

➡ TODAY'S VERSE

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.



➡ FACES OF
HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Greg Conner smile? "My kids and a packed Forest Park Aquatic Center on a hot sunny summer day," said the 40-year-old Noblesville resident, who was found at the Aquatic Center in 2023, getting ready for this weekend's opening of the pool. Conner is president of the board of directors for Friends of Central Pool, a nonprofit that operates the pool and consists of dedicated volunteers like Conner. He was born and raised in Noblesville and graduated in 2001 from Noblesville High School and in 2005 from Purdue University. He was a competitive swimmer in high school. "Growing up in Noblesville, my summers were spent at the Forest Park Aquatic Center, training and competing as a member of the Noblesville Swim Club." He met his wife, Lisa, at Purdue, where she attended on a swimming scholarship. At Purdue, he was involved in student government, wrote sports for the Purdue Exponent and was a member of Theta Chi fraternity. He and Lisa have four kids, Blake, Bryce, Drew and Nora. "Our family loves outdoor activities, especially golf and swimming." The pool will be open for the 2023 season May 27-Sept. 4 with limited weekday hours in August. Season passes for the Aquatic Center, which include admission to Morse Beach, Tiny Tots on Tuesdays and Thursdays and movie nights, are now available for sale. Daily rate is \$8, with 10-day pool passes for \$75. He said, "Our community is incredibly fortunate to have such an amazing amenity. Honestly, there are only a handful of outdoor facilities of its caliber in the United States." Conner invites the community to visit <https://www.forestparkpool.org/>

And Another Thing...

1.A s-s-scary story

Amber Hall, her daughter and her son lived in their new home in Centennial, CO for just two weeks before realizing that their abode was infested with slimy snakes. Her dogs were first to alert her; they found several slippery serpents slithering in and out of a garage wall. Hall called in pest control experts who, initially, found some 30 of the scary critters. It was of little comfort that they were not poisonous. "The snake wrangler said the snakes he caught look to be about 2 to 3 years old, so he imagines they've been here for a long time and there's a lot more," as she put it in an interview with KDVR-TV.

2. Michelangelo, the barber

LeBron James lived up to the expectations of his fans early in the 2023 NBA Playoffs. He led the Los Angeles Lakers in upending the NBA champion Golden State Warriors on May 12, a day after one of his more ardent fans had barber Miguel Rosas, Director at New Style Hair Academy in Moline, IL, carve a good luck likeness of LeBron in the hair on the back of his head. It took Rosas two hours to create his masterpiece. There are those who might say that it did the trick and helped LeBron score 30 points, nine rebounds and nine assists for the Lakers.

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

50¢ WWW.THETIMES24-7.COM



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

Forest Park Aquatic Center in Noblesville, which features a slide and zipline, opens Saturday, with hours this weekend noon to 8 p.m. Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday and noon to 7 p.m. Monday, with \$8 admission, concessions available.

Pool to Open, Vintage Baseball Match, Music Festival, Comic Book Event



BETSY REASON
From The
Editor's Desk...

Here's our list of things to do this weekend and beyond. Here's our Times' list of 33 things to do.

1.Experience "The Sleeping Beauty," presented by Ballet Theatre of Carmel, at

7:30 p.m. today and 2 p.m. Saturday at the Star Bank Performing Arts Center in Zionsville.

2.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.

3.Dance to Janet Jackson during her Together Again tour at 7:45 p.m. Friday at Ruoff

Music Center in Noblesville, with tickets at [concerts.livenation.com](https://www.livenation.com)

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

5.Meet local comic book creators, shop for comic books, original art and prints, and sign up for cool door prizes during a Comic Book Show & Tell from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at The Lacy Arts Building in downtown Noblesville.

6.Forest Park Aquatic Center in Noblesville opens at noon to 8 p.m. Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday and noon to 7 p.m. Monday, then again after Noblesville Schools summer break begins, with \$8 per person admission, concessions available. Morse Beach will also open for the summer on Saturday

➡See BETSY Page A4

Heights' Ogden Named IHSWCA Tom Cameron Administrator Of The Year

Kurt Ogden, Hamilton Heights High School Athletic Director, is this year's recipient of the Indiana High School Wrestling Coaches Association's (IHSWCA) Tom Cameron Administrator of the Year award. The award recognizes an individual who has exemplified the highest standards of the profession and has made significant contributions to his or her school, district and/or state.

"I feel extremely flattered and honored to receive the Tom Cameron Administrator of the Year award," said Kurt Ogden, Athletic Director for Hamilton Heights High School. "Looking at the list of recipients over the past 12 years, it looks like the Mt. Rushmore of Indiana Athletic Administrators. So to be the joining this elite group is something I will cherish forever."

Ogden has been in education for 38 years. He was an educator at Tipton Middle School for 14 years (1985-1999) and Tipton High School for 11 years (1999) prior to taking on the School

Athletic Administrator for Hamilton Heights in 2010.

Backed by a MA in Physical Education and Health, 25 years as a coach of a variety of sports at all grade levels), Ogden hit the ground running.

"I always feel like AD's do a ton of work with not much praise," explained Gary Myers, Hamilton Heights High School Wrestling Coach and President of the Indiana High School Girls Wrestling & Coaches Association. "A few of the reasons why Mr. Ogden won was for his vision, leadership, and quick willingness to help girls wrestling get started. Hamilton Heights' held the first Girls Wrestling State Championships and two more after that! Another reason has been his lifelong work as



KURT OGDEN

➡See KURT Page A4

Let Summer Begin!



DEREK ARROWOOD
Guest Column

It is hard to believe that tomorrow is the last day of school for students. This week has been crazy busy filled with celebrations, recognitions, finals, and

mixed emotions as many of our students will be transitioning to the next level – be it the next grade, new building, continuing their education journey, or going into the workforce or the service. I encourage you to pause and enjoy these moments with your children.

I am pleased to share this year's Hamilton Heights School Corporation's Building Level Teachers of the Year - Jody Diller (HHES), John Walsh (HHMS), and Lori Hippensteel (HHHS). One of these educators will be selected to represent Hamilton Heights at the Indiana Teacher of the Year competition in the fall. The winner will be named at our End of the Year Staff Breakfast on Friday. In addition, our honorees for the Building Level Support Staff of the Year are Tasha Smith (HHES), Sophia Wright (HHMS), and Heather Fettig (HHHS).

