the State Road 37 Improvement Project and sign up to receive text updates, visit [37Thrives.com](#).

Technology Drive (Northeast Commerce Park)

The inside lane of Technology Drive is currently closed to traffic to allow for construction of new pavement in the inside lane. One-way traffic will be in place

in the outside lane as shown [here](#). Access to all businesses will be maintained during the construction.

Southeastern Parkway & Cyntheanne Road

Utility work has begun at the Southeastern Parkway and Cyntheanne Road intersection as part of the roundabout construction project. Ongoing periodic lane restrictions will be in place daily between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. for unloading material and equipment. The walking path along Southeastern Parkway will also be closed during the duration of the project. Barricades will be placed across the path.

Love is in the air in Hello, Dolly!

Beef & Boards presents matchmaking classic

The REPORTER

She's sassy, smart, and spunky, and soon she'll be back where she belongs. Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre welcomes the return of the iconic Dolly Levi in the matchmaking musical *Hello, Dolly!* starting March 31 and running through May 15.

Based on the play "The Matchmaker" by Thornton Wilder, *Hello, Dolly!* is the story of the vibrant, romantic, and meddling Dolly Levi, who is filled with both personality and an agenda. A turn-of-the-century matchmaker, Dolly is tasked with arranging a match for the wealthy Horace Vandergelder, although she'd prefer to keep him for herself. Horace may have his sights set on a pretty young widow, but Dolly is determined to get her man.

This endearing and comedic classic includes a score by award-winning composer Jerry Herman, featuring such great songs as "It Takes a Woman," "Before the Parade Passes By," "Put On Your Sunday



Photo provided

Clothes," "So Long Dearie," "Ribbons Down My Back," "It Only Takes a Moment," and of course, "Hello, Dolly!" These tunes, combined with the unforgettable dancing and sweet storyline makes *Hello, Dolly!* a must-see classic.

The beloved musical has starred the likes of Carol Channing, Ginger Rogers, Martha Raye, Pearl Bailey, Barbara Streisand, Ethel Merman, Mary Martin, and most recently, Bette Midler as Dolly Levi. The original Broadway production won 10 Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

Suzanne Stark (*Shear Madness*, *Phantom*, *The Sound of Music*) reprises

the role of Dolly Levi, with Ty Stover (*Annie*, *Beauty & The Beast*) as Horace Vandergelder. David Schmittou returns to reprise the role of Cornelius Hackl, David Buegler (*Shear Madness*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Phantom*) plays Barnaby Tucker, and Shelbi Berry (*A Christmas Carol*, *Phantom*, *Beehive*) plays the role of Minnie Fay.

Hello, Dolly! is on stage for 46 performances through May 15 at Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre. Tickets range from \$51 to \$76 and include the Beef & Boards dinner buffet and select beverages. Plenty of free parking is available.

For tickets, visit [beef-andboards.com](#) or call the box office at (317) 872-9664. You can also see the full performance schedule online.

Hello, Dolly! is sponsored in part by the National Bank of Indianapolis.

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

Governor Holcomb signs bill meant to boost mental health

The REPORTER

Governor Eric Holcomb on Thursday signed [HEA 1222](#) into law, which will continue a critical grant program that has expanded access to urgently needed mental health and substance use disorder treatment services across the state. The program is known as the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) program.

CCBHCs like Aspire Indiana Health are designed to provide a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use disorder services to vulnerable individuals, with an emphasis on the provision of 24-hour crisis care, utilization of evidence-based practices, care coordination and integration with physical health care.

In Indiana, there are currently 18 CCBHC grantees throughout the state that are recipients of federal grants designed to jumpstart the CCBHC program. Initial evaluation outcomes from Centerstone's CCBHC program have shown a 73 percent reduction of depression and a 93 percent reduction of clients hospitalized for mental health reasons. Now, HEA 1222 will build upon these successes.

