

TODAY'S VERSE

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Hamilton Happenings

City and county offices will be closed Monday in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Also, The Times will not publish that day. In addition, the HHW Drop-Off Center & General Recycling Area will be closed Saturday for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Normal hours will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Three Things You Should Know

- 1 Hamilton County Tourism, alongside community partners, will host a discussion Saturday from 1-2:30 p.m. about difficult periods of history and how to confront these topics today. This session at Hamilton East Public Library features George Garner of the IU-South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center. It dives into how museums can and must acknowledge and host difficult conversations, and the important histories they can teach. The event is open to the public with pre-registration.
- 2 Just a reminder that there will be no Mended Hearts Chapter 350 meeting this month. If members are in need of anything, please contact an offer and they will try to get you connected to someone who can help you. If you know of a member who is having health issues, please let them know.
- 3 The Indianapolis Home Show is coming back to the Indiana State Fairgrounds for the 102nd time and guess who will have free tickets once again? That's right, your favorite Hamilton County newspaper! Mark the dates on your calendar - Friday, Jan. 19 through Sunday, Jan. 28. This Indiana tradition is the oldest home show in North America and to get your FREE tickets from us, all you'll have to do is send a selfie with your smiling face, our front page (electronic or print) and your name and contact information. And hey, if you want to say something nice about us, we wouldn't object! Email it to news@thetimes24-7.com. But hurry, supplies are limited!

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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Boomer Bits

Ask Rusty - Can Someone Work While Collecting Social Security Disability?



ASK Rusty Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Dear Rusty: If a person is collecting Social Security disability benefits, can they, at any point, work at all? If they can, what is the maximum they can earn and still keep the disability benefit? I am asking because my husband is still young, but his injuries will not allow him to go back to the job he had prior to his injuries and surgeries. He does not just want to sit at home doing nothing!

Signed: Concerned Wife

Dear Concerned: Actually, the Social Security Administration (SSA) encourages those collecting SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance) benefits to attempt to go back to work and they provide considerable leeway for them to do so. The monthly earnings limit for those collecting SSDI benefits in 2024 is \$1,550 and as long as your husband earns less than the limit

See RUSTY Page A5

What Women Need to Know About Stroke Risks

It may not be widely known that women face unique risk factors for stroke throughout their lifetime. Things like pregnancy, preeclampsia and chronic stress can increase the risk for high blood pressure, a leading cause of stroke. Cardiovascular disease, including stroke, is the leading cause of death among women, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and 1 in 5 women will have a stroke. However, a large majority of strokes can be prevented. Caring for yourself by understanding your risk factors can help reduce your risk for stroke and provide a better quality of life. Start managing your stroke risk with these tips from the American Stroke Association, a division of the American Heart Association:

Monitor Your Blood Pressure

The first step you can take in reducing your risk for stroke is knowing your blood pressure and keeping it in a healthy range. High blood pressure is the No. 1 preventable cause of stroke,

according to the American Heart Association. The best way to know your blood pressure is to have it measured at least once per year by a health care professional and regularly monitor it at home then discuss the numbers with a doctor. For most people, a normal blood pressure should be 120/80 mm HG or less. In addition to properly monitoring blood pressure, maintaining a healthy weight, being physically active, eating healthfully and reducing or eliminating alcohol and tobacco usage can help control blood pressure. If you do develop high blood pressure, work with a health care professional on a plan to help manage it.

Take Care of Your Mental Health

Some stress is unavoidable but constant stress is not healthy. Chronic or constant stress may lead to high blood pressure and other unhealthy behavior choices, which can increase risk for stroke.

See WOMEN Page A5

What You Need to Know About Cholesterol

Understanding and improving cholesterol is important for people of all ages, including children and teens. Maintaining healthy cholesterol levels can help keep your heart healthy and lower your chances of getting heart disease or having a stroke. High cholesterol usually has no symptoms. In fact, about 38 percent of adults in the United States are diagnosed with high cholesterol, according to the American Heart Association. Understanding what cholesterol is, the role it plays, when to get screened and how to manage it are important aspects of protecting your overall health and prevent a heart attack or stroke.

Understanding Cholesterol

A waxy, fat-like substance created by the liver and consumed from meat, poultry and dairy products, cholesterol isn't inherently bad for you. In fact, your body needs it to build cells and make vitamins and other hormones. However, too much cholesterol circulating in the blood can pose a problem. The two types of cholesterol are low-density lipoprotein (LDL), which is considered "bad," and high-density lipoprotein (HDL), which can be thought of as "good" cholesterol. Too much of the "bad" kind, or not enough of the "good," increases the risk of cholesterol slowly building up in the inner walls of the arteries that feed the heart and brain. Cholesterol can join with other substances to form a thick, hard deposit on the inside of the arteries called plaque. This can narrow the arteries and make them less flexible - a condition known as atherosclerosis. If a blood clot forms, it may be more likely to get stuck in one of these narrowed arteries,

See CHOLESTEROL Page A5

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Basic weight training helps you build muscle that speeds your metabolism.

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Times and online at www.thetimes24-7.com



BETSY REASON is on vacation. Her column will resume when she returns.



TODAY'S QUOTE

"It isn't so much what's on the table that matters, as what's on the chairs." W.S. Gilbert

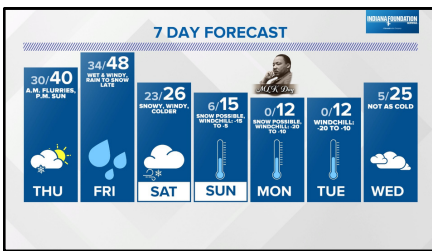
TODAY'S JOKE

Did you know a frog has more lives than a cat? Of course, because they croak every day.

OBITUARIES

Paul Kercheval

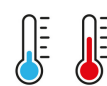
The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank NORM WAGONER for subscribing!



The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset

RISE: 8:09 am SET: 5:43 pm



High/Low Temperatures

HIGH: 43°F LOW: 19°F



Today is...

- National Glazed Doughnut Day
- Stick to Your New Year's Resolution Day



What Happened On This Day

- 1969 Led Zeppelin releases their debut album - The album was imaginatively named "Led Zeppelin".
- 1908 The first long-distance radio message is broadcast from the Eiffel Tower in Paris - Scientist Lee de Forest's broadcast was heard by an audience of 50.



Births On This Day

- 1876 Jack London - American author
- 1729 Edmund Burke - Irish politician, philosopher

Deaths On This Day

- 1976 Agatha Christie - English author
- 1971 John Tovey, 1st Baron Tovey - English Admiral

## OBITUARY

### Paul Kercheval

May 13, 1947 – January 5, 2024

Paul Richard Kercheval, age 77, of Kirklín, Indiana, passed away on Friday evening, January 5, 2024, at Majestic Care of Sheridan. Born May 13, 1947 in Frankfort, Indiana, he was the son of the late Everett W. and Lucille (Payne) Kercheval.



