

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 16:8

I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved



A lot of us grew up in a country where we were told if we work hard we could one day be president of the United States. Now we live in a country where young people are told if they want, they can be a member of the opposite sex, a cat or a turnip. What a world!

■ HAMILTON HAPPENINGS

Known for timeless hits like "Sailing" and "Ride Like the Wind," singer, songwriter and guitarist Christopher Cross will make his debut appearance at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts in June. The performance is set for 7:30 p.m. Sunday, June 21, at the Payne & Mencias Palladium, 1 Carter Green, Carmel. Tickets starting at \$35 are available at TheCenterPresents.org, by phone at (317) 843-3800, or in person at the Payne & Mencias Palladium's Fifth Third Bank Box Office. The concert is part of the Printing Partners Encore Series and the 2025-2026 Center Presents Season sponsored by Allied Solutions.

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

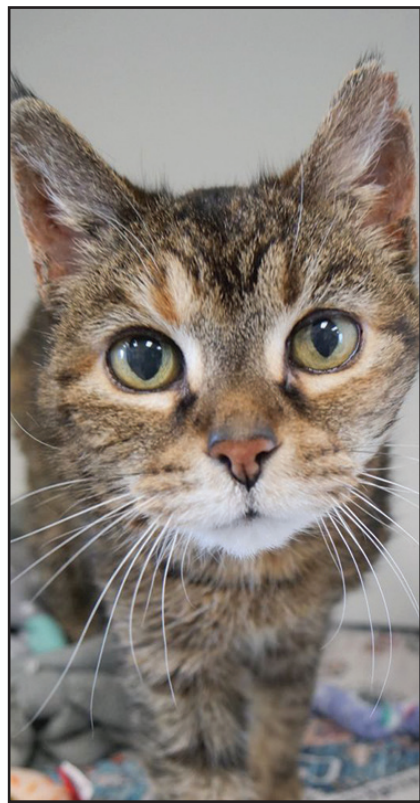
"There is no worse tyranny than to force a man to pay for what he does not want merely because you think it would be good for him."

Robert A. Heinlein

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

Why is the letter A like a flower?  
Because a B comes after it!

■ ADOPT A PET MATILDA



Matilda is a brown and orange torbie who loves people and enjoys her toys and treats. This 17-year-old female Domestic Shorthair has been available for adoption at the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) since 12/18/25. Matilda is an extremely sweet and affectionate girl who would brighten anyone's life if given the chance. To meet her, please fill out an adoption application at hamiltonhumane.com/adopt, then stop by HSHC anytime 12-5 PM daily (closed Wednesday).

# The TIMES

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

www.THETIMES24-7.com | 50¢

## BOOMER BITS... Tips and Advice from Boomers to Boomers 'I Lost Money as a Widow by Not Knowing Rules'

*Dear Rusty: I just found out, as someone who was collecting widow's benefits on my second husband (a very small amount) for some time, that I was, all along, entitled to divorce benefits from my first husband which are much more. I thought I had to wait until my first husband passed before I could collect anything from him. Now I learned I have the right to collect as a divorcee. All of these years I have been missing out on a bigger benefit because I didn't know this. Please make this clear and stress it for others in my position.*

Signed: Lost Benefits

*Dear Lost Benefits: I am truly saddened that you lost out on benefits from your first husband for such a long time. Although you could not collect an ex-spouse benefit from Husband #1 while you were married to Husband #2, as soon as your current husband died you again became eligible for ex-spouse benefits from*



### ASK RUSTY

Social Security Advisor

Husband #1. Basically, the rules say you cannot collect benefits from an ex-spouse if you have remarried and remain married. In other words, you cannot be "currently married" to collect benefits from an ex-spouse. But the death of Husband #2 meant that you were now eligible to collect ex-spouse benefits from your first husband – husband #1. I hope when you later filed for your ex-spouse benefits you asked for six months of retroactive benefits.

In your situation, when your Husband #2 died, you actually had a choice – either collect your surviving spouse benefit from your

recently deceased husband #2, or to collect a regular ex-spouse benefit from your first husband if that is more than your benefit as your second husband's widow. Regular ex-spouse benefits from your first husband are available even though he is still living (and, indeed, even if he remarried) because you are no longer married to husband #2.

This, however, is not always the way things work out for someone who has had multiple marriages. It all depends on the SS benefit each former spouse was entitled to. That's

See Rusty Page 3

## 'If Only I Had Waited Longer to Claim SS'

By AMAC Foundation  
Social Security Advisor  
Russell Gloor

"Hindsight is the best Foresight"

As the old adage goes, "hindsight is the best foresight" and nowhere is that more evident than with some we counsel at the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory Service. We regularly speak with older seniors who say, if only they knew how long they were going to live they would have waited longer to claim Social Security. More of a cliché than an adage, the "hindsight" phrase laments the fact that no one can predict their life expectancy but, if only they had known they would live to a ripe old age, they would have waited longer to get a higher SS benefit. This is sometimes the case with those who have already reached a more

advanced age, and who would very much appreciate (and benefit from) a higher monthly Social Security payment.

A Little Background  
For background, Social Security benefits taken at age 62 are reduced by 25% to 30% from that available if claimed at the person's full retirement age. Your full retirement age (your "FRA") is when you get 100% of the Social Security benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working. A person's FRA is determined by their year of birth: for individuals born between 1943 and 1954, FRA is age 66; for individuals born between 1955 and 1959 their FRA increases by two months for each year after 1954; and for those born after 1959, FRA is age 67. Claiming before FRA means a reduced benefit and delaying until after FRA

yields a higher benefit. Age 70 is when you can get your maximum Social Security benefit, about 75% more than a benefit claimed at age 62, and 24% to 32% more than available at the person's FRA. Obviously, for seniors in their 80s who are struggling to make ends meet, the thought of a higher monthly SS check, if only they had waited longer to claim, can be something to fret about.

