

➔ TODAY'S VERSE

Matthew 7:2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

➔ FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Levi Hill and a lot of retail clerks will be busy for a while handling returns! Here's hoping that everyone does so with a smile as bright as Levi's!

➔ THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 Apparently the double whammy of the COVID pandemic and the disruption of the supply chain has resulted in a severe shortage of cream cheese, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens. However, a quick trip to a couple of local stores in Crawfordsville found the product available. Of course after this notice, that may not continue!

2 Most Indiana tax forms for the 2022 Individual Income Tax season are now available online. However, the Indiana Department of Revenue is reminding Hoosiers to wait until they receive their official tax documents and statements before filing their 2021 tax return. All employers are required to provide Form W-2's to employees by Jan. 31, 2022. Other forms may be needed to file an accurate tax return, including documents on freelance or gig income, business income, investments, interest, or prize winnings. Employers may continue to adjust annual wage and deduction amounts before sending the official Form W-2 to employees and related wage information to the IRS and DOR. Customers who use the information on their last paycheck of the year or other unofficial sources of information for tax purposes risk having to file an amended tax return with adjusted numbers. For more info or to download forms, go to dor.in.gov.

3 The Hoffman family of Yalecrest, Utah have a thing for gingerbread houses, says the Association of Mature American Citizens. In fact, they live in a real life gingerbread house. Not long ago they realized that their red brick Tudor abode had the makings of an authentic gingerbread house and so they decided to add the necessary trimmings for the Christmas season and, sure enough, they turned their home into a holiday treat that looks good enough to eat.

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

50¢

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

WWW.THEPAPER24-7.COM

Enter 2022 with a First Day Hike

Usher in 2022 with other outdoor lovers at one of the many First Day Hikes offered Jan. 1 at Indiana's state parks, forests, and lakes.

First Day Hikes are a healthy way to start 2022 and a chance to get outside, exercise, enjoy nature and connect with friends. Nearly all state parks and lakes, as well as some state forests, will offer hikes. Find a hike near you at on.IN.gov/INstate-parkevents.

The guided hikes are organized by Indiana State Parks in cooperation with America's State Parks. First Day Hikes will take place in all 50 states.

First Day Hikes originated

➔ See HIKE Page A5



Photo courtesy of DNR

The guided hikes are organized by Indiana State Parks in cooperation with America's State Parks. First Day Hikes will take place in all 50 states.

CFD puts aerial tower in service



Photo courtesy of Crawfordsville Fire Department

The Crawfordsville Fire Department recently put the department's new 2,000 gallons per minute 100' aerial tower into service. All three shifts have been trained on aerial operations from the tower's manufacturer, Pierce Manufacturing.

Butch recalls the greatest basketball shot ever made

OK, all of you basketball fans . . . what is the greatest shot that you ever witnessed? Perhaps you watched as a player



BUTCH DALE
Columnist

heaved a last-second shot from mid-court and zipped it to win the game. Maybe you watched Larry Bird hit the nets, after an unbelievable move . . . or Michael Jordan slam dunk it while flying through the air. Or how about New Ross's own Howie

Williams, who was a two-year MVP at Purdue, make the last second winning basket against IU . . . while sitting on the floor? Yes, that did happen!

Well, I saw a few spectacular shots through the years at Darlington High School games . . . Winston Wilson hitting nothing but net in a game at Ladoga with a shot from the opposite free throw line . . . George Cox's steal and lay-up in a sudden death overtime game against New Ross . . . Donnie Threlkeld's 35 ft. shot to win the Sectional at Lebanon . . . just to name a few.

➔ See BUTCH Page A5

Having a ball in the year 2022

With New Year's Eve just around the corner, I find myself thinking once again of Disney's Cinderella. I know what you are thinking. No, I'm not the party dude who ends up under the grand piano, drinking champagne from a lady's glass slipper. Shock! That's really not me.



JOHN MARLOWE
With the Grain

Ryan Seacrest doesn't have

➔ See MARLOWE Page A5

➔ HONEST HOOSIER

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break. I know I sure did. Let's all count our blessings, and let's keep a kind thought for those who have a few less than the rest of us.



➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Treat burns by immediately soaking the area in cold water for at least five minutes and cover any open areas with antibiotic ointment. 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

Billy Joe Williams Sr.
Linda F. (Catterson) Perry
Todd Brennan

The Paper appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank Rick Gadberry of Crawfordsville for subscribing!



