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TODAY'S VERSE

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Hamilton Happenings

Auditions for the Belfry's performance of the Wizard of Oz (Youth Edition) are set for May 17-18-19 at Celebration Hall at Noblesville First United Methodist, 2051 Monument. The times for May 17-18 are 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and May 19 is scheduled for 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. All children who have completed kindergarten through sixth grade in the 2024-25 school year are welcome to audition, no experience necessary. More information is available at www.thebelfrytheatre.com. Click on auditions. Nancy Lafferty is the director and Sarah Zieles the producer.

Three Things You Should Know

1 Mail Processing Clerk Linda Ross knows a thing or two about having a long career. She recently celebrated her 50-year anniversary with the Postal Service. Ross recounted how she was in nursing school but didn't feel it was the life for her. She was hired at the USPS processing plant in Indianapolis and "I fell in love with this place." Ross says this milestone is not the end of her postal career. She plans to continue working for the foreseeable future.

2 Americans are increasingly trading sneakers for screens. The rise of technology has made it easier than ever to watch sports instead of play them. People are far more likely to stream a game than join one. The convenience of watching has outpaced the effort of participating. Our friends at LiveSportsonTV.com polled 3,024 and the findings show that almost 1-in-3 Hoosiers say they have lost interest in playing sports. This compares to a national average of 36%. What's stopping them? Nearly half said they don't have others to play with. Time was another major obstacle. And access was a recurring theme. Put me in coach? Apparently not anymore!

3 Earth Day is April 22 and our friends at the TurfMutt Foundation offer eight tips: Green areas help reduce the urban heat island effect; trees, lawns, and greenery act as natural oxygen generators; turfgrass is an efficient carbon sink; support wildlife & pollinators because living landscapes provide essential food and shelter for birds, bees, butterflies and other wildlife; vegetation acts as nature's air filter, trapping dust and pollutants to keep our air clean; plants and trees serve as natural sound barriers, helping to create quieter environments; landscaping, especially turfgrass, absorbs and filters rainwater, helping to replenish ground water supplies; and plant roots help stabilize the soil, reducing erosion and protecting land from degradation.

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Boomer Bits



Ask Rusty – When's Best Time to Claim Social Security?



ASK Rusty Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

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Dear Rusty:

I will be 66 ½ in June and would like to discuss when would be the best time for me to start taking my social security benefits. I am still employed full time and don't want to be penalized because of that. Please let me know what I need to do to set up an appointment with you. I got your information from the AMAC website, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Signed: Ready to Claim

Dear Ready: You can certainly call us on 1.888.750.2622 during normal EST business hours for a personal conversation. But to facilitate that conversation, be aware that deciding when to claim your Social Security benefit normally depends on just a few factors, including your financial need, your health and expected longevity, and

your marital status. A few things to be aware of:

- Born in 1958, your "full retirement age" is age 66 years and 8 months. If you were born in October 1958, you will reach you FRA in June 2025, and that is the point you can get 100% of the SS benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.

- Once you reach your FRA in June, Social Security's "annual earnings test" no longer applies. Thus, you can continue working after you start your SS benefits and your earnings will not negatively affect your monthly benefit amount. If you claim any earlier than your FRA, you will get a smaller benefit and also be subject to Social Security's annual earnings test (which for you this year - your FRA year - is \$62,160, or \$5,180/month

See RUSTY Page A3

Medicare Fraud Should Be Next in Line for DOGE



SALLY C. PIPES Guest Columnist

The Department of Government Efficiency's crackdown on waste, fraud, and abuse is off to a fast start. But as an engine of

government savings, DOGE still has substantial untapped potential.

That's because it hasn't yet addressed the fraud crippling one of the federal government's largest programs: Medicare. In fiscal year 2023 alone, "improper

See DOGE Page A3

Does Medicare Cover Trips Outside U.S.?

Q: My partner and I are planning a cruise this Spring. I am new to Medicare. What should I know before I go? Will I have all the same coverage as I do close to home?

A: A few key factors will make a difference when answering this question. Do you have a Medicare Advantage Plan or Original Medicare (Parts A & B) with a Medigap Plan? Do you plan to travel outside of the United States?

See TRIPS Page A3



Photos courtesy Robert Vane / Sheridan Main Street

Indiana First Lady Maureen Braun praised everyone for the strong local efforts.

First Lady of Indiana Pays Visit To Sheridan

Sheridan Main Street Inc. welcomed distinguished guests Fred Glynn, Executive Director of the Indiana Office for Community and Rural Affairs, and First Lady of Indiana Maureen Braun to a dinner Wednesday evening as the group celebrated its recent accreditation and other milestones.