Claiming Age Distribution  
However, fretting about past decisions offers nothing but stress. And you might find solace in the fact that a majority of those applying for Social Security claim benefits before their full retirement age. Indeed, over 60% of SS recipients claim benefits before their FRA, with about 30% claiming as soon

See Waiting Page 2

### ■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

**1.** Two of Indiana's most recognizable summer traditions are teaming up for a grand slam summer. The Indiana State Fair and Indianapolis Indians recently announced a partnership for the 2026 Indiana State Fair, bringing together iconic organizations that have long been part of the Hoosier summer experience. The summer-long partnership will bring an exciting lineup of activations to both Victory Field and the Indiana State Fair. The baseball theme will also serve as a centerpiece for the United States 250th Birthday celebration, bringing Americana to life through two timeless traditions – fairs and baseball – creating a season that is both nostalgic and unmistakably All-American.

**2.** A new study from Hormone health clinic Feel30 has analyzed data from the CDC to determine which states have the highest rates of obesity among adults – and it's not good news for us Hoosiers. Indiana ranked seventh nationally with the highest rate of obesity. West Virginia finished first with 41.2 percent of adults being described as obese. We Hoosiers came in at 37.8 percent. Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and Alabama rounded out the top five.

**3.** Borrow sugar from a neighbor, or order it online? For 70 percent of Americans, delivery wins, according to a new survey from American Home Shield. In fact, 1 in 3 Americans confess to actively avoiding neighbors: 51 percent blame social anxiety (55 percent hate small talk); 21 percent confess to feuding with neighbors; 32 percent (including 49 percent of Gen Zers) wouldn't feel comfortable knocking on a neighbor's door; 59 percent of parents wouldn't let their children play with neighborhood kids; and nearly 3 in 4 (74 percent) don't feel a strong sense of community, and 19% even feel lonely in their own neighborhoods.

## Reasons Why Older Adults Should Focus on Eye Health

StatePoint

As you age, it's important to keep an eye on your vision. While some vision changes can be expected over time, others may signal something more serious, such as cataracts, glaucoma or age-related macular degeneration (AMD), which can result in vision loss, blurred vision and glare.

According to one study, one-third of all cases of cataracts, open-angle glaucoma and early AMD occur in those 80 years old or older.

"Older adults with diabetes are especially at risk of developing eye-related issues over time, including cataracts and glaucoma, as well as diabetic retinopathy," said Dr. Grant Tarbox, senior executive medical director with HealthSpring, which offers Medicare plans across the country.

In fact, more than half of people with diabetes eventually develop diabetic retinopathy, according to the National Eye Institute. This is a serious condition that can cause blindness if left untreated.

Vision screening recommendations for older adults vary by organization based on health status and medical history. Nevertheless, if you have a vision benefit in your insurance plan, it's a good idea to take advantage of it in 2026.

While Original Medicare doesn't cover a routine annual vision exam, most Medicare Advantage (MA) plans, such as those offered by HealthSpring, do provide additional vision benefits, including annual screenings. These plans may even provide you with an incentive for getting an annual vision exam. To avoid surprise payments, always visit an optometrist or ophthalmologist in your network.

Many eye diseases don't present symptoms in the early stages, making screenings important. When conditions are caught and treated early, disease progression can be slowed. Both Original Medicare and MA plans generally cover treatment for various eye diseases. Beneficiaries may have to pay coinsurance or copays, depending on their coverage. Additionally, a Medicare Part D plan, which is often included in an MA plan, generally covers eye drops and other vision-related prescriptions.

"You should always ask your eye doctor to share information about your vision health with your primary care physician, including any prescriptions ordered, to better coordinate care," said Tarbox.

See Eyes Page 3

# The TIMES

54 N. 9th St. Noblesville IN 46060  
Main: 317-773-9960  
thetimes24-7.com

## Huston Applauds Laws to Protect Young Hoosiers



Courtesy Photo

Indiana House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers), after the ceremonial bill signings of HEA 1303 and HEA 1408 which strengthen protections for Hoosier youth following the tragic death of Fishers teen Hailey Buzbee, shared a statement. "The Fishers community is still grieving the loss of Hailey, and her parents' courage in speaking out to protect other young Hoosiers has been incredibly moving. A new law passed this year strengthens Indiana's alert system, giving law enforcement more ability to respond quickly when a child may be in danger. We also enacted new safeguards on social media, requiring parental consent for minors and empowering parents with more control and visibility into their children's online activity. We will continue working to strengthen protections for young Hoosiers and do everything we can to keep our kids safe."

## The Times

Vol. 122 | Issue 37

Sen. Phil Boots, President  
Tim Timmons, Publisher  
**USPS Publication Number:** 391140  
**Annual Print Subscription:** \$89  
**Annual Online Subscription:** \$42  
**To subscribe:**  
circulation@thetimes24-7.com  
**To contact news:**  
news@thetimes24-7.com  
**To submit legal notices:**  
legals@thetimes247.com  
**For billing:**  
business@thetimes24-7.com  
Report address changes to  
circulation@thetimes247.com

GENERAC

#1 standby generator worldwide.

Get whole-home power, automatically.

Call 866-953-2203 to schedule your free quote today!

