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TODAY'S VERSE

John 14:19 "Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live." (ESV)

Hamilton Happenings

Legendary comedy icon Jeff Foxworthy will be the special guest for the inaugural Hamilton Southeastern Education Foundation Legacy Celebration event, presented by CSO Architects, at the Fishers Event Center on Friday, Feb. 21, 2025. Jeff is one of the most respected and successful comedians in the country. All proceeds from the event help support HSEF programs including innovative teacher grants, student scholarships, mental health, and student wellness initiatives across all grade levels in Hamilton Southeastern Schools.

Three Things You Should Know

1 The annual DNR Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology photo contest has started, with a deadline of April 4. Open to photographers of any age and skill level, the contest has been held since 2005 to promote Indiana's historic resources. All structures in photo entries must be at least 50 years old and in Indiana but don't have to be fully restored. For complete rules and guidelines and for the required entry form, see on.IN.gov/preservation-month.

2 Throughout history, America has been shaped by individuals whose impact extends beyond their personal achievements. Paperbell.com, a coaching software company, recently conducted a nationwide poll of 3,000 respondents to identify America's most inspirational historical mentors - those who have transcended their time and place to leave an enduring legacy in education and personal growth and three Hoosiers made the list. Philanthropist Madam C.J. Walker came in at No. 54, industrialist and inventor Elwood Haynes was 25th and James Whitcomb Riley finished in the top 150. The top three were Martin Luther King, Helen Keller and Amelia Earhart.

3 They found baby Nibi on the side of a road but her rescuers couldn't find her parents and so they wanted to keep her and raise as their own. It took a while but finally, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey intervened and ruled that the Newhouse Wildlife Rescues could take charge of the two-year-old baby beaver, noting that "Nibi has captured the hearts of many of our residents, mine included and we're excited to share that we have issued a permit for Nibi to remain in Newhouse's care, continuing to educate the public about this important species."

The **TIMES**

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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MUSIC & MEMORIES

Noblesville Favorite Son Steve Wariner in Concert

By Tim Timmons
ttimmons@thetimes24-7.com

Steve Wariner is coming home.

The Grammy award winning, Hall of Fame country & western superstar from Noblesville will be featured in An Intimate Evening with Steve Wariner at The Palladium in Carmel on Friday, Feb. 21.

Wariner, who grew up in Noblesville and attended high school here, grew up playing music in and around the city. He's certainly no stranger to Indiana venues either, having headlined at the Indiana State Fair as well as performing there with Kenny Rogers and Loretta Lynn. He's played plenty of other places in the state,

➔ See STEVE Page A5



The country & western superstar has a long list of Grammys, awards and honors, including induction in multiple Halls of Fame.



Photos courtesy Press Assets

Steve Wariner will be playing at the Center for Performing Arts in Carmel Feb. 21. Tickets are expected to sell quickly.

WANT To Go:

An Intimate Evening With Steve Wariner takes place at the Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel. Tickets start at \$35 and go up to \$75. The 1,500-seat Palladium Concert Hall will likely sell out so those planning to go should purchase tickets soon. To get tickets online, go to <https://thecenterpresents.org/tickets-events/events/2425/centerpresents/steve-wariner/>

AWARDS & HONORS

GRAMMY AWARDS (National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences)

2010-Best Country Instrumental Performance

"Producer's Medley" from Steve Wariner, c.g.p., My Tribute to Chet Atkins

2009-Best Country Instrumental Performance

"Cluster Pluck" from Play (Brad Paisley)

Brad Paisley, James Burton, Vince Gill, John Jorgenson, Albert Lee, Brent Mason, Redd Volkaert and Steve Wariner

➔ See AWARDS Page A5

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Got an injury? RICE it – Rest, Ice, and if possible Compression (wrap) and Elevate the injured body part.

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



TODAY'S QUOTE

"There is not a liberal America and a conservative America – there is the United States of America."
Barack Obama

HONEST HOOSIER

Who turned off the heater? I get it, it's January in Indiana. But hey, only 55 days to spring!



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

TODAY'S JOKE

Why should you never trust an atom? They make up everything!



Boomer Bits



Ask Rusty – About Investing Social Security Money in the Stock Market



ASK Rusty
Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty:
For most folks collecting Social Security, you get back what you put in within 3-5 years, so for those that scream - "SS is not an entitlement, it is my money"- that is not entirely accurate beyond 3-5 years. For me personally 4.4 years is the number. But had I been able to invest that money over the 43 years I worked at a modest 6% interest, I expect the amount would have been a lot more. And of course, the stock market averaged 9.5% over that time. Perhaps Social Security should invest in the stock market instead of U.S. Government treasury bonds.

