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Tropical Costa Rica

HOSTED BY DICK WOLFSIE | FEBRUARY 6 - 14, 2026

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■ TODAY'S VERSE

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.



Did you know today is National Dumpling Day AND National Pancake Day? Sure makes me miss eating at Grandma's house

■ HAMILTON HAPPENINGS

Celebrate fall at the annual Potter's Bridge Fall Festival Oct. 4 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.! This popular October event features live music, arts and crafts vendors, food booths, and beautiful scenic views along the White River Greenway. Enjoy a day of seasonal fun in one of Hamilton County's most picturesque parks. General Parking is located off Riverwood Avenue just north of Potter's Bridge and Accessible Parking is located at the Allisonville Road entrance. There will be signage, and staff will be on-site to direct traffic.

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

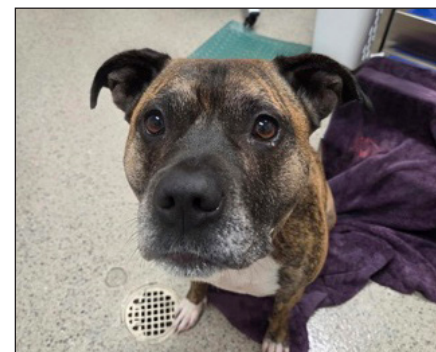
"Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterward."
~Vernon Sanders Law

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

Who makes the best exploding underwear?

Fruit of the Boom!

■ ADOPT A PET TOSTADA



Tostada is a big, strong, handsome guy who's as sweet as he is chill. This 6-year-old male Pit Bull Terrier has been available for adoption at the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) since 4/22/25. He's playful when you're ready for fun, happy to tag along for a walk, and just as content to relax while you binge your favorite show. He even earned gold-star status in the bath department, making it clear he's a gentleman through and through. Tostada would love to meet you soon at HSHC anytime Monday-Tuesday or Thursday-Sunday from 12-5 PM. To meet him, please fill out an adoption application at hamiltonhumane.com/adopt.

The TIMES

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■ BOOMER BITS RETIREMENT

Can Spouse Claim Now, Get Half of Husband's Later



ASK RUSTY
Social Security
Advisor

Dear Rusty: I would like to get an answer concerning

husband's benefit at age 67 will be \$3,326. My first question is: can I receive half of my husband's benefit once he begins drawing his? Secondly, if I draw my benefit now will that reduce the amount I can draw from his benefit later? Signed: Uncertain Spouse

taking my Social Security benefit soon and switching to my spouse's benefit when he begins to take his. I am 64 years, 9 months old and my husband is 65 years, 7 months. My benefit is low due to the fact that I did not work for about 25 years while raising our children. My benefit would be \$573 at age 65. My

Dear Uncertain: As you may know, the full retirement age (FRA) for both you and your husband is 67. If either of you claim before
See RUSTY Page 3

■ BOOMER BITS GARDENING

Improve Garden Soil

Fall is a great time to improve your soil for next year's garden. Many of the resources needed are readily available and many are free at this time of the year.

Start by putting fall leaves to work in the garden. Use your mower with the bag attached to shred and collect fall leaves. Work them into the top 8 to 12" of soil. They break down over winter, adding organic matter and nutrients to the soil before you begin

planting in the spring.

Fall leaves are also a great resource for those of you minimizing soil disruption with no till, also known as no dig, soil care. Spread several inches of the leaves over the soil surface. The leaf mulch protects the soil in new and vacant gardens from erosion and compaction over the winter. They keep the soil a bit cooler in the spring so you may need

See SOIL Page 5

3 Chances to Donate Blood

Fall is officially here and now is a perfect time to begin the new season with a lifesaving blood donation. The American Red Cross urges people to help keep the blood supply strong. Donors of all blood types, especially those with types O positive and B negative blood, are needed now.

As a thank-you, those who come to give blood, platelets or plasma Sept. 22-Oct. 19, 2025, will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. For details, visit RedCrossBlood.org/Fall.

In Hamilton County, people have three nearby blood drives this month through the American Red Cross. The first is Wednesday, Oct. 8 in Carmel from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Cool Creek Nature Center, 2000 E 151st St.

The following day, Thursday, Oct. 9 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., donors can give in Fishers at Billerica Park Multi-Purpose Community Building, 12690 Promise Rd.

And on Friday, Oct. 10, donors have most of the day to save a life. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at IU Health North Hospital, 11700 N Meridian St. in Carmel, you can donate.

For many, daily routines shift as the seasons change, but blood donations must remain top of mind. Every single donation is key to making sure all patients relying on critical transfusions, including car accident victims, those living with sickle cell disease and those facing cancer, get the care they need.

Fall into donating blood. Make an appointment to give now by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App. All who come to give blood, platelets or plasma through Oct. 19 will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. For details, visit RedCrossBlood.org/Fall.

■ BOOMER BITS HEALTH

Time to Crack Down on the GLP-1 Black Market



President, CEO, and Thomas W. Smith Fellow in Health Care Policy at the Pacific Research Institute
Sally Pipes

The market for illicit weight-loss drugs is booming in plain sight. And the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is starting to push back.

This month, the FDA sent more than 50 warning letters to telehealth companies, medical spas, and others offering compounded GLP-1 drugs in regard to "false and misleading claims about the compounded products they market."

Compounded weight-loss drugs have flooded the market -- and put patient safety at risk. These knock-offs also disrupt the incentives that entice drug companies to spend billions of dollars on research.

Turning a blind eye to

illegally compounded drugs could result in fewer innovative drugs being developed.

GLP-1 agonists like Wegovy are among the most powerful tools yet invented for fighting obesity.