He attended Kirklín High School and worked for Mallory Controls in Frankfort, Indiana. As his health began to fail, he retired from the company after many years of faithful service.

Paul was a member of the Kirklín Wesleyan Church, and in later years, began attending the Kirklín Church of God. He beautiful singing voice led him to take an active role within the congregation; he was often called upon to be song leader during services. Paul was also asked on many occasions to perform as a featured singer during Sunday service. He was always excited and humbled to be asked.

Paul enjoyed the outdoors, and loved taking care of his yard. Although he liked cruising around on his riding mower, he still enjoyed doing the trim work, as long as he was able, with his old trusty push mower. In his younger days, Paul loved to go fishing, but as his age started to catch up to him, he came to appreciate taking drives around town and out through the country.

His gentle spirit and strong faith helped guide him through his long-term battles with both Parkinson's and cancer. It also gave him the strength to be a caregiver to his aging parents, as well as his sister Mary. Family was very important to Paul. He always looked forward to reunions and other occasions where everybody would come together.

Paul is survived by 2 sisters-in-law, Wanda L. Kercheval of Kirklín, and Leesa M. Kercheval of Sheridan; 3 nieces, Brenda D. Kehr (David) of Jacksonville, Florida, Melinda D. "Mindi" Jobe (Kenny) of Kirklín, and Melissa J. Stevens (Bob) of Kirklín; 8 nephews, Bruce A. Kercheval (Judy) of Monticello, Rodger L. Kercheval of Kirklín, Jason Kercheval (Christine) of Sheridan, Danial J. Kercheval of Indianapolis, Kevin L. Kercheval (Melea) of Michigantown, Kyle D. Kercheval (Denise) of Sheridan, Kent E. Kercheval (Tamme) of Sheridan, and Karl N. Kercheval (Jessica) of Michigantown; as well as many great nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Everett W. and Lucille (Payne) Kercheval; sisters, M. Rebecca Kercheval, and Mary E. Kercheval-Carlile; brothers, James E. Kercheval, Morris T. Kercheval, and David L. Kercheval; nephews, Larry J. Kercheval, Rodney L. Kercheval, and Craig Gilhousen; and by his feline furbabies, Mitts, KitKat, and Blackie.

Services will be held at 4:00 PM on Sunday, January 14, 2024, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th Street, Sheridan, Indiana, with visitation from 3:00 PM until the time of service. Paul's nephew, Pastor Karl Kercheval will be officiating.

Graveside rites will be given 2:00 PM on Monday afternoon, January 15, 2024, at Oak Hill Cemetery in Kirklín, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to the Parkinson's Foundation.

Visit our website [www.thetimes24-7.com](http://www.thetimes24-7.com)

## FOR THE RECORD

**Carmel Historic Preservation Commission 2024 Meeting Dates:**  
 CAUCUS ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, CITY HALL, ONE CIVIC SQUARE  
 (All meetings take place at 6 p.m. in Caucus Room)

January 11	July 11
February 8	August 8
March 14	September 12
April 11	October 10
May 9	November 14
June 13	December 12

*For The Record is a public service and regular feature in The Noblesville Times. It is designed to tell you what is scheduled to happen and what actually does happen in meetings paid for with your tax dollars. The Times encourages all citizens to take an active role in being involved in local government.*

## New School Board Officers elected



From left, (L-R) Ray, Alerding, Forgey, Lambert and Crosser

The Noblesville Schools Board of Trustees approved a new slate of officers at their annual reorganization meeting this week.

Christi Crosser was named president, Stephanie Lambert will serve as vice president and Laura Alerding is now secretary. Dr. Joe Forgey and Misti Ray will serve as general board members.

The board also made the following committee appointments:

Christi Crosser (Committees: High Ability, Science Review)

Stephanie Lambert (Committees: Noblesville Redevelopment, Noblesville Schools Education Foundation, Technology)

Laura Alerding (Committees: Enrollment Management, Parks Board, Safe Schools)

Dr. Joe Forgey (Committees: Athletic Review, Indiana School Board Association Legislative, Science Review, Wellness)

Misti Ray (Committees: Attendance Review, Noblesville Youth Sports Alliance, Safe Schools)

## Teacher named November's Husky Hero



Photo courtesy Hamilton Heights

**Erin Spaulding, HHES Kindergarten Teacher, was selected as the Husky Hero for the month of November. Pictured from left, Craig Bowen (FC Tucker), baby Laken Bowen, Erin Spaulding, Julie Griffey (HHES Principal) and Melissa Martin (HHEF President/HHSC Integration Coach),**

Erin Spaulding has been named the Husky Hero for the month of November. Spaulding began her journey Hamilton Heights as an Instructional Assistant in January 2020 shortly after she moved from Texas to Indiana. The following year she became a kindergarten teacher.

"Erin works hard to differentiate the needs of her kindergarten students utilizing evidenced-based practices with consistent routines to help her students' meet success in the classroom," said HHES Principal Julie Griffey, who saw right away that Erin is amazing with kids! "She is a great educator and colleague!"

"To be nominated, just goes to show that what I do everyday matters!" said Erin Spaulding upon learning she was nominated for this award. "These kids are like family to me and to know that I have impacted them in more ways than academics is just a blessing. It's motivating to know that it doesn't go unnoticed. It's such an awesome feeling to know that you are doing a good job.

"Erin is an amazing Kindergarten teacher that goes above and beyond for her students," said Sarah Pettijohn. "I have the privilege of being

able to work alongside Erin in the afternoons as an IA for a sweet little Kindergartner that has Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). Erin does such a fantastic job loving and teaching her students and making them all feel special and making sure they are always following the "Husky Way!" Erin is so deserving of this award."

For Spaulding, the kids are her motivation. "The hugs, smiles, and 'I love you's' that I get each day remind me of why I do what I do," she added. "The positive parent impact is a huge motivation as well! I also love the people I work with! This award means so much to me and I will keep doing what I am doing because of the impact. It definitely goes to show that what I do and what we all do here at Hamilton Heights matters."

Do you know a Husky Hero? Nomination forms and information about this special recognition program for Hamilton Heights employees are available at: <https://bit.ly/hhschuskyhero>. The Husky Hero Recognition program is made possible through the Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation in partnership with Craig and Amber Bowen (FC Tucker). #hhdoundation

## Wabash Fellowships Have County Connections



**Joe Barnett**

Three Wabash College seniors have earned Orr Fellowships, guaranteeing two-year salaried positions with some of Indiana's most dynamic, high-growth businesses. One is from Westfield while the other two will be working in Fishers and Carmel.

