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TODAY'S VERSE

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Hamilton Happenings

Just a reminder, there will be no Noblesville Times Print or Online Edition on Wednesday, Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas Day. There will also be no Noblesville Times Print or Online Edition on Wednesday, Jan. 1 in observance of New Year's Day. The Times will publish the regular Monday and Friday Online Editions both weeks.

Three Things You Should Know

1 Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales recently joined business leaders in celebrating the ribbon-cutting and grand opening of Terra Gaucha Brazilian Steakhouse in Indianapolis. Since the start of his administration, attracting new businesses to the Hoosier state has been a major focus for Morales. The Secretary of State's Business Services Division is responsible for registering businesses throughout the state. INBiz is Indiana's one-stop portal for Hoosier businesses. Through INBiz, business owners can register, maintain, and file required paperwork.

2 Our friends at Mixbook, an online photobook company, set out to uncover the most enchanting Christmas light displays across the country. Through a survey of 3,000 families, they explored the destinations people dream of visiting to fully immerse themselves in the holiday spirit. Turns out, three displays right here in Indiana made the national list: The Festival of Lights in Michigan City ranked 96th, Charlestown's Christmas City came in at 106 and Pleasant Grove Farm Christmas Light Show in Lyons was ranked 145. Tops in the nation? Peace, Love & Lights Holiday Light Show in New York State's Catskills.

3 As the first semester rounds to a close on campuses across the country, SmartAsset has released its tenth annual Best Value Colleges study. SmartAsset's new analysis compared institutions across five metrics, including scholarships, starting salary, tuition, living costs, and retention rate to determine the 'Best Value Colleges' in Indiana. The top five are Notre Dame, Rose-Hulman, Purdue, Wabash and Valparaiso.

The TIMES



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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Boomer Bits

Ask Rusty – Veteran Asks about Credit for Military Service



ASK Rusty
Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

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Dear Rusty:
I served in the U S Army from January 1958 to Feb 1961. What increase should I receive for those years and who do I call and at what phone number?

Signed: Proud Veteran

Dear Proud Veteran:
First, thank you for your military service! I expect you are referring to the "special extra credits for military service" which are available to some who served in in the US Military in earlier years. It is important to note that these "extra credits" take the form of an adjustment to your military pay record while serving and are not an incremental amount added to your monthly Social Security benefit because you served.

Military pay has been subject to deductions for Social Security since 1957.

Thus, while serving between 1958 and 1961 you paid SS tax on your military earnings. But, for purposes of determining your Social Security benefit, your military earnings record would be increased by \$300 for each quarter you served on active duty, up to a maximum of \$1,200 increase per year of service. That means for 1958 - 1960, when calculating your SS benefit, \$1,200 would be added to your military earnings record for each year you served. FYI, for those who served after 1967, this adjustment was automatically made by Social Security. But for service years prior to 1967 (as in your case) you would need to inform Social Security of your service when you claimed SS and provide a copy of your military form DD-214 (your

➔ See RUSTY Page A3

Isolation in Retirement & the Ladder



BONNIE ZICKGRAF
Snr. Pastor (Ret); BSN, RN Guest Columnist

There are those among us who live alone throughout the year, but during the holidays, being "single" by any cause (divorce, or the loss of a loved one...or even by choice) can still be especially tough, lonely, and downright depressing!

I became a widow six years ago after almost forty years of marriage. The heartbreak of grief is not a journey I'd wish for anyone. Let's face it. Loss can be grueling whether from the loss of a friend, a

➔ See LADDER Page A3

Paraplegic Calls Out Medicare

By Chris Collin

It's been 16 years since a motorcycle accident paralyzed me from the chest down.

But today, I can work and live independently, thanks to a revolution in wheelchair technology.

➔ See CHRIS Page A5

Sheriff Promotes Dozen



Photo courtesy Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Ryan Mosley with his mother.

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office is proud to announce a series of well-deserved promotions across multiple divisions. These outstanding individuals have consistently demonstrated exceptional performance in their roles and have made significant contributions to their teams' success.

During the promotion ceremony on Monday, Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush spoke on the importance of family. He emphasized the critical role that families play in supporting those in leadership positions, urging the newly promoted individuals to prioritize time with their loved ones. Family is the foundation of strength and success.

JAIL DIVISION
Dustin Castor – Jail Captain
Justin Rennaker – Assistant Jail Commander
Dalton Ballard – Lieutenant
Kirstin Wagoner – Sergeant
Ryan Mosley – Sergeant
Teresa Woods – Sergeant
Luke Dietz – Sergeant
Allen Henricks – Sergeant

PATROL DIVISION
Adam Leckrone – Sergeant
Austin Rumer – Sergeant

JUVENILE SERVICES DIVISION
Ryan McClain – Captain

➔ See SHERIFF Page A5

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Kids who get adequate sleep are the least likely to become obese.



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

OBITUARIES

Richard Lee

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

TODAY'S QUOTE

"It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air."
W.T. Ellis

TODAY'S JOKE

Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas Eve? Because it "soots" him!



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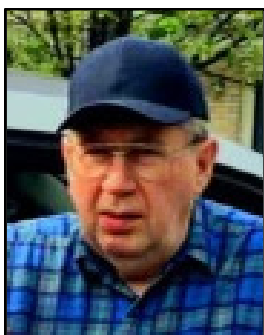
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OBITUARY

Richard Lee

September 30, 1942 - December 11, 2024

Richard Lee, age 82, of Sheridan, Indiana, passed away on Wednesday afternoon, December 11, 2024, at Riverview Hospital in Noblesville, Indiana. Born September 30, 1942, in Indianapolis, Indiana, he was the son of the late Paul Howard and Mary Ann (Dee) Lee.



He was a 1961 graduate of Sheridan High School, and a faithful attendant of the Sheridan First Christian Church.

