

TODAY'S VERSE
Philippians 4:13 I can do
all things through Christ who
strengthens me.



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What makes Anne Moore smile? "My kids, and anything funny. I love to laugh, sometimes if I get going, I can't stop and tears start rolling, haha," said the 1994 graduate of Noblesville High School. She and husband, Chris Moore, have two children, Jake and Joey. They co-own En Pointe Indiana Ballet school in Noblesville with Chris' brother, ballet dancers and instructors Robert Moore, and sister-in-law Pollyana Ribeiro. Moore loves working with her family and is thrilled that Robert and Pollyana moved here after very successful careers as principal dancers to teach the highest level of ballet there is to offer. Anne operates the business side of En Pointe. Her free time is spent helping her mom make costumes for the ballet, reading, and spending time with her sister and family. Anne has been married since 1998. "I love to read and I enjoy walking in my neighborhood." What else? She has earned two bachelor degrees, from the IU Kelley School of Business and Marian University's School of Nursing. She enjoys using her nursing education to help the dancers with their health and nutrition questions. She has been readying for En Pointe's "The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland" ballet, which has performances at 7 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Saturday at Reardon Auditorium on the Anderson University campus in Anderson. Tickets are for sale at the door and online at <https://enpointe.yapsody.com/>.

And Another Thing...

1. Congresswoman Houchin Releases Statement on House Passage of Border Bill

"As Title 42 expires - Republicans are once again leading efforts to secure our border, while Biden Democrats ignore the problem. Today, House Republicans passed the strongest border bill in years. Having seen our border firsthand a few months ago, I knew then - as Republicans have been saying for countless months - that we cannot continue on this path, and we need action to secure our border immediately. I'm glad Republicans have delivered an answer with today's passage of the Secure the Border Act," said Congresswoman Houchin.

2. Young, Colleagues Champion Bipartisan Resolution Celebrating National Charter School Week

Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) joined 26 of his colleagues in championing a bipartisan resolution celebrating National Charter School Week and commending charter schools for their contributions to education. "Hoosier students and families deserve to choose the type of school that best meets their needs, including high-quality public charter schools," said Senator Young. "I'm proud to support this National Charter School Week resolution to celebrate the students, parents, teachers, and leaders of charter schools."

3. Be A "Very Important Peony Person"

A very special night is in store as organizers of the annual Indiana Peony Festival host "Peonies in the Park" the evening prior to the festival. The over-21, ticketed event, sponsored by Smith's Jewelers, is scheduled for Friday May 19 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Seminary Park.

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

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Photo courtesy of Conner Prairie

Head to the 1836 Prairietown as the outdoor areas, including the Golden Eagle Inn (above) are open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, during the 2023 season at Conner Prairie in Fishers.

'Alice' Ballet, New Disc Golf, Second Saturday, All That Jazz



BETSY REASON
From The Editor's Desk...

En Pointe Indiana Ballet's production of "The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland," Sheridan Parks' unveiling in Biddle Park of a new-and-improved disc golf course, Nickel Plate Arts' Second Saturday activities and the return of live music on the Square during Noblesville Main Street's Music and All That Jazz this Saturday are among the plethora of things to do this weekend and beyond. Here's our Times' list

of 20 things to do.

1. En Pointe Indiana Ballet in Noblesville presents "The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland" at 7 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Saturday at Reardon Auditorium in Anderson with tickets \$10-\$25. Visit enpointeindiana.com

2. Noblesville Farmers Market is open 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville.

3. Join Sheridan Parks Department at Biddle Park in unveiling its new -and-improved disc golf course, with each hole featuring an outline of this course, as well as a history fact about Sheridan. Prizes for the top teams, starts

See BETSY Page AX

First Weeks Of May At Hamilton Heights



DR. ARROWOOD
Columnist

Wednesday was School Nurse Day, a part of a weeklong celebration as part of Nurse Appreciation Week. We are extremely fortunate to have a team of compassionate, committed, and highly skilled nurses serving our students and staff. Our school nurses are on the front lines every day providing comfort and care for students and staff while promoting health and wellness through information, outreach, prevention, and education, among a few of their many responsibilities. These extraordinary individuals play a significant role in keeping our schools, students, and communities safe. Thank you Jami Steffen (HHHS), Lori Jones and Tracy Shaffer (HHMS), and Tasha Smith and Emily Wooldridge (HHES) for all you do!

See ARROWOOD Page AX

Next Level Trails Celebrates Hamilton County Trail Project

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Hamilton County today opened the recently completed Steven Nation Community Pathway outside the town of Cicero.

The 2.45-mile asphalt multi-use trail was constructed by the county with help from a \$1,047,670 Next Level Trails (NLT) grant. The award was announced by Gov. Eric J. Holcomb in March 2021 as part of the second grant round of NLT. The project included a partnership with Hamilton County Tourism.

"Through Gov. Holcomb's Next Level Trails initiative, Indiana is a national leader in supporting communities as they build networks of new connections through trails," said Dan Bortner, DNR director. "Across the state, trails bring communities together, and the new Steven Nation Community Pathway in Hamilton County continues that vital connection."

The completed project follows Jackson Street from Cicero to White River Campground and

See TRAILS Page AX

Wrapping Up Reader's Choice

Readers' Choice is wrapped up for another year, and once again, The Times' annual promotion to recognize your favorites in a multitude of categories was a huge success.

Back when our company was founded, the staff at The Times brought Hamilton County this fun and good-natured promotion that features local businesses, people, products and more and gives you, our readers, the opportunity to vote for your favorites. We often joke that this is like Chicago politics and encourage you to vote early and vote often.

You see, this has never been about the rigidity of the process. Instead, it is designed to be an absolutely fun and very positive way for our readers to cast a good light on their favorites.

See WRAP Page Ax

Want MORE?

The results for winners, runner ups and honorable mentions of the following categories;

- Auto Dealer New
- Auto Dealer Used
- Auto Parts Store
- Auto Repair Service
- Bank Financing
- Band (High School)
- Band (Local)
- Banquet Facility
- Bar and Grill
- Barber Shop
- Bed & Breakfast
- Bike Shop

will be inside on Ax!

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 6:29 a.m.
SET: 8:50 p.m.

High/Low
Temperatures
High: 77 °F
Low: 64 °F

Today is...

- International Nurses Day
- Limerick Day
- Shades Day

What Happened On This Day

- 2008 A massive earthquake rocks China.
- 1998 Violent clashes follow the killing of four protesters in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- 1982 A Spanish priest attempts to assassinate Pope John Paul II.