Joe Barnett, Evan Kanetkar and Champ McCorkle will receive executive mentorship and participate in a curriculum designed to develop understanding and skills vital to entrepreneurship and business leadership. Further, as Orr Fellows, they will grow professionally through an active and supportive network with opportunities for cultural and civic engagement. "Congratulations to our newest Orr Fellows. Your hard work over the last four years in the classroom, pursuing professional experiences, and serving in campus leadership positions has paid off," said Cassie Hagan, director of professional development and Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship (CIBE). "It's an exciting time to be part of the tech and startup ecosystem in Indiana and I'm glad these seniors have chosen to start their careers in Indianapolis. I'm grateful the Orr Fellowship continues to match our talented grads with these positions and look forward to the personal growth the Orr Fellowship will afford you."

Barnett, a native of Westfield, is a member of Lambda Chi Alpha



**Evan Kanetkar**

fraternity, Sons of Wabash, and the cross country and track and field teams. Previously, he has interned with Spot Freight, the State of Indiana Legislative Services Agency, and Techpoint. He will work with Resultant, a consulting firm based in Indianapolis.

"I am excited to be a part of such a great organization and see that my hard work at Wabash has paid off," said Barnett, a PPE major and Spanish minor. "I look forward to meeting the other fellows and to start building connections with others who are just at the start their professional careers." Kanetkar, a native of Evansville, is a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies, and the track and field team, and leads campus tours for the admissions office. He has also served as chairman of the Wabash diversity, equity, and inclusion committee. Kanetkar has interned with four different organizations during his Wabash career. He has paired with Offprem, which specializes in cloud-based Salesforce implementation services, and will be based in Fishers. "People always ask me why I went to Wabash," said Kanetkar, a computer science major and film and digital media minor. "When I found out I got the Orr, it felt like that question had finally been answered. This fellowship will be a great learning and growing experience and I'm eager to experience the opportunities the Orr will provide."



**Champ McCorkle**

McCorkle is a native of Greenwood, is a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, the Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship, and the basketball team. Previously, he has interned with Eli Lilly and Capturely. He has paired with Telamon, leaders in the telecommunications space, and will be based in Carmel.

"I am absolutely thrilled to be selected as an Orr Fellow," said McCorkle, a financial mathematics and philosophy double major. "What captivates me most is the unique opportunity to contribute to and learn from a company of Telamon's caliber, a dynamic organization that embodies innovation and excellence." Orr Fellows work in a variety of job functions, ranging from marketing to engineering to consulting, sales, and more. Fellows are matched with industries of all types and partner with companies from small start-ups to enterprise-level global organizations. To be considered for an Orr Fellowship, a student must demonstrate leadership on and off campus, have a cumulative 3.2 GPA or higher, and have a strong interest in entrepreneurial business or organizational leadership. A total of 32 Wabash students have earned Orr Fellowships since 2007, including 27 in the last seven years.

## County Students Earn Dean's List

Olivet Nazarene University is an accredited Christian, liberal arts university and has announced the fall semester Dean's list. To qualify for inclusion on the Dean's List, a student must have

been enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on a 4.00 grading scale. Six local students earned the honor.

They are: Broderick McAfee of Westfield, Kyle Byers of Carmel, Will Byers of Carmel, Tyler Hall of Fishers, Ryan Harrison of Fishers and Ella Slibeck of Fishers.

## Registration Open for Small Farm Conference

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. Registration is open for the 2024 Indiana Small Farm Conference — Indiana's premier annual event for the state's farming community. The 12th annual conference and trade show will take place Feb. 29-March 1 at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds in Danville, Indiana. Join this year's keynote speaker, Michael Kilpatrick, founder of Growing Farmers and host of the top-rated "Thriving Farmer Podcast," to network and learn about thriving in challenging times and adding help to your farm. Since 2013, the Indiana Small Farm Conference has brought together novice and experienced small-scale farmers to benefit from comprehensive, instructive and enjoyable programming about diversified farming and local food systems. This year's conference

will offer eight tracks from which attendees can choose sessions that interest them:

- Urban agriculture
- Vegetable production
- Business
- Livestock
- Resilient agriculture
- Niche opportunities
- Equity and food security
- Flowers

"A new and exciting session called fiber farming will include a presentation about sheep, alpaca and rabbit farming for fiber," said Amy Thompson, Purdue Extension's beginning farmers coordinator and a conference organizer. "There will also be a fruit grafting demonstration during the social hour on Thursday evening and several farmer panels and opportunities for networking." For more information or to sign up, visit the Indiana Small Farm Conference website at [purdue.ag/sfc](http://purdue.ag/sfc).

## Fishers Student Inducted in Phi Kappa Phi

Drake Stallworth, of Fishers, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Stallworth was initiated at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Stallworth is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

## 31 Local Students Earn Dean's List

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement, the University of Southern Indiana Dean's List has been released for the 2023 Fall Semester. Dr. Shelly Blunt, USI Interim Provost, announced a total of 2,008 undergraduate students were named to the Dean's List. Undergraduate students must achieve a 3.5 or better semester GPA (on a 4.0 system) to be named to the list. Noblesville: Addyson G. Allen, Ava Chevillet, Omar M. Elhanafy, Makana R. Goss, Clarissa G. Hays, Natalea J. Hise, Morgan A. Kottka, Will Perkins and Jake F. Sands. Westfield: Virginia A. Curtis, Adeline P. Osborne, Anandkumar A. Patel and Parker L. Provost. Sheridan: Noelle K. Santonastaso. Fishers: Salehen Amin, Jude D. Bragdon, Hannah E. Bumps, Tricia Frank, Nicholas A. Hittle, Elissa R. Mitchell, Sreya Myneni, Lexi R. Smith, Mason P. Sweeney and Abigail A. Weber. Carmel: Vamsi K. Duvvuri, Corinne G. Hawkins, Jessica L. Kurtz, Uday Sekhar Lomada, Samuel Mervis, Maya Seshan and Sara L. Welch.

## Celebrate MLK Day With DNR

Honor the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. by volunteering at a DNR property on Jan. 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. On MLK Day, some properties will have self-directed service opportunities such as litter pickup along trails. Check [calendar.dnr.IN.gov](http://calendar.dnr.IN.gov) for lists of activities that day and for other volunteer events throughout the year. Work needed year-round includes maintaining trails, helping in nature centers, and sharing photography or art.

Projects can also be tailored to volunteers' skills. Contact your nearest DNR property to learn how you can help. "Volunteering gives you a great sense of accomplishment," said Jody Heaston, volunteer coordinator for Indiana State Parks. "You are helping manage and conserve our natural and cultural resources for future generations to enjoy." For more information on volunteering see [on.IN.gov/dnrvolunteer](http://on.IN.gov/dnrvolunteer) or email [DNRvolunteer@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:DNRvolunteer@dnr.IN.gov).

## Westfield Student Earns Dean's List

Evelyn Martin, of Westfield, a senior at Wisconsin Lutheran College, has been named to the college's Dean's List for the fall 2023 semester. Evelyn is a graduate of Westfield-Washington High School. To be eligible for Dean's List, a student must carry a semester GPA of 3.6 or higher.