Richard honorably served his country as a soldier in the United States Army. During part of his time in the service, he was stationed in Germany.

A tinkerer at heart, Richard could fix just about anything you put in front of him. He learned by doing - take it apart, see what was wrong, fix it, and put it back together (hopefully). It sounds so simple, but it takes quite a bit of tinkering, over quite a few years, to get it right. Years of experience is part of the secret, and Richard spent those years fixing and building things, surrounded by people who had years of experience under their own belts. He worked for several years at Warren Millikan's Sinclair Station in Sheridan, learning the ins and outs of things before going to work at Hare Chevrolet in Noblesville. Richard also worked for 30 years as a machinist and internal grinder for Biddle Precision Components in Sheridan. These skills were put to excellent use out in the garage, where he loved to restore antique cars and Corvettes. He also spent many, many hours working on his moped and loved every minute of it. Richard loved zooming all over the place on that thing. When it was time to relax, he could often be found watching an old western or one of his sci-fi favorites, like Star Trek.

Richard had a patient and easy-going nature, a strong faith that helped guide every decision he made, and a kind and gentle soul that could instantly put you at ease, quietly letting you know that everything was going to work itself out. When it came to his family, he loved them more than anything in this world, especially when it came to his grandson.

Richard is survived by his loving wife, Elizabeth Ann "Beth" (Bundy) Lee. She and Richard were married on August 10, 1975, and would spend the next 49 years by each other's side.

He is also survived by his daughter, Kari E. Lee (Bob Thorn) of Sheridan; grandson, Shane M. Joyner of Sheridan; 2 sisters, Carol Gerber (Jim) of Lapel, and Rebecca Lunde (Lynn) of Florida; brother-in-law, Michael B. Bundy (Malinda) of Sheridan; sister-in-law, Emily K. Pearson of Cicero; nieces and nephews, Avery Bundy of Sheridan, Autumn Hoffman (Parker) of Flora, Jennifer Gerber of Lapel, and Myron Gerber of Pendleton; 2 great nephews, Brandon Gerber, and Callan Hoffman; and by his special friends, Jeannie McKay, Marinda McKay, Benny Gray, Kathy Gray, and their wonderful families.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul Howard and Mary Ann (Dee) Lee; his sister, Lorna Hess; father-in-law and mother-in law, William T. and Mary K. Bundy; brother-in-law, Jimmie "Finney" Pearson; and by his canine BFF, Sissy.

Richard's family asks that you help honor his memory by dressing casually for his funeral. This was one of his final requests.

Services with military honors will take place at 2:00 PM on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th Street, Sheridan, Indiana, with visitation from noon until the time of service.

Burial will follow at Crown View Cemetery in Sheridan, Indiana. Pastor VJ Stover will be officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to the Sheridan First Christian Church, 107 W. 3rd St, Sheridan, Indiana 46069.

NHS Hires State Championship Caliber Coaches

Noblesville Schools this week named state championship coaches John Hebert and Thomas Doering to respectively lead the varsity football and boys soccer programs.

On the football side, it's been a while since Noblesville High School had a winning season – almost a quarter of a century.

Back in 2001, the Millers finished 7-5, capping off a six-year 53-18 record that included a 12-2 season in 2000 and an 11-2 season in 1997. Since 2001, NHS has had three .500 seasons and 20 on the wrong side of the ledger, including a dismal 2-8 mark last season.

Hebert, the former Carmel coach, is hoping to change all that.

Hebert, who won six sectional titles, five regionals, three semistates and two state championships, has been at the helm of the Greyhounds the last 10 seasons. He compiled an 83-39 overall record, although last year's 3-8 mark was the first losing season for CHS football since a 4-6 mark in 1997. His hiring replaces Dave Sharpe who went 14-38 in five seasons at NHS.

At Carmel, he was replaced by a former CHS Coach, Kevin Wright.

Hebert is one of only a few 6A head coaches in Indiana with at least two state championships.

"We had over 50 candidates apply for our football position and Coach Hebert rose to the top thanks to his strong relationships with athletes, families and the community, his high integrity and his outstanding track record of winning," said Leah Wooldridge, NHS athletic director. "His years of leadership in the 6A division and the caliber of the recommendations he has received from around the state made him the strongest choice, and we couldn't be more excited to have him lead our Millers into their next football chapter."

Hebert expressed his excitement about the new job. "I'm eager to start this new journey at Noblesville and begin the process of building a football program that regularly competes for championships. All the traits that define a football community apply to Noblesville – great student athletes, strong feeder program,



John Hebert

John Hebert Varsity Record

2024: 3-8
2023: 5-5
2022: 6-4
2021: 9-2
2020: 9-3
2019: 11-3*
2018: 11-3
2017: 8-5
2016: 10-4*
2015: 10-3

* Won State

dedicated community support, school spirit and top facilities."

Doering may not have the experience as the head coach, but he has won three state championships with Millers boys soccer and is being promoted from assistant coach to the top spot, replacing Ken Dolaske who is relocating out of state.

"Coach Doering has been an integral part of our soccer program's outstanding success



Thomas Doering

these past seven years and is more than ready to step up to head coach," Wooldridge said. "His strong tactical knowledge and calm leadership bring out the best in his players and I'm looking forward to what he can accomplish with the future of this program."

Doering added that he is "incredibly honored to be chosen for this leadership role and can't wait to continue the team's tradition of excellence as we reach new heights in the years to come."

Doering will continue in his role as a Spanish teacher at the high school and Hebert will join the NHS staff to teach wellness.

Both coaches were approved by the school board Tuesday and begin leading their teams in January.

Surprise! Santa Sends Back Letter

Guest Columnist EDITOR'S NOTE: Times

Publisher Tim Timmons recently shared a letter to Santa in his weekly Two Cents column. Imagine his shock when he got this from the Big Guy himself a few days later.