Signed: Interested Observer

Dear Observer:

You bring up a point we frequently hear – that if, instead of paying into Social Security, I had invested the same money in the stock market I would have gotten more. That, of course, might be the case if you had the unwavering discipline to religiously invest the equivalent amount in the market, avoiding the temptation to use that investment for any other reason. And life is full of good reasons – financial emergencies, for example, or the simple temptation to buy something desperately needed, or just occasionally skipping a month to pay bills. Also, the stock market is notoriously volatile, which can create substantial angst for investors who are faint of heart. The fact is that Social Security provides guaranteed financial growth from the age of eligibility (normally 62), up to age 70 when the maximum benefit is attained. Benefits claimed at one's full retirement age are about 24% - 32% more than if taken at age 62 (depending on full retirement age), and benefits taken at age 70 are about 75% more than benefits taken at age 62. And that is guaranteed growth for those with the patience to wait longer to claim.

➔ See RUSTY Page A3

The Times of Noblesville presents...

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March 18 - 24, 2025



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Please refer to booking #1232517

Jesus Gets Angry: You Become a Billboard



BONNIE ZICKGRAF
Learning the Journey

Let's pretend you just spent \$30,000 of your hard-earned money to remodel your house. Old walls were taken down, new ones put up. New flooring, new paint, new furniture, new decorations, new everything. Your new "man cave" or "she shed" is finally completed and it's your own little, tiny piece of Heaven. It's perfect! And the construction crew even got everything done a week before your scheduled dream vacation. Life just couldn't be better.

Then cousin Eddie shows up (yes, like the character in *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*) TWO days before you are due to leave on the perfect cruise. You can't turn him away; after all, he's your cousin. Eddie assures you everything will be just fine until after you get back ten days from now and he's happy to watch your house while you are gone.

Except that while you're away, Eddie in his "helpfulness" and "because you were so kind," decides to move the new furniture around, surprise you with even better paint color on the walls and adds new wall-to-wall orange and green shag carpeting to match. He tops off his new creation with lavender decorations he bought including the new pet snake in the aquarium tank!

You return home to find your little piece of Heaven gone—demolished, ruined, destroyed! How could Eddie do such a thing? He told you he would take care of your ... oh my, what about the \$30,000!? Home insurance doesn't cover "cousin Eddies."

How would you feel? Would you feel sick? Numb? In shock? Sad? Sorrowful? Angry?

Furious? Would you toss Eddie out of your house? Would you end all relationship and contact with your cousin?

I think this is how Jesus must have felt with the merchants and moneychangers in the Jerusalem Temple, don't you? You might recall the story in Matthew 21:12.

"Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out all the people buying and selling animals for sacrifice. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves."

Similar to you trusting cousin Eddie, Jesus trusted that the Temple would be a House of Prayer to honor God, but instead, what did He find? Not a house of worship; not a sacred house of God. He returned to find a den of thieves, a "flea market", so-to-speak. People claimed to be spiritual, but were corrupt, price-gouging wheelers-and-dealers. There was no spirituality, no sacredness, no honor to God. No wonder tables got tossed! Jesus was furious, just like you were at cousin Eddie, right?

The result of cousin Eddie's transgression only cost \$30,000. **How much did it cost to desecrate God? (in the temple back then... or in our hearts today?)**

Like the fig tree that could no longer bear fruit, this Temple could no longer bear fruit. "A good tree can't produce bad fruit and a bad tree can't produce good fruit." (Luke 6:43)

So, the Temple got moved!

"Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So, you must honor God with your

body." (1 Cor 6: 19-20)

This is supported in two additional passages—1 Cor 3:16, "Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?" and in Romans 8: 11, "The Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you." (Oh, my!)

We are God's walking, talking billboards! His Marketing Directors.

Yet we are imperfect humans. We can ask for forgiveness of our shortcomings as we humbly and frequently do during worship. (Thank you, all church leaders!)

Asking forgiveness is part of the Lord's Prayer, but have we ever had a long conversation with God to show us the transgressions within us that we cannot see? The money-changers were doing what was culturally accepted before Jesus came along. So... what to do now?

As Christians, we should constantly self-assess for spiritual improvement and moving closer to God, honoring Him as Jesus taught. We are the "... light of the world..." (Matt 5:14) so others may come to know and love God by the Heavenly Father and through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

All His divine love now radiates through us, if we foster the flame with God's help and let it shine! We are God's earthly advertisements.

Accept this humble and glorious assignment. The rewards are fantastic! And I am happy to talk with you about it!

Bonnie Zickgraf is a retired pastor, author, columnist for The Times and an RN in mental health nursing and health plan accreditations. Send comments and prayer requests to bonnie.zickgraf@gmail.com.

