John Mattix Will Be the Speaker at the May 4 Annual Meeting

John Mattix, Class of 1963 and Hobart High School football standout, will be the guest speaker at the Hobart High School Annual Dinner Meeting, to be held on Friday, May 4, in the Great Hall at Hobart High School. John will be talking about his football experience at Hobart High School and the well-known Mattix family, among other topics. Doors open at 5:30 pm, dinner will be served at 6:00, and the program will start at 6:30.

Tickets are $10 each, and available for purchase at this EventBrite link: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hobart-high-school-alumni-association-annual-meeting-tickets-43479935658?aff=es2. We ask that you purchase tickets ahead of time, so that we can prepare dinner accordingly.

The HHS Alumni Association will be announcing the recipients of the 2018 scholarships. Board members for the next two years will be elected. Entertainment will be provided by the talented high school singing group Wolfgang. Dinner will include fried chicken, mostaccioli, potato wedges, salad, rolls, beverages, and dessert. Check our website, www.hobartalumni.org, for updates.

**Alumni Spotlight**

**John Mattix, Brickie Football Player and Florida Reunion Coordinator**

Our Alumni Spotlight this month is on John Mattix, Class of 1963, former HHS football player, who now coordinates the All-Class Reunion held every February in Florida.

*Where do you live, and what are you doing these days?*

I have just retired from Sunoco Oil Company on October 13th, 2017. My wife, Gail & I live in The Villages, FL, which is the largest retirement community in the World, or at least the USA!

I worked 23 years for Amoco (now BP) and 25 years for Sunoco. In retirement I will be involved in the High School Mentoring Program and a Drug Abuse Program, as well as the Indiana Club and Indiana University Club. I play golf, tennis, pickleball, as well as playing poker with the neighborhood guys once a month.

(continued on page 2)
Alumni Spotlight (continued)

What sports and activities were you involved in when you were at Hobart?

I played football for Russ Deal (Quarterback - 1963) and JV Basketball. However, I was able to be the Manager of one of Bruce Mitchell’s Sporting Goods Stores; but to do that, Bruce told me that I could only play one sport. I chose football. Even though I was not able to play basketball and baseball after my sophomore year, I had the honor and joy of meeting all of the Northwest Indiana Coaches who came into the store - Russ Deal, Bill Cope, Bo Mallard, Eddie Herbert, Don Elser; to name a few!

Could you trace your path from Hobart High School to where you are now?

After graduating from Hobart, I went to Indiana University in Bloomington. I started in Pre-Dental, but changed to Business (Marketing) my sophomore year. I graduated in the winter of 1968. I always tell people I went an extra semester to see the CARDIAC KIDS - the 1967 Indiana Big Ten Football Champions, who lost to OJ Simpson & USC 14-3 in the Rose Bowl.

I then spent 2 years in the Army @ Fort Leonard Wood. I then started my 23 years with Amoco. While working at Amoco, my partners (The Hardins of Portage) & I opened the Athlete’s Locker Room Sporting Goods Store in Portage. We opened a second store in Valpo and a third in Munster (which we closed after 3 months). During that time I had my own Radio Show and Cable TV Show (once cable came to Portage). Amoco moved me to the East Coast and we had to close the stores. After 23 years with Amoco, I spent the next 25 with Sunoco.

Your family is well-known in Hobart, in the community, in the school system, and especially in sports. Could you tell us about your family?

My Mom & Dad were remarkable parents. My Dad worked 2 full time jobs for over 20 years. He was a mailman by day and carpenter at US Steel on the 4 to 12 shift. Because Dad worked all the time my Mom ran things at home. They raised 6 kids; and they all went to college.

Church, Little League, the County Election Board, and several social clubs. And although Dad worked 2 jobs, he always was there to see his sons play in many of their athletic events. My brother, Stew and my sister, Marilyn graduated from Hobart in 1949 and 1951.

Most everyone in Hobart knew Stew as a teacher, principal (George Earle & Ridgeview), and Assistant Superintendent. Stew’s wife, Connie, taught at Mundell School until she retired. My sister, Marilyn joined the Navy (WAVES) after graduating, where she met her husband, Norm Maguire. After the service, they both completed their college education in Minnesota, where Norm was a teacher, principal, superintendent, and finally, Executive Director of the Minnesota Superintendent Association. Marilyn worked for Hamline University.