They could also be a boon to America's healthcare finances over the long-term. Obesity costs us an estimated \$173 billion a year. A medicine that can reduce the prevalence of obesity could prevent a host of expensive medical problems before they arise.

See GLP-1 Page 5

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. Mexico's National Service of Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety, and Quality confirmed a new case of New World screwworm in Sabinas Hidalgo, located in the state of Nuevo León, less than 70 miles from the U.S.-Mexico border. This is now the northernmost detection of NWS during this outbreak, and the one most threatening to the American cattle and livestock industry. Sabinas Hidalgo is located near the major highway from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, to Laredo, Texas, which is one of the most heavily trafficked commercial thoroughfares in the world. Currently, U.S. ports remain closed to imports of cattle, bison, and horses from Mexico. Since July, USDA alongside Mexico, has been actively monitoring nearly 8,000 traps across Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico. To date, more than 13,000 screening samples have been submitted, with no NWS flies detected. USDA is analyzing all new information related to the recent case in Nuevo León and will pursue all options to release sterile flies in this region as necessary.

2. The ACLU of Indiana filed a lawsuit this week against the president of Ball State University for firing an employee who posted about the death of Charlie Kirk on social media. The lawsuit alleges her termination is a violation of her First Amendment right to free speech. The terminated employee, Suzanne Swierc, stated in a private Facebook post that although Charlie Kirk's death was a tragedy and although she prays for his soul, his death reflects the hatred, fear and violence that he sowed. The post was shared on Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita's "Eyes on Education" Portal. Ball State met with Swierc to terminate her. She was not permitted to have an attorney present at the meeting, and a letter signed by Ball State President Geoffrey Mearns indicated the Facebook post was the only reason for her termination.

3. In other ACLU news, the organization's state board of directors recently announced that Executive Director Chris Daley is no longer there. Ken Falk, Legal Director, and Tarah Reid, Finance & Operations Director, will jointly serve as interim co-executive directors. Falk has led the ACLU of Indiana's legal strategy for more than 30 years and is widely regarded as one of Indiana's foremost civil rights attorneys. Reid has long overseen the organization's financial operations, human resources, and board communications, providing the organizational stability that underpins the ACLU's legal and advocacy work. The organization gave no other details on Daley.

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The TIMES

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Sheridan Public Library October Events

**BABIES/
TODDLERS:**
October 6, 27
at 10:30 a.m. |
Discovery Time
(Ages: up to 3 yrs)

PRE-SCHOOL:
October 1, 8, 22, 29
at 10:30 a.m. | Little
Learners Story Time
(Ages 3-6)
October 28 at 3:30
p.m. | STEAM Story
Time (Ages 4-8 with
caregiver)

GRADES K-5:
October 2 at 3:30
p.m. | After School
Club: Halloween
Creature Challenge
October 16 at 1:30
p.m. | Interactive
Movie
October 21 at 3:30
p.m. | After School
Club: Halloween
Paper Circuits
October 28 at 3:30
p.m. | STEAM Story
Time (Ages 4-8 with
caregiver)

GRADES 6-12:
October 7 at 3:30
p.m. | Sharpie
Pumpkin Decorating

ADULTS:
October
(Wednesdays) at 11
a.m. | Needle Crafters
October 1, 15 at 3
p.m. | Adult Bingo
(Sponsored by Robert
Owen)
October 1 at 6 p.m. |

Pinners
October 8 at
5-6:30 p.m. | Good
Samaritan Holiday
Assistance; help with
signup
October 15 at 5:30
p.m. | Sheridan
Readers Book Club:
Empire Falls by
Richard Russo
October 18 at 9:30
a.m.-1 p.m. | Magic
the Gathering
October 20 at 6 p.m.
| Upcycled Craft;
Reusable Bag

ALL AGES:
Month of October |
Hallo-Read Beanstack
Challenge
October 9 at 6 p.m. |
Family Bingo Night
October 13 at 10:30
a.m. | Magic Show
with Mr. Paul
October 14 at 3
p.m. | Fire Safety
with Sheridan Fire
Dept; fun read aloud,
explore fire truck
October 15 at 3 p.m.
| Potato Decorating
Contest
October 23 at 3:30
p.m. | Halloween
Trivia
October 25 at
10:30 a.m. | Family
Halloween Party

For more
information on
programming and
services, please visit:
<https://sheridan.lib.in.us>

Support Group for Widows Meeting

A new ministry,
Widows of Hope, is
beginning Oct. 3 at
Emmanuel United
Methodist Church.

There are more
than 7,000 widows
in Hamilton County
alone and this group
will include speakers
from the community
and outings / field
trips throughout the
year.

According to Pastor
Bonnie Zickgraf, God
promises His great
compassion to help us
manage our hurt, our
fears and the deep
despair often felt in
our journey of grief.
She invites anyone in
need to join in on a
path toward healing.
Whatever your pain
with loss, everyone
is welcome here, she

said. Fellowship with
God and each other
for love and guidance
through Scripture,
prayer, group outings,
meetings, educational
speakers and much
more!

Pastor Zickgraf is
the ministry facilitator
and a peer widow.
The Rev. Jesse Mullins
is the lead pastor.

The group will meet
on Fridays from 9:30
to 11 a.m. Come in
Door No. 5 and go to
the first main hallway
on the left to the
Community Room.
Emmanuel is located
at 16000 Cumberland
Rd. in Noblesville.
For urgent questions,
contact the church or
text at (863) 258-
8079.

Chocolate Milk Day Saturday; Kroger Celebrating

Kroger is inviting
customers to indulge in
everyone's favorite pick-
me-up beverage - one
chocolatey sip at a time
- this National Choco-
late Milk Day with an
offer that's too sweet to
pass up.