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➔ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

Obituaries.....A2
Meeting Notes.....A2
Slim Column.....A2
Classifieds.....A4
Comics.....A4

➔ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Subscribe today!

Be sure to make some time Sunday morning with a steaming cup of coffee, a comfy place to sit and your tablet so you can read The Paper's Sunday Edition. Not a current Sunday subscriber? Then go to our website and sign up! You can get The Paper delivered piping hot and fresh to your e-mailbox every morning at 4 a.m. for only \$42 for every day of the year. Or, if you only want Sundays you can buy a Sunday-only subscription for just \$29. No other newspaper in Montgomery County offers that! But then again, we've been able to say that a lot of things for quite a while now.

➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

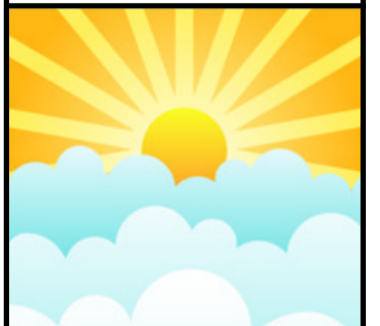
Take a leap of faith and begin this wondrous new year by believing. Believe in yourself. And believe that there is a loving Source - a Sower of Dreams - just waiting to be asked to help you make your dreams come true.

Sarah Ban Breathnach

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

What's green, covered in tinsel and goes ribbet ribbet?
A mistle-toad!

The Daily Almanac



Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 8:09 a.m.
SET: 5:31 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
High: 46 °F
Low: 38 °F



Wacky Holiday Today
• Holy Innocents' Day
• Call a Friend Day



What Happened On This Day

- 2007 Nepal abolishes monarchy
- 1968 Israel raid on Beirut Airport
- 1836 South Australia becomes a British colony



Births On This Day

- 1934 Maggie Smith English actress
- 1856 Woodrow Wilson 28th President of the U.S.

Deaths On This Day

- 2004 Susan Sontag American author
- 1984 Sam Peckinpah American director

13 WTHR

7 DAY FORECAST

38/46 PARTLY CLOUDY	38/50 FOGGY	37/48 MOSTLY CLOUDY	33/53 BRIERLY	43/57 PARTLY CLOUDY	26/33 SLIGHTLY RAINY	15/32 SUNNY BUT COOL
TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON

OBITUARIES

Billy Joe Williams Sr. May 6, 1946 - Dec. 21, 2021

Billy Joe Williams Sr. passed away Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2021 at Franciscan Health of Crawfordsville.

He born May 6, 1946 in Danville, Ill. to John and Flossy.

He lived in Crawfordsville with his first wife, where they raised three children. He worked many years for Horner Automotive following working for Gould Body and Paint until his retirement.

Mr. Williams had a strong and caring personality that will be greatly missed by all his friends and family.

Survivors include his son, Billy Williams Jr.; daughter, Brenda Williams; his wife, Sue Brooks; his sister, Bev Frazee; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Russell; sister, Dorothy; along with his first wife, Nina Pearl Williams; and daughter, Sherry Lynn Williams.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.



Linda F. (Catterson) Perry Oct. 1, 1948 - Dec. 23, 2021

Linda Perry, 73, Crawfordsville passed away on Dec. 23, 2021, at home after a 15-year battle with cancer.

She was born in Crawfordsville on Oct. 1, 1948, to Frank Howard and Susie Arlie Perry.

She was a 1966 graduate of Darlington High School. She retired as the Administrator of the Child Support Division of the Montgomery County Prosecutor's Office after 26 years and from the front office at County Market after 12 years.

Ms. Perry was married to Russ Catterson before they divorced in 1985. They remained friends until his death in 2006. She made her home with her high school sweetheart, William E. (Bill) Hurt.

Ms. Perry was a single mom to three girls, who were her greatest joy and was a proud Nana.