Our annual teacher and staff recognition programs acknowledge and celebrate some of our district's most exceptional educators and support staff. Their commitment to student success exemplifies all that is good in our public schools. What makes these awards so special is that the winners are selected by their colleagues, who see the impact these individuals have on students and families — inside and outside of the classroom every day. These amazing honorees represent education at its best at Hamilton Heights and we are grateful to have this caliber of professionals in our district. Congratulations!

Speaking of congratulations, Kurt Ogden, our high school Athletic Director, has recently received recognition for his work and service. Kurt is the 2023 recipient of the Indiana High School Wrestling Coaches Association's (IHSWCA) coveted Tom Cameron Award. Throughout his career in public education and athletics, Kurt has developed student athletes, coaches, and athletic staff. He has greatly elevated our athletic programs, is extremely dedicated to his work, and is well respected among our staff and his peers. He's been a great asset to Heights and deserving of this recognition.

Congratulations to our Middle School Band who earned the J.M.E. All Music Award from the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) again this year. Every music student in the band and choir deserves credit for being a part of the program's success.

As a reminder, our 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic year calendars are posted on our website. The upcoming school year will include 180 days in session,

➡See DEREK Page A4

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 6:22 a.m.
SET: 9:07 p.m.

High/Low Temperatures
High: 76 °F
Low: 46 °F

Today is...

- Don't Fry Day
- Shavuot
- World Dracula Day

What Happened On This Day

- 1972 The Soviet Union and the United States sign the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.
- 1908 Engineers make the first major oil find in the Middle East.
- 1896 The Dow Jones Industrial Average is first published.

Births On This Day

- 1926 Miles Davis American trumpet player, composer, bandleader
- 1907 John Wayne American actor, director, producer

Deaths On This Day

- 1994 Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis 37th First Lady of the United States
- 2008 Sydney Pollack American director
- 735 Bede English monk, historian, theologian

The 2023 Westfield Market Is Here

Every Thursday 5-8 PM through October 5

Westfield get ready to go veggie-crazy and fruit-tastic at the 2023 Westfield Farmers Market! We are thrilled to welcome you to our Opening Day extravaganza, where the flavorsome fun begins. Our market is bursting with juicy goodness and farming charm that'll make you want to salsa with a cucumber!

Our delightful vendors are gearing up to showcase the freshest, locally sourced produce that'll make your taste buds dance with joy. Say hello to farmers who make their chickens cluck with pride, raising pork so good it'll have you oinking for more. And eggs? We've got them farm-fresh, perfect for cracking into a tasty omelet or baking a quiche that's eggstraordinary!

Don't forget the homemade treasures that'll make your heart skip a beat! From lip-smacking jams that spread happiness to sweet golden honey that's the

➡See MARKET Page A4

➡ INSIDE TODAY

Dick Wolfsie.....A3
Ken Thompson.....A3
Business.....A5
Voices.....A6

➡ HONEST HOOSIER

For us Hoosiers, there's just something special about Indycar racing!



➡ TODAY'S QUOTE

"Auto racing, bull fighting, and mountain climbing are the only real sports... all the others are games."
-Ernest Hemingway

➡ TODAY'S JOKE

The boss tried to catch fog. He mist.

➡ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Men who swim for exercise have lower mortality rates than walkers and runners.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!



Little Tulip Tree To Celebrate Grand Opening At Carmel City Center

Carmel City Center is excited to announce that Little Tulip Tree, the sixth Beaufort Bonnet Company Signature store, is now open at Carmel City Center. Located at 840 S. Rangeline Road, Little Tulip Tree is adjacent to The Shop and Endeavor Boutique in the Nash Building.

The Beaufort Bonnet Company creates upscale items for babies and children born with a refined sense of style. Featuring a light and airy coastal vibe, Little Tulip Tree offers the Beaufort Bonnet brand clothing and accessories from infant to size 14 along with an assortment of books and toys. The signature bonnet is featured throughout the store and is available year-round in a variety of fabrics from seersucker for spring and summer

to felt for winter. Monogramming is also available for purchase in-store to add a personalized touch to items.

Owners Molly and Jordan Lawhorn invite the public to the grand opening celebration on Saturday, June 10th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a ribbon cutting at 11 a.m. Light refreshments will be served, and a balloon artist and face painter will be in the store from 12 to 2 p.m. The first 75 people will receive a complimentary swag bag in honor of the grand opening.

"We are thrilled to welcome the community to Little Tulip Tree and showcase the amazing pieces from the Beaufort Bonnet Company," says Molly. "Whether you're looking for something for a special occasion, vacation, everyday wear or a

gift, we have the perfect items for you!"

"Little Tulip Tree is a great addition to Carmel City Center," said Melissa Averitt, senior vice president of Pedcor Companies. "We are excited to see all the families that will visit Little Tulip Tree and find the perfect pieces for their children."

Little Tulip Tree is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Carmel City Center is located at the southwest corner of City Center Drive and Range Line Road. Surface parking is available on plaza level (accessible from City Center Drive), in the underground garage (accessible from Range Line Road as well as City Center Drive) and in the Veterans Way garage.

Cabela's In Noblesville Doubles Down On Commitment To Honor Those Who Serve On The Front Lines

Bass Pro Shops founder Johnny Morris is announcing the company is doubling down on their support for those on the front lines. Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's stores throughout the country will proudly feature patriotic displays remembering those who have fought for our freedoms. Johnny also has announced Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's is doubling down on their Legendary Salute discount by increasing the everyday military discount from 5 percent to 10 percent and extending to include veterans, active military, law enforcement officers, firefighters and fish and wildlife agents.

The company will be awarding special patriotic vests to nearly 4,000 Bass Pro and Cabela's

Veteran Outfitters across the country, as part of the new Proud Veteran Outfitter vest program.

Veteran Outfitters will be able to wear these vests over their Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's uniforms, so that team members and customers may acknowledge and recognize their service to our country.

Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's has a long history of support for America's veterans, actively supporting veterans' causes and the U.S. military community, including strong part-

nerships with Helping A Hero, Folds of Honor, All Secure Foundation, Hiring A Hero, and many more.

In 2022, the Association of the United States Army awarded Bass Pro Shops founder and noted conservationist Johnny Morris with the National Service Award, the most prestigious honor awarded to a civilian, for the company's five decades of exemplary service and enduring support to American soldiers and the military community.

For more information about Bass Pro Shops' commitment to military and veterans, visit their website.

PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Team Castor
(Bloom Boutique)

3rd Base, Bats R/
Throws Right

5/21— Mason hit
a Grand Slam

"The thing I
like most about
playing in Babe
Ruth is the people
I have met that
are now friends
and teammates."

