

TODAY'S VERSE

1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Bethany (Lackman) Berghofer smile? "Everything, people, watching people smile, making people happy," said the 36-year-old, a 2004 graduate of Westfield High School. She is also a graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University, where she earned a general studies degree with a concentration in art. Since college, she has been "teaching art and making art." She discovered stained glass and did that for more than six years. As a fabricator for Designer Glass Solutions in Noblesville, she created three stained-glass pieces in the 2019 Centerpiece Home at the Indianapolis Home Show in collaboration with the home's designer, Luxe Home Interiors of Carmel. Why stained glass? "It's very detail oriented but also creative." She and her husband, Nathan, live with their two dogs, Maddie, a Maltipoo (Maltese-Miniature poodle mix) and Lola, a Papi-Poo (Papillon and Poodle mix). "I like to spend time with my husband and my dogs. I love teaching art. I love drawing, creating and making people happy. I love Indiana, and I love Hamilton County." In 2021, she authored, illustrated and published a children's book, "Gramma Called Us Monsters," taken from her own childhood. She also illustrated "Travels With Bailey: There's a Mouse in My Cooler." Both books are available on Amazon. And if you're looking for spring home and garden ideas, the annual Indiana Flower & Patio Show is March 12-20 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

And Another Thing...

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation will hold its annual Barrier-Free Theater performance in honor of Developmental Disability Awareness Month. This year's performance, titled *World Gone Rocked*, will be held in person at the Monon Community Center March 12 at 6 p.m. and March 13 at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required to attend the show. Tickets are \$10 each and are available for purchase online now through March 10. Attendees will be seated with their own party, physically distanced from other parties within the auditorium. Masks are optional. For more information about Barrier-Free Theater or adaptive programming, contact CCPR Inclusion Program Supervisor Kelvin Solares at ksolares@carmelclayparks.com.

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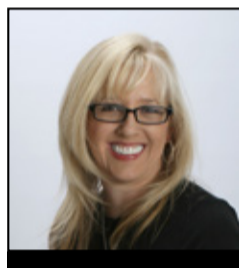
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The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Join Downtown Noblesville merchants for the annual Sip and Shop, which promotes Shop Small, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. today in downtown Noblesville.

Sip and Shop, Women's History, Art Opening, Miller-Palooza are Tonight



BETSY REASON
The Times Editor

Go downtown Noblesville for Sip and Shop, Women's History Month, art openings and more during tonight's First Friday activities, among 20 things to put on your calendar. Here's our list:

1. Join Downtown Noblesville

merchants for the annual Sip and Shop, which promotes Shop Small, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. today in downtown Noblesville.

2. Celebrate Women's History Month during March First Friday the "Boosting the Signal: Women's History in Art" opening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. today at Gal's Guide Library (home to the first women's history lending library in the United States) on the second floor of the Nickel Plate Arts Campus in Noblesville. The exhibit showcases the world of female-identifying artists as well as artists

whose work celebrates women. More than 24 pieces of photography, painting and sculpture by 15 artists are in the show, plus a celebrity appearance by Klaire Lockheart, named Miss Art World South Dakota and host of History of Modern Art, with two art pieces on display tonight.

3. Visit the Nickel Plate Arts First Friday Noblesville Schools' budding artists celebration featuring artwork by the

See BETSY Page A6

Spartz's Resolution Supporting Ukraine Passes House of Reps.



Rep. Victoria Spartz

Today, the House of Representatives passed with near unanimous support H. Res. 956. U.S. Representative Victoria Spartz (R-IN) led the bipartisan resolution along with Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Gregory Meeks (D-NY).

This resolution demands an immediate cease-fire and the full withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukrainian territory and expresses unequivocal support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It also backs the continued use

of sanctions to fully isolate the Putin regime economically, urges the Russian Federation alongside United States allies and partners to guarantee safe passage out of the country, and urges the United States and its allies and partners to deliver additional and immediate defensive security assistance to Ukraine.

The final vote was 426-3, with 4 members not voting. The three nay votes were Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ); Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY); and Rep. Matthew Rosendale (R-KY). The four absent members were Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL); Rep. G.K. Butterfield (D-NC); Rep. David Price (D-NC); and Rep. Van Taylor (R-TX).

Spartz, who was born in Ukraine in 1978, prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union, immigrated to the United States in 2000. Throughout the prelude to Russia's invasion and following the invasion, she has been one of the most vocal supporters of Ukraine in the house. She has publicly called for both crippling sanctions on Russia and direct military assistance to the Ukrainian military.

Art, Music, Helping Our Students Grow



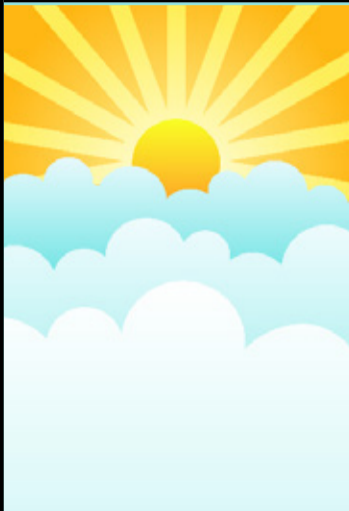
DEREK ARROWOOD

This is National Youth Art Month (YAM). The YAM program provides a medium for recognizing skills developed through visual arts experiences unlike any other curriculum subjects, including problem solving, creativity, observation, and communication. I want to give a shout out to our amazing art educators, Taylor Myers (HHHS), Erin Goodman (HHMS) and Cheri Trachtman (HHES) for opening the door to the unlimited possibilities of creative expression at Heights.

Through their leadership, they advocate for the power of art and its impact on student achievement. Learning how to draw, paint, mold clay, or just appreciate the works made by others can help students become

See ARROWOOD Page A6

The Daily Almanac



Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 7:12 a.m.
SET: 6:39 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
High: 53 °F
Low: 28 °F



Wacky Holiday Today

- Employee Appreciation Day
- Dress In Blue Day



What Happened On This Day

- 1789 The U.S. Constitution is put into effect
- 1918 The first documented cases of the Spanish flu herald a deadly worldwide pandemic



Births On This Day

- 1950 Rick Perry American politician, 47th Governor of Texas
- 1951 Chris Rea English singer-songwriter

Deaths On This Day

- 2008 Gary Gygax American game designer, co-created Dungeons & Dragons
- 1811 Mariano Moreno Argentinian lawyer, journalist, politician

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OBITUARIES

Bruce David Gilliam
Precious "Eileen" McClellan
Molly Ginaine Stansfield
Ruth Mae Wiggins



HONEST HOOSIER

Speaking of the Irish, anyone remember former WCFL Sports Director Mike Haynes? Did you know that Mike's parents are from Ireland and the Indiana Hall of Fame broadcaster and retired NHL television announcer holds dual citizenship? And who says newspapers aren't informative!