Timmy, (May I still call you that in adulthood?)

Your old pal KP was kind enough to let me use his computer to respond to a letter you recently sent. (Although I haven't received it, KP was kind enough to forward it to me. Hey, who says newspapers can't still be first?)

Anywho (as the two of you like to say), it's kinda busy up here, so I'll get right to your requests.

But first, let me say, there is no age limit on the magic known as Christmas. From birth to death, all you have to do is believe. I'll always be here for you and your family. Especially those 'grandpups' you spoke of!

Now, let's get down to business. I'm aware of

your good behavior. There were a few moments I thought were suspect, but overall, you made the 'good' list.' I think it gets easier, as you get older, don't you?

I'll give you credit. Having not heard from you in quite some time, you opened with a tough one. Peace, huh? You're on target; peace isn't exactly in my wheelhouse. We all agree with you, right down to the last reindeer. Needless to say, it's been a tough year. And you are right. Too many haters have made your country a more difficult place to live. The downside is, I just don't see it getting any better. You know I have a microscope on people, and I don't like what I'm seeing. Seems like your folks are in constant crisis, interrupted by moments of success. You're a smart guy. You know it should be the opposite. May I suggest you appeal to a higher authority than myself on this one? (BTW, I'm all in with God. How else could I do what I do in one night without

him?) Happiness? I can help you with that one, but it's limited. Back to that one night thing I mentioned; it's all the happiness I can bring. Funny; you may be the only one who has ever thanked me for the gifts I left. You're welcome, by the way. And not trying to tap out once again, but I'd say that higher authority I mentioned earlier, has given you a decent share. Your family alone is a pretty fair payoff, wouldn't you say? But just for giggles, let's toss in a fair share of colleagues (might I mention, I enjoy reading Butch Dale?) A goodly amount of friends, and a pretty steady group of advertisers who help keep the presses rolling, are all in. So there!

Your last request is a no-brainer. Even in the toughest of times, there will ALWAYS be people who have more, willing to give to those who have less. That was set in motion long before I

ever dropped down the first chimney. Here's where I do the thanking. As I know you are, I'll always be grateful for those folks who make a community just that, a community. Think about those from your past who have helped make you who you are. In essence, your community. Never forget your parents. Or people you've worked with. They all played a role in helping you be the man you are today. You picking up what I'm putting down? Good!

It was good to hear from you Timmy. I've missed you.

Peace, Happiness, and a spirit of Community be with you. Santa



KIRK PUCKETT

Kirk Puckett is the above referenced KP. He has known Timmons for more than 30 years and is a retired educator, administrator and law enforcement professional. On the scale of good guys, he ranks in the top 1 percent!



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↓ RUSTY From Page A1

discharge papers). SS would then make the appropriate adjustment to your military earnings record prior to calculating your benefit amount. And, for clarity, additional credits for military service are not available to those who served after 2001.

A key point to understand is that this adjustment to your military pay may – or may not – affect the amount of your Social Security benefit. Social Security determines your benefit amount based on your highest earning 35 years over your entire lifetime (adjusted for inflation). If, after you served in the military, you had at least 35 years of civilian employment where you earned more than your military pay, it is probable that your military pay is not included when calculating your Social Security benefit. If that is the case, it is likely that the “special extra credits for military service” would have no effect on your Social Security payment. If, however, your military pay (including those special extra credits) for any year is more

than you earned in civilian life, then you can contact Social Security (1.800.772.1213), provide them with a copy of your DD-214, and ask that they recalculate your Social Security benefit to include the extra credits for your years of military service.

Again, thank you for your service to our country, and please do not hesitate to contact us again if you have any further questions. FYI, you may also find the “For Veterans” section of our AMAC Foundation website interesting (www.amacfoundation.org)

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.

↓ LADDER From Page A1



There indeed was “sparkle” in this gift.

family member, a partner, a pet, a job, or a home...hurt can run deep! Despair can creep in and become overwhelming. Sometimes we're thrown into a situation beyond our control or not by any of our own doing, but by the ways of this world. Yet...here we are.

And during the dark times, we can find ourselves in isolation. Even on days when we feel “okay”, we become.... “eh”. Ambivalent towards life as we crawl our way back to “a new normal”.

(Oh, how I disliked that phrase! Not sure why. Maybe because it sounded like “work”. I was never “normal” to begin with! How can I go back to where I've never been in the first place?)

On the other hand, being occasionally isolated can be refreshing! Think about this. As a single person, I can drink directly out of my own milk carton while the refrigerator door stands wide open without anyone making a single comment. I don't need to be concerned about playing my “oldies” music too loud. Besides, I never heard that the *Rolling Stones* changed their name to “*Strolling Bones*” because of their maturity status. Who said they were *old*?

I can unashamedly watch reruns of the original *Law and Order* TV show for the tenth time as the sole Supreme Commander over the remote control. I can even walk around the house quite scantily if I choose to do so. Yes, I confess, I boldly run outside to feed my birds sometimes wearing a purple top with green pajama bottoms and hot pink slippers. I'm not really eccentric. I'm...just...single and... I am alone. Or... am I?

Yes, we do seem to pray more about the

topic of loneliness as the holidays approach. Being alone is one thing. Feeling lonely in isolation is quite another. Yet today, I experienced the surprising and faithful ways of God. I'd like to share this brief, true-to-life incident with you. And it all happened right here in Noblesville, Indiana!

As a bit of background, I recently retired after working the past sixty years of my life. I wasn't sure full retirement was meant for me. I occasionally felt lonely and “lost”, so I prayed quite a bit for God's guidance, yet His answer always seemed to be the same. “Rest and receive deep joy.”

