

The TIMES



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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TODAY'S VERSE

1 John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

Hamilton Happenings

As part of Women's History Month, the Carmel Symphony Orchestra and the Carmel Clay Public Library Foundation are teaming up to present two events designed to explore how to improve the quality of life in the arts and corporate world for women. On March 3, the discussion will focus on "Navigating Mental Health and Valuing Self-care in the Arts and Corporate World." On March 17, the topic is "Preparing for Competition and Handling Pressure and Passion in our work: Perspectives from Female Musicians and Community Leaders." Both events will take place in the library's Community Room from 2-3:30 p.m. They are free and open to the public, but registration is required. Register online at carmelclaylibrary.org.

Three Things You Should Know

- 1 Feisty U.S. Rep. Victoria Spartz released a new ad this week. And unlike her opponents who are offering cheap attacks, Spartz stayed on the up and up. "Our Republic is going through some challenging times, but it's not the first time and not the last time," the ad said. "As freedom-loving Americans, we never give up, never give in, and never surrender. We must remember all Americans who sacrificed their lives for our freedoms and keep the American dream alive for our children."
- 2 Speaking of feisty politicians, Rep. Jim Baird voted for legislation aimed at stopping China from using apps like TikTok to hurt Americans. "Communist China cannot have free rein to push its agenda on the American people and manipulate our children," said Rep. Baird. "Apps like TikTok have an immense impact on public discourse in our country and should not be controlled by our adversaries."
- 3 Hoosier angler Rex Remington caught an 8-pound, 4-ounce smallmouth bass on Monroe Lake on March 3, smashing the previous record set in 1992 at Twin Lake in LaGrange County by one pound. The new record fish was released alive back into Monroe Lake. Fishing for smallmouth in lakes is best in early spring, as they feed aggressively before spawning. As water temperatures warm, smallmouth move into rocky points and flat rocky areas.

Boomer Bits

Ask Rusty – How Do Survivor Benefits Work for a Married Couple?



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: How does Social Security handle the death of one spouse? Say, for example, the husband receives \$2,000 per month in Social Security and his wife receives \$1,000 per month. How is the death of either spouse handled?

Signed: Concerned spouse

Dear Concerned: Benefits to a deceased beneficiary stop as soon as Social Security (SS) is notified of the death (notification usually done by the funeral director who handles arrangements). Benefits are not paid for the month of death, only for the preceding month when the beneficiary was alive for the entire month.

A surviving spouse is

entitled to the higher of two benefits – their own personally earned SS retirement benefit, or an amount based on the deceased spouse's benefit at death. In the example you cite, and assuming the surviving spouse has reached full retirement age (FRA): if the husband dies first the wife will receive the husband's \$2,000 monthly benefit instead of her previous \$1,000 amount. But if the wife died first, the husband would continue receiving only his \$2,000 monthly amount because that is more than his deceased wife was receiving. Note in either case, the surviving spouse would be entitled to a one-time lump sum "death

➔ See RUSTY Page A3

Easy Ideas to Stretch Your Retirement Budget

Ways seniors can save on enjoyable activities

(Family Features) Retirement may mean you have unlimited time to enjoy each day, but it doesn't mean you have a budget to match.

You probably already know staying active is essential for aging with grace, so instead of letting limited funds keep you at home, explore some ways you can enjoy your leisure time without breaking the bank.

➔ See STRETCH Page A3

How Volunteering Can Help Older Adults Combat Loneliness

(Family Features) The bonds found in friendships and other relationships are an important factor in health and wellness – even science says so.

According to the American Psychological Association, forming and maintaining social connections at any

➔ See COMBAT Page A3

Community Band Concert, St. Pat at The Cat, 'Beauty & the Beast' musical, more



BETSY REASON Columnist

See Legacy Christian Theater's Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" at Ivy Tech, celebrate St. Pat's at The Cat with comedian

Dave Dugan, attend Noblesville Schools' Miller-Palooza, see Hamilton County Community Band's annual spring concert at Noblesville High School, see Hyperion Players' newest play, and Brick Room Comedy Club's comedy acts and enjoy an array of St. Patrick's events. This journalist shares The Times' list of 25 things to do this weekend and beyond:

1. Enjoy a live musical during Legacy Christian Theater's Disney's Beauty and the Beast," the Broadway musical, at 7 p.m. today, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday at Ivy Tech Hamilton County



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

Experience live theater with the locally-based Hyperion Players' production of the former Broadway play and Tony-Award nominee, "Grand Horizons," directed by Noblesville's Nicole Amsler, opening 7:30 p.m. today and continuing through March 24.

