

**Vote for KAREN WILLIAMS PRYOR**  
**State Delegate**

★ Lifelong resident of Noblesville ★ Development Team member for Indiana Right to Life Indianapolis ★ Member of Harbour Shores Church

★ Active Community Volunteer:  
 • Precinct Committeeman • Mentor for Hamilton County 4-H Llama program  
 • Past President of Hamilton County Republican Women's Club • Current President of NHS Alumni Association



**TODAY'S VERSE**

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.

**Hamilton Happenings**

Conner Prairie is celebrating mothers and female role models with a wide variety of special events on Mother's Day Weekend, May 10-12. From wellness and pampering sessions for Mom to a Mother's Day Brunch, the weekend is all about making the most important woman in the world happy, Mom! Remember what the late newspaper columnist Lewis Grizzard once said, Call your Mother - I wish I could call mine. More information and tickets can be found at connerprairie.org

**Three Things You Should Know**

**1** Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita is suing the U.S. Department of Education over a new rule that allows biological males to use bathrooms and locker rooms meant for females. The six-state lawsuit is being spearheaded alongside Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia, and Virginia. The new DOE rule, in the guise of confronting "gender identity discrimination," essentially abolishes sex-based distinctions in educational activities and programs. It forces Indiana and other states to accept radical gender ideology in schools.

**2** Warm weather is helping farmers get in the field and with 94,000 Indiana farmers it's a good time to remind Hoosiers to be mindful of large slow-moving farm equipment traveling Indiana's rural roads and highways. In 2021, four occupants were involved in crashes with farm equipment in Indiana which resulted in two deaths, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Please remember that farmers will pull over when they are able but it may take time for them to get to a safe place to do so. Only pass in designated passing zones. Be patient and perhaps allow extra travel time if you are going to be on rural roads.

**3** Indiana's Natural Resources Commission has opened a second public comment period for proposed changes to Indiana's deer hunting rules before it votes on final adoption of the proposed changes. Comments can be submitted online at IN.gov/nrc/rules/rulemaking-docket or mailed to: NRC, Indiana Government Center North, 100 North Senate Ave., Room N103, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Deadline is May 20. For more information on the proposed rule changes, visit [wildlife.IN.gov/rule-regulation-changes/](http://wildlife.IN.gov/rule-regulation-changes/)

The **TIMES**

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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**Boomer Bits**

**Ask Rusty - Widower's Retirement Stymied by Social Security's "WEP" and "GPO" Rules**



**ASK Rusty**  
Social Security Advisor

**Social Security Matters**

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**Dear Rusty:**  
My wife passed away 4 years ago. I want to retire so called SSA and was told I can collect my own SS at 62, reduced by WEP. My wife's SS was greater than mine, but they said I do not qualify for hers at age 60 because of the GPO. This seems odd that I get zero for her, however I can collect mine at the two thirds reduction at 62. Is this true? This zero dollar amount places my retirement on hold for now. I was counting on her SS.

**Signed: Discouraged Widower**

**Dear Discouraged:**  
The Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) are two of the most confusing (and unpopular) of Social Security's myriad rules. From the way you describe your conversation with the Social Security Administration, it doesn't appear to have concluded with you fully understanding how these provisions work, so allow me to elaborate.

➔ See RUSTY Page A5

**5 Things to Know About Asthma and Summer Heat**

*(StatePoint)* Nearly 25 million people of all ages in the United States are living with asthma, a lifelong chronic disease that makes it harder to move air in and out of the lungs.

Here's what the American Lung Association wants everyone to know during summer, when extreme heat can make asthma harder to manage.

➔ See HEAT Page A5

**Pneumococcal Pneumonia Vaccination Can Save Your Life**

*(StatePoint)* Pneumococcal pneumonia is a potentially serious bacterial lung disease that can disrupt a person's life for weeks. When severe, it can result in hospitalization and even be life threatening. Each year, pneumococcal pneumonia results in an estimated

➔ See SAVE Page A5

**Farmers Market, Live Theater, Lions Breakfast Among Things to Do**



**BETSY REASON**  
Columnist

Noblesville Farmers Market kicks off the season on Saturday, two comedies wind down at our local community theaters,

Forest Park's Little Beauty Carousel opens, and bring your appetite to Wayne-Fall Lions Club's Cinco de Mayo all-you-can-eat Pancake Breakfast on Sunday. Read more about happenings in The Times' list of 25 things to do this weekend and beyond:

➔ See BETSY Page A3



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

**Noblesville Farmers Market opens for the season 8 a.m. to noon Saturday and continues Saturdays through Oct. 12 at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville.**

**TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

Three-quarters of U.S. teens and adults don't get enough vitamin D in their diets.

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts.



**OBITUARIES**

Melinda K. (Buscher) Haggadone

The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank **DAVID HEIGHWAY** for subscribing!



**TODAY'S QUOTE**

"When someone asks you where you come from, the answer is your mother."  
**Anna Quindlen**

**TODAY'S JOKE**

Where'd the sheep go on spring break?  
The baaa-hamas!

**The Daily Almanac**

**Sunrise/Sunset**

RISE: 6:41 am  
SET: 8:42 pm



**High/Low Temperatures**

HIGH: 72°F  
LOW: 58°F



**Today is...**

- International Wild Koala Day
- National No Pants Day



**What Happened On This Day**

- **1979** Margaret Thatcher elected prime minister of Britain. On this day in 1979, Margaret Thatcher of the Conservative Party was elected British prime minister, becoming the first woman in Europe to hold that post; she later became the longest continuously serving British premier since 1827.
- **1952** The Kentucky Derby, the most prestigious American horse race, was televised nationally in the United States for the first time; the winning horse was Hill Gail, ridden by jockey Eddie Arcaro.



**Births On This Day**

- **1903** Bing Crosby - American Singer, Actor, And Songwriter
- **1921** Sugar Ray Robinson - American Boxer

**Deaths On This Day**

- **2014** Gary S. Becker - American Economist
- **2007** Wally Schirra - American Astronaut



# OBITUARY

## Melinda K. (Buscher) Haggadone

January 30, 1941 - January 5, 2024

Melinda K. (Buscher) Haggadone, 82 of Stevensville, Montana, died January 5, 2024 following a brief illness.



Melinda was born January 30, 1941, and was raised in Atlanta, Indiana before moving to Michigan after marriage. She graduated with a nursing degree in 1963 and practiced as a registered nurse for many years.

She is survived by her two children, Brian Haggadone of Armada, Michigan and Kimberly (Edward) Holstein of Florence, Montana, granddaughter, Victoria Fair, of Bellevue, Washington, and brothers Robert (Ann) Buscher of Plainfield, Indiana and Phil (Pat) Buscher of Jeffersonville, Indiana.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Fred and Judy Buscher.

A graveside memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 4 at Arcadia Church of the Brethren Cemetery.

Young-Nichols Funeral Home is assisting with local arrangements. Condolences for Melinda's family may be left on her obituary page at [www.young-nichols.com](http://www.young-nichols.com).