Survivors include her daughters, Jodi (Rich) Graham of Lebanon; Heather (Paul) Barajas of Crawfordsville and Shawn Catterson of Indianapolis; grandchildren, Zachary Shireman (Ashlee Hoeflerin) of Lafayette, Cale Shireman of Bradenton, Fla., Viviana Barajas, Yannis Barajas, Clyde Barajas, all of Lafayette, Matt Perkins, a student at Ball State University, PJ, Langley, KaraLynn, Hadlee and Cason; four brothers, Jesse Edward Perry of T.X., John Howard (Ellen) Perry of Crawfordsville, Joe Thomas (Debbie) Perry of Fla. and Jackie Monroe Perry of Ala. She is also survived by her sisters-in-law, who became her sisters in love, Yvonne Deckard and Ellen Perry; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three sisters, Macel Marie Wheeler, Mabel Lea Perry and Judy Carol Young; and one brother, James Robert Perry.

A memorial service was scheduled for 4 p.m. on Sunday at Hunt & Son Funeral Home with visitation beginning at 1 p.m. The family requests that you make a donation to the Animal Welfare League, the Youth Service Bureau or a charity of your choosing.

Online condolences may be left at www.huntandson.com

Todd Brennan

Feb. 6, 1961 - Dec. 23, 2021

Todd Arthur Brennan, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Crawfordsville, passed away Thursday, Dec. 23, 2021 at Parkview Randallia Hospital in Fort Wayne. He was 60 years old.

Born Feb. 6, 1961 in Crawfordsville Ind., he was the son of Gerald Brennan and Marilyn Jo Crews Brennan.

He graduated from Crawfordsville High School in 1979. After graduation Mr. Brennan worked at Indiana State Highway and many years at R.R. Donnelley and Sons. More recently he managed the Hobson House and St Andrew's, homes for sober living in Fort Wayne. He was an avid Notre Dame and Indiana University sports fan. He was a Member of the Crawfordsville Masonic Lodge, and coached middle school football for several years.

Survivors include two sons, Brandon Brennan of Indianapolis and Mitchell Brennan of Plainfield; sister, Debbie (Mike) Fishero of Crawfordsville; two brothers, Bob (Valerie) Brennan of Zionsville and Craig Brennan of Avilla.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Gerald R. Brennan.

Visitation will be from 3 to 6 p.m. at Burkhart Funeral Home on Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021 with a service starting at 6 p.m. Burial will take place at Oak Hill Cemetery North at a later date.

Donations may be made in memory to either: the Montgomery County Community Foundation, P.O. Box 334, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 or the Montgomery County Animal Welfare League, 1104 Big Four Arch Road, Crawfordsville, IN 47933.

Online condolences may be made at www.Burkhart-FH.com.



Gift of Life



Photo courtesy of redcross.org

Just because Christmas is over, don't get out of the spirit of giving yet! You have a wonderful opportunity to give the gift of life by going to Waveland on Jan. 7 so that you can donate blood. This life-saving event takes place at the Waveland Library, located at 115 E. Green St. from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. in conjunction with the American Red Cross. Contact the library for more details at (765) 435-2700 or e-mail them at director@waveland.lin.in.us

Those ol' boys had their limits by lunch time

It doesn't really take much prompting to get ol' Windy Wilson to start holding court on all things strange ... not at the Mule Barn truck stop. All it takes is someone slowing down enough to listen to our aging camp cook. Someone accidentally said the word "quail" and that was enough.

Now ol' Horton lived 'way up Lewis Crick from here, Windy said. Had this old mule named Putner. Ol' Putner got his name 'cuz when he was foaled, he putner died. But Horton trained Putner to do things Horton liked to do. In fact, that's the reason them two bird



Slim Randles
Home Country

Want MORE HOME COUNTY?

In The Paper of Montgomery County. Slim is out of Albuquerque, N.M. and his writing is enjoyed all over the country.

hunters from the city drove over to

Horton's place that day. Opening day of quail season, doncha see.

They was told ol' Horton he had him a mule who could point quail, and Horton says he sure as sugar does. He said he'd rent ol' Putner out to 'em for ten dollars a day. Guaran-dog-teed him steady to wing and shot,

don't you know.

So they gave him the ten bucks and Horton turned Putner loose and he galloped around through the puckerbrush and then slammed into the prettiest long-eared point you ever seen. Sure enough, he found them a covey of quail, and when they shot the birds, ol' Putner retrieved them back to the hunters. Picked 'em right up in his mouth just as gentle as a marshmeller.

Well, those ol' boys had their limits by lunch time and they couldn't believe it. They took Putner back to ol' Horton and said they had to have him, and they didn't care how much it cost them.