Avian Flu Detected in County

Public health risk is low; extra precautions encouraged if interacting with waterfowl

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources confirmed highly pathogenic avian influenza as the cause of death in waterfowl in Gibson County in December and suspects HPAI as the cause of waterfowl deaths in Hamilton County, as well as Allen, Benton, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Pike, Porter, Starke, Tippecanoe and Vermillion counties over the last six weeks.

The recent positive detections of HPAI H5 are part of 98 positive detections across the state in waterfowl since 2022. DNR began this testing in waterfowl and raptors in 2022 and increased testing in hunter harvested waterfowl with assistance from the U.S Department of Agriculture. With this increased testing, additional detections of HPAI are to be expected.

Most waterfowl species affected are snow geese and Canada geese, but Indiana DNR has also noted deaths in mute swans, tundra swans, mallards, American white pelicans, common goldeneyes, and double crested cormorants.

If you find wild waterfowl that are

dead for no obvious reason, or showing any of the following signs, report it online at on.IN.gov/sickwildlife.

Signs of HPAI in waterfowl include:

- Sudden death
- Neurological impairment (e.g., lack of coordination, swimming in circles, tremors, twisted neck)
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Swelling of the head, neck, and eyes
- Nasal discharge, cough, sneezing, lack of coordination, and diarrhea.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommends that waterfowl hunters wear protective clothing such as face masks and gloves to process birds, and to process birds in a well-ventilated area or outdoors. Meat harvested from waterfowl should be cooked to an internal temperature of 165°F before consumption.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the public health risk for HPAI is low. However, it is possible for humans to contract HPAI. Members of the public should avoid contact with sick waterfowl and other

sick wildlife whenever possible. If a carcass must be handled, wear disposable gloves and a mask, and wash hands with soap and water immediately afterward.

Please contact your healthcare provider if you come into contact with waterfowl and develop flu-like symptoms, including fever, chills, cough, sore throat with or without conjunctivitis within 10 days of exposure.

Some domestic and agricultural animals are also known to be susceptible to HPAI, including poultry, cattle, and cats. If you have these animals at home, be sure to process any harvested waterfowl away from your animals and practice good biosecurity measures.

For more information on HPAI, visit on.IN.gov/avian-flu

If you see any of your poultry acting sick or find any dead, please report it to the Board of Animal Health at IN.gov/boah/species-information/avianbirds/small-flock-and-exhibition-poultry/sick-and-or-dead-poultry-questionnaire/.

CASEY WILLIAMS

Nobody but noooooobody gives you a better inside scoop on new cars than Casey Williams. Each week Casey puts you behind the wheel and gives you the lowdown on the latest out of Detroit, or other places! If you drive a car, this is a must read!

Catch Casey every Monday in the Times!

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

The 2025 Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball Season begins April 14, 2025 and ends on June 17, 2025.

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

Both 13-15 League and 16-18 League will begin play on April 14, 2025. A double-elimination tournament will be played June 8-17, 2025.
** Note: Dates subject to change due to weather or unforeseen circumstances.*

Registration Fee: 2025 Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball registration fee is \$199 (plus processing fee applied at checkout) and includes team jersey, hat, and 2 tickets to the Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball League Pancake Breakfast/Picture Day scheduled for April 26, 2025 from 8 am-11 am at the Forest Park Inn.

Team/Player photos will be taken at the Pancake Breakfast. Additional tickets for the League Pancake Breakfast will be available at the door for \$5 each.

Player Evaluations: 13-15 year old players new to Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball or 13-15 year old players wishing to re-enter the team draft need to attend the player evaluation session scheduled for March 16, 2025 from 2 pm-4 pm at Noblesville High School.

Register today at:

noblesvillebaberuthbaseball.sportsengine-prelive.com

Thank You For Reading The Times

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Pursuant to IC 5-3-1-2(b) Notice is hereby given that the Hamilton County Council of Hamilton County, Indiana will meet Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at their regular meeting place of One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana. The regular meeting of the Hamilton County Council will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Courtroom. The Hamilton County Council will meet in a work session prior to their regular meeting in Conference room 1A. The Purpose of this work session is for discussion of how to finance upcoming major projects.
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Boomer Bits



Is Your Identity Safe? What To Do If It's Not

(NAPSI)—Identity theft is becoming more common, affecting people from all walks of life—but you can protect yourself.

The Problem

Scammers are always finding new ways to steal personal information, often leaving their victims with financial losses and a sense of violation.

An Answer

Staying informed can make a big difference in keeping yourself safe. Here's what you should know:

How Identity Theft Happens

Most identity theft happens online. Often when someone clicks links from text messages, emails, or even is catfished. The link you click could lead you to a fake website to input credentials or have you install an app that can retrieve your passwords to important accounts.