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Consider sitting on an exercise ball instead of a chair - it helps your balance and keeps you more alert. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Times and online at www.thetimes24-7.com.



The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank **John Kraft** of Noblesville for subscribing!

TODAY'S QUOTE

"True friends stab you in the front."

- Oscar Wilde

TODAY'S JOKE

In honor of St. Paddy, we'll share some jokes for a bit that'll have you Dublin over with laughter! What do you call a fake Irish stone? A shamrock!

7 DAY FORECAST

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
30/42	28/53	43/70	60/68	37/48	32/43	29/50
MUCH CLOUDY, FEELS LIKE WINTER	SLIGHTLY WARMER	WARM AND WET	CHANCE OF RAIN/STORMS	WINDY, FEELS LIKE WINTER	COOL	BACK TO BRIGHT
☁	☀	☁	☁	☁	☁	☀

OBITUARIES

Bruce David Gilliam

July 21, 1954 - Feb. 25, 2022

Bruce David Gilliam, 67, of Noblesville, passed away on Fri., Feb. 25, 2022 at Riverview Health in Noblesville.

He was born on July 21, 1954 to the late James and Patricia (Woodring) Gilliam in Noblesville, Ind.

Mr. Gilliam worked as a plumber for Scott's Plumbing & Heating as well as Summers Plumbing, Heating & Cooling before retiring. He enjoyed fishing and riding his bike. He was a great athlete (cross-country, track, baseball and basketball). He was also an avid music enthusiast.

Survivors include his brothers, Ken (Wendy) Gilliam and Larry Gilliam; sister, Shelly (Brad) Bennett; as well as many nieces, nephews, and other loved ones.

A Celebration of Life gathering is scheduled to be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sat., March 12, 2022 at The Lodge at Forest Park, 701 Cicero Road, Noblesville, Ind., 46060.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Liver Foundation, PO Box 299, West Orange, NJ 07052; or the organization of your choice.

Condolences can be made online at www.randallroberts.com.

Precious "Eileen" McClellan

Jan. 20, 1917 - March 1, 2022

Precious "Eileen" McClellan, 105, of Westfield, formerly of Lapel, was safely welcomed into the arms of Jesus her Savior on March 1, 2022, at Sanders Glen Assisted Living in Westfield.

She was born on Jan. 20, 1917, in Lynn, Indiana to Orla Dixon Green and Laura Belle (Jackson) Green.

Mrs. McClellan graduated from Lynn High School class of 1935. She was a homemaker for many years. During that time, she worked in the cafeteria at Lapel High School. In addition, she taught Sunday school at her church. After her husband, Mac, passed away, she stepped out of her comfort zone and became an interpreter in the village at Conner Prairie. Mrs. McClellan enjoyed studying the Bible, doing family history, mowing on her John Deer tractor, and sewing.

Survivors include her daughters, Laurelee Anderson of Westfield and Nathana McFarland of Columbia City; grandchildren Lori Mench, Aaron McFarland, Ronald (Jennifer) McFarland, Kelly (Mark) McKenney and Ami (Tim) Barttrum; and many great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Paris "Mac" McClellan; and two grandchildren, Kimberly Crawford and Cary Anderson.

A funeral service is scheduled to be held at 2 p.m. on Mon., March 7, 2022, at Cyntheanne Christian Church, 13151 Cyntheanne Road, Fishers, Ind., 46037, with the Rev. Larry Renihan officiating. Burial will follow in Gravel Lawn Cemetery.

Visitation is scheduled to be from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Mon., March 7, 2022, at the church.

Memorial contributions may be made to Cyntheanne Christian Church through the funeral home.

Hersberger-Bozell Funeral Home in Lapel has been entrusted to the services for Eileen.

Online condolences can be made at www.hersberger-bozell.com.

Molly Ginaine Stansfield

June 25, 1940 - March 1, 2022

Molly Ginaine Stansfield, 81, of Lisle, Ill., passed away on Tue., March 1, 2022 at Magnolia Springs Senior Living at Bridgewater in Carmel, Indiana.

She was born on June 25, 1940 to Vincent and Edna (Wold) Ginaine in Saint Louis, Missouri, whom proceeds her in death.

Mrs. Stansfield received her Bachelor's degree in occupational therapy at Mt. Mary College in Wisconsin. She enjoyed working as a sales associate for Marshall Fields for many years.

She was a member of St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, Naperville, Illinois. She enjoyed traveling, being outdoors, going for snow mobile rides, and eating out. Mrs. Stansfield loved her home in Minocqua, Wisconsin. She was a Fighting Illini and Chicago Bears Fan.

Survivors include her husband of 55 years, William "Bill" Stansfield, III; son, Bill (Ann) Stansfield, IV; daughter, Christine (Rich) Werneth; grandchildren William Stansfield, V, Andrew Stansfield, Jason Werneth and Ava Werneth; sisters, Sister Martha Ginaine and Judith (Shrikant, deceased) Dighe.

Services are scheduled to be held at 1 p.m., on Fri., March 4, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Center, 1685 Westfield Road in Noblesville, with Father Michael Block officiating. Visitation is scheduled to be from noon to the time of service at the funeral home.

Condolences can be made online at www.randallroberts.com.

Ruth Mae Wiggins

Jan. 30, 1923 - Feb. 27, 2022

Ruth Mae Wiggins, 99, of Noblesville, passed away peacefully on Sun., Feb. 27, 2022 at Community Hospital North in Indianapolis listening to her favorite hymns with family by her side.

She was born on Jan. 30, 1923 to Walter and Mae (Fisher) Stacy in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mrs. Wiggins was a loving wife, mother, sister, grandmother, aunt, great grandmother, homemaker, and secretary, always willing to help, and would put other's needs ahead of her own. She enjoyed card games, golfing, and crafting. She was a faithful caretaker to her husband for 7 years when he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

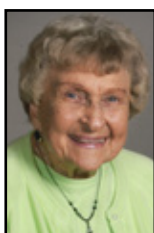
Mrs. Wiggins was a member of Noblesville First Presbyterian Church, the Senior Citizens Organization of Noblesville, and the Garden Club of Indiana. She was a faithful volunteer at Crossroads Rehabilitation Center, St. Vincent Hospital, Riverview Hospital, her children's schools, and at her church as a Sunday school teacher.