Horton shook his head and said he couldn't do 'er. Nossir. Not for any money.

Why not? Those hunters asked him.

Why boys, said Horton, it's almost time for the salmon run, and Putner would rather fish than hunt, any day.

Brought to you by "Packing the Backyard Horse" by Slim Randles, now available on Amazon.com.

Meeting Notes

Montgomery County Board of Commissioners

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

8 a.m.
100 E. Main Street - Room 103
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Call to Order: Board President John E. Frey
Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer

Consent Agenda
Approval of Claims: Dec. 13, 2021 to Dec. 28, 2021

Accounts Payable: \$ _____ & Payroll Claims: _____

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Dec. 13, 2021
Award Wabash College 2022 Commissioners Scholarship

New Business
Accept 2022 Annual Bids - Highway Department

2022 Contracts
Purdue Extension Agreement
Section Corner Perpetuation Agreement
Animal Welfare League
USI Bridge Inspection Contract
USI 2022 PASER Agreement

Acknowledge Receipt: 2021 Annual Risk Management Report

Acknowledge Receipt: 2021 Internal Controls Report

Approval of unused PTO Payout for Deputies Injured on the Job Ordinances

2nd Reading Ordinance 2021-43: Establish 2022 Veterans Treatment Court Grant Fund

2nd Reading Ordinance 2021-44: Establish 2022 Family Recovery Court Grant Fund

Introduction Ordinance 2021-45: Establish Commissioner and Council Resolutions

Resolution 2021-24: Approving Trinity Horizons Agreement
Resolution 2021-25: Approving 2022 Commissioner Meeting Schedule

Resolution 2021-26: Approving Sheriff's Compensation Agreement

Resolution 2021-27: Approving Building/Zoning Commissioner & Approving Employment Agreement

Resolution 2021-28: Appointing County Engineer & Approving Employment Agreement

Resolution 2021-29: Appointing County Highway Director & Approving Employment Agreement

Resolution 2021-30: Appointing Mapping Director & Approving Employment Agreement

Resolution 2021-31: Appointing County Attorney & Approving Engagement Letter
Other Business
Adjournment
Agenda subject to change

Resolution 2021-26: Approving Sheriff's Compensation Agreement

Resolution 2021-27: Approving Building/Zoning Commissioner & Approving Employment Agreement

Resolution 2021-28: Appointing County Engineer & Approving Employment Agreement

Resolution 2021-29: Appointing County Highway Director & Approving Employment Agreement

Resolution 2021-30: Appointing Mapping Director & Approving Employment Agreement

Resolution 2021-31: Appointing County Attorney & Approving Engagement Letter
Other Business
Adjournment
Agenda subject to change

Resolution 2021-31: Appointing County Attorney & Approving Engagement Letter
Other Business
Adjournment
Agenda subject to change

Resolution 2021-31: Appointing County Attorney & Approving Engagement Letter
Other Business
Adjournment
Agenda subject to change

Montgomery County acknowledges its responsibility to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

In order to assist individuals with disabilities who require special services (i.e. sign interpretive services, alternative audio/visual devices, and amanuenses) for participation in or access to County sponsored public programs, services, and/or meetings, the County requests that individuals makes requests for these services forty-eight (48) hours ahead of the scheduled program, service, and/or meeting.

To make arrangements, contact ADA/Title VI Coordinator Lori Dossett @ 765-361-2623.

Next meeting Monday, Jan. 10, 2022 @ 8 a.m.

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Next meeting Monday, Jan. 10, 2022 @ 8 a.m.

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THE PAPER

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\$5,000 DONATION

1st Runner-up \$2,500
2nd Runner-up \$1,000

Pick up your nomination form at any branch or visit www.myhhsb.com
The nomination period ends on December 31, 2021.

Crawfordsville East | Crawfordsville South | Ladoga | Linden | New Ross | Roachdale

How the Supreme Court could alter the Indiana Senate race

In late June 2018, Democrat U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly was cruising toward reelection and was on a conference call with Hoosier agriculture reporters when he learned that U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy was retiring.



BRIAN HOWEY
HOWEY POLITICS

“It was like I got hit in the head with a baseball bat,” Donnelly told me. “I had been watching that like a hawk, because the way the Supreme Court operates, there’s a time when you really can’t resign after that point in the year, there are things you have to do to get ready for the next cycle. He had already hired clerks. By that time, you’re really in so deep you can’t leave. So, this was the final week when he could possibly consider; this was the end of the final week. I know how emotional Supreme Court nominations are.”