Auditorium in Noblesville. Tickets are \$15. Enjoy an Enchanted Tea at 10 a.m. March 16, with Legacy Christian School in Noblesville, with tickets available in advance.

2. Celebrate St. Pat's at The Cat with Dave Dugan during two evenings of laughs, at 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday at The Cat in

Carmel. Irish dancers kick things off, Irish music sprinkled throughout and comedian Luke McKinney is on hand, for 90-minute show at \$15 ticket at thecat.biz.

3. Attend Noblesville Schools Education Foundation's annual 21-

➔ See BETSY Page A4

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Teens need about ten hours of sleep while school-age kids should get 10-12.

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



TODAY'S QUOTE

"May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields, and, until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand." Irish blessing

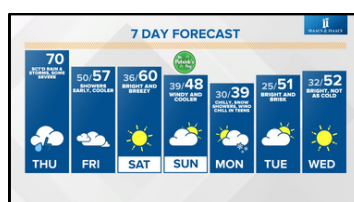
OBITUARIES

None

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

TODAY'S JOKE

What happens if a leprechaun falls in the swimming pool? He gets wet. What did you think would happen?

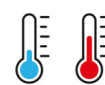


The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset

RISE: 7:54 am

SET: 7:52 pm



High/Low Temperatures

HIGH: 57°F

LOW: 32°F



Today is...

- National Peanut Lovers Day
- World Sleep Day



What Happened On This Day

- 1985 The world's first internet domain name is registered. symbolics.com was registered by the Symbolics Computer Corporation of Massachusetts. There are over 1 billion domains today.
- 1972 Francis Ford Coppola's The Godfather is premiered. The gangster movie based on Mario Puzo's novel is one of the most popular films of all time.



Births On This Day

- 1975 Eva Longoria-American actress, producer
- 1907 Zarah Leander - Swedish actress, singer

Deaths On This Day

- 2001 Ann Sothern - American actress
- 1983 Rebecca West - English journalist, author

Hamilton County Judges Appoint New Magistrate



Photo courtesy Hamilton County

Magistrate Evans being robed by judges William Hughes and Stephenie Gookins.

Hamilton County's newest magistrate was honored with a robing ceremony earlier this month. Christopher J. Evans was chosen to fill the seat of Judge Andrew Bloch who was recently appointed to the Hamilton County Circuit Court bench by Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb.

Magistrate Evans, a graduate of Noblesville High School, Indiana University, and Cooley Law School, has been an attorney for more than 15 years, most recently as a partner at Dollard Evans Whalin LLP.

"I am deeply honored to have been appointed as a magistrate in the Circuit and Superior Courts," Evans

said. "I am eager to serve the community that has been my home for so many years and look forward to ensuring a fair process for all who come before the court."

Magistrates have duties like judges but are not elected officials. They are hired by judges to assist with county caseloads.

"The Hamilton County Judiciary is excited to welcome Chris to the bench," Superior Court 6 Judge Stephenie K. Gookins says. "His diverse experience in many areas of law and business will provide a good foundation for the diverse case load that will come before him."

Noblesville Schools Director of Nursing Wins State Recognition



(L-R) Superintendent Dr. Dan Hile, Scott Showen with Community Health, Sandy Burnette, Deb Rabarge with Indiana Association of School Nurses, Noblesville Schools Executive Director of Student Services Julie Thacker.