My parents raised Stew and Marilyn during the Depression; and then I was born in 1945. After me came Dave, who graduated in 1965, and Bob in 1967 and Kathy in 1969. Bob & Dave went on to play for Ball State. Bob graduated from Ball State and Dave went on to IU and graduated from IU. Both became high school football coaches. Dave also coached girls’ softball and took Portage to several state tournaments. Bob was the AD at Portage and he also coached at Valparaiso University. Stew & Dave are in the Indiana High School Football Hall of Fame; and Bob will be inducted in 2019. My sister Kathy went to Ball State and she has been a successful Mortgage Broker.

Were there any teachers or experiences in the Hobart schools that made a strong impression or influence on your life and career path?
Alumni Spotlight (continued)

Of course, Coach Deal was a big influence; and Coach Paul Throne, my 8th Grade Football Coach changed my whole life when he moved me from guard to quarterback. That move taught me how to take charge and become a leader. Although I was the least talented Mattix in sports, playing quarterback taught me how to take charge; and it has helped me throughout my life. However, sports was just a part of the Mattix Family upbringing.

Education was always emphasized; and there was one Hobart High School teacher who had a big educational impact on our whole Family. My Mom graduated from Hobart High School in 1930, my Dad in 1931, Stew, in 1949, Marilyn in 1951, John In 1963, Dave in 1965, Bob in 1967, and Kathy in 1969; and in that span of 39 years we all had the same English Teacher - Miss Anderson. And Miss Anderson is the on TEACHER that taught the Mattix Family how to dot our i’s and cross our t’s!!!!

Not all athletes go on to a career in athletics. What advice would you give for high school students, especially athletes, who are considering college and their career?

As I mentioned earlier, I was the least talented athlete of the Mattix Boys; but the most talented athlete in our Family was my Father. He was voted the "Most Athletic" in his class. Sports was an important ingredient in our Family. However, what I learned was that winning was important; but equally important was losing. Learning how to correct those mistakes that you made during that loss, made me play better the next game. Life is full of success and failures; and sports has helped me deal with both. If a student gets a bad grade on a test, they only need to study harder on those questions they missed on that test; and they will have overcome that mistake and never forget it again.

Dr. Buffington has given our Hobart High School Students a learning facility that will give them every opportunity to succeed, whether that be in college prep, vocational, music, theatre, sports, or any academic area one would want to pursue. Life isn’t easy; but graduating from Hobart High School has made it a little easier for me. "ONCE A BRICKIE, ALWAYS A BRICKIE!" is our school moto and it pertains to all students. Utilizing the education one receives at Hobart High School and taking that BRICKIE ATTITUDE with you is a recipe for success!
Class Reunion Roundup

Here is the current list of upcoming class and all-class reunions. If your class is having a reunion, send the information to us at info@hobartalumni.org, and we will publicize it on our website and in our newsletter! More information on all these reunions can be found on the HHS Alumni Association website.

CLASSES OF 1972 AND 1973 ANNOUNCE JOINT REUNION (September 15, 2018)

Save the date! The classes of 1972 and 1973 will combine their reunion this fall, during Hobart High School's Homecoming weekend. The reunion will be September 15, 2018 at Hobart American Legion Post 54, 208 S Linda, Hobart. Cocktails at 6:00 with cash bar. Dinner at 7. Cost will be $20 each person. Please contact Leigh Huminsky, 219-942-5721 or send payment to Leigh Huminsky, 106 N. Illinois St., Hobart, IN 46342.

CLASS OF 1978 40th REUNION (September 29, 2018)

The Class of 1978 will be holding their 40th class reunion on September 29, 2018, at the Moose Lodge at 5:00. Planning meetings are under way with the next one being held at the Moose Lodge on August 23, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Classmates interested in planning the reunion are welcome to attend. Kristy Rosenbaum is the contact person for the class and questions can be emailed to her at lkcrose@comcast.net.

REGULAR CLASS GET-TOGETHERS:

CLASS OF 1956: We meet on the last Saturday of every month at 9:00 am, at the Paragon Restaurant. Contact Mary Jo Hopkins at mjhopp@comcast.net.