Donnelly ended up losing to Republican Mike Braun five months later, 51-45%, with the Republican carrying 84 counties. The Kennedy retirement and the volatile confirmation hearing of Judge Brett Kavanaugh a month before the election that

included sketchy allegations that as a teenager he had sexually assaulted a girl completely roiled the Indiana Senate race.

The Kavanaugh confirmation sequence was a determinative one that may have decided this race. It gave President Trump more reasons to come to stump for Braun, showing up a half a dozen campaign rallies. It certainly ignited the Republican base. And it put Donnelly in a bind, eventually opposing the Kavanaugh confirmation.

This coming June, the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision’s in the Mississippi case *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* has the potential to alter the political environment once again. Republican

U.S. Sen. Todd Young is seeking a second term and will likely face Democrat Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr.

McDermott says that the potential for the U.S. Supreme Court’s overturning of *Roe v. Wade* next summer could be a huge break for his campaign. “I know many women are concerned about *Roe v. Wade*,” he said. “I think we know what happens when *Roe* is overturned, Todd Young has got a lot of explaining to do. Some women are going to love him for that and others are going to be angry.”

McDermott said that if the Supreme Court announces a repeal of *Roe* next June, “that could energize my campaign.”

According to Planned Parenthood of Indiana & Kentucky, 50% of Hoosiers describe themselves as pro-choice while 49% are pro-life. A Harvard CAPS-Harris Poll survey earlier this month showed 54% opposed overturning *Roe v. Wade* while 46% support. A November Quinnipiac poll found that 63% agree with the *Roe v. Wade* ruling; and 60%

of respondents in a November Washington Post/ABC News poll and 58% of May Gallup respondents want the court to uphold the decision.

Sen. Young is a vociferous pro-life advocate, joining 200 Republicans in signing an amicus brief surrounding the Mississippi case, asking “the Court uphold Mississippi’s law as effectuating important state interests, or, alternatively, return this case to the lower courts for consideration.”

The State of Mississippi in 2018 enacted the Gestational Age Act, a state law prohibiting abortion after 15 weeks’ gestation, except in cases of medical emergency, prompting the Jackson Women’s Health Organization to sue, maintaining the law violates the viability standard established by *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.

“We are only one of seven countries around the world ... that allows abortion to take place past the point at which a baby can feel pain in the womb,” Young told WIBC. “We join the likes of the Chinese Communist Party and the dictator

in North Korea in our policies.”

Curt Smith, former president of the Indiana Family Institute, writes in a *Howey Politics* Indiana column that the pending SCOTUS ruling could alter the American political landscape. “First, if *Roe v. Wade* and its subsequent cases are struck down, abortion policy will drastically change,” Smith explained. “Fifty state legislatures will set abortion laws and limits, not nine Supreme Court justices in Washington, D.C. As a pro-life state (one advocacy group rates Indiana the fifth most pro-life state in America), Indiana will certainly immediately move to change abortion laws.”

“Assuming the ruling comes down in late June of 2022 ... there will be immediate calls for a special session of the Indiana General Assembly to restrict abortion,” Smith continued. “The politics of abortion would change immediately as well, and for the better, although it will be harder for the GOP to maintain its coalition without opposition to abortion as its central

organizing principle. The focus of abortion lawmaking would then be in the states. No longer would U.S. Supreme Court nominees come under such intense scrutiny and slander. No longer would judicial appointments be such a strong issue in presidential politics. The energy for or against abortion would be diffused across 50 states and the nearly 7,400 state legislative races that fill those legislative seats.”

And Smith added, “This, too, would be a healthy development for national politics. As noted above, the GOP has relied on pro-life positions to maintain its wide vote margin with faith-based voters, who make up perhaps 28% of the population and more than half of the GOP base vote. With abortion no longer a national issue, the party will need to sharpen its policy focus to retain those voters.”

Look for Indiana’s Senate race as a potential post-*Roe* bellwether.

The columnist is publisher of Howey Politics Indiana at www.howeypolitics.com

Are you experiencing uncomfortable plumbing problems? This might be why

I’m running through my list of suggested topics from readers, and this one goes out to a reader from Sheridan. It’s a common problem, but one of those topics that doesn’t usually come up in casual conversation - constipation.