Births On This Day

- 1907 Katharine Hepburn American actress, singer
- 1820 Florence Nightingale Italian/English nurse

Deaths On This Day

- 2001 Perry Como American singer, actor
- 1860 Charles Barry English architect

Indiana Lions Speech & Hearing Visit Noblesville Lions



Photo courtesy of Noblesville Lions

On May 10th the Noblesville Lions Club was visited by IN Lions Speech & Hearing guests Lee Flower and Gary Chastain. Lee and Gary provided the club with information on the Lions S&H group, and all that the group does for communities. Indiana Speech & Hearing became a state project of the Lions of Indiana in 1980. Over 7,358 hearing aids have been provided by this organization for the Lions. If you know of someone from birth to senior who needs speech or hearing help, go to www.indylionssspeechhearing.org. Quite a few programs are available for those in need who cannot afford the normal costs. Pictured above; Lee Flower receiving thanks from Lion Walt Sheid, Club VP

INSIDE TODAY

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HONEST HOOSIER

It's Mother's Day weekend. If you still have your mom, cherish her and thank her for the endless hours she spent loving, worrying, fussing, disciplining and raising you.



TODAY'S QUOTE

"The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened."
-Mark Twain

TODAY'S JOKE

The boss is such an idiot. He had his race car up to 150 mph when he crashed. They asked him what happened and he said he thought the R on the gears stood for racing so that's what he shifted to.

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Smoking leads to face wrinkles. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Paper and online at www.thepaper24-7.com.



OBITUARIES

None

The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank **TRACY and STEVEN LINE** for subscribing!



WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

81 MAINLY SUNNY CHANCE	64/77 SHOWERS AND STORMS	65/79 PM CHANCE OF STORMS	59/76 WEEKLY PRIX WEEKLY PRIX	57/72 SUNNY AND PLEASANT	52/73 MAINLY SUNNY	51/71 MAINLY SUNNY
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED



Photo courtesy of Hamilton Heights High School

Hamilton Heights High School students' who recently earned their level 1 Mini Excavator Certification last Friday are pictured with their teacher (l-r): Lola Wilson, Logan Mise, Sam Force, Kevin Sheets (CTE Teacher) Arthur Smith, David Eads, Dakota Killen, Nate Williams, and James Zachary.



Photo courtesy of HHHS

Demonstrating the understanding and safe use of a mini excavator is an important segment of Hamilton Heights High School Construction Trades Education students earning their Level 1 certification. Courtesy photo.

HHHS Students Earn Level 1 Mini Excavator Certification

Eight Hamilton Heights High School students recently completed a two-day course to earn their Level 1 Mini Excavator Certification. Safety and maintenance education in the classroom was a big part of leading up to specific focus on this piece of equipment. It involved taking written exams including one on safety, which requires a perfect score, followed by a day of hands-on equipment operations in the Sandbox, the district's outdoor classroom. Those students who just notched a valuable post-graduation credential include Lola Wilson, Logan Mise, Sam Force, Arthur Smith, David Eads, Dakota Killen, Nate Williams, and James Zachary.

Students learned about the anatomy and moving parts of an excavator, how to maintain and inspect excavators, as well as how to safely use forks and attachments among other important aspects of this piece of heavy equipment under the supervision of certified McAllister/Caterpillar trainer, Ridge Inman.

Heights' Construction (Vertical and Horizontal) Trades Education (CTE) program offers students valuable hands-on experience, certifications, and essential career-ready skills upon graduation inside and outside the classroom. This specialty course was made possible through Heights' Construction Trades educator, Kevin Sheets in collaboration with the district's industry partners

at, MacAllister/Caterpillar, Reith-Riley, Beatty Construction, and E&B Paving.

"I am very proud of these students who earned their Level 1 Mini Excavator certification," said Kevin Sheets of their accomplishment. "Industry-recognized certifications are important for students to achieve and demonstrate to potential employers the skills they have accomplished while in high school. It does require an investment of time, knowledge, and actual experience to learn to safely operate this type of equipment. They also earned their OSHA 10 safety certification and demonstrated their knowledge of the safety rules regarding running one of these machines in the field."

In fact one of our students, senior Lola Wilson, who is planning on studying construction management at Purdue University in the fall, has an internship with the Indianapolis-based Sheil Sexton Company. "Among the Top 10% of her class, Lola is taking the CTE pathway toward a career in an industry and is representative of the next generation of tradespeople," noted Sheets.

"Our CTE program, the first in the state and now in its 5th year, is designed to give students valuable certifications and hands-on experience to better position them to enter the construction workforce in a high-wage career after graduating from high school," continued Sheets.

"There is a great need for skilled tradesmen and women in the vertical and horizontal trades. This highly desirable career path offers incredible opportunities to earn high wages and benefits. We are committed to growing our CTE program and providing even more opportunities for students to gain real-world experience that helps develop skilled workers, entrepreneurs, and community leaders."

"I believe this program would not be as successful as it is if it weren't for the leadership and vision of our administration," added Sheets, who has received calls from educators around the state and beyond for help in modeling their program after ours. "I am grateful to our principal, Jarrod Mason, and Superintendent Dr. Arrowood for their support and encouragement of our 'thinking outside the box' to help our students achieve and succeed in the program."

"I also want to thank MacAllister/CAT trainer Ridge Inman for his involvement in the program and supervision during the hands-on portion in the Sandbox. Thank you to MacAllister/CAT, Reith-Riley, Beatty Construction and E&B Paving for your partnership in providing opportunities for our students to gain real-world experience in heavy equipment operation that prepares them for life and careers in the construction industry beyond high school."

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10th Annual Umoja Games To Bring Participants From Across The Globe To Grand Park

Major North American soccer tournament unites the Muslim community and builds broader connections.

The Umoja Outreach Foundation, a non-profit that unites the Muslim community through sports, will host its 10th annual Umoja Games Soccer Tournament at Grand Park Sports Campus in Westfield, Indiana, July 7-9, 2023.

The Umoja Games is the marquee event for the organization, featuring soccer games for boys and girls of all ages. The tournament brings thousands of families from across the continent and beyond, giving them an opportunity to build new relationships and become a part of a unified community.

"Umoja Games has created a united Umoja family, using soccer as a driving

force that transcends cultural, ethnic, or geographic differences that otherwise exist in Muslim communities," said Umoja Outreach Foundation Co-Founder Mustafa Dinani. "Our focus at each tournament is to create a unique and inclusive experience for everyone so that they want to return year after year."