\*Terms & conditions apply

# Pondering Betrayal by Judas

The Old Testament prophet, Zechariah (11:12-13, NLT) foretold of the 30 silver coins being returned by Judas in his despair. The coins would not be given back into the treasury by the priests because they would be used for murder.

The Greek word, "metamelomai" described Judas' deep emotional response of remorse and guilt for his betrayal of Jesus,

but does not specifically reference Judas' repentance to God to seek His divine mercy. Jesus knew his betrayal was coming, (Matthew 26: 26), yet still called Judas "friend" at the very moment of his betrayal, (Matt 26:50).

Do you think Judas asked God for forgiveness or just felt really guilty?

Do you think Jesus forgave him in his heart based on what

## Bonnie Zickgraf

Times Columnist



we read in Matthew 26: 54 and 56)?

Bonnie Zickgraf is a retired pastor, author and an RN in mental health

nursing and health plan accreditations. Send comments and prayer requests to bonniezickgraf@gmail.com.

## Ben's Ranch Foundation Opens Ticket Sales for Annual Barn Bash

Ben's Ranch Foundation, a local nonprofit dedicated to empowering teens struggling with mental health challenges, has officially opened ticket sales for its annual "Barn Bash" fundraising event, taking place April 25 in Carmel.

The community is invited to experience this one-of-a-kind evening featuring professionally led square dancing, live music from Indy Annies, a mechanical bucking bull, dinner, and a silent auction. All proceeds support programs that create meaningful employment and work based learning opportunities for teens facing mental and emotional health challenges, connecting them to hands-on work through small group programs and paid internships on farms, at stables, and in other outdoor settings.

To purchase tickets visit <https://bensranch.org/events/> "The Barn Bash is more than an event—it's a chance to open doors for teens who need hope and opportunity," said Kathy Laigaard, event Co-Chair and Ben's Ranch Board Member. "It's also a powerful way for our community to come together and invest in the future of young people. We invite everyone to join us for a night



Photo courtesy Ben's Ranch Foundation

The Foundation is seeking help with the silent auction. Contact them at [events@bensranch.org](mailto:events@bensranch.org).

that makes a difference."

The Foundation is seeking sponsors and donations or items for the silent auction. You can donate an auction item through BRF 2026 Barn Bash Donation Form. Questions? Contact us at [events@bensranch.org](mailto:events@bensranch.org).

Based in Hamilton County, BRF serves young people at numerous locations in Central Indiana. In 2023, Ben's Ranch assumed management of Koteewi Stable and Trails, located in Koteewi Park in Noblesville. At the stable, the

public can enjoy trail rides on horseback, pony rides, hold birthday parties, attend special events and adopt a horse. This unique partnership between BRF and the Hamilton County Parks Department allows BRF interns and small group participants to do chores, take care of the horses and learn skills at the stable.

For more about Ben's Ranch Foundation and Koteewi Stable and Trails, visit [www.bensranch.org](http://www.bensranch.org) and [www.koteewi-trails.org](http://www.koteewi-trails.org)

## WAITING

Continued from Page 1

as they are eligible (age 62). About 34% claim at their full retirement age, leaving only a small remaining group who seek a larger SS benefit by earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) after FRA. Thus, if you claimed benefits before your full retirement age, you are in the majority and in good company. And if you waited and claimed at or after your FRA, you might be considered exceptionally smart. But maybe not.

Deciding When to Claim

People make their claiming decisions based upon several factors, some valid and some not. For example, many people just claim Social Security blindly, simply because "it's there" and available, without fully understanding the ramifications of that decision. And some claim early because they think SS is going bankrupt (it's not). But from a strictly logical standpoint, when to claim SS should consider these factors: the person's financial need, their plans for working (if claiming early), their marital status, and their estimated longevity.

In reality, claiming early makes perfect sense if you do not expect to live a reasonably long life. In that case, claiming early is the most logical choice to get as much SS as possible before you die. But even in that case, you must still consider whether you plan to work after claiming early benefits. That's because Social Security limits how much you can earn when collecting benefits prior to your FRA.

Conversely, waiting longer for a higher monthly amount is a prudent choice if you can afford to do so, and if you have at least

average life expectancy (about 84 for a man; 87 for a woman of SS age). In today's world, many choose to continue working after age 62, which can provide them with the income needed to delay SS in favor of a higher monthly benefit. And that higher benefit will be very much appreciated as they age. Spouse benefits, and the timing thereof, are also a consideration, and the picture changes yet again if there are minor or disabled adult children in the mix.

What if I've Already Claimed?

But suppose you have already claimed your Social Security benefits and now regret that decision. What can you do?

Well, if you applied for Social Security benefits less than 12 months ago, you could withdraw your application and, thus, allow your monthly amount to grow, thus providing a higher benefit at a later age. But that would require you to repay all SS benefits already paid, which may not be a financially feasible option.

If you have already reached your full retirement age (FRA) and are not yet 70, you might consider suspending receipt of your monthly benefits to get a higher amount when you restart your monthly payments at a later age. Done this way, you do not need to repay all previous SS benefits, but you will need to adjust your lifestyle to temporarily do without your Social Security income. That might work if you have other income or savings to replace your suspended SS benefits. But it is a choice available to earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs)[1] and get a higher SS

benefit later.

However, if it has been more than 1 year since you applied for SS benefits, or if you are already 70 years of age or more, you are, unfortunately out of options to increase your SS benefit amount. You will, of course, still receive any annual Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) awarded to provide at least some measure of higher benefit as you continue to age.