Hosted by Sheridan Main Street President Cindy Keever and the organization's Promotions

See VISIT Page A4

Politicians Do What Politicians Always Do



TIM TIMMONS Two Cents

It's an understatement to say Hoosiers are steamed about property taxes. Actually, it's an understatement to say it's an understatement (boy, that could go awhile and get confusing). While it may be easy to believe that lawmakers acted like lawmakers usually do, Indiana Gov. Mike Braun completely reversing course like he did caught some of us off guard. Yeah, yeah, I know. Not thinking a politician would stab voters in the

See TIM Page A5

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Walking at least six miles per week can help reduce age-related memory loss.



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

HONEST HOOSIER

A tip of the seed corn cap today in the memory of Uncle Ernie. World War II's greatest correspondent and Indiana's own Ernie Pyle was killed on this date in 1945. (Be sure to visit his homestead and museum in Dana, Ind. if you have the chance and inclination.)



TODAY'S QUOTE

"Every generation laughs at the old fashions, but follows religiously the new."
Henry David Thoreau

TODAY'S JOKE

Did you hear about the inventor who tried to make a belt out of watches?
It was a waist of time!

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OUR GENERATION with the Times

Melissa Shaw's interview with Promenade Trails in Noblesville

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Photo courtesy Hamilton Heights

From left, Ian Matthew, Hailey Freimanis, Madilynn Long and Alastair Brown give a thumbs up to the Hamilton Heights Middle School’s most popular athletic fundraiser! Proceeds from the trash bag sales support the HHMS athletics department—helping young athletes thrive both on and off the field.

It’s Not a Trashy Fundraiser! Support Heights!

It’s that time of the year to stock up on your favorite trash bag while supporting Hamilton Heights Middle School athletics!! Hamilton Heights Middle School’s Spring Trash bag fundraiser is going on now through Wednesday April 30. Orders will be available for pick up between

2:30 and 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 15 at the middle school located at 25150 SR 19, Arcadia.

Perfect for tackling all your cleanup projects, these heavy-duty bags are available in five versatile sizes: 13 gallon (red drawstring, 45/roll), 18 gallon (white, 60/roll), 30

gallon (40/roll) 39 gallon (yellow, 20/roll), and 55 gallon (green 15/roll). The cost per roll is \$14. Order forms will be sent home with HHMS students on April 16. Orders can also be placed by contacting Jayme Patterson (317) 984-3547, ext. 2011 or jpatterson@hhsc.husky.org

Mitch Street Promoted at Heights

Hamilton Heights School Corporation is pleased to announce that Mitch Street has been named assistant principal at Hamilton Heights High School. Street brings nearly two decades of educational experience, as well as a strong familiarity with Hamilton Heights to his new role.

Street, a Lapel native, began his career in education at Hamilton Heights as a social studies teacher in 2008. He also served as Hamilton Heights assistant varsity football coach for three years prior to assuming the head coaching position in 2011. During this time, he mentored and coached students on and off the field, married, became a father of two and a school administrator. In 2014, he traded in his role as a classroom teacher to become the Dean of Students at the high school. He continued to coach until 2017.

“It is truly an honor and privilege to begin a new chapter of my career with Hamilton Heights School Corporation as the Assistant Principal of the high school,” said Street, who earned his bachelor of social science degree from Olivet Nazarene University and master’s in education from the American College of Education. “Hamilton Heights has become a home I love for the last 17 years. My wife is an employee at Beck’s Hybrids and our children have grown up here and become Huskies. I have seen this community rally and support each other in really special ways. I consider myself lucky to be a small part of it.”



Photo courtesy Hamilton Heights Schools

From left, Mitch Street, current principal Whitney Gray and former principal Jarrod Mason

Street credits former principal Jarrod Mason for communicating with him early on about his leadership potential. “Jarrod encouraged me to explore getting my degree and administrative license,” Street said, adding he that Mason was always a huge supporter of this part of his professional development journey. “I feel very blessed to have been able to serve in a place like Hamilton Heights and working with faculty and staff who have always been a tremendous influence and an abundance of encouragement.”

“Mitch Street has been an integral part of the HHHS administrative team for the last decade,” said Superintendent Dr. Derek Arrowood. “As he moves into this new leadership role I have no doubt that he will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of HHHS students. Mitch has been highly successful at HHHS as a head coach, dean of students and is a wonderful father and husband. He

is absolutely the right person to be the next HHHS assistant principal at exactly the right time.”

While Street, poised and levelheaded in difficult situations, was content working on a strong team with Jarrod and Whitney, he didn’t have a desire to go anywhere else because of the relationship that they built.

“With the unfortunate circumstances of Jarrod’s passing, I felt like we had an opportunity to keep a lot of the good things going, but also an understanding of the areas we needed to push to grow and improve,” Street said, adding he plans to continue to provide a learning environment where students have pathways to explore possible career interests, where teachers are empowered to teach and pour themselves into kids so they can be prepared to pursue their aspirations after high school.

Westfield Library Celebrates 123rd Birthday

There’s now more than just books to check out at the Westfield Washington Public Library. The Westfield Library Foundation gifted an Adult Library of Things to the library in honor of its 123rd birthday today. The collection includes everything from instruments and tool sets to craft supplies and cameras.