Identity Theft Scams on the Rise

• **Synthetic Identity Theft:** With synthetic identity theft, scammers mix real and fake information to create a new, false identity. They might use a real Social Security number alongside made-up details. This lets them open bank accounts, get credit cards, or even apply for loans—using a fake identity that feels all too real.

• Medical Identity Theft:

Medical identity theft happens when someone uses your personal medical information to access healthcare services, prescription drugs, or medical devices. This can leave you with unexpected medical bills or inaccurate records, which can complicate future treatments. It's a frustrating situation, but knowing what to look for can help.

• Account Takeover Fraud:

In account takeover fraud, scammers take control of your online accounts, such as banking, email, or social media. This often happens through phishing emails, weak passwords, or data breaches. Once inside, they can drain your funds or steal even more personal details. It's scary, but there are ways to protect yourself.

• Deepfake and AI-driven Identity Theft:

As technology advances, criminals use tools such as artificial intelligence (AI) to create deepfakes—fake videos or voices that look and sound just like real people. They can use these to trick others into believing they are someone else. It's a high-tech problem, but you don't need to be a tech expert to fight back.

Ways to Protect Yourself

No solution is foolproof, but there are 7 steps you can take to protect

yourself and lower the chances of becoming a victim:

1. Use a Caller ID & Scam Blocking app:

The Truecaller app helps identify unknown calls and messages, and will even identify scam numbers in real time. People around the world actively report numbers as scams and write comments about their experience, and you can see statistics about scammers' call patterns.

2. Use Strong and Unique Passwords:

Use passwords that are tough to crack—mix letters, numbers, and symbols. Avoid reusing passwords across accounts. A password manager can be a handy tool to create and store them safely.

3. Enable Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA):

MFA adds an extra layer of security to your accounts. After entering your password, you'll need to verify your identity again, like with a code sent to your phone. It's like adding a second lock on your door, making it harder for scammers to break in.

4. Monitor Your Credit Regularly:

Keep an eye on your credit reports for anything unusual, such as new accounts you didn't open. It's one of the quickest ways to spot identity theft early.

Many places offer free credit monitoring services, so take advantage of them.

5. Consider Identity Theft Protection Services:

Some services can keep an eye on your personal information and alert you if they spot something suspicious. While they can't prevent identity theft, they can make the recovery process smoother if it happens to you.

6. Secure Your Devices:

Keep your phone, computer, and other devices updated with the latest security patches. Use antivirus software and strong passwords to keep hackers out. It's a simple habit that can go a long way.

7. Shred Important Documents:

Even in today's digital age, physical paperwork can still be a goldmine for thieves. Shred any documents with personal information—bank statements or medical bills—before you toss them out. Staying informed about the latest scams and being careful with your information can make a big difference. And if you do become a victim, don't panic. Report it to the authorities or your credit bureau right away. They can help you limit the damage and start the recovery process. Learn More For further facts and tips, visit www.truecaller.com

↓ RUSTY From Page A1

You may recall that the idea of investing Social Security reserves in the stock market has been floated a few times in previous years, but accompanying risks made Congress essentially unwilling to even entertain the idea. It has always been a political “hot potato” and those who suggest it are usually castigated for wanting to “give SS money to Wall Street,” so I expect it is unlikely to happen. Guess we'll need to be satisfied with the interest on those Special Issue Government Bonds (which, by the way, returned about \$67 billion to the Social Security Trust Fund in 2023). FYI, average interest rate for new deposits to the Trust Fund in 2023 was 4.1%, and the overall effective rate of return on all Trust Fund assets was 2.4%.

Social Security has some issues and will face some financial difficulty in less than a decade unless Congress enacts

program reform soon. But it is a program which most seniors rely on for a major part of their retirement income and one which keeps over 22 million Americans out of poverty. Here at the AMAC Foundation, we strongly advocate for sensible Social Security reform and we're very optimistic about the program's future. But Congress needs to act soon to avoid a cut to everyone's Social Security amount in about 2033.

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.

Keeping Your Home Safe This Winter

(NAPSI)—While the winter season brings many joyful moments, it can also bring increased safety risks—but you can protect yourself, your home and your family.

Who Can Help?

Volunteer fire departments across the country are raising awareness of seasonal hazards to protect residents and keep families safe. “Firefighters are there to protect their neighbors when emergencies arise, but they also work hard to prevent emergencies from happening in the first place,” said Steve Hirsh, Chair of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), the national association for the volunteer fire service. Holidays, cold weather, and winter storms all bring their own fire hazards. In fact, the National Fire Protection Association reports more home fires occur in winter than any other season.

Fortunately, there are simple steps everyone can take to reduce the risks and keep their homes safe.

What You Can Do

The NVFC recommends

the following 10 tips to minimize home fire and safety risks this winter.