In the end, we all make consequential decisions over our lifetime, and when to claim Social Security is often an irrevocable choice. So, as tempting as it may be to speculate how much easier life would be if your SS benefit was larger, it is much better to simply be comfortable with your claiming choice, especially if you can't change it using one of the options described above. Above all, lamenting your previous choice isn't worth the emotional stress it induces.

What if I'm Only Now Thinking About Claiming?

And if you are now only considering applying for SS benefits, it would be very prudent to discuss your claiming options with the AMAC Foundation's accredited and certified Social Security Advisory staff. Social Security is a complex topic and the AMAC Foundation's SS Advisors can help you understand your best options for claiming after evaluating your specific personal circumstances. Call us at 1.888.750.2622 or send us an email to [SSadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:SSadvisor@amacfoundation.org). We're here to help - and there is never a fee for our SS Advisory services.

HAPPY EASTER. HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEKEND

# Library to Host Sold-Out Event with Bestselling Author

The Hamilton East Public Library will welcome debut author Tiffany Crum for a special evening author talk on Saturday, April 18 at 6 pm. The free, ticketed event reached full capacity within 48 hours of opening registration, reflecting strong community excitement for Crum's newly released novel, *This Story Might Save Your Life*.

The program will take place offsite at the theatre inside the Fishers Art Center at City Hall and will feature a moderated conversation with Crum, followed by an audience Q&A and book signing.

Crum's debut novel has quickly gained national attention, earning recognition as a New York Times bestselling release and a BBC Radio 2 Book Club selection. *This Story Might Save Your Life* follows a beloved podcast duo whose lives take a shocking turn when a disappearance transforms their story into a

real-life mystery. "We're thrilled to bring an author of this caliber to our community," said Allison Kartman, Systemwide Program Coordinator. "The overwhelming response to this event speaks to the excitement readers have for compelling new voices and the power of libraries to connect people with stories and the authors behind them."

The evening will begin with check-in at 6pm, followed by the program at 6:30pm. Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase copies of the book onsite from Chapter Book Lounge prior to the event.

Originally from a dairy farm near a maximum-security prison, Crum went on to work in the film industry before earning her MFA in creative writing. She now lives in Atlanta with her family. *This Story Might Save Your Life*, which published on March 10, 2026, has already sold in fifteen languages and is



Tiffany Crum

currently under option for television.

While registration for this event is full, community members are encouraged to follow HEPL for future author events and literary programming.

For more information about Tiffany Crum's author visit, please visit HEPL's event calendar at [hamiltoneastpl.org](http://hamiltoneastpl.org).



Photos courtesy Kroger

## Kroger Hunger Team Back At It

The Kroger hunger relief team is continuing its mission to fill another 500 meal kits with nutritious food for local families in need. Today, the crew is in Whites-town with basketball stars, coaches and even an IndyCar driver. Recently, they were in Noblesville at The Arena at Innovation Mile. A large crowd turned out to help, including representatives from the Noblesville Boom, the Indiana Pacers G-League affiliate, Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen and others.

## EYES

Continued from Page 1

In addition to screenings, you can support healthy eyes with lifestyle tweaks. Tarbox added that the same habits that benefit your overall health are also good for your eye health. This includes eating well, maintaining a healthy weight, washing your hands, not smoking, and taking medications as prescribed.

Additionally, be-

cause of the heightened risk of diabetic retinopathy, people with diabetes should undergo comprehensive annual eye exams and keep their A1C (a measurement of blood sugar), blood pressure and cholesterol levels under control.

For information on HealthSpring's Medicare plans, visit [www.healthspring.com](http://www.healthspring.com).

"Although we can

take our eyes for granted, having good vision is a critical part of maintaining our independence as we age," Tarbox said. "Good vision can help prevent a number of adverse events, including falls or car accidents, allows us to manage our health and home, and even helps us connect with others."

## RUSTY

Continued from Page 1

because your survivor benefit as your 2nd husband's widow is based on the full (100%) amount he was receiving from Social Security when he died. In contrast, your benefit as your first husband's ex-spouse while he is still living will be based upon half (50%) of his full retirement age SS entitlement. And often, 100% of a deceased person's SS benefit is more than 50% of another living person's amount. But not always.

It's important to also know that if you claim any SS benefit before reaching your personal full retirement age (FRA), the monthly amount will be reduced. Benefits as a

spouse (or a surviving spouse) do not reach maximum until the spouse reaches FRA, which is somewhere between age 66 and 67 depending on the spouse's year of birth. It's also important to know that if a surviving spouse is working, any SS benefit received will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET), which limits how much can be earned before SS benefits are affected. For 2026, the earnings limit for those collecting early SS benefits is \$24,480 and, if that limit is exceeded, Social Security will take away some of your benefits. Note that the earnings test goes away when you

reach your full retirement age.

Finally, be aware that if your first husband also predeceases you, you will then become eligible for a surviving ex-spouse benefit from him, even if he has remarried.

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. Russell Gloor is the, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens. To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).*

## Days Left to Register to Vote

Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales is reminding Hoosiers that there are just days left to register to vote ahead of the upcoming voter registration deadline of April 6.

Eligible Hoosiers who are not yet registered are encouraged to take a few minutes to register or confirm their registration status by visiting [IndianaVoters.com](http://IndianaVoters.com).

"As a naturalized citizen and Indiana's Chief Election Officer, voting is very personal to me. It is one of the most important rights we have as Americans. I encourage every

eligible Hoosier who has not yet registered to vote to do so before the deadline. It only takes a few minutes to register online at [IndianaVoters.com](http://IndianaVoters.com)," said Diego Morales, Indiana Secretary of State.