What started as a 100-participant adult men's tournament in 2012 has grown to an annual event with more than 1,000 participants. Most notably, the youth and women's divisions have seen the largest growth in participation. The Umoja Games is North America's largest Muslim girls and women's soccer tournament in North America.

The City of Westfield and the Grand Park team look forward to hosting

the event for the first time this year.

"Westfield is honored to host the Umoja soccer tournament," said City of Westfield's Mayor Andy Cook, "and we welcome the games to the nation's finest youth sports facility, Grand Park."

The Umoja Games is open to spectators at no cost. Visitors are encouraged throughout the event to learn more about the different cultures in the tournament and enjoy a special bazaar that will feature goods sold by members of the Umoja community.

"In all our interactions with the Umoja team, it's clear how unique and passionate this community is," said Hamilton County Sports Authority Director Karen Radcliff. "We look forward to welcoming Umoja participants to Hamilton County this July."

Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre Is Thrilled To Announce Its 2023-24 Season!

Civic's season will kick off with the regional premiere of THE PROM. Four eccentric Broadway stars are in desperate need of a new stage. When they hear that trouble is brewing around a small-town prom, they know that it's time to put a spotlight on the issue... and themselves. The town's parents want to keep the high school dance on the straight and narrow—but when one student just wants to bring her girlfriend to prom, the entire town has a date with destiny. On a mission to transform lives, Broadway's brassiest join forces with a courageous girl and the town's citizens and the result is love that brings them all together.

ELF THE MUSICAL will return to the Knebel Stage in December 2023! Buddy, a young orphan, mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised, unaware that he is actually a human until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father and discover his true identity.

The first play of the season will be William Shakespeare's iconic ROMEO & JULIET. In this 90-minute version of the Shakespearean classic,

you'll be transported to fair Verona, where we lay our scene. In this new interpretation, adapted especially for the Civic stage by Director Emily Rogge Tzucker, you can expect the romantic tale of star-crossed love, with an extra dash of energy and excitement. Dark, contemporary, and just a little bit rock-and-roll, Civic's production promises the best of the old, while breathing new life into a classic tale of love and loss.

The second play of the season will be DRIVING MISS DAISY in the Studio Theater. A Southern matron forges a bond with her black chauffeur in the racially-divided 1960s South. Only when he is retired and she is confined to a home for the elderly do the two fully realize that they've been friends and kindred spirits all along.

Closing out the season will be the beautiful ANASTASIA! From Tony winners Terrence McNally, Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens, this dazzling show transports its audience from the twilight of the Russian Empire to the euphoria of Paris in the 1920s, as a brave young woman sets out to discover the mystery of her past. Pursued by a ruthless Soviet officer determined to silence her, Anya enlists the aid of

a dashing con man and a lovable ex-aristocrat. Together, they embark on an epic adventure to help her find home, love and family.

Alongside these mainstage productions, Dr. Seuss's THE CAT IN THE HAT will return in February 2024. The Jr. Civic musical will be FINDING NEMO JR. and the Young Artist's Program will present REVUE! and Andrew Lloyd Webber's CATS.

"We are thrilled to offer a diverse season with a variety of opportunities for both our patrons and our performers.

Opening with the regional premiere of THE PROM and closing with the first local community theatre production of ANASTASIA is truly exciting for all our constituents. The return of ELF, THE MUSICAL, our first time producing ROMEO AND JULIET and DRIVING MISS DAISY in the Studio Theater truly round out a powerful season. THE CAT IN THE HAT, FINDING NEMO, JR. and the Broadway classic CATS are all wonderful icing on the cake!" says Civic's Executive Artistic Director Michael Lasley.

Subscriptions are available now with single tickets going on sale on Thursday, July 27. To learn more, visit civictheatre.org.

April Real Estate Market Numbers

April's residential real estate market continued at a steady pace in Noblesville and Hamilton County, according to F.C. Tucker Company.

In Noblesville:
 •85 homes closed in April, down 15 percent compared to April 2022
 •The average home sale price increased, up 36.5 percent to \$488,359

•The average price per square foot for a Noblesville home decreased slightly, down 0.7 percent to \$176.56
 •Noblesville homes spent 21 days longer on the market compared to this time last year

In Hamilton County:
 •Pended home sales decreased 13.4 percent
 •Inventory increased

58.7 percent
 •The average home sale price increased slightly, up 7.8 percent to \$485,697

For those interested in buying a home, it's a less frenetic pace and slightly lower overall home sale prices compared to the bidding wars of 2021 and 2022, giving buyers more bargaining power.

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Purdue Players Transfer To Different Schools, Hoping For Greener Pastures



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

When college football's version of musical chairs, the transfer portal, closed on April 30 there were 2,640

athletes looking for new homes according to On3.com.

That number would fill the 85-man scholarship limit for 31 of the 69 Power 5 conference schools. Take away Deion Sanders and his massive cuts (56 players) at Colorado, and most schools have between 10 to 20 athletes looking for a new home.

Now add in the high school recruiting classes and some junior college transfers. The math says hundreds of these homeless players won't be playing major college football in the fall.

Purdue saw 22 players depart for what they hope are greener pastures. The biggest losses were starting guard Spencer Holstege (UCLA), starting tackle Eric Miller (Louisville) and three graduate transfers: defensive tackles Branson Deen (Miami, Fla.) and Lawrence Johnson (Auburn), and defensive end Jack Sullivan (USC).

Former starting wide receiver Milton Wright, who was academically ineligible for the 2021 Music City Bowl and the 2022 season, entered the transfer portal on the final day.

Presumed starting quarterback Hudson Card (Texas), former Auburn four-star defensive lineman Jeffrey M'ba and former Mississippi four-star cornerback Braxton Myers lead the 16-man (so far) Boilermaker transfer class.

Linebacker Dasan McCullough and his brother, safety Deland McCullough, are among the most notable of the 20 former Indiana players in the portal. For-

mer Tennessee quarterback Tayven Jackson heads the 18 players coming to Bloomington from other schools.

For a new coach like Purdue's Ryan Walters, the transfer portal is a necessary evil to fill perceived needs that Jeff Brohm's 2020-22 recruiting classes failed to address. It remains to be seen whether Walters has improved the secondary and offensive line, arguably the Boilermakers' weakest units.

Let's take a look at those three Brohm recruiting classes.

The 2020 group was ranked 32nd by 247Sports, topped by five four-star recruits. Unfortunately, only Zionsville graduate Gus Hartwig has lived up to that billing.

Hartwig has been that rare species in college football, an offensive lineman who played (and started) as a true freshman.