## Alerding Campaign Responds to Attack

Laura Alerding, running for House District 29 representing Noblesville and part of Fall Creek Townships, issued a response to false and negative attacks from what she calls her liberal political opponent.

because it did not go far enough to protect children.

Alaina Shonkwiler is trying to distract voters from her own record, and in particular the support she's received from Liberal Special Interest Groups, Alerding's campaign said. The campaign added that Shonkwiler's campaign got \$7,500 from a group opposed to the Law that Protects Girl Sports from being taken over by Biological Males. This group also listed keeping DEI, a radical and racially divisive ideology, in school curriculums as a priority in 2022.

A mailer falsely claiming that Alerding supports Gender Neutral Bathrooms was sent. The truth is that Alerding opposed Gender Neutral Bathrooms and made that clear in a March 19 meeting. Alerding was the only school board member to vote no on this construction plan

## \$50,000 Benefit for Youth

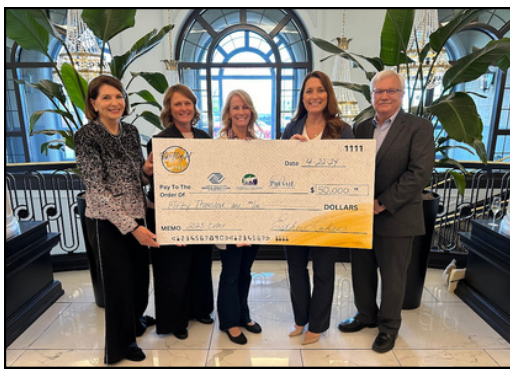


Photo courtesy Noblesville Boys & Girls Club

**The Second Annual Spotlight on Art fundraiser wound up benefitting three local youth-serving organizations. The initial event, held last November at Hotel Carmichael, raised \$50,000. The committee for the Spotlight on Art, Benefiting Children, presented a check in that amount to representatives from the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville, The Children's TherAplay, and Prevail, Inc. The event will return for a third year on Thursday, Nov. 14. Pictured with event founder and committee chair, Esther Lakes, are organization executive directors and honorary event chair, Steve Nation. From left, they are Esther Lakes, Tami Wanninger of Prevail, Kathy Pelletier of The Children's TherAplay, Becky Terry of the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville and the Hon. Steve Nation.**

## Gutrich Gets Nod From Westfield Mayor

Westfield Mayor Scott Willis has declared his support and endorsement for Bill Gutrich, candidate for State Representative in District 24.



Bill Gutrich

district that thrives. As State Representative, I will work tirelessly to ensure that the voices of our constituents are heard, valued, and championed at the state level," said Gutrich.

"Bill Gutrich is a business man that embodies the values of integrity, dedication, and strong decision-making that our community needs in its representation," stated Mayor Scott Willis. Furthermore, we need a Hamilton County resident representing District 24 because Westfield and Carmel make up more than 80% of the district."

"Mayor Willis' decision to endorse my candidacy speaks volumes about our shared vision for a

### THE TIMES



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## Duke, Centerpoint Power Noblesville Farmers Market

Noblesville Main Street today announced Duke Energy and CenterPoint Energy Foundation as its co-presenting sponsors of the Noblesville Farmers Market. This support powers all 24 weeks of the farmers market (May 4 – October 12) and covers the fee for the nonprofit space each week.

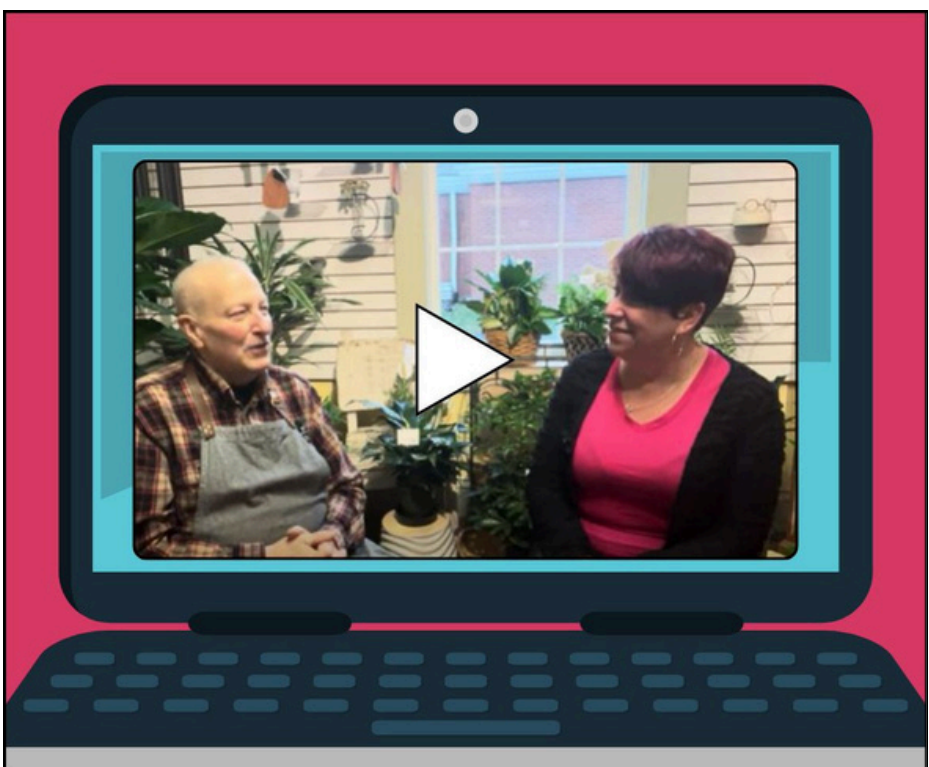
producers and artisans the opportunity to sell their goods and build a sense of community." Michelle Beer, CenterPoint Energy Foundation community relations senior specialist added, "We are proud to join together with our community partners to support our agriculturalists and makers alike, who bring vibrance to this remarkable community."

"We are thrilled to partner, for the second year in a row, with Duke Energy and welcome our new collaborator, CenterPoint Energy Foundation into the famers market family," Kate Baker, Executive Director of Noblesville Main Street shared. "These companies joining together showcase the true Noblesville spirit of collaboration and help to celebrate the community through this great event."

This year, the market is home to more than 100 weekly vendors selling fresh produce, handcrafted items, and ready-to-serve meals. Visiting the farmers market vendors is easy with the completion of the Federal Hill Apartments parking garage which opened last fall. Along with the market vendors, the Noblesville Main Street Farmers Market, again offers an unmatched concert series each week of the market. This year's concert series is proudly sponsored by Skyview Dental. We are proud of the additional market support provided by Hometown Window & Door Company and Indiana Restoration & Cleaning Services.