"Around the state our community providers have seen demand for services skyrocket," said Zoe Frantz, chief executive officer for the Indiana Council of Community Mental

Health Centers. "That's why today's announcement of Gov. Holcomb signing the CCBHC legislation into law is such incredible news for the continued work of these programs and the people they serve every day. Ultimately, this program gives providers more tools to ensure those in need will get the help they need when they reach out."

According to the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, CCBHCs have played a transformative role in addressing workforce shortages, creating a more integrated care delivery system, and ensuring providers meet quality metrics. Providers advocating for HEA 1222 see the legislation as an opportunity to provide better access and higher quality care through the state.

"Nationwide, 2020 was the deadliest year on record for fatal overdoses," said Aspire Indiana Health President and CEO Barbara Scott. "Drug overdose deaths continue to be on the rise according to a report released in January by the CDC. In Indiana, our numbers reported this past year rose by 23.4 percent, higher than the national increase of 15.9 percent. On one hand we have this urgent, growing need for services

— on the other hand we have less workforce to meet that demand. Programs such as CCBHCs give community behavioral health agencies more tools to successfully recruit and retain additional staff members as well as resources to ensure that consumers have access to critical, evidence-based services."

HEA 1222 requires the state to develop a plan for the expansion of the CCBHC program by Nov. 1.

"The behavioral health community has already seen demonstrable results from the CCBHC program and looks forward to supporting the Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA) in developing a statewide infrastructure that meets the growing need for mental health services in Indiana," said Mental Health America of Indiana CEO Steve McCaffrey. "We're grateful for the leadership of Rep. Cindy Ziemke, Rep. Ann Vermilion, Sen. Mike Crider and the other members of the Indiana General Assembly, Department of Mental Health and Addiction, and Governor Holcomb for the passage of this critical mental health legislation."

[Click here](#) for more information on CCBHCs.



Scott

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Who wrote the official state song?

The REPORTER

This week in Indiana's history ...

1879 – Sid Grauman was born in Indianapolis. He was one of the original 36 founders of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. He is best known for building Grauman's Chinese Theatre, a landmark in Hollywood. The forecourt of the theatre is famous for nearly 200 celebrity hand and footprints in cement.

1913 – The Indiana legislature adopted the official state song, "On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away."



Written in 1897 by Paul Dresser of Terre Haute, the tune was one of the most popular of its era.

1933 – Banks across Indiana began to reopen after having been closed for a week. President Franklin D. Roosevelt had declared

a "bank holiday" that shut down the banking system in response to a month-long run by nervous depositors.

1955 – Crispus Attucks High School, led by Coach Ray Crowe, defeated Gary Roosevelt to win the state basketball championship.

It was the first all-African American team in the nation to win a state title.

1969 – Governor Edgar D. Whitcomb signed a bill to consolidate government within Marion County. Called "UNIGOV," the plan was first introduced by Indianapolis Mayor Richard Lugar.

2008 – Barack Obama, running for his first term in office, attended a campaign rally at Plainfield High School. He told the crowd, "This is your campaign. This is your chance to make your mark on history."

Merchants Mortgage hires Ron Berry as new Vice President, Retail Mortgage Sales Manager

The REPORTER

Merchants Mortgage, a division of Merchants Bank of Indiana, announced on Friday the hiring of Ron Berry as Vice President, Retail Mortgage Sales Manager. Berry will join the Merchants Mortgage office at the company's headquarters in Carmel.

With more than 30 years of industry experience, Berry is a proven sales operations executive with significant expertise in crafting forward-thinking strategies and solutions to drive company growth. Over the course of his professional career, Berry has led teams of more than 100 mortgage loan officers and mortgage market managers across the Midwest. Most recently, he served as vice president of mortgage lending for STAR Financial Bank, an Indiana-based community bank, in which he managed and coordinated the mortgage production platform.

In his new role at Merchants Mortgage, Berry will oversee the recruiting, hiring and training of all mortgage sales professionals as well as hold responsibility for the financial performance, budget adherence and growth in customer base for a defined local region. He will also work to drive results through talent management strategies, prioritizing the coaching and development of sales professionals to meet larger business objectives.