Four-star receiver Maliq Carr was lured away by Michigan State after making one catch for 15 yards during the COVID-abbreviated 2020 season. In two seasons with the Spartans, Carr has 24 receptions for 344 yards and two touchdowns.

Four-star quarterback Michael Alaimo threw for 74 yards and a touchdown last season. He is among the 22 Boilermakers in the transfer portal.

Four-star running back Tirek Murphy never played a down before transferring to Rhode Island. Four-star wide receiver Abdur-Rahmaan Yaseen has battled injuries for three seasons.

The good news? The class had two future NFL players: junior college defensive end DaMarcus Mitchell (New England) and safety Tyler Coyle (Dallas), who transferred from Connecticut. Another transfer, Greg Long, was a two-year starter at offensive tackle after transferring from UTEP.

The bad news? Only 11

of the 27 recruits remain on Purdue's roster. Hartwig, safety Sanoussi Kane and linebacker Kydran Jenkins are starters. Josh Kaltenberger took over at center last season when Hartwig was lost to a knee injury. Yaseen caught four passes in eight games last season.

Reserve linebacker Clyde Washington has played in 24 games. Safety Antonio Stevens suffered a devastating knee injury as a freshman but appeared in 13 games in 2022. Linebackers Ben Kreul and Ryan Brandt have been on special teams. Offensive linemen Jared Bycznski and Nalin Fox haven't been major contributors.

Recruiting rankings sometimes can be deceiving but Purdue's 2021 class is living down to its 75th rating.

Linebacker Yanni Karlaftis was the only 4-star recruit among the 26-man class. Injuries and position switches have hampered his progress but he has three years of eligibility remaining. Walters' defensive scheme might finally take advantage of Karlaftis' skills.

Three of the high school recruits have become starters: offensive linemen Mahamane Moussa and Marcus Mbow, along with punter Jack Ansell. Outside linebacker Khordae Sydnor has been a major contributor, as has junior college defensive tackle Prince James Boyd Jr. The jury remains out on wide receivers Deion Burks and Preston Terrell, and tight end Drew Biber.

Three members of the class are in the transfer portal and a fourth, running back Ja'Quez Cross didn't finish his freshman season and transferred to Arkansas State.

The saving grace of the 2021 class were the transfers, most notably Music City Bowl standouts Broc Thompson and safety Chris Jefferson. Guard Tyler Witt and linebacker O.C.

Brothers became starters. Indiana transfer Damarjhe Lewis was a major contributor at defensive tackle before missing the 2022 season with a broken ankle. Former Carmel standout Dylan Downing has been part of the running back rotation.

On paper, the 2022 Purdue recruiting class improved significantly, moving up to 38th in the 247 Sports composite rankings. There is promise that still could be fulfilled, although one of the four, four-star recruits has entered the transfer portal (Indiana Mr. Football Brady Allen).

Outside linebacker Nic Caraway played every game as a true freshman, recording two sacks among his 22 tackles. The other four-star recruits, defensive end Joe Strickland and wide receiver Curtis Deville, redshirted.

Defensive tackle Mo Omonode of West Lafayette recorded seven tackles in 11 games while filling the void left by Lewis' injury.

The star of the class, however, was Iowa transfer wide receiver Charlie Jones. A fourth-round draft pick of the Cincinnati Bengals, Jones became an All-American in his lone season at Purdue.

Three other key transfers were former Carmel standout Cole Brevard, 2017 Indiana Mr. Football Reese Taylor and wide receiver/running back Tyrone Tracy.

Of the 26-member class, seven went into the transfer portal: Allen, running backs Kentrell Marks and Kobe Lewis (Florida Atlantic), guard Sione Finau (Arizona State), tight end Charlie Kenrich, safety Jordan Buchanan and cornerback Tee Denson.

- 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.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK




1st HR of 2023 season—GRAND SLAM. Batting .500, 9 RBI's

"What I like most about baseball is the connection I build with my teammates and I like how fun it is."

Hobbies- I enjoy hanging out with my friends and family & staying active.

Connor White

Junior



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Room For Improvement Hoosiers Asked To Report Signs Of Human Trafficking



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

We just got back from Washington DC. I was there for a reunion with old college friends who I

and I complained of a sore throat, Mary Ellen initially blamed it on my incessant talking for three days, but after taking my temperature she made me take a Covid test. When it was positive, my wife went into panic mode. Not because she thought I would get gravely ill, but because she has her own reunion coming up and doesn't want to miss it. She went into action.

The first thing she did was isolate me in my home office and forbid me to leave it. All our communication was through the closed door. I was never to open it. For a guy who is hard of hearing, this was tough.

"WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR DINNER?" questioned my wife.

"Does it have to slip under the door?" I asked.

"YES, HOW ABOUT A DOZEN WHITE CASTLE SLIDERS?" suggested Mary Ellen.

She ended up leaving me all my meals on a table in the hallway. I had to exit my office, wearing my mask, and then return to my room, quickly shutting the door.

"HOW'S THAT SLOPPY JOE?" she asked.

"I dripped a lot all over the carpet."

"DICK, YOU ARE ALLOWED TO TAKE OFF YOUR MASK WHEN YOU ARE EATING."

Mary Ellen would often

ask what I was doing to keep busy. I told her I was watching the National Geographic channel documentary about elephants.

"I THOUGHT WE WOULD WATCH THAT TOGETHER." She said.

"OKAY, I'LL WATCH BASEBALL." I told her. "YOU HATE BASEBALL."

"DICK, WHY ARE YOU YELLING AT ME?"

"I forgot who was hard of hearing."

By the third day, I missed seeing Mary Ellen. I heard the shower running, so I figured it would be safe to talk to her outside the glass sliding door. When she saw me, she used her finger to scroll a message on the fogged-up glass. I hoped it would be a note about how much she also missed seeing me. It said: GO AWAY! Okay, this was not a Love, Actually moment, but at least we were communicating.

I am better now and Mary Ellen is headed for her reunion. Before she left, I wish I had asked if I could come out of my room.

- 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

The state is asking Hoosiers to stay alert for signs of human trafficking in communities across Indiana and to report any suspicious activities to authorities.

Unfortunately, large events bringing throngs of spectators are known to create increased demand for trafficked individuals providing manual labor, sex for hire and other services. This month, Indianapolis is the site for the Indy 500 and the National Gymnastics Association Midwest Region Championships.

"Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery," Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita said. "We need the eyes and ears of people everywhere to help us root out this evil enterprise, rescue victims and put away perpetrators."