“We wanted to give the library a gift the entire community could benefit from,” says Erin Downey, Executive Director of the Westfield Library Foundation. “This collection will allow our

neighbors to discover new hobbies, try out new tools, and learn in a way that fits their lifestyle. What a fun way to celebrate the library and all its patrons.”

Located on the second floor of the library on bookshelves near non-fiction, the collection features a variety of tools and resources, including a bicycle tool kit, a rotary cutting set, ukuleles, an electric yarn winder, and a thermal imaging camera to name just a few. All items are available for checkout to adult library cardholders.



Erin Downey

Community members are invited to grow the Adult Library of Things by purchasing a gift from the library’s Amazon Wish List at <https://ow.ly/OHkB50UjCmO>. For more information or to learn about how to support the Adult Library of Things, please visit the Westfield Washington Public Library.

Councilman Hall Reports on Meeting With Constituents



MARK HALL
Hamilton County Council

Welcome to the Timesheet. This column is a report of work done on behalf of the people of Hamilton County. It’s to be informative too, a place to learn about projects and how our county government works.

As your employee, it is important that you know what is being worked on as transparently as is possible in government. You hired me as your County Councilman, and my hope is that you will choose to be informed by regularly reading this column, getting involved, consider volunteering, and by asking questions. Council meetings are at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center in downtown Noblesville. Meetings are also available to watch online for those unable to attend in person. Here is where my time this past month has been spent.

In addition to the County Council public meetings, March work included: a joint County Council Commissioner meeting, two Board of Commissioners public meetings, a Sheridan Town Council meeting, meeting with the Hamilton East Public Library Director Melissa Loiselle, a Cicero officials quarterly meeting with County department leaders and watching a Noblesville Town Council meeting. The personnel committee met in person, and we also had a poll later in the month. We addressed two position reclassifications and approvals to double slot two positions in preparation for two key retirements. All the requests were approved and moved on to the full council for final approval. The Finance committee met, and we discussed debt

financing options. Additionally, we were briefed on the potential revenue impact of the property tax reform bills being considered by our state legislature. While we are anxiously waiting to understand upcoming changes to our county budget income, we must start the 2026 budget analysis. Planning in this environment is challenging. The Insurance committee did not meet during March.

This month I received 19 constituent service requests and communications. One request was regarding highway and bridge projects in Jackson and White River Townships. This constituent owns property near a bridge being moved and previously used a timber bridge that has been under repair for a long time. I have yet to satisfy the constituents’ request and continue to work on it. Research has included several communications with the County Highway leadership, engineers, and the project manager for these two projects. An abundance of information has been communicated back to the property owner, and we have agreed to an in-person meeting once we have final plan approvals from all the required agencies. The second request was regarding the Nickle Plate Railroad. The constituent wrote to express their concerns about the organization’s executive leadership. I communicated with several local elected officials, corporate sponsors and customers of The Nickle Plate Railroad, a former employee and a not-for-profit that partners with them. My research indicated no cause for concerns with many of the conversations expressing strong support for railroad

leadership.

The balance of emails and conversations were regarding the expansion of the HCRUD (Hamilton County Regional Utility District). Of those expressing an opinion to me, two thirds were in support of bringing water and sewer services to Jackson Township. Property owners in favor cited improved fire safety, lower insurance rates, mitigating potential water contamination and higher property values. Of the one-third opposed, expense of an inspection to be exempt from connecting, expense of connecting to the sewer, government overreach, and the challenges associated with growth (roads, schools, density, etc.) were all cited as reasons for their opposition. Personally, I am supportive of the Utility District but would like to see a way to help homeowners, especially those on fixed incomes, manage the cost of inspections.

Noteworthy items from March included orienting the new Director of Council Operations, Kelly Morehouse, as she began her work with the council. Also, meetings with two Sheridan Town Councilors to listen to their plans for future development and to get their thoughts on county projects.

The most noteworthy topic from March continues to be Property Tax reform. To be clear we need property tax reform. Potential changes in revenue require purposeful planning. For now, until we understand the final impact on Hamilton County, my position remains to pull back on long-term spending commitments that have not already been funded.

➡ See HALL Page A3

↓ DOGE

From Page A1

payments" in Medicare eclipsed \$50 billion.

If DOGE wants to put a real dent in government overspending while changing millions of Americans' lives for the better, it won't find a better target than Medicare fraud.

The legacy of Medicare after 60 years is one of relentless growth -- both in the number of beneficiaries and in spending. Medicare expenditures now exceed \$1 trillion annually.

But the program's growth has only weakened its ability to effectively oversee its finances -- creating a fat target for scam artists who calculate their odds of success are high and their risk of getting caught is low.

The numbers paint an alarming picture. In fiscal year 2024, 7.66% of the payments Medicare's Fee-for-Service program made to providers were "improper," meaning they failed to comply with legal requirements. Those payments totaled more than \$31 billion.