Noblesville Schools has announced that their director of nursing Sandy Burnette has been named the Indiana School Nurse Administrator of the Year by the Indiana Association of School Nurses. A registered nurse (RN), Burnette has been with the district for 12 years, serving as a school nurse at Noblesville East Middle School and Noblesville High School before being named the director of nursing in 2021. Prior to her time with Noblesville Schools, she was an RN at Peyton Manning's Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. "Sandy exemplifies compassion and excellence, and we are fortunate

to have her leading our nursing program at Noblesville Schools," said Julie Thacker, executive director of student services for Noblesville Schools. "Her strong commitment and leadership mean that our nurses offer the highest quality of care to students, and that students are therefore best able to focus on learning." As the director of nursing, Burnette supervises 16 school nurses who manage approximately 50,000 student visits each school year. Burnette and her team oversee a variety of care including emergency services, chronic

health management, preventive screenings, immunization compliance, medication administration, health education and more. Additionally, Burnette has distinguished herself through her leadership during the Covid pandemic and the special efforts she has made in working with multilingual students and families. In recognition of her honor, Burnette will be celebrated at a state awards luncheon and will represent Indiana at the national school nurse conference this summer. She holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from Indiana State University.

NPD Officer Authors Children's Books



Photos courtesy Noblesville Schools

Noble Crossing Elementary's school resource officer Sgt. Mike Hargrove has authored two books for the children at his school. The books feature his pet bearded dragon Moochie and focus on dealing with big emotions and getting a good night's sleep. Hargrove and Moochie visited with all classes in the school last week to share the books. Noblesville Schools SROs are valued members of the school community, serving as educators and mentors in addition to physically protecting their buildings.

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↓ RUSTY From Page A1

benefit” of \$255.

The surviving spouse would need to contact Social Security to claim the “death benefit” and - unless the surviving spouse was previously receiving only a spousal benefit – also to claim the higher monthly amount, if eligible. If the surviving spouse was previously receiving only a spousal benefit from the deceased (and not entitled to SS retirement benefits on their own), then Social Security would automatically award their higher survivor amount when notified of the death.

If a surviving spouse has reached full retirement age (somewhere between 66 and 67 depending on year of birth) and is eligible for a survivor benefit, the amount of the survivor benefit will be 100% of the deceased spouse’s benefit. But if the survivor claims the benefit before reaching FRA, the amount of the survivor benefit will be reduced (by 4.75% for each full year earlier). The survivor’s benefit reaches maximum at the survivor’s full retirement age.

If a surviving spouse has not yet reached their FRA, and if they are entitled to (not necessarily collecting) their own Social Security retirement benefit, the surviving spouse has the option to delay claiming the survivor benefit until it reaches maximum at their full retirement age. And if the survivor’s personal SS retirement

benefit will ever be more than their maximum survivor benefit, the surviving spouse also has the option to claim only the smaller survivor benefit first and allow their personal SS retirement benefit to grow (to maximum at age 70 if desired).

With Social Security there is hardly ever a simple answer to a question but, in the example you use, if both are over their SS full retirement age:

- If the husband dies first, the wife will get 100% of the amount (\$2000) the husband was receiving, instead of the small amount (\$1000) she was previously receiving.

- If the wife dies first, the husband’s monthly benefit will remain at \$2000, and he will get no increase in his monthly amount.

- In either case, the surviving spouse will be entitled to a one-time lump sum death benefit of \$255.

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/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

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Hit the Gym

Many fitness centers offer special rates and programs for older adults. Hitting the track or joining a group fitness class are easy ways to socialize while getting some exercise. The discounted membership is also an investment since staying fit is important for physical and mental health.

Enjoy Early Dinner Deals

You can still enjoy dining out occasionally, especially if you take advantage of lower-cost meals designed with older adults in mind. Many specials are for meals earlier in the day, which is consistent with a growing trend toward earlier dining. According to Yelp, the number of people eating from 4-6 p.m. has grown 9% (up to 26% from 17% in 2019). Eating earlier promotes better digestion, and earlier meals are often lighter portions for smaller appetites. For example, Cracker Barrel’s Early Dinner Deals feature smaller portions served from 4-6 p.m. on weekdays. Menu items include a variety of homestyle favorites like chicken n’ dumplings, meatloaf, catfish and more. To find a location near you, visit crackerbarrel.com/locations.

Check Out the Library

Your local library is filled with hours of free entertainment, but it’s not just the kind you’ll find from getting a library card. You can undoubtedly find a book that covers any genre or interest you can name, but most local libraries also offer programming tailored to special interests and the sessions are typically offered for free or at a low cost. It’s an easy, affordable way to pick up a new skill, meet a favorite author, learn about a topic that intrigues you and more. Other resources to explore include your library’s DVD collection and internet access if you don’t have a computer at home.