People in certain job roles — such as medical professionals, restaurant workers, teachers and truck drivers — are particularly likely to come into contact with trafficking victims.

Human trafficking is a \$150 billion criminal enterprise. It occurs anytime someone uses

force, fraud or coercion to make another individual provide labor, services or commercial sex acts. If the person performing commercial sex acts is under 18, the crime of human trafficking still occurs even without the elements of force, fraud or coercion. (humantraffickinghotline.org)

According to the U.S. State Department, those signs that someone might be a victim of trafficking include observations that someone:

- lives with their employer.
- lives with multiple people in a cramped space.
- otherwise experiences poor living conditions.
- is prohibited from speaking alone to strangers.
- gives answers that appear to be scripted and rehearsed.
- has an employer holding their identity documents.
- shows signs of physical abuse.
- is submissive or fearful.
- is unpaid or paid very little.
- is under 18 and working in the commercial sex

industry. If you have suspicions that someone is being trafficked, you should immediately call local law enforcement. You may also call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at (888) 373-7888.

In America, the scourge of human trafficking is propagated in significant part by criminal cartels operating out of Mexico.

"Stopping human trafficking is one more reason we must secure the southern border," Rokita said.

In addition to waging lawsuits to force federal officials to crack down on border security and illegal immigration, Attorney General Rokita and his team are engaged in other efforts to combat human trafficking.

The Office of the Attorney General operates the Address Confidentiality Program, which helps protect victims of certain crimes — including those who have been trafficked — by concealing their residential address from the public and thereby their victimizers. Learn more about the program at the Attorney General's website.

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•Andy Mohr
•Tom Wood
•Penske Hyundai
•Tom Roush
•Ed Martin Nissan
•Ed Martin Toyota
•Butler Kia of Fishers
•Dan Young
•Genesis

Auto Dealer Used Winner:
Honda of Fishers

Runner Up:
Westfield Motors

Honorable Mentions:
•Don Hinds
•Coast to Coast Imports
•Fritz
•Dan Young
•Andy Mohr Buick
•Cicero Motors
•Five Star Imports
•Hare's
•Lockhart Cadillac
•New Life Auto
•Terry Lee
•Unlimited Motors
•Mainstream Motors
•Noblesville Imports
•Picasso Imports
•Napleton Hyundai
•Westfield Imports
•Indy Motorwerks

Auto Parts Store Winner:
O'Reilly Auto Parts

Runner Up:
NAPA Noblesville

Honorable Mentions:
•Advance Auto
•AutoZone (Mundy Drive)
•Speedway Auto Parts
•NAPA (Westfield)
•Auto Zone, East Conner Street
•Automotive Specialists

Auto Repair Service Winner:
Talent Auto Body

Runner Up:
Millers

Honorable Mentions:
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•R&T Tire Pros
•Hamilton Auto
•J & D Machinery

•Automotive Specialists
•Esler's Auto Repair
•Car X
•Mufflers & More
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•Kent's
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•Kent's

Bank Financing Winner:
Farmers Bank

Runner Up:
Community First

Honorable Mention:
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•Indiana Members Credit Union
•Huntington
•BMO Harris
•First Farmers Bank & Trust
•Chase
•Key
•PNC
•Fifth-Third
•First Merchants
•Regions

Band (High School) Winner:
Noblesville

Runner Up:
Westfield

Honorable Mentions:
•Sheridan
•Hamilton Heights
•Carmel
•Hamilton Southeastern
•Fishers

Band (Local) Winner:
Dave & Rae

Runner Up:
The Flying Toasters

Honorable Mentions:
•Wright Brothers
•Tone Lab
•The Rugged Brothers
•The Doo! Band
•Henry Lee Summer
•Jeremy Morris and Harvest Road
•My Yellow Rickshaw
•Noble Roots
•Sonsee Cloud
•David Hartman
•Greta Speaks
•The Bishops
•Andrew Young Trio

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•Mill Top Banquet & Conference Center

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•Logan Street Sanctuary
•Harbour Trees Golf & Beach Club
•The Bridgewater Club
•Saxony Hall
•The Ambassador House
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•Purgatory Golf Club

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Runner Up:
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•Woody's
•Wings Etc.
•Wolfie's
•Eddy's Sports Pub
•Local Eatery & Pub
•Logan's Roadhouse
•Barley Island Brewing Co.
•Silver Dollar
•Buffalo Wild Wings
•Chili's
•Copper Still
•Carey Tavern
•Chatham Tap
•Britton Tavern
•Ale Emporium
•Aspen Creek Grill
•O'Charleys
•Scotty's Brewhouse

Barber Shop Winner:
Don Bailey's Barber Shop

Runner Up:
Buck's Barber Shop

Honorable Mentions:
•Big League Barbers
•Purkeys
•Sport Clips
•Susan Yeager
•Yankie Clipper

Bed & Breakfast Winner:
The Prairie Guest House

Runner Up:
Old Town Carmel B&B

Honorable Mentions:
Ivy House B&B

Bike Shop Winner:
Recycle Shop

Runner Up:
Westfield Cyclesports

Honorable Mentions:
•The Bike Line
•Carmel Cyclery
•Motion Cycling & Fitness
•Loke Bicycles

BETSY From Page A1

at 10 a.m. Saturday, can also play in a tournament by registering at 317-758-5170.

4. Attend the Second Saturday event, "The Healing Power of Art, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday on the Nickel Plate Arts Campus in downtown Noblesville.

5. Take in the seventh annual Rock the Junction Craft Beer & Music Festival from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at Grand Junction Brewing Co. in Westfield. The day will feature more than 20 Indiana breweries, wineries, distilleries and cideries, plus live entertainment with multiple bands.

6. Attend the Midtown Block Party from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday at Midtown Plaza in Carmel, where there will be free summer-themed games, prizes, characters, a movie, food vendors, face painting, a caricature artist, balloon twister and live deejay and more.

7. Hear live music on the Square during Noblesville Main Street's Music and All That Jazz, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday on the Courthouse lawn in downtown Noblesville.

8. Check out the comedians at The Brick Room Comedy Club, featuring Adam Minnick, Mohammed Abbed and Mike Atcherson tonight, The Chicago Showcase with Max Shanker, Shane Anthony, Jarrell Scott Barnes and Kate Kincaid on Saturday, Stewart Huff on May 19-20, Dyke Michaels on

May 26, Lee Kimbrell on May 27, all shows at 8 p.m., with \$10 admission tickets at thebrickroom.cc.

9. Head to the 1836 Prairietown as the outdoor areas are open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, during the 2023 season at Conner Prairie in Fishers.