Survivors include her sons, Steve Wiggins and Ken Wiggins; grandchildren Thomas (Joanna) Wiggins, Kyle Wiggins, Lyndsay (Kyle) Brookey, Melissa (Steven) Ross, Melissa Reyna and Amber Reyna; great-grandchildren Gauge, Meyer, Raelynn, Uriana and King.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Forrest Glenn Wiggins; brother, Walter Stacy; sister, Elaine Blank; daughter, Deborah Reyna; son-in-law, Tony Reyna; daughter-in-law, Barbara Jean Wiggins; and great-grandchild, Mia Reyna.

Services are scheduled to be held at 12 p.m. on Fri., March 4, 2022 at First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville, 1207 Conner Street in Noblesville, with Pastor Eric Gale officiating. Visitation is scheduled to be from 10 a.m. to the time of service at the church. Burial will be at 2:30 pm at Oaklawn Memorial Gardens in Indianapolis.

Condolences can be made online at www.randallroberts.com.



A Column About Column A



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

I do a lot of dumb things. But I have no regrets, because these missteps often end up as an inspiration for one of my columns. I do not do dumb things on purpose. That would be, well,...dumb.

One of the dumbest things I ever did was about four years ago when Mary Ellen and I were planning a trip to Washington, DC to visit some of my old classmates from George Washington University. My wife usually makes the reservations, but I took on the responsibility. BIG mistake.

I checked online and compared different rates. I found a surprisingly inexpensive hotel right in Washington and booked it. I couldn't determine from their map how far the hotel was from the White House, which was the part of town we needed to be in...so I called.

"Hello. This is Richard Wolfsie and a few days ago I booked a room with you guys for September 4 through September 10. Can you give me some idea how far you are from the White House and how long it would take to walk that distance?"

There was a pause on the other end.

"Well, Sir, it's about 3,000 miles as the crow flies. If you are walking with the crows, you're looking at about three months."

What I had done was—yes, book a hotel in Washington. Just not DC. It was in the middle of Seattle.

Over the years, Mary Ellen has never let me forget this dumb mistake, but now she has topped me. This is especially gratifying because she never does dumb things, with maybe one exception 42 years ago. Here's the story: The

other night we decided to pick up Chinese food. Our favorite place had gone out of business so we were seeking a new option. Someone recommended Happy Dragon. Mary Ellen made the call and placed the order. The first odd thing was our ticket number: 8649735260, which I think is also the population of China.

After we ordered, I asked Mary Ellen for the address. Brett, my son, put it in his GPS to see how long it would take to get there.

"Do we need to leave now? I asked.

"I think we better, Dad. It's gonna take us about three and a half hours."

"Wow, that much traffic?"

With that, Mary Ellen let out a yelp. I had never heard my wife yelp. Not in 42 years.

"Oh, no! I ordered our food from a Happy Dragon in Ohio by mistake."

"I hope it was Canton, Ohio. I love Cantonese food."

"Very funny. No, it was Happy Dragon in Columbus, Ohio. Call them back and cancel."

I called and told him my name, and then I read him our order number.

"OK, you are Mr. fried rice, two eggrolls, wonton soup and main course is..."

"Yes, yes, that's me. Look we live in Indianapolis and..."

"Oh, that's a long drive; better leave now. Getting cold."

"I'm sorry, we made a mistake and will have to cancel. We didn't mean to order from Ohio."

"You don't like Cantonese food?"

"Too late, I already did that joke."

We reordered at the local Happy Dragon and enjoyed the dinner. That night we were a happy family, which was also our main course.

- Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in *The Paper of Montgomery County*. E-mail Dick at Wolfsie@aol.com.

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Springtime Memories of Bygone Hoosier State Tournaments



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

It's that great time of the year in Indiana, when springtime is near and the boys basketball high school state tournament is under way.

The Sagamore Conference enjoyed a competitive season, with four schools within one game of each other at the top of the league. Southmont and Lebanon shared the title at 6-1, holding off Crawfordsville (5-2) and Danville (5-2).

Thanks to a suggestion from the head man at The Paper and The Times, Tim Timmons, let's take a look back at the founding of the Sagamore Conference and some of the best players to have competed for a championship.

Future IHSAA commissioner Ward Brown and Robert Barton represented Crawfordsville when the first organizational meeting for the Sagamore Conference was held in Lebanon on Oct. 11, 1966.

The other original members were Brownsburg, Carmel, Frankfort, Lebanon and Noblesville.

Carmel would depart following the 1973-74 school year for football reasons. Before the state tournament included every school, a cluster system determined which schools got in and which ones

were left out.

Before the Greyhounds left, they fielded two of the best scorers in Indiana high school history: the Shepherd brothers, Billy Jr. and Dave. Both are in the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

Billy Shepherd scored 2,465 points in four varsity seasons. Averaging 32 points a game as a junior and senior, Shepherd was selected Indiana Mr. Basketball in 1968. He and his father were the first parent-son combination selected for the Indiana all-Stars. Billy Jr. went on to become Butler's career scoring leader with more than 1700 points.

Two years later, Dave Shepherd nearly matched his brother's scoring feats with 2,226 points in three varsity seasons. He played most of his collegiate career at Mississippi after averaging 26 points a game as a freshman at Indiana.

Crawfordsville, the birthplace of basketball in Indiana, not surprisingly has had its share of prolific scorers as well.

Matt Petty was a four-year starter, averaging 27.1 points as a senior and leaving with the scoring record of 1,608 points. Petty was a consistent scorer as well, surpassing 30 or more points in a game for a school record 13 times. After making the Indiana All-Star team in 1989, Petty went on to play at Creighton.

Some may remember Matt McCarty's accomplishments on the baseball diamond but not even Petty came close to his school record scoring average of 31.3 points a game in 1993-94. McCarty averaged 21 points a game for his career and left with 1,410

points.

His finest game may have been against Frankfort in February 1994 when he set the school and gymnasium single-game scoring record with 57 points.

North Montgomery replaced Carmel starting with the 1975-76 school year. The Chargers have had many outstanding players over the years but residing at the top of the scoring list is Indiana All-Star D.J. Byrd.

Byrd scored 1,785 points while helping North Montgomery win three sectional championships in 2006, 2007 and 2009.

One of, if not the best, athletes in Chargers history is B.J. Schlicher. The 1996 graduate put up 1,326 career points in arguably his third-best sport. Schlicher played two seasons of professional baseball before a record-setting career quarterbacking the University of Indianapolis.

The birth of the Sagamore Conference missed the presence of the legendary Rick Mount by two years but Lebanon has had two Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame members and three other Indiana All-Stars during its membership.

Before helping Purdue reach its most recent NCAA Final Four in 1980, Brian Walker was a prolific scorer for Jim Rosenstihl. Walker's 44 points in the sectional final as a senior remains a school record, and the Tigers won four consecutive regional championships with Walker in the backcourt.