There are three common times in a person’s life when constipation can become a problem. The first is during early childhood, the second when a person has decreased activity for some reason, and the last is during the elder years. Each one has different causes.

First, I have to deliver yet another lesson in basic anatomy and physiology. When we eat, food travels through the following structures: mouth, esophagus, stomach, small intestine and finally, the large intestine. This journey is facilitated by peristalsis, a physiologic process where involuntary muscles in the wall of the digestive tract contract to move food

from north to south.

While constipation can involve trouble anywhere along the way, the vast majority of problems occur in the colon. One of the main jobs of the colon is to reclaim water from the stool (undigested food that remains). If the stool is slowed down in its transit through the colon, more water is absorbed, making the stool firmer and more difficult to evacuate.

Young children can develop problems with constipation when they put off going to the bathroom for various reasons. When this happens, they can develop a condition called encopresis and they can retain incredible amounts of stool in their colons.

Eventually the colon dilates to the point where the muscles are not able to push the stool out and the child may lose the urge to have a bowel movement. These children may pass very large bowel movements and may have a



JOHN R. ROBERTS, M.D.
Montgomery Medicine

great deal of pain when doing so. They also may have accidents, passing semi-solid or liquid stool that has leaked around the blockage. Painful movements lead to the child not wanting to have a bowel movement and the cycle repeats itself. It’s important to treat this condition as early as possible using medications and behavioral modification.

Another common cause of constipation is a period of inactivity, especially after surgery. This is

especially true following abdominal surgery, particularly if it involved manipulating the intestines. When a surgeon handles the intestines it tends to interrupt normal peristalsis for a period of time. Taking pain medication post-operatively is also a common cause of constipation, especially in older patients. It’s important to minimize the use of narcotics and to prevent post-operative constipation using a regimen started immediately after surgery.

Older persons are also more likely to be inactive, so they tend to suffer from bouts of constipation. Often these folks are on medications that can exacerbate the normal age-related slowing of intestinal motility. Some common drugs that can cause this slowing include Benadryl®, Tylenol PM®, Zantac®, some antidepressants, and anticholinergic medications used to treat bladder spasms and incontinence.

As usual, prevention is the best medicine. All people should consume adequate fiber as well as plenty of fruits and vegetables. Google “high fiber diet” for recommendations. Children need to be taught the habit of sitting on the toilet at least twice a day for ten minutes or so. They should not be rushed and they should have good support for their feet. Along those lines, a shout out to two of my patients for telling me about the Squatty Potty®. This is a simple device that elevates the feet, allowing one to be in a more anatomic position to make it easier to have a bowel movement (www.squattypotty.com).

Those who are having surgery or who are laid up for another reason should make sure they are consuming plenty of liquids and they should take a stool softener like docusate or osmotic agent like Miralax® on a regular basis starting at the beginning

of their illness, before constipation becomes an issue. The elderly should consume fluids and also remain as active as possible. We joke a lot about prunes, but they really do work.

Young children who have difficulty with bowel movements should be evaluated by their physician. The earlier this problem is treated, the easier it is to correct. For adults who are suffering from constipation who do NOT have abdominal pain, laxatives such as Dulcolax® are generally safe and effective for short-term use. If results are not obtained in a few days or you develop pain you should consult your medical provider.

Dr. John Roberts is a member of the Franciscan Physician Network specializing in Family Medicine as well as the Deputy County Health Officer in Montgomery County.