10. Enjoy live music by Stella Luna at 9 p.m. Saturday at Joe's Grille in Westfield.

11. Enjoy live music at Grindstone Public House in Noblesville, featuring John Gilmore on Saturday, Craig Thurston on May 18, at the downtown Noblesville restaurant.

12. Join the Charity Ride for American Veteran Riders Association is at 8:30 a.m. May 20 beginning at the Ralph Lehr VFW Post 6246.

13. Buy your plants for the season at the Hamilton County Master Gardeners annual Plant Sale, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 20 at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds in Noblesville.

14. The Indiana Peony Festival is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 20 at Seminary Park in Noblesville, with peony judging, floral arrangements, floral growers and installations, food trucks, vendor booths, live music, kids activities and more. A VIP event, with registration required, is 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. May 19. Brunch and Blooms is 10 a.m. May 20 with registration required.

15. Go out to the countryside for live music with

Jeff Day at 6:30 p.m. May 20, Midwest Originals Duo at 6:30 p.m. May 26, a Strawberry Music Festival at noon May 27, at Spencer Farm Winery in Noblesville.

16. Visit opening day of Westfield Farmers Market from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. May 25 and continue visiting at the same time every Thursday.

17. Salute our military veterans during the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at 11 a.m. May 29 at the Hamilton County War Memorial on the Courthouse Square, presented by Ralph Lehr Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6246 and Noblesville American Legion Post 45.

18. The Attic Theatre's production of "Shrek The Musical" is on stage June 1-3 at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville.

19. Noblesville Lions Club's annual Pork Chop Festival, with pork chops, chicken and hot dogs, on June 2 with pancakes the morning of June 3 on the Courthouse Square.

20. Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville's 2023 Darlington Bed Race in its 11th year is June 2 on Ninth Street at the Courthouse Square in downtown Noblesville.

-Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact The Times editor Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com. For more Hamilton County Bicentennial events, visit www.hamcounturns200.com

ARROWOOD From Page A1

Last Friday, eight high school students enrolled in our Construction Trades Education (CTE) program put their knowledge gained in the classroom to the test at the Sandbox, our outdoor classroom. At the end of the day, all proved they knew what they were doing, demonstrated their knowledge and safe handling of this piece of heavy equipment, and earned their Level 1 Mini Excavator Certification. In addition, this certification gives them another edge toward a career in an industry that needs talented young workers.

Our CTE program, the first one in the state and currently among two that offers this type of experiential learning program, continues to grow in size and scope offering students valuable hands-on experience, certification, and essential career-ready skills upon graduation. The program is under the leadership of Construction Trades teacher Kevin Sheets. The two-day interactive course compliments classroom instruction, and testing was made possible through our industry partners at Reith Riley, MacAllister/Caterpillar,

Beatty Construction, and E&B Paving. Well done! Keep up the good work!

Speaking of good work, Bret Bailey, who has served as our middle school principal since 2014, has just been notified he was selected as the Indiana Association of School Principals District 5 Middle School Principal of the Year! District 5 includes schools in Miami, Howard, Tipton, Boone, Hamilton, and Madison counties. This is a high honor and speaks volumes about Bret's vision, leadership, dedication, and hard work for students, families, and staff at Hamilton Heights.

I get to see the impact of Bret's work every day. I know firsthand Bret's value at Heights and the amount of time, thought, and meaningful action he invests to foster a culture of trust with students, staff, and the community. He has successfully helped build a collaborative culture working closely with staff on professional learning communities to strengthen curriculum, innovative programming, assessments, and interventions. It's paying big dividends in positive student behavior, achieve-

ment, and outcomes. He inspires, motivates, engages, and continues to set the bar high. Through this honor, his peers recognize it too. Congratulations!

While we are talking about good work and impact, the Hamilton Heights Educational Foundation is readying for its 34th Annual Golf Outing on Thursday, June 8 (rain date June 15) at Bear Slide Golf Course in Cicero. The community is invited to join friends, neighbors, and colleagues for a day of fun and networking on the green to support the work of this worthwhile organization. All proceeds from the event supports student achievement at Heights. This year's title sponsors are Beck's Hybrids, Beaver Materials, and Blades Audio Video Security. To register, sponsor and/or for more information about this year's event click here. I look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you for your partnership, participation, and commitment to our schools! #WeAreHuskies

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

WRAP From Page A1

And oh, how you have responded!

We annually see ballots that number in the hundreds of thousands – so many in fact that we had to find a way to automatic the counting process.

This year, rather than unveil all the winners at one time like we have in the past, we are revealing several categories a day.

Today's categories can be found inside and a quick list is also provided here.

When the final winners, runner-ups and honorable mentions are revealed, we will compile all of them into one keepsake edition that will stay posted on our website for the entire year.

Lastly, we encourage you to pay attention to the many businesses who are saying thank you with their ads. Without those supporters, local news and specifically your daily edition, wouldn't be here.

TRAILS From Page A1

Strawtown Koteewi Park. Inside the park, the new trail connects to the pedestrian bridge over the White River to link with Strawtown Koteewi's trail network.

The trail is named for Nation, a Hamilton County councilor, retired Superior Court judge and former Hamilton County prosecutor who founded the Hamilton County Youth Assistance Program for at-risk students.

"Naming this trail after Steve just made good sense," said Mark Heirbrandt of the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners. "He has dedicated his life to connecting people and bringing them together as a community, just like this trail will connect and build community between our northern

towns in Hamilton County."

As part of Gov. Holcomb's Next Level Connections initiative, NLT is the largest infusion of trails funding in state history. The \$150 million program is administered by the DNR and facilitates critical trail connections within and between Hoosier communities.

Including the Steven Nation Community Pathway, 16 of the 75 NLT projects are complete, totaling 52.45 miles of trail built since the program's inception. An additional 54 miles is under construction, and 140 more miles are in the pre-construction phase of development under the grant program.

More information about the NLT is at on.IN.gov/NextLevelTrails.

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FRIDAY Business Notes and NEWS DAY

Friday, May 12, 2023

A7

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Indiana's Unprecedented Economic Momentum To Continue with Robust Legislative Support with Historic Economic, Community and Quality of Life Funding for Hoosiers

Governor Eric J. Holcomb and Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers today applauded the Indiana legislature's bold investment in economic development following the 2023 legislative session. The adoption of House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1001, the governor's agenda bill, creates a new \$500 million deal closing fund, provides additional resources for megadeals over \$5 billion, creates a new site acquisition fund for shovel ready development and invests an additional \$500 million in the nationally innovative READI program that has already leveraged \$8.54 billion in quality of place investments throughout the state.