Lebanon's offense didn't drop off with Walker off to college as Jim Fisher began his Hall of Fame career. By the time he graduated in

1978, Fisher had put up 1,317 points thanks to a career scoring average of 22.6 points. Fisher was a three-time All-Sagamore Conference selection.

While Sagamore Conference fans didn't get to see Rick Mount, son Rich averaged 27.3 points as a senior in 1988-89 and ranked ninth in state history at the time with 2,139 points.

Steve Walker, the elder brother of Brian, averaged a double-double (22.5 points, 10.4 rebounds) as a senior in 1974-75. Steve Walker also played for the Purdue Final Four team after beginning his collegiate career at North Carolina State.

Frankfort has had its share of outstanding scorers during the past 45 years. Two of them would go on to play their college ball in state.

Brandon Crone was a four-year starter for the Hot Dogs and led the team in scoring for three seasons. His 1,412 career points are among the top 10 in Frankfort history. He averaged 20.3 points as a senior in 2002-03 to earn a spot on the Indiana All-Star team. Crone went on to help Butler reach the NCAA Sweet 16 in 2007.

Travis Best helped the Hot Dogs win the sectional championship in 1997, averaging 18.8 points and 9.0 rebounds a game. Best scored 1,463 points, which ranks among the top five in school history. His teams went 79-19 over four seasons with four sectional titles and four Sagamore Conference championships. After a stint with the Indiana All-Stars, Best played two seasons at Louisville before transferring home

to Purdue.

Gary Goode also was an Indiana All-Star whose 27.2 scoring average as a senior in 1984-85 set a school record and helped Frankfort reach the Lafayette Semistate. He graduated as the school's career scoring leader with 1,511 points and still ranks third more than 35 years after his final game.

Andy Foster set the school scoring record with 1,612 points. After graduating in 1997, Foster continued his prolific scoring at the University of Indianapolis where he put up 1,778 points.

Western Boone replaced Noblesville, which departed in 1979 for similar reasons to their neighbors in Carmel.

Brownsburg withdrew in 1985 to be replaced by Southmont. The Bulldogs reached the 1981 Lafayette Semistate behind future Purdue forward Mark Atkinson. That season, Atkinson averaged 19 points and 13 rebounds per game.

Kyle Shirk excelled for Southmont during the 1991-92 season, averaging 28.4 points and 13.5 rebounds a game. The 597 points he scored as a senior and his career total of 1,092 were school records when Shirk graduated.

That career mark was eclipsed six years later by Travis Bowen, who graduated with 1,375 points.

Cam Chadd is the most recent outstanding scorer for the Mounties, graduating in 2019 with a school record 1,470 points.

Danville and Tri-West completed the current Sagamore Conference lineup in 1998.

Future Purdue big man Travis Carroll was an Indiana All-Star in 2010 after averaging 19.6 points and 12 rebounds for Danville.

Dillon Ware guided Danville to a perfect Sagamore Conference season in 2020 thanks to an all-around game. In addition to averaging 17.5 points a game, Ware also put up 6.7 rebounds and 5.3 assists.

Tri-West's undefeated Sagamore Conference championship team in 2018 was led by guard Tyler Watson's 26.6 points per game.

Noteworthy Purdue sophomore guard Jaden Ivey is one of five finalists for the Jerry West Award, given to the nation's top shooting guard.

No program has ever produced two Jerry West Award winners, but Ivey could make Purdue the first while following in the footsteps of 2018 winner Carsen Edwards.

The other finalists are Benedict Mathurin of Arizona, Ochai Agbaji of Kansas, Johnny Juzang of UCLA and Johnny Davis of Wisconsin. ...

ESPN NFL draft expert Mel Kiper Jr.'s latest mock draft has former Purdue defensive end George Karlaftis heading to Dallas with the 24th overall pick.

"Karlaftis didn't have eye-popping stats in 2021, but he is a good run defender who could get more sacks in the NFL than he had in college," Kiper wrote.

- 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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Photo courtesy of the Hope Family Care Center

Mike Jenkins, CEO and Founder and Barb Green, Office Manager of Hope Family Care Center in Cicero, shared the invaluable role, function, and impact of this local health ministry at last week's Cicero Kiwanis Club breakfast meeting.

Improving Lives Through HOPE

At Saturday's Cicero Kiwanis Club breakfast meeting, Mike Jenkins and Barb Green from the Hope Family Care Center in Cicero, took center stage sharing what they referenced as "the best kept secret in the area." Members learned about the great work Hope Family Care Center is doing in the community to meet health care needs.

According to Jenkins and Green, the secret really shouldn't be one, because it's open to the public. Hope Family Care Center at 270 W. Jackson Street in Cicero is the only free health clinic in the local area, serving people in Arcadia, Noblesville, Atlanta, Cicero, Sheridan, and Tipton, who cannot afford medical and dental care.

Cicero Kiwanis President, Dr. Derek

Arrowood, said anything that Mr. Jenkins is involved is something that is beneficial and impactful to others and always good thing. "I had the pleasure of listening to one of my all-time favorite teachers," Dr. Arrowood noted of the former Hamilton Heights educator. "I also learned a lot more about the great work Hope is doing in our community to meet the growing health care needs from the legendary Mr. Jenkins, who continues to pay if forward any way he can."

The 501(c)(3) health ministry organization was founded in 2003 by the Cicero Christian Church, opened in May 2004, and has served more than 8,000 local residents living in poverty since then. Over the years, the center has added valuable services to its offerings, including

counseling services in 2019. The timing proved to be wise foresight given the financial and emotional struggles for many children and adults during the pandemic. Currently, Hope's dental service is the most popular, according to speaker CEO and Board President Mike Jenkins.

Barb Green, the center's office manager for the past six years, discussed statistics about the center, emphasized the center's counseling services, and shared their ongoing efforts to expand its offerings and improve awareness of Hope via social media and networking. Additionally, the center is always looking for volunteers and donations.

To learn more about or volunteer at the Hope Family Care Center, go to: www.hopefamilycare.org.



Photo courtesy of the Noblesville Lions

Saturdays Lion's crew helping Gleaners.

Noblesville and Area Lions Help Gleaners Again

This past Saturday, local Lions Clubs from Noblesville, Carmel, and Westfield helped Gleaners pass out food. Those helping were Lane Sims,

Carmel; Mariah Allen, Carmel; Ron Williamson, Noblesville; Jeff Schneider, Westfield; Jeff Boller, Westfield; and Julia Kozicki, Noblesville.

Next Saturday, March 5th, the local Lions Clubs will be assisting Gleaners at Hamilton Heights High School from 10 a.m. to noon.