Nurture a Garden

Tending a garden may seem like a seasonal

activity, but you can make it a year-round hobby. Researching and planning is a good way to carry your gardening enthusiasm into the cooler months and you can start seedlings indoors to extend your growing season. While you’re digging into this low-cost pastime, remember the results of your efforts, such as fresh fruits and veggies, can help cut your grocery costs, too.

Mind Your Money with DIY

Saving money at the grocery store is just one way you can make DIY projects work for you. There are dozens of other examples of ways you can put your skills and interests to use by passing time doing something you enjoy while benefiting your bank account. If you like to tinker with cars, figure out what repairs you can handle yourself and avoid hefty service fees. Crafting and sewing might mean you have ready-made gifts for special occasions and a way to repair or repurpose damaged clothing instead of discarding it.

Ask About Discounts

You may be surprised by how many places offer discounts for older adults that they don’t readily advertise. In some cases, you’ll find the information on their website or signage, but other times, you may find it easier to just ask. When you’re booking an appointment or checking out, inquire about discounts for older adults, including any restrictions, age requirements, the amount of the discount and other pertinent details. Sometimes the discounts are offered on certain days or for specific services, or they may require you to join a loyalty club to access the discounts. When dining out, many restaurants offer a variety of loyalty perks. Rewards members at Cracker Barrel can earn points, or “Pegs,” on qualifying restaurant and retail purchases. Members can also take advantage of bonus birthday, anniversary and surprise rewards throughout the year.

↓ COMBAT From Page A1

age is one of the most reliable predictors of a healthy, happy and long life. Studies show having strong and supportive friendships can fend off depression and anxiety, lower blood pressure and heart rates in stressful situations and change the way people perceive daunting tasks.

However, statistics show approximately half of U.S. adults lack companionship and feel socially disconnected, according to the U.S. Surgeon General’s Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community. In fact, 12% don’t have anyone they consider a close friend, per the Survey Center on American Life. This “epidemic of loneliness,” as coined by U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy, can take a severe toll on mental and physical health.

As people age, the risks of isolation increase. With America’s older population growing rapidly – the 65 and older population reached more than 55 million in 2020 – discussing how older adults can combat loneliness is relevant to public health and individual well-being.

Consider volunteering, which is one of the best and most rewarding ways to combat loneliness.

Volunteering Combats Loneliness

People often volunteer to find a sense of purpose, learn new skills, improve their communities or establish new routines after retiring or becoming empty nesters. For many, making friends through volunteer work is a welcome bonus. The act of volunteering provides proven benefits for older adults.

Forming connections can make all the difference in a person’s volunteer experience and sense of well-being. People who meet through volunteer work inherently share a common interest and something to bond over. These friendships can carry over outside of volunteer work and

lead to bonding over other hobbies and interests.

Connection-Focused Volunteer Opportunities

In addition to making friends with fellow volunteers, many older adults also form relationships with the people they’re serving, especially if those recipients are their peers.

For example, AmeriCorps Seniors is the national service and volunteerism program in the federal agency of AmeriCorps that connects adults aged 55 and up to local service opportunities that match their interests. Its Senior Companion Program pairs volunteers with other older adults or those with disabilities who need companionship or assistance. Volunteers may help with tasks such as paying bills, shopping or getting companions to appointments. In some cases, volunteers may also provide support and respite for family members caring for loved ones with chronic illnesses.

“We often think of volunteering as ‘giving back,’ but we’ve seen firsthand that it often becomes so much more than that,” said Atalaya Sergi, director of AmeriCorps Seniors. “By spending a few hours each week with another older adult in need of support, our volunteers are not only giving back to others, but they’re adding meaning to their own lives and establishing new connections. They’re helping to fight the loneliness epidemic one visit at a time.”

Growing older can come with challenges, but some of those can be minimized with a positive mindset and commitment to remaining connected and engaged – whether with friends, relatives or fellow community members. Fostering relationships is a key ingredient to a healthier and more fulfilling life.