"Indiana's economy is thriving, and these renewed commitments and expanded investments in economic development will ensure that momentum continues for years to come," said Gov. Holcomb. "Equipped with these specific strategic tools and programs, we'll be in a position to do even more to better the lives and opportunities of Hoosiers statewide. Implementing quality of place initiatives, future-proofing our manufacturing sector and enabling the state to better compete for and win new high-tech, fast-growing industries of the future will remain our mission every day."

In addition to historic economic and community funding, the legislature made unprecedented

investments into education, public safety, career training for high school students and mental health – critical issues for improving the quality of life for all Hoosiers, creating a more robust workforce, and driving Indiana's economy for decades to come.

"I've never been more energized about the future of Indiana," said Sec. Chambers. "I'm grateful to the legislature for the support for our economic development strategy, which emphasizes a bold, aspirational and comprehensive approach. These new tools and increased funding will enable us to better attract and grow investments in future-focused industries, like electric vehicles, semiconductors, life sciences and agbiosciences, creating quality, high-paying careers for Hoosiers today and for years to come."

HEA 1001 enacts a number of economic development priorities proposed by Gov. Holcomb and Sec. Chambers, including new updates to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation's (IEDC) toolkit, including funding for cash performance grants and site acquisition; a \$500 million expansion of the Indiana Regional Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI); increased funding for Indiana Manufacturing Readiness Grants; and new funding to accelerate entrepreneurship and innovation.

With this new budget,

Indiana's investment in economic development will increase \$350 million from 2021 and 2022.

HEA 1001 makes the following changes to Indiana's economic development toolbox:

- **New Deal Closing Fund:** The creation of a new \$500 million Deal Closing Fund will continue to allow the IEDC to better compete for in-demand investment and new jobs with transformative investments in future-focused industries. Approximately 5% of these funds will be reserved for economic development projects in rural counties with a population under 50,000.

- **New Site Acquisition Fund:** HEA 1001 allocates \$150 million over the biennium to support the IEDC's strategic sites initiative, ensuring that competitive land and infrastructure is available for new investment. The first project, LEAP Lebanon Research & Innovation District, was selected due to its strategic location and has already marked a significant win in a \$3.7 billion investment by Eli Lilly. This funding will allow the IEDC to develop the next opportunity in Indiana while creating a return on investment to the state through the sale of property.

- **Tax Credit Flexibility:** The legislation formalizes an annual tax credit bucket of \$250 million per year, providing the IEDC flexibility to leverage incentives to

attract new investment and job opportunities for Hoosiers.

- **READI 2.0 - Investing in Quality of Place:** Continued appropriations of \$500 million over the biennium will expand quality of place and quality of life investments being made through the nationally recognized READI program. More than 95 percent – or \$474.9 million – of READI's initial grant funds have already been designated to accelerate 347 projects and programs across 17 Indiana regions that are expected to result in more than \$8.54 billion (16.8:1 investment leverage ratio) invested in Indiana's communities. READI 2.0 will build on this momentum, allocating significant matching funds to accelerate capital and infrastructure construction projects and advance Indiana's quality of place to retain and attract top talent.

- **Accelerating Smart Manufacturing:** Legislative appropriations will allocate \$40 million over the biennium to advancing and future-proofing Indiana's manufacturing sector, doubling the funding available to businesses through the Indiana Manufacturing Readiness Grants. The program, which first launched in 2020, is designed to incentivize companies to adopt smart manufacturing technologies and modernize their operations, ensuring that Indiana's largest industry

is equipped to support the global economy of the future.

- **Increasing Funding for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Marketing:** HEA 1001 also includes increased funding to the IEDC to expand support for entrepreneurship and innovation through programs like the Indiana Small Business Development Center and through investments in startups and scaleups through Elevate Ventures, Indiana's venture development partner. This funding will better position Indiana – which was recently named the No. 1 state to start a business (Forbes) – as a global destination for entrepreneurs and innovators. Additionally, increased funding will allow the IEDC to increase its promotion of the state as a globally competitive and innovative destination for business, helping attract new investment and new industries to Indiana.

In addition to HEA 1001, Gov. Holcomb and Sec. Chambers applaud a number of legislative updates that will strengthen Indiana's overall business climate and economic development competitiveness, including:

- **House Enrolled Act 1002:** A comprehensive education and career readiness bill that aims to assist high school students in becoming ready for careers and sets up career scholarship accounts for Indiana's youth.

- **House Enrolled**

Act 1005: Aims to address Indiana workforce needs by adding housing in communities across the state through adjusting residential tax increment financing language, and creating a infrastructure assistance program.

- **Senate Enrolled Act 176:** Small Nuclear Reactors: Further positions Indiana as a leader in laying the groundwork for future small nuclear reactors.

- **Senate Enrolled Act 419:** State Tax Matters: Includes a new tangible personal property retail (sales) tax exemption for Wind and Solar device components. This provision may help further renewable investment in Indiana.

About IEDC
The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) is charged with growing the State economy, driving economic development, helping businesses launch, grow and locate in the state. Led by Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers, @SecChambersIN, and governed by a 15-member board chaired by Governor Eric J. Holcomb, @GovHolcomb, the IEDC manages many initiatives, including performance-based tax credits, workforce training grants, innovation and entrepreneurship resources, public infrastructure assistance, and talent attraction and retention efforts. For more information about the IEDC, visit iedc.in.gov.

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FRIDAY Voice of our PEOPLE

Ask Rusty – About “Survivor” Benefits vs. “Spousal” Benefits

Dear Rusty: I will be 70 in August and will file my application for benefits in May. I know I'll get my maximum possible amount at age 70, but I need you to clarify things I have read. Per an award-winning TV host, author, and host of a money podcast "if the higher-earning spouse delays until age 70 to claim Social Security, that guarantees the survivor the biggest possible benefit." But then I read in a different article that if a person delays beyond their full retirement age to obtain a higher personal benefit (like I have), my spouse's benefit will still be based on my FRA benefit amount. I am confused about which statement is the correct version.