Hobbies: Going to
the gym, fishing
and hunting.

Mason Conger

Senior
16-18 Division



The Times

Public Notices Deadline:

11:00 a.m.

2 Business Days Prior to Publication

legals@thetimes24-7.com

Private Party Notices Submitted After Deadline

May Be Subject To \$25.00 Fee

In Addition To The Cost Of The Advertisement

Dreaming
of a
new home?



find it here!
the times



Noblesville Lions Club

Grillin' on the Square

Under the Big Tent

Friday, June 2, 2023

Lunch/Dinner

11:00 AM til 8:00 PM

\$13 Advance \$15 At the Door \$8 Hotdog

Saturday, June 3, 2023

Breakfast

7:00 AM til 11:00 AM

\$6 Adult \$4 Kids

Advance tickets available from any Lion



WE'RE HIRING DRIVERS

We are looking for drivers who have:

- CDL B with Air Brake Endorsement
- Minimum 1 year Commercial Truck Driving Experience
- Roll-Off or Dump Truck experience preferred

We provide great wages & benefits plus overtime

- Local runs only - home every night
- Monday - Friday with occasional Saturday morning
- Regular schedule (no night shifts), year-round employment

To Apply: Send your resume to ksmith@luscocorp.com

Call Karl • 317-565-8036

YANKEE TRADER Fireworks

10% OFF

all products during
Memorial Day Weekend

Thank you to all who served

407 South 10th Street
Noblesville

8496 Comet Lane

Pendleton • \$324,900

IMPROVED PRICE!



Stunning custom home. 4BR, 2.5BA, luxury vinyl plank on main, 9ft ceilings, recessed lights & gas fireplace, kitchen with quartz, subway tile backsplash, SS appliances, large pantry. Upstairs laundry, primary BR w/tray ceiling, ensuite BA and walk-in closet, 3 large bedrooms with walk-in closets! BLC#21917748

17155 McKenna Way

Noblesville • \$354,900

PENDING



Well maintained 2 BR, 2 BA home in Willow Lake, home overlooks pond, has huge great room, double sided gas fireplace, sunroom, den, upper loft, 3 season room, kitchen w/island, eating area and kitchen appliances stay. A perfect "10"! BLC#21918617

19344 Morrison Way

Noblesville • \$434,900

SOLD!



Charming 4 BR, 2.5 BA home is in popular Potters Woods. Hardwood throughout main level, family room with fireplace, kitchen with center island, new granite, finished basement, fenced parklike backyard, 3-car garage and so much more. BLC#21905032

7076 Willowleaf Court

Noblesville • \$345,900

PENDING



Lovely home in Willow Lake neighborhood, home is pristine and overlooks pond, w/2BR and 2 full BA, den, sunroom, 2-sided gas fireplace, kitchen w/pantry, solid surfaces and all appliances stay. BLC#21915325

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY

Remember and Honor

Speak to Deak!

Jennifer

Peggy

Speak to Deak.com

317.439.3258 Peggy or
317.695.6032 Jennifer

THE DeakLine Team

Talk to TUCKER
REALTORS
F.C. TUCKER COMPANY

Will Walters Be The Next Great Hope For Purdue Football?



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

At least one high school head coach has major expectations for Ryan Walters and the new Purdue football coaching staff.

As part of The Athletic’s “recruiting confidential” series, high school coaches have been asked about their impressions of staffs from each of the major football conferences. The Big Ten’s number came up earlier this week. In exchange for candid comments, the high school coaches were granted anonymity.

Not surprisingly, the usual suspects – Michigan, Ohio State, Penn State – popped up most frequently on questions ranging from what schools work your area the hardest to Name Image Likeness (NIL) offers.

Under “Which coach do you hear of the most?” a head coach in Detroit whose school regularly sends players to Big Ten and other Power 5 schools provided this surprising assessment of Walters. “The one that jumps out at me was Purdue’s new coach, Ryan Walters. I really think they’re about to revolutionize the Big Ten in terms of their approach and what they’re looking to do offensively and defensively. You saw a part of that the last couple years at Illinois, running that defense. Just the energy and the way they’ve started to recruit, I think Purdue is about to make some people turn their heads.”

As for the players Wal-

ters inherited, a handful were mentioned by Athlon Sports. In comparison, Michigan and Ohio State combined for 37 selections on Athlon’s four preseason All-Big Ten teams.

Running back Devin Mockobee and center Gus Hartwig are second-team selections. Offensive lineman Marcus Mbow and safety Cam Allen were placed on the third team. Sophomore outside linebacker Nic Caraway is on the fourth team.

Mockobee rushed for 968 yards and nine touchdowns as a redshirt freshman behind Hartwig and Mbow. Allen ranked third on the team with 49 tackles and shared the team lead with three interceptions. Caraway had two sacks among his 22 tackles in a reserve role.

Indiana had a first-team selection in kick returner Jaylin Lucas. Linebacker Aaron Casey earned a second-team nod, and wide receiver Cam Camper is on the third team along with defensive lineman Andre Carter and punter James Evans. Offensive lineman Matthew Bedford made the fourth team.

Lucas returned 21 kicks for an average of 28 yards and scored two touchdowns. Casey paced the Hoosiers with 86 tackles a year ago. Camper caught 46 passes for 569 yards and two touchdowns.

Carter is a transfer from Western Michigan, where he earned second-team All-Mid-American Conference honors with 13.5 tackles for loss and seven sacks. Evans averaged 44.3 yards per punt.

On the other hand ESPN writer Tom Vanhaaren is not as optimistic about Walters’ transition to



Photo courtesy of Purde Athletics

New Coach Ryan Walters

a first-time head coach.

In a story examining first-year coaches recruiting, VanHaaren notes that Walters’ late hire (Dec. 13) led to a 14-person high school class that ranked 63rd overall.

“That said, the coaches currently have eight commitments in the 202 class and have been able to start building with more time,” VanHaaren writes.

I’m skeptical, though, about VanHaaren’s claim that Walters has been unable to capitalize on the transfer portal to its fullest because of his late hire. Getting one of the top quarterbacks in the portal, Texas’ Hudson Card, may end up being the difference between a rebuilding season and a winning one.

Card wasn’t even mentioned by VanHaaren, who singled out former Penn State cornerback Marquis Wilson, Auburn defensive lineman Jeffrey M’ba, Florida Atlantic wide receiver Jahmal Edrine and Arkansas safety Anthony Brown.

“Given the timing of the hiring, Walters is going to have to be given some patience to try to build a foundation and mold the roster into what he wants,”

Michigan and Ohio State.”