## Carmel Student Named to Dean's List

Caroline Wells of Carmel excelled during the Fall 2023 semester at Hofstra, achieving a GPA of at least 3.5 to earn a spot on the Dean's List. Caroline's major is Psychology.



<p><b>16698 Birdbrook Road Noblesville • \$589,900</b></p> <p><b>SOLD!</b></p> <p>Stunning 5BR, 4.5BA in Essex of Noblesville. Custom designed with in-laws quarters on main level, kitchen with quartz, butler's pantry, premium lot w/pond view, walk-out basement, 3-car garage plus storage, a must see to appreciate all this home has to offer. BLC#21949379</p>	<p><b>11256 Winding Wood Ct. Indianapolis • \$239,900</b></p> <p><b>SOLD!</b></p> <p>This open concept condo is move-in ready, 2 BR, 2 BA. Family room with gas fireplace, eat-in kitchen with granite counters, breakfast bar, tile floor, pantry, appliances stay, main BR ensuite with walk-in tile shower, large 2-car garage, patio with retractable awning. BLC#21945183</p>
<p><b>18865 Wimbley Way Noblesville • \$289,900</b></p> <p><b>SOLD!</b></p> <p>This 3 BR, 2 BA ranch is located in family friendly Fairfield Farms. Huge great room w/doors leading to covered patio &amp; fenced backyard, kitchen w/pantry, dining area &amp; all appliances stay, new windows, water softener &amp; HVAC in 2020. Fence, roof &amp; gutters 2021. BLC#21949582</p>	<p><b>10717 Upland Way Noblesville • \$349,900</b></p> <p><b>SOLD!</b></p> <p>Welcome to this lovely 4 BR, 2.5 BA home, kitchen with center island and newer SS appliances, spacious family room with gas fireplace, park-like backyard with maintenance free deck, auto-retractable awning, paver patio, basketball court and cute she shed. BLC#21949680</p>

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FISHERS BOARD OF METROPOLITAN FIRE MERIT COMMISSIONERS

In accordance with Ind. Code §§36-8-3.5-10 and 5-3-1, the Fishers Board of Metropolitan Fire Merit Commissioners (the "Commission") hereby provides NOTICE that on January 22, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the City of Fishers Fire Department, 2 Municipal Drive, Fishers, IN, 46038, the Commission will conduct a public hearing during its duly noticed public meeting to consider an amendment to its merit rules. The amendment is in furtherance of the Commission's stated purpose to establish the processes for selection, promotion, serious discipline, demotion, and/or dismissal of merit firefighter and to provide review and oversight of those processes, and to conform to recent changes in Indiana law. At the hearing, any interested person of the unit, district, or territory and any member of the department must be afforded an opportunity to present both oral and written evidence on any matter relating to the adoption of the proposed rules. The commission shall give due consideration to this evidence in making the commission's final decision concerning the adoption of the proposed rules. A copy of the proposed amendment is available for inspection at the City of Fishers Fire Department.

TL21097 1/12 It hspaxlp

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF Mud Creek/Sand Creek Drainage Area, George Burk Arm Abbott Commons Section 1 Reconstruction NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board concerning the reconstruction of the Mud Creek/Sand Creek Drainage Area, George Burk Arm, Abbott Commons Section 1 Reconstruction on January 22, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in Commissioners Court, Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana. Construction and maintenance reports of the Surveyor and the Schedule of Assessments proposed by the Drainage Board have been filed and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.

TL21102 1/12 It hspaxlp

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF Morrow-Follett Drain, R. J. Follett Arm Monon Square Vacation Station 0+00 to Station 6+00

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition to vacate has been received by the Hamilton County Surveyor for the Morrow-Follett Drain, R. J. Follett Arm, Monon Square Vacation across Parcel 16-09-25-00-00-014.004 owned by Village Housing Corporation and Parcels 16-09-25-00-00-014.000 and 16-09-25-00-00-014.002 owned by Carmel Midtown Community Development Corporation (Station 0+00 to Station 6+00) and that a hearing is scheduled for January 22, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. on that request.

Objections to the VACATION of the drain must be filed in writing not less than five (5) days before the date of the hearing.

The Board will consider whether the drain performs the function for which it was designed and constructed; whether the expense of maintenance outweighs the benefits to be derived therefrom, and whether the abandonment thereof will not be detrimental to the public welfare.

Hamilton County Drainage Board Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh

TL21103 1/12 It hspaxlp

Public Notices Deadline: 11:00 a.m. 2 Business Days Prior to Publication legals@thetimes24-7.com Private Party Notices Submitted After Deadline May Be Subject To \$25.00 Fee In Addition To The Cost Of The Advertisement

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF Loma Industrial Park Drain NOTICE

To Whom It May Concern and: Ossip Family Real Estate LLC Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board on the Loma Industrial Park Drain on January 22, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in Commissioners Court, Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana, and which construction and maintenance reports of the Surveyor and the Schedule of Assessments made by the Drainage Board have been filed and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.

Hamilton County Drainage Board Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh

TL21098 1/12 It hspaxlp

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF Woodhaven Drain NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board on the Woodhaven Drain on January 22, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in Commissioners Court, Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana. The purpose of the hearing is for the Board to increase the amount of the maximum unencumbered amount of the maintenance fund for the Woodhaven Drain to be increased from four (4) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance of the drain to eight (8) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance. The Board will not consider an increase in annual maintenance assessments at the meeting. The previously established Schedule of Assessments made by the Drainage Board have been previously approved and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.

Hamilton County Drainage Board Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh

TL21100 1/12 It hspaxlp

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF Beaver & Brooks Drain 106th & Hoosier Road Roundabout Partial Vacation Station 0+00 to Station 0+70

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition to vacate has been received by the Hamilton County Surveyor for the Beaver & Brooks Drain, 106th & Hoosier Road Roundabout Partial Vacation across Road Right-of-Way owned by the City of Fishers (Station 0+00 to Station 0+70) and that a hearing is scheduled for January 22, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. on that request.

Objections to the VACATION of the drain must be filed in writing not less than five (5) days before the date of the hearing.

The Board will consider whether the drain performs the function for which it was designed and constructed; whether the expense of maintenance outweighs the benefits to be derived therefrom, and whether the abandonment thereof will not be detrimental to the public welfare.

Hamilton County Drainage Board Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh

TL21104 1/12 It hspaxlp

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF Moffitt & Williamson Drain Notice

To Whom It May Concern and: Crowley, Kendall Luck, Dennis H & Constance A Crisp, Madolin Y Toomey, Christopher Mazzoni, Sara

Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board on the Moffitt & Williamson Drain on January 22, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in Commissioners Court, Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana. The purpose of the hearing is for the Board to increase the amount of the maximum unencumbered amount of the maintenance fund for the Moffitt & Williamson Drain to be increased from four (4) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance of the drain to eight (8) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance. The Board will not consider an increase in annual maintenance assessments at the meeting. The previously established Schedule of Assessments made by the Drainage Board have been previously approved and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.