CLASS OF 1958: We have a luncheon on the 3rd Saturday of every month at the Lake Park Restaurant on Old Ridge Road in Hobart at 1:00 PM. Hope to see more HHS1958 alumni there. Contact Larry Koziol at lkoziol@ameritech.net.

CLASS OF 1960: We have a luncheon on the 2nd Saturday of every month at the Lake Park Restaurant on Old Ridge Road in Hobart at 1:00PM. Hope to see more HHS1960 alumni join us. Contact Linda Quinlan Koziol at lkoziol@ameritech.net.

CLASS OF 1964: We have a breakfast brunch on the second Saturday of every month at the Lake Park Restaurant, 7 E. Old Ridge Road in Hobart, from 11am to 1pm. Hope to see more 1964 alumni there. Contact Marsha Longacre Shabi at marbi22@juno.com.

BrickieFest Homecoming Picnic Set For Saturday, September 15 at the Brickyard

Mark your calendars for September 15! The all-class BrickieFest Picnic will be held on Saturday of Hobart's Homecoming Football weekend, from 12 noon to 3:00 pm, and this year's picnic will be at the Brickyard (the football stadium behind Hobart High School on East 10th Street).

All alumni are invited to the picnic! Hot dogs, brats, chips and bottled water will be served free of charge by the HHS Alumni Association.

The Homecoming football game will be on Friday evening, September 14, against Andrean High School. The game starts at 7:00. Come for the weekend: cheer on the Brickies on Friday night, and meet your friends at the BrickieFest picnic on Saturday!
The 2018 All-Class Hobart High School Reunion was held on February 10 at the Huntington Hills Country Club in Lakeland, Florida. A crowd of 47 people showed up. Magician Rondal Shumate performed.

This reunion was started in the year 2000 by John Mattix's aunt Joan (Mattix) Stark with her classmate Alice (Telstrom) Mitchell. Paul and Ruth Throne attended as new Florida residents. Paul and Tom Kerr spoke briefly.

Huntington Hills Country Club has been reserved for the 2019 All-Class Reunion on February 9, 2019. Mark your calendars!

The Legend of Brickie Bowl

Chris Ramirez, writer for the Region Sports Network, wrote an article in 2004 titled “Legends of Brickie Bowl”. The article has been updated and is worth reading again. It is reprinted with the author’s permission.

THE LEGEND OF BRICKIE BOWL: A STADIUM LIKE NO OTHER

By Chris Ramirez, Region Sports Network

It was on the night of September 15, 1939, that the Brickie Eleven first took the field at Hobart High School's then newly constructed football stadium – a product of the Depression Era, government funded Work Progress Administration. Fans willing (and able) to pay 35 cents could sit under the lights on concrete bleachers to watch the Lew Wallace Hornets and the hometown Hobart Brickies play a football game. For $1 a fan could own a ticket to all four home games on the 1939 schedule.

The one thousand or so fans that spent the 35 cents on that late summer evening saw future NFL Hall of Fame coach Hank Stram score two touchdowns as the Hornets whipped up on Coach Boyd Todd’s undermanned Brickies 44-0. But times would change as would the Brickies fortunes. Over the ensuing 70 seasons along the Norfolk-Southern railroad tracks, high school football history would be forged and legends born on a celebrated gridiron that would become known as Brickie Bowl. This is where high school football reigned supreme.

Great teams, great seasons and great players would come and go for decades, building the Bowl’s legacy. By the time Don Howell took over for Russ Deal in 1966, the program had long since been established as one of the best in Northwest Indiana. Soon after came the advent of the state football tournament and with the Brickies’ first ever appearance in 1979, the Bowl’s legend would go to whole new level, starting with a 35-30 victory over state ranked No. 9 Munster in the lone sectional game.

Rather than being remembered for what it is – the school’s first ever playoff victory, the Munster game takes a backseat to the following week’s game, which people from Hobart still refer to as the greatest game ever played – at Brickie Bowl...or anywhere else for that matter.