The improper payment rates for Medicare Advantage and the Medicare prescription drug benefit were not much better -- 5.61% and 3.70%, respectively. That translates into a total of over \$22 billion in improper payments across the two programs in fiscal 2024.

In all, Medicare accounts for nearly one-fourth of the funds improperly spent by the government each year, according to a report from the Government Accountability Office.

That's a pitiful record -- and has real human consequences, both for seniors and for taxpayers.

Consider some of the most egregious cases of Medicare fraud. Earlier this year, a couple from Arizona "pleaded guilty for causing over \$1.2 billion of false and fraudulent claims to be submitted to Medicare and other health insurance programs for expensive, medically unnecessary wound grafts that were applied to elderly and

terminally ill patients," according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

In 2023, the Department of Justice charged 23 Michigan residents with nabbing more than \$61.5 million from Medicare for unnecessary home health services. The feds allege that the defendants set up a complex web of home healthcare agencies in Detroit using straw owners -- such as family members -- and then paid bribes and kickbacks to recruiters to gain additional patients.

Every dollar spent improperly -- or fraudulently -- in Medicare is a dollar that can't go to a senior with legitimate healthcare needs.

Policymakers have already identified numerous concrete strategies for reforming the program. One is to ensure that Medicare pays the same amount for equivalent services no matter where they're provided. This change, which has long been championed by GAO, could save taxpayers more than \$140 billion over the next decade.

Another potential reform would be to conduct more thorough audits of payments and claims. Auditors working at the state level have historically been successful at identifying fraud. Using their insights to improve federal Medicare oversight could help policymakers keep managing the program effectively as it continues to grow.

Work of the sort DOGE is doing is sorely needed. Waste and fraud run rampant in the federal government. Reforming Medicare can save not just money but lives.

Sally C. Pipes is President, CEO, and Thomas W. Smith Fellow in Health Care Policy at the Pacific Research Institute. Her latest book is The World's Medicine Chest: How America Achieved Pharmaceutical Supremacy -- and How to Keep It (Encounter 2025). Follow her on X @sallypipes. This piece originally ran in the Detroit News.

↓ TRIPS

From Page A1

If you have Original Medicare, you can travel anywhere in the U.S. and its territories and get the medical care you need from almost any doctor or hospital. This includes all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Medicare generally doesn't cover health care while you're traveling outside the U.S. There are some exceptions. Do you have a Medicare supplement insurance policy (Medigap) with your original Medicare?

Medigap Plans
A Medigap policy may offer additional coverage to Original Medicare for health care services or supplies that you get outside the U.S.

Standard Medigap Plans C, D, F, G, M, and N provide foreign travel emergency health care coverage when you travel outside of the U.S.

Plans E, H, I, and J are no longer for sale, but if you bought one before June 1, 2010 you may keep it. All of these plans also provide foreign travel emergency health care coverage when you travel outside the U.S.

Medigap Plans C, D, F, G, H, I, J, M, and N pay 80% of the billed charges for certain medically necessary

emergency care outside of the U.S. after you meet a \$250 deductible for the year. These Medigap policies cover foreign travel emergency care if it begins during the first 60 days of your trip and if Medicare doesn't otherwise cover the care. Foreign travel emergency coverage with Medigap policies has a lifetime limit of \$50,000.

Medicare Advantage Plans
If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, your plan may not cover your care while you travel within the United States unless you need emergency or urgent care. Most Medicare Advantage plans will cover a visit to an urgent care facility or the emergency room. If your plan does allow you to see providers that are outside of your network or area, you will usually pay more to see an out-of-network provider. You may also need to follow other plan rules like obtaining prior authorization.

Most Medicare Advantage plans do not cover health care provided outside of the United States and its territories. Contact your plan to see what rules and costs apply when you are traveling.

If you have questions related to Medicare, call SHIP at (800) 452-4800 or online at www.medicare.in.gov. You can also find SHIP on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

↓ HALL

From Page A2

It was an honor to represent you this month at The Invest Hamilton County: State of the Workforce luncheon, at the Noblesville Schools Education Foundation 2025 Miller Palooza fundraiser, at the Lt. Governor's Indiana elected officials Town Hall, and at Prevails Community Partner Awards breakfast.

This is my time sheet. This is where my time went during March 2025. While my job is primarily the financial oversight of the county budget, it is important that I understand the Board of Commissioners' priorities and balance them with the stewardship of taxpayer dollars. That is the job, and I am excited to do the people's business.

As a taxpayer myself, and listening to so many of you, our employers, it is important for the taxpayers to have access to all the information you want. I work for you and although you may not choose to do a deep dive into what your County Council does, it is important that you can always do so. Feel free to contact me at 317-832-1104 or mark.hall@hamiltoncounty.in.gov with questions, feedback or if you would like to talk about county business.

Mark Hall is a Hamilton County Councilman and the Founder and CEO of TLX, Talent Logistix. He writes a monthly column in The Times detailing his work as a county councilman.