Hamilton County Drainage Board Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh

TL21107 1/12 It hspaxlp

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF George Beam Drain NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board on the George Beam Drain on January 22, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in Commissioners Court, Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana. The purpose of the hearing is for the Board to increase the amount of the maximum unencumbered amount of the maintenance fund for the George Beam Drain to be increased from four (4) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance of the drain to eight (8) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance. The Board will not consider an increase in annual maintenance assessments at the meeting. The previously established Schedule of Assessments made by the Drainage Board have been previously approved and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.

Hamilton County Drainage Board Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh

TL21099 1/12 It hspaxlp

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF Ream Creek Drain NOTICE

To Whom It May Concern and: Conner, Jeffrey C & Christin C Cottingham, Benjamin S

Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board on the Ream Creek Drain on January 22, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in Commissioners Court, Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana. The purpose of the hearing is for the Board to increase the amount of the maximum unencumbered amount of the maintenance fund for the Ream Creek Drain to be increased from four (4) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance of the drain to eight (8) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance. The Board will not consider an increase in annual maintenance assessments at the meeting. The previously established Schedule of Assessments made by the Drainage Board have been previously approved and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.

Hamilton County Drainage Board Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh

TL21101 1/12 It hspaxlp

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD ON FEBRUARY 26, 2024 AT 9:00 A.M HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED. THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD WILL MEET ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024 AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE HAMILTON COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER COMMISSIONER'S COURT ROOM.

HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD. ATTEST: LYNETTE MOSBAUGH

TL21105 1/12 It hspaxlp

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF Thomas Pierce Drain, Revised Report Notice

Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board on the Thomas Pierce Drain on January 22, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. in Commissioners Court, Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana. The purpose of the hearing is for the Board to increase the amount of the maximum unencumbered amount of the maintenance fund for the Thomas Pierce Drain to be increased from four (4) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance of the drain to eight (8) times the estimated annual cost of periodic maintenance. The Board will not consider an increase in annual maintenance assessments at the meeting. The previously established Schedule of Assessments made by the Drainage Board have been previously approved and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.

Hamilton County Drainage Board Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh

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## ↓ RUSTY From Page A1

while working, his SSDI benefits will not be in jeopardy. Your husband should contact Social Security's Ticket to Work program directly to protect his disability status and discuss returning to work while collecting SSDI benefits. The Ticket to Work program assists those now receiving SSDI benefits who wish to test their ability to return to work without putting their SSDI benefits at risk. The program provides considerable assistance, including new career training opportunities and connection to potential employers, and it is voluntary and costs nothing. Here is a link to Social Security's information on the Ticket to Work program: <https://choosework.ssa.gov/> It's not mandatory for your husband to enroll in the Ticket to Work program but, in addition to other available assistance, he can request a Trial Work Period (TWP) which would allow for 9 months, over a rolling five year period, during which he can earn any amount (even over the normal monthly limit mentioned above) without risking his SSDI benefits. Within the Trial Work Period, only those months he earns over the normal monthly SSDI limit would count as a Trial Work Month. So, for example, your husband could work part time regularly earning under the normal monthly limit and if, in some months (up to nine), he earned more it wouldn't affect his SSDI benefits.

So, your younger disabled husband can, indeed, work while on Social Security disability, for as long as he wishes while earning under the monthly SSDI limit (the SSDI earnings limit changes yearly). He may also wish to enroll in Social Security's Ticket to Work program for assistance with developing a new career. Plus, he can take advantage of using trial work months in the event his work earnings will, at times, exceed the monthly SSDI limit. If your husband earns over the SSDI limit for more than the 9 trial work months and his benefits are consequently stopped, he can - within the 5-year Trial Work Period - have his benefits reinstated (without again going through the full application process) if his disability, once more, renders him unable to work full time. For starters, I suggest your husband contact Social Security's Ticket to Work program directly at 1.833-889-0108 to discuss returning to work part time. Social Security will guide him through the entire process.

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. Russell Gloor is the, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens. To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/pr-ograms/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/pr-ograms/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadviser@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadviser@amacfoundation.org).*

## ↓ CHOLESTEROL From Page A1

resulting in a heart attack or stroke.

**Understanding Risk**  
Your body naturally produces all the LDL it needs. An unhealthy lifestyle can make your body produce more LDL than required. Behaviors that may negatively affect your cholesterol levels include lack of physical activity, obesity, eating an unhealthy diet and smoking or exposure to tobacco smoke. In addition to unhealthy habits, which are the cause of high LDL cholesterol for most people, some people inherit genes from their parents or grandparents - called familial hypercholesterolemia (FH) - that cause them to have too much cholesterol and can lead to premature atherosclerotic heart disease. If you have a family history of FH or problems related to high cholesterol, it's important to get your levels checked.

**Getting Cholesterol Checked**  
Adults age 20 and older should have their cholesterol and other traditional risk factors checked every 4-6 years as long as their risk remains low. After age 40, your health care professional will use an equation to calculate your 10-year risk of heart attack or stroke. People with cardiovascular disease, and those at elevated risk, may need their cholesterol and other risk factors assessed more often.

**Managing Cholesterol**  
If you have high cholesterol, understanding your risk for heart disease

and stroke is one of the most important things you can do, along with taking steps to lower your cholesterol. Often, simply changing certain behaviors can help bring your numbers into line. Eating a heart-healthy diet that emphasizes fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean or plant-based protein, fish and nuts while limiting red and processed meats, sodium and sugar-sweetened foods and beverages is one of the best ways to lower your cholesterol. While grocery shopping, look for the American Heart Association's Heart-Check mark to help identify foods that can be part of an overall healthy eating pattern. Other lifestyle changes include losing weight, quitting smoking and becoming more physically active, as a sedentary lifestyle can lower HDL. To help lower both cholesterol and high blood pressure, experts recommend at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic exercise a week, such as walking, biking or swimming. For some people, lifestyle changes may prevent or manage unhealthy cholesterol levels. For others, medication may also be needed. Work with your doctor to develop a treatment plan that's right for you. If medication is required, be sure to take it as prescribed. Controlling your cholesterol may be easier than you think. Learn more about managing your cholesterol at [heart.org/cholesterol](http://heart.org/cholesterol).

## ↓ STROKE From Page A1

Based on findings in a Stress in America 2020 survey conducted by the American Psychological Association, the top sources of stress are money, work, family responsibilities and health concerns. Managing your stress and blood pressure can improve your overall health and well-being. Reclaim control of your schedule and build in time to invest in your health. Find 10 minutes every day to do something for you, like listening to music, meditating or going for a walk.