- Stay alert when cooking. Do not leave the kitchen when frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food, and keep kids at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- If using a live Christmas tree, keep it adequately watered and get rid of it after Christmas or when it gets dry.
- Consider using battery-operated flameless candles. If using real candles, do not leave them unattended, and keep them out of reach of children and pets.
- Place fire extinguishers in the kitchen, garage, and living room, and make sure all household members know how to use them.
- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home. Test them monthly to ensure they work.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms and test them at least once a month.
- Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it with the entire family.
- Keep portable

generators outside and away from the home.

- Practice fireplace safety. Have chimneys professionally inspected and cleaned every year, install a screen in front of each fireplace or wood stove, and store cooled ashes in a metal container outside the home.
- Do not leave space heaters on unattended and keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from it.

How to Help Others

In addition to keeping their own homes safe, residents can take an active role in protecting their neighbors from fires, medical emergencies, natural disasters, and more. Many fire departments are looking for volunteers to step up and serve their communities.

“About two-thirds of our nations' firefighters are volunteers, neighbors helping neighbors in their hour of need,” said Hirsch. “There are few volunteer opportunities that are as rewarding as the fire service. I encourage all those who want to make a true impact in their communities, learn life-saving skills, and join an incredible network of

people to consider volunteering with their local fire department.”

The volunteer fire service offers roles for all ages, backgrounds, and interests, and training is provided by the department. Firefighters and emergency medical personnel provide life-saving services. Auxiliary or support members assist with the non-operational needs of the department, such as fire prevention and life safety education, disaster preparedness planning, fundraising, administration, and much more. Young people can participate as junior firefighters, learning about the fire service while gaining important life skills such as teamwork, responsibility, and leadership.

“Whether you are interested in becoming an emergency responder, support member, or junior firefighter, there is a place for you in the volunteer fire service,” Hirsch said.

Learn more For more about the volunteer fire service and to find an opportunity visit www.MakeMeAFirefighter.com.

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Add 'Big Man U' to Purdue's Cradle of Quarterbacks Moniker



KENNY THOMPSON shouldn't the Columnist Boilermakers' basketball program be referred to as Big Man U.?

The latest in a long line of talented centers in the Matt Painter era was honored on Monday as the Naismith Men's College Basketball Player of the Week and Big Ten Player of the Week.

Junior Trey Kaufman-Renn was dominant in victories last week at Washington and No. 13 Oregon, averaging 21 points, 8.5 rebounds and 2 assists per game. The former Gatorade Indiana Player of the Year padded that scoring average by going 12 of 16 from the free throw line. That facet of the game has been a glaring weakness for Kaufman-Renn this season.

Taking over for two-time National Player of the Year Zach Edey as Purdue's inside scoring threat, Kaufman-Renn is building All-Big Ten credentials. He is averaging 17.9 points, 6.5 rebounds and 2.5 assists while shooting 59 percent from the field.

While Edey is obviously the No. 1 center not just in the Painter era but Purdue history, there's several reasons why the Boilermakers own a reputation of developing big men in a time when the 3-point shot and positionless basketball has been the trend.

Let's start with a sometimes forgotten big man who straddled the end of Gene Keady's 25 years at Purdue and who got Painter off to a good start as head coach.

Carl Landry Cut from his Milwaukee high school team as a freshman and seldom used on varsity as a junior or senior, the 6-9 future NBA player became a junior college All-American at Vincennes.

The polite young Landry would become Keady's last big-time recruit. Landry led the Big Ten at 18.2 points per game as a junior despite missing the final three games of the 2004-05 season with a torn ACL in his right knee.

Landry played just five games under Painter the following season before reinjuring the knee. Granted a medical redshirt, Landry averaged nearly 19 points a game and earned first-team All-Big Ten honors while leading Purdue back to the NCAA tournament.

JaJuan Johnson The 6-11 center from Franklin Central came to Purdue at 195 pounds and left as a Big Ten heavyweight.

Johnson became Purdue's first consensus All-American in 2011, the first Boilermaker since Glenn Robinson in 1994 to do so. Johnson became the first Purdue player to win the Pete Newell National Big Man Award.

Johnson was named the Big Ten's Player of the Year as a senior, as well as Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year after averaging 20.5 points, 8.6 rebounds and 2.3 blocks. Purdue went 107-33 in his four seasons.

Johnson was a first-round draft pick by the New Jersey Nets in 2011 but was traded to the Boston Celtics.

A.J. Hammons

The one-time Carmel center began Purdue's run of having at least one 7-footer on the roster in 2012-13.