It’s no compliment to the Hoosiers that their 3.5 win total figures to be “just right.”

“Tom Allen’s team plays a Top 10 schedule, per ESPN, with road games at Michigan, Penn State and Maryland. Indiana opens with Ohio State and also plays a non-conference neutral site game against Louisville in Indianapolis.

“While Akron and Indiana State are auto-wins, outside of a home date with Rutgers, Indiana will be underdogs in every other game in 2023.”

Purdue to honor Keady

A week before Gene Keady is inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, the former Purdue basketball coach will be saluted in Mackey Arena.

The ceremony will take place Aug. 5 when the Purdue men’s basketball team will host an alumni game at 11 a.m., followed by an intrasquad scrimmage in Mackey Arena. Tickets go on sale June 20 and will range from \$5 to \$15.

The scrimmage will be a tuneup for a European trip that launches Aug. 7. Purdue will play four games over 11 days while visiting Germany, Italy, Austria and Slovakia.

Purdue trifecta

This news came as a surprise: For the first time in 40 years, the Purdue men’s basketball program ranked in the top 10 for average attendance according to the NCAA.

Mackey Arena’s listed capacity is 14,222 but the Boilermakers averaged 14,876 fans while selling out all 16 of their home games in 2022-23. The average is a school record

and ranks 10th nationally.

During the 1982-83 season, Purdue was 10th in average attendance with 13,472 fans per game.

According to Purdue officials, the Boilermakers posted 100 percent capacities in men’s basketball, football and volleyball this past school year. Purdue is the only school in the United States to accomplish that feat in 2022-23.

Purdue was the only Big Ten school to sell out every game, joining Gonzaga, Houston, Xavier, Kansas, Dayton, Duke and Auburn.

The Boilermakers will carry a 57-game sellout streak into the 2023-24 season, selling out every game since Jan. 15, 2019.

Adding to that streak will be a Gavitt Games contest against Xavier on Nov. 13 on FS1. The Musketeers break a streak of three consecutive Gavitt matchups with Marquette.

Purdue and Xavier meet for the first time since Dec. 1, 2012, a 63-57 victory by Xavier in Mackey Arena.

Indiana was not selected to participate in the annual series between the Big Ten and the Big East conferences. The other matchups are Michigan vs. St. John’s at Madison Square Garden (Nov. 13), Wisconsin at Providence (Nov. 14), Marquette at Illinois (Nov. 14), Iowa at Creighton (Nov. 14), Georgetown at Rutgers (Nov. 15), Maryland at Villanova (Nov. 17) and Butler at Michigan State (Nov. 17).

- 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.

That’s The Ticket!!!



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

I just got a call from my wife who is vacationing with my sister in North Carolina. This trip worries me. If my name comes up, no one in that car will take my side.

Mary Ellen was just pulled over by the local police for a minor infraction. Mary Ellen never breaks the rules. She believes rules were made to be followed. This kind of harebrained notion caused a rift in the way we raised our son. To Mary Ellen’s credit, in over 35 years Brett has not spent a single night in jail.

Getting pulled over has crushed her, ruined her clean record and put a damper on her vacation. My wife’s life has been exemplary. She never had detention, never cheated on a test, never told a lie, never even hot-wired a car. The woman was a saint. Until today.

When you have a perfect record—not just in driving, but in your entire life—being followed by a police officer is a perplexing and nerve-racking experience. I have studied the best way to deal with cops when getting pulled over for speeding. For example, I know that saying, “Officer, I was running out of gas, so I had to get home quicker,” just doesn’t work.

Mary Ellen, on the other hand, has no experience in this area. When she noticed the lights flashing behind her, she waved the policeman around her. In fact, she waved him around her for about 23 blocks. Then it dawned on her that he was after her.

“When you stop crying, Ma’am, may I see your license and registration?”

“Oh, there must be some mistake, officer. I’ve never done anything wrong in my entire saintly life. You must have me confused

with my husband.”

“Look, lady, I’m going back to the patrol car to check your record.”

“While you’re checking, you might take notice of the fact that I have never cheated on a test, from kindergarten through my MBA. And this is especially noteworthy: I never let anyone look at my paper, either.”

“Ma’am, your license plates are expired.”

“How could you possibly know that?”

“There’s a little sticker on the plate. It says 2022.”

“Well, how can you expect me to see that from the driver’s seat?”

I actually tried that line myself once, hoping to get a laugh from a cop. I got a sobriety test instead.

Now back to the phone call from Mary Ellen right after she was stopped...

“Dick, I was just pulled over by the police.”

“Why didn’t you let my sister drive the get-away car?”

“Look, this is not a joke. Up until 20 minutes ago, I had a perfect record. I had never done anything wrong in my life. Do you know what this stain on my reputation means?”

“A big celebration at the convent! You’ve moved a lot of the sisters into first place.”

This event apparently created some soul searching on Mary Ellen’s part. “You know, Dick, this brush with the law has given me a new perspective. I’ve led too sheltered an existence. In fact, marrying you is really the only questionable thing I’ve done in my life until today.”

“Mary Ellen, marrying me was not exactly committing a crime.”

“No, but it’s probably the closest I’ll ever come.”

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

Dreaming
of a
new home?

find it here!
thetimes

relax & enjoy

THE TIMES

got
stuff?

sell it in the classifieds.

317.770.7777

Discover

fine local dining

Dine In Downtown

need a job?

Find one in the classifieds.

317.770.7777

Thanks for reading
The Times!

2023 Class of

Looking for a unique
way to honor your
graduate?

College • High School • Grade School • Pre-K

Congratulations

Melissa Turner

Purdue University

We are so proud of you! Love, Mom, Dad, & Matt

Purchase a personalized
graduation ad in The Times!

Only \$19!

Ad will run in our print edition on June 7th

Email cs@thetimes24-7.com with the
information you would like in the ad, a
photo or two, and your email for billing.

Information & payment due by June 5th.

Never miss a public notice on legal proceedings! After it prints in your local newspaper, it goes online:

IndianaPublicNotices.com • TheTimes24-7.com

BETSY

From Page A1

through Sept. 4. Pool membership includes movie nights, Tiny Tots Swim and Morse Beach admission.

7.Come cheer on White River Baseball Club as they take on the Normal, Ill., Prairie Chickens during Hamilton County Bicentennial free Vintage Baseball Match at 1 p.m. Saturday at Bishop's Park on 256th Street in Arcadia.