Photo courtesy of S. Craig

Larry Smith (right) given a thank you by Lion Kim Luckey, VP.

Noblesville Lions Club Hosted Central Indiana Community Foundation Speaker

This past Wednesday evening the Noblesville Lions Club hosted Larry Smith of the Central Indiana Community Foundation as speak-

er. Larry presented an investing option for the club to look at for a donation the club received. CICF has grant options for investing

monies to support future philanthropic causes for the club.

The club had discussions, and will make a decision at a later date.

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Obituary deadline

The Times publishes obituaries daily at www.thetimes24-7.com, and in its print product every day with the exception of Sundays and Tuesdays. All obituaries must come from a funeral home. A photo may be included and should be sent as a high-resolution JPEG. Daily obituary deadline is 4 p.m. for the following day's print publication. To read more obituaries, visit www.thetimes24-7.com.

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AG Todd Rokita Investigates 2021 T-Mobile Data Breach, Warns Hoosiers to Take Precautions



Attorney General Todd Rokita

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita is asking all Hoosiers who believe they were impacted by the data breach announced by T-Mobile to take appropriate steps to protect their information from identity theft.

“Protecting and defending Hoosiers against invasive violations like this is an important part of our work. I am launching a detailed investigation into this breach and to determine whether T-Mobile had the appropriate safeguards in place to protect personal information,” said Attorney General Rokita.

On Aug. 17, 2021, T-Mobile reported a massive data breach compromising the sensitive personal information of millions

of current, former and prospective T-Mobile customers. The breach impacted more than 53 million across the country. Among other categories of impacted information, millions had their names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, and driver’s license information compromised.

Recently, a large subset of the information compromised in the breach was for sale on the dark web — where cybercriminals can buy, sell and track personal information. Many individuals have since received alerts through various identity theft protection services informing them that their information was found online in connection with the breach, confirming

that impacted individuals are at heightened risk for identity theft.

Attorney General Rokita is asking any Hoosiers impacted by the T-Mobile breach to take the following steps to protect themselves:

Monitor your credit. Credit monitoring services track your credit report and alert you whenever a change is made, such as a new account or a large purchase. Most services will notify you within 24 hours of any change to your credit report. Consider placing a free credit freeze on your credit report. Identity thieves will not be able to open a new credit account in your name while the freeze is in place. You can place a credit freeze by contacting

each of the three major credit bureaus:

- Equifax: 1-888-766-0008
- Experian: 1-888-397-3742
- TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289

Place a fraud alert on your credit report. A fraud alert tells lenders and creditors to take extra steps to verify your identity before issuing credit. You can place a fraud alert by contacting any one of the three major credit bureaus. Contact Attorney General Rokita. If you believe you are a victim of identity theft, visit in.gov/attorney-general or call us at 1-800-382-5516. For additional tips, you may also visit identitytheft.gov, a site maintained by the Federal Trade Commission.

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AG Todd Rokita Secures \$7.25 Million in Relief in Connection with Indianapolis Housing Lawsuit

Attorney General Todd Rokita today announced that \$7.25 million in required repairs and critical infrastructure commitments have been secured for the residents of Lakeside Pointe at Nora and Fox Club Apartments.

"When our office filed suit against Aloft Mgt, LLC and Fox Lake AHF, Inc., I made it clear that when landlords and property managers fail to meet their basic obligation to provide tenants with safe and secure housing, I will do my best to hold

them accountable and seek justice for Hoosiers who've been wronged," said Attorney General Rokita. "I have kept my promise despite some unfavorable rulings by the Marion County Court and now, the residents of Lakeside Pointe at Nora and Fox Club Apartments can expect real improvement to the places they call home."

The properties in question have been sold to a new owner who has made a commitment to invest the necessary capital to

significantly improve conditions at the properties for the tenants who live there. The new owner's agreement, which the Attorney General's office will help monitor, contains the following commitments:

- \$7.25 million dollars to be set aside for required repairs;
- A commitment to resolve existing emergency health department cases within 30 days;
- A structured timeline for repairs with clear and realistic repair deliv-

ables for days 0-30, 30-60, 60-90, and 90-180, prioritizing the most emergent issues at each property; and

- Rebuilding major facilities and renovating fire-damaged units from 6-24 months.
- As a result of the lawsuit Attorney General Rokita filed against the Lakeside Defendants, the lender took notice and filed a foreclosure action seeking to have the property placed into receivership pending the final outcome of the lawsuits.

Were it not for the actions of the Attorney General and the persistence of community advocates and tenants who assisted the investigation, it is likely that the residents of Lakeside Pointe and Fox Club Apartments would remain with no path for improvement. This settlement provides hope for good things to come for these residents.

Tenants of the following properties who have experienced problems during the course of their lease are encouraged to

file a consumer complaint at www.indianaconsumer.com:

- Berkley Commons – 8201 Madison Ave., Indianapolis IN 46227
- Capital Place Apartments – 4100 Continental Drive, Indianapolis IN 46227
- Rockshire Apartments at Covington Square – 115 S. High School Road, Indianapolis IN 46241
- Woods at Oak Crossing – 3120 Nobscot Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46222

BETSY From Page A1



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Check out the art at the Hamilton County Artists' Association, which will offer its next HCAA First Friday event 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. today at the Birdie Gallery (above) in downtown Noblesville, this month featuring an award ceremony for the inaugural Midwest Juried Art Exhibit

area's elementary schools on display today through March, with a reception from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. today at the Arts Campus. Enjoy music from Eric Thornbury and the Indy Gorgeous Club. Also, view "Terms of Endearment" exhibit in Judge Stone House, cash bar, snacks and special showcase of art by Belinda Short.

4. Check out the art at the Hamilton County Artists' Association,

which will offer its next HCAA First Friday event 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. today at the Birdie Gallery in downtown Noblesville, this month featuring an award ceremony for the inaugural Midwest Juried Art Exhibit for which accepted mediums were oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, charcoal, pencil, ink and mixed media. The Best of Show will be awarded \$1,000 with merit awards for best in categories. Visit www.hcaa-in.org/

[hcaa-in.org/](http://www.hcaa-in.org/)

5. Noblesville Miller Palooza Aloha-style fundraiser to benefit Noblesville Schools Education Foundation is tonight at Embassy Suites in Noblesville, with tickets at \$125 each, at noblesvilleschools.org/foundation.

6. Carmel Community Players presents "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime," 7:30 p.m. today through Saturday and 2:30 p.m.

Sunday at the CAT, with Larry Adams directing. (Read about the show and the teenage male lead in the Betsy Reason column in Thursday's edition of The Times.)