"We believe in the communities we serve," said Mark LaBarr, Duke Energy's government and community relations manager. "That's why we're proud to support the Noblesville Main Street Farmers Market, which affords local growers, food

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



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**Spring is here and now is the best time to buy or sell!**

**"Speak to Deak!"**

**PENDING!**

18577 PIERS END DRIVE  
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REALTORS



# ↓ BETSY From Page A1

1. Put on your cutest pajamas, grab your favorite teddy bear, pack a blanket and join in the free Pajama-Rama program at 7 p.m. today at Cool Creek Nature Center at Cool Creek Park in Westfield, with registration required at myhamiltoncounty parks.com

2. It's spring and time for wedding season, so make plans to attend The Belfry Theatre's "Father of the Bride," a comedy directed by Barcia Alejos, onstage Friday through Sunday, with performances at 8 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Noblesville First United Methodist Church's Celebration Hall with tickets at thebelfrytheatre.com. Arrive 30 minutes before show time for pre-show entertainment with a Wedding Singer performing love songs from the early 1950s.

3. Enjoy live theater at Carmel Community Players' production of Neil Simon's "The Dinner Party," a comedy directed by Tonya Rave and Matt Trgovac, Friday through Sunday with performances at 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at The Cat in Carmel, with tickets at www.carmelplayers.org

4. Laugh with comedian Jeremy Johnston at 8 p.m. today, Eric Sablan at 8 p.m. Saturday, Stephen Taylor on May 10-11, and DJ Dangler on May 17-18 at The Brick Room Comedy Club on Maple Avenue and Ninth Street in downtown Noblesville. Visit thebrickroom.cc for tickets

5. Stop in at Noblesville Creates

(formerly Nickel Plate Arts) for First Friday activities 6-9 p.m. today for food, music by Resounding Joy and more.

6. Noblesville Farmers Market opens for the season 8 a.m. to noon Saturday and continues Saturdays through Oct. 12 at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville. Mother's Day Brunch at the Market on May 11 in the Green Room with reservations available at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.; Kids Day on July 13, Aug. 10 and Sept. 14; and Art Day Sept. 7.

7. The Little Beauty Carousel in Carousel Corner opens for the season on Saturday and will be open weekends only May 4-26 in Forest Park in Noblesville.

8. Attend Noblesville Parks' Mother-Daughter Tea Soiree 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturday with registration at 317-776-6350 or register online at www.noblesvilleparks.org, with \$35 per couple, \$40 for nonresidents.

9. If you're not a senior citizen, bring your parents or friends to the Senior Resource Fair 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Noblesville Township Community Center at 336 S. Eighth St. Find out about Medicare and Medicaid waivers, home health care, how to liquidate your estate, list your home, and more. Refreshments and door prizes.

10. Kiln Creations in downtown Noblesville offers lots of classes, including Potty mouth Pottery Night at 6 p.m. today, wheel class at 2:30 p.m. every Saturday, Sponge Flower lesson on May 9, Swiftie Bingo and

Paint on May 11, Mothers Day Brunch at noon May 12, Charcuterie Board Paint and Snack

11. Enjoy live music with Middle West 7-10 p.m. Saturday at Primeval Brewing in downtown Noblesville; Booze Hounds Bluegrass 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. today at Spencer Farm Winery in Noblesville; Angry Lemons 9 p.m. to midnight Saturday and Tim Neuman & The Stills 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. May 9.

12. Get your appetite ready for Wayne-Fall Lions Club's Cinco de Mayo Pancake Breakfast 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday at Wayne-Fall Lions Club on 191st Street at Deshane Avenue and Victory Baptist Road in Noblesville. The menu features all-you-can-eat pancakes, bacon, sausage, eggs, coffee, juice and milk, with a freewill donation to the club for community projects, and carryout available.

13. Attend a Senior Seminar tailored for older adults, offering hands-on workshops and interactive learning experiences to enhance their daily lives from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. May 8 at Forest Park Inn in Noblesville. Register at 317-776-6350 or online at www.noblesvilleparks.org

14. Join in Hamilton County Parks' Nature Academy for presentations, hands-on activities and more during Wild about Warblers at 7 p.m. May 9 and Wildflowers not Weeds on June 6, with programs to begin at 7 p.m.

15. Celebrate the Magic of the Square during Noblesville Main Street's First Friday activities, which

was postponed from May 3 due to weather and is rescheduled for 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. May 10, in downtown Noblesville.

16. Noblesville Main Street's Music & All That Jazz kicks off the season on May 11, with concerts continuing June 8, July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 14 and Oct. 12. Noblesville Street Dance is July 20.

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

18. Take a tour of the Children's Garden at Coxhall Gardens at 11 a.m. May 16 and June 20, with free admission, but re-registration is required at myhamiltoncounty parks.com.

19. Celebrate the Indiana Peony Festival by attending events in downtown Noblesville on May 17 and 18, with Peonies in the Park fundraising event (tickets required) 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. May 17 at Seminary Park, Indiana Peony Festival 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 18 and Brunch & Blooms brunch and retail crawl 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 18 with free admission to the public, sponsored by Godby Home Furnishings.

20. Hamilton County Master Gardeners' 25th annual Plant Sale is open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 18 at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds in Noblesville.

21. Recycled Cycles will have a used bicycle sale and donation day from 10 a.m. to noon May 18 at the group's repair shop at 810 E. Main Street in Westfield, at

the top of the drive north of Big Hoffa's BBQ, with proceeds used to purchase parts to repair other bikes.

22. Conner Prairie will celebrate Heritage Breeds Week with the textiles youth volunteers demonstrating spinning and weaving and highlighting wool from rare breeds on May 18 and 19 at the outdoor living history museum in Fishers, with admission charged.

23. Get a better night's sleep and support Noblesville High School Music Programs at their ninth annual Mattress Fundraiser, one day only, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 19 at NHS Gate 5 on display in the NHS main gym. Every purchase benefits the NHS Music programs.

24. Take a road trip to Tipton Park Concert Series featuring The

Flying Toasters on May 18, The Breakfast Club on June 22, Southern Rock Authority on July 27, 90 Proof on Aug. 24 and 45 RPM on Sept. 21.

25. Save the dates: Noblesville Lions Club's Grillin' on the Square 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. May 31 with pancakes served on the morning of June 1. Noblesville Main Street's Duck Race on White River is June 1.

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

*The annual Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville Darlington Bed Race has been postponed until 2025. For a complete list of all Hamilton County events, go to VisitHamiltonCounty.com/Events*



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

**The cast of The Belfry Theatre's "Father of the Bride" comedy including Lizzie Schultz (from left), Gideon Roark, Drake Lockwood, Debbie Underwood, Dave Hoffman and Dana Lesh rehearses for the show, onstage at 8 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Noblesville First United Methodist Church's Celebration Hall.**



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

Enjoy live theater at Carmel Community Players' production of Neil Simon's "The Dinner Party," featuring Jason Creighton of Carmel, in this comedy directed by Tonya Rave and Matt Trgovac, Friday through Sunday with performances at 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday at The Cat in Carmel, with tickets at www.carmelplayers.org

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## Heights Wrestler Signs with Wabash



Photo courtesy Jen Kauffman

From left, Calvin Fettig (brother), DeAndre Chandler (cousin), Karl Fettig (father), Carson Fettig, Geraldine Fettig (grandmother), Joe Fettig (grandfather), Heather Fettig (mother), and Keith Fettig (uncle).

