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TODAY'S VERSE

O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

Hamilton Happenings

We have free tickets to the Indiana Flower & Patio Show ready and waiting for YOU! All you have to do is take a selfie with you and our front page (print or online doesn't matter) and email it to news@thepaper24-7.com. If we publish your picture (and we will!), you win two to four free tickets - valued at \$15 each! The Show is one of the oldest flower shows in the U.S. and goes on March 15-23 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Don't pass up the chance for free tickets and a great day! Snap that selfie and email it to us today!

Three Things You Should Know

1 Indiana Newspapers are having a rally day at the Indiana Statehouse Wednesday and would love for you to come along. State lawmakers are trying to take legal notices out of newspapers and put them on a government website. Not only would that be like the fox guarding the henhouse, but it will cost taxpayers more than they are currently spending. It will also hurt, perhaps severely, some Hoosier newspapers. At 11 a.m. Wednesday, newspapers and supporters from all over Indiana are going to the Statehouse to show our opposition to the move. Newspapers are a part of Indiana history and an important part of an open government. The Founding Fathers thought so and put it in the First Amendment. We'd love it if you would help us preserve that!

2 Our friends at sleepjunkie.com commissioned a survey of 3,018 people to find out who spends the most time outdoors in the winter. Idahoans led the pack, averaging a hearty 3 hours and 57 minutes per week with Nebraskans lowest at a measly 1 hour and 18 minutes per week. For we Hoosiers, we averaged 2 hours 33 minutes per week in the natural light. Overall, the findings were eye-opening: those soaking in the brightest daylight hours had a 17 to 34 percent lower risk of dying early compared to those stuck in dim, shadowy routines. But it's not just about sunshine - it's about light itself, emerging as a surprising player in our health and longevity. Could our modern indoor lives be quietly costing us more than we realize?

3 The Indiana Department of Environmental Management has extended the application/nomination deadline 2025 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence. Applications or nominations are due by 11:59 p.m., Sunday. This marks the 32nd year the awards have been given to celebrate innovative projects with measurable environmental benefits. Nomination forms and instructions are available at idem.IN.gov/partnerships/governors-awards-for-environmental-excellence.

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Boomer Bits



Ask Rusty - Should I Wait until 70 to Claim Social Security?



ASK Rusty Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

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Dear Rusty:

I am a married woman, at my full retirement age, and the primary earner in my marriage. How do I know if I should take my Social Security now or wait till 70? I will lose quite a bit if I take it now. How will it affect my taxes if I take it now while still working a full-time job? Signed: Undecided

Dear Undecided:

As you apparently already know, waiting until you are 70 to claim Social Security will result in you getting your maximum possible monthly SS retirement benefit. After your full retirement age, you get about 8% more each year you delay claiming up to age 70. But deciding exactly when to claim should consider both your financial needs and, importantly, your life expectancy. If you don't urgently need the money now and your life expectancy is at least

"average," then waiting until age 70 to claim is usually the right choice. But if you urgently need the money, or your life expectancy is less than average (mid-80s for a woman your current age), then claiming before age 70 is usually prudent.

Regarding taxation, Social Security benefits may be taxable if your combined income from all sources exceeds the threshold for your IRS filing status. If you file taxes as "married/jointly" and your combined income (including your work income) exceeds \$32,000, then half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income. But if your combined income is over \$44,000, then up to 85% of your SS benefits becomes taxable income (the thresholds are lower

See RUSTY Page A3

Tips to Spring Clean Your Budget

(StatePoint) With flowers blooming and birds chirping, you may be in a spring-cleaning mindset. As you spruce up your home, you can also channel that energy into getting your finances in tip-top shape!

According to CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNING® professionals, here's how to clear away the cobwebs in your budget:

Sort expenditures: If you've ever sorted your clothes and other items into piles during a spring clean, this budgeting principle will be familiar to

See TIPS Page A3

Boomers Beware: Scammers Have A New Trick

Identity theft is an ever-evolving crime. As credit bureaus and individuals catch on to the schemes of identity thieves, the con artists simply modify their tactics. Scammers are now combining information from multiple individuals to invent a false identity, a technique called "synthetic" identity theft. It's so hard to detect, you might be a victim and not even know it. The Deloitte

See NEW Page A3

Sen. Baldwin Talks Property Tax Relief



SCOTT BALDWIN Guest Columnist

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Sen. Scott Baldwin is a decorated U.S. Marine veteran who now represents Noblesville, Carmel, Cicero and other areas of Hamilton County. He recently penned this article, updating his constituents on where the Indiana Senate is concerning the debate on property taxes.)

Recently, the Indiana Senate rolled out our property tax relief package, which contains historic growth-control measures and is projected to provide \$1.4 billion in property tax relief for Hoosiers over the next three years.

We understand the frustration voiced by many Hoosiers who are experiencing substantial year-over-year increases in their property tax bills, largely caused by inflationary increases in property assessed values. An important aspect when considering these types of tax cuts is that property taxes are set and used at the local level, so it is critical we find a balance that meets the needs of both the taxpayers and the budgets of schools and local governments.

As an author of Senate Bill 1, I believe the Senate Republican property tax relief package is offering a strong plan to provide property tax relief for all Hoosiers - especially homeowners - while maintaining a fair balance with the budget realities of local governments.

Noteworthy relief efforts featured in the current version of SB 1 include:

- Homeowners over 65 years old with an income under \$60,000 for single homeowners (or \$70,000 for joint filers) and in homes valued at less than \$300,000 receive an increased deduction amount. These income and value levels will be indexed to growth in the economy.

See TAX Page A3

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Are you a "shoveler?" - put down your fork in between bites of food and chew your food thoroughly.