I prayed that I heard Him right...that He didn't really mean, “Deep rest” and receive joy. I know the time clock of this life isn't held directly in my hands. God knows I'm not quite ready for the “deep rest” part, either. So again, I prayed for guidance and wisdom to learn the clear path that God wants me to take in retirement. What in the world was God trying to tell me now?

I must say... I'm so very glad we have a patient God! He knows I can be a slow learner. I ask that He speak to me every day to show me this “new normal retirement”. In fact, my relationship with Him has grown much deeper since becoming a widow. Jesus is my treasure, especially since reading Matthew 6:21, “Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.” (NLT)

This is not to say we must be single or old or anything else to have a relationship with our divine Creator. We just need a heart that's open enough to receive Him and, at least for me, to be still enough to get close and to hear Him.

We can do this through prayer. So, again I prayed. What exactly is this “deep joy” He continues to tell me about? What do I need to do next to please God in my “new normal” road of retirement?

God...do you hear my prayers in my isolation and my loneliness?

Then I finally heard Him speak through the people at worship in

Noblesville today. Here is what I heard.

During the “Children's Moment” shared with the kids by the altar, the Director of Children's Ministries spoke to the numerous “wee ones” about forgiveness and how we must forgive to find our sparkle and joy.

(Wait . . . did she just say finding our “*sparkle and joy*”?)

A few minutes later, the main message given by the Director of Youth Ministry reflected on the gospel of Luke 1:68-79, which focused on forgiveness and “doing enough” for God. Wait...did he just say . . . ?)

Then with the help of the youth group, a 10-foot-tall ladder was hauled to the front of the sanctuary. The Director proceeded to climb up and down this ladder over and over again to explain the up-and-down path of life while trying to earn God's favor and salvation.

When the speaker felt he was “doing good” in life for God, the pastor climbed up the ladder. When he veered off the path or away from God, he climbed back down the ladder. (I'd have to watch the YouTube re-runs of the sermon to find the exact number of times he climbed up and down that ladder, but he definitely wore himself out. We can all do this in our own lives, can't we?

We become exhausted from trying to hear God's plan for us, possibly missing the message at all. And when we miss God's message, we begin to feel lonely or retreat into deeper isolation. We might feel ambivalent like we don't matter. Like our prayers aren't being heard or answered. In our self-loathing and unforgiving ways, our belief begins to spiral down that ladder, twisting the spoken words of Jesus, “My God, my God. Why have you forsaken me”---especially during the holidays? (see Matthew 27:46, NIV).

We can never climb that ladder high enough to earn our salvation or to fully meet human perfection. We are human beings, not perfect, but always longing, always climbing. In fact, we

don't need to climb that ladder at all. I believe we were made to be “perfectly imperfect” in our walk toward righteousness and for our salvation.

Then the pastor said it! God came down that ladder to be with us through Jesus Christ. We can find this hope in 1 Peter 5:10, “In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.”

If you are lost, feeling lonely or afraid, worried, heartbroken with grief, angry, bitter, or carrying any burden at all, please talk to God about it. Pray to him in solitude. You will not feel isolated. The prayer doesn't need to be fancy- just make it from the heart. And don't give up. Unlike this world, God will never give up on you.

We can be in solitude or isolation, but never alone because of God's presence. Emmanuel means “God with us”, plain and simple. No doubt about it.

He hears every prayer, and every prayer is answered in His time and in His way. He will make your path clear for the glory of the Kingdom. You are God's child, fully forgiven, and always loved.

Yes, I received deep joy today when I heard God speak through His people. How blessed we are to have a loving and caring God that wants to stay connected to us. He doesn't like isolation either and we don't need a ladder to reach Him. Just a prayer.

And one final note. I got home from church to find a gift left on my porch from a Secret Santa. Here is a picture. Do you see the name on the pancake syrup?

“Sparkle syrup!” Seriously? Glory to God! I can't make this stuff up!

Yes indeed, God surely speaks, and His words are sweet! He is here and we are never alone.

Bonnie Zickgraf is a retired pastor and Registered Nurse, with over 25 years in mental health nursing and health plan accreditation industries.

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New Purdue Coach Has ‘Plan to Win’ – Will it Work?



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

New Purdue football coach Barry Odom has been working quietly to not only put together a staff but fill the many holes on the Boilermaker roster.

Odom has announced that his staff will include holdover running backs coach Lamar Conard, offensive coordinator Josh Henson from USC and two assistants from Arkansas, defensive line coach Kelvin Green and defensive ends coach Jake Trump.

For those Purdue fans wanting to know more about Odom, a handful of YouTube videos from the American Football Coaches Association offer a hint of his philosophies and coaching style.

“The Plan to Win” outlines six baselines that Odom used to win 19 games over two seasons at UNLV. Sadly, many of these principles have not been seen inside Ross-Ade Stadium for years.

1. Take care of the ball. The 2024 Rebels were tied for eighth in the nation in turnover margin at plus 13. Purdue was 130th out of 133 schools at minus-14, having forced only five turnovers in 12 games.

2. Run the ball and stop the run. UNLV’s 251.2 rushing yards per game average ranked fifth this season. Purdue tied for 110th at 115.3 yards per game. Defensively, the Rebels held foes to an average of 109.8 yards to rank 16th. Six Big Ten teams ranked in the top 11, including Indiana’s nation-leading 70.8 average. Purdue gave up an average of 200 rushing yards, ranking 119th.

3. Special Teams Factor. UNLV led the nation with five blocked punts and tied for third with three blocked kicks.

4. Preparation is our edge.

5. Penalties/Discipline. Part of Odom’s offseason preparation is called “Winning Edge.” Starting in late February, Odom’s teams gather at 6 a.m. for drill work. “It’s one of the best things I believe our coaches do ... in getting us a winning edge of having discipline and structure.