8.Check out the comedians at The Brick Room Comedy Club, featuring Dyke Michaels, Dustin Burkert and James Avery Sanders tonight and Sara Huntington, Sohile Ali and Shannon Rostin on Saturday, all shows at 8 p.m., with \$10 admission tickets at thebrickroom.cc.

9.Enjoy live music with Jason Salyers at 7 p.m. Saturday at Primeval Brewing in downtown Noblesville.

10.Enjoy live music at Grindstone Public House in Noblesville, featuring The Dead Squirrels on Saturday, Matt Record on June 3, Craig Thurston on June 1, Chris Huntley on June 8, John Gilmore on June 10, Craig Thurston on June 15, Disagreeable on June 17, Kelli Yates on June 22, Jeff Brown on June 24 at the downtown Noblesville restaurant.

11.Go out to the countryside for live music with Jeff Day at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Midwest Originals Duo at 6:30 p.m. today, a Strawberry Music Festival noon to 10 p.m. Saturday featuring Jamie Owens, 12:30 p.m.; Juan Douglas Trio, 1:45 p.m.; Flannel Tones, 4 p.m.; and The Bishops, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Krista & The Night Shift, 6:30-9:30 p.m. June 2; and Jeff Day, 1-4 p.m. June 3; Ciara Haskett, 6:30-9:30 p.m. June 3; Anneliese & Ali, 1-4 p.m. June 4 and 10; and Yoga at the Winery, 7 p.m. June 8; Jamie Owens, 6:30 p.m. June 9; The Booze Hounds, 6:30 p.m. June 10, all at Spencer Farm Winery in Noblesville. Visit spencer-farmwinery.com

12.Visit the Fishers Farmers Market from 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays through the summer at Nickel Plate District Amphitheater in Fishers.

13.Noblesville Cultural Arts Commission and The Lacy Arts Building are partnering to offer the second film in a vintage film series featuring famed and local stunt driver Lucky Teter at 8 p.m. Saturday.

14.Join Noblesville Main Street at its monthly mixers from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday at Primeval Brewing Co. on Logan Street in downtown Noblesville.

15.Salute our military veterans during the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at 11 a.m. Monday 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.

16.Visit Westfield Farmers Market from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays through the summer at Grand Junction Plaza in Westfield.

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

18.Noblesville Lions Club's annual Pork Chop Festival, renamed Grillin' on the Square this year, with pork chops, chicken and hot dogs, from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. June 2 with pancakes 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. June 3 under a tent on the Courthouse Square in downtown Noblesville.

19.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.

20.Enjoy First Friday at Nickel Plate Arts Campus from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. June 2 with new art exhibit, "The Melting Pot," exploring Indiana's evolving cultural heritage, plus showcase by Liz Hamstra of "Neon Electric Moon," with live music by Indy Identity Crisis.

21.join the Noblesville Schools Education Foundation's family-friendly Amazing Miller Race Scavenger Hunt at 8 a.m. June 3 in walkable downtown Noblesville. Teams are \$30 each, with use of Goose-chase app, and registration at noblesvilleschoolseducationfoundation.org/ Noblesville Main Street Duck Race and Scavenger Hunt is noon to 3 p.m. June 3.

22.Join Noblesville Preservation Alliance for its fourth annual Flea Market fundraiser from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 3 at Preservation Hall on Logan Street in Noblesville, and local homes, including 14 blocks of sales, on Logan and Clinton, from 10th to 17th streets, with more info on how to get involved at noblesvillepreservation.com,

with drop-off donations accepted from 1-5 p.m. on May 28 at 1274 Logan St., with inquiries to Amy Coyle at 317-379-9819.

23.Bring your lawn chairs and blankets for Legacy Keepers Music's free StringTime Music on the Square monthly series at the Hamilton County Courthouse Square: Rock Bottom Boys of Madison County, 6:30-8:15 p.m. June 3; Prairietown, Addie & Friends, Santiago Bap Trio, Limestone Nomad, Stampede String Band, Brad McCord, John Gilmore and Barrel Scrapers, noon to 8:15 p.m. July 1; Stones Crossing, 6:30-8:15 p.m. Aug. 5; Cornfields & Crossroads, 6:30-8:15 p.m. Sept. 2.

24.Experience live music featuring DitchWeed Acoustic Project at 9 p.m. June 3 at Syd's Bar & Grill in downtown Noblesville. Bring donation items for Living Water outreach.

25.The Belfry Theatre Apprentice Players youth production will have auditions for ages 5-18 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. June 4 and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. June 5 at EnPointe Indiana Ballet in Noblesville, with more information and a downloadable audition packet at thebelfrytheatre.com

26.Come out for live music during Fishers Parks Department's Free Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in June and July at Nickel Plate District Amphitheater, featuring Six Foot Blonde, June 6; Dude!, June 13; Jukebox Luke, June 20; My Yellow Rickshaw, June 27; Karma, with fireworks to follow, July 4; Street Pennies, July 11; Groovesmash, July 18; and Hank Ruff, July 25. Lawn chairs and blankets welcome. Visit http://www.npdamp.com/

27.Cool Creek Park and Nature Center free Wednesday Campfires will kick off at 7 p.m June 7 on the north side of Cool Creek Park in Westfield, with Birds of Prey program featuring Take Flight Education's Mark Booth.

28.Experience live community theater with The Hyperion Players' production of "Call Me Sister," at 7:30 p.m. June 8, 9 (talkback after show) and 10 and 2:30 p.m. June 10 and 11, at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville, with \$12 tickets at hyperionplayers.com

29.Noblesville Parks and Recreation presents the free 2023 Summer Concert Series 7 to 9 p.m. Thursdays in June and July: Cosmic Situation, June 8; Roughouse, June 15; Jai Baker 3, June 22; Not Your Average Boy Band, June 29; Groove Smash, July 6; The Toons, July 13; Hair-bangers Ball, July 20, at Dillon Park in Noblesville. Lawn chairs and blankets invited. Concessions available.

30.Join Gordon Insurance, partnering to present Noblesville Main Street's free Music & All That Jazz series, featuring The Andy Schomburg Band, June 10; Juan Douglas Trio, July 8; David Hartman Trio, Aug. 12; Moontown Pickle Stompers, Sept. 9; and Cohen-Rutkowski Project, Oct. 14, on the Courthouse Square in downtown Noblesville.