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

TODAY'S QUOTE

"When Irish hearts are happy, all the world seems bright and gay. And when Irish eyes are smiling, sure, they steal your heart away." Bing Crosby

HONEST HOOSIER

Don't know about you, but I LOVE reading Paula Dunn each week and seeing where she takes us!



TODAY'S JOKE

Never iron a four-leaf clover. You don't want to press your luck!

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Keeping Notifications in Newspapers Benefits Public as Well as Journalism



KONRAD LAPRADE
Guest Columnist

Imagine this scenario: You awake one morning to see huge spaceships hovering over your neighborhood. In your front yard, someone from another planet is holding a clipboard as he gives orders to a demolition crew.

Demolition? Yes — his job is to demolish the Earth to make way for a galactic highway. (This scenario comes from one of my favorite novels, Douglas Adams' "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.")

Naturally, you protest. What right does he have to demolish your home? But before you can get far, he quickly shuts you down:

"There's no point in acting surprised about it. All the planning charts and demolition orders have been on display at your local planning department in Alpha Centauri for 50 of your Earth years, so you've had plenty of time to lodge any formal complaint and it's far too late to start making a fuss about it now . . . What do you mean you've never been to Alpha Centauri? Oh, for heaven's sake, mankind, it's only four light years away, you know. I'm sorry, but if you can't be bothered to take an interest in local affairs, that's your own lookout."

Seem far-fetched? In this country things just don't happen without due process, without alerting those who will be affected and asking for their input. And for the past 200 years, local newspapers have been the conduit used to alert the public.

But, if House Bill 1312 passes the Indiana Senate, governments, businesses and individuals will no longer be required to use newspapers to alert you about issues that can affect your life.

Instead, they'll be able to place public notices on a state-run website.

You may not have personally filed a public notice, but it plays a crucial role in due process and our democracy. Public notices ensure that citizens stay informed about government activities. In every state, taxpayers and residents must be legally notified — through newspaper announcements — about the actions of government entities and courts.

In Indiana this could include minutes of government meetings, annexations, delinquent payments, foreclosures, budget approvals and many other vital official matters of government entities.

So how does this work in practice?

Currently, when a government wants to do something such as annex land for a highway, it would contact its local newspaper and contract with it to produce a notice, just as any other advertisement. The newspaper creates the notice, provides proof that it was published and ensures that it ran far enough in advance to satisfy the legal requirement.

To be clear, we get paid for publishing these notices; they provide essential support for our industry. But this isn't just about the money. I'm writing this column because public notices protect your right to stay informed about your government's actions.

I believe there is significant power in the printed word. There is finality in having tens of thousands of copies of a notice go out to the community.

Do we really want a system where no independent third party oversees the legal process? Where public notices are confined to a single government website — one that could go down or be inaccessible in areas with limited internet access? Should we trust the government to report on its own activities without oversight?

In a country where due process and public input are vital to the health of democracy, it is crucial that we continue to ask government entities to employ newspapers to administer the public notice process.

Besides — who wants to travel four light years away to check up on things?

If you agree with me, I hope you will contact your local representatives and encourage them to vote "no" on this bill. If you have questions about this or anything else, feel free to contact me at klaprade@fortwayne.com.

Konrad LaPrade is president and CEO of Fort Wayne Newspapers, business agent of The Journal Gazette.

Elks Step Up Again!



Members of Noblesville Elks Lodge #576 recently met with Tami Wanninger, MPA Executive Director and Brittany Winebar LCSW, CYE-P Director of Advancement from Prevail. Members from the Elks presented a generous donation to Prevail totaling \$1,980. Prevail is one of many local organizations the Elks supports. A few include the Noblesville Boys & Girls Club, Shepherd Center, Feeding Team, Meals on Wheels, IU / PU Cancer Research and many others. Members pictured here are, from left, Ann Huber; Steve Vallier, Exalted Ruler; Treva Vallier, Activities Chair; Brittany Winebar, Prevail; Geoff Robinson, Past Indiana State President; and Carolyn Deines. Prevail uses these funds toward continuing their mission of strengthening survivors of crime and abuse.

Real Estate Prices on Rise, But Sales Steady

Noblesville and Hamilton County saw a steady residential real estate market in February, with homes selling at about the same pace as this time last year, despite continued price increases, according to F.C. Tucker Company, part of the Howard Hanna family of companies. In Noblesville in February:

- Noblesville homes remained on the market two days longer than this time last year, selling in 13 days on average.
- Closed home sales decreased 4.3 percent compared to February 2024.
- The median home sale price in Noblesville increased 10.8 percent to \$399,000, compared to February 2024. The price per square foot also increased 1.2 percent to \$166.

In Hamilton County in February:

- Available housing inventory increased 15.5 percent, with 73 more homes available for sale compared to this time last year.
- Homes in Hamilton County spent three days longer on the market compared to this time last year.
- Pended home sales decreased 1 percent compared to February 2024.

- The median home sale price in Hamilton County continued to increase, up 3.9 percent to \$426,000 — the highest median home sale price of all central Indiana counties.

Throughout central Indiana, homes for sale continued to increase. Tucker found that:

- Available housing inventory increased 17.9 percent compared to February 2024.
- Homes spent eight days, or 38.1 percent, longer on the market than this time last year.
- Pended home sales decreased 4.5 percent compared to this time last year.
- Compared to February 2024, the median home sale price for the 16-county central Indiana region decreased 6.8 percent to \$297,228.

"While the residential real estate market continues to be quieter in February, we're encouraged by the continued rise in inventory which will help moderate price increases," said Jim Litten, president of F.C. Tucker Company. "Mortgage rates have decreased slightly in the past month, and we expect that trend to continue, creating a more attractive market for buyers as we move into the spring and summer months."