For more information and to find volunteer opportunities near you, visit AmeriCorps.gov/YourMoment.

Visit us online:
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THE TIMES



Providing an affordable and positive baseball experience for all young men ages 13-18

The 2024 Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball Season begins April 8, 2024 and ends on June 18, 2024.

There will be two Leagues: 13-15 year old Competitive League and 16-18 year old Competitive League.

Both 13-15 League and 16-18 League will begin play on April 8, 2024. A double-elimination tournament will be played June 10-18, 2024.

* Note: Dates subject to change due to weather or unforeseen circumstances.

Registration Fee: 2024 Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball registration fee is \$199 and includes team jersey, hat, and 2 tickets to the Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball League Pancake Breakfast/Picture Day scheduled for April 20, 2024 from 8am-11am at the Forest Park Inn.

Team/Player photos will be taken at the Pancake Breakfast - more information will be sent closer to the event date. Additional tickets for the League Pancake Breakfast will be available at the door for \$5 each.

Player Evaluations: 13-15 year old players new to Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball - or 13-15 year old players wishing to re-enter the team draft - need to attend the player evaluation session scheduled for March 9, 2024 from 2pm-4pm at Noblesville High School.

Register today at:

noblesvillebaberuthbaseball.sportsengine-prelive.com

Sponsorships are still available, please reach out to nbrbcommunications@gmail.com for more info



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From Page A1

and-older fundraiser, the 2024 Miller-Palooza, at 6 p.m. today at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Noblesville, with tickets at \$125 per person, nearly sold out at press time. Tickets at noblesvilleschoolseducationfoundation.org. Questions to adriann_young@nobl.k12.in.us

4. Experience live theater with the locally-based Hyperion Players' production of the former Broadway play and Tony-Award nominee, "Grand Horizons," directed by Noblesville's Nicole Amsler, opening 7:30 p.m. today and continuing at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and March 22 and 23, at 2:30 p.m. Sunday and March 24 at Arts for Lawrence's Theatre at the Fort, with \$15 and \$20 tickets. There is "much universal truth tucked between big, raucous laughs and audacious events," along with "the challenges of launching your children into the world while simultaneously trying to manage older parents' challenges."

5. The community is invited to Noblesville High School's inaugural Indiana Show Choir Championships 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday at NHS, with 21 show choirs from 12 schools competing from all over Indiana, plus exhibition performances by three NHS show choirs, with all-day tickets for \$20, and more details at noblesvillechoirs.org.

6. Celebrate Carl Hungerford, who will be remembered during the annual free Hamilton County Community Band Spring Concert at 7 p.m. Sunday at Noblesville High School. A newly commissioned piece by composer Sean Sumwalt will debut, entitled "Chorale for Carl," written to honor late band member Carl Hungerford, an original member and performed in the percussion section and known for his "Santa" role at Christmas concerts.

7. Experience a night of comedy with Gwen Sunkel tonight, Katie Kincaid on Saturday, Shanda Sung on March 22 and June Dempsey on March 23 at The

Brick Room Comedy Club on Maple Avenue and Ninth Street in downtown Noblesville. Visit thebrickroom.cc for tickets.

8. Enjoy live music with Donny Coyle tonight, St. Patrick's Day party at noon Saturday, St. Patrick's with Winding Creek Friends at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sam King on March 22, and Fast Cadillac at 7 p.m. March 23 at Primeval Brewing in downtown Noblesville.

9. Experience Winter on the Prairie 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily through March 26, except Mondays at Conner Prairie in Fishers. Program highlights the beauty of winter. Also, warm up by the hearth while taking in smells of the food on the fire, play parlor games and more. Visit www.connerprairie.org.

10. Kiln Creations, which has eight pottery wheels and has opened up its program for semiprivate classes with the next Saturday afternoon Pottery Wheel classes this Saturday at its shop in downtown Noblesville, with \$45 per class, with reservations at kilncreations.net. Also, Peacock Pieces Class at 6 p.m. today and Friending Frenzy at 5 p.m. March 24.