"Welcoming Ron to Merchants Mortgage is a significant value-add for our team as we continue to expand our footprint throughout the state of Indiana and across the U.S.," Merchants Mortgage President Jerry Koors said. "The past 24 months in the mortgage industry have been incredibly unique and challenging, and



Berry

it is now more important than ever for us to invest in our people so we can continue to deliver quality service to our customers. Ronald is a true talent in the recruiting, hiring and training space and we gladly welcome him to the Merchants family."

In addition to his previous role at STAR Financial Bank, Berry served as vice president and regional sales manager at PNC for the Indiana and Michigan regions. In this position, he directed

and coached sales managers, oversaw profit and loss and maintained fiscal integrity of the region. Berry also previously served as a branch manager at Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, in which he oversaw operations of four locations including production, profit and loss, personnel and customer service.

Berry is a graduate of Ball State University with a bachelor's degree in management.

To learn more about Merchants Bank of Indiana, visit merchantsbankofindiana.com.

TODAY'S BIBLE READING

A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.
1 Timothy 2:11-15 (NIV)

Robert Lee Anderson

August 5, 1930 – March 11, 2022

Robert Lee Anderson, 91, Noblesville, passed away on Friday, March 11, 2022, at his home surrounded by his family. He was born on August 5, 1930, to Erbie and Ellar (Rowe) Anderson in England, Ark.



Robert worked at Firestone for 30 years. He was a member of The Mill Church and was very active in his church. Robert enjoyed playing and coaching baseball. He liked archeology and hunting for arrowheads. Robert was a caring and giving person who loved everyone.

He is survived by his wife, Norma (Downs) Anderson; daughter, Rebecca Anderson-Hodson; son, Kenneth (Jotharat) Anderson; daughter-in-law, Robin Anderson; grandchildren, Brandon, Jessica, Katherine (Andrew), Matthew, and Becky (Lance); and great-grandchildren, Kinnick, Riley, Emily, Brittany, Kailey, Jonathan, Olivia, Ethan, and Joshua.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Jeffrey Anderson; brothers, John Anderson and Jerry Anderson; and granddaughter, Kalaya Jarbsunthie.

Services will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road, Noblesville. Visitation will be from 4 p.m. to the time of service at the funeral home. Burial will be at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 7023, Merrifield, VA 22116-7023, diabetes.org/donate; or American Heart Association, P.O. Box 840692, Dallas, TX 75284-0692, heart.org. Condolences: randallroberts.com

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To view precinct and district maps, please visit hamiltoncounty.in.gov/221/Precinct-and-District-Maps.

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Boys basketball

Westfield's run ends in regional final

By **RICHIE HALL**
LOGANSPORT - After making history during sectional week, the Westfield boys basketball team was trying to make more history on Saturday.

The Shamrocks reached the championship game of the Class 4A Logansport regional at the Berry Bowl. Westfield came from behind to beat No. 3-ranked Homestead 59-54 in the semi-finals. In the championship game, Kokomo turned the tables on the 'Rocks, making its own comeback to beat Westfield 64-60.

The Wildcats thus won their 35th regional title, while Westfield finished its season 22-7.

COMEBACK SEMI-FINAL

Westfield trailed for most of the game against the Spartans before making a furious fourth-quarter comeback. The Shamrocks outscored Homestead 27-6 after trailing 47-37 with around six minutes left in the fourth.

Westfield's initial run was a 9-0 spurt to get the 'Rocks within one, 47-46. Cam Haffner made a jump shot, Alex Romack was good on a layin, then Nic Depasquale made a three-point play with 4:03 left. Another Romack basket brought Westfield within 47-46.

The Spartans' Fletcher Loyer hit two free throws to push Homestead up 49-46, but Haffner quickly tied the game up with a 3-pointer. A free throw by Maxwell Schiltz gave the Spartans a 50-49 advantage before the Shamrocks went on another 9-0 stretch, and they never trailed again.