Carmel Christkindlmarkt Wins Two Indiana Tourism Awards

Carmel Christkindlmarkt, Inc. won two awards — Best Event / Festival and Best Digital Marketing Campaign — from the Indiana Tourism Association. A panel of out-of-state judges awarded these recognitions to Carmel Christkindlmarkt based on outstanding metrics from the Market's 2024 season. These honors highlight the event's unparalleled event execution and digital marketing efforts, even in highly competitive categories with other top Indiana attractions like the Conner Prairie Headless Horseman Festival and Holiday World & Splashin' Safari.

"We are incredibly honored to have received these awards," said Maria Adele Rosenfeld, president and CEO of the Carmel Christkindlmarkt. "We could not have done it without our amazing team of staff, volunteers and other supporters. Thank you to everyone who made this recognition possible. We have come so very far since our humble beginnings in 2017!"

ITA presented both awards based on Carmel Christkindlmarkt's 2024 season. Opening day for the 2025 season is Nov. 22.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE THE HAMILTON COUNTY DRAINAGE BOARD IN THE MATTER OF Vestal/Kirkendall Drainage Area, Russell Shugart Arm Courtyards of Hazel Dell Offsite Arm Extension & Partial Vacation NOTICE

To Whom It May Concern and:
Notice is hereby given of the hearing of the Hamilton County Drainage Board concerning the reconstruction of the Vestal/Kirkendall Drainage Area, Russell Shugart Arm, Courtyards of Hazel Dell Offsite Arm Extension & Partial Vacation on March 24, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. in Commissioners Court, Hamilton County Judicial Center, One Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, Indiana. Construction and maintenance reports of the Surveyor and the Schedule of Assessments proposed by the Drainage Board have been filed and are available for public inspection in the office of the Hamilton County Surveyor.
Hamilton County Drainage Board
Attest: Lynette Mosbaugh
TL22360 3/14 11 hspaxlp

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↓ RUSTY From Page A1

for those who file as a single). So, your full-time work income will likely affect how much of your Social Security benefits are subject to income tax by the IRS.

In the end, only you can decide when you should claim Social Security. Taxation of benefits may be a factor to consider since you are still working full time (thus more of your SS benefits will be taxable). But waiting longer to claim results in a higher benefit for the rest of your life (your SS retirement benefit will be .667% more for each month you delay, up to age 70). If the "rest of your life" is a long time and you don't urgently need the money, waiting is often the right choice. If not, claiming earlier may be

wiser.

If you want to get a more personalized estimate of your life expectancy, I suggest you use the tool we use here at the AMAC Foundation: www.socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/.

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.

↓ TAX From Page A1

- Disabled veterans in homes valued at less than \$300,000 would also receive an increased deduction amount, with the home value level indexed.
- First-time homebuyers with less than \$75,000 of household income in a home assessed at less than \$250,000 will receive a credit such that they would pay little to no property tax on the dwelling for the first five years. The only exception is voter approved referendum.
- Local units' operating spending is flatlined for 2026 at the 2025 level. This will limit the total amount of money collected by local governments.
- Capital projects referendum debt will be subject to a one year cooling off period for renewal.

I believe these are wins for Hoosier taxpayers that will not create unintended difficulties by severely cutting local budgets. The original version of SB 1, which reflected a proposal from Gov. Braun, would have cut property taxes more, but it might actually lead to an unfavorable shift in taxes for ordinary Hoosiers.

The governor's plan would reduce local governments' ability to use property taxes to pay off debt for capital projects, bridge and road improvements, and sewer and utility

infrastructure projects. However, that debt would still need to be paid off somehow, so the only recourse for local governments would be to increase the local option income tax.

Large businesses and corporations pay local property taxes, but they do not pay the local option income tax. If local governments shift their tax burden from property taxes to the local option income tax, it would increase taxes on households and small businesses while reducing taxes on large businesses.

This tax shift could be substantial. The current local income tax rate for Hamilton County is 1.1%, but local officials are allowed to increase that rate to a maximum of 3.75%. If Hamilton County maxed out its local income tax rate, it would represent an almost 241% increase which would be roughly \$694 million.

SB 1 is still moving through the legislative process, meaning the language of the bill could change. No matter what, I am committed to passing meaningful legislation that will provide real property tax relief for all Hoosiers.

State Sen. Scott Baldwin (R-Noblesville) represents Senate District 20, which includes Noblesville, Carmel, Cicero and unincorporated areas of Hamilton County.

↓ TIPS From Page A1

you: Review your expenses and categorize them into needs, wants and expenditures you're ready to part with. Whether you do this on paper or electronically, use a color-coded system to visualize where your money is going.

Review your streaming services: Electronic subscription bloat is common, as is paying for forgotten subscriptions after free trials end. For example, you may be subscribed to several of the most common entertainment streaming services, such as Netflix, Max and Hulu. Do you really need all of them? Whether it's an online newsletter or a music streaming service, cancel unused subscriptions.

Avoid bank fees: Review your bank statements. Are you getting dinged with fees? Consider switching to a bank that doesn't charge an account maintenance fee. You can also set up notifications to avoid having your account get hit with an overdraft. If you do get charged, contact your bank to explain your situation — you may be able to have some fees waived.

Switch insurance

carriers: Periodically review your insurance rates, and shop the market to see if better rates are available for home, automotive and other forms of insurance.

Reduce debt: If your debt is costing you a pretty penny, it's time to act. A CFP® professional or credit counselor can help you craft a plan for consolidating debt into lower-rate credit card accounts, refinancing your mortgage and reducing your overall debt burden. You should also automate credit card payments (and other bills) to ensure you aren't paying late fees.

Pay yourself first: Earmark a portion of your budget to savings and investments each month. This will leave you with more money for your important goals and less for frivolous spending.

To work with a CFP® professional who can help you roll up your sleeves and get to work on cleaning up your finances, visit letsmakeaplan.org.

This spring, go beyond dusting the baseboards and mopping the floors. Refresh your finances for a fresh start to the season.