11. Travel to the countryside to hear live music with David and Pamela Ackerman on Saturday, Booze Hounds Bluegrass on March 23, and Steve Fulton on March 30 at Spencer Farm Winery in Noblesville. Visit spencerfarmwinery.com

12. Visit Always in Stitches and five other shops on the four-day Indiana Quilters Trail Shop Hop from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 20-23, each shop

13. Hamilton County Parks offers free guided tours of the Coxhall Mansion and Museum at 4 p.m. Wednesdays, March 20, April 17, May 15 and June 19 with registration online at hamiltoncounty.in.gov.

14. Join a Lunch & Learn Series called Parker Talks: All Things Noblesville, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 20 at

960 Logan St., Suite 200, in downtown Noblesville. The panel will include Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen, Director of Community Development Sarah Reed, Noblesville Chamber of Commerce President Bob DuBois, Noblesville Main Street executive director Kate Baker, and Director of Noblesville Creates Aili McGill. Admission is free, however, reservations are required at eventbrite.com

15. Heads up to Bingo players for Charity Bingo Nights put on by Love of Labs Inc., at 5 p.m. March 22 at the Noblesville Moose Lodge.

16. Mix and mingle with fellow Hamilton County Young Republicans at 5:30 p.m. March 27 at Grindstone Public House in downtown Noblesville, with appetizers provided.

17. Noblesville Main Street will have a Total Eclipse Kickoff 4-8 p.m. April 5, with details to come.

18. Join the "Who's Bad" celebration of pop music's Michael Jackson at 7:30 p.m. April 5 and 6 at Feinstein's at Hotel Carmichael in Carmel, with tickets at \$50-\$75 with a \$25 food-and-beverage minimum per guest.

19. Mark your calendar for the Conner Prairie Total Solar Eclipse 2024 event all day April 8 at Conner Prairie in Fishers. Conner Prairie tickets are \$30 for members, \$45 for nonmembers, and \$150 for VIP guests who receive reserved parking, a shuttle, eclipse viewing glasses, unobstructed viewing area, private coffee and spirits bar, lunch buffet from City BBQ and an after party. Festival grounds will turn into a haven of wonder while guests will take in performances from musical acts, dance companies and renowned experts who will shed light on the science behind the event.

20. Experience the Park Side of the Moon for the Total Solar Eclipse 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 8 at Cool Creek Park in

21. Enjoy the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse at Grand Park Sports Campus in Westfield with festivities 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 8, with food and drink from food trucks, a concert with 1985 Band, inflatables, Moon Pie eating contest by Westfield's Joey Chestnut, viewing telescopes onsite, special guest Dr. Mark SubbaRao, director of NASA's Scientific Visualization Studio, with pre-purchase tickets only at \$25 for standard vehicles and \$100 for campers and recreational vehicles at www.westfieldwelcome.com

22. View the Total Solar Eclipse 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

April 8 at Pinheads and Alley's Alehouse in Fishers, with food and a view of the sky on the patio, with bingo noon to 12:30 p.m., and receive one pair of eclipse glasses with the purchase of any food item. Bring your own lawn chair for a view from the sand volleyball court.

23. Enjoy Moon Market at Strawtown Koteewi Park for the Total Solar Eclipse noon to 5 p.m. April 8 at Strawtown Koteewi Park's Taylor Center of Natural History in Noblesville, with \$5 for Hamilton County residents.

24. Join Noblesville Preservation Alliance's

Eclipse Viewing Party 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. April 8 at Preservation Hall on Logan Street in downtown Noblesville. Live music, refreshments and free admission, and eclipse viewing glasses available for purchase.

25. Experience live music with Fast Cadillac on April 13 at Syd's Bar and Grill in downtown Noblesville.

-Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact The Times Editor Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com.



Photo courtesy of Dave Dugan

Celebrate St. Pat's at The Cat with Dave Dugan during two evenings of laughs, at 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday at The Cat in Carmel

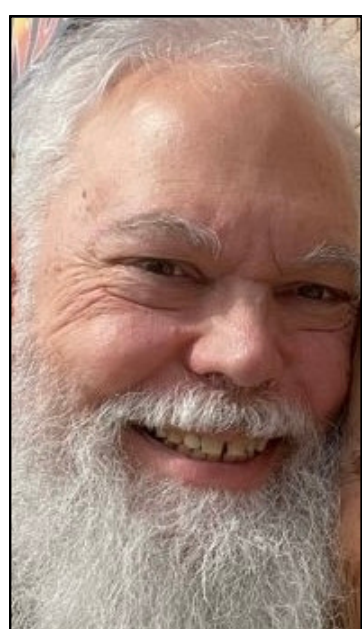


Photo courtesy of Hamilton County Community Band

Celebrate Carl Hungerford, who will be remembered during the annual free Hamilton County Community Band Spring Concert at 7 p.m. Sunday at Noblesville High School.