Sen. Spartz Shares Update

This week, the House narrowly passed the Senate budget instructions to move the issue forward. Rep. Spartz voted NO to send a message to the Senate that the House will not be accepting a reconciliation that will be adding a record level of deficit and debt. Under the Senate instructions almost \$30 trillion in additional debt will be added in the next 10 years - roughly doubling our current national debt.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

This week, the Joint Economic Committee held a hearing on "Reducing Waste, Fraud, and Abuse Through Innovation."

Watch Rep. Spartz's questioning of witnesses on the need of better auditing and automated controls to improve healthcare programs and deter fraud by implementing AI technology.



Victoria Spartz

CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

The 2025 Congressional Art Competition is open to students. The winner will receive a trip to DC and have their artwork displayed in the US Capitol for one year.

· Deadline is Monday, April 21st
· Student Release Forms & Art pieces must be delivered to the Muncie District Office by 4:30pm.

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

↓ RUSTY

From Page A1

after you start your SS benefits). If you decide to claim before your FRA, your benefit will be reduced by .556% for each month early (a permanent reduction).

• You can also wait beyond your FRA to claim and earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) at the rate of .667% per month (8% per year of delay), in order to get an even higher benefit later. If financially feasible, you can delay up to the age of 70 when your monthly benefit will reach maximum - about 27% more than it will be in June of this year.

• If you are single and will not be eligible for a spousal benefit, then you should make your claiming decision based only on your own needs. If, however, you are married and your spouse's FRA benefit is more than twice your FRA amount, you may be entitled to a "spousal boost" (a supplemental amount added to your own SS benefit).

• Your life expectancy should be considered when deciding when to claim your SS retirement benefits. If you expect to enjoy at least "average" longevity (about 87 for a woman your current age), then you might also consider delaying your claim (if financially

feasible) and that is often a prudent choice. If you don't expect to achieve a long life, or if you need the money sooner, or if you are entitled to spousal benefits, then claiming at your FRA of 66 years and 8 months is likely your best option.

In the end, only you can decide when you should claim your Social Security, but we're always here to answer any additional questions you may have. You can feel free to call us at any time (1.888.750.2622) during normal EST business hours to discuss your options directly with one of our certified Social Security advisors. Or you can also ask any additional questions via email, which we will be most happy to respond to promptly.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. Russell Gloor is the, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

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↓ VISIT

From Page A1



Sheridan Main Street guests got to hear from both Maureen Braun and Fred Glynn.

Chair Heidi Kienholz, the dinner at the Adams Township Community Center on 296th Street was attended by Sheridan business owners, town officials and community members.

Glynn who was recently appointed to his current post by Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith is an Indiana-based entrepreneur with over 20 years of experience in business and finance. He previously served as a Hamilton County councilman. He spoke briefly about the role of Main Street organizations like Sheridan’s and how they work with the Office for Community and Rural Affairs to strengthen communities.

The First Lady, in her remarks, praised the efforts in Sheridan to strengthen Main Street and its local businesses and shared her personal story of similar work with her own business and Main Street organization in her hometown of Jasper.

Braun, in 1978, opened her own store, Finishing Touches, a home decor and gift store which continues to operate today.

She went on to help establish Heart of Jasper, a non-profit modeled after Main Street America’s

national organization. She said she is active in promoting Jasper’s downtown, believing a city’s downtown is the heart of any community. The Jasper group has gone on to improve building facades, help create public art and increase retail occupancy in the newly renovated downtown. Braun said she also wants to help encourage women entrepreneurs.

Sheridan Main Street Inc. achieved accreditation status in March, a milestone that Kienholz said helps the group increase funding and grant capabilities to spur further improvements in Sheridan’s downtown corridor. That work is ongoing, Kienholz explained in the evening’s closing remarks.

In recent years Sheridan Main Street has helped administer a privately funded facade improvement matching grant in partnership with United Animal Health as well as a publicly funded matching grant with Sheridan’s Redevelopment Commission. To date that work has seen \$204,850 in improvements to buildings on Main Street with another \$226,508 in improvements expected by the end of 2025.

Taking Look at Boiler Gridders and NFL Draft Possibilities

**KENNY THOMPSON**
Columnist

Thanks to offensive lineman Marcus Mbow, Purdue’s streak of having an NFL Draft pick will extend to 26 of the past 27 years next weekend. Mbow, who gave up his senior season to enter the draft, is projected as the sixth-best guard in the draft and ranked 84th overall by The Athletic’s Dane Brugler.

“Mbow needs to continue developing his play strength and consistency through contact, but his athletic body control and skilled hands are the foundation of a player who will compete for NFL starting snaps, be it at tackle or inside at guard or center,” writes Brugler, who gives the 6-4, 303-pound Mbow a third round grade.

Perhaps reflective of Purdue’s 1-11 record in 2024, Brugler does not expect any other Boilermaker to hear their name called when the seven-round draft concludes April 26.