31.Noblesville Parks and Recreation Department's free Concerts at the Commons will feature eight tribute bands on Saturdays: The Eagles Project (Eagles tribute), June 10; Shoot to Thrill (AC/DC tribute), June 24; Crush (Bon Jovi tribute), July 8; No Fences (Garth Brooks tribute), July 15; Chicago Rewired (Chicago tribute), Aug. 12; Earth to Mars (Bruno Mars tribute), Aug. 26; American English (Beatles tribute) Sept. 9; Trippin Billies (Dave Matthews Band tribute), Sept. 23; all at Federal Hill Commons in downtown Noblesville.

32.Head to the Hamilton County Courthouse Square for St. Michael's Episcopal Church's annual Strawberry Festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 17, with tickets \$8 each.

33.Check out Jess Pearson's new book, "Imagining the Darkness," a memoir, based on the abuse she experienced as a child as well as her journey to healing, during an autograph signing event 2-4 p.m. June 24 at Gal's Guide Library, 107 S. 8th St., Noblesville, second floor of Nickel Plate Arts Campus. A small Percentage of sales at the library will go to Gal's Guide Library & Nickel Plate Arts.

-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

MARKET

From Page A1

bee's knees, we've got the secret ingredients to brighten your pantry. And when the craving for a delightful treat hits, our market offers scrumptious baked goods that are kneaded with love, just like grandma used to make.

Wait, there's more! Get ready to pop with excitement as we bring you freshly popped popcorn that'll make your taste buds go wild. And let's not fur-get our furry friends – we've got delectable dog treats that'll have them wagging their tails in veggie delight.

Oh, and did we mention the fragrant fresh flowers that'll add a bloom-tiful touch to your day? It's a feast for the senses at our one-of-a-kind market!

And if all this excitement leaves you feeling peckish, fear not! We've got ready-to-enjoy food at every corner of our market, ready to satisfy even the pickiest of palates. So, mark your calendars and join us for a shopping spree that'll make your taste buds tango! The Westfield Farmers Market is waiting to sprout joy, laughter, and bushels of deliciousness. See you there!

Pet Friendly Market

Well-behaved dogs are welcome to join you at the Westfield Market! If you plan to bring your four-legged pal, please review our dog guidelines to help our visitors have a safe and enjoyable market experience. Thank you for your cooperation!

Dogs must be comfortable around crowds and other dogs to shop at the market.

Dogs must be short-leashed with leash in hand, well-mannered, and by your side at all times.

Dogs must be kept away from products, plants, and other market/vendor fixtures – both head and tail ends.

Any damages caused by a dog (such as marking of product, tent poles, weights, or other fixtures) will be the responsibility of the dog owner and may include the costs associated with the replacement or cleaning of the damaged item.

Dogs must be taken off site for potty breaks, and all waste must be picked up and properly disposed.

Getting to the Market

Below is a map of the available parking spaces within the immediate vicinity of Downtown Westfield. With all of the great improvements underway in our downtown parking is limited. Beyond this immediate area there is also parking on Penn Street or behind Westfield City Hall, which is just a 7-minute walk to Grand Junction Plaza.

We strongly encourage you to ride your bike to the Plaza or walk down the Midland Trail, which will take you directly to the park. There are plenty

of bike lock-up spaces available at the Plaza along Union Street.

If you do decide to drive, park in the designated parking spaces. Be on the lookout for the new blue (pictured below) signs throughout downtown which will direct you to parking areas. DWA does operate a small six seat shuttle that will take Market Patrons to and from parking spaces on the on the left side of the map (yellow star) along Park Street. The shuttle will run every 10 minutes, beginning at 5:00 pm until 7:45 pm.

May 25 Market Vendors

The following is a list of vendors that have confirmed their participation for this Thursday. The list is subject to change without notice. If a link to their website or social media was provided it has been provided below.

- A&E Farms
- Amazing Hazel's
- Babydoll Boutique
- Becky the Bakerster
- Creolicious Bakery
- Dragonwood LLC
- Eagle Creek Apiary
- Eagleson Meadows
- Etta's Goody Goodies
- Fox Holler Woodworks
- Glaux Co.
- Grace over Grace

Boutique

- Grand Junction Brewing Co.
- Happy Mutt Pet Bakery
- Hidden Acres
- Hoosier Cookie Company
- Hoosier Kettle Corn
- Just Millie and Me
- Leaning Locust
- Lucky Lemon Bakery
- Mary D Jellies and Preserves, LLC
- Middlefork Meadows LLC
- Old Major
- Orange Cat Creations
- PipKing Creations with Soule
- Poppin' Sweet Confections
- Revolt CBD LLC
- Saucy Sweets, LLC
- Sheilacakes Sweets and Treats
- Simply From Scratch
- Sub Zero Treats, LLC
- Tailored Toddlies
- Tall Girl Specialty Pasta
- The Goodie Basket
- timbar
- Variegated Designs
- Food Vendors
- Arepas
- Bearded Burger
- Polish Cottage Polska

Chata LLC

- Taco Express LLC
- The Walking Waffle

Co

- Community Partners
- Girl Scouts of Central Indiana
- Hamilton County Republican Party

Live Music at Every Market

Each week the Westfield Farmers Market features live music from some of the Indianapolis areas best and brightest. This week we will feature Benito DiBartoli! Come out and enjoy a beautiful evening in the Grand Junction Plaza. All of the music events are free and open to the public.

DEREK

From Page A1

including three asynchronous e-learning days (i.e., self-paced virtual learning that can occur at different times and in different places that are particular to each student), one synchronous e-learning day (i.e., instruction delivered live and in real time to a student by the student's teacher), four flex days, and early dismissal on Wednesdays.

On a side note of interest, HHSC will not be in school on Monday, April 8, 2024. This is a change from the original calendar that was adopted last year. That is the date of the first total solar eclipse in Hamilton County in 819 years! The eclipse is expected to occur between 1:50 and 3:06 p.m. In fact, Hamilton County is expecting several thousand visitors that day and we want our students and staff to be able enjoy this once in a lifetime experience.

Each day we work to ensure that every student reaches their fullest potential and can be successful.

ful and thrive after high school, no matter what path they choose. Graduation is the culmination of that effort, reflecting years of dedication by our students and their families, teachers, administrators, and peers who have helped them achieve their goals every step of the way. We will be celebrating commencement for the Class of 2023 on Saturday, June 3 beginning at 6 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. The event will also be livestreamed and can be viewed here.

Thank you for your support, encouragement, and involvement in helping these graduates as they prepare for the next step of their journey. Wherever they go and whatever they do, they will make us proud. It is always, no matter what, a great day to be a Husky! #WeAreHuskies

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

KURT

From Page A1

an Athletic Director! Congrats again Mr. Ogden!!!