Photo courtesy of Lisa Marie Rolinson

Noblesville High School's NHS Singers will be among two NHS choirs that will perform during NHS's inaugural Indiana Show Choir Championships, during which 19 show choirs from Indiana will compete Saturday at NHS.

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Painter, Edey, Purdue Piling Up Honors in Special Season



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

The date was March 9, 2014. Minutes after watching his Purdue basketball team lose 74-65 on Senior Day to Northwestern, Matt Painter reflected on the Boilermakers' last place finish in the Big Ten.

"It's my fault," Painter began his post-game statement. "It's my job to get guys to play together. It's my job to get guys to play hard. It's my job to get guys to play smart. We don't do any of those and so that is my fault. So when you start off people will always give you a break but when you're somewhere for nine years they shouldn't.

"It's the best game in the world and we're trying to mess it up. We're trying to mess it up because we keep thinking about ourselves. When you draw two people, you pass. When you get a double team, you pass. You keep the ball moving. It's fun and a great game to be around when that happens.

"We have to recruit a more unselfish player. We've got to recruit a tougher player. We have some of those guys in our program. Some guys we don't. We've got to get that out of them. Or maybe this isn't their place. And that's my fault. This isn't a school district. I recruited these guys. So the position we're in, it's my fault."

Almost 10 years to the day of the lowest point in his career, Painter was voted Big Ten co-Coach of the Year on Tuesday. His fifth Big Ten honor ties Indiana's Bob Knight for second-most in conference history. Gene Keady won seven during his 25-year tenure at Purdue. "It's pretty special, growing up in Indiana

and watching that rivalry with coach Knight and coach Keady," Painter told BTN's Rick Pizzo. "Everybody looked up to those two guys. It's surreal to be in this position but Purdue's a great basketball environment. We have a lot of players and great coaches in the state of Indiana and in the surrounding states. I feel very fortunate to be the coach at Purdue."

The foundation for the rebuilding project was already in place with sophomore forward Ropheal Davis and sophomore center A.J. Hammons. A much-heralded recruiting class of four-star 7-2 center Isaac Haas, four-star forward Vincent Edwards and three-star guards Dakota Mathias and P.J. Thompson lived up to its billing. The final piece was 6-4 graduate transfer guard Jon Octeus, who was pivotal in Purdue going from last place to a share of third place in the Big Ten at 12-6, 21-13 overall in 2015.

Mathias was the first example of Painter's new recruiting philosophy to bring in a good shooter in every class. Carmel's Ryan Cline was next, followed by future Jerry West Award winner Carsen Edwards in 2016, Sasha Stefanovic in 2017, Eric Hunter in 2018, Mason Gillis and Brandon Newman in 2019, Jaden Ivey in 2020, Carmel's Brian Waddell in 2021, Fletcher Loyer in 2022 and Myles Colvin in 2023.

Winning a hard-fought recruiting battle for All-American forward Caleb Swanigan in 2015 launched Purdue back into its former status as a perennial Big Ten championship contender. Swanigan earned Big Ten Player of the Year honors while leading the Boilermakers to the 2017

championship. The most overlooked player in the 2020 Purdue recruiting class would become the centerpiece of two consecutive outright Big Ten championships: Zach Edey. During his interview with BTN's Rick Pizzo, Painter emphasized the importance of winning Big Ten championships at Purdue.

"Coach (Bruce) Weber and coach Keady, my mentors, to those guys it was a big deal to win the Big Ten, to compete with Indiana and everybody else to put yourself in that position," Painter said. "To be able to win it back-to-back and especially by three games both years, first time since Indiana's great run . . . the last undefeated team in college basketball in 1976. When you say those words, that's also surreal." In stark contrast to his 2014 remarks, Painter didn't take credit for this year's dominant performance.