**Learn the Warning Signs**  
A stroke can happen to anyone at any point in life. Immediate treatment may help minimize the long-term effects of a stroke and even prevent death. Learn how to spot a stroke F.A.S.T:

- \* Face drooping - Does one side of the face droop or is it numb? Ask the person to smile. Is the person's smile uneven?
- \* Arm weakness - Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?
- \* Speech difficulty - Is speech slurred? Is the person unable to speak or hard to understand? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence like "The sky is blue."
- \* Time to call 911 - If someone shows any of these symptoms, even if the symptoms go away, call 911 and get to a hospital immediately. Check the time so you'll know when the first symptoms appeared. Talk to your doctor about ways to improve your well-being and help prevent stroke. Find more wellness tips at [stroke.org](http://stroke.org).

## 11 From County Earned Academic Honors

11 Hamilton County students earned academic honors at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. The eight from Carmel are:  
Sam Balanoff, Col of Agricultural & Life Science, Dean's List  
Jaclyn Copeland, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List  
Lauren Kennedy, School of Education, Dean's List  
Jack Macias, College of Engineering, Dean's Honor List

Madeline Maurer, School of Pharmacy, Honor Roll  
Avery Muckridge, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List  
Bill Weas, School of Business, Dean's List  
Elyse Wiener, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean's List  
The three from Fishers are:  
Joe Augustine, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List  
Emma Langsford, College of Letters and Science, Dean's List  
Drake Stallworth, Col of Agricultural & Life Sci, Dean's List



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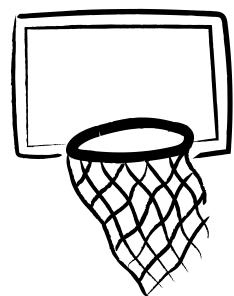
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# Breaking Down Big Ten Basketball Race



While there's no such thing as a sure thing, it's looking like the Big Ten men's basketball championship once again goes through West Lafayette. Purdue will likely suffer two or three more losses on the path to March but through 14 games, the Boilermakers look like the class of a mediocre Big Ten. Who might challenge Purdue? Here's my breakdown of the contenders, spoilers and those who will begin planning for the 2024-25 season.

## THE FAVORITE

**Purdue** – Southern Illinois transfer Lance Jones is the difference between this year's top-ranked Boilermakers and last year's squad, which managed to rise to the top of The Associated

Press poll while starting two freshman guards. Jones plays without fear. His three 3-pointers to start the second half Tuesday night at Maryland settled what could have been a rough road outing. Instead, Purdue put its foot down on the Terrapins' collective throats and coasted to an easier victory than the 14-point margin suggested. Jones, who averages 10.8 points a game, has helped alleviate one of Purdue's weaknesses from a year ago – dealing with pressure defense. He has taken some of the burden off sophomore Braden Smith, whose improved statistics across the board (12.9 ppg., 6.7 assists, 5.4 rebounds, 49 percent 3-point shooting) make him a first-team All-Big Ten candidate. Fletcher Loyer's shooting also has improved dramatically.

to 39 percent from 3-point range and 41 percent overall compared to last year's 32 and 34 percent respectively. It says a lot about Purdue's talent that a former Indiana Gatorade Player of the Year, Trey Kaufman-Renn, is the fifth option on offense. Last but not least, reigning National Player of the Year Zach Edey has established himself as the favorite to repeat that honor. Even with an improved supporting cast, Edey is averaging one point a game higher than last season. Barring injury, he will break Joe Barry Carroll's career rebounding record and has a chance to catch Rick Mount's all-time scoring record of 2,323 points. Edey also has improved his NBA Draft stock in the view of ESPN.com writer Jonathan Givony. Edey jumped from 32nd to 14th in ESPN's draft rankings. "The runaway favorite to repeat as national player of the year, Edey has found another gear with his conditioning, mobility and productivity, looking noticeably more impactful on both ends of the floor. He has shown better versatility stepping outside the paint defensively, blocking shots prolifically while drawing fouls and dunking even more than usual, finding some real swagger to his game this season. "Edey has done it against many of the top teams in college basketball, with big performances against Arizona, Alabama, Marquette and Tennessee, even showing some new facets to his game as a passer when double-teams inevitably come. While there will surely be some skepticism around his age (21), lack of perimeter shooting and ability to hold his own as a pick-and-roll defender, Edey has some clear virtues NBA teams can tap into early in his career and is worthy of a fresh look, possibly as a lottery-level

prospect in a class lacking sure-fire contributors."

## THE CONTENDERS

**Illinois** – The Fighting Illini get their shot to make a statement to the Big Ten on tonight at Purdue but their chances of winning the conference took a major hit when first-team All-Big Ten guard Terrence Shannon Jr. was indefinitely suspended after being charged with rape in Douglas County, Kansas. Illinois showed no adverse effects of Shannon's absence during its 96-66 rout of Northwestern on Tuesday night in the other Assembly Hall, now known as State Farm Center. The Fighting Illini shot nearly 56 percent from 3-point range while getting a dominant 32-point performance from Marcus Domask. Quincy Guerrier and Coleman Hawkins have helped Illinois average nearly 84 points a game, trailing only Iowa (86.7) and Purdue (85.4). Interestingly, Illinois closes the regular season at home against Purdue (March 5) and at Iowa (March 10).

**Wisconsin** – A physical style of play continues to work for the Badgers, whose top two players (Tyler Wahl, Steven Crowl) seem to have been in Madison for a decade. The Badgers have pulled off big victories already this season at home against then-No. 3 Marquette and at Michigan State. January looks very favorable with Nebraska, Indiana, Northwestern and Michigan State coming to the Kohl Center. The three road games (Ohio State, Penn State, Minnesota) all seem winnable.

**Indiana** – On the other hand, one prominent college basketball website has predicted a gloomy first month of 2024 for the Hoosiers. The site predicts a 1-7 month for Indiana, but I will be surprised if that occurs even though the Hoosiers lost at Nebraska on Wednesday night. Games at Rutgers, Wisconsin and Illinois will test an Indiana offense that struggles with outside shooting (32 percent on an average of less than five shots a game from 3-point range). Purdue will be no picnic, even if the game is in Assembly Hall. Minnesota is the most likely victory. However, I give Indiana favorable odds in home matchups with Ohio State and Iowa. But which Hoosiers team will show up on any given night? The one that put up a fight against Kansas or the squad that looked like it didn't belong on the same floor as Connecticut and Auburn? Oregon transfer Kel'el Ware has been a welcome addition inside and Malik

a huge jump offensively. The Huskers' 77.6 scoring average going into the Indiana game is a nearly 10-point increase from this time a year ago. Brice Williams, Juwan Gary and Rienk Mast each are averaging between 13 and 14 points a game. Keisei Tominaga is not far behind with his 12.7 average.