7. Get up your courage for the Nefarious Ghost Walk from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. today in downtown Noblesville with reservations.

8. Join the 2022 Elks Challenge benefiting Fueled for School from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday at TopGolf in Fishers, with entry \$600 per team of up to six players, includes buffett silent auction, drawing and more.

7. Hearthside Suppers will be offered Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, through March 13 at Conner Prairie in Fishers.

8. Join the Turntable Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays at Primeval Brewing in downtown Noblesville, where folks bring their favorite vinyl to play on the provided turntable. Special Beer Tappings, Dinosphere Dunkel on March 8, My Pretty Irish Girl on March 17, Chompinator Doppelbock on March 19.

9. Shop consignment at the Spring 2022 Indy Kids Mega Pop-Up Sale March 10-12 at Finch Creek Fieldhouse in Noblesville.

10. Join the Saint Patrick's Weekend Comedy Extravaganza at 7:30

p.m. March 11-12 at The Cat in Carmel, featuring Dave Dugan, Irish dancers, music and more, with tickets at eventbrite.com.

11. Enjoy Jai Baker 3 at 1205 Distillery St. Paddy's Day gathering from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. March 11 at the Distillery.

12. Join the artists reception meet and greet from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. March 11 for "Boosting the Signal: Women's History in Art at Gal's Guide Library on the second level of the Nickel Plate Arts Campus in downtown Noblesville.

13. Climb aboard the Nickel Plate Shamrock Express train excursions on March 12 at Forest Park for family and adult-only 65-minute trips 1950s vintage coach and dining cars. Irish music will fill the historic cars with special fortunes and a visit from a leprechaun who will give chocolate coins from his pot of gold. Family rides depart at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Adult rides depart at 11 a.m., 1, 3 and 5:30 p.m. Two special Irish cocktails will be available for purchase in addition to other drinks.

14. Enjoy the sounds of Noblesville Schools' many choirs -- from middle school to NHS Singers -- during a District Show Choir Concert at 7 p.m. March 17 at Noblesville School, with

tickets available.

15. The Belfry Theatre presents "The Lilies of the Field," by F. Andrew Leslie from the novel by William E. Barrett, March 18-27, at Ivy Tech Hamilton County in Noblesville, with Linnéa Leatherman directing.

16. Gal's Guide Library celebrates the publishing of its first anthology at a special release party from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. March 19 on the second level of Nickel Plate Arts in downtown Noblesville. Juried stories, prose and poems written by women about women, with contributions by 14 authors, are included in the book, which sells for \$15.

17. Shop at Whale of a Sale Upscale Children's Consignment Event March 24-27 at Grand Park Sports Campus in Westfield.

18. Main Street Productions presents "Flaming Idiots" by Tom Rooney, at Basile Westfield Playhouse, March 31-April 10, directed by Brian Nichols.

19. TopGolf Tournament April 7 at TopGolf Fishers to benefit the Boys & Girls Club.

20. Carmel Community Players presents "The Fantasticks" musical, April 22-May 8, directed by Rich Phipps.

Contact Betsy Reason at Betsy@thetimes24-7.com

ARROWOOD From Page A1

happier, healthier, and better people overall. The displays of students' creativity, which can be found on the walls throughout our campus inspire, lift, and connect us all.

This is also Music in our Schools Month, which gives us an opportunity to celebrate the importance of music education. Our incredible music educators, Mark Snelson (BandHHHS/HHMS), William Cox (Band-HHHS/HHMS), Jennifer Kitzmiller (Choir-HHHS/HHMS), and Morgan Dennhardt (Music-HHES)

are dedicated to reaching all students with life-changing musical experiences at Heights. Our award-winning band and choir along with our elementary music program offer a diverse array of musical experiences in a supportive environment that fosters learning, helps build character, camaraderie, and valuable life skills.

At Saturday's Cicero Kiwanis Club breakfast meeting, I had the pleasure of listening to one of my all-time favorite teachers, Mike Jenkins. Mr. Jenkins and Barb Green from the

Hope Family Care Center took center stage sharing what they referenced as "the best kept secret in the area." I learned a lot more about the great work Hope Clinic is doing in our community to meet health care needs from the legendary Mr. Jenkins. This guy is the epitome of a difference maker paying it forward every day! Learn more about this invaluable health ministry here.

HHSC Monthly Video Update-Volume #76 has been posted online and one you won't want to miss. Viewers will learn about our amaz-

ing HHHS and HHMS Robotics programs, see another tear-jerking, yet inspiring video, about our powerful Teach One to Lead One (T1L1) classes, learn about our own Lilly Scholarship Winner, meet a State Champion Bowler, and hear about our incredible HHHS and HHMS Choral success.

Last month, we kicked off new student registration for the 2022-2023 school year by welcoming our newest Huskies to the annual Kindergarten Round-Up which included a screening assessment, student registration, and

document turn-in. If you missed it, it's not too late to register your child for kindergarten for the upcoming school year. Contact School Registrar Maryn Morris to schedule a kindergarten screening assessment or for any questions regarding the registration process. Children must be 5 years old on or before August 1, 2022. Click here for more information on what you need to know to begin your child's educational journey at Hamilton Heights Elementary School.

We are truly blessed

with incredible educators and unlimited opportunities to learn and grow in a supportive and safe environment. This isn't the case everywhere. I want to take a moment to reflect on the conflict that has unfolded in Ukraine. Let's keep the people of Ukraine, particularly the children, and those near and far who have been impacted by this event, in our thoughts, hearts, and prayers. #WeAreHuskies

Dr. Derek Arrowood is the Superintendent of the Hamilton Heights School Corporation.

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Business

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NEWS

Friday, March 4, 2022

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Photos courtesy of Getty Images

Support Small Business

6 ways to help businesses in your community thrive

FAMILY FEATURES

Small business owners faced the challenges of the past couple of years head-on. Nearly all re-evaluated their operations to accommodate new ways of doing business amid changing safety standards and local protocols, and many plan to make these changes permanent.

Over the past year, pandemic-related operational challenges, combined with a surge in physical and verbal attacks, have been uniquely difficult for a group of small business owners.

Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) businesses comprise nearly 10% of small businesses in the United States. Among them, 92% faced difficulties keeping their businesses open and operating amid the pandemic, according to Bank of America's 2021 AAPI Business Owner Spotlight.

"While almost all AAPI entrepreneurs said the pandemic created additional stress around running their businesses, they remain determined and resilient," said Carol Lee Mitchell, head of small business strategy at Bank of America. "Even as they faced immense obstacles, AAPI business owners took steps to move their businesses and communities forward."

Local companies, including AAPI businesses, have proven to be fundamental to strong, healthy economies and inclusive communities. These entrepreneurs remain solution-oriented, quickly adopting new tools and strategies; however, they require support from customers and community members to thrive.