↓ NEW From Page A1

Center for Financial Services projects that synthetic identity theft fraud will generate at least \$23 billion in losses by 2030.

How the scam works

Scammers pull together a stolen social security or social Insurance number (often belonging to a minor or someone with no credit history), the address of an abandoned property, and a fake name and birth date. Using this information, the scammer applies for a credit card. Initially, they will be declined since they don't have a credit profile, but this creates a record of a "person" that doesn't actually exist.

Next, the scammer adds that "person" to one or more legitimate accounts. Over time, the scammer builds up a credit history. They may even make charges and payments over several years. until they can qualify for large lines of credit. Once they are approved for a high line of credit, they do what is called a "bust-out." The con artist charges their credit cards to the limit, pays nothing, discards the identity and disappears.

If your social security number has been used in synthetic identity theft, it will be difficult to detect. Negative credit reports will be tied to your social security number, but not your name, phone number and address. This means fraud alerts, credit monitoring and credit freezes won't stop the scammers or alert you to what is happening. However, unpaid debts left by the scammer can affect your ability to take out loans or credit. Also, jilted creditors will eventually track the debts back to the social security number and, ultimately, its real owner.


How to protect yourself from synthetic identity theft

- **Minimize your exposure.** Don't give out your social security number if it isn't absolutely necessary. When a business, medical office, or individual asks for this information, don't be afraid to ask them why they need it and how they will protect your personal information.
- **Protect your child's personal information.** A child's identity is appealing to scammers due to their clean, blank slate. See these BBB tips for more advice on protecting your child's identity.
- **Keep an eye on your communications.** Monitor any mail, phone calls, email, or other communications you receive. Be alert if something arrives out of the blue or doesn't make sense. If you receive any mail or phone calls regarding you or your child that seem like a red flag, follow up right away.

For more information You can find valuable information on spotting and avoiding identity theft of all kinds on the Federal Trade Commission website. Also, read BBB Tip: Identity Theft for more tips and advice.

If you know or suspect you or your child have been the victim of synthetic identity theft, visit the Federal Trade Commission's identity theft page to file a report with the FTC and create a personalized recovery plan. Also, report your experience on the BBB Scam Tracker to help increase consumer awareness about this serious crime.

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Looking for a part-time job that does not involve the words:

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The Noblesville Times is looking for clerical help. This could be the perfect job for part-time students all the way up to Baby Boomers looking for something to do.

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Thank you for reading *The Times!*

Braden Smith Deserved Top Honors; Painter Shows Frustration



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

Sometimes it feels good to be wrong.

When the Purdue men's basketball team wilted down the stretch, falling from first place to a share of fourth, I figured Big Ten Player of the Year honors would go to someone whose team finished ahead of the Boilermakers and not preseason favorite Braden Smith.

Credit the league coaches and media for getting it right Tuesday, when it was announced that Smith was a unanimous choice. The award allows Purdue to become the first Big Ten school to have three consecutive Player of the Year winners as voted upon by the coaches and media.

It would not be surprising if that achievement is extended to four in a row when Smith is a senior in 2025-26. Don't underestimate the chances of teammate and fellow first-team All-Big Ten selection Trey Kaufman-Renn to push Smith for the honor.

A good week for Smith continued on Wednesday when he earned first-team All-America honors from The Sporting News. The publication is one-fourth of the entities that comprise consensus All-America recognition. The National Association of Basketball Coaches, Associated Press and United States Basketball Writers Association will announce their All-America teams later this month.

Only Kansas has had as many first-team All-

Americans since the 2016-17 season. Smith joins Caleb Swanigan (2017), Jaden Ivey (2022) and Zach Edey (2023, 2024) on the list. Smith's award gives Purdue its seventh Big Ten Player of the Year winner since the honor was first presented in 1984. Smith is the first non-big man Boilermaker to win, following the footsteps of Stephen Scheffer in 1990, Glenn Robinson in 1994, JaJuan Johnson in 2011, Swanigan in 2017 and of course, two-time National Player of the Year Edey.

Junior guard Fletcher Loyer earned honorable mention status from the media. Senior center Caleb Furst was selected the team's Sportsmanship Award recipient.

A closer look at Smith's statistics reveals why this was an easy vote for the coaches and media. His scoring average increased from 12.0 as a sophomore to 16.3. Smith cruised past the previous Big Ten record for assists in conference play only with 175, 18 more than Michigan's Cassius Winston.

Smith also breezed past Bruce Parkinson's 48-year-old Purdue career assists record, handing out 717 in 105 career games.

Speaking of assists, only Big Ten legend Magic Johnson has also recorded 450 points, 250 assists, 125 rebounds and 60 steals in a season. Smith has now done it twice.

Not bad for a player ranked No. 198 out of Westfield High School whose only offers before Purdue came from Belmont, Appalachian State, Montana and Toledo according to 247 Sports.

Interviewed by the Big Ten Network's Rick Pizzo, Smith thanked coach Matt Painter for believing in him.

"I think having a coach that truly trusts in his players . . . he's never failed to me," Smith said. "He has always stuck with his word. Having somebody like that, it builds trust for me. He threw us in the fire at a very young age when a lot of people could have went other ways. He trusts us and we gained that trust. That's gotten me to where I'm at today."

Smith also gives Painter the assist for being more aggressive offensively.

"I get yelled at by 'Paint' all the time for not shooting," Smith said. "I think that's the biggest thing. I always want to include everybody and get them the ball, put them in spots to be successful. I believe that's my job. I think (it's) understanding when to score and not score and when it's time to take over a game and when it's time not to."

Kaufman-Renn missed by four points of winning the Big Ten scoring title, averaging 20.5 points in league play and 19.7 for the season. His 246 two-point field goals made leads the nation. The 6-9 forward-center surpassed 1,000 career points (1,020) in the regular season finale at Illinois.