Five-year starting center Gus Hartwig is ranked 12th at his position, and Brugler predicts the former Zionsville star will be an undrafted free agent.

“Hartwig isn’t a mauler and blocking NFL bull rushers will be a tough ask, but he plays with the functional size, athleticism and experienced know-how to keep defenders occupied,” Brugler writes.

Kydran Jenkins is rated 40th among edge rushers.

“He primarily played as an edge rusher in college before moving to stand-up linebacker in 2024. The shift helped show his versatility, but he was still at his best when attacking the pocket,” Brugler writes. “Despite having shorter arms, Jenkins uses his fierce hands to rid himself of blocks and make a beeline to the football. He doesn’t have the tape of a playmaker in coverage, but he looks comfortable dropping and chasing.

“Overall, Jenkins is a force player who can work off contact and be disruptive in the backfield. He has a chance to become a true off-ball linebacker in the NFL, but I think his best fit is as a sub-package rusher on passing downs.”

Seven other Boilermakers were ranked by Brugler. Hudson Card is 28th among quarterbacks. Corey Stewart is 47th among offensive tackles. Running backs Reggie Love and Ben Furtney are 55th and 63rd, respectively at their position.

Shitta Saleh (91st), Jireh Ojata (113th) and Joe Anderson (138th) were included in the edge rusher rankings.

While Mbow and his

Boilermaker teammates await their pro destinations, All-American Rondale Moore has found his third NFL home.

The Minnesota Vikings are hoping the speedy Moore will compete for the No. 3 receiver job as well as returning punts. Last season’s punt returner and No. 4 receiver, Brandon Powell, is a free agent.

Moore is hoping to prove he can stay healthy after missing the 2024 season with the Atlanta Falcons. Moore suffered a knee injury during a joint preseason practice with the Miami Dolphins. Moore had come to Atlanta from Arizona, which swapped him for quarterback Desmond Ridder.

In three seasons, Moore has caught 135 passes for 1,201 yards and has scored four touchdowns. Moore also was part of Arizona’s running game, having 52 carries for 249 yards and a score.

Moore is one of 13 Boilermakers on NFL rosters entering the draft. Running back Raheem Mostert has joined quarterback Aidan O’Connell in Las Vegas and with 10 years in the league is the senior NFL Boilermaker.

Linebacker Derrick Barnes (Lions), defensive end George Karlaftis (Chiefs), wide receivers David Bell (Browns) and Charlie Jones (Bengals), tight end Payne Durham (Buccanneers), linebacker Jalen Graham (49ers), and cornerbacks Cory Trice Jr. (Steelers) and Reese Taylor (Broncos) were sent to the NFL by former Purdue head coach Jeff Brohm and his staff.

Running back Tyrone Tracy Jr. (Giants) and safety Sanoussi Kane (Ravens) are entering their second year in the NFL.

Linebacker Ja’Whaun Bentley was released in the offseason by New England, for whom he had played since being drafted in 2018.

Big week for Purdue basketball
Two days after Bob Cousy Award winner Braden Smith officially announced his return to Purdue for his senior season, the Boilermakers added two pieces to their bid for the 2026 NCAA championship.

Highly regarded Israel prospect Omer Mayer signed with Purdue on Wednesday over interest from Duke and Auburn.

The 18-year-old 6-4 point guard has been playing with Maccabi Tel Aviv in Europe’s top professional basketball league. One of his teammates is former Purdue star Trevion Williams.

"I'm excited and

thankful for this opportunity," Mayer told ESPN’s Jonathan Givony. "I've competed at the highest levels in Israel and Europe and can't wait to help Purdue compete for a championship next season."

Mayer is coming off a strong week in Portland, Oregon, at the Nike Hoop Summit. Mayer handed out seven assists in 19 minutes in his World Team’s overtime loss to Team USA.

Mayer helped Israel qualify for this summer’s FIBA U19 World Cup, averaging 18.3 points, 6.6 rebounds and 5.1 assists during last summer’s FIBA U18 European Championship.

He posted a career-high 11 points and three assists earlier this month in a win over EuroLeague playoff team Bayern Munich, a rarity for someone his age.

Bayern Munich was led by former Purdue All-American Carsen Edwards, who hasn’t lost his ability to score quickly and often. While Mayer was putting up 11 points and three assists for Maccabi Tel Aviv, Edwards set a EuroLeague record with eight 3-pointers among his 30 points in a single quarter.

Hours later on

Wednesday, Purdue signed North Florida transfer forward Liam Murphy.

The 6-7, 220-pound Murphy brings strong 3-point shooting to a Purdue roster that lost forwards Myles Colvin (Wake Forest) and Cam Heide (Texas) to the transfer portal earlier in April.


At North Florida, Murphy averaged 13 points and led the Atlantic Sun Conference in 3-point shooting at 42.3 percent. His 104 3-pointers, on 246 attempts, ranked 19th nationally.

Murphy began his career at Columbia, playing two seasons. An injury cost him the 2023-24 season but Murphy earned his degree before transferring to North Florida.