6. Finish in the fourth quarter. UNLV outscored its opponents 110-72 in the final 15 minutes.

At the same AFCA

Convention in Nashville, Tenn., Odom laid down the foundation of “The Rebel Way,” which presumably becomes the Boilermaker Way.

1. Commitment to being a great teammate. Not always easy to do in an era where some players only commit to the highest bidder. “Our accountability level to ourselves and our teammates will make the difference in our level of success,” Odom said. “How badly do we want to be great?”

2. Unselfishness. See above. “We over Me” seems cliché but it was obvious during last season’s 11-game losing streak fans saw far more “me” than “we.” That’s coaching and a lack of leadership from the players.

3. Three promises. Go to class, have a great attitude and have the willingness to be coached. “If you don’t go to class and are not responsible in that area, there’s no way in the world we can count on you when its fourth down and one and we need a stop ... or complete a slant,” Odom said.

4. Trust. “Build trust in each other to always

do the right thing for our team,” Odom said.

5. Growth every day. This covers academics, social life and athletically. “There is almost no limit to the potential of an organization that recruits good people, raises them up as leaders and continually develops them,” Odom said.

6. Toughness. This covers mental and physical traits.

7. Self-discipline. Have the character and the toughness to make the right choice.

8. Unmatched effort/urgency/enthusiasm.

9. Eliminate mistakes.

10. Be a great competitor. “Don’t ever accept losing. As soon as it’s allowed once, it will be easy to do the rest of your life,” Odom said.

11. Expect to win.

12. Consistency. “(Give) your very best every time.”

13. Leadership. “Be willing to change what isn’t right.”

14. Responsibility. No excuses allowed.

As of Dec. 17, Odom has supplemented the five-man recruiting class held over from Ryan Walters’ staff with five former UNLV signees. Odom says he has 13 questions for a recruit’s high school or junior college coach, including one that echoes former Purdue coach Joe Tiller’s must-have of “do what you’re supposed to do, when you’re supposed to do it, the way it’s supposed to be done and do it that way every time.”

Some are obvious (Does he have the ability and desire to be a great college player? Does he have a good attitude? Is he a great competitor? Can he be coached and how does he react to criticism? Any medical problems?).

Some are not so obvious (Does he love to play football? Is he liked and respected by his teammates and coaches? Does he lead vocally or by

example?)

Coaches are also asked to rate the prospect on a scale of 1 to 10 for traits such as toughness, character and work ethic.

Time will tell if this is a winning template for Odom at Purdue.

Big Ten goes bowling

Eleven of the Big Ten (Plus 8) are in the postseason, and the league has one quarter of the 12-man College Football Playoff field. Indiana opens both the conference and Playoff slate Friday night at Notre Dame. The winner gets a trip to New Orleans and a matchup with No. 2 seed Georgia in the Sugar Bowl.

The Hoosiers have parlayed the nation’s best rushing defense and the No. 2 scoring offense (44.3 ppg.) into the first 11-win season in school history. Notre Dame is third in scoring offense (39.8) and 10th in rushing offense (224.8). Both are in the top 10 nationally in total defense.

Amazingly, this will be only the second matchup of the two in-state schools in my 63-year lifetime. The Fighting Irish won 49-27 in 1991 to increase their series lead to 23-5-1 against the Hoosiers. Four of Indiana’s five wins against Notre Dame came between 1898 and 1906, long before Knute Rockne made his way to South Bend as an undergraduate. The other came in 1950, the same year Purdue ended Notre Dame’s 39-game undefeated streak.

It’s possible this matchup will come down to the final possession, but Notre Dame Stadium is a mighty difficult place to leave with a victory. The Fighting Irish will move on.

Ohio State and Penn State continue the Playoff schedule on Saturday and both should win. The Buckeyes should be motivated to get the



Barry Odom

bad taste out of their mouths for losing again to Michigan. They will ride the nation’s top-ranked defense to victory against Tennessee and earn a rematch with top-seeded Oregon in the Rose Bowl on New Year’s Day.

James Franklin is not known for winning big games, and SMU has the speed and playmakers to test Penn State in Happy Valley. A victory sends Penn State to the Fiesta Bowl on New Year’s Eve and a winnable matchup with third-seeded Boise State in the quarterfinals.

Most years, a Michigan-Alabama matchup is College Football Playoff quality. It’s a rebuilding year for both, but I like the Crimson Tide in the ReliaQuest Bowl on New Year’s Eve.

Here are my picks for the other Big Ten bowl games:

Guaranteed Rate (Dec. 26); Kansas State over Rutgers
Las Vegas (Dec. 27): Texas A&M over USC
Pinstripe (Dec. 28): Nebraska over Boston College
Music City (Dec. 30): Iowa over Missouri
Tony the Tiger Sun Bowl (Dec. 31): Louisville over Washington. It’s too bad the winner of this game and the Pop Tarts Bowl champion (Iowa State or Miami, Fla.) can’t meet for the Kellogg’s Cup in Battle Creek, Mich.
Citrus (Dec. 31): Illinois over South Carolina
Duke’s Mayo Bowl (Jan. 3): Minnesota over Virginia Tech.

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.

Elks 53rd Hoop Shoot



Photo courtesy Noblesville Elks

The Noblesville Elks held their 53rd Hoop Shoot contest at the Boys & Girls Club on Dec. 8. Pictured with Lodge Exalted Ruler Steve Vallier and PER & Hoop Shoot Director Pete Smith are (in no particular order) age group winners Luke Glassley, Lucas Mani, Harper McKee, Allison Hochgsang, Elouise Balkcom, Finn Shilts, Luke Glassley, Jackson Fidler, Owen Shilts, Molly Whisler, Gwynn Whisler, Caleb Davy, Gavin Glassley and Max Everson.

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↓ CHRIS

From Page A1

Unfortunately, not everyone in my position has access to the top-flight titanium or carbon fiber wheelchairs that have changed my life. That's in part because Medicare -- and the private insurers that follow its cues -- don't always cover them.