To celebrate National
Chocolate Milk Day
Sept. 27, Kroger cus-
tomers can sip back and
smile with a digital cou-
pon for a free half-gal-
lon of Kroger Brand
Chocolate Milk avail-
able at Kroger.com*
Friday and Saturday for
redemption in stores or
pickup and delivery.

"Chocolate milk may
be the original after
school treat, but Kroger
Brand Chocolate Milk
has grown into so much
more - it's a top-rated
favorite among custom-
ers of all ages," said Ann
Reed, Group Vice Pres-
ident of Our Brands at
Kroger. "We're excited
to toast National Choco-

late Milk Day by sharing
this special delight for
free with a limited-time
offer."

Since its debut in 1999,
Kroger Brand Choco-
late Milk has become a
beloved beverage staple
with its rich, velvety
texture and unique
creamy vanilla notes.
With more than 15
million gallons pro-
duced annually across
Kroger's 14 dairy-pro-
ducing facilities, this
chocolatey classic has
earned a loyal following
as customers call it "the
best chocolate milk I
ever had."

Customers can enjoy
their favorite childhood
beverage by download-
ing a limited-time, sin-
gle-use digital coupon
at Kroger.com or in-
store with an accessible
paper coupon, available
for redemption on Fri-
day, September 26 and
Saturday, September
27, while supplies last.



Lions Stepping Up



Photos courtesy Noblesville Lions

The Noblesville, Westfield, and Zionsville Lions Clubs did a vision screening at Hazel Dell Elementary Sept. 19. They screened about 180 third and fifth graders. The Lions involved, in the top photo, front row from left are: Vicki Neddenriep, Lisa Rhoe, Christy Oakes and Kennedy Cardiff. Back row from left: Bill Nesbitt, Andy Luckey, Jeanne Auffrey, Walt Scheid and Steve Shaw. Not pictured: Dan Dumbauld. And on Sept. 13, the Noblesville and Westfield Lions Club along with The Feeding Team (bottom photo) distributed food from Gleaners to families in need at Hamilton Heights High School.

19th Annual Tinsel & Tails Holiday Petacular Nov. 20

The Humane Society
for Hamilton County's
19th Annual Tinsel &
Tails Holiday Petacular
is on the calendar for
Nov. 20. This is an un-
forgettable night where
you'll witness the power
of healing and hope that
pets bring into our lives.
You'll be on your feet as
our featured guests take
the runway in celebra-
tion of the year's most
remarkable stories of
rescue and redemption.

It's set to run from
6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the
502 East Event Centre
in Carmel. Attendees
will:

- Enjoy a delicious,

- seated dinner with veg-
an/gluten-free options
- Bid on exclusive
silent auction packages
and once-in-a-lifetime
experiences
- Enter our Golden
Ticket Raffle to win
\$2,500 in prizes
- Meet our featured
guests and some special
animals who can't wait
to meet you

- Seating and atten-

dance is limited. Tables
located along the run-
way are limited and will
sell out quickly. Seating
along the runway gives
you an up close and per-
sonal experience with
this year's featured pets.
Every seat in the house
is wonderful, but you
won't want to miss your
chance to get closer to
our celebrated compan-
ions.

Tickets and spon-
sorships are available
now. Go to <https://one.bidpal.net/2025tinsel/welcome> for more infor-
mation.

Sponsors for the gala
event include Canine
Cudd Nine, the Smitten
Kitten Cat Café, Repub-
lic National Distributing
Company, Current, Cur-
ran Architecture and
Fetch pet insurance.

The Times

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Photo courtesy Fishers Event Center / Davis Pictures, Inc.

The crew has the ice installation complete at the Fishers Event Center

Ice Summit at Event Center Has Building Set for New Season

The ice is ready for a new season at the Fishers Event Center!

The newly built ice follows the recent Legends Global 2025 Operations Ice Summit which the Fishers Event Center hosted earlier this month to learn and share best practices for ice building and maintenance for the wide variety of events and changeovers in the coming season. Proper ice management ensures Fishers Event Center runs efficiently as it prepares for its fall and winter season, and provides a superior competition site for hockey ahead of the start of the Indy Fuel's 12th season on Thursday, Oct. 17 (tickets and schedule information at indyfuelhockey.com).

During the three-



day "Ice Summit," the venue crew prepped, painted, installed logos, and built the ice while spending time attending classes and reviewing best practices to install and maintain ice along with attendees from venues across the country. Attendees learned from top ice vendors in the nation including Jet Ice, Mid America Rink Services, Zamboni, CIMCO and Athletica. The schedule included various classes on ice installation, logo installation, refrigeration, a Zamboni mini boot camp and

more. Participating venues from across the country included Knoxville Civic Auditorium and Coliseum, Florence Center, BMO Center, Meridian Centre, Adventist Health Arena & Oak Park Ice Rink, Pechanga Arena, North Charleston Coliseum, Peoria Civic Center, Worcester Ice Center, Boch Ice Center, Essex Sports Center, RI Sports Center, Mark Bavis Sports Complex, Boston Sports Institute, VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena, and Thunder Ridge Nature Arena.

Rokita: How Free Speech Works in Public Schools

Attorney General Todd Rokita has sent legal guidance to school superintendents and public university administrators explaining their authority consistent with the First Amendment to discipline or terminate educators who make public statements that are disruptive to school operations.

The assassination has generated grief and outrage across the nation. Disturbingly, some Indiana educators have exacerbated the pain and sorrow that many parents and students are feeling by making divisive statements that excuse or even celebrate Kirk's death.

"When teachers or professors entrusted with shaping young minds cheer the violent death of a political figure, they forfeit the moral authority to stand in front of a classroom," Rokita said. "Free speech is not a license for public employees to disrupt government operations by destroying public trust through calous, crude, and controversial speech. Schools and universities have legal authority to act to restore public confidence in our schools by

disciplining these teachers—up to and including termination."