Murphy and Mayer join Australian native Oscar Cluff, a 6-11 center from South Dakota State who was ranked the No. 1 transfer in the country by On3.com. Purdue also welcomes four-star guard Antione West and redshirt freshman Jack Benter on next year’s roster.

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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TIM

From Page A1

back was pretty naïve. I might have to turn in my press fedora and worn-out Weejuns!

I absolutely get it that a lot of Hoosiers are angry. What they have to understand is that legislators don't care. It's two years until the next election for some, four years for others. We may not forgive, but we'll forget. Or we'll be apathetic. Chances are things will go on like they always do and the black hole that government has become will just get deeper and wider.

Wow, sounds pretty bleak, huh?

Sorry, just calling it like I see it.

The thing is, a lot of politicians are good folks. It's been said in this space plenty of times, they're really good at the local level, mostly good at the Statehouse and only so-so in Washington, D.C. Once they get to the big time, too many of them see opportunities to grow rich beyond their dreams. How does that happen? Speaking engagements, consulting gigs, honorariums, you name it. Is it illegal? I am sure they dance all over those lines. But what they mostly do – and have done for a while – is create a system that keeps it going.

How many folks have gone to D.C. with the intention on changing? How many come home defeated, or worse, stay there and become part of the problem?

But even at the local and state level, there are problems. Property taxes are just the latest example.

We keep saying this,

but it's true. When there is a choice between the government cutting spending or you and I cutting spending, they choose us. Always. Every time.

Do they say it that way? Of course not. OF COURSE NOT! But our boy Ralph Waldo Emerson used to say that what you do speaks so loudly I cannot hear what you say. Folks at all levels of government consistently choose taxpayers to feel the pain instead of them.

They will disagree, but Ralph got it right. Look at their benefits, their pay, what they spend money on. Look at the buildings – how many old, worn-out, crappy buildings house government offices? Some, to be sure. Really does depend on where you are. But there are a lot of worn-out, crappy buildings in the private sector. There are a lot of folks working for a lower wage and less benefits in the private sector.

Government takes care of government. Wasn't it in Chronicles where the long list of who beget who took up a zillion pages? Something similar about government taking care of government would take up more.

It's never, ever the same in the private sector. Our good governor had this to say earlier this week: "As a business owner, I navigated through tough times and always came out stronger because I focused on cutting waste, eliminating overhead, and getting back to the basics."

See, that's the thing.


That's why we voted for the guy. We wanted to see that brought into the highest office in the state. We all know that what Braun originally proposed for property taxes could have worked. It simply would have meant cities, towns, counties, schools, etc., would have had to figure out how to do with less. Would that have been hard? In some cases, sure. In others, not so much. But it was certainly manageable. The private sector, just like Braun said, do it all the time. ALL THE FRIGGING TIME!

But Braun chose not to. Did he lie when he campaigned? I don't think so. But by reversing course, by telling Hoosiers one thing to get their votes and then turning around and doing something else, turned it into a lie – and the worst kind. The kind that he profited from.

It's what politicians do all the time.

If we have a chance to break the cycle, to turn things around, it has to start with you. And you. And you. And you. A lot of yous have to come together and say enough is enough. Will that happen? Not to be coy, but it really is up to you.

Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically in The Times. Timmons is the chief executive officer of Sagamore News Media, the company that owns The Noblesville Times. He is also a proud Noblesville High School graduate and can be contacted at ttimmons@thetimes24-7.com.



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Sen. Walker Shares Update



KYLE WALKER
Guest Columnist

In 2021, I sponsored House Enrolled Act 1558, which established the Indiana Crime Guns Task Force. The ICGTF created a uniform strategy in Indiana to address violent crime and hold those who commit violent offenses accountable. The ICGTF works with state and federal law enforcement officials to trace firearms used to commit crimes.

The ICGTF covers Allen, Boone, Hancock, Hamilton, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan and Shelby counties.

This year marks the ICGTF's fourth year as an organization, and each year they continue to show their dedication to a safer Indiana. According to a recent report, ICGTF has made a total of 81 violent crime arrests, with six of those charged federally. The organization has also seized over 100 guns and 173 illegal handgun switches from those arrests.

Since January of this year, ICGTF has also seized a significant amount of street drugs, including over 100 grams of fentanyl, 1,800 grams of methamphetamine and 32,000 grams of marijuana.

It has been great to see how the ICGTF increases their crime deterrence and public safety each year. I have enjoyed working with the General Assembly on the issue of

public safety, and I will continue to fight for safer communities.

SENATE REPUBLICAN
Budget Proposal
Centers on Government Oversight

This week, Senate Republicans unveiled our proposal for the next two-year state budget. I'm proud to report our proposal is balanced, prioritizes fiscal responsibility, and promotes strong government oversight and efficiency while providing the essential services our state needs.