Kaufman-Renn is the 12th player in the Painter era to earn first-team All-Big Ten honors. The others are Carl Landry (2007), Robbie Hummel (2008, 2010, 2012), E'Twaun Moore (2010-11), JaJuan Johnson (2009, 2011), A.J. Hammons (2016), Caleb Swanigan (2017), Carsen Edwards (2018-19), Trevion

Williams (2021), Jaden Ivey (2022), Zach Edey (2023-24) and Smith (2024-25).

The All-Big Ten honor probably felt satisfying to Kaufman-Renn after being left off the finalists list for the Karl Malone (power forward) and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (center) awards. To be fair, voters probably couldn't decide where to slot Kaufman-Renn.

A few weeks ago, Smith expressed his displeasure with the Malone and Abdul-Jabbar voters.

"We're back to this BS again, excuse my language," Smith said. "You see what he's doing, the numbers he's putting up."

Loyer led the Big Ten in 3-point percentage, making 46.5 percent (46 of 99) behind the arc. Entering the postseason, Loyer has shot 59.2 percent from 3-point range during the past 11 games. He averaged 14.4 points and joined Smith and Kaufman-Renn as a member of the Purdue 1,000-point club this season.

Smith's Big Ten Player of the Year honor might also help him become Purdue's first winner of the Bob Cousy Award, presented annually to the nation's top point guard.

Smith's numbers (16.3 ppg, 8.8 assists, 4.7 rebounds, 39.7 shooting from 3-point range) compare favorably to the other four finalists.

Mark Sears of Alabama has the edge in scoring (19.2 ppg) but has handed out just five assists a game, averages 3.1 rebounds and is a 35.2 percent shooter from 3-point range. In Purdue's 87-78 victory against Alabama earlier

this season, Sears had 15 points, six assists and four rebounds. Smith put up 17 points, 10 assists and six rebounds.

Kam Jones of Marquette earned unanimous first-team All-Big East honors with 18.9 points, 6.1 assists and 4.5 rebounds per game. Jones shot just 30.6 percent from 3-point range.

However, Jones was spectacular against visiting Purdue earlier this season. Jones' triple double of 17 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists paved the way for a 76-58 victory. Smith had 11 points, nine assists and four rebounds against the Golden Eagles.

Zakai Ziegler of Tennessee is averaging 13.1 points, 7.5 assists and 3.0 rebounds while shooting 31.9 percent behind the arc.

Walter Clayton Jr. of Florida averages 17.2 points, 4.3 assists and 3.8 rebounds per game. He's also a high volume 3-point shooter, making 36.4 percent on 231 attempts.

There's no doubt in Painter's mind who is the best point guard in college basketball. Painter, who is maturing into a major voice in the game, recently expressed his frustration at persuading others to see Smith's greatness.

"There were two different point guard camps last year where they invited 15-16 point guards – coming into college, in college – and I couldn't get Braden Smith in either one of those," Painter said. "I'm not saying he's a top 15 point guard in the country. I'm saying he's the best point guard in the country."



Braden Smith

"It makes no sense. You have non-basketball people making basketball decisions. They stereotypically look at somebody who's 5-11 like he's not a player. He's one of the best passers ever. He could end up being the best passer ever. "The same holds true for Trey. What's he supposed to do? You can't make up the numbers that he has. To each their own. That's on them. They are showing they don't understand the game and what matters."

Did you know?

When Purdue defeated UCLA 76-66 on Feb. 28 in Mackey Arena, it was the Boilermakers' first victory against the Bruins since Dec. 18, 1959. UCLA's eight-game winning streak in the series had been the longest active losing streak against a Purdue opponent.

The victory also completed a sweep of the newest Big Ten members (Oregon, Washington, USC, UCLA), the four wins coming by a combined 46 points. Michigan was the only other Big Ten school to go 4-0 against the West Coast schools.

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

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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.sportengine-prelive.com

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FOR THE RECORD

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

MEETING NOTICE

SISTER CITY ADVISORY BOARD

Saturday, March 15, 10 a.m.
Carmel Clay Public Library
Meeting Room A

CARMEL COMMON COUNCIL

Meeting Agenda
Monday, March 17, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.
Council Chambers/City Hall/One Civic Square

CALL TO ORDER

AGENDA APPROVAL

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

RECOGNITION OF CITY EMPLOYEES AND OUTSTANDING CITIZENS

RECOGNITION OF PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

COUNCIL AND MAYORAL COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes March 3, 2025 Regular Meeting

Claims Payroll – \$4,171,992.93 (3/7/25 payroll), \$219,480.95 (uniform allowance), \$139,406.96 (CPD sick vacation payout), \$196,826.06 (CFD sick vacation payout)

General Claims – \$2,493,513.70

Retirement – \$126,308.06 (2/1/25 Payroll) and \$126,308.06 (3/1/25 Payroll)

Wire Transfer – \$1,559,874.46

ACTION ON MAYORAL VETOES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance, Utilities and Rules Committee

Land Use and Special Studies Committee

All reports designated by the Chair to qualify for placement under this category.

OTHER REPORTS – (at the first meeting of the month specified below):

Carmel Redevelopment Commission (Monthly)

Carmel Historic Preservation Commission (Quarterly – January, April, July, October)

Audit Committee (Bi-annual – May, October)

Redevelopment Authority (Bi-annual – April, October)

Economic Development Commission (Bi-annual – February, August)

Library Board (Annual – February)

Ethics Board (Annual – February)

Parks Department (Quarterly – February, May, August, November)

Climate Action Advisory Committee (Quarterly – March, June, September, December)

Finance Department Budget Update (Quarterly – April, July, October, January (for the 4th quarter of the previous year))

All reports designated by the Chair to qualify for placement under this category.