The date was Nov. 9, 1979. With Mohawk haircuts, six future Division I players and the #1 ranking in the state, the mighty Penn Kingsmen came to Hobart intent on ending what was by this time a modest 11 game Brickie Bowl winning streak. On a wet, frigid, blustery night, in front of
more than 8,500 spectators, (in what was believed to be the Bowl’s biggest crowd to that point) the Brickies made history, upsetting the Kingsmen 27-20 to advance to the state finals for the first time in school history.

Penn coach Chris Geesman still remembers that night. "I can’t ever imagine a bigger crowd. There were fans everywhere, including on our bench,” joked the state’s second all-time winningest coach. “When we got there, some of the Brickies were walking around with just a (half) shirt on. Next thing I know, our guys are out walking around with no shirts,” he said. “So we had a battle of wills going on before the game even started.”

Hobart defensive coordinator Tom Kerr, who spent most of his life coaching Hobart football called it, "the most electrifying, exciting game I’ve ever been associated with and the most satisfying victory I can recall. Both teams played their hearts out.”

The win over Penn sent the Brickies to the state championship game for the first time. All told, the Brickies would reach the state finals a total of 11 times; winning in ’87, ’89, ’91 and ’93. During this period, Brickie Bowl proved to be more than just a football field – it was Hobart’s personal fortress of doom, complete with a remarkable streak of 71 consecutive wins on the home turf. The Brickies were so dominant at home they didn’t lose a single game on the home turf between for 11 seasons from 1977-1988. If no singular moments worth recalling ever happened at Brickie Bowl, this feat alone would propel it to mythical status. 71 straight wins!

Jeff Karras, who followed brothers Ted and Tony at Hobart and played for Coach Howell during the famous streak said, “We could tell right away which teams were scared and which came to play. Plus we wanted to defend the streak; we wanted to keep it going for the guys that started it.”

The story of Brickie Bowl’s mystique also includes the classic, black and blue slugfest that occurred on Nov. 13, 1987 against the Munster Mustangs. Trailing 3-0 with under four minutes to play in the game, fate would be on the side of the No. 1 ranked Brickies in this rock-em-sock-em, smash mouth game for the ages.

After Mustang linebacker Jim Magrames hit Hobart’s Mike Golarz causing a fumble at the Munster 1, it began to look like the home winning streak might come to end. Then from out of nowhere, Brickie center Bill Fraze, the guy Munster says missed his block on Magrames, fell on loose ball in the end zone for what would be the game winning, regional championship winning touchdown. Final score: Hobart 7, Munster 3.

Years after the devastating loss, Magrames echoed the thoughts of many involved with this game. "We looked at it as the state championship. We knew the winner would go on to win state.”

As for it being a bone crunching game, Magrames called it, “the most physical game I ever played in...by far.” He also talked about the special feeling of playing in Brickie Bowl, as an opponent. "We knew of its history and the winning streak. We wanted to play them there, we wanted to be the ones to beat them there”, he said. “With the tracks and the way it sits in the ground, there's no place like it in the Region.”

Another game that will forever be remembered came in 1995 when heavy rains turned the old bowl into a “Mud Bowl”. In this unforgettable Region classic, the state’s No. 2 ranked Griffith Panthers, led by Bo Radtke, faced Larry Bigbie and the unranked Brickies.

Played in a quagmire, forever mired in controversy, and still talked about to this day, the hard-fought 14-13 skirmish won by the Brickies in ankle-deep mud gave birth to a new rivalry. Legend has it the Panthers buried a bone at midfield after the game. If the Bowl’s historical standing was in question before this night, its legend was cemented ever after.

Kerr remembers it well. “That’s the night I had two inches of mud in my shoes and two inches of water in my pockets” he said. “It was a battle of two good teams, we just hung on. At the end I was soaking wet but I had the warmest feeling inside. It was very rewarding (to win that game). Both teams gave it all they had.”

One of the last contributions to the Hobart history books came on Sept. 24, 2004 in a game that pitted the area’s No.1 ranked team and eventual state champion Andrean 59ers, winners of 21 straight in the conference, against the resurgent hometown Brickies. On Homecoming night, with over 5,000 fans in attendance, second generation
Brickie Marc Drobac rushed for 180 yards and added seven tackles, leading Hobart to 20-7 victory at what was known by this time as Don Howell Field at Brickie Bowl.