Hammons was the Big Ten's Defensive Player of the Year and earned first-team All-Big Ten honors as a senior. Hammons averaged 15 points, 8.2 rebounds and 2.6 blocks. Upon completing his eligibility, Hammons joined Purdue All-American Joe Barry Carroll as the only players in Big Ten history with at least 1,500 points, 900 rebounds and 340 blocked shots.

Hammons may be one of the most underrated Boilermakers ever, having finished 17th in career points (1,593), third in rebounds (930) and second in blocked shots (343). He led the Big Ten in blocked shots for three consecutive seasons, missing a fourth season at the top by two to Iowa's Jarrod Uthoff.

Isaac Haas

The 7-2, 300-pound Haas chose Purdue after originally committing to Wake Forest because of the staff's ability to develop big men.

Haas had to play himself into shape but was ready as a junior following two seasons behind Hammons. Haas earned honorable mention All-Big Ten honors as a junior after averaging 12.6 points and 5.7 rebounds.

As a senior, Haas eclipsed 1,000 career points and was selected third-team All-Big Ten.

Matt Haarms

The lean 7-3 Haarms came to the United States from Amsterdam via Sunrise Christian in Bel Aire, Kansas. His 79 blocked shots in 2017-18 were the second-most ever by a Purdue freshman. Haarms' sophomore season was highlighted by his last-second shot to defeat Indiana in Assembly Hall. Only one other player in Big Ten history matched Haarms' feat in 2020 of leading the league in field goal percentage and blocked shots in the same



Photo courtesy Purdue Athletics

Trey Kaufman-Renn

season. Haarms finished his collegiate career as a graduate transfer with BYU, opening the door to immediate playing time for a freshman from Toronto.

Trevion Williams

Once he got his weight under control, the 6-10 Williams became a key player for the 2019 Elite Eight squad.

As a sophomore, Williams' 36-point, 20-rebound performance in a double-overtime loss at Michigan made him the first Boilermaker since 1971 to post a 35-20 game.

Williams was the first-team All-Big Ten center in 2021 and earned honorable mention All-America honors from The Associated Press. Williams was a finalist for the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Award after averaging 15.5 points, 9.1 rebounds and 2.3 assists.

Stepping aside in the starting lineup to make way for Edey, instead of pouting Williams became the Big Ten's Sixth Man of the Year in 2022 after averaging 12 points and 7.4 rebounds. Surprisingly, Williams led Purdue in assists with 112.

Zach Edey

Haarms' departure to BYU worked out for Purdue as Edey flashed signs of what was to come as a freshman during the 2020-21 season. The tallest player in Purdue history (7-4) debuted with a team-high 19 points against Liberty in the Space Coast Challenge and followed up by leading the Boilermakers with 17 points in a loss to Clemson the following day.

Edey is arguably the most decorated player in Purdue history. His numerous honors include a pair of National Player of the Year awards, two Big Ten Player of the Year citations, two Big Ten Athlete of the Year awards, two Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Awards and is Purdue's all-time scoring (2,516) and rebounding (1,321) leader.

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.

Where's Chuck? Getting Ready to Retire

WTHR-TV Channel 13, the TEGNA-owned NBC affiliate in Indianapolis and the news-gathering partner of The Paper of Montgomery County and the Noblesville Times, recently shared that meteorologist, Chuck Lofton, whose 40-year career at the station has made a lasting impact on the central Indiana community, is going to retire in June. Lofton joined WTHR-TV with the launch of 13 Sunrise in 1985, bringing with him a passion for weather and a commitment to delivering accurate forecasts to viewers. Over the decades, he has become a household name and a trusted voice in central Indiana, known for his engaging personality, insightful analysis and dedication to public service.

"Chuck has been an integral part of WTHR and the Indianapolis community for decades, with a passion for keeping Hoosiers informed and prepared for Indiana weather." Michael Brouder, President and General Manager of WTHR-TV, said. "His dedication to serving viewers across this great state has set the standard for excellence in broadcasting. While we will miss him dearly, we celebrate his incredible career and the many lives he has touched."

Throughout his tenure, Lofton has covered everything from tornadoes, blizzards, and severe weather to the Great American Eclipse of 2017 and 2024 Total Solar Eclipse in Indianapolis. He has also been a fixture during WTHR's



Photo courtesy WTHR

Lofton calling it quits after 40 years.

coverage of marquee local events including the Indianapolis 500, Brickyard 400, Indianapolis Colts, Indiana Pacers, and Indy Fuel sporting events. Lofton has proudly emceed the city's annual "Circle of Lights" holiday event and has been the voice of the 500 Festival Parade in May.