Consider these ways you can support small businesses, including AAPI owners and the community at-large, from the experts at Bank of America:

Choose to Shop Local and Small

Small businesses are ingrained in many local communities. When you choose to purchase from a small business, you're directly supporting neighbors, friends and the people in your community. This support isn't taken for granted by entrepreneurs; more than half of AAPI small business owners noted the importance of community support amid the pandemic. Also consider leaving a generous tip when you receive exceptional service – it can make a big difference for small business staff.

Gift Local

Keep the impact that your support could have on local community businesses in mind when shopping for gifts, whether they're for loved ones near or far. For locals, a gift card to a nearby eatery or business such as a spa, salon or recreation center makes for a welcome gift that keeps your money local. When gifting those who live farther away, you can still benefit small businesses in your community by purchasing a thoughtful gift and packaging locally then shipping it with the help of a business in your area.

Help Spread the Word

Small businesses don't usually have the means to invest in big marketing programs, so referrals and word of mouth can make a major difference. However, in today's world, a great deal of consumer research happens online. That means you can be most helpful by taking your stories of great service and quality products to the internet, too. Seek out your favorite small businesses and write reviews on their social media channels. Take it a step further and give them a shoutout

(with tags, if possible) on your own social media accounts where your friends and family are more likely to notice.

Help Fill Open Positions

The job market has shifted noticeably over the past year, and local businesses have been struggling to find the talent they need to continue to serve their communities. Small business owners recognize this and are shifting benefits for their employees, allowing for more flexible schedules and additional paid time off.

Since these business owners are looking for employees to help fill some of the uptick in demand, you can help by tapping into your own network and recommending people for different positions you see, whether it be through "Help Wanted" signs or based on the needs you hear from the businesses you patronize.

Be Mindful of Business Challenges

Finding a work-life balance can be difficult for small business owners even in non-pandemic times because they wear so many hats within their businesses, from CEO and salesperson to human resources and everything in between.

Business owners were more conscious of their mental health over the past year, as nearly all AAPI business owners acknowledged additional stress and more than half set aside specific time for self-care and mental wellness.

As a consumer, it's important to be mindful of the fact that business owners are both short-staffed and dealing with supply chain issues. Take an understanding approach and work with local businesses to make sure they know they are supported by their community.

Check In on What's New

Just as you've changed your consumer habits and needs, small businesses have adapted in dozens of ways. That could mean you have access to new services or options you never considered. For example, your favorite yoga studio may offer streaming classes or a favorite breakfast cafe you haven't visited in a while might have an all-new menu. Take time to stop in and learn how your favorite businesses are changing with the times and see how those changes may suit your needs.

Look for additional resources designed for small businesses at bankofamerica.com/smallbusiness.



FRIDAY Voice of our PEOPLE

The Times of Noblesville

Friday, March 4, 2022

A8

IRS; You Are Not

My friend is having trouble with the Internal Revenue Service. We'll call him Mr. Farmer, because — one; it's the IRS, and two; well, they already know his real name. They know it far too well, as far as he's concerned.

First, a little background. Mr. Farmer is known among friends and strangers alike as the epitome of honesty and integrity. He and his wife own a small family farm down the road from me, and aside from the occasional help he gets to vaccinate his small herd of cattle in the Spring, he operates the farm on his own.

He buys his farm implements used, and makes any repairs himself. The last piece of new equipment he purchased was a 1990 Holland haybine, and the only reason he bought that new was because it was the only model that fit the power takeoff of his forty-year-old 1979 John Deere 4440.

In this age of high-tech agribusiness, the most sophisticated piece of technology he owns is his smart phone. He owned a flip phone until 2019, when his wife made him upgrade, because the hinges on the phone broke off, causing him to "pocket dial" her accidentally throughout the day.

He goes to church every Sunday. He is generous with his treasure. I personally have seen him

seek out a local landlord in order to pay — anonymously, of course — the back rent for a single mother of two. He had heard she was having trouble paying her rent, running the risk of eviction. Heck, he even loaned me a sizeable chunk of money long ago, of which I'm making payments — once a decade or so. He never says a word about it when I see him.

He does let a curse word fly every once-in-awhile, when he cracks his knuckles on something he's working on, but even then it seems appropriate for the occasion. The last time he blurted one out in public, his 96-year-old mother, who still lives with the Farmers, sent him to bed with-out supper.

By all accounts, he is the salt of the earth he farms ... and the IRS hates him.

Seven months ago, out of the blue, he received a letter from the IRS, demanding that he pay \$23,129, because — they claimed — he failed to pay his taxes in 2019. He had ten days to make good ... or else.

Now, you have to understand that the last time Mr. Farmer was so much as late with a tax payment was when President Nixon



JOHN MARLOWE
With the Grain

resigned office in 1974. Mr. Farmer believed there was a good chance that the government might not even exist by the time his check got there.

Sure enough, a quick examination of his personal records, revealed that all was paid. He even had the canceled checks,

endorsed by the IRS proving receipt. Problem solved, he thought.

He called the toll free IRS number listed on the demand notice for appeals and disputes, and the automated phone system explained that "because of significant staffing shortages" his call would be answered in FOUR HOURS!

Well, since \$23,129 divided by four hours is still a considerably large sum of money, Mr. Farmer stuck it out. He was assigned a case number and a case manager — Mrs. Sims — beginning a relationship outlasting many marriages.

Mrs. Sims, evidently unaware that some people do pay their taxes on time, had difficulty understanding Mr. Farmer's complaint. Finally, Mrs. Sims grasped the issue.

"Yes, now I do see that you made the payment, Mr. Farmer," she assured him. "I will take care

of that here. We are always here to help you."

Two weeks later, Mr. Farmer received notice in the mailbox that if he didn't pay \$23,129 in ten days the IRS has the authority to remove the amount from his bank account without announcement or further indication.

For Mr. Farmer, few things are more immoral than touching another man's money. He was quickly on the phone, enduring another four hour wait to talk to Mrs. Sims.

"Don't forget, we are always here to help you," she said. This time she directed Mr. Farmer to send copies of the canceled checks to an IRS address, and that would solve the issue for good.

Two weeks later, Mr. Farmer received notice that his account was paid. However, the letter explained, he was still responsible for the \$5,344 he owed in interest and penalties — on taxes he didn't owe!

Mr. Farmer was furious, and was on the horn again to Mrs. Sims. This time the wait was seven hours, but if he liked, he could call when the IRS opened in the morning at 7:30 AM.

At 7:33 AM Mr. Farmer called, and the automated phone system explained that there were only 356,345 callers ahead of him in the phone queue!