Signed: Confused About My Spouse's Benefit

Dear Confused: I'm not surprised that you are confused about these seemingly contradictory statements. It is, indeed, quite logical (and common) for a widow or widower to think they must apply for a "spousal benefit" from their deceased spouse. And while that's technically true, those of us who live in this often confusing world of Social Security jargon would say the widow or widower is applying for a survivor benefit, not a spousal benefit. What's the difference? Well, when you're speaking with a Social Security representative or an advisor, the term "spousal benefit" means something entirely different than the



ASK RUSTY
Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor

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term "survivor benefit." The two articles you mention are, I believe, referring to two different types of Social Security benefit. The term "survivor benefit" is typically used to describe benefits available to a surviving spouse when the higher earner dies, but the term "spousal benefit" is typically used to denote benefits available to a lower

earning spouse when both partners are still living. I agree this is confusing, and that distinction was apparently not clear in the articles you read. Therefore, to clear your confusion:

- If the higher earning spouse dies and has delayed claiming until age 70, that does, indeed, "guarantee the surviving spouse the biggest

possible benefit." The survivor's benefit is based on the full amount the deceased was receiving at death.

- If both spouses are living and the higher-earning spouse delayed until age 70 to claim, their living spouse's benefit, when the higher-earning spouse claims, will be a maximum of 50% of the higher-earning

spouse's full retirement age (FRA) amount. A living spouse's benefit is based on their partner's FRA amount, regardless of when their partner actually claimed.

So, in your case, your wife's spousal benefit from you while you are both living will be based on your FRA entitlement, even though you waited longer to claim. But if you die first, your wife's survivor benefit as your widow will be based on 100% of the amount you were receiving at your death. In effect, both statements you referred to in your question are true considering that they refer to two different benefit types. It is a terminology distinction which frequently causes misunderstanding.

Famous Prosecutor Back At It



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

I used to be a big boxing fan. Even tried the sport for a short bit until my face got in the way of too many lefts and rights and I started seeing lots of stars . . . in the daytime.

When Mike Tyson burst onto the scene, I watched every fight of his I could. The fury which he attacked opponents from the opening bell was unlike anything I had seen. At age 20 he became the youngest heavyweight champion in history and he and his rage looked unbeatable.

Unfortunately for Tyson, that rage didn't seem to be contained to the ring. In July of 1991, he was accused of raping a 19-year-old beauty pageant contestant. About half a year later, the man who once held the boxing world in the palm of his hand walked out of an Indianapolis courtroom in handcuffs and was on his way to a 10-year prison sentence.

The man who sent him there was Greg Garrison.

Garrison went on to a career that included a 20-year stay at WIBC radio. His straight-shooting style and quick wit endeared him to listeners and that's where I became a fan, too. So when he ran for public office last year, I watched with interest.

Recently, Garrison agreed to sit down and chat about that decision, and a few other things. He greeted me in his Hamilton County office and it was his laugh that quickly set the tone. It comes out quickly and often. It's a friendly laugh, one that brings you along instead of making you wonder who the joke's really on. It's a laugh resulting from years of good times, weathered by inevitable challenges.

Garrison is the kind of stand-up guy who goes through life seeing good things, seeing things that make him laugh. He's no Pollyanna. As a prosecuting attorney, he's witnessed plenty of bad, the seamier, dark side of what makes human beings do wrong.

Like the scales of justice, the current Hamilton County Prosecutor represents, it's a balance.

Garrison became the prosecutor after cruising

through primary and general elections. He unseated a three-time incumbent by a wide 59-41 percent margin in the primary and then won over Democrat Jessica Paxson 57-43. At age 74, he was beginning a first term as an elected official. Would there potentially be a second or third term?

"No," he shot back. "When this term is up, I'll be 79 years old. You don't even buy green bananas when you're 79."

Garrison grew up in Indianapolis in a home where his father was a doctor.

"He delivered about 900 babies in his life," Garrison said. "He made house calls. The first baby he delivered was in a house with no electricity – and he didn't get paid. I remember one of the farmers walking up our drive with a separated shoulder. Dad laid him on the pool table and said 'this is going to hurt,' and whop, he put that shoulder back in place. The farmer thanked him and walked on back to go back to work."

His mom stayed at home as moms did back then. Life was good for Garrison and his brother Chris.

"We had steaks on the grill at night. My grandmother stayed with us for a while."

Garrison learned to play piano, not that he had much choice.

"It was either learn that or sell me off to the circus," he quipped. "I was a pain in the ass. She (mom) wouldn't admit that, but it was true."

His family attended the Methodist Church and belonged to Heather Hills Country Club after it was built in 1960. It later became Maple Creek and is noted for being the first 18-hole golf course designed by the famous Pete Dye.

"I played a lot of golf," he remembered. "I'd play 36 holes a day on the weekends. We had a lot of good times."

After graduating from Warren Central, and like a lot of others in his family, Garrison headed for IU. He graduated there in 1970 and the IU law school in '73. Of course, details of his now-famous career after that are well documented.

The Tyson conviction led to gigs with CBS News, Fox News, 60 Minutes, The Today Show, 48 Hours and others. That quick wit and affable personality far outlasted any notoriety from the trial. He was asked to comment on other high-profile court proceedings like the O.J. Simpson murder trial.

One thing led to another and Garrison began a radio career at WIBC that lasted

two decades, 1997-2017, to the day.

"You have to understand, after I was done with O.J., I had a much different footprint."

Visitors to his office today can see a Marconi award hanging on his wall, evidence of his high-quality work in radio.

"I think I was too dumb to be scared," he said. "Besides, I've got such a face for radio."

Does he miss it? "Only for a minute," he shoots back. "I don't miss that red light. It's a merciless mistress. My producers often had to stall because I don't always show up on time."

Stalling usually meant a longer version of his opening music, the energetic and lively theme from the 1960 smash Magnificent Seven by Elmer Bernstein.

"It said what I wanted to say – saddle up; let's get something done here."

Garrison has been getting something done for quite a while. The conservative Republican has a long-time friendship with former radio host, Indiana governor and vice president of the U.S., Mike Pence. He and brother Chris created a successful law practice that Chris still works at today. He's made four trips to Israel, three as guests of the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis.

When talking with a visitor about those trips Garrison keenly observed, "There are two versions of you, the you before the trip and the you after." He adds that he tells people his boss was a Jewish carpenter.

Garrison said that he ran for office at this stage in his life because friends, family and law-enforcement encouraged him to. He repeatedly says it's the last stop, career wise.

"When this is done, I want to enjoy some things," he said. "Look, there've been times in my life when we were fat. There have been times when the receptionist made more than me. That's just life as an attorney, as an entrepreneur, as any small business owner."

The lines on his face are evidence of those times. But the crow's feet around Garrison's eyes . . . tells you that whatever comes next will involve plenty of laughter, too.

Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically on Wednesdays in The Paper. Timmons is the publisher of The Paper and can be contacted at timmons@thepaper24-7.com.

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