"All the accolades should go out to our players," he said. "Zach Edey, Braden Smith, Fletcher Loyer, Mason Gillis, Trey Kaufman-Renn right down the line. Lance Jones was a great addition for us. We've got a deep bench. Kudos to our players, man. It's a players' game and those guys have been fabulous."

Asked why he believes the Boilermakers are a more complete team capable of a deep NCAA tournament run, Painter gave a simple answer.

"We shoot the ball better," he said. "Last year some of the ploys from other teams was to simply leave people open and just load up on Zach Edey. This year we've made them pay. We've been very consistent shooting the

basketball and when we take care of the basketball, have our turnovers around eight to 12, we've won those games.

"Keeping the turnovers down and having an extra ballhandler with Lance Jones really helps us. Our freshmen have become sophomores and are better defenders than they were last year. We can shoot the basketball and teams have to make a decision and live with that decision. If they double Zach, or they stay home and play one on one."

Edey became just the fourth Big Ten player to win Player of the Year honors in back-to-back seasons, joining Ohio State's Jim Jackson, Michigan State's Mateen Cleaves and Iowa's Luka Garza.

Purdue's Brandon Brantley was chosen the Howard Moore Assistant Coach of the Year, honored for his development of Edey from the 440th best player in the class of 2020 to being on the verge of winning back-to-back National Player of the Year honors.

"He puts in time with guys," Painter said of Brantley. "He's a truth teller. He played 10 years overseas. He had three Big Ten championships as a player. He really helps those guys from a big man standpoint and from a film standpoint. Him and Zach have a special relationship and he's done wonders for Zach."

Edey leads the nation in scoring at 24.2 points per game and is fourth in rebounding at 11.7. Like his coach, Edey passed the credit along to Westfield graduate Braden Smith. In fact, Edey used his social media accounts to urge All-America voters to

honor Smith.

"I believe people overlook him a lot," Edey told Pizzo. "He really makes our team go. I put up big numbers but he makes everything work. He finds the open man. He makes the right pass all the time. You don't have to worry about him turning the ball over on the press."

Smith joined Edey on the All-Big Ten first team, the first time Purdue has had a pair of first-team selections since 2011 when E'Twaun Moore and JaJuan Johnson were honored. Smith is the first Boilermaker to lead the Big Ten in assists (7.6 per game in conference play) since Tony Jones in 1990. Smith already owns the school record for assists in a season at 222 and counting.

Gillis was selected Big Ten Sixth Man of the Year, mainly on the basis of shooting 49 percent (48 of 98) from 3-point range this season.

By the numbers
This past week, Edey was named Sporting News National Player of the Year for the second consecutive season and was voted Big Ten Player of the Week for a record 12th time. Mike DeCourcy, college basketball writer for the Sporting News and a BTN contributor, believes Edey has a place alongside the all-time greats who were multiple winners of National Player of the Year.

"He will not officially become a consensus choice until the Naismith Award and Oscar Robertson Trophy and others are announced in the next month, but it will happen," DeCourcy writes. "And then that list of legends will be Oscar Robertson, Jerry Lucas, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Bill Walton, Ralph Sampson, Zach



Matt Painter

Edey."

Courtesy of Chris Forman, Purdue's Associate Strategic Communications Director, here's a rundown of Edey's major accomplishments:
* Purdue's all-time career leader in rebounds with 1,211.
* Fourth in Big Ten history in rebounds; needs seven to move into third ahead of Wisconsin's Ethan Happ.
* Purdue's all-time career leader in double-doubles with 61.
* Second all-time in Purdue history in scoring with 2,282 points; needs 42 points to break the record (Rick Mount, 2,323).
* Tenth all-time in Big Ten history in scoring with 2,282 points; needs 42 points to pass Mount for sixth place.
* Only player in Purdue history to win Big Ten Player of the Year twice.
* Edey has four career games with 30 points and 15 rebounds on 75 percent shooting. No other player in Division I has more than two such games since 2000.
* Edey has seven career games with 30 points and 15 rebounds, the second-most of any Division I player in the last 15 years (Mike Daum- 11).

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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