Hoosiers can register to vote online, update their information, or check their registration status by visiting [IndianaVoters.com](http://IndianaVoters.com) or by completing a voter registration form at their county voter registration office.

Hoosiers can register to vote online at ["IndianaVoters.com"](http://IndianaVoters.com) until 11:59 p.m. on

April 6th. Hoosiers have until the close of business on April 6th to register to vote in person at their county election offices.

To be eligible to register to vote in Indiana, individuals must:

- Be a United States citizen
- Be at least 18 years old on or before Election Day

- Have lived in their precinct for at least 30 days prior to the election

For more information on registering to vote or ways to vote, visit [IndianaVoters.com](http://IndianaVoters.com).

## Lions Meeting Speaker

Photo courtesy Noblesville Lions  
The Noblesville Lions welcomed Dr. Tracey Ikerd to speak about common infectious diseases at their March 25 meeting. Dr. Ikerd is an infectious disease specialist, practicing at Riverview Health and Ascension St. Vincent hospitals. He gave a show and tell style presentation, introducing the symptoms and treatment of various diseases including shingles, Lyme disease, and brown recluse spider bites. Dr. Ikerd also shared information about prevention of infectious diseases, highlighting that the shingles vaccination is especially important for older adults because it can be very painful in those over 50 and many older adults carry the virus which they were exposed to as children in the form of chickenpox. Noblesville Lions First Vice President John Einsfeld, left, with Dr. Ikerd.



Visit us online:  
[thetimes24-7.com](http://thetimes24-7.com)



## Public Notices Deadline:

11:00 a.m. 2 Business Days Prior to Publication:  
[legals@thetimes24-7.com](mailto: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



# Big Man U Has Proud History With Purdue Basketball



**SPORTS,  
SPORTS, &  
MORE SPORTS**  
with Ken Thompson



made an immediate impact.

He set the Purdue freshman scoring record, which still stands, of 540 points. Cross won Big Ten Freshman of the Year while helping Purdue go 21-11 and earn a third-place finish in the NIT.

After averaging nearly 15 points a game as a sophomore, Cross earned first-team All-Big Ten honors as a junior for leading Purdue to the NCAA tournament for the first time under Keady. Not long after an NCAA loss to Arkansas, Cross became Purdue's first early entry into the NBA Draft.

A knee injury first suffered in high school, though, derailed Cross' career after he was taken sixth overall by the Golden State Warriors in 1983. Cross played just one season, averaging 3.7 points in 45 games.

**6. Jim Rowinski**  
I dare anyone to find a more startling physical transformation than the one that began during Rowinski's junior season in high school.

Cut from the Syosset (N.Y.) varsity as a 5-10, 170-pound forward, Rowinski grew to 6-3 and 185 pounds and made all-conference as a senior. Because his father and sister were Purdue graduates, Rowinski decided to walk on for then-head coach Lee Rose.

In a short time, Rowinski went from "Renegade," the name given by Rose to his practice squad, to a scholarship player for Gene Keady. Rowinski also developed from a 6-4 freshman to a muscular 6-8, 243-pound center.

Rowinski made his first start as a junior when Russell Cross was sidelined with an injury before the Sugar Bowl Classic. A season-ending injury shortly thereafter turned out to be the biggest break for Rowinski and Purdue.

Picked to finish ninth in the then-10-team Big Ten, the Boilermakers shocked the nation by winning a share of the title with Rowinski winning Big Ten Most Valuable Player honors

Rowinski was drafted by the Utah Jazz in 1984 and would play for the Detroit Pistons, Philadelphia 76ers



Photos courtesy Purdue Athletics

**JaJuan Johnson was Purdue's first consensus All-American since Glenn Robinson.**

and Miami Heat. He passed away at age 63 on Feb. 1, 2024.

**7. Stephen Scheffler**  
Few Boilermakers in the late 20th century could make Rowinski look small. One of them was the 6-9, 250-pound Scheffler, who was recruited to play football by Notre Dame.

Like Rowinski, Scheffler would win Big Ten Player of the Year honors as a senior in 1990. Arguably the most polite player to wear a Purdue uniform – Scheffler would always say thank you to the referee who handed him the basketball before a free throw attempt – his lack of confidence nearly ended his Purdue career before he developed into the NCAA's most accurate field goal shooter at 68.5 percent.

Described by the Chicago Tribune as "intelligent, outgoing, aware and articulate," Scheffler also had to overcome dyslexia to earn a 4.9 average on Purdue's then-6.0 grade-point scale. Scheffler had a good role model to follow. His elder brother Tom also overcame difficulties associated with dyslexia to play at Purdue from 1974-77 and later with the Portland Trail Blazers.

Stephen Scheffler was drafted in the second round of the 1990 NBA Draft by the Charlotte Hornets and spent seven seasons in the league, mostly with the Seattle SuperSonics.

**8. Melvin McCants**  
Gene Keady once called McCants "one of the nicest kids" he's ever coached.

Despite being a four-year starter, the 6-10 McCants was soft spoken and frequently overshadowed by outgoing teammates Troy

Lewis, Todd Mitchell and Everette Stephens.

McCants was an important part of the back-to-back Big Ten championship teams in 1987 and 1988 because he gave Purdue a fourth scoring option. McCants never averaged less than 10 points a game over his career and finished with 1,554 points. He played one season in the NBA with the Los Angeles Lakers.