The Paper SERVICE DIRECTORY

<p>AUTOMOTIVE</p> <p>\$15 OFF OIL CHANGE SPECIAL</p> <p>114 N. Water St. • Crawfordsville (765) 364-0584 Weekdays 7:30 am - 5pm Saturday 8 am - Noon pompstire.com</p>	<p>FUNERAL SERVICES</p> <p>Burkhart Funeral Home</p> <p>201 West Wabash Ave. Crawfordsville (765) 362-5510</p>	<p>FEATURED BUSINESS</p> <p>Dutcher Trenching Inc</p> <p><i>Call us for your septic & sewer needs</i></p> <p>806 Kentucky St. Crawfordsville 765-362-3308 dutchertrenching@gmail.com</p>	<p>FUNERAL SERVICES</p> <p>107 N Grant Ave. Crawfordsville 765-362-0440 www.huntandson.com</p>	<p>FUNERAL SERVICES</p> <p>Sanders Priebe FUNERAL CARE</p> <p><i>Our Family Caring For Yours</i></p> <p>315 S Washington St Crawfordsville, IN 47933 765-362-6849 www.sandersfuneralcare.com</p>
<p>HOME SERVICES</p> <p>Dutcher Trenching Inc</p> <p><i>Call us for your septic & sewer needs</i></p> <p>806 Kentucky St. Crawfordsville 765-362-3308 dutchertrenching@gmail.com</p>	<p>RESTAURANTS</p> <p>NEW ROSS STEAK HOUSE</p> <p>Hours: Mon-Thur 9 am-9 pm Fri and Sat 9 am-10 pm 765-723-9291 176 Main Street New Ross, IN</p>	<p>RETAIL</p> <p>Fisher's DISCOUNT STORE</p> <p>M,W,TH 8 am-6 pm TU & F 8 am-8 pm SAT 8 am-5 pm Closed Sunday</p> <p>765-435-7231 6492 E 850 N Waveland</p>	<p>RETAIL</p> <p>In His Time Books & Gifts</p> <p>765-365-5311</p> <p>113 S. Washington St. Downtown Crawfordsville Open: Mon-Fri 10-6; Sat. 10-4</p>	

Contact our advertising department at 765-361-0100 ext. 1 to be included in our next Service Directory.

Passing remarks for those who have passed on

At the end of each year, news stations recount notable people who passed away during the previous 12 months. I'd like to mention a few who meant a great deal to me...

Baseball lost a treasure in 2021. In 1974, Henry Aaron slugged career homerun number 715, eclipsing Babe Ruth's record after 39 years. Aaron not only held records, he was held in high esteem by most, except for a small minority who resented a Black man surpassing the Bambino. Legendary Dodger announcer Vin Scully would have none of it. He called the shot that day:

"A Black man is getting a standing ovation in the Deep South for breaking a record by an all-time baseball idol. What a marvelous moment it is for baseball. What a marvelous moment for Atlanta and the state of Georgia. What a marvelous moment for the world." Then Vin Scully went silent, letting his viewers absorb the moment.

Mort Sahl, the legendary comic, passed in 2021 at age 94. He was an observer of all things social and political, like Will Rogers, but far more acerbic.



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

When I was in high school, just months after I got my license, I made my first solo auto trip to New York City. I was old enough to drive, but not quite old enough to drink. I somehow managed to sneak into the Bitter End, a Greenwich Village comedy club. I walked in and there was Mort Sahl sitting on a bar stool; his only prop was that day's newspaper. This is his one-liner I still remember: "There are Russian spies here now. And if we're lucky, they'll steal some of our secrets so they'll be two years behind."

Good-bye to Ed Asner, the curmudgeonly TV news executive on the Mary Tyler Moore Show. Earlier this year, I wrote about my interview with Mr. Asner and how I began the

conversation by pointing out to him that his name was a clue in the New York Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle that week. Ed Asner was one of the few actors to get an Emmy Award for both a comedy and a drama on TV. My favorite line of his came while he interviewed Mary Richards for a job in the newsroom:

Mr. Grant: Mary, you have spunk.

Mary: Thank you, Mr. Grant.

Mr. Grant: I hate spunk. Mark Twain died in 1910, but I felt like he died again this year when Hal Holbrook passed. I first saw Holbrook's one-man show in 1973 in which he impersonated the great American writer. Holbrook became Mark Twain. He did over 2,000 performances, each time a little different, because he pulled his show from six hours of material he had absorbed. He was never quite sure what would emerge on any given night. No one was ever disappointed.

Earlier this month, we mourned the loss of former Senator Robert Dole. I never knew him and seldom agreed with him, but I recognized the gentleman and

hero that he was. He was a great wit who once panned his own failing presidential campaign against Bill Clinton by saying at a rally, "Thanks for inviting me here tonight. My wife, Elizabeth (who was president of the American Red Cross), couldn't be here. She's at another disaster."

Tommy Lasorda was the manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers from 1976-1996. His greatest claim to fame (other than winning two World Series) was that he somehow was able to get the Phillie mascot, known as the Phillie Phanatic, ejected from a baseball game for driving his all-terrain vehicle on the field with a life-size dummy of Lasorda sitting in the back seat.