Carson Fettig, Hamilton Heights' senior, has signed a letter of intent to wrestle for Wabash College in Crawfordsville. Wabash College is a member of the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) and a NCAA Division III athletic institution. He is the son of Karl and Heather Fettig.

"Wabash offers its students high-level, exceptional academics and athletic programs," Fettig said. "I look forward to being challenged academically and athletically. Graduates from Wabash have a reputation of being successful, disciplined, determined young men."

Fettig plans to study biology. "My dream is to pursue a career as a chiropractor and operate a holistic chiropractic practice to give back to members of the community."

Fettig, a multisport athlete (wrestling and football) earned four varsity letters in wrestling, served as team captain twice, is a two-time Academic All American, State Qualifier, two-time 1A/2A State Champion, Regional Champion, and two-time Conference Champion. He also holds the top four career wins (140) in Hamilton Heights history. He is a member of the National Honor Society (treasurer), Student Athletic Trainer, volunteer for Meals on Wheels and Backpack Buddies, a youth wrestling coach, and peer tutor for Spanish.

"I have wrestled year-round for seven years," said Fettig. "I have practiced and competed

throughout the state and around the country enduring the hardest physical challenges of my life, fighting through some of the toughest mental challenges to gain success on the mat and in everyday life."

Fettig credits numerous individuals as being influential in his development as a student athlete. The greatest of which he says are his parents, family, friends, and coaches. "I would like to give a special thanks to Gary Myers, Rodney Case, Bruce and Trezdon O'Neal, Kolton Myers, Aaron Sheller, and Jon Kirscher for helping me to be the best athlete I can be," said Fettig.

Gary Myers, Hamilton Heights Varsity Head Wrestling Coach, said, "Carson has grown into the perfect collegiate wrestler, and he is a High School Academic All-American which translates to college success - the preparation has been done in his part. "I see a bright future for Carson!"

"Carson has put in countless hours in the sport he loves, earning over 100 career wins and just recently participated at the State Finals," added Hamilton Heights Athletic Director, Kurt Ogden. "He has also worked just as hard in the classroom earning several academic honors, the most notably being a two-time National All-Academic scholar athlete award. He is the true representation of what you want from a student/athlete and Wabash should feel honored to get such a quality individual to represent them."

## Cinco de Pancake



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

**Wayne-Fall Lions Club members invite the community to partake in an all-you-can-eat Cinco De Mayo Pancake Breakfast from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 5 at the Wayne-Fall Lions Club, 11940 E. 191st St., Noblesville. The menu features special pancakes, eggs, bacon and sausage, coffee, juice and milk for a freewill donation to the club's community projects. Carryout will be available. Pictured, from left, are members Rick Larrison, John Davidson, Victor Barker, Richard Barker and Bill Daniels.**

## Heights Senior Signs to Play Soccer at Huntington



Photo courtesy Jen Kauffman

From left, Bri (sister), Abby (sister), Hannah (mother), Colvin, Drew (father), and Ethan (brother).

Micah Colvin, Hamilton Heights' senior, has signed a letter of intent to play soccer for Huntington University in Huntington this fall. Huntington University is a member of the Crossroads League and a NAIA athletic institution. He is the son of Hannah and Drew Colvin.

Colvin, who helped lead the Hamilton Heights boys soccer team to its first Hoosier Conference championship game this season, was excited to learn of the opportunity to play for the Forrester's in the fall. "Coach Lawson cared a lot about me from the moment I contacted him and sent him my film," recalled Colvin, who has dreamed about playing college soccer since the second grade. "Before even talking about committing or scholarships, he was helping me develop into a better player."

Colvin plans to pursue a degree in Marketing to ultimately work for a professional sports organization.

Soccer has been my main sport for as far back as I can remember," noted Colvin, who plays club soccer and trains during the offseason to be at his best for each

soccer season. He credits his family, specifically, his parents, coaches, and best friends/teammates for their support, encouragement and influence in his journey to be a solid player and take his game to the next level.

"Micah has been a huge offensive contributor to the boys' soccer program as a striker, especially the past two years. He had several 'hat tricks' throughout his high school career and his scoring prowess helped lead us to the championship game of the Hoosier Conference tournament this year and enabled us to compete with the teams in arguably the toughest 3A sectional in the state. We will certainly miss his offensive firepower next year. We wish him the best at Huntington University," said Kurt Ogden, Hamilton Heights High School Athletic Director.

"Micah exceeded all expectations of a father and coach," said Drew Colvin, Hamilton Heights Varsity Soccer Coach. "He put in the training and work. Every coach wishes for players that put in the work like Micah. I am a proud coach and father."

## SMC, City Celebrate Arbor Day with Tree Planting

On Arbor Day, SMC Corporation of America joined Mayor Chris Jensen and Noblesville Tree Board members to plant trees at Same As U, 19201 Promise Road. Same As U is one of the inaugural Noblesville Tree Planning Grant recipients.

The city and SMC have forged a strong partnership, harnessing the power of our community to drive economic growth, workforce development, and attraction strategies. This winter, we extended this collaboration to environmentalism, announcing plans for a tree-planting grant program to coincide with Earth Day and Arbor Day. The tree planning grant program is led by the Tree Board. "Arbor Day is a time to celebrate the invaluable contributions trees make to our community," expressed Jensen. "I extend my gratitude to SMC Corporation of America and the Tree Board for creating this new avenue for collaboration, which will undoubtedly benefit our community and the sustainability of our

natural resources for generations to come."

"SMC is committed to investing in the long-term sustainability of our community," said SMC President and CEO Kelley Stacy. "We're incredibly proud to partner with the City of Noblesville and the Tree Board to create equitable access to the benefits that trees and green spaces provide. From beautifying our city streets to reducing CO2, this grant will allow our neighbors to enjoy the amazing amenities that native species trees bring to our community."

SMC Corporation donated \$2,000 to the tree planting grant program, which has been matched by the City of Noblesville through Mayor Jensen and the Common Council. Additional inaugural grant recipients include Deer Creek Elementary School, Mill Grove, Deer Path, Oakmont, and Verdure Sciences.

"The Noblesville Tree Board is proud to partner with SMC and the community as we work to increase the tree canopy cover of

## Letter in Support of Laura Alerding

Dear Editor,

I am writing to recommend Laura Alerding, Conservative candidate for Indiana State Representative for District 29. I have known Laura through her service to the Noblesville community as a Noblesville School Board member and as an Hamilton East Public Library (HEPL) Board member. I have found Laura to be a woman of integrity and principles. With her experience being elected to public office, Laura stands up for the values and principles of those who elected her. She listens to and stands by her constituents, even when there is great cost attached to it. People willing to do this are hard to find today.

Like many parents in 2020, I was concerned about some of the content my daughters were learning at Noblesville High School. Laura took my concerns and the concerns of many other parents seriously and acted in her role as a School Board member to make changes. Through her service on the HEPL

Board, again Laura listened to the concerns of the community and worked with other board members, seeking expert legal counsel, to make changes they felt were needed in the fairest way possible.