Haffner put Westfield in front for good with a jumper, then Romack scored off a steal. Trey Buchanan knocked in a triple and Braden Smith made a breakaway dunk. The 'Rocks were now up 58-50 with 1:07 left.

Shamrocks coach Shane Sumpter said his team had to speed up the Spartans, which proved to be the key.

"We were able to turn them over a few times and get back into the game and get a lead and hold the lead," said Sumpter.

Andrew Leeper's 3 was the last basket for Homestead. Westfield scored the game's final six points: A layin and dunk for Smith,

then Romack hit two foul shots.

"That game was everything everybody thought that would be," said Sumpter.

The 'Rocks were playing the Spartans close in the first quarter, which ended with Homestead up 10-9. Depasquale scored four points. In the second quarter, Loyer took over, scoring 10 points (including two 3s) to help his team lead 28-20 at the half. Westfield was never too far away, with Smith getting four points.

A putback by Loyer gave Homestead a 10-point lead for the first time at 30-20. Haffner reeled the Spartans back in with a jumper and 3, and that led to a basket-trading series that lasted for the entire quarter. Homestead got back-to-back scores from Grant Lepper and Loyer late in the third, only to have Haffner and Depasquale score consecutive baskets.

Homestead led 42-34 after three, then another Loyer putback pushed the Spartans up 44-34. Later, Andrew Leeper hit a 3, and Homestead was up 10 again. That's when the 'Rocks took over.

Four Westfield players finished in double figures. Haffner scored 19 points, Romack added 16, Smith scored 13 and Depasquale contributed 11. Smith led in rebounds and assists, with six each, and also made two blocked shots. Romack collected five rebounds.

Loyer led all scorers with 27 points. Both he and Smith will play for Purdue next season.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

The championship game was tight in the first quarter until Westfield went on a 7-0 run to take a 13-8 lead. Nic Depasquale got all seven of the points, sandwiching a 3-pointer in between layins, the first one off an assist by Smith.

Flory Bidunga, the Wildcats' 6-10 sophomore, made a dunk for the last basket of the quarter, but the 'Rocks still led 13-10. The second quarter began with Romack scoring two baskets, and the Shamrocks held a 17-10 advantage.

The next few minutes belonged to Cam Haffner. The Westfield senior, who is committed to Eastern Illinois, erupted for 11 points, nailing three 3s along the way. The



Reporter photos by Kent Graham
Cam Haffner led Westfield in scoring in both games the Shamrocks played at the Logansport regional on Saturday. Haffner scored 19 points in Westfield's semi-final win over Homestead and 22 points in the Shamrocks' loss to Kokomo in the championship game.

'Rocks led 28-20 at halftime; Kokomo's Zavion Bellamy kept his team in it by scoring seven points in the quarter.

The Wildcats kept close, but Westfield maintained the lead for the entire third quarter. Kokomo got within 34-32 after Bidunga made a layin, but Romack scored and Trey Buchanan hit a 3 to push the Shamrocks up

39-32. Additional triples by Haffner and Buchanan during the final minute of the quarter kept Westfield ahead 47-40 going into the fourth.

Bellamy scored eight points in the third, including three jump shots.

"Their perimeter guys made a lot of shots," said Sumpter.

Meanwhile, Bidunga scored 10 points in the third, including two dunks, the second one on a putback.

"We struggled to keep them out of the paint, whether it be a lot of paint touches, whether it be on the catch or on the dribble," said Sumpter.

Still, a putback from Romack gave the Shamrocks a 49-42 lead early in the fourth. But the Wildcats took over after that, going on a 14-0 run to put them ahead 56-49. Shayne Spear was the major part of that spurt, scoring seven of those points.

Westfield refused to go away. Smith threw in a 3, then quickly scored off a steal. Then following a Bidunga layin, Haffner made a rare four-point play - hitting a 3 while getting fouled, then making the free throw.