The Attorney General's guidance makes clear that while educators retain First Amendment rights, those rights are not unlimited in the government employment context. Courts have consistently recognized that public employers may regulate government employee speech—including speech made in an employee's private capacity—when it disrupts government operations. As the Supreme Court has said, "when a citizen enters government service, the citizen by necessity must accept certain limitations on his or her freedom." *Garcetti v. Ceballos*, 547 U.S. 410, 418 (2006). That is especially true for teachers, who occupy uniquely sensitive and important positions.

It also explains that, in many if not most cases, the noxious speech some public-school teachers have engaged in with respect to Charlie Kirk could be proper subjects for disciplinary action by schools.

"Schools don't need to wait for chaos to

break out," Rokita emphasized. "The law permits administrators to act proactively when a teacher's speech threatens disruption or corrodes community confidence. Schools are well within their legal authority to prioritize protecting students and preserving public trust."

The Attorney General's Office has received hundreds of complaints from parents and other concerned Hoosiers about troubling comments made by educators on social media and in other forums. To promote accountability and transparency, the Attorney General encourages citizens to continue submitting complaints to the Eyes on Education portal on the Attorney General's website.

"Parents are the most important voice in their children's education," Rokita said. "By sharing items of concern, you ensure that Indiana classrooms remain safe, supportive, and focused on educating our children, not indoctrinating them or exposing them to controversial political views. Together, we can and should hold educators to the highest standards."

RUSTY

Continued from Page 3

your FRA your monthly SS retirement amount will be permanently reduced and, if you are currently working, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET) which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. The earnings limit for early filers is \$23,400 for 2025 (changes yearly) and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away some of your benefits (\$1 for every \$2 over the limit). They "take away" by withholding future payments until the penalty is satisfied.

That said, if you claim your personal SS "soon" (e.g., at age 65), you will get about 87% of the amount you would get by waiting until your FRA to claim. You would, indeed, get a "spousal boost" when your husband claims, but you would not get 50% of his age 67 amount. That's because of the way spouse benefits are calculated. When

your husband claims, you will get a "spousal boost" added to your early benefit amount (\$573?). The amount of that spousal boost will be computed as 1/2 of your husband's FRA amount (e.g., \$1663), minus your FRA entitlement (likely about \$661) for a spousal boost of about \$1002. But since you won't have yet reached your FRA when your husband claims, the amount of the spousal boost will also be reduced (to about \$926), which will be added to your age 65 amount of \$573 for a total monthly spousal benefit of about \$1499.

So, the answers to your two questions are:

1. Because you claimed your Social Security retirement benefit early and won't yet be your full retirement age when your husband claims, you will not get half of your husband's benefit when he claims. You would likely get about

45% of his benefit.

2. If you take your own SS retirement benefit now, you will get a higher benefit when your husband claims, but the amount you get will be less than half of his FRA entitlement.

The only way you can get the full 50% of your husband's FRA benefit entitlement is to wait until your own full retirement age to claim Social Security.

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.

Nordic Nights Coming to Carmel

The Carmel Symphony Orchestra is excited to announce the support of Pedcor Companies for CSO's Nordic Nights concert taking place March 21 at 7 p.m. at the Payne & Mencias Palladium at the Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts. The symphony will be under the masterful guidance of Conductor Kelly Kuo.



Davis Brooks



Kelly Kuo

other than CSO's concertmaster, Davis Brooks.

"We have been long-time supporters of the Carmel Symphony Orchestra because we value the cultural opportunities the CSO provides through its classical orchestral music concerts. The importance of exposure to inspiring masterworks for all ages cannot be understated. Pedcor Companies believe in supporting the arts to continue to make Carmel a place where people can thrive," said Bruce Cordingley, President

and CEO of Pedcor Companies.

"We are thankful for the ongoing support that Pedcor Companies has given the Carmel Symphony Orchestra. Pedcor has been instrumental in building City Center, and much of the downtown core that has helped Carmel become a world-class city focused on the arts. They are wonderful partners in our quest to entertain, educate and engage audiences through the enjoyment of classical music," said Nancy Sutton, CSO Board Chair.

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Series Wraps Up on Best Boiler Gridders by Number



Ken Thompson
Columnist

This week we wrap up the best Boilermaker football players by number series with a College Football Hall of Fame guard and a Touchdown Twin.

91 Blaine Smith

While not recognized as a member of Purdue's Den of Defensive Ends, Smith was a first-team All-Big Ten selection in 1975 and 1976.

92 Craig Terrill

One of several freshmen to have a key role in the 2000 Big Ten championship team, Terrill was a four-year starter at defensive tackle.

Purdue's run of dramatic victories in October 2000 included a stunning overtime win at Wisconsin when Terrill blocked a long field goal try. The loose ball was recovered by Ashante Woodyard, who returned the blocked kick for the game-winning touchdown.

Terrill's 20.5 sacks ranked in Purdue's Top 10 when he graduated. After earning second-team All-Big Ten honors in 2003, Terrill went in the sixth round of the NFL Draft to Seattle.

93 Kawaan Short

Short possessed great athletic ability for a 6-3, 314-pound human being, a talent that was first noticed when he helped E'Twaun Moore and East Chicago Central win a Class 4A state basketball championship in 2007.

Short was a powerful pass rusher from his defensive tackle position, recording 19.5 career sacks and 49 tackles for loss. Short started all 50 games he played at Purdue and was a second-team All-American and first-team All-Big Ten selection as a senior in 2012.

The Carolina Panthers took short in the second round of the 2013 NFL Draft. Short played six seasons for the Panthers before a partially torn rotator cuff in 2019 and shoulder surgery in 2020 ended his career.

