

Monday, March 15, 2004

Laid-Off Worker Wins \$89M Powerball Lotto

INDIANAPOLIS - A man who was laid off last week from his job at a tractor factory claimed an \$89 million Powerball prize Monday with the sole winning ticket.

Tim Rivers said he and his wife, Pam, plan to buy a new house and move out of their mobile home in the town of Salem in southern Indiana. The couples, which are both 24 and have two young children, opted for the cash option and will receive \$49.9 million before taxes, a Hoosier Lottery spokeswoman said. Pam Rivers, who works at a daycare center, said both she and her husband plan to return to school and she hopes to become a nurse. They have a 6-month-old son, and a daughter, 4.

"Winning that much money terrified me," Tim Rivers said, adding that when he realized Saturday he had a winning ticket he immediately called a financial planner.

1. Approximately what percentage of Mr. Rivers' initial lottery winnings was surrendered by electing the cash option as opposed to the traditional structured method of payment?

Massive Baseball Is Out of Left Field

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Baseball players know all about a "heavy" ball. It happens when the weather is cold or rainy, and the ball just seems impossible to hit over the fence. But they've never seen anything like the 1,300-pound doozy in Mike Carmichael's shed in Alexandria, Ind.

Carmichael's baseball has grown to staggering proportions because he's spent 27 years adding layers of paint to it in the hopes that the mega-ball will one day break records.

Carmichael hopes the baseball hanging in the shed behind his house will be declared the world's largest ball of paint — and from the size of it, it looks like that's a distinct possibility. Thanks to more than 18,000 layers of paint, it is more than 35 inches in diameter and has a 111-inch circumference.

In honor of Carmichael's work, Saturday was declared Ball of Paint Day in Alexandria, about 25 miles northeast of Indianapolis. It started with a proclamation honoring Carmichael on the steps of City Hall, followed by a photo exhibit and ended with the core sample taken at Carmichael's home.

2. Using words, numbers, and pictures determine the area and volume of "the ball".