**Northwestern** – Boo Buie is on his way to another first-team All-Big Ten honor, averaging 18.1 points a game. Lafayette Jeff's career scoring leader, Brooks Barnhizer, has fulfilled most expectations as the Wildcats' No. 2 scorer (13.0). Inconsistency has been an issue, getting up for Purdue then suffering an embarrassing loss at home to Chicago State. How will it respond to Tuesday night's shellacking at Illinois? **Ohio State** – The Buckeyes' 11-2 start has quieted some of the discontent aimed at coach Chris Holtmann. If Ohio State comes out of January above .500 in the Big Ten, it could finish in the top four. Trips to Indiana and Michigan, sandwiching a home game with Wisconsin, in the next couple weeks will be an indication. Point guard Bruce Thornton has taken over the go-to scoring role at 16.9 points a game. Minnesota transfer Jamison Battle is shooting better than 42 percent from 3-point range and averages 14.3 points.

## WAIT UNTIL NEXT YEAR

**Michigan** – The Wolverines are below .500 entering January, not totally unexpected with Hunter Dickenson's cash-driven transfer to Kansas and the losses of Jett Howard and Kobi Bufkin to the NBA. Dug McDaniel is developing into one of the Big Ten's best point guards at 19 points and 5 assists per game. Tennessee transfer Olivier Nkamhoua averages 17.2 points and 7.5 rebounds.

**Maryland** – To paraphrase Kevin Costner in "Bull Durham," the Terrapins couldn't hit water if they collectively fell out of a boat. Dead last in the Big Ten with 27 percent shooting from 3-point range and 13th in overall field goal percentage (40.9). Jahmir Young once again is one of the league's top scorers (19.8 ppg.) but doesn't get nearly enough help. In the 67-43 loss at home to No. 1 Purdue on Tuesday night, the rest of the Terrapins were a collective 9 of 40 from the field. **Iowa** – Unlike the Hawkeyes' football team, Fran McCaffrey's bunch is poor defensively. Iowa is off to an 0-4 start in conference play largely because it allows almost 78 points game.

The Hawkeyes were dead last defensively last season (74.7 ppg.), next to last in 2021-22 (71.2 ppg.) and 11th in 2020-21 (72.7).

Notice a trend? Iowa hasn't claimed a Big Ten title since 1979, when it shared the championship with Magic Johnson's Michigan State Spartans and Purdue. That title-less streak will continue in 2023-24.

Rutgers – With the second- and third-ranked high school prospects coming to New Jersey next season, the Scarlet Knights trail only Kentucky and Duke in 24/7 Sports composite recruiting rankings. (Purdue is 9th). While the future looks promising, not even coach Steve Pikiell's prowess can help a team that is dead last offensively in the Big Ten (67.5 ppg.). Rutgers' top-ranked defense (61.4) hasn't been able to carry the load. Center Clifford Omoruyi averages nearly a double-double but his teammates are shooting 29 percent from 3-point range and less than 40 percent overall.

Minnesota – The Gophers have shown improvement in coach Ben Johnson's third season. Point guard Elijah Hawkins leads the nation in assists (101) and assists per game (7.8). Dawson Garcia has missed some time with an ankle injury but still leads Minnesota at 17.6 points and 7.3 rebounds per game. Depth, however, remains a major weakness. Penn State – Gutted by the player exodus following Micah Shrewsbury's move to Notre Dame, the Nittany Lions are adjusting to new coach Mike Rhoades. Rhodes' top six are all transfers, including guards Ace Baldwin Jr. and Nick Kern Jr. who followed the coach from VCU. Winthrop transfer Kanye Clary (18.2) and Baldwin (13.6) are Penn State's only double-figure scorers.

*Kenny Thompson is the former sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier and an award-winning journalist. He has covered Purdue athletics for many years.*



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## Ag Merger Going Through

Indiana-based agriculture & energy cooperatives Ceres Solutions Cooperative, Inc. and Co-Alliance Cooperative, Inc., announce today that both boards and memberships have overwhelmingly approved the merger. The effective date of the merger is March 1, 2024, and the company will be named Keystone Cooperative, Inc. This merger creates a farmer-owned cooperative focused on delivering an unmatched customer experience, with the resources needed to support farmer-owners as they grow into the future. Keystone Cooperative will serve customers in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois. It will have four core divisions, including Energy, Agronomy, Grain, and Swine & Animal Nutrition. Keystone will employ over 1,700 dedicated team members throughout the states served, with expected annual revenue of \$3 billion. The boards have chosen Kevin Still, current President & CEO of Co-Alliance, to be the President & CEO of Keystone Cooperative. Ceres Solutions current CEO Jeff Troike will become the Executive Vice President of Keystone Cooperative, Inc. alongside Co-Alliance's current Executive Vice President, Scott Logue. "Keystone Cooperative brings together two financially strong, legacy-rich and highly successful cooperatives. This historic merger creates a cooperative that is equipped to navigate the ever-changing markets of today's agriculture and energy industries," said Kevin Still. "This powerful combination will build a cooperative that

maximizes efficiencies, capitalizes on technology, and has the resources to enhance our customer experience while preparing for the needs of our future stakeholders," concluded Still. "Our membership has recognized the value of this combination, and we are looking forward to achieving our promise of a cooperative that is focused on the success of our members, the vitality of our rural communities, and providing an unparalleled return for our farmer-owners," Jeff Troike added. This merger announcement comes after a thorough due diligence process and the collaborative joint venture, Endeavor Ag & Energy, which serves Central Michigan in agronomy, propane and feed. Rick Brubaker, Chairman of Ceres Board of Directors underscored the value of the merger, saying, "Our successful partnership with the Endeavor business in Michigan helped exhibit the collaborative capacity of our organizations. We look forward to seeing this team find even more synergies with our broader businesses." Tim Burke, Chairman of Co-Alliance Board of Directors affirmed the merger opportunity, stating, "This merger is a testament to our shared vision and unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional value to our customers. Together we will create a stronger, more resilient cooperative that will remain successful for our future generations." Keystone Cooperative will be headquartered in Indianapolis.