94 Ryan Kerrigan

One of the youngest to be elected to the Leroy Keyes Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame, Kerrigan was a three-star recruit out of Muncie Central High School but played like a five-star defensive end.

As a senior, Kerrigan was a unanimous All-American, the Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year and the Big Ten Defensive Lineman of the Year. Kerrigan led the nation with 26 tackles for loss to go with 12.5 sacks and five forced fumbles.

Kerrigan earned first-team All-Big Ten honors as a junior after leading the nation with seven forced fumbles to go with 13 sacks.

He was a first round draft pick by Washington in 2011 and was selected to the Pro Bowl four times.

95 Alex Agase

One of our country's "Greatest Generation," Agase was a leader on the football field and in the jungles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Agase began his College Football Hall of Fame career as an All-American guard at Illinois in 1942. Upon enlisting in the Marines in 1943, Agase was sent to Purdue for the V-12 training program. When not preparing for battle in World War II, Agase helped the Boilermakers go 9-0 and claim a share of the Big Ten championship. Again, Agase was cited as an All-American.

While on active duty, Agase earned a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. After his discharge, Agase returned to Illinois and earned his third All-American award. A six-year career in the NFL followed.

His coaching career included a four-year tenure at Purdue. Notable victories under Agase included an upset of defending national champion Notre Dame in South Bend in 1974 and a 16-14 victory against top-ranked Michigan in 1976.

96 Red Mackey

His name has been on Purdue's basketball arena since the early 1970s but Mackey was a football man first and foremost. His playing career at Purdue from 1926-28 was notable for Mackey's introduction to his future boss. Frederick Hovde was a quarterback at Minnesota before becoming Purdue's president from 1946 to 1971.

Mackey was on the Purdue coaching staff

when he was promoted to athletic director in 1942. "Mr. Purdue," as he was called by Lafayette Journal and Courier sports editor Bruce Ramey, served in that role until his death on Feb. 22, 1971.

97 Steve Baumgartner

Another deserving candidate for the Den of Defensive Ends from the 1970s, Baumgartner stood an imposing 6-7 and teamed up with future pros Dave Butz, Gregg Bingham and Gary Hrivnak to form one of Purdue's most talented defensive lines.

Baumgartner earned first-team All-Big Ten honors in 1972, and was one of five Boilermakers to go in the first two rounds of the 1973 NFL Draft. He would play for New Orleans and the Houston Oilers from 1973-79.

98 Matt Mitrione

As a four-year starter at defensive tackle, Mitrione racked up 50 tackles for loss from 1998 to 2001.

Mitrione earned first-team All-Big Ten honors in 2001, and finished his Boilermaker career with 10 sacks.

99 Jim Carter

He may not have a sandwich named in his honor at Triple XXX Restaurant in West Lafayette like fellow Touchdown Twin Duane Purvis, but Jim Carter was in no one's shadow at Purdue from 1932-34.

His 5.37 yards per carry ranks seventh in Purdue history, just a tick behind Purvis' 5.43. With Carter in the backfield, Purdue went 18-4-2 with a Big Ten championship in 1932.

Preseason honors

One of the top college basketball publications has selected Purdue senior guard Braden Smith its preseason National Player of the Year.

The lone returning first-team All-American, Smith won the Bob Cousy Award as the nation's top point guard last season. The Indiana Mr. Basketball winner from Westfield averaged 15.8 points, 8.7 assists and 4.5 rebounds a year ago.

Smith and fellow senior Fletcher Loyer were selected the Big Ten's top backcourt. Blue Ribbon Magazine also placed senior forward Trey Kaufman-Renn on its All-America second team.

Kaufman-Renn averaged 20.1 points and 6.5 rebounds a year ago

on his way to earning first-team All-Big Ten honors.

Kaufman-Renn and centers Oscar Cluff and Daniel Jacobsen were ranked second among Big Ten frontcourts behind Michigan.

The 411-page publication, which contains lengthy articles on every major college school, ranks Purdue second in its top 25 behind Florida. Houston, Duke and Connecticut round out Blue Ribbon's top five.

Big Ten teams ranked by Blue Ribbon include No. 9 Michigan, No. 12 UCLA, No. 20 Illinois and No. 21 Wisconsin.

The Boilermakers will also play at No. 8 Kentucky in an Oct. 24 exhibition game, at No. 11 Alabama on Nov. 13, No. 13 Auburn at Indianapolis on Dec. 20 and No. 17 Iowa State on Dec. 6 at Mackey Arena. No. 14 Texas Tech could be an opponent at the Baha Mar Championship on Nov. 21 in Nassau, Bahamas.

Big Ten basketball schedule

Can Purdue break the trend of being unable to go 2-0 in Big Ten play in December? We'll find out Dec. 2 when the Boilermakers travel to Rutgers on Dec. 2.

A victory there would make it likely Purdue will start league play 2-0 with Minnesota coming to Mackey Arena on Dec. 10. During the previous eight years under the current scheduling model of Big Ten play beginning before Christmas, the Boilermakers have gone 2-0 just twice.

In 2017-18, Purdue would go on to finish 15-3 and one game behind Michigan State for the title. Led by Zach Edey, Purdue started league play 2-0 in 2022-23 and went on to win the Big Ten by three games.

The now annual West Coast trip launches probably the toughest stretch of the Big Ten season for Purdue. After playing USC (Jan. 17) and UCLA (Jan. 20), the Boilermakers come home to face Illinois on Jan. 24. Trips to Indiana (Jan. 27) and Maryland (Feb. 1) follow.

Indiana makes the return trip to Mackey Arena on Feb. 20, the middle game of a three-game homestand that starts with Michigan on Feb. 17 and ends with Michigan State on Feb. 26. Wisconsin comes to Mackey Arena for Senior Day on March 7.