As Laura is campaigning once again for public office, she is working tirelessly in the community, knocking on doors, listening to the concerns of her constituents. As we look across our state and see rising food and healthcare costs, ever increasing property taxes, and struggling school systems, we need people like Laura who will listen, stand strong and not back down in the heat of the battle. Laura has demonstrated she can and will do this. We need Laura's level of commitment and resolve in the Statehouse to fight for Conservative values of freedom, faith, and family. She has my vote for Indiana State Rep District 29. I encourage you to vote for her as well.

Alison Hanley  
Noblesville

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Photo courtesy City of Noblesville

**Same As U students join Mayor Chris Jensen, SMC President and CEO Kelley Stacy, Same As U Executive Director Jennifer Sell and Noblesville Urban Forester John Easley as they plant five new native trees on their campus on Arbor Day.**

our city. Trees benefit all Noblesville citizens with their ability to mitigate pollution, reduce flooding, lower energy costs and increase property values. We look forward to continuing this effort for years to come," Tree Board President Ashley Mulis said.

Each recipient will receive five (5) 15- to 18-gallon native trees – approximately six to eight feet tall, water bags and mulch. Today's planting at Same As U also included Mayor Jensen's annual Arbor Day Proclamation, as the city marks 34

consecutive years of being named a Tree City USA recipient by the Arbor Day Foundation.

"Same As U is thrilled to be one of the recipients of the Noblesville Tree Planting Grant! Just like their peers without disabilities, our students are lifelong learners that care about the planet," said Same As U Executive Director Jennifer Sell. "We are excited and grateful to have this opportunity to plant trees on Arbor Day. These trees will serve as the perfect segue to lessons on caring for our campus and community."



## ↓ RUSTY From Page A1

WEP and GPO affect anyone who has a retirement pension from a federal, state, or local government agency which did not participate in Social Security, meaning neither the employee nor the employer paid into Social Security based on the employee's earnings. Obviously, you have such a pension, which means that WEP will reduce any Social Security retirement benefit you have earned from other employment where SS payroll taxes were withheld, and the GPO will affect any survivor benefit you are entitled to.

WEP affects only the SS retirement benefit you earned elsewhere; WEP does not affect any surviving spouse benefit you might be entitled to from your wife. Rather, it is the GPO which affects your survivor benefit, again because of your state retirement (called a "non-covered pension" - one earned without contributing to Social Security). The GPO will reduce any surviving spouse benefit you might be entitled to by 2/3rds of the amount of your "non-covered" state pension. Depending on the size of your state pension, that reduction may entirely eliminate your surviving spouse benefit from your wife.

Under normal SS rules, a surviving spouse does not become eligible for survivor benefits until they reach age 60 (age 50 if disabled). Normally, a surviving spouse benefit claimed at age 60 is reduced by 28.5% and it is the GPO (not WEP) that will affect your survivor benefit whenever you claim it. However, even without GPO, your age 60 survivor benefit amount would be only 71.5% of the amount your wife was receiving (or entitled to receive) at her death. If you are already collecting your non-covered state pension when you claim your SS survivor benefit from your wife, then that reduced age 60 survivor benefit would

be offset by 2/3rds of the amount of your state pension. And that (according to what Social Security told you) is what eliminated your age 60 eligibility for a surviving spouse benefit from your wife. If you don't claim it at 60 your survivor benefit will continue to grow until you reach your full retirement age (FRA) of 67, but if 2/3rds of your state pension is more than 100% of your SS survivor benefit, you still won't get any surviving spouse benefit from your wife's record.

A further consequence of your non-covered state pension is that the SS retirement benefit you earned elsewhere will be reduced by WEP. WEP will reduce, but cannot eliminate, your Social Security retirement benefit. The WEP formula is complex but, generally, your WEP-based Social Security retirement benefit will likely be roughly half of what you would get if you did not have a state "non-covered pension." You could claim your WEP-reduced SS retirement benefit as early as age 62 or, if financially feasible, delay longer to get a somewhat higher (but still reduced) amount.

Just FYI, your state employer had an obligation to fully inform you of the consequences of not contributing to Social Security while earning your state pension. It appears as though they may not have fulfilled that obligation.

*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.*

## ↓ HEAT From Page A1

1. New challenges are emerging.

Beyond traditional asthma triggers like respiratory infections, secondhand smoke and pets, new challenges are emerging. The effects of climate change include extreme heat, poor air quality, increased allergens, extreme weather events, and more frequent and intense wildfires, all of which are making asthma more difficult to manage.

Excessive heat and humidity increase the risk of asthma exacerbations, asthma-related hospitalization and asthma-related death, especially for children and women. Patients should limit time outdoors during heat waves, seek access to air conditioning and take steps to improve indoor air quality, as humidity allows dust mites and mold to thrive.

2. City dwellers are particularly vulnerable.

Two-thirds of the average U.S. city is made up of roads, parking spaces, sidewalks and roofs. Since these surfaces are typically dark and non-porous, they contribute to flooding, increased air pollution, poor health and what is known as "urban heat," a phenomenon in which cities experience warmer temperatures than surrounding areas. Urban heat, combined with pollutants from power plants, motor vehicles and other pollution sources, creates ozone pollution, also known as smog. Those with asthma can experience symptoms like shortness of breath, wheezing and coughing from both ground-level ozone and particle pollution, as well as from the impacts of extreme weather and airborne allergens.

Sadly, these issues disproportionately impact certain communities. Due to a history of discriminatory practices like systematic denial of mortgages, insurance loans, and other financial services on the basis of race and ethnicity, Black and Indigenous people, and other people of color, are more likely to be living in areas impacted by urban heat and poor air quality.

3. Flooding can harm lung health.

Increased severe storms due to climate change results in more flooding, which can harm lung health. Chemicals, sewage, oil, gas and other dangerous substances found in floodwaters can pose health risks, and mold, associated with asthma attacks, can grow anywhere there is water or dampness.

4. Advocacy efforts are underway.

The Smart Surfaces Coalition is made up of 40 national and international organizations committed to making Smart Surfaces the global urban design standard. Smart Surfaces encompass a suite of cutting-edge technologies, including reflective (cool) roofs and pavements, green roofs, trees, solar panels and rain gardens. Designed to mitigate urban heat, enhance air quality and improve health, these transformative urban features can cool cities by 5 degrees F, reduce flooding, provide economic benefits and potentially advance environmental justice.

The American Lung Association, an active member of the Smart Surfaces Coalition, encourages cities to take these actions:

- Install light-colored roads, parking lots and driveways to reflect sunlight and reduce heat.
- Install solar panels to convert sunlight into electricity and provide shade for roofs.
- Plant trees to increase shade.
- Select porous surfaces to collect polluted stormwater, soak it into the ground, and filter out pollution.

Other strategies to reduce urban heat, air pollution and ozone levels include using public transportation carpooling, increasing green spaces and installing cooling centers in extreme conditions.

5. Resources are available.

Educational programming can help people better manage the disease in summer and year-round. Patients can check out the self-management education programs, information and tools available at Lung.org/asthma or call the American Lung Association's Lung Helpline at 1-800-LUNGUSA. Living with an illness, or being the caretaker to someone who is, can take a physical and emotional toll. Patients can get support and knowledge, and connect with others by joining the Lung Association's Patient & Caregiver Network.