Lofton is recognized throughout the U.S. with his beloved "Chuck's Big Adventure" series that sends him around the country, highlighting memorable trips and vacation spots for Hoosiers. In addition to his meteorological duties, Lofton is a frequent speaker at local churches, schools and civic organizations, including the American Heart Association, the Eiteljorg Museum, Overseas Council, Damar Services, Hope Healthcare Services, Noble Centers, and many more. Lofton has also served on several advisory boards including the Salvation Army and the National Weather Association.

Lofton has earned numerous regional Emmy® awards, Society of Professional

Journalists awards, and Associated Press awards. In 2022, he was inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences' Silver Circle recognizing Lofton for his 25+ years of distinguished service in the TV industry.

As Lofton prepares for retirement, he reflects on his time at WTHR with gratitude. "It has been an absolute honor to serve Indianapolis for 40 years. I am so thankful for the relationships and trust I've built to help Hoosiers get their mornings started for so many years. I am looking forward to spending some important quality time with my family and pursuing new adventures. I am so grateful though to have had such a wonderful job, working with so many wonderful people."

Lofton's final 13Sunrise broadcast is scheduled for early June of 2025. WTHR will invite viewers to join in a celebration of his remarkable career in the coming months.

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AWARDS From Page A1

2000-Best Country Instrumental Performance
"Bob's Breakdowns" from Ride with Bob
(Asleep at the Wheel) Steve Wariner and Asleep
at the Wheel

1992-Best Country Vocal Collaboration
"Restless" from Mark O'Connor & the New
Nashville Cats

Mark O'Connor, Steve Wariner, Ricky Skaggs
and Vince Gill

Steve has a total of 14 GRAMMY nominations.

AWARDS & HONORS

2022-Inducted into the Nashville Songwriters
Hall of Fame

2019-Inducted into the Musicians Hall Of Fame

2018-Country Radio Broadcasters Career
Achievement Award

2011-Induction into the Kentucky Music Hall of
Fame

2009-Inducted into National Thumbpickers Hall
of Fame

2008-Inducted into Music City Walk of Fame

2002-Minnie Pearl Humanitarian Award

2000-Country Weekly/TNN Fast Track Award

1999-Orville H. Gibson Guitar Award-Best Male
Country Guitarist

1997-Received official "c.g.p." (certified guitar
player) status from Chet Atkins, who surprised
him with a plaque and special recognition

1996-Country Weekly Instrumentalist of the
Year

1996-Becomes member of the Grand Ole Opry

1995-CMT Video of the Year for "Workin' Man
Blues" with Lee Roy Parnell and Diamond Rio

COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION (CMA) AWARDS

1998-Single of the Year and Song of the Year
"Holes in the Floor of Heaven"

1998-Single of the Year (Producer) "Holes in
the Floor of Heaven"

1998-Song of the Year "Holes in the Floor of
Heaven"

1991-Vocal Event of the Year "Restless" from
Mark O'Connor & the New Nashville Cats Mark
O'Connor, Steve Wariner, Ricky Skaggs and
Vince Gill

ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC (ACM) AWARDS

1999-Song of the Year "Holes in the Floor of
Heaven"

BMI Country Awards (total of 16--partial listing below)

Awards presented in honor of writing one of the
most-performed songs of the previous year.

2002- "Where the Blacktop Ends"
"Katie Wants a Fast One"

2001- "Been There"

2000- "Two Teardrops"
"I'm Already Taken"

1999- "Longneck Bottle"
"Nothin' But the Taillights"
"Holes in the Floor of Heaven"

BMI MILLION-AIR AWARDS-TOTAL OF 18

"Been There"
"Holes in the Floor of Heaven" (2 million)
"I Got Dreams" (2 million)
"I Should Be with You"
"I'm Already Taken"
"Longneck Bottle" (2 million)
"Nothin' But the Taillights" (4 million)
"Two Teardrops"
"Where Did I Go Wrong"
"Where the Blacktop Ends" (2million)
"You Can Dream of Me"

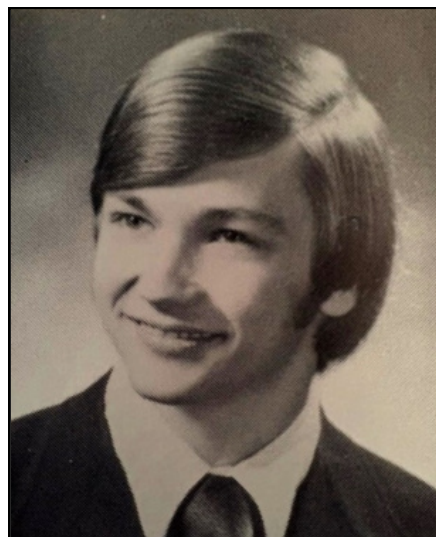
TNN/MUSIC CITY NEWS AWARDS

1998-Vocal Collaboration
"What If I Said"-duet with Anita Cochran

CHRISTIAN COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION AWARDS

1999-Video of the Year
"Holes in the Floor of Heaven"

STEVE From Page A1



Steve's senior picture from 1972
Shadow

including concerts
through country radio
stations like WFMS and
the former WIRE. But
this is the first time
he'll play a larger venue
right in the area where
he grew up.