After Coach Howell’s retirement the team fell on hard times and schools that for years had been sent home with a loss were able to enjoy a measure of revenge. A move from the Duneland Conference, which they had dominated for so long, to a more competitive situation in the Lake Athletic Conference, gave promise that future generations of Brickies might create a legacy all their own on the fabled real estate behind Hobart Middle School.

With the opening of the new school and stadium in 2010, memories are now all that remain. So whether you were there when the gates first opened, or during the Russ Deal era of the ’50s and ’60s, or the Don Howell era when trips to the state finals were the norm, no matter if you’ve seen hundreds of games there or just one, this old stadium is sure to have left a lasting impression.

If you never had the good fortune to encounter the Brickie Bowl experience for yourself, trust the stories told to you about it by those who were there. They have no need to embellish, for the truth was better than fiction.

The article ended with poems by brothers Rudy and Bob Kuechenberg. These were originally published in the Hammond Times on September 26, 1977. [Disclaimer: Some readers may feel uncomfortable with the strong language used here.]

“**The Graveyard on the Hill**”

by Rudy Kuechenberg

I still remember those days
They were not so long ago
When I was still a Brickie there
A Brickie heart and soul

I still remember that stinking, sweating hell
Up there on old dustbowl
But you know that place upon the hill
Has a warm spot in my soul

For under all that dust and dirt
Unseen by human eye
Lay gallons of blood and hard-earned sweat
Of Brickies such as I

To me that place is sort of sacred
It’s more than just dirt and grass
It’s sort of like a graveyard
Entombed there is my past

Yes, my high school days lie dead there
In that place up in the sun
They died there with the greatest Brickies
The ones of sixty-one

And I’ll admit it ‘cause it’s true
For we have been outdated
By the ones of sixty-two

“A Football Player”

By Bob Kuechenberg

Up on that dustbowl in old August’s heat
When you know for sure that you are beat
Your lungs and throat burn like fire
What makes you go is that old desire

When you run and run and are so sore
To help Hobart win, you must run some more
For the Hobart Brickies to be the best
Is why that you must never rest

When the going gets to be rough
Is when you see just who’s tough
When the sweat and blood begins to flow
Is where the men will gladly go

Those who are actually the Great
Are they who sincerely appreciate
The wonderful, wonderful feeling to break
Someone’s bone

And fighting like hell to protect your own
Our Supporters

The HHS Alumni Association is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation, and our entire financial support comes from membership dues and contributions. We recognize our supporters by listing the names (not the amounts) of those who have contributed to HHSAA, including memorials, donations, and new and renewed members. Membership in the HHS Alumni Association is $10 per year, and life memberships are $100.

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS (since our November 2017 newsletter)

LIFE MEMBERS
Antoinette Banaski Hood (1963)
Deanna Maxwell Kwasny (1959)
John Mattix (1963)
Joseph McCullough (1977)
Tracy Estabrook McCullough (1978)
Mark Sonntag (1966)

ANNUAL MEMBERS
Robert Addison (1966)
Linda Jackson Bakos (1967)
Steven Balash (1968)
Donna Ahlgrim Benedict (1951)
Linda Collins Binkley (1964)
Allen and Judith Blanchard (1954)
Dave Brandenburg (1961)
Jamie Brandenburg (1966)
Sandra Scott Casperson (1953)
Rebecca Demo (1969)
Sandra Erwin Edwards (1967)
Dr. Terry Fasel (1965)

HHS Alumni Association Board

The Hobart High School Alumni Association was officially incorporated on July 17, 2010. The current members of the Board of Directors are:

OFFICERS
Holli Smith Kostbade, Class of 1998..........................................................President
Paul Addison, Class of 1970 ..................................................................................Vice-President
Debra Broker Opolski, Class of 1970.................................................................Treasurer
Lynn Hasza-Heintz, Class of 1967.................................................................Recording Secretary
Tracy Estabrook McCullough, Class of 1978...............................................Corresponding Secretary

AT-LARGE MEMBERS
Tracy Brumley, Dean of Students, Hobart High School
Lynn Sheets Kostbade, Class of 1966

STUDENT MEMBERS
Danielle Hill, Class of 2018
Cade Brumley, Class of 2018
Lillian Kollross, Class of 2019
James Corgan, Class of 2019
MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the Hobart High School Alumni Association is to develop and maintain a close relationship between Hobart High School, its constituents, and its alumni for their mutual benefit. The Association is committed to, and involved in the support and well-being of Hobart High School and its alumni.