OLD BUSINESS

Fourth Reading of Ordinance D-2762-25; An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Amending Chapter 8, Article 5, Sections 8-37, 8-47, and 8-48 of the Carmel City Code; Sponsor: Councilor Aasen. Remains in the Land Use and Special Studies Committee.

Synopsis:

Ordinance establishing 15-minute parking space(s) at the beginning of each block along Main Street from Knoll Ct to 1st Ave SE, regulating parking on Range Line from Main Street to 1st Street, and removing inconsistencies and duplications of code.

Resolution CC-02-03-25-07; A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Recommending Consideration of an Amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance for the City and Referring the Same to the Carmel Plan Commission for Recommendation; Sponsor(s): Councilor(s) Aasen, Snyder and Taylor. Remains in the Land Use and Special Studies Committee.

Synopsis:

This Resolution refers a proposal to amend Articles 5.72, 9.08, and 11.02 of the Carmel Unified Development Ordinance to the Carmel Advisory Plan Commission for public hearing and recommendation to the Common Council.

Second Reading of Ordinance D-2767-25; An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Amending Chapter 2, Article 4, Section 2-96 of the Carmel City Code; Sponsor(s): Councilor(s) Taylor and Snyder. Sent to the Finance, Utilities and Rules Committee.

Synopsis:

Amendment to the Ordinance regulating the Ambulance Capital Fund.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

First Reading of Ordinance D-2766-25; An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana Authorizing and Approving an Additional Appropriation of \$17,600.00 from the General Fund (#101) to the 2025 Marketing and Community Relations Budget (#1203); Sponsor(s): Councilors Taylor and Minnaar.

Synopsis:

This ordinance appropriates \$17,600.00 to fund coverage of part-time employee for up to a year during an existing employee's Family Medical Leave (FML). This funding ensures continuity of services and operational effectiveness during event season.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution CC-03-17-25-01; A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana Approving a Transfer of Funds Between the Grant Fund (#900) and the Ambulance Capital Fund (#102); Sponsor(s): Councilor(s) Taylor, Joshi and Minnaar.

Synopsis:

Transfers \$5,000.00 from the Grant Fund (#900) into the Ambulance Capital Fund (#102).

Resolution CC-03-17-25-02; A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana Approving a Transfer of Funds Between the Grant Fund (#900) and the General Fund (#101); Sponsor(s): Councilor(s) Taylor, Joshi and Minnaar.

Synopsis:

Transfers \$6,360.80 from the Grant Fund (#900) into the General Fund (#101).

AGENDA ADD-ON ITEMS

OTHER BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Heights FFA Team Impresses at National Western Roundup



Photo courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

From left, Coach Spencer Carson, Kaden Derrer, Quentin Derrer, Caden Hine, Lauren Happel and Cooper Rollins.

Recently, members of the Hamilton Heights FFA made an outstanding showing at the National Western Roundup at the Denver Stock Show in Denver, Colorado. The students' hard work and dedication in the Livestock Judging events were evident as they competed against the top 15 teams from across the nation, showcasing their skills and expertise in various events.

The results are as follows:

Sheep Division: 5th Place Team Overall; 1st Overall Team, 1st Place individual (Kaden Derrer) and 2nd Place individual (Cooper Rollins).

Swine Division: 5th Place Overall Team; 6th Place individual (Quentin Derrer).

Kaden Derrer, Quentin

Derrer and Cooper Rollins all placed in the Top 20 as well! Team Members included Kaden Derrer, Quentin Derrer, Cooper Rollins, Caden Hine, and Lauren Happel. Coach Spencer Carson also traveled with the group to the event.

The individual and team's impressive performance not only brought hometown pride, accolades to the district and highlighted the strong agricultural education and leadership development programs at Hamilton Heights. Congratulations to the Hamilton Heights FFA members for their remarkable achievement in Colorado!

"Attending a national livestock judging event is a feat that only a few in the state are able to accomplish," explained Coach Spencer Carson.

"From competing and qualifying last May, these young individuals have set the pace to continue preparing for their National Contest. It's easy to coach young people like these five when they have a willingness to learn and a drive for competition."

"This is a huge accomplishment for their futures as well as our FFA program and our state FFA association," added Emilie Carson, Hamilton Heights Agriculture Educator and FFA Advisor.

State Livestock Judging occurs in May of each year. The state contest was held at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds where Heights' Livestock Judging team qualified. Hamilton Heights last qualified and competed at the National Western event in 2004.

Spotlight on Art Shines Brightly



Photo courtesy Boys & Girls Club

The committee for the Spotlight on Art, Benefiting Children, presented a check to representatives from the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville, The Children's TherAplay, and Prevail, Inc. In its third year, the November event held at the Hotel Carmichael raised \$40,000 to support the work of the three organizations. The event will return for a fourth year on Nov. 6 at the Ritz Charles in Carmel. Pictured with event founder and committee chair, Esther Lakes, are organization leaders and honorary event chair, Steve Nation.

From left, Kassie O'Malley of The Children's TherAplay, Becky Terry of the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville, Tami Wanninger of Prevail, event founder and committee chair Esther Lakes and the honorary event chair Steve Nation.

**Thank you for reading
The Times!**

Spartz Talks Trump; Appearing in Westfield



VICTORIA SPARTZ
Guest Columnist

U.S. Congresswoman Victoria Spartz, R-Ind. 5th District, has a couple of upcoming Town Hall meetings, one in Hamilton County.

On Friday, March 28 the Congresswoman will meet with citizens at the city hall in Westfield beginning at 6 p.m. and lasting until around 8. The following day she'll be in Muncie from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the city hall.

SPARTZ AND 13 of her House colleagues introduced bipartisan legislation to fully restore retirement benefits of the Delphi retirees.