Two hours later, Mrs. Sims

— who Mr. Farmer describes in his notes documenting his calls as "stupid, with a willingness to help" — confirmed that the canceled checks were indeed received and in the system. She assured Mr. Farmer that she would personally transfer monies manually, thereby crediting his account properly.

"We are always here to help you," she echoed.

Two weeks later, Mr. Farmer received another IRS notice in the mail. This time the letter demanded that he pay \$32,493, because he failed to pay his 2020 taxes! Somehow, Mr. Farmer figures, in discharging his 2019 taxes, the IRS transferred monies assigned to his 2020 taxes.

Wednesday, Mr. Farmer called the Taxpayer Advocate Service. The independent unit of the IRS was established by Congress in 1979 to advocate for taxpayers who run afoul of the IRS bureaucracy. Mr. Farmer didn't like playing tough, but this was getting ridiculous.

After waiting two hours on the phone, a familiar voice came on the line. "This is Mrs. Sims. I'm away from my desk, and won't be back until Monday. We are always here to help you."

John O. Marlowe is an award-winning columnist for Sagamore News Media.

High On Humor!

Over the years, several of my sports heroes have had their careers tarnished following allegations they were using performance-improvement drugs. During the recent Olympics, several athletes were similarly accused

As a newspaper columnist, I am proud of what I have written, unassisted by any humor-enhancing drugs or whimsy-producing substances. Many humor columnists have on their shelves at home, Milton Berle's Personal Jokebook, the 12-volume Complete Works of Henny Youngman and the Acapulco Gold of humor: Bob Hope's Greatest One-Liners (unabridged). Yes, I was once a weak person, making it tough to deal



DICK WOLFSIE
Life in a Nutshell

with temptation over the years. There was a period in my life when I constantly wondered where my next laugh was coming from. I found myself in a kind of comic abyss. I hung around Barnes and Noble and Borders. I haunted Books-A-Million, where I knew I could buy cracks at a good price.

At one point, I even toyed with Half-Price Books, but you never know what you are buying at a place like that. Is the humor pure, or is it cut with bad stuff? I had a friend who overdosed on The Pocket Rodney Dangerfield back in the '70s. He finally got caught doing Dangerfield jokes in a stand-up routine in a Louisville comedy club. He was kicked off stage. Talk about no respect.

Others may look at my work and wonder: How did he stay on top of his game for so long? He's 75 and has been writing his column for almost 25 years. Maybe he's hooked on something. Tom Brady is hanging up his pads. Maybe Wolfsie should hang up his gags.

Once you are dependent on other people's humor, it's hard to kick the habit. You may think you have conquered your demons, but before long you are hiding Woody Allen quips on index cards in your office desk drawer or sticking Post-It Notes with Jeff Foxworthy wisecracks on your desk lamp. That was me some 20 years ago.

When I first appeared on TV, I also watched old Jerry Lewis movies and I mimicked a few of his routines on camera. Then one day I just stopped. I went cold jerky.

As I write my 1,100th column, I am proud of what I have accomplished. There were times when I almost peeked at an Andy Rooney compilation of essays. I

once took a Dave Barry book off my shelf, but I never opened it.

Other humorists have emailed to ask me for advice on how to quit pilfering jokes. I created a short quiz to assess their susceptibility to stealing from others. Here are two sample questions, to assess their chances of a relapse.

I just got back from a pleasure trip.

a. I went to Vegas.

b. My wife and I cruised to Bermuda.

c. I took my mother-in-law to the airport.

My wife ran after the garbage truck. "Am I too late for a pick-up?" she screamed.

a. Yes, and we are not permitted to turn around.

b. No, just set it by the

curb.

c. Of course not, jump in.

Anyone who answered C to both questions is on a slippery path. They are apparently too weak to resist cheap zingers and one-liners, often stolen from legendary humorists. As of this week, I will have not yielded to temptation for 6,752 days. But tomorrow I am going to begin reading Mel Brooks' autobiography.

Wish me luck.

Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in The Paper of Montgomery County. E-mail Dick at Wolfsie@aol.com.

Ask Rusty – About Survivor Benefits for Minor Children

Dear Rusty: My nephew died suddenly at 50 years of age and left 2 children, ages 17 and 14. He was divorced, but they were married for more than 10 years, and his ex-wife works as a nurse. My nephew worked for more than 10 years during his lifetime. I want to know if the children are eligible for survivor benefits and the amount of benefits they will receive, and if their mother's income will affect their eligibility.

Also, will my nephew's ex-wife be eligible for survivor's benefit as she is taking care of a child younger than 16 years old? She did not remarry. Will her income affect her survivor's benefit? Signed: Helpful Relative

Dear Helpful Relative: Our condolences on your nephew's sudden and untimely passing. From what you've shared in your email, your nephew's minor



ASK Rusty
Social Security Advisor

children are eligible for Social Security benefits based on his earnings record (assuming he worked in a job where he paid SS FICA taxes on his earnings). However, because they are divorced, his ex-wife is not eligible for early "child-in-care" spousal benefits. Child-in-care spousal benefits are not available to divorced spouses under age 62.

Your nephew's minor children are eligible for

Social Security Matters

by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor
Russell Gloor

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benefits and their mother's income won't affect their survivor benefit from their father. Both minor children currently qualify for a survivor benefit from their father, and the benefit for each could be as much as 75% of the benefit their father had earned up to the month he died. They will remain eligible for this benefit until they reach 18 years of age (or 19 if still in high school). It's possible that Social Security's "Fam-

ily Maximum" may slightly reduce each child's survivor benefit to a bit less than 75%, but any such reduction for the 14 year old will disappear when the 17 year old turns 18 and becomes ineligible for child survivor benefits).

The children's mother should contact Social Security as soon as possible (at her local SS office or at the national service center number - 1.800.772.1213) to apply for survivor ben-

efits for her children. She may need to provide their father's death certificate (although SS may have already received that from the funeral director) as well as the children's birth certificates.

If your nephew's ex-wife doesn't remarry before age 60, at that time she will become eligible to collect a survivor benefit from her deceased ex-husband. But claimed at age 60 that survivor benefit will be reduced by 28.5% from what it would be if she waits until her full retirement age (FRA) to claim it (a survivor benefit reaches maximum at the survivor's FRA but is reduced if claimed earlier). If she claims her survivor benefit prior to reaching her FRA and she is working, Social Security will impose an earnings limit which, if exceeded, could result in the loss of some of her survivor

benefits. Earnings limits for future years aren't yet known, but the 2022 earnings limit is \$19,560. The earnings limit will no longer affect her Social Security benefits after she reaches her full retirement age.

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