## Indiana Arts Commission Accepting Applications

The Indiana Arts Commission and its Regional Arts Partners announced today the opening of applications for the Fiscal Year 2025 Arts Project Support grant program. Arts Project Support grants provide nonprofit organizations and public entities with funding to support a specific arts activity, such as a one-time event, a single production, an exhibition, an educational workshop, or a series of related arts activities such as art classes or training sessions. The purpose of the program is to provide broad access to arts opportunities throughout the state. Applicants may request up to \$4,000 to support their project, and there is no match requirement. Projects must occur between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025 to be eligible for FY25 Arts Project Support. "Arts Project Support grants are a wonderful opportunity for Indiana communities to bolster

and grow their creative activities," said Miah Michaelson, IAC Executive Director. "We encourage organizations and public entities to apply for funding to start new programming, expand existing offerings, or reimagine a community event. Arts and creativity help strengthen the fabric of Indiana communities, and we are proud to support the creative community development work that Hoosiers are doing in every corner of our state." A Program Information Webinar for Returning Applicants will be held on Jan.18 at 4 p.m. A Program Information Webinar for New Applicants will take place on Jan. 24, 4 p.m. Applications for Arts Project Support are due March 7, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. eastern time through the IAC's online grant system. Learn more at <https://www.in.gov/arts/programs-and-services/funding/arts-project-support/>

## Magic Coming to Palladium



Photo courtesy of Carmel Symphony Orchestra

**Jan. 27 concert at the Palladium that will marry the captivating music of John Williams, Tchaikovsky and others with the magic of the circus.**

The Carmel Symphony Orchestra will team up with magicians, strong-man acts, jugglers and more for "Cirque Goes to the Symphony," a Jan. 27 concert at the Palladium that will marry the captivating music of John Williams, Tchaikovsky and others with the magic of the circus. Also that night, the orchestra will welcome new Music Director David Commanday with a post-concert reception. On Feb. 10, the CSO has a great pre-Valentine's Day date-night show featuring the works of Mendelssohn, Prokofiev and Bernstein.

## Westfield Announces New, Old Names for Service

Westfield Mayor Scott Willis and the Westfield City Council have recently announced new appointments and re-appointments to the various boards, commissions, and committees of the City of Westfield. These appointments and re-appointments were made after careful consideration of the applications and interviews submitted by more than 75 residents who expressed their interest in serving the city. These boards, commissions, and committees serve as a vital link between the city government and the community. They provide valuable insights and recommendations on various matters, including planning, zoning, development, and public safety. The individuals bring diverse backgrounds, skills, and experiences to the table. They volunteer their time and expertise to the betterment of the community, and their dedication is deeply appreciated. The City of Westfield is grateful for their commitment to serve and looks forward to their contributions in shaping the future of the city. Mayoral re-appointments: Advisory Plan Commission: Robert Horkay, Andre Maue Board of Zoning Appeals: Jeff Boller Civilian Fire Merit Board: Eric Lohe Community Development Corporation: Jim Ake Hamilton County Tourism Commission: William Knox Redevelopment Commission: Joe Plankis Westfield Building Corporation: Ron Moore

Westfield Economic Development Commission: Chuck Lehman Mayoral new appointments: Advisory Plan Commission: Billy Bunkowfst, Omar Khan Alcohol/Liquor Licensing Committee: Sam Frain, Jerry Rosenberger Audit Committee: Kelley Kemper Board of Public Works and Safety: Nick Barbknecht, Randy Graham Board of Zoning Appeals: Billy Bunkowfst, Larry Clarino Civilian Fire Merit Board: Laura Crum Community Development Corporation: Mark Keen, Chris White Redevelopment Authority: Roger Dycus, Tyler Enyart, Derek Rochester Redevelopment Commission: Larry Kemper, Brian Pawlowski Riverfront License Committee: Larry Clarino Westfield Building Corporation: Leo Dierkman, Brian Simons Westfield Economic Development Commission: Michael Stiehl City Council re-appointments: Advisory Plan Commission: Victory McCarty City Council new appointments: Advisory Plan Commission: Chris Woodward, Ryan Mooney Audit Committee: Kurt Wanninger Board of Zoning Appeals: Jake Plummer Civilian Merit Board: Sam Mishelow Redevelopment Commission: Brian Tomamichel Riverfront License Review Committee: Sam Frain Façade Improvement Grant Committee: Cathy Boone Black Audit Committee: Kurt Beier, CPA Westfield Economic Development Commission: Clark Cutshaw

## Local Real Estate Market Ended '23 on Quiet Note

Noblesville and Hamilton County's residential real estate markets were quieter to end 2023. In Hamilton County in December:

- Hamilton County had the highest average year-to-date home sale price in the region at \$515,220.
- Pended home sales decreased 12.9 percent compared to December 2022.
- Available housing inventory decreased slightly, down 5 percent compared to this time last year.
- The average sale price increased 3.7 percent to \$339,575.

In Noblesville in December:

- Closed home sales decreased, down 32.2 percent compared to December 2022.
- The average home sale price also decreased, down 0.6 percent to \$412,008.
- Noblesville homes spent 5.9 percent more time on the

- market than this time last year, selling in 36 days on average.

Around central Indiana, inventory continued to decrease and prices increased slightly across the 16-county central Indiana area as the year came to a close. According to F.C. Tucker Company, part of the Howard Hanna family of companies:

- Available housing inventory decreased 2.4 percent compared to December 2022.
- Compared to December 2022, the average home sale price for the 16-county central Indiana region increased 1.1 percent to \$323,309. The year-to-date home sale price also increased slightly, up 5.4 percent to \$334,280.
- Pended home sales decreased, down 6.1 percent compared to this time last year.

In December 2023, 1,882 central Indiana homes were

purchased, down 6.1 percent from the 2,004 sold in December 2022.

- Boone County had the greatest increase in pended home sales in December 2023, up 13.8 percent compared to this time last year.
- Jennings County and Putnam County pended sales had the greatest decrease with both counties seeing a 33.3 percent decrease in homes sold compared to December 2022.

Central Indiana year-to-date home sale prices increased, up 5.4 percent overall:

- Putnam County recorded the highest average year-to-date home sale price increase at 32 percent.
- Homes sold in 30 days on average, remaining on the market 10 days, or 50 percent, longer than in 2022.
- Decatur County homes sold 8.3 percent faster than this time last year, and Jennings County homes sold 3.4 percent faster.
- Homes in all other central Indiana counties remained on the market longer compared to this time

last year. Central Indiana experienced a 2.4 percent decrease in overall available home inventory in December 2023, compared to December 2022, with 97 fewer homes available for sale.

- Jennings County had the largest inventory increase – up 52.4 percent compared to December 2022.
- Hancock County experienced the largest decrease in inventory – down 34.8 percent compared to this time last year.

"As expected, the central Indiana residential real estate market slowed during the December holiday season," said Jim Litten, president of F.C. Tucker Company. "However, in 2024, it's likely we'll see a decrease in interest rates and continued low unemployment which could result in an uptick in central Indiana's real estate market and more homes available for sale at various price points."

Of the pended home sales in the region last month, four were priced \$2,000,000 or higher; 25 were priced \$1,000,000 to \$1,999,999; 198 were priced \$500,000 to \$999,999; 588 were priced \$300,000 to \$499,999; 577 were priced \$200,000 to \$299,999; 401 were priced \$100,000 to \$199,999; and 89 were priced at \$99,999 or less.

## FOR THE RECORD

The Noblesville Plan Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 6 p.m. has been canceled. The Feb. 20 meeting will take place as originally advertised.

*For The Record is a public service and regular feature in The Noblesville Times. It is designed to tell you what is scheduled to happen and what actually does happen in meetings paid for with your tax dollars. The Times encourages all citizens to take an active role in being involved in local government.*

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