Just like that, it was 58-all with 1:57 left. But Kokomo scored the next five points, all from free throws, and would stay in front for good, leading 63-58 with 30.9 seconds left.

"Kokomo made a lot of plays in the fourth quarter, and we just ran out of gas," said Sumpter.

Haffner led again with 22 points, followed by Smith and Depasquale with 11 each. Romack scored 10 points and pulled nine rebounds. Smith dished out eight assists, collected six rebounds and blocked two shots, while Trey Dorton and Depasquale each had five rebounds.

See Westfield . . . Page 10



Westfield's Braden Smith goes up for a layin during the Shamrocks' game with Kokomo. Smith scored 11 points against the Wildcats and 13 points in Westfield's win over Homestead, also leading in assists in both games.

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University falls in regional final

GREENFIELD - The University Trailblazers advance to a regional final for the first time since 2013, but a 13-2 run by Eastern Hancock to open the second half proved decisive as the Royals ended University's season by a 54-47 count at the Class 2A Greenfield-Central regional on Saturday.

University controlled the first half of the championship game, taking a 4-3 lead with 6:32 left in the first quarter and the Blazers did not trail for the remainder of the half. Sabien Cain scored eight first quarter points and Larry Pierce had four as University built a 17-10 lead and led 17-12 at the end of the quarter.

Eastern Hancock scored the first five points of the second quarter to tie the game at 17, but Nate Jeffrey put University back on top with a basket. Robert Russell hit a three pointer and two buckets by Pierce put the Blazers up 26-20. University stretched their lead to 31-23 when Cain hit a three pointer off a Kahmi Bracey assist and Jeffrey found Pierce for a layin. The Royals added a three pointer to close within 31-26 at the half.

Eastern Hancock scored the first three baskets of the third quarter to take a 32-21 lead before Steven Scott got University back in front at 33-32 on a rebound field goal with 5:00 left in the third. It would turn out to be the Blazers last lead of the game. Landon O'Neal put the Royals ahead with 4:38 left and Eastern Hancock scored the next five points for a 39-33 lead. Cain hit a three pointer after a University timeout, but the Royals scored the last five points of the period including a buzzer beating three by O'Neal to take a 44-39 lead.

Cain got the Blazers back within 44-41 on a steal and lay-in two minutes in to the final period, but Eastern Hancock began to

bleed the clock. O'Neal hit a big three pointer from left wing with 2:46 to put the Royals up 49-41. Seth Hogg eventually knocked down a three pointer with 60 seconds left to get University within 49-44, but Eastern Hancock hit their free throws in the last minute to take the win.

Cain finished with 16 points for University, while Pierce added 10, all in the first half. O'Neal had a game high 24 for Eastern Hancock, with Jacob Spaulding adding 17.

University coach Brandon Lafferman was disappointed in the outcome, but proud of his team's season. "When they went on their run and the crowd really got going, our youth showed a little bit. We didn't do a great job of coming back and getting back in the flow of the game. We missed some open shots in the fourth quarter, that if they fall it might be a different outcome. I'm really proud of my kids on a great run and a fantastic season. Nobody thought we would get this far and our guys did a great job."

Lafferman continued with praise for the victorious Royals. "Eastern Hancock is a very, very good team. They executed really well, they're coached well. I was really impressed with their guards and they did a fantastic job adjusting. We were trying to take the three and they did a good job getting in the paint and making some tough shots"

University advanced to the championship game with a 56-49 win over a scrappy Triton Central squad. The Trailblazers dominated the second and third quarters of the game, building a 15-point lead entering the final eight minutes, before holding off a furious Tigers comeback attempt.

Cain and Pierce each had 17 points to lead University.

The Blazers jumped out to a quick 5-0 lead on a Russell three pointer and a Peirce

lay-in off a fast break assist from Andre Ozlowski that started with a Cain steal. Triton Central bounced back and built a 14-9 lead before Cain scored and Hogg hit a three pointer off a Pierce pass to pull University within 16-14 at the quarter.