OUR GOALS
- To assist Hobart High School in communication with its alumni
- To convey to Hobart High School the views, attitudes, and needs of the alumni in seeking to preserve, advocate, and promote alumni interests
- To strengthen alumni activities and programs
- To support educational programs through teacher grants and student scholarships

Recent Obituaries
(since our November 2017 newsletter; in PDF form, these are links to each classmate's In Memory page)

FEBRUARY 2018:
Susan Acsbok Hartleroad, Class of 1993
James (Jim) Boston, Class of 1967
Jeffery Plews, Class of 1986
Don Bullard, Class of 1970

JANUARY 2018:
Mary McRitchie, Class of 1942
Marian Bodine Pence, Class of 1946
Jeffrey (Jeff) Johnson, Class of 1963
Theresa (Terri) Wolfe Adams, Class of 1970
Sue Cowsert Millender, Class of 1973
William "Willy" Dale, Class of 1997
Jillian Marler Homier, Class of 1998
Deborah Camarena, Class of 1983
Gerald (Jerry) Waite, Class of 1952
Richard "Ricky" Pontney, Class of 2001

DECEMBER 2017:
Michael Donovan, Class of 1973
Cheryl King Mathis, Class of 1965
Joseph Goulden, Class of 1958
Mary Tatalovich Magurean, Class of 1940
Gary Banks, Class of 1964
Nelson Wittman, Class of 1948
Larry Mazepa, Class of 1973
Bill Matthews, Class of 1966

NOVEMBER 2017:
Robert (Bob) Swisher, Class of 1967
Bob Upthegrove, Class of 1972
Shirley Lavon Farley, Class of 1977
Karen Cook, Class of 1960
Dick Hanson, Class of 1958
Joyce Muir Meister, Class of 1954
Robert Eastwood, Class of 1964
Allen Craig, Class of 1954
Marlene Hamann Popp, Class of 1951
William (Bill) Woods, Class of 1953
Lorraine Sonntag Kietzman, Class of 1942

OCTOBER 2017:
Joseph Toccani, Class of 1959

(Recently Received)

AUGUST 2017:
Tanya Pavel Gaskins, Class of 1980

JULY 2017:
Rebecca (Becky) Kuechenberg, Class of 1980

JANUARY 2017:
William (Bill) Wilfong, Class of 1977
Michael Galler, Class of 1996
From the 1918 HHS *Aurora* Yearbook, 100 Years Ago

Above is the Commencement Program for the Hobart High School Class of 1918. (Full disclosure from the newsletter editor: I have a special fondness for this yearbook. My aunt Esther Nelson was both the Treasurer of the class, and the Valedictorian.)

Almost every Hobart High School yearbook from 1908 to 2011 has been digitized and made available by the Lake County Public Library. You can see a list of all of them on our website, at: [www.hobartalumni.org/HHS-Yearbooks-Online.htm](http://www.hobartalumni.org/HHS-Yearbooks-Online.htm).
Membership Application  
Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc.

Check one: New member _____ Renewal _____
Check one: 1-year membership ($10) _____ Lifetime membership ($100) _____

First Name__________________________________________________________
Last Name (in high school)____________________________________________
Married Last Name __________________________________________________
Your class graduating year at HHS____________________________________

(Renewing members only need to fill out the following if anything has changed)
Street Address_______________________________________________________________________
City____________________________State_________Zip________________________
Email address_______________________________________________________________________
Home phone___________________________________________________________________________
Cell phone___________________________________________________________________________
Work phone___________________________________________________________________________

"Once a Brickie, Always a Brickie!"
Thank you for your support!

Membership is $10 per year, or $100 for a Life Membership
(proceeds go towards scholarships and teacher grants)

Make your check out to: HHS Alumni Association
Mail to: HHSAA, P.O. Box 68, Hobart, IN 46342

Our website is: www.hobartalumni.org