In 2009, over twenty thousand salaried employees lost their full benefits after the auto industry collapse and Delphi's bankruptcy. In July of 2009 a formerly fully funded pension plan was dissolved, and all assets were transferred to the Pension Benefits Guarantee Corporation (PBGC). Due to the Great Recession and crash of the financial markets, the fair market value of the assets at the time was not sufficient to cover pension liabilities and retiree benefits were reduced.

The bill uses the appreciated assets formerly owned by the Delphi Salaried Pension Plan and currently held by the PBGC to restore benefits with no fiscal impact to the federal budget.

"This bill restores retirement benefits for thousands of hard-working Americans wronged by the politics of an auto-industry bailout in 2009 with no fiscal impact to the taxpayers," said Spartz. "This issue has not been resolved for too long, and I appreciate the bipartisan support to finally bring justice for so many people around the country."

THIS WEEK, Spartz spoke to multiple media outlets on recent developments on the war in Ukraine and President Trump's peace through strength policies.

"According to the media and the failed foreign policy establishment, you either support giving Ukraine an unlimited blank check written by American taxpayers while America's borders are overrun, or

you are pro-Putin," she said. "Nothing could be further from the truth. It's not a binary choice. It's just another false choice given to us by the same book-smart "intellectuals" who gave us Vietnam and Iraq, and handed Afghanistan back to the Taliban in disgrace.

"As someone who spent over a decade in business and finance, I ran for Congress to fix our destructive national debt, broken health care system and burdensome regulations. I guess my plate was not full enough, and I had to become directly involved with major national security crises abroad - dealing with evacuating Americans in Afghanistan and a major war in Europe. I probably could write a book about all the things I have learned being on the ground in Europe, the Middle East and the frontlines of a war-torn Ukraine, but now is not the time for writing books. We already have too many book writers. It reminds me of what Cicero said when the Roman Republic was falling: "Times are bad. Children no longer obey their parents, and everyone is writing a book.

"The situation in Ukraine is difficult and dangerous. Unfortunately, my appeals to Congress and the Biden Administration to implement proper oversight and a clear strategy for Ukraine in July of 2022 were not implemented by and large, and I was right when I said at the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine that if we do not deal with Russia decisively, we will have a further escalation of conflicts. Now, the world is on fire. Russia is again advancing in Ukraine; Israel, our key ally in the Middle East, was attacked by Hamas terrorists; Iran is on the brink of obtaining nuclear weapons; Iranian-backed Houthis, who were taken off the terrorist list by the Biden Administration and given \$1B from the Ukrainian aid, are attacking our ships; and Iranian-backed terrorists attacked our base in Syria, killing Americans. Meanwhile, China continues to flex its growing military muscle on the world stage and threatens Taiwan."

U.S. Congresswoman Victoria Spartz, Noblesville, is a Republican who represents Indiana's fifth Congressional District.

Ivy Tech Hamilton County Shooting for \$30,000 on Ivy Tech Day, April 8



Photo courtesy Ivy Tech Hamilton County

After raising \$25,000 last year, Ivy Tech is aiming even higher this year.

Ivy Tech Hamilton County is proud to join campuses across the state in celebrating Ivy Tech Day on April 8, a day of giving and community impact dedicated to supporting student success. This year, the Hamilton County campus has set an ambitious goal of raising \$30,000 to fund programs, building upgrades, and student resources—building on the \$25,000 raised last year.

Since opening as a full-fledged campus in summer 2021, Ivy Tech Hamilton County has experienced remarkable growth, expanding from serving just over 500 students to now supporting more than 8,500 students. In addition to its growing student population, the campus has helped Hamilton County families save over \$4.4 million in college tuition costs through its dual credit programming, which allows high school students to earn college credits at no cost.

To help reach its Ivy Tech Day fundraising goal, the campus is hosting several ticketed events, including:

- **Breakfast with Chancellor Kartz**, where guests can hear campus updates, the challenges ahead, and how you can play a vital role in shaping the campus's future.
- **Ivy Tech Day Bash**, bringing together students, staff, faculty, alumni, board members, partners, and community members for a fun and engaging celebration.
- **Community Conversation Panel**, featuring industry leaders discussing how Ivy Tech is addressing workforce needs in Hamilton County and beyond.

To purchase tickets or sponsorships for these events, visit giveday.ivytech.edu/hamco.

Thanks to the generosity of our Ivy Tech Day sponsors—Community First Bank (Matching Gift Sponsor), Serve

Noblesville (Spirit Sponsor), Ascension St. Vincent Fishers (Breakfast Sponsor), Hamilton County Community Foundation (Photobooth Sponsor), and Quality Ingredients Cooking (Snack Sponsor)—we are able to create an exciting and impactful celebration. If you or your organization are interested in making a difference, sponsorship opportunities are still available.

Anyone interested in raising funds on behalf of the campus and spreading the word about Ivy Tech Day can sign up as a social ambassador at link.ivytech.edu/HamCoITD. Social ambassadors will receive a personalized fundraising link to share with their networks, making it easy for friends, family, and colleagues to contribute. Social ambassadors who meet or exceed their fundraising goals for our campus will be invited to a special reception with Chancellor Kartz in June 2025.

Additionally, volunteers are needed for various Ivy Tech Day activities, and community members are encouraged to sign up to help. Volunteers can register at link.ivytech.edu/ITD2025Volunteers.

"At Ivy Tech Hamilton County, we are committed to providing high-quality, affordable education that leads to in-demand careers," said Dr. Rachel Kartz, Chancellor of Ivy Tech Hamilton County. "Ivy Tech Day is an opportunity for our community to rally behind our students and ensure they have the resources they need to thrive."

Community members can show their support by attending an event, becoming a social ambassador, volunteering, or making a direct gift. Supporters can contribute on April 8 at giveday.ivytech.edu/hamco or make a gift any time of year at ivytech.edu/givenow. Help spread the word on social media using #IvyTechDay.