That needs to change. The millions of Americans who need a wheelchair to get around, to work, to live our lives deserve no less.

My first wheelchair was a heavy aluminum-framed one. Today, I use an ultralight, smooth-riding carbon fiber wheelchair. I don't know how I managed beforehand.

To appreciate the difference the composition of a chair makes, consider two scenarios. Wheelchair users who drive must cope with the problem of getting our chairs into and out of our vehicles -- in my case, without the use of abdominal "core" muscles or leg strength.

A standard chair can weigh 30 pounds or more for the frame weight, but additional accessories are needed to fit the consumer. The newer technology of titanium or carbon fiber may weigh less than half that.

The alternative, of course, is staying home.

Now consider road shock. Imagine swinging an aluminum tube, a titanium rod, and a carbon fiber composite at a tree trunk. With the aluminum, you feel pretty much the full extent of impact as

vibration in your arms. With titanium, that's reduced to a minor vibration. With carbon fiber's crisscrossed filaments, you barely feel a thing.

Medicare only covers the cost of heavier, "standard" aluminum chairs. If beneficiaries want one of the new, lighter models, they have to pay for it upfront themselves. That can cost around \$5,000, and in many cases much more when you add the options that make the chair a fit for you.

The wheelchair supplier then applies for Medicare reimbursement at the standard level of 80% of the cost of an aluminum chair -- which, of course, is less than the cost of an upgraded wheelchair.

After Medicare reviews and processes the claim, the supplier reimburses the beneficiary for his 20% copay -- which, again, is based on the lower-cost aluminum chair.

That reimbursement process can take months. It requires submission of medical orders and wheelchair manufacturer attestations. That delay imposes a heavy burden on many disabled Americans.

It'd be great if Medicare and private insurers covered the most advanced wheelchairs since these chairs are deemed by professionals as medically necessary. Failing that, they should at least allow people to pay only what they owe in cost-sharing and.

would eventually receive as a reimbursement, rather than having to wait months for a rebate.

Congress needs to pass legislation to provide Medicare beneficiaries with access to titanium and carbon fiber wheelchairs. In the House of Representatives, that legislation is H.R. 5371, or the Choices for Increased Mobility Act of 2023.

This issue is personal for me in another way. After my accident, I went to work for a company that makes the lighter, more durable wheelchairs that have given me a new lease on life. I've made it my mission to ensure that others who need wheelchairs can experience what I have.

I still like to ride a motorcycle -- modified to suit my needs, of course. I'm also a ski instructor and an avid bicyclist. Our national commitment to allow people with disabilities to make the most we can of our personal circumstances is exemplary. This simple, cost-free legislative change to Medicare's rules would make an outsized contribution.

Chris Collin is a regional sales manager at Motion Composites, a company that designs and manufactures ultralight wheelchairs, and is also a wheelchair user himself. He uses a carbon fiber framed wheelchair as his everyday chair. This article originally ran in RealClearHealth.

↓ SHERIFF

From Page A1



Photos courtesy Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Dennis Quakenbush, left, emphasized the importance of family to his new promotions.

SUPPORT DIVISION
Bryan Melton – Sergeant

Promotion ceremonies are steeped in military tradition. Awards are generally presented to them by a superior, a family member or a mentor. We are fortunate that these outstanding men and women have chosen to bring their considerable talents to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office.

Congratulations to all the individuals on their achievements! The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office looks forward to seeing the positive impact of their leadership in the months and years to come.



Teresa Woods was promoted to Sergeant.

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Fisher's Eco-Friendly Vibes Crown It as Most Sustainable Suburb

A new study from Solar Insure identified the 120 most coveted 'sustainable suburbs' across the U.S. and Fishers emerged in 115th place overall.

As eco-conscious living becomes a growing priority for Americans, many are finding innovative ways to embrace sustainability - from adopting solar energy and eco-friendly transportation to investing in sustainable landscaping. However, some places are better suited for green living than others. While studies often focus on the greenest cities, Solar Insure, a solar and battery warranty provider, turned its attention to the suburbs--the epicenter of residential life--to uncover where sustainable lifestyles truly flourish.

Solar Insure <https://www.solarinsure.com/> conducted a nationwide survey of 3,000 participants, asking them to name the 'green' suburbs and neighborhoods they'd most like to move to for an eco-friendly lifestyle. From

neighborhoods championing renewable energy to those excelling in community recycling programs and urban gardens, the results revealed America's top eco-conscious suburban havens.

This mixed-use development in Fishers emphasizes energy-efficient buildings, green spaces, and sustainable design. Saxony's layout reduces the need for cars, with residential, retail, and recreational spaces all within walking distance. The community's focus on sustainable development makes it a green-minded suburb in Indiana.

Fishers is in good company. The top five in the U.S. were Coral Gables, Fla., Kailua, Hawaii, Santa Monica, Calif., Weston, Fla. And Hilo, Hawaii.

Infographic showing the top 120 most coveted eco suburbs and neighborhoods in America

<https://www.solarinsure.com/sustainable-suburbs>

Stay up to Date With Fishers Event Center

Following its November 2024 grand opening, big shows and sporting events are filling the calendar at the new Fishers Event Center, an ultra-modern, 7,500-seat entertainment venue hosting concerts, entertainment acts, sports and community events and more. Heading into 2025, the venue is providing various ways for the community to stay up to date on the latest event announcements, presale opportunities and more.

HOW DO I STAY CONNECTED?

- Sign up for the Fishers Event Center e-newsletter to receive event announcements, presale access and special offers as they happen. Click here to sign up today.
- Connect and engage with the Fishers Event Center on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter.
- Review the Know Before You Go information, including details on the venue's hassle-free flow pre-pay parking, clear bag policy, cashless policy, local directions, suggested lodging and venue maps, here.
- Learn more about Hamilton County's largest private event space, here.