**9. A.J. Hammons**  
Purdue's streak of having at least one 7-footer on its roster began in 2012 with the man who former teammate Rapheal Davis and others consider the most talented center to wear the gold and black.

Hammons was dominant as a senior, averaging 15 points and 8.2 rebounds per game. He was named the 2016 Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year as well as first-team All-Big Ten. Hammons also was one of the five finalists for the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Award.

The Dallas Mavericks chose Hammons in the second round of the 2016 NBA Draft but he played just one professional season.

**10. John Garrett**  
Did you know that the 6-11 Garrett graduated from Purdue in 1975 as the school's fourth-leading scorer (1,620 points) behind Rick Mount, Dave Schellhase and Terry Dischinger?

As a senior, he averaged 19.8 points and 10 rebounds per game. Garrett was twice selected to the Citizens Savings (formerly Helms) All-American team. He helped Purdue capture the 1974 National Invitation Tournament title.

During Matt Painter's 21-year tenure leading the Purdue men's basketball program, the Boilermakers have become known as "Big Man U."

In an era when history is regarded by some as yesterday, Purdue has been the home of exceptional center play going back to before the 55-year-old Painter entered grade school.

In fact, the depth of outstanding centers at Purdue is such that a future NBA All-Star and two Big Ten Players of the Year didn't even crack the top three of this list.

**1. Zach Edey**  
The most decorated player in Purdue basketball history was a Plan C recruit for Painter after losing out on Hunter Dickenson (Michigan) and Ryan Kalkbrenner (Creighton).

Ranked No. 436 in the class of 2020, the 7-4 Edey would go on to become the first player in more than 50 years to win unanimous National Player of the Year honors in consecutive seasons. The last to do it was Bill Walton at UCLA in 1972 and 1973.

As a senior, Edey led Purdue to a 34-5 record and a spot in the national championship game for the first time in 55 years. He averaged 25.2 points and 12.2 rebounds.

Edey would break two of the longest-standing Purdue basketball records, scoring 2,516 points in four seasons to top Rick Mount's three-year total of 2,323 set in 1970. Edey pulled down 1,321 rebounds to easily surpass the record set by the next center on this list.

**2. Joe Barry Carroll**  
It's approaching 50 years since Carroll recorded the only triple-double in Purdue history with 16 points, 16 rebounds and a school-record 11 blocks at Arizona on Dec. 10, 1977.

That was a foreshadowing of the impact the 7-1 Carroll would have at Purdue, one that would not have happened had assistant coach George Faerber not been in Denver a year earlier scouting another high school player.

Carroll's 1,148 rebounds at the time were second-most in Big Ten history and stood as a school record for 44 years. His 2,175 points and 55 double-dou-

bles at the time were second in Purdue history. Carroll blocked 349 shots, which was a school record and fourth-best in Big Ten history.

Blossoming under the guidance of coach Lee Rose, Carroll averaged 22.3 points, 9.4 rebounds and 2.8 blocks as a senior. Those totals earned Carroll consensus first-team All-America honors and helped Purdue reach the NCAA Final Four in 1980.

Carroll entered the Leroy Keyes Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame in 1995.

**3. JaJuan Johnson**  
Purdue basketball history is full of transformation stories, a few of which we'll detail later in this column. Johnson is one of them literally.

Weighing 195 pounds as a 6-10 senior at Franklin Central High School, Johnson still was ranked 42nd in the class of 2007 by Rivals.com.

As he began to put on weight and add strength, Johnson became one of the Big Ten's best players of the 21st century's first decade. He earned first-team All-Big Ten honors as a sophomore. By his senior season, Johnson was chosen Big Ten Player of the Year, Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year and Purdue's first consensus All-American since Glenn Robinson.

Johnson also was the first Boilermaker to win the Pete Newell Big Man Award, launching Purdue and Painter's reputation as developers of big men. Johnson was a first-round NBA Draft pick after leaving Purdue with 1,919 points.

**4. Brad Miller**  
Miller could do it all during his time at Purdue from 1995 to 1998, becoming the first Boilermaker with at least 1,500 points, 800 rebounds and 250 assists. In 1997, he became the first center to lead Purdue in assists.

Miller averaged 17.2 points and 8.8 rebounds as a senior, leading Purdue to a 28-8 record and gaining attention of NBA scouts. The 7-foot Miller would go on to play 14 seasons in the NBA and was an All-Star in 2003 and 2004.

**5. Russell Cross**  
The first McDonald's All-American recruited by Gene Keady, the 6-10 Cross

## Purdue Federal Urges Vigilance after fraud attempts

As fraud attempts continue to evolve, Purdue Federal Credit Union (Purdue Federal) is reminding members and the broader community to stay alert and informed to avoid falling victim to increasingly sophisticated scams.

"Scammers are getting better at creating a sense of urgency and fear," said BT Brown, Fraud Manager at

Purdue Federal Credit Union. "If something feels rushed or off, it's okay to pause and take a closer look. Legitimate organizations won't pressure you to act immediately or ask you to misrepresent a transaction and taking that extra moment can make all the difference."

One emerging scam involves individuals impersonating law en-

forcement officers and pressuring victims to make immediate payments under the threat of arrest. These scammers often instruct individuals to send money via wire transfer or cash and may coach them on what to say if questioned by financial institutions. Consumers are encouraged to be aware of common warning signs associated with these scams,

including:

- Threats of immediate arrest or legal action
- Pressure to act quickly or urgently
- Instructions to send money through unconventional or untraceable methods
- Requests to provide false information about a transaction
- To reduce the risk of fraud, Purdue Federal advises consumers to:
  - Avoid sending money

in response to unexpected or threatening communications

Verify requests independently using trusted contact information

Refrain from sharing personal or financial information with unknown callers

Treat caller ID with caution, as phone numbers can be spoofed

Individuals who receive suspicious calls are advised to end the

conversation immediately and report the incident to their financial institution. Purdue Federal Credit Union continues to monitor fraud trends and remains committed to providing resources that help protect members and the communities it serves.