After a one-year experiment limiting the Big Ten Tournament to 15 schools, all 18 league

members will come to the United Center in Chicago from March 11-15.

Purdue Top 100 duo

Two former Boilermaker standouts are among ESPN's NBA Top 100 entering the 2025-26 season.

Second-year center Zach Edey of the Memphis Grizzlies is ranked 88th.

"The 7-foot-4, 305-pound big man's status for the start of the season is in question as Edey recovers from June ankle surgery, but he proved he could be impactful in a limited role as a rookie. Edey averaged 9.2 points, 8.3 rebounds and 1.3 blocks last season, when he played only 21.5 minutes per game. Only one rookie has ever matched or exceeded that production across the board with a higher effective field goal percentage than Edey's .600."

Detroit Pistons guard Jaden Ivey was ranked 85th.

"Three years into his

NBA career and it's still fair to wonder what exactly to make of Ivey and his long-term fit in Detroit. He played in only 30 games last season before a season-ending injury forced him to watch the team's playoff run from the sidelines. Before the injury, he was showing signs of a breakout, recording 17.6 points per game on 46 percent shooting (41 percent from 3), both of which were career highs. ... Now extension eligible on his rookie contract, Ivey will have something to prove this season: Can he be a major part of Detroit's next playoff run?"

Indiana Pacers guards Aaron Nesmith and Andrew Nembhard were ranked 65th and 81st respectively by ESPN.

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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Legislators Talk Safety Funding for Schools



Todd Huston

Hamilton County schools recently received nearly \$1 million for safety upgrades through the state's Secured School Safety Grant Program supported by area lawmakers.

House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers) said the funding is part of the state legislature's investment in school safety this year, which totaled \$27 million in state matching grants across 494 schools statewide. Lawmakers also advanced legislation this year to move the Office of School Safety to the Department of Homeland Security, centralizing safety efforts and providing additional support and resources to



Danny Lopez

schools.

"Indiana has continued to prioritize school safety, adding funding in the state's new two-year budget to help schools make security improvements," Huston said. "I'm grateful to our Hamilton County schools for pursuing these projects and helping to ensure the safest possible learning environment for our kids."

State Rep. Danny Lopez (R-Carmel) said awarded funds can be used for a wide range of safety needs like support for resource officers, equipment and technology, active event warning systems, threat assessments and student-parent support



Alaina Shonkwiler

service programs. Area schools receiving grants include:

- Carmel Clay Schools, \$91,566;
- Fishers Christian Academy, \$32,375;
- Guerin Catholic High School, \$18,652;
- Hamilton Community Schools, \$92,500;
- Hamilton Heights School Corp., \$46,250;
- Hamilton Southeastern Schools, \$92,500;
- Midwest Academy, \$41,625;
- Noblesville Schools, \$92,500;
- Options Schools, Inc., \$92,500;
- Our Lady of Grace School (Noblesville),



Hunter Smith



Chris Jeter, State Representative

- Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School, \$15,262;
 - Saint Maria Goretti School, \$28,526;
 - Sheridan Community Schools, \$92,500;
 - St. Louis de Montfort Catholic School, \$32,375;
 - University High School of Indiana, \$15,246; and
 - Westfield Washington Schools, \$92,500.
- "Our community has always prioritized the wellbeing of students," said State Rep. Chris Jeter (R-Fishers). "These grants are one more way we can give educators the tools they need to

maintain safe schools." State Rep. Alaina Shonkwiler (R-Noblesville) said since the program began in 2013, Indiana has invested more than \$214 million in school safety through state matching grants. "The funds from this program are a tool for schools to build on their existing security plans," said State Rep. Hunter Smith (R-Zionsville), a member of the House Education Committee.

To learn more about the Secured School Safety Grant Program and what Indiana's doing to keep schools safe, visit the state's school safety hub at in.gov/schoolsafety.

Huston represents House District 37, which includes a portion of Hamilton County. Jeter represents House District 88, which includes portions of Hamilton, Hancock, Madison and Marion counties. Lopez represents House District 39, which includes a portion of Hamilton County. Shonkwiler represents House District 29, which includes a portion of Hamilton County. And Smith represents House District 24, which includes portions of Boone and Hamilton counties.

GLP-1

Continued from Page 1

But for GLP-1s to fulfill their potential, it's critical that the FDA retain strict control over the quality and safety of these breakthrough therapies.

In response to a 2022 shortage of the drugs, a number of telehealth brands and less-than-reputable pharmacies began making and selling their own "compounded" copies of GLP-1s to meet demand.

Unlike traditionally manufactured medicines, such compounded drugs don't have to go through the standard FDA approval process. This makes them inherently risky -- which is why the FDA only permits compounding in special situations, such as drug shortages.

Yet even now that the GLP-1 shortage is over, compounders are continuing to make and sell their own copies of these medicines. The result is that many Americans are unknowingly relying on an unapproved medicine of dubious quality, safety, and origin.

The risks posed by compounded drugs are more than hypothetical. As of April, the FDA had

received about 1,000 adverse event reports linked to compounded GLP-1 medicines. Compounded semaglutide -- the active ingredient in Wegovy and Ozempic -- has been associated with numerous deaths.

There is also significant evidence that many compounded GLP-1s sold in the United States contain active pharmaceutical ingredients obtained from foreign sources that aren't registered with the FDA.

In other words, large quantities of GLP-1 ingredients of dubious quality are entering the country without the FDA's knowledge. They're finding their way into seemingly safe weight-loss medicines. And patients are none the wiser.

But there's more at risk here than patient safety. The economics of drug development hang in the balance.