Our state's moderate revenue growth coupled with significant growth in the state's Medicaid program means there is not much additional revenue for lawmakers to work with when crafting the budget. This resulted in decisions to "tighten the belt" and ensure our state is not spending beyond our means.

However, the budget does have bright spots, including an increase in K-12 funding, a more-targeted three-tier Teacher Appreciation Grant program, funding to improve mental health, tools for economic development so we continue to invest in Indiana, and an ongoing commitment to paying down our pension obligations under the Pre-96 Teachers Retirement Fund.

AGING AND WELLNESS
Task Force Bringing New

Ideas to Fishers

Last month, the City of Fishers announced the new Aging and Wellness Task Force, which would bring new projects, programming, ideas, resources and possible building plans for senior individuals in the community. Now until May 6, the new task force is providing a survey to hear from caregivers, senior community members and any other resident of the city to gather information on what is most important to them when considering senior care, health and growth.

SPRING FEST
Coming to Lawrence Community Park

On Saturday, April 19, the City of Lawrence and the Benjamin Harrison YMCA will host the annual Spring Fest located within Lawrence Community Park from 9 – 11 a.m. Children in attendance will have the opportunity to participate in Easter egg hunts by age group, meet with the Easter bunny, play games and make crafts.

State Sen. Kyle Walker represents District 31 which includes portions of Hamilton and Marion counties.



The STAR Bank Senior Showcase Scholarship Awards program is tonight at Fishers Municipal Center Theater.

Fishers Arts Council Showcases Students’ Works

Fishers Arts Council cordially invites you to attend the STAR Bank Senior Showcase exhibit which presents to the Fishers community the excellent work of senior students in the visual arts and writing programs at both Hamilton Southeastern and Fishers High Schools. Visual Arts teachers from both high schools--Jasmine Osborne, Danielle Ontiveros Goodwin, Lisa Brown, Abbey Horst, David Rawlins, and Erin Warner (Fishers) along with Angela Fritz, Julie Strawhacker, Daniel Moosbrugger, Craig Helming and Lauren Reed (Hamilton Southeastern)--have been working with their students all year to help them hone their skills, create new projects, and learn and appreciate more about the arts.

The exhibit opened to the public on Monday, April 7 and will be on display through Monday, April 28. The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The exhibit includes 125 pieces of 2D artwork, 30 pieces or collections of 3D artwork, and 7 poems. If you missed the HSE District Art Show at the end of March, then this exhibit is a must-see.

A free public reception and the Scholarship Awards Ceremony will be held on Friday, April 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. featuring live music by Jack & Rae with the awards ceremony starting at 6:45 p.m. Both the exhibit, receptions, and awards will take place at the Art Gallery in City Hall in the Fishers Municipal Center at 1 Municipal Drive in Fishers.

The Title Sponsor for the 16th Annual Senior Showcase is STAR Financial Bank. STAR bank has been the title sponsor for our scholarships since 2021. STAR is an Indiana-based community bank with assets in excess of \$3 billion. STAR focuses its philanthropy on education, arts, and economic development. In 2023, STAR provided more than \$400,000 in direct financial support to Indiana nonprofit organizations.

The winners this year will receive scholarships totaling over \$4,800 in the categories of Drawing, Photography, Painting/Mixed Media, Digital Art, and 3D. We will also have the Jordan D. Snider Award for Artwork Best Reflecting the Written Word, sponsored by Catherine Snider. Honorable Mention winners are sponsored by Laura and Ed Villanyi.


The awards ceremony will include representatives from STAR Financial Bank, the City of Fishers, award sponsors, and the incredible Visual Arts Department teachers. Fishers Arts Council gives thanks to our returning award sponsors, both in their fourth year: Four Day Ray Brewing and Schoolhouse 7 Café. Returning for their second year: Boomerang Development, Fishers Dental Care, and The Goddard School on Brooks School Road. Our newest sponsors for 2025 are Sadler and Ryan

Orthodontics and an anonymous donor. These Fishers-based businesses, along with our Title Sponsor STAR Bank, are the reason we can give cash awards to these incredibly talented students. Please support these businesses who believe in investing in arts education and the supporting the creative talents of our youth.

Shannon Bennett, VP of Events and Exhibitions, and Alex Moore, Exhibitions Manager, both of the Indy and Fishers Art Centers, are the judges for the exhibit. Fishers Arts Council is happy to welcome Indy Art Center leadership for the difficult task of judging the 2D and 3D works and gives them special thanks for allowing our exhibit to branch out into their gallery spaces in the Fishers Art Center. All the artwork for the exhibit was selected by the visual arts teachers of both high schools, based on the HSE District Art Show in March.

Be sure to join Fishers Arts Council and these amazing High School artists at our scholarship awards reception on April 18 from 6-8pm at the Art Gallery at City Hall in Fishers. Meet the artists and their teachers, enjoy wonderful art and poetry, live music by Jack & Rae of Fishers High School, and dig into some refreshments. This event is free and welcome to all ages – just don’t forget the awards ceremony starts at 6:45 p.m.

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