- Discover all the premium experiences available at Fishers Event Center's upcoming events, here.

TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE VENUE: Situated on a sprawling 53-acre plot expanding upon the popular 18-acre lifestyle development Fishers District, the Fishers Event Center hosts everything from concerts, entertainment acts to basketball games while serving as a community-focused venue for local athletes to compete, graduation ceremonies and more. The new arena features state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems, thoughtfully designed seating arrangements, cutting-edge technology, elevated food and beverage options, premier amenities, and a commitment to quality and innovation. Home to three professional sports teams (Indy Fuel Hockey Club of the ECHL; Indy Ignite of the Pro Volleyball Federation; and Fishers Freight of the Indoor Football League), the Fishers Event Center also serves as the largest private event space in Hamilton County. Beyond its programming, the venue boasts extraordinary sightlines offering a great view from the front row to the back of the

house. The Fishers Event Center encourages all patrons to make a plan, be prepared, and arrive early to make the most of your experience. Designed with advanced technology and comfort in mind, the arena offers streamlined arrival, point of sale and departure experiences so you can spend more time enjoying events and less time in lines.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

The Fishers Event Center will host a wide variety of community events and concerts spanning genres including theater, sports, comedy, family, country, rock and more. The venue's size allows it to accommodate legendary shows in an intimate setting, as well as newer artists on the brink of big success. Upcoming events include:

- The annual Mudsock Rivalry Basketball Game between the Fishers High School Tigers and the Hamilton Southeastern Royals (Friday, Dec. 20)
- Cirque du Soleil's acrobatic ice experience CRYSTAL (January 23-26)
- An Evening with Jeff Foxworthy presented by the Hamilton

Southeastern Education Foundation (February 21)

- Comedian Tom Segura (Friday, February 28)
- Crime Junkie Podcast Live (Thursday, March 6)
- The King of late night, Greg Gutfeld (Saturday, March 15)
- Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats (Tuesday, March 18)
- Forrest Frank (Thursday, March 27)
- Superstar entertainer Blake Shelton (Saturday, March 29)
- Country star Megan Moroney (Thursday, April 24)
- Comedian Leanne Morgan (Saturday, July 26)
- Innovative storytelling leader Critical Role, celebrating its 10th anniversary (Saturday, August 2, 2025)
- ...and much more heading into 2025! Visit FishersEventCenter.com for a full list of events.

For a full list of upcoming events and ticket information, visit FishersEventCenter.com. Fans can sign up for the venue newsletter to stay informed of event announcements and presale options.



Duke Energy Offers Energy Tips for Winter

As winter approaches, Duke Energy is offering some energy savings solutions for Hoosiers.

“Duke Energy is here to help our customers as the weather gets chillier,” said Stan Pinegar, president of Duke Energy Indiana. “We want them to know that there are a number of tools available through the company, as well as simple solutions to manage their energy use.”

Energy-saving solutions

- Duke Energy customers can sign up for a free in-person or virtual home energy assessment. Through the Home Energy House Call program, energy specialists help customers find ways to save energy and money by being more efficient. Customers will also receive a free energy efficiency kit, a customized usage report, low-cost tips and expert recommendations to help them see energy savings.
- Another way customers can save is through the Smart Saver® home improvement rebate programs. Insulating and sealing your home will help keep warm air in and cold air out to help manage energy and save money.
- Better predict what you'll spend on electricity by reviewing the Usage Alerts that arrive midway through a billing cycle. By having a smart meter and an email address on file, customers automatically are enrolled to receive a Usage Alert notification that shows how much electricity customers are using and how much it may cost in time to adjust. Customers can track energy usage down to the hour, day or week. The goal is to see when energy use is spiking and adjust habits that may be driving it up. Simply sign in to your online account or create one here.

Low- to no-cost energy-saving tips and projects

In addition to programs, incentives and rates, customers can also use these low- to no-cost tips to save energy this season:

- Reduce your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting. The closer you match your thermostat to outdoor temps, the lower you can make your bill. Even a couple degrees makes it easier on your heating systems and your wallet.
- Change your air filter and schedule regular maintenance for your heating systems. Maintaining your heating systems can help increase efficiency.
- Leave drapes or blinds open during sunny winter days to allow the sun's rays to warm the house and close them at night to help insulate your home.
- Seal cracks in windows, doors and vents with caulking and weatherstripping to save 10% to 20% in heating costs.
- Operate ceiling fans in a clockwise direction in the winter, which pushes warm air back down into the room. (Most fans have a switch that allows you to reverse the motor.) While fans move air and make people more comfortable, they do not provide heat, so remember to turn the fan off when you leave the room.
- Manage water heating. Set your water heater to 120 degrees or less. Water heating is typically the second biggest user of energy in your home.
- Replace standard bulbs with LEDs. LEDs are more efficient than regular bulbs, while giving off the same amount of light. Replacing just six of your most frequently used bulbs with LEDs can save up to \$480 over the lifetime of the bulbs.

Visit Duke Energy's Winter Energy Savings webpage for more information: [duke-energy.com/Seasonal Savings](http://duke-energy.com/SeasonalSavings).