Triton Central scored a basket just 12 seconds in to the second period, but University put on the defensive pressure and settled in to the game offensively. The Blazers outscored the Tigers 13-2 the rest of the half. Cain hit a three pointer from the top of the key and then scored on a drive to the basket to give University a lead. The Tigers took a 20-19 lead with 4:20 left in the half and the teams were scoreless for the next two minutes.

Ozlowski put University up for good at 21-20 before the defense generated another bucket. Hogg made a steal, fed the ball to Jeffrey who hit Bracey for a layin. Pierce added to more baskets before halftime including a nifty move to the hoop for an easy bucket with four seconds left and the Blazers led 27-20 at halftime.

Hogg stretched the University scoring run to 10 with a pair of foul shots early in the third quarter. Pierce added a basket and then the defense struck again. Cain blocked a shot, Russell corralled the ball and threw ahead to Cain for an easy bucket and a 33-22 advantage. Pierce scored six straight points to put the lead to 15 at 39-24. Jeffrey drove past his defender for a layin and Russell beat the buzzer with a jumper in the lane and University held a 43-28 lead entering the fourth quarter.

Triton Central started getting back in the game, cutting the lead to single digits at 46-38 on an old fashioned three-point play. Cain scored before another Tiger three point play, but Ozlowski restored the lead

to 50-41 with an emphatic dunk off a Cain assist. Pierce added a basket off a full court inbound pass from Hogg, but Triton Central scored the next five points to pull within 52-49 with 1:35 to play.

Cain made two foul shots with 1:33 left and University's defense stiffened and held Triton Central without a good look the rest of the game. Russell added two foul shots with 10 seconds left to make the final 56-49.

Eastern Hancock (22-5) advances to the Seymour semi-state where they will play Providence (19-6).

University bows out with a 16-10 mark. The Trailblazers won their first sectional since 2018 and won a 2A sectional for the first time. The morning win was University's first regional game win since 2013. The Blazers won their fifth consecutive PAAC championship. Seniors Pierce and Jeffrey will graduate, but University returns the other seven members of their rotation.

EASTERN HANCOCK 54, UNIVERSITY 47

University	FG	FT	TP	PF
Robert Russell	2	0-0	5	3
Sabien Cain	6	0-1	16	3
Andre Ozlowski	0	0-0	0	0
Larry Pierce	5	0-2	10	3
Seth Hogg	2	0-0	6	4
Kahmi Bracey	2	0-0	6	1
Steven Scott	1	0-0	2	0
Nate Jeffrey	1	0-0	2	2
Jackson Bledsoe	0	0-0	0	0
Totals	19	0-3	47	16

Score by Quarters				
Eastern Hancock	12	14	18	10 - 54
University	17	14	8	8 - 47
University 3-pointers	(9)	Cain 4,	Bracey 2,	Hogg 2, Russell 1.

A boxscore for the first game was unavailable at press time.

WESTFIELD

"We're really proud of our seniors," said Sumpter. The coach said those players "had a terrific, terrific run and these are memories that these kids will have forever," and called his team a "special group."

In addition to its first-ever sectional championship, Westfield also won the Hall of Fame Classic on Dec. 30.

WESTFIELD 64, HOMESTEAD 53

Westfield	FG	FT	TP	PF
Braden Smith	5-10	2-2	13	5
Cam Haffner	8-14	1-2	19	1
Trey Dorton	1-3	0-1	2	1
Nic Depasquale	4-9	3-3	11	2
Alex Romack	6-8	4-5	16	0
Trey Buchanan	1-2	0-0	3	2

Jonah Spinner	0-0	0-0	0	1
Totals	25-46	10-13	64	12

Score by Quarters				
Homestead	10	18	14	11 - 53
Westfield	9	11	14	30 - 64

Westfield 3-point shooting (4-21) Haffner 2-8, Smith 1-6, Buchanan 1-2, Depasquale 0-4, Dorton 0-1.