To learn more about Purdue Federal and its fraud resources, visit [purduefed.com/fraud](http://purduefed.com/fraud).



# Life is Good, Make it Better: Give Blood

The American Red Cross asks people to help patients in need by making an appointment to give blood or platelets now. Donors of all blood types remain critical to keeping momentum up and the blood supply stable as spring begins.

And to make it even easier, there are multiple opportunities to give in Noblesville, Fishers and Carmel.

We're joining forces with positive lifestyle brand Life is Good to invite donors to show the power of doing good by giving blood. Those who come to give blood or platelets March 30-April 12, 2026, will get an exclusive Red Cross x Life is Good T-shirt, while supplies last. See [RedCrossBlood.org/LifeIsGood](http://RedCrossBlood.org/LifeIsGood) for details.

"Life is Good has always been about more than a T-shirt; it's a reminder that the world is full of good worth fighting for, and that spreading optimism starts with the everyday choices we make," says Linne Kimball, Vice President of Strategic Partnerships for Life is Good. "For us, partnering with the Red Cross was a natural fit, because giving the blood is proof that one person and one simple act can make a real difference. We hope this collaboration in-

spires donors old and new to turn positivity into purpose — because doing good doesn't have to be complicated, sometimes all it takes is rolling up a sleeve."

Between spring break plans and the return of outdoor activities, busy spring calendars can impact the availability of lifesaving blood products — but the need for blood never stops. "It's critical that donors make and keep appointments in the weeks to come to help the blood supply stand up to any seasonal disruptions or challenges," said Paul Sullivan, senior vice president of donor services for Red Cross. "The Red



## American Red Cross

Cross is grateful to Life is Good for joining us in an important mission — sparking optimism and kindness through blood donation."

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor

supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) or use the Blood Donor App.

### Upcoming blood donation opportunities

#### March 31 - April 12:

##### Noblesville

4/4/2026: 8 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Noblesville IN Blood Donation Center, 14765 Hazel Dell Crossing, Suite 700

4/7/2026: 8 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Noblesville IN Blood Donation Center, 14765 Hazel Dell Crossing, Suite 700

4/8/2026: 12 p.m. - 6:15 p.m., Noblesville IN Blood Donation Center, 14765 Hazel Dell Crossing, Suite 700

4/9/2026: 12 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Noblesville IN Blood Donation Center, 14765 Hazel Dell Crossing, Suite 700

4/11/2026: 8 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Noblesville IN Blood Donation Center, 14765 Hazel Dell Crossing, Suite 700

##### Carmel

4/7/2026: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Cool Creek Nature Center, 2000 E 151st Street

4/10/2026: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., IU Health North Hospital, 11700 N Meridian St

##### Fishers

4/9/2026: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Billerica Park Multi-Purpose Community Building, 12690 Promise Road



Courtesy Photo

Exhibits 1 through 4 from CVS Robbery.

## Armed Felon Convicted of Carmel CVS Robbery

A federal jury has convicted Mikhal Hamilton, 25, of Indianapolis, of interference with commerce by robbery, brandishing a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence, and unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Co-defendant David Washington, 23, of Arcadia, Indiana, was previously sentenced in October 2024 to nine years in federal prison after pleading guilty to interference with commerce by robbery and brandishing a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence.

According to court documents and evidence introduced at trial, on June 25, 2023, Hamilton and Washington robbed the CVS Pharmacy on Rangeline Road in Carmel, Indiana. During the robbery, both men used firearms to threaten an

employee and stole prescription medications, including Oxycodone, Oxycodone, and various amphetamine stimulants. They fled the scene in a blue Chevrolet Impala. Carmel Police Department officers conducted a high-risk traffic stop shortly afterward, arresting both men and recovering the stolen pills, pill bottles, a Glock handgun with an extended magazine and obliterated serial number, and a Polymer80 homemade firearm, otherwise known as a "ghost gun."

Hamilton's criminal history includes felony convictions for carrying a handgun without a license and synthetic identity deception, which prohibits him from legally possessing a firearm.

The Carmel Police Department and FBI Indianapolis Field Office investigated

this case. U.S. District Judge Sarah Evans Barker presided over the trial and will sentence Hamilton at a later date.

U.S. Attorney Wheeler thanked Assistant U.S. Attorneys, Kelsey L. Massa and Nate Walter, who are prosecuting this case, with the assistance of Paralegal Specialist Sarah Helbig and Victim Witness Coordinator Johnna Preidt.

This case is part of Operation Take Back America a nationwide initiative that marshals the full resources of the Department of Justice to protect our communities from the perpetrators of violent crime. Operation Take Back America streamlines efforts and resources from the Department's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETFs) and Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN).

## Westfield Sets Golf Cart Inspections

The Westfield Police Department will host community inspection days to help residents complete required inspections for golf cart registration. These events provide convenient, neighborhood-based opportunities for residents to ensure their golf carts meet local safety requirements before operating on city streets.