For the 24.8 million Americans living with asthma, extreme summer temperatures and emerging environmental threats can make life more difficult. Fortunately, new educational resources and expanded programming can help patients navigate new and old challenges alike.

## ↓ SAVE From Page A1

150,000 hospitalizations in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). But it doesn't have to be this way.

The American Lung Association and Pfizer are partnering to raise awareness about pneumococcal pneumonia and encourage adults to get vaccinated if they are eligible, and are highlighting the collective action needed to reduce the burden of pneumococcal pneumonia.

Here are some fast facts about the disease, along with tips and actions you can take to help stay healthy:

What are the symptoms of pneumococcal pneumonia? Common symptoms of pneumococcal pneumonia include high fever, excessive sweating, shaking chills, coughing, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, and chest pain. Some symptoms can appear quickly and without warning.

Should I receive a pneumococcal pneumonia vaccination? Pneumococcal pneumonia vaccines are available to help prevent the disease and are recommended if you are at increased risk. The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends pneumococcal vaccination for all adults aged 65 years or older and adults aged 19 to 64 with certain underlying medical conditions or other risk factors, including: chronic lung disease like asthma or COPD, chronic heart disease, diabetes, and smoking cigarettes.

What if I am healthy? Even healthy adults 65 years or older are at increased risk for pneumococcal pneumonia. Because the body's immune system naturally weakens with age, it can be more difficult for your body to defend against

pneumococcal disease. In fact, adults 65 years old and older are over 10 times more likely to be hospitalized with pneumococcal pneumonia than adults aged 18-49.

What if I've had pneumonia before? You can get pneumococcal pneumonia more than once and having pneumococcal disease does not protect you from future infection.

What if I've already been vaccinated? Even if you've been vaccinated against pneumococcal pneumonia in the past, it's important to speak to your healthcare provider, as they may recommend an additional vaccination.

How can I help protect myself and my community? Getting the word out about the importance of vaccination against preventable illness can help keep people healthier. Recent data from the National Health Interview Survey estimates that only 22.2% of adults 19-64 at increased risk of pneumococcal disease ever received a vaccination, and only 65.8% of adults 65 years or older received at least one dose. Unfortunately, rates of vaccination are lower among Black, Hispanic/Latino and Asian adults compared with their white counterparts, putting members of these communities at risk of infection.

To learn more about pneumococcal pneumonia and your risk for it, visit Lung.org/pneumococcal.

"It's always the right time to discuss pneumococcal pneumonia vaccination with a healthcare provider. While cold and flu season is behind us, this disease can strike anytime, in any season and you can be vaccinated any time of year, too," says Dr. Albert Rizzo, chief medical officer of the American Lung Association.

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## Heights Down to Last Five Weeks



**DR. ARROWOOD**  
**Guest Columnist**

As we enter our last five weeks of school, I invite you to take part in celebrating the work and achievements of our students. There will be a wide variety of events to choose from, such as awards and recognition programs, prom, art shows, athletic events, and graduation celebrations. Stay in the loop with details on the website, Facebook, calendars, and future building communications.

Something cool is taking place on Friday at Hamilton Heights Middle School. It's their annual Take our Kids to Work Day - a day designed to be more than a career day. It's an opportunity for staff to bring their child with them to school in their classroom, meet their students, help them teach, and experience first-hand what it means for their parent to be a teacher. HHMS started this program in 2022 and it's proven to be a positive experience for the students, teachers, and teachers' children. It's a tradition they hope to continue well into the future, especially as we inspire more students to become teachers.

Speaking of cool, I want to give a shout out to Will Monnin, an eighth grader at HHMS, who has set his sights on making a positive impact for current and future student athletes at Heights. He is undertaking a project to improve our Cross Country course while he earns his rank as an Eagle Scout.

#RunWithTheDawgs

Packaging meals for the International Disaster Emergency Services (IDES) has become another annual tradition for high school and middle school students at Heights. Earlier this month, about 90 fifth-grade students joined the effort with HHMS staff and Teach One to Lead One (T1L1) volunteers to package over 6,000 meals in

one hour in the auxiliary gym. Last Friday, over 30 high school students traveled to the IDES campus in Noblesville and helped package over 8,000 meals. These pre-packaged meals will be shipped around the world for families in need. This annual service project is a hands-on activity that serves as a real-life application of the character and leadership lessons they learn throughout the semester during the T1L1 program.

This is National School Library Month. School libraries (media centers) are integral to our schools. These spaces offer unlimited opportunities for growth through access to technology, multimedia, and incredible resources of every variety. Our school media center specialists, Karen Jones (HHES), Emily Beechler (HHMS), and Lori Hippensteel (HHHS) play an essential role in the education of our students. They are teachers of information, literacy, and skills and are invaluable instructional partners. Thank you for helping to positively transform lives at Heights!

Registration is also open for the 35th annual Golf Scramble hosted by the Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation (HHEF). Plan to spend a relaxing day on the green with friends and colleagues while supporting the work of this outstanding organization on Thursday, June 6 at Bear Slide Golf Course in Cicero.

Thank you for your partnership and working with us to foster students' engagement, empowerment, and achievement in their educational journey at Heights.  
#WeAreHuskies

*Dr. Derek Arrowood is the Superintendent of the Hamilton Heights School Corporation. His columns appear periodically in The Times.*

## Carmel Arts Grants to Benefit 23 Local Organizations

The City of Carmel recently announced that it has awarded 23 local organizations with \$1,235,500 in grants from the City's 2024 Arts Grant Program. This is the 21st year the City of Carmel has provided financial support for local arts, with more than \$17.3 million allocated to support local arts programs since the grant program's inception in 2004.

The City of Carmel's economic development strategy includes quality of life initiatives, and it has strategically invested in areas like the arts which now form a cornerstone of the community and continue to attract private investment to the city. By cultivating a community that cherishes the arts, Carmel has successfully enticed new corporate employers and a skilled workforce to the area, laying a solid foundation

for sustainable growth and world-class amenities for residents and visitors to enjoy.

"Through strategic investment in our arts institutions and organizations, we foster economic vitality and elevate overall well-being," said Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam. "Without question, the artistic culture thriving in our city has profoundly enriched the lives of our residents, visitors and business community alike."

Carmel's nonprofit arts and culture industry generated \$42.7 million in economic activity in 2022, according to the Arts & Economic Prosperity 6, an economic and social impact study conducted by Americans for the Arts. That economic activity - \$17 million in spending by nonprofit arts and culture organizations and \$25.7

## Carmel Renews Agreement with Allied Solutions

The City of Carmel is excited to announce the renewal of a corporate partnership with Allied Solutions, a financial services company headquartered in Carmel's Midtown Plaza. A three-year sponsorship agreement, with a nearly \$500,000 investment, will support the delivery of more than a dozen City of Carmel annual events.

"The City of Carmel is our home, and we are pleased to enhance our partnership with the city to support this vibrant community for employees, residents and visitors," said Pete Hilger, CEO of Allied Solutions. "The city's events from the Ice at Carter Green to Brews on the Boulevard bring the community together and encourage visitors to experience all the city has to offer."