Westfield rebounds (25) Smith 6, Romack 5, Haffner 4, Dorton 4, Depasquale 4, Buchanan 1, Spinner 1.

KOKOMO 64, WESTFIELD 60

Westfield	FG	FT	TP	PF
Braden Smith	5-12	0-0	11	3
Cam Haffner	7-15	3-3	22	1
Trey Dorton	0-1	0-0	0	1
Nic Depasquale	5-12	0-2	11	1

Alex Romack	5-10	0-1	10	5
Trey Buchanan	2-4	0-0	6	3
Jonah Spinner	0-0	0-0	0	1
Totals	24-54	3-6	60	15

Score by Quarters				
Kokomo	10	10	20	24 - 64
Westfield	13	15	19	13 - 60

Westfield rebounds (25) Smith 6, Romack 5, Haffner 4, Dorton 4, Depasquale 4, Buchanan 1, Spinner 1.

from Page 9

Westfield 3-point shooting (9-24) Haffner 5-8, Buchanan 2-4, Depasquale 1-6, Smith 1-5, Dorton 0-1. Westfield rebounds (31) Romack 9, Smith 6, Dorton 5, Depasquale 5, Haffner 2, Buchanan 1, Spinner 1, team 2.

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Minnesota 113, Miami 104	Toronto 127, Denver 115
Chicago 101, Cleveland 91	Utah 134, Sacramento 125
Indiana 119, San Antonio 108	Portland 127, Washington 118
Golden State 122, Milwaukee 109	

Eastern Conference

	W	L	PCT.	GB
Atlantic				
Philadelphia	40	25	.615	-
Boston	41	27	.603	0.5
Toronto	37	30	.552	4.0
Brooklyn	34	33	.507	7.0
New York	28	39	.418	13.0
Central				
Milwaukee	42	26	.618	-
Chicago	41	26	.612	0.5
Cleveland	38	29	.567	3.5
Indiana	23	45	.338	19.0
Detroit	18	49	.269	23.5
Southeast				
Miami	45	24	.652	-
Charlotte	33	35	.485	11.5
Atlanta	32	34	.485	11.5
Washington	29	37	.439	14.5
Orlando	18	50	.265	26.5

Western Conference

	W	L	PCT.	GB
Northwest				
Utah	42	25	.627	-
Denver	40	28	.588	2.5
Minnesota	39	30	.565	4.0
Portland	26	40	.394	15.5
Oklahoma City	20	46	.303	21.5
Pacific				
x-Phoenix	53	14	.791	-
Golden State	46	22	.676	7.5
L.A. Clippers	35	34	.507	19.0
L.A. Lakers	29	37	.439	23.5
Sacramento	24	45	.348	30.0
Southwest				
Memphis	46	22	.676	-
Dallas	41	26	.612	4.5
New Orleans	27	40	.403	18.5
San Antonio	26	42	.382	20.0
Houston	17	50	.254	28.5

Defense rallies Pacers past Spurs

By BRENDAN ROURKE
Courtesy nba.com/pacers

Over the last few games, the Pacers' offense has clicked. However, the defensive side has had its struggles. The Blue & Gold broke that trend against the San Antonio Spurs Saturday night.

For the first time since Feb. 27, Indiana held its opponent to fewer than 110 points. When the Spurs dropped 38 points in the second, Indiana rallied and held the hosts to 18 points in the third quarter. That allowed the Blue & Gold to pull away and earn a 119-108 victory inside AT&T Center.

"We really needed this win, to be honest," Isaiah Jackson (15 points, five rebounds) said. "Last game was a close game that we should have gotten. We just came out with the mindset that we were going to try to win."

Jackson and five other Pacers (23-45) finished in double figures. Tyrese Haliburton finished with a double-double, recording 19 points and 10 assists. Duane Washington Jr. also added 19 points — all in the first half. He finished 7-of-9 from the field — 3-of-4 from deep. Additionally, Buddy Hield tallied 17 points, six assists, and earned a +25 rating.