"As the leader of athletics at the high school, I thoroughly enjoy shaping the experiences of young athletes in a positive way," said Ogden reflecting over his tenure at Heights.

"We've had a lot of recognition and success with athletics the past 13 years in several different sports. We've celebrated several individual state champions and enjoyed a tremendous 2012-13 year when we had two teams (Football and Girls Basketball) reach the state finals. That's not accomplished without hiring qualified and experienced coaches who are committed to developing the student athlete on and off the field. And I've been blessed to hire some of the best coaches who have the same vision I have for their athletes."

"I want to thank Gary Myers for nominating me," continued Ogden. "I have tremendous respect for the sport of wrestling and the sacrifices and commitments required to be successful. I especially respect everything Gary has accomplished

at Hamilton Heights with his wrestling program. It has been one of the most successful programs, if not the most successful long-term programs in athletics at Hamilton Heights High School. So again, it is a privilege and honor to be a part of it."

"I may be biased but I believe Kurt is one of the very best athletic directors in the state," added Dr. Derek Arrowood, Superintendent, Hamilton Heights School Corporation.

"Throughout his career in public education and athletics, Kurt has developed student athletes, coaches, and athletic staff. He has greatly elevated our athletic programs, is extremely dedicated to his work, and is well respected among our staff and his peers. Moreover, he's been a great asset to Heights and deserving of this recognition."

Tom Cameron was an outstanding wrestling coach at Merrillville High School from 1975 to 1992 who went on to become a well-respected athletic administrator. After his passing the award was created in his honor with the first recipient in 2007.

got

stuff?

sell it in the classifieds.

317.770.7777



THE TIMES

Never miss a public notice on legal proceedings!
After it prints in your local newspaper, it goes online:

IndianaPublicNotices.com
TheTimes24-7.com

FRIDAY

Business

Notes and

NEWS

Friday, May 26, 2023

A5

EMAIL, news@thetimes24-7.com U.S. MAIL, 54 N. 9th St., Noblesville, IN 46060 ONLINE, www.thetimes24-7.com

Optimism Prevails Among Minority Business Owners, Survey Shows

(StatePoint) Even as minority business owners face new economic challenges, including supply chain disruptions and inflation, results from PNC's recent Economic Outlook survey show an impressive resiliency and positive mindset among these business leaders, according to Marshalyne Odneal, national sales executive for Minority Business at PNC Bank.

According to PNC's survey, more than two-thirds (68%) of minority business owners feel highly optimistic about the prospects of their own company in the next six months, compared to just 60% of non-minority-owned businesses.

While business owners as a whole remain cautious about the national economy, the gap between optimism among minority business owners for their own company versus the broader U.S. economy is 40 percentage points, significantly higher than the 31-point difference among non-minority owners.

"I have no doubt that minority business owners who were able to manage through the pandemic had to make unprecedented decisions related to staffing, business models and pricing. In doing so, they faced a Goliath – and won. It's unsurprising that their mindset about the future of their businesses, despite current economic challenges, is optimistic," Odneal said.

According to PNC's survey, 65% of Black- and Hispanic-owned business owners stated they have a business plan suited to the current direction of the economy, significantly more than non-minority owned businesses (55%). This highlights the importance of access to crucial resources for these business owners. The survey reinforces this point, showing that 86% of Black- and Hispanic-owned businesses interacted with or leveraged resources from the Small Business Association (SBA), a local chamber of commerce or a community economic development organization. Only 69% of non-minority business owners reported doing the same.

"The truth is that the unique financial challenges minority-owned businesses have long faced were amplified during the pandemic. As a result, more minority business owners are now seeking Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) certification, which is also an important and needed resource," Odneal said.

Businesses that become MBE-certified gain exclusive access to premium networking events, affordable consulting services and technology programs, among other benefits, according to the National Minority Supplier Development Council.

"Our survey revealed that 87% of Black-owned businesses are now MBE-certified,

up from 69% last year. Three-quarters of Hispanic-owned business are MBE-certified, compared to 67% last year. Of MBE-certified businesses, 80% of Black- and 84% of Hispanic-owned businesses said that certification has been a helpful business development tool," Odneal said.

PNC has taken significant steps in doing more for minority-owned businesses and providing necessary resources to help them overcome roadblocks.

As a part of its Small Business organization, PNC's Minority Business Development Group's mission is to deliver solutions and resources that foster financial wellness for small businesses within diverse communities. They've been able to do this, in part, through the PNC-Certified Minority Business Advocate initiative, a voluntary advocacy program that helps PNC employees understand the challenges facing minority-owned business owners.

"If the optimism of these entrepreneurs is realized and the U.S. business landscape prospers further down the road, minority business supporters must continue to execute against their mission and accelerate their efforts. The outlook is bright, but we must continue to do our part to advocate for these entrepreneurs and help their communities thrive," Odneal said.

Indiana's April 2023 Employment Report



Indiana's unemployment rate in April stands at 3.0%, according to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. By comparison, the national unemployment rate for April stands at 3.4%.

In addition, Indiana's labor force participation rate increased to 63.6% for April, remaining above the national rate of 62.6%. Indiana's total labor force, which includes both Hoosiers employed and those seeking employment, stands at 3,423,506 - an increase of 7,080 from the previous month.

Private sector employment in Indiana increased by 14,200 jobs over the last month, translating to a gain of 76,500 jobs from this time last year. Indiana's April private employment stands at 2,845,100. This is a new private employment peak for the state. Industries that experienced job increases in April included:

- Private Educational and Health Services (+4,100);
- Leisure and Hospitality (+3,800);
- Professional and Business Services (+3,500);
- Financial Activities (+1,500);
- Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+1,300); and
- Manufacturing (+300).

As of May 17, 2023, there were 126,185 open job postings throughout the state. In April, 14,211 unemployment insurance claims were filed in Indiana.

Individuals looking for work, training or career information are encouraged to visit in.gov/dwd/job-seekers.

need a **job?**
Find one in the classifieds.
317.770.7777

Buy. Sell. Rent. Lease.



THE TIMES classifieds.

got stuff?

sell it in the classifieds.

317.770.7777

FRIDAY

Voice of our PEOPLE

The Times of Noblesville

Friday, May 26, 2023

A6

Timmons Wages Battle Between Good, Evil



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

Like a lot of you, I'm at the age where sleeping through the night is an elusive commodity. It's not that I have trouble falling asleep. I'm usually lucky that way. It's just I don't stay asleep.

