

Hershman, fellow lawmakers honor Rossville gospel quartet

The Overtones gospel quartet received a standing ovation last week from lawmakers as they showcased their talent at the Statehouse. Senator Brandt Hershman (R-Wheatfield) honored the group for their talent and positive message.

"They have taken their passion for music and turned it into a traveling ministry for their beliefs," said Hershman, who authored a resolution in the group's honor. "I have a deep affection for small town Indiana and these young men epitomize the strengths and values that come from rural roots."

A lot has happened since 2004 when John Deboy, Augie Pence, Levi Riggs and Paul Pence entered and won a barbershop quartet competition in Rossville. At the time, they ranged in age from 14 to 17.

"They not only won a contest that night; they won the hearts of a community," Hershman said.

Since then, the quartet has performed on a mission trip to the Philippines and is now planning to visit Romania. They also have 10 Indiana



The Overtones are honored
State Senator Brandt Hershman (R) paid tribute to The Overtones at the Indiana Statehouse last week. Pictured with the senator are, from left: John Deboy, Levi Riggs, Augie Pence and Paul Pence. Photo provided

concerts scheduled from May through September, including two in Hershman's district: May 29 at Rossville High School, and July 26 at Foun-

tain Park in Remington.

"This group's mission statement - to serve God through singing southern gospel music and to shine His

light to people in need - is as inspirational as their music," Hershman said. "They are, indeed, a shining light for our community and our state."

Discover historic Prophetstown's new season

Comet staff report

Area history lovers can interact with the historic past at Prophetstown State Park, located off 9th St. Rd., five miles north of Lafayette. The living museum will kick-off a new and more eventful sea-

son this weekend, April 17-19, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with Plow Days.

An educational and entertaining experience, Prophetstown is a living and working farm that offers a hands-on opportunity to engage farm

life as it was at the turn of the 20th century. This year the farm is offering more vintage activities and entertainment throughout the year.

Plow Days will feature old-fashioned plow demonstrations with large draft horses

that were used before tractors and will include demonstrations by the Americus Quilting Club, Native American cooking and lifestyle demonstrations and horse-drawn trolley rides. The park has a new attraction this year at the Woodland Indian Settlement. During Plow Days, Jessica Diemer-Eaton will be on hand to demonstrate the daily historic Woodland Indian activities, lifestyle and traditional food preparation.

Visitors can learn more about the history of agriculture through guest speaker Hoey Paarlberg, the retired farm director of the Purdue University Research Farm.

There is a small fee per vehicle to enter the park. For additional information, contact Danielle Seward at (765) 567-4700 or go to prophetstown.org.

Payment to seniors available to help 'make ends meet'

Comet staff report

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will provide a one-time payment of \$250 to retirees, disabled individuals and supplemental security income recipients receiving benefits from the Social Security Administration, railroad retirement beneficiaries and disabled veterans

receiving benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The announcement was made last week in Logansport by Congressman Joe Donnelly.

"Our retired seniors who have worked hard all their lives and paid taxes are just as impacted by this slow economy as the rest of us," Donnelly said. "I am pleased that

the recovery act included the one-time payment so we can give seniors a little help to make ends meet."

Payments will begin in early May and continue throughout the month. No action is required to receive the payment, which will be sent separately from the regular monthly payment.

SilverSneakers From page 1B

get out of the house and visit with others," Hensley added. "We try to make it fun, too," she said. All the exercises are done to music.

Gay Wheeler of Flora said she comes to the class for the health benefits and also because she enjoys exercising.

"I've been addicted to exercising for 30 years," she said. "If I don't exercise, I feel I've missed something."

Her husband, Barry, recently started working out in the weight room, and they both enjoy walking the trail at the Flora park.

Victor and Sue Brown of Delphi also come to the Y. They said the SilverSneakers class and the exercise room help them with their mobility during the winter months when they aren't as active.

"I have diabetes, and the class helps my feet," Sue said.

Norma Shafer said she has fibromyalgia, and the SilverSneakers program lessens her pain.

She said she also has appreciated getting to know the other members of the class.

"It's a family atmosphere," she said.

Sarah Maxwell, YMCA

membership director, said the SilverSneakers program is ongoing. Participants can come as often as they like, and new members can join anytime.

Maxwell said any YMCA

member can come to the class free, or non-members can pay a small fee per class. She said some people can qualify for a free Y membership through their health plans.

For more information, call the YMCA, 967-4449, during the hours of 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday or visit www.silversneakers.com.



Stretch those muscles

SilverSneakers® class members are shown doing a stretching exercise during a recent class. Gay Wheeler, front left, is wearing a mask to go along with a recent participation contest with a Mardi Gras theme. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

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