The Spurs (25-41) started the game with six unanswered points. However, Indiana

stormed right back. Beginning with a monstrous slam from Jackson, the squad battled back to knot the score at eight with 8:52 remaining.

Trailing 11-8, Duarte, Oshae Brissett, and Buddy Hield contributed to a 7-0 Pacers spree that earned the squad its first lead with around six minutes left. When the Spurs worked through Jock Landale to tie the score, Hield knocked in his first trey at the 5:12 mark to regain an 18-15 Indiana lead.

The bucket began a 13-2 Pacers spree that extended the margin to double digits. The run included several high-quality finishes in the paint, including a massive one-handed flush from Washington.

"The bench was definitely hyped," Washington said postgame. "I was hyped as well. It was great momentum. Those kinds of plays can definitely uplift your team and keep that energy going for the next few possessions."

Thanks to a few untimely turnovers, the Spurs trimmed the lead to single digits before the frame expired (34-26). The Blue & Gold finished 13-of-23 (56.5 percent) from the field.

Back-to-back triples from Washington quickly pushed the Pacers' lead into double digits again. When Lonnie Walker IV re-

sponded, Washington drained his third — a snipe from the left side — to give the game a 45-34 score with 9:50 left.

A 9-2 run from the hosts — five from Landale — trimmed the Pacers' lead to 47-43 with 7:51 remaining. But the Blue & Gold had an answer. The squad responded with a 9-0 spurt — four from Jackson — to regain a 58-45 lead with 5:08 to play.

Thanks to Washington, Duarte, and Brissett, Indiana increased its lead to 19 over the next 3:21. However, San Antonio capitalized on a run of sloppy play and scored 14 unanswered points to battle back to within five. Haliburton ended the spree — and the half — with a 13-foot floater with 33.3 seconds left.

The Pacers swiftly regained control in the third as they rattled off a 14-4 run in 3:20 and earned an 85-68 lead. Haliburton and Jackson combined for nine points of the spree. After play simmered, Goga Bitadze went to work on the defensive side to maintain the healthy lead. The big man clogged the paint, picking up a massive block at the 7:11 mark on Devin Vassell's layup attempt.

Over the next few minutes, the story remained the same. Indiana remained tight on the defensive end while firing in their open looks on offense. At the 4:15 mark, Keifer Sykes sank his first three — an open 26-foot-

er from the left wing — to stretch Indiana's lead to 93-74.

Down the stretch, Bitadze held the Spurs from gaining momentum. The third-year center provided the last four Pacers points and collected his third block to bring a 97-82 lead into the fourth quarter.

Jalen Smith's patient dunk through traffic to start the fourth provided a good omen for Indiana. But Zach Collins and Walker drilled back-to-back threes quickly to trim the Spurs' deficit to 99-88. A third Spurs triple provided by Josh Richardson at the 9:06 mark cut the gap to 10.

Fortunately, the Blue & Gold stepped up on the offensive end. Hield started things with a floater. After a Spurs bucket, Haliburton sank a triple. When San Antonio responded again, Jackson and Smith finished with back-to-back buckets around the rim. Then, Hield followed with a trey from the top of the key. The Pacers led 113-95 with 6:02 to go.

San Antonio mounted a 9-2 run over the next 3:32 to cut the gap to 115-04. But Haliburton added a couple of buckets to keep the Pacers ahead comfortably. His 11-foot pull-up jumper with 1:11 remaining nearly sealed the deal. With 25.2 seconds left, he put the game on ice after picking off Vassell's errant pass for his third steal.



Reporter photos by Kent Graham

Westfield's Nic Depasquale (left, against Kokomo) and Alex Romack (right, against Homestead) both played solid minutes for the Shamrocks during the Logansport regionals. Each player had double-digit scoring in both games, making several big plays along the way.

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