The biggest issue is going to the bathroom. On a good night, that may only happen once or twice. On others, well, I've lost count.

And far too many times, when I wake up – whether it's 2 in the morning or 5, I can't go back to sleep. I just can't. Most of my work days then start before the sun comes up for that very reason.

A few years ago I was

interviewing former Crawfordsville mayor (and football coach) Glenn Knecht. He was in his 80s and had some health issues. After a coughing spell he looked at me and paraphrased the old Bette Davis line, getting old is not for sissies.

Amen, brother.

So it was the other day that I opened my eyes and was surprised to see the bedroom wasn't dark. I looked at my watch and it said 6:58 – and even though my bladder was screaming at me to hurry along, I stayed in bed for two more minutes . . . just so I could say I didn't get up until 7.

Hey, we take little victories where we can get them.

But this victory was tainted. I did not go to bed at the normal 8 or 9 the night before and stay there all night. Not at all. For this night, you see, was marred by an intruder sneaking into our bedroom well after midnight. My wife let out a small shriek that woke me up and to our horror, we found ourselves staring at the trespasser – a bat.

Before you pooh-pooh our terror, let's take three facts

into consideration.

- Bats can transmit rabies – and should one bite you and get away, rabies shots are next.

- According to the CDC, bats are the leading cause of rabies deaths in the U.S.

- Bats can turn into vampires.

OK, OK, maybe the last one isn't so much a fact, but hey, it's a weird world out there today. You can't be too careful.

This is the third time a bat has gotten in and, I'm not sure how, but it has been my job to get the creepy things out.

Did I mention the vampire thing?

Listen, you might be laughing, but I spent hours upon hours in the Diana Theater watching Christopher Lee, Bela Lugosi, Peter Cushing and others transform from a creepy flying thing into creepy standing things. And it was always the poor schmuck who laughed it off that got killed first.

No one can accuse me of not learning a thing or two growing up.

I shook the cobwebs off, grabbed a broom and start-

ed flailing away. I managed to get the thing out of our bedroom and into the living room. The only problem was the ceilings are higher out there – and the . . . danged thing landed on the wall near the ceiling – far out of my reach. (As if further proof was needed to prove it is an unholy creature from hell – it sat on a vertical wall. I mean c'mon, it has little claws, fur, flies and can sit on a wall.)

I was going to try to throw a pillow at it, but my wife reminded me that whether I hit it or not, the pillow would likely hit the TV.

Just as we were debating the accuracy of my pillow throwing, the bat swooped off the wall and flew straight at my face. For a brief moment, we were eye to eye, locked in mortal combat. He knew the broom meant his death and I knew he wanted to bite into my jugular and cause mine.

It's that moment where men's souls are tried and found equal to the task at hand, or wanting.

I dropped the broom and dove behind the couch.

Bat 1, Tim 0.

So went our struggle until

finally, the broom and bat connected. I didn't kill it – stun was more likely. With thick fireplace gloves on, I scooped him up and threw him outside where he flew up into a tree – no doubt ready to pounce upon his next unwitting victim.

Of course I couldn't go back to sleep right away. Who could? The adrenaline of the war between good and evil we just waged was pumping through my veins. I decided to read – and realized the book on my nightstand was by Stephen King.

Not a help.

I finally did get back to sleep and remained there until 7 a.m. I did not get up once during that period. So all in all, sleeping in until 7? The bat might've been worth it.

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 ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com.

Ask Rusty – I'm Concerned About Social Security Solvency

Dear Rusty: I retired at age 58. My husband and I worked 40 years of employment each. I had a 401K only... no other benefits. We saved, we invested through our financial advisor and have done okay watching our investments grow (except for the last 3 years). Neither my husband nor I have taken Social Security; we were both waiting until age 70 to get full benefits. Do you think this is still wise? I'm concerned there will not be any funds in 5 years when we both turn 70. Signed: Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned Senior: Your question relates to Social Security solvency, no doubt inspired by the recent spate of media discussion on this topic. Most articles I've read promote a "doomsday" scenario and, in fairness, Social Security's financial issues are serious. The latest

report from the Trustees of Social Security warned Congress that the reserves now held in Social Security's Trust Fund (which enable full benefits to be paid) will be depleted as early as 2033. What you may not know is that this is not new news - the Trustees have sounded the same warning for decades to multiple Congresses which have neglected to enact corrective measures. And, unfortunately, they are likely to continue to drag their feet for a while because the reform needed is not politically palatable and the impact is still a few years away.

Nevertheless, although Social Security's looming financial issues are serious, they are not fatal. Congress already knows how to fix Social Security's financial issues - they just currently lack the bipartisan spirit and political will needed to do so. The clock, however, is ticking and



ASK RUSTY
Social Security Advisor

Congress will be forced to act soon, which we are confident will happen before the Trust Funds run dry. What motivates most politicians is getting reelected and allowing an across the board cut to all Social Security recipients (which would happen if the Trust Fund reserves were depleted) would be political suicide. Therefore, I'm confident that reform will occur in time, and I don't suggest changing your Social Security claiming strategy over worries about Social Security's solvency.

Let me further allay

Social Security Matters by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

your fears by explaining what would hypothetically happen in the worst case scenario (if Congress doesn't act and Trust Funds are depleted). If that were to occur, when the reserves are depleted in about 2033 everyone would face an across the board benefit cut. Social Security can't go bankrupt because there would still be about 175 million workers contributing to the program but, since Social Security (by law) can only pay benefits from revenue received, everyone's benefit would be reduced

by about 23% (according to the Trustees). Every beneficiary would still get benefits, but only to the extent available from income received. Which brings me to your specific question - whether it is still wise to wait until age 70 to claim (or to claim your benefits now).

Ask yourself this question: which would result in a larger monthly payment, a 23% cut to your age 70 SS payment amount, or a 23% cut to your current benefit amount? The answer, of course, is that your monthly payment would

be more if you stay with your current strategy and wait until age 70 to claim (a plan which I assume you developed considering your current financial needs as well as your life expectancy, both of which are very important to that decision).

Again, I do not believe the worst case scenario will happen. Congress already knows how to restore Social Security to full solvency, and they will almost certainly act in time to avoid an across the board cut to everyone's benefit. The Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) has proposed legislation which would restore the Social Security program to full solvency for generations without raising payroll taxes, a summary of which you are welcome to review here: www.amac.us/social-security. AMAC has provided this proposal to various members of Congress for consideration.



Life without local news is like
hearing crickets

**STOP LISTENING
TO CRICKETS**



SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
770-7777