Among the events to be included under this sponsorship agreement: Meet Me on Main, The Arts in Autumn, Movies at Midtown, Brews on the Boulevard, Holidays in Carmel, Magnificent Monon, Shop Small Saturday, Holiday Trolley, Santa Saturdays, The Ice at Carter Green, Festival of Ice, Sensory Skate Nights and potential other new

events to come.

"Carmel's corporate citizens play a critical role in creating and maintaining the highest quality of life for our residents to enjoy. We are grateful to Allied Solutions for their partnership and thrilled for their continued support of world-class events in our city," said Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam. "The events Allied Solutions will make possible help us to continue attracting businesses with high-paying jobs filled by a workforce that is eager to be here. They will also provide additional customers for our local businesses and restaurants and add to the overall fabric of our community."

Allied Solutions has been part of the Carmel community for 23 years growing to a company of more than 1,800 employees. With a demonstrated commitment to the community, Allied Solutions continues to further its support of the communities where employees live and work. The company recently published a Community Impact Report outlining its philanthropic and volunteer contributions.

## The 2024 Arts Grant recipients include:

Actors Theatre of Indiana  
Bigger Picture Film Group as Fiscal Agent for Carmel Film Forum  
Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre  
Carmel Apprentice Theater, LLC (The CAT)  
Carmel Arts Commission  
Carmel Arts Council  
Carmel Clay Historical Society  
Carmel Community Players, Inc.  
Carmel Jazz Festival  
Carmel Klavier, Inc.  
Carmel Symphony Orchestra  
Central Indiana Dance Ensemble  
Great American Songbook Foundation  
Gregory Hancock Dance Theatre  
Indiana Artisan, Inc.  
Indiana Association of Chinese-Americans  
Indiana Ballet Conservatory  
Indiana Wind Symphony  
International Talent Academy  
Janus Developmental Services, Inc.  
Lantern Islamic Theater Company  
M3 Theatre Camp  
Museum of Miniature Houses & Other Collections

million in event-related spending by their audiences - supported 981 jobs and generated

\$10 million in local, state and federal government revenue.

## Heights' Pole Vaulter Inks With IU



Photo courtesy Hamilton Heights / Jen Kauffman.

Peyton McQuinn, Hamilton Heights' senior, has signed a letter of intent to join the Indiana University Men's Track & Field Team in Bloomington, Indiana. IU is a member of the Big 10 Conference and a Division 1 athletic institution. He is the son of Mason and Stephanie McQuinn.

"I was inspired to attend Indiana University because of their high-level Kelley School of Business and the success of their graduates post college," said Peyton McQuinn on his decision to select IU to continue his education and pole vault at the collegiate level. "IU's pole vault squad is also very good, and their coach is very knowledgeable." McQuinn, who is a member of the National Honor Society, and attends a yearly mission trip with his church, plans to study marketing in preparation for an advertising-related career after college.

McQuinn, who started pole vaulting in the 8th grade, turned out to be a natural in the sport following in the footsteps of his father and brother. He competes year round in club and on the Hamilton Heights track and field team and works out to continue to build his skill and strength. It has paid off for McQuinn who is an Indoor Small School Pole Vault State Champion, All State Outdoor Sectional Champion, Track Team MVP, and high school record setter in the pole vault event.

"My father has been a massive influence for me because he pushes me to be the best athlete I can and encourages me no matter the

circumstance," added McQuinn.

"It has been such a blessing being able to coach Peyton," said Mason McQuinn. "Being a father/coach, I get the privilege of seeing him when nobody is looking. He is 100% committed to being the best he can be. He has this approach in all areas of his life, from athletics, to academics, to mental and physical health, diet, sleep, etc. I can't wait to see him at IU. They have one of the top pole vault programs in the country and I know he will give everything to be the best he can be, and I'm confident that these skillsets and mindset will last long after pole vault is done and allow him to have similar successes post college."

"It has been extremely exciting to see Peyton's growth from his freshman year to his senior year," added Todd Jones, Head Coach, Hamilton Heights Boys Track & Field. "His development and dedication to pole vault is the reason he is two time indoor state champion. We are all looking forward to this year's outdoor state meet and the future at IU for Peyton."

Hamilton Heights Athletic Director, Kurt Ogden, agrees. "Peyton has worked extremely hard the last four years to be one of the best, if not the best, pole vaulters in the state. The coaching he has received from his father has been invaluable and is directly related to the success he has gained and the opportunity he has earned to continue his career at IU. We wish him the best as a future Hoosier."



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# Where Does This Year's Purdue Team Fit In 10 Best?



**KENNY THOMPSON**  
Columnist

A few weeks removed from Purdue's run to the NCAA championship game is as good a time as any to

determine where these Boilermakers belong among the best teams in school history.

The argument favoring the 2023-24 Boilermakers as Purdue's finest begins with two-time National Player of the Year Zach Edey. But any team with Rick Mount, Glenn Robinson and Joe Barry Carroll also deserves serious consideration.

Having watched Boilermaker basketball from Mount's senior year to the present, here's my Top 10 ranking. As you'll see, two teams on this list precede my existence by about 30 years but Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame members are a rare sight in West Lafayette.

## 2023-24

Record-setting seasons by Edey and first-team All-Big Ten guard Braden Smith paced national runner-up Purdue to its best finish since 1969.

Coach Matt Painter wasn't born when Mount, Billy Keller and Co. lost to UCLA and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (then Lew Alcindor) in the 1969 title game. Painter hadn't turned 10 years old when Purdue last reached the Final Four in 1980.

Edey led the nation in scoring at 25.2 points per game and broke Mount's 54-year-old career scoring mark of 2,323 to finish with 2,516 points. Edey also shattered All-American center Joe Barry Carroll's 44-year-old career rebounding record of 1,148 with 1,321.

Smith became the Big Ten's all-time single-season assists leader with 292. Bruce Parkinson had set the Purdue record of 207 in 1975.

Among the team records that fell were most victories (34), points (3,211), rebound margin (plus 11.2), assists (720), assist/turnover ratio (1.63), field goals made (1,109), free throws made (675) and free throw attempts (938). The Boilermakers won their second consecutive Big Ten championship by

three games.

## 1968-69

The Boilermakers won their first Big Ten championship since 1940, topping Illinois and Ohio State by four games, and went all the way to the championship game in their first NCAA tournament appearance. Rick Mount set six Big Ten and seven Purdue records during his junior season, including scoring average (33.4) and points in a season (810). Backcourt mate Billy Keller and forward Herman Gilliam, future professionals like Mount, combined to set four free throw records.

Purdue led the nation in scoring average (94.8 points per game) and free throw percentage (.784) under head coach George King.

A record that still stands is the 120 points Purdue scored on Indiana in the regular season finale, a 44-point victory. Mount scored 40 and Keller 31 in his final home game. The 71 combined points also are still a Purdue record.

Mount became the Purdue and Big Ten career scoring leader during the game.