Noblesville Lions Induct New Members



Photo courtesy Noblesville Lions

On Dec 11, the Noblesville Lions Club was excited to induct seven new members at the club's holiday party. Lion Walt Scheid, Membership Chairman, has been instrumental in moving the club forward with the club's membership. Pictured are new members include Tina Willis, Lisa Rohe, Jeanne Auffrey, Lisa Dick, Jeff Dick, Greg Clouse and Ron Sinicki, along with their sponsors Lions John Einsfeld, Steve Shaw, Julia Kozicki, Jeff Kozicki, Mark Bachar and Walt Scheid

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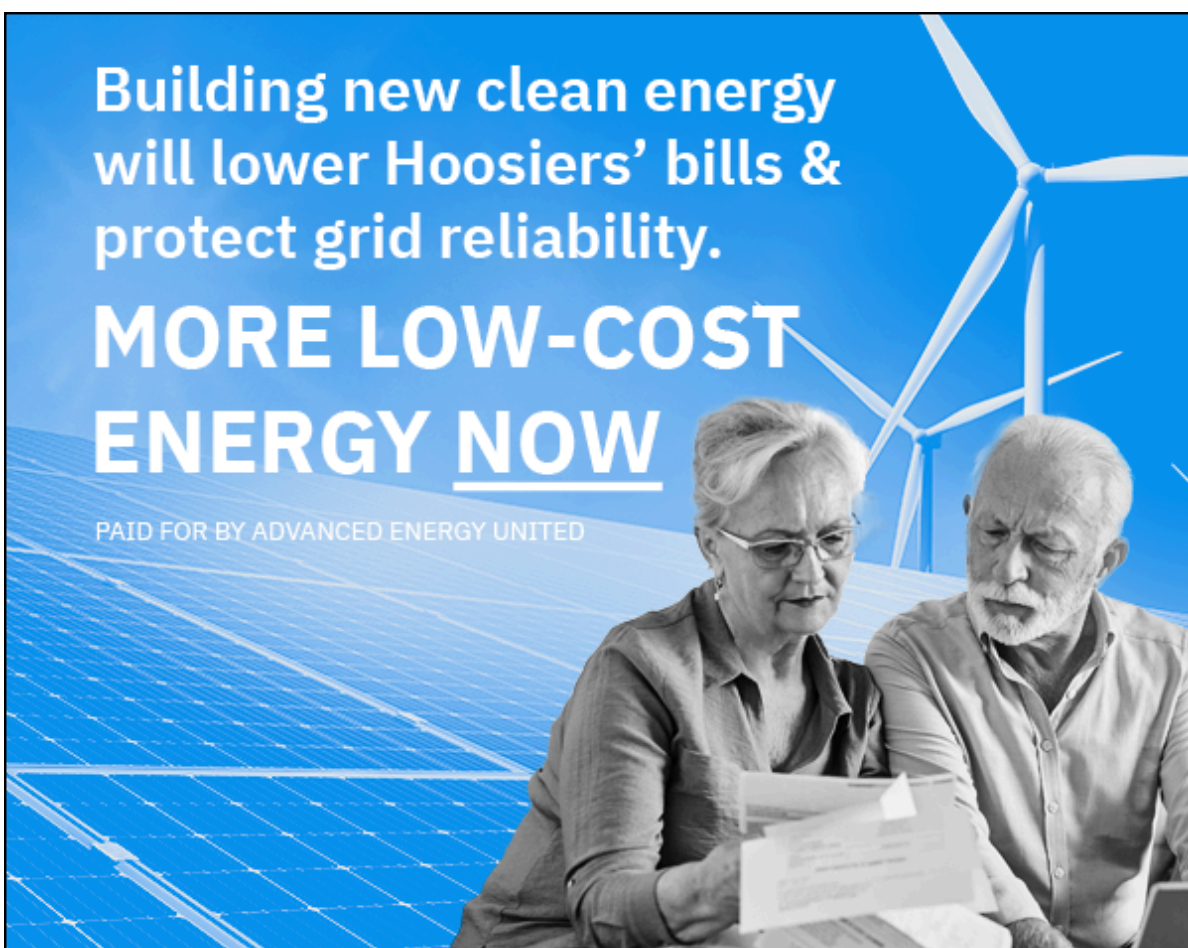
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Braun Names Captain Anthony Scott to Replace Retiring Doug Carter

Indiana State Police Captain Anthony Scott will take over as the Superintendent of the Indiana State Police when Hamilton County's Doug Carter retires. Scott brings nearly three decades of Indiana State Police experience to the job, currently serving as captain and area commander responsible for enforcement and investigative operations across multiple state police districts.

Carter, the former two-term sheriff in Hamilton County, was named to head the State Police by then Gov. Mike Pence in 2013. Carter is the longest-serving ISP Superintendent in history.

"Captain Scott's extensive experience at every level of the Indiana State Police uniquely qualifies him to lead our state's law enforcement agency," said Governor-elect Mike Braun. "His proven track record of success, commitment to

community partnerships, and focus on both public safety and operational efficiency align perfectly with our vision for a safer Indiana."

Scott, a 2019 graduate of the FBI National Academy, started serving the Indiana State Police in 1996 as a state trooper. He continued to rise up the ranks serving in various roles including detective, district investigative commander, lieutenant and captain.

Scott also has a demonstrated history of leading security operations for major events across Indiana and the Midwest. He previously served as the special events supervisor for presidential and dignitary visits, the Indianapolis 500, the Brickyard 400 and the Indianapolis Grand Prix. He also deployed to Cleveland in 2016 and



Indiana State Police Superintendent Doug Carter

Milwaukee in 2024 to assist with security for the 2016 and 2024 Republican National Conventions as a member of the command team.

"I have been honored to serve the Indiana State Police over the past three decades and am humbled to answer Governor-elect Braun's request to lead these dedicated men and women in law enforcement," said Scott. "The Indiana State Police will continue to protect and serve all Hoosiers with a clearly defined mission focused on quality of life and



Indiana State Police Captain Anthony Scott

crime prevention while promoting the values of courage, commitment, and character to encourage both personal and professional growth within our ranks."

A Greensburg resident, Scott holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Cumberland College, where he graduated with honors. He previously served as a board member on the Greensburg Community Schools Safety Committee and as a Greensburg Jr. High School Girls Basketball coach.

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