It takes \$2.6 billion and 10-12 years, on average, to bring a drug from the lab through the regulatory process and to the patient's bedside. Only about one in 10 drugs succeeds. Why would investors and companies put such huge sums to-

ward drug development if compounding pharmacies and telehealth start-ups can simply ignore innovators' intellectual property rights and sell their own untested, potentially harmful copies?

The United States has led the world in pharmaceutical innovation for decades in large part thanks to our strong IP system and world-leading regulatory standards for drug quality and efficacy.

The explosion in knock-off GLP-1s sales has weakened both of these foundational pillars.

Until federal regulators put an end to this illicit drug trade, both patient safety and the rule of law will remain in needless peril.

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 (Entrepreneur 2025). Follow her on X @sallypipes. This article originally appeared in the South Florida Sun Sentinel.

SOIL

Continued from Page 5

to adjust your planting times.

Cover bare soil in perennial gardens and mixed borders with fall leaves. They are a great mulch, suppressing weeds, conserving moisture and improving the soil as they decompose. A layer of leaves insulates the soil, helping insects and other wildlife that overwinter underground. Plus, they are free.

Incorporating two to four inches of compost or other organic matter into the top 8 to 12 inches of soil is another option. Organic matter adds nutrients but also improves drainage and aeration in heavy soil and increases water- and nutrient-holding capacity in fast draining soils.

Adding compost also builds the soil ecosystem. It increases the number and activity of beneficial soil organisms such as good bacteria, fungi, microorganisms and insects. Healthy soil grows healthier plants more resistant to pests and environmental stresses.

Another no till method uses a five-inch layer of compost on top of non-shiny cardboard, covering the soil surface. The cardboard helps suppress the weeds and the compost provides the growing medium for seeds and transplants. The compost is replenished yearly, and the cardboard eventually breaks down, adding organic matter to the soil.

Convert landscape and garden trimmings, fall leaves and compost into a rich planting



Photo courtesy www.melindamyers.com

Hugelkultur gardening, or mound gardens, takes the lasagna gardening method one step further with a bottom layer of logs, branches and fall leaves that decompose, adding organic matter and nutrients to the soil.

medium with lasagna gardening. This system employs composting methodology to build soil in free-standing or contained raised beds.

Start your lasagna garden by measuring and marking the layout of your garden bed. Cut any grass and weeds in this area very short and cover with moist newspaper or cardboard. This smothers any existing grass and weeds.

Next, add a two- to three-inch layer of peat moss or compost. Top this with four to eight inches of plant debris such as leaves, plant-based kitchen scraps, herbicide-free grass clippings, straw or similar materials. Sprinkle a bit of low nitrogen fertilizer over this layer. Cover with an inch of compost. Repeat the layers, just like making lasagna, until your garden is 18 to 24 inches high.

Hugelkultur, or mound gardens take this one step further. The bottom layer is made of logs, branches and fall leaves. Do not include black walnut tree trimmings that are toxic to many plants or those of cedar and black locust that are very slow to

decompose. The rotting logs and branches absorb water, making it available to the plants in the garden. As the tree trimmings decompose, they add organic matter and nutrients to the soil. Then top this with a lasagna garden.

The lasagna and Hugelkultur beds gradually settle but the benefits remain. Continue to build additional lasagna layers every few years on top of established beds as needed.

Select a method that best fits your gardening style. Investing time in building healthy soil reaps years of benefits.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" streaming courses and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her website is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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October Busy Month at Performing Arts Center

The Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel has a busy October.

The Center, celebrating its 15th anniversary in 2026, hopes to engage and inspire the Indiana community through enriching arts experiences. The nonprofit organization's campus includes the 1,500-seat Payne & Mencias Palladium concert hall, the 500-seat Tarkington proscenium theater and the black-box Studio Theater.

Allied Solutions Center presents and hosts hundreds of events each year, including the annual Center Presents performance season, featuring the best in classical music, jazz, pop, rock, country, comedy and other genres. Educational and experiential programming for all ages includes children's concerts and camps, book clubs, lectures, and classes in music and stand-up comedy.

Allied Solutions Center is home to the affiliated Great American Songbook Foundation and provides space and support services for six resident arts companies. More information is available at TheCenterPresents.org.

Choir! Choir! Choir!: We Will Choir! You – An Epic Queen Sing-Along

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 2
Payne & Mencias Palladium
Family Series
Choir! Choir! Choir!

is the fully interactive, participatory show that turns audience into performer. Get ready to laugh, dance and sing your hearts out with music lovers just like you – no experience necessary. The Canadian group has collaborated with renowned artists including Patti Smith, David Byrne, Brandi Carlile, Rick Astley, Rufus Wainwright, and even Kermit The Frog at New York's Lincoln Center, creating memorable videos that have garnered views in the millions. On this tour, audiences can unleash their inner Freddie Mercury and create harmonies that will blow the roof off the place.

Rick Braun & Mindi Abair

8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4
Payne & Mencias Palladium
Drewry Simmons Vornehm
Jazz Series

With a sound compared to legends like Chet Baker and Miles Davis, trumpet/flugelhorn player Rick Braun has scored more than 20 No. 1 smooth jazz hits as an artist and producer. He has collaborated with jazz and pop greats including Kirk Whalum, Norman Brown, Dave Koz, Rod Stewart, Natalie Cole and Sade, among others.

Saxophonist/vocalist Mindi Abair has earned two Grammy nominations and won over jazz and blues fans with her soaring melodies and powerhouse style. She has been a featured saxophonist on American Idol, sat in with



the house bands on top late-night shows and toured with acts including Duran Duran and Aerosmith.