Imagine the outrage today if any team was 40 of 49 from the free throw line, which the Boilermakers were against the Hoosiers. For the record, Indiana was 18 of 29 at the line.

Mount sent Purdue to the Final Four with a last-second shot against Marquette. But the Boilermakers lost 7-foot center Chuck Bavis to a shoulder injury in the NCAA opener against Miami (Ohio). His absence wasn't felt in a 92-65 national semifinal victory against North Carolina but UCLA and Lew Alcindor took advantage for a 92-72 victory in the title game. Alcindor put up 37 points and 20 rebounds

## 1979-80

These Boilermakers allowed Lee Rose to pull off the rare feat of coaching two schools to the Final Four in a three-year period. Rose came to Purdue after guiding North Carolina Charlotte to the 1978 Final Four.

At Purdue he inherited Joe Barry Carroll, who blossomed into a 7-1 All-American center in 1980. Another future NBA first-round draft pick, guard Keith Edmonson, paired up with Brian Walker to form one of the Big Ten's best backcourts. Athletic forwards Arnette Hallman and Drake Morris rounded out the starting lineup.

Victories against LaSalle and St. John's in Mackey Arena began Purdue's tournament path. One of the season's sweetest victories came in Lexington when the Boilermakers avenged their NIT final loss the year before to Indiana. Duke, which upset host Kentucky in the other regional semifinal, fell to Purdue 68-60 with Carroll outplaying fellow All-American Mike Gminski.

A bitter 67-62 loss to UCLA, which had its runner-up finish voided by the NCAA for recruiting violations, denied Purdue a shot at eventual champion Louisville. Purdue won the next-to-last third-place tournament game in NCAA history, routing Iowa 75-58 behind Carroll's 35 points and 12 rebounds.

Rose left for South Florida after the season and was replaced by Gene Keady.

## 1931-32

John Wooden was a national champion long before coaching UCLA to 10 NCAA titles. In the days before The Associated Press rankings and the NCAA tournament, a national champion was determined by a panel of experts called together by the Helms Athletic Foundation at the conclusion of each and every season from 1901 to 1938.

Purdue was tabbed the 1932 champion when Wooden, a three-time All-American guard, led the Boilermakers to a 17-1 record and the Big Ten championship. Purdue's only loss was at Illinois, a game that Wooden played at less than 100 percent following a car accident also involving coach Ward "Piggy" Lambert.

Between West Lafayette and Champaign, Lambert lost control of his car on a patch of ice and overturned. The wreck shattered the windows and Wooden suffered a cut hand. Purdue then went on an 11-game winning streak, including a 34-19 victory against the Fighting Illini in West Lafayette.

Wooden would go on to win the Big Ten scoring title, outscoring Chicago 21-18 in the 53-18 Big Ten finale at Memorial Gymnasium. Wooden was selected the national player of the year by the All-America Board of Basketball.

Future Purdue coach Ray Eddy, guard Harry Kellar and center Ralph Parmenter excelled in Lambert's pressing defense and fast break offense.

## 1993-94

For years, if it weren't for bad luck Purdue would have no luck at all. Such was the story of Glenn Robinson and the hotel wrestling horseplay hours before playing Duke in the NCAA regional final at Knoxville, Tenn. Former Purdue beat writer Nathan Baird of the Lafayette Journal and Courier wrote in 2019 of the incident, which saw Robinson's back "slammed on a headboard." Robinson was not himself against the Blue Devils, who went to the Final Four with a 69-60 victory.

Frustrating to Purdue fans was the impressive performance by Robinson and Cuonzo Martin in an 83-78 victory against Kansas two days earlier that raised hopes of a Final Four trip. Robinson scored a Purdue tournament record 44 points and Martin had 29 on a then-school record eight 3-pointers.

Robinson led the nation in scoring and was the unanimous National Player of the Year.

## 1987-88

Climbing as high as No. 2 in The Associated Press rankings, Purdue seemed destined for the Final Four and maybe a national championship behind the senior trio of Troy Lewis, Todd Mitchell

and Everette Stephens. "The Three Amigos" carried Purdue to back-to-back Big Ten championships and a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Midwest Regional. The journey to the Final Four, much like this year's tournament path, would start in South Bend and continue in Pontiac, Mich.

Fairleigh Dickenson (94-79) and Memphis State (100-73) were road kill for Purdue, which would face Kansas State in the regional semifinals. Confidence was high since the Boilermakers had won the regular season matchup in December, 101-72.

Purdue jumped out to a 10-0 lead on the Wildcats but future NBA All-Star Mitch Richmond rallied Kansas State to a 73-70 victory.

## 2009-10

More than a decade before Purdue earned its first No. 1 ranking in The Associated Press poll, another Boilermaker squad seemed destined to climb to the paper mountaintop.

Ranked third with a 23-3 record, the Boilermakers went into Minnesota looking to maintain its hold on first place in the Big Ten and making a case for a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

What might have been had not junior forward Robbie Hummel tore his ACL that February night? A stunned Purdue team held on for a 59-58 win but was emotionally flat days later in a 53-44 home loss to Michigan State. Victories over Indiana and at Penn State allowed Purdue to share the Big Ten crown. Chris Kramer's game-winning basket in overtime sent Purdue to the Sweet 16, where it was no match for No. 3 Duke.

## 2017-18

The first Purdue team to win 30 games in a season looked like a Final Four contender with Carsen Edwards, Vincent Edwards, Isaac Haas and Dakota Mathias all career 1,000-point scorers and a veteran point guard in P.J. Thompson.

Then Haas suffered a broken elbow in the NCAA tournament

opener against Cal State Fullerton. Purdue managed to defeat Butler in the second round and reach the Sweet 16. Despite Carsen Edwards' 39 points, third-seeded Texas Tech pulled away for a 78-65 victory.

## 2018-19

A different kind of gut punch took place a year later. A historic scoring run by Carsen Edwards carried co-Big Ten champion Purdue within a second of the Final Four.

Edwards scored 139 points in four NCAA tournament games, including 42 against Virginia in the regional final at Louisville. Mamadi Diakite's jumper as time expired forced overtime, and Virginia would go on to win 80-75 and capture the national championship a week later.

The loss overshadowed a classic confrontation with Tennessee in the regional semifinal. With the lead changing 17 times, Purdue reached its first Elite Eight in nearly 20 years with a 99-94 overtime victory. Edwards had 29 points and Ryan Cline put up a career-high 27 on 7 of 10 shooting from 3-point range.

## 1929-30

With one of college basketball's first true big men, aptly nicknamed "Stretch," and the "Indiana Rubber Man," Purdue enjoyed one of its greatest seasons. Hall of Fame coach Ward "Piggy" Lambert coached the Boilermakers to a 10-0 Big Ten record and 13-2 overall thanks to his two All-Americans: 6-6 Charles "Stretch" Murphy and 5-10 John Wooden, who earned the "Indiana Rubber Man" nickname for his hard-nosed play and frequent head-first dives for loose balls.

Murphy won two consecutive Big Ten scoring titles in 1929 and 1930 and helped Purdue claim three straight league championships. Murphy, Wooden and Lambert were inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1960.

*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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