Home-A-Rama Returns to Westfield in September

The Builders Association of Greater Indianapolis is thrilled to announce that the 2025 Lee Supply Home-A-Rama is returning to Chatham Hills in Westfield this fall! Mark your calendars for September 11-14, 18-21, and 25-28 as some of Central Indiana's premier custom home builders showcase stunning, state-of-the-art homes in one of the region's most sought-after communities.

"We are beyond excited to bring Home-A-Rama back to Chatham Hills—one of the most beautiful and dynamic neighborhoods in Central Indiana," said Drake Branda, Chief Operating Officer of BAGI. "Westfield continues to be a city of remarkable growth, and we can't wait to celebrate its energy, innovation, and commitment to high-quality living with this year's event."

Located in the heart of Westfield, one of Indiana's fastest-growing cities, Chatham Hills offers a perfect blend of modern luxury and natural beauty. With its rolling landscapes, championship golf

courses, and vibrant community atmosphere, Chatham Hills provides the ideal setting for Home-A-Rama.

Westfield is also making waves on a national level, as it prepares to host the LIV Golf Tournament in August 2025—another testament to the city's rapid development and growing reputation as a premier destination.

"Westfield is a city on the move – while we've had significant growth over the last decade, we've worked hard to ensure that Westfield remains a safe, welcoming city with nationally recognized public schools and family friendly activities," said Mayor Scott Willis.

Home-A-Rama attendees will have the opportunity to tour exquisite custom homes featuring the latest trends in architecture, interior design, and smart home technology. Whether you're looking for inspiration, planning a future build, or simply love exploring high-end home designs, this event is a must-see.

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It's more than a can of Green Beans



MARK HALL
Guest Columnist

Good morning, my name is Greenie. I'm a can of green beans living in some temporary yellow housing in Noblesville. My journey to get here was exhausting. I'm a proud can of vegetables, fresh packed, four inches tall, and I weigh fourteen and a half ounces. My sixty calories represent a small portion of what people are supposed to eat every day. As a can of green beans, I sit silently among cans of soup, boxes of pasta and jars of peanut butter. My bunkmates are some interesting characters that come from all over the world. As diverse as we all are, we share the same purpose. After travelling to our forever home, we'll help someone to have a better day.

From my window to the world, I witness firsthand the struggle of hunger faced by families who depend on the generosity of strangers. Last Tuesday I left the factory, traveling from Canada on a truck bound for Indiana. A couple of days later I found myself in a large dark storage shed along with hundreds of my friends. Then it happened, a nice young lady picked me up and drove me to a big yellow pantry. It tickled as she spun me around checking my born-on date, gave me a bath and tattooed my UPC code. Then up on the shelf I go. Wow! What a view!

In my short time here so far, I've watched humans from all walks of life visit the pantry. Some arrive with a sense of gratitude and eyes filled with hope. Some show up and drop off more friends to temporarily join me, and still others who open the door seem sad, filled with the desperation of their situation. This is the moment when the painful soul of hunger reveals itself.

Early this morning right after midnight, a mom and two children pulled up to my pantry. Carefully and quietly, she looked to make sure no one was watching as she hurriedly placed a few items in a small plastic bag before jumping back into her car. She



motioned to the kids in the back seat and then almost as if to say goodbye she pointed towards me in the pantry, driving away. The shame of judgment is real, it changes the behavior of people who find themselves in need. I've seen longing gazes and hesitant steps, as people battle their demons, wrestling with their pride and the fear of being labeled. If I could talk, I'd shout to them, "HEY!, You are not alone, people care, we are here for your people."

From my perch in the pantry, hunger is more than a mere sensation. It is a silent battle fought by individuals; their lives deeply impacted by the absence of food. As a can of green beans, I know that I'm a temporary solution for someone and I'm ok with that life. In my time on the shelf, I've learned that while providing meals too, my pantry is a symbol of community solidarity. People find comfort in knowing that they are not alone in their fight against hunger. The humans that put me here describe it as humanity, honoring God and something about Neighbors serving Neighbors. Well, thanks for taking the time to read the thoughts of a can of Great Value Green Beans. I've been here nine days waiting to go to my forever home, maybe today. Stay tuned.

With over 44,000 food challenged neighbors in Hamilton County, www.Feedingteam.org is a registered 501C3 not for profit organization that provides outdoor 24x7x365 no questions asked free food pantries throughout

the county. The pantries exist, to meet the food insecurity needs of GAP families, neighbors that may not qualify for public assistance and could use a few meals before payday. The pantries serve as many food-challenged neighbors as possible, and our hearts are with those that, like my family, could not always make ends meet.

Thank you for supporting the pantries. We love serving with so many neighbors across Hamilton County. In future columns we will share more stories about how your generosity served neighbors in times of need. The face of hunger in Hamilton County is not what you may think.

In practical terms this straightforward way to help neighbors is having a real impact on lives, families, and our communities. Thank you. A few meals can change the course of a person's life. A can of green beans means so much more when you have nothing to feed your kids. Would you like to get involved? Volunteer opportunities are available. We are evaluating new pantry locations. If you think you have a potential area location, please contact us.

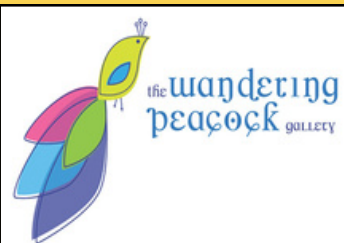
www.feedingteam.org facts - 77 pantries, 14,000 meals a month are provided, more than 30 volunteer families.

Mark & Lisa Hall are the Founders of The Feeding Team. They may be reached at lisa@feedingteam.org and mark@feedingteam.org or (317) 832-1123.

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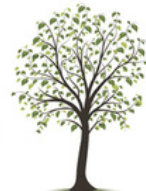
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