"It's funny, coming
home is a little more
daunting thing than it
might seem like,"
Wariner told The Times
this week. "I know
there's a lot of
classmates and family
and friends. When you
play somewhere like
London or Cleveland,
you don't know anyone.
I played Noblesville
High School once. I've
done a few little things,
still kind of climbing up
then. At this stage of
my career, I guess the
twilight part of my
career, this is new . . .
coming home."

Wariner said he
performed a few
venues in northern
Indiana.

"It's been a while," he
laughed. "Mr. Petro
would not be happy
that I don't remember
the name of those
counties."

John Petro and Dave
Purvis were just a
couple of the teachers
Wariner recalled fondly
during the hour-long
interview.

That's the way the
interview with Wariner
goes - touching on the
concert, music, art and
memories of
Noblesville. Always,
fondly, Noblesville.

"I'm proud of my roots
and where I came
from," he explained.



Steve (first person on left in back row) and brother David (third from
right in back row) were part of the NHS Art Club in this photo from
the 1972 Shadow.

"My wife says, 'man,
you sure talk about
your childhood a lot.'
But growing up was
important to me.

"My mom and dad, and
this is a common story I
think around there; my
mom and dad were
from the same rural
area of Kentucky. They
settled around Indy; my
dad followed his
brothers for work."

Wariner said the family
moved around a lot.

"I look back at it now
and it made me who I
am," he explained. "I
was forced to be social.
Although it did set me
back in math," he
laughed.

"I revere those times.
Not to get dramatic,
but it was hard. There
were five kids, well six -
we lost a brother early
on - and Mom and Dad.
We came up pretty
hard. I always say to
politicians, you don't
know what it is to live
from Friday to Friday.
You wait for that
whistle to blow on
Friday and you take
that check and you go
to Kenley's to get
groceries. Coming up
hard you remember
that stuff."

Wariner remembers a
lot about Noblesville
from the '60s and early
'70s.

"I love looking at the
building where Beanie's
was (now occupied by
Rowland Printing on
9th Street). "My
Grandma worked at
Beanies (Cafeteria) and
lived in an apartment
above there. We'd go

up there and you could
see all over downtown.
I love all the historic
stuff. Down way on the
southside, we'd ride
our bikes over to the
old A&W root beer
stand.

"I just got really great
memories around the
old Noblesville," he
continued. "Riding
bikes to Fishers,
walking across the
railroad bridge that
went above White River
going to Forest Park.
We'd talk about what
we were going to do if a
train came," he
laughed. "Now parents
would never let their
kids do that."

Wariner's music career
basically started in
Noblesville. It's also
easy to see how that
blended with some of
his childhood
memories.

"My brother had a band
called the Summits," he
recalled. "I was playing
rock and roll with that
band (we played at the
Moose when it was up
on the square). I played
with him and then
played country with my
Dad's band. I was
playing music with my
Dad, he was helping Vic
(Zinn). They'd play at
the American Legion,
the VFW. Sometimes
there'd be a movie at
the Diana and I'd rather
be going to the movie.
(Friends) Roger Craft
and Rick Campbell
would go to the movies
and then come by and
I'd see those guys out
the window."

It was a long time ago,
and Wariner was just a
kid.

"At 12 years old, I knew
that's what I wanted to
do. We went to Jan
Eden's in Indianapolis
(Jan Eden Recording and
Sound Studio) and Dad
made a record. I
remember around that
time I just knew. I didn't
know how or what, but I
knew I wanted to do
that."

Wariner knows where the
road began, and knows
where it's leading.

"Really, I'm looking at this
as a homecoming for
me," Wariner said. "I
don't really tour much
anymore. I just kind of
cherry pick. I just don't
play much anymore. I do
more art sometimes.

"It's the traveling and
stuff that gets harder as
you get older," he
continued. "There's just
no way I could do what I
did back in the '80s,
traveling 200 days a year.
I understand where I am
in my career. I am
appreciative of what I
have had. I was lucky I've
had so many hits - 1979
was my first. Then the
'80s, '90s, 2000s . . . I am
lucky to have had such a
long run. I'm still active
with writing and
working."

And art is more than
music.

"I'm painting a lot. I've
got a studio (at his house
in Tennessee). I'm writing
(songs). I've got two or
three paintings and two
or three songs going all
the time. I'm either in one
studio or the other.

"What I say now, I just do
stuff that makes me
smile."

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