Residents can attend any of the following inspection times and locations:

Saturday, April 18  
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.: The Bridgewater Club, 3535 E. 161st Street (south side near Pro Shop)

1 - 4 p.m.: The Club at Chatham Hills, 1100 Chatham Hills Boulevard

Sunday, April 19  
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Shamrock Springs Elementary School, 747 W. 161st Street

1 - 4 p.m.: Washington Woods Elementary School, 17950 Grassy Branch Road

Friday, May 8  
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.: The Bridgewater Club, 3535 E. 161st Street (south side near Pro Shop)

1 - 4 p.m.: The Club at Chatham Hills, 1100 Chatham Hills Boulevard

Saturday, May 9  
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Carey Ridge Elementary School, 16231 Carey Road

1 - 4 p.m.: Monon Trails Elementary School, 19400 Tomlinson Road

Staff will be on site to inspect golf carts and assist residents with the registration process. Inspections help confirm that each vehicle meets safety standards required for use on designated roads.

Residents should bring their golf cart, valid identification,

and proof of insurance. Permit Fees and Requirements

Initial permit: \$100  
Permit is valid through Dec. 31 of the second calendar year after inspection

Golf carts must pass inspection by the Westfield Police Department and have proof of sufficient insurance

Violations and Penalties  
\$100 for a first offense  
\$150 for a second offense  
\$300 for subsequent offenses

Additional fees may apply  
Continued violations may result in citation

and impoundment. Impaired driving will result in impoundment, additional penalties, and all associated towing and storage costs.

Golf cart use is permitted on specific trails and city streets, provided they are registered and meet safety standards established by Ordinance 25-30. These inspection days are part of the city's effort to support safe and responsible use across neighborhoods and trails.

Additional details about golf cart requirements and registration can be found at [westfieldin.gov/](http://westfieldin.gov/)

SAGAMORE NEWS MEDIA

# WE'RE HIRING



Looking for a flexible position?

Interested in learning more about the newspaper industry?

Ready to learn something new or challenge yourself to improve your current skills?

WE ARE LOOKING FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

**Sales** Get to know local businesses and find advertising options to fit their needs

**Pagination** Flex your creative muscle as you layout news stories using inDesign

**Clerical** Assist our business department with account and subscription management

**Delivery Driver** Wednesday morning delivery to post offices (no home delivery)

Training available for motivated individuals!

Join our team today!

Send your resume to [jobs@thetimes24-7.com](mailto:jobs@thetimes24-7.com)

[WWW.THETIMES24-7.COM](http://WWW.THETIMES24-7.COM)

### Public Notices Deadline:

11:00 a.m. 2 Business Days Prior to Publication:

[legals@thetimes24-7.com](mailto: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

# Spartz Joins NASA for Artemis



Photos courtesy Rep. Spartz' office  
 Congresswoman Victoria Spartz (IN-05) joined congressional colleagues and the NASA team for the Artemis II launch this week, marking a historic step toward returning humans to the Moon after more than 50 years. "I was honored to join my colleagues and the NASA team as we take the first step in returning humans to the Moon after more than five decades," Spartz said. "This mission reflects American innovation and our commitment to exploration, and Hoosiers — especially in Indiana's 5th District — have played an important role in supporting this mission to land humans on the Moon again before China."



Photo courtesy of God's Grace, Rev. Bonnie Zickgraf

## Happy Easter

How appropriate that the silhouette of a child is captured with a cross in the sky, the sun and the moon . . . at Easter time. This photo was given to The Times by Pastor Bonnie Zickgraf. She told us that it's quite common to see both the sun setting and the moon rising at the same time, especially near the spring and fall equinox.

**SAGAMORE NEWS MEDIA**

**WE'RE HIRING**

Looking for a flexible position?  
 Interested in learning more about the newspaper industry?  
 Ready to learn something new or challenge yourself to improve your current skills?

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:**

- Sales** Get to know local businesses and find advertising options to fit their needs.
- Pagination** Flex your creative muscle as you layout news stories using indesign.
- Clerical** Assist our business department with accounts and subscription management.
- Delivery Driver** Wednesday morning delivery to post offices (no home delivery).

Training available for motivated individuals!  
 Join our team today!  
 Send your resume to [jobs@thetimes24-7.com](mailto:jobs@thetimes24-7.com)

[WWW.THETIMES24-7.COM](http://WWW.THETIMES24-7.COM)

Traditional Services  
 Affordable Cremation  
 Pre-Planning

**Hersberger Bozell FUNERAL HOME**

1010 North Main Street  
 Lapel, Indiana 46051  
 765-534-3131  
[www.hersbergerbozell.com](http://www.hersbergerbozell.com)

**Indiana Funeral Care**

[indianafuneralcare.com](http://indianafuneralcare.com)

Indianapolis  
 (317) 636-6464  
 8151 Allisonville Rd.  
 Indianapolis

Greenwood  
 (317) 348-1570  
 2433 E Main St.  
 Greenwood

**SAVE \$350 when you transform your patio into an outdoor oasis.**

**SunSetter**  
 America's #1 Awning

- Instant shade—at the touch of a button.
- Enjoy more quality time with family and friends.
- Up to 10-Year Limited Warranty.

Call 1-855-801-2797 now to **SAVE \$350 TODAY!**

**America's #1 Awning!**

**Serving Hamilton County & Surrounding Areas**

**BUSSELL FAMILY FUNERALS**

*Bussell Family Funerals*  
*compassionately serving families*  
*during their time of loss*

**1621 E. Greyhound Pass  
 Carmel, IN 46032  
 317-587-2001**

[www.bussellfamilyfunerals.com](http://www.bussellfamilyfunerals.com)