Il Divo by Candlelight with special guest Simply Three

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9
Payne & Mencias Palladium
Telamon Passport Series

Since their debut in 2004, the quartet Il Divo have redefined classical crossover, captivating audiences worldwide and selling over 30 million albums while earning 160 Gold and Platinum certifications across 35 countries. Currently comprising Urs Bühler (tenor, Switzerland), Sébastien Izambard (tenor, France), David Miller (tenor, USA) and new member Steven LaBrie (baritone, USA), they recently marked their

20th anniversary with their 10th album and first independent release, XX. Il Divo By Candlelight will take audiences on a journey through two decades of romance, heartache, and joy, supported by Phoenix-based string trio Simply Three.

Aida Cuevas: 50 Years Singing to Mexico

8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10
Payne & Mencias Palladium
Telamon Passport Series

Prepare for an unforgettable evening of passion, tradition and soul-stirring music as Aida Cuevas, the unrivaled "Queen of Ranchera Music," graces the stage on her 50th Anniversary U.S. Tour 2025. With one of the most powerful and emotive voices in Mexican music, Cuevas has received

multiple Grammy and Latin Grammy nominations, winning one of each. On this tour, she and her world-renowned mariachi ensemble invite audiences on a journey through five decades of iconic hits such as "El Pastor," "Quizás Mañana" and many more, all performed with elegance, artistry and heartfelt authenticity.

Matthew Morrison: Rhythms & Revelations

8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17
Payne & Mencias Palladium
BHI Senior Living
Songbook Series

Known for his standout role as Will Schuester on Glee, Matthew Morrison is a dynamic performer whose charisma and versatility have captivated audiences for years. With a background in musical

2025 MERCEDES-BENZ E450 ALL TERRAIN IS NOT A TYPICAL E-CLASS, BUT IT'S ALL MERCEDES

By Casey Williams

Sitting in a field at my grandmother's with the 2025 Mercedes-Benz E450 All Terrain wagon, the car is in Off-road mode that raises the air suspension about an inch for additional ground clearance. It's not your typical E-Class. While it still prefers open highway to river bottoms, it's a bit more comfortable getting to my grandpa's favorite fishing spot.

The base suspension setting provides about 6 inches of ground clearance. Even raised, it sits about 7 inches. By comparison, a base Subaru Outback has 8.7 inches with the super capable Wilderness edition raised to 9.5-inches. If you want to look the part, buy the Mercedes, but if you really want to go off-roading, maybe shop others.

Still, it looks really slick with the big star in its grille, 20-inch AMG wheels, low roof rails and arching roofline that connects it to the brand's elegant coupes. Flush doorhandles retract for the EQ look, but are sometimes difficult to coax back out. I'm a big fan of the current Mercedes styling that harkens back to the '90s when Bruno Sacco kept designs understated and aero-focused. Crisp body lines add tension, but there's little superfluous...except perhaps the black wheelwell trim and chromed rocker that hint at adventure.

The backpacker pretensions drift away when you fall inside. Base E450s come with a tablet-style touchscreen proud of wood panels, but ours added Mercedes' Hyperscreen that stretches across the cabin with a large infotainment screen in the middle and

a smaller co-pilot screen embedded on the right. Flatscreen gauges underline the head-up display. A camera on the dash allows video conferencing when parked. I can definitely imagine taking Teams calls from a rest area while traveling.

Heated and ventilated leather seats, twin-panel sunroof, and Bermester audio add luxuries. My family made clear they'd like it more if Mercedes added massagers up front and heat in the back. A plus of driving a wagon over a similarly-priced crossover is cargo area length. Pop switches to watch rear and seats fold instantly. You can get a lot in there! However, there's no spare tire under the floor. Relying on tire sealant and air compressor do not confer confidence when off-roading.

Most drivers will rarely touch wheels to anything more challenging than a grass parking area. So, the All Terrain is quite happy crossing continents expeditiously. On a two-hour Interstate run to see my grandmother, the 3.0-liter turbocharged inline six-cylinder engine put down 375 horsepower and 369 lb.-ft. of torque through a 9-speed automatic transmission. The all-wheel-drive system provided equal confidence on soft roads and slick highways. A mild hybrid system enables frugal fuel economy rated 22/31-MPG city/highway.

Putting this in perspective, Mercedes enthusiasts will remember the 300E-based AMG Hammers from the 1980s – cars that ate Porsches on the Autobahn. Hammers ran 0-60 mph in 5.0 seconds. Our E450 does it in 4.6s.



Photo Courtesy of Mercedes-Benz

With two fewer cylinders. Even disguised as a mountain jack, it's an historically potent sled.

With the drive mode set in Comfort mode, the air suspension provides a wafy ride that's reminiscent of older Mercedes. Sport mode tightens up the suspension, steering, and throttle responses more in the spirit of Mercedes' Bavarian rival. Rear steering enhances maneuverability. With adaptive cruise, it essentially drives itself on the highway, but hands must remain on the wheel. I'd prefer to take them off.

Mercedes has figured out that if you want to sell wagons in America, then need to at least look like they can tackle trails. While it's not the typical E-Class, it comes with a typical E-Class price. Base models start at \$76,100, but came to a loftier \$87,960 as-tested. Competitors include the Volvo V90 Cross Country, Audi A6 Allroad Quattro, and Subaru Outback XT Touring.

Storm Forward!

Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @ AutoCasey.

Likes

- Historic performance
- Mercedes ride
- Sublime luxury

Dislikes

- No spare
- Hands-on steering
- Light backpacking

2025 Mercedes-Benz E450 All Terrain

Five-passenger, AWD Wagon
Powertrain: 3.0-liter TI6, 9-spd.
Output: 375hp/369 lb.-ft.
Suspension f/r: Air Ind/Ind
Wheels f/r: 20"/20" alloy
Brakes f/r: disc/disc
0-60 mph: 4.6s
Fuel economy city/hwy: 22/31-MPG
Assembly: Sindelfingen, Germany
Base/as-tested price: \$76,100/\$87,960

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