Google "Lasorda Mascot" to see the hysterical video on YouTube. Then you can tell your friends you finally finished a Wolfsie column with a big laugh.

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

It is not about luck, it is about gratitude



Carrie Classon
Columnist

Want MORE?

Carrie Classon's memoir, "Blue Yarn: A Memoir About Loss, Letting Go, & What Happens Next" is available at Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and other fine stores. Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.

"It's not about luck," my friend Andrew insists, "it's about gratitude."

Andrew is not some sort of New Age guide, in case you were wondering. He is a slightly curmudgeonly tax preparer and not given to feel-good platitudes.

He was refuting what I had said, which was that luck has played a significant role in my life. When good things happen to me, I don't believe it's only because I worked hard.

"Lots of people work hard," I told Andrew. "Not everyone had the head start I did."

By "head start," I am usually referring to my mom and dad, who were the equivalent of winning the parent lottery at birth. I say this not because they were wealthy, but because I got every good thing a curious kid could wish for in parents.

I was always encouraged, no matter what I decided to try. They never assumed, because I was a girl, that I wouldn't want to camp in the wilderness or carry a canoe on my shoulders or learn how to keep bees.

My childhood was a time of exploration and love and support. Struggles and disappointments came later, but I will always remember childhood as that time when I would sit on the edge of my bed in the morning, my feet dangling just over the floor, and be overwhelmed by the myriad of possibilities the day held. I knew my parents would never discourage me from trying whatever I had in mind.

"A carnival on the hill? Why not?"

"A puppet show in the basement? OK."

"All the neighbor kids are coming over again today—for what?"

I would sit on the edge of the bed in the morning and feel how large a place the world was, how full it was with possibilities and adventures, and that feeling was never tamped down by my mom or dad.

That, in my opinion, was a giant stroke of luck. Andrew disagrees.

"You can't claim luck for having your parents," he insists (although Andrew has known my parents since he was 16 and he would be the first to agree I have terrific parents). "Lots of people are born into great homes and they never appreciate it. The important thing is to be grateful for what you have."

I agree with Andrew on the importance of being grateful, so we can't really get a good argument started. Although I still know I was incredibly lucky—and continue to be—to have the parents I do, supporting every harebrained idea I come up with.

This past week was one dedicated to gratitude. We were asked to consciously focus on the many things we have to be thankful for and, for me, this is an absurdly simple task. I have a wonderful marriage and loyal friends and projects that excite me and supportive people in my life—starting with my parents.

And one of the things I am most thankful for is that I am able to see it—I am able to recognize all the good in my life. When some sadness or disappointment crops up, it is easily overwhelmed by the tsunami of good things that crowd my life. My little disappointment doesn't stand a chance when I begin the practice (which I try to remember every day) of consciously remembering all the ways in which I am blessed.

I know I've been lucky, but I'm glad Andrew got me thinking about this. Having him as my friend is just one more way that I'm lucky.

Till next time,
Carrie

Carrie Classon is a freelance writer and author and lives in New Mexico. Her columns appear each Wednesday.

Indiana awards \$35.2 million to community partners to accelerate student learning across our Hoosier state

Governor Eric J. Holcomb and the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) has announced that \$35.2 million in state and federal grant funds are being awarded to 123 community partners and schools across the state as part of Indiana's Student Learning Recovery Grant Program. These grants are awarded in addition to more than \$122 million awarded over the summer to partnerships across the state to accelerate student learning.

"It's more important now than ever that our communities, families and schools come together to accelerate student learning," said Gov. Holcomb. "This important work requires unparalleled collaboration, and I'm thankful that so many partners across the state have stepped up to the plate to deliver these extended learning opportunities for our students."

These awards are funded through the second round of Indiana's Student Learning Recovery Grant Program, with \$27.5 million allocated to partners across the state. This state funding is supplemented by an additional \$7.7 million in state set-aside funding as part of Indiana's federal COVID-19 relief funds. The funding, which will serve students in 56 of Indiana's 92 counties,

will work to accelerate student learning in literacy, mathematics and college and career readiness.

Recipients receiving the largest grants in this second round include:

Greater Lafayette Commerce (GLC): As the facilitator of the Workforce 2030 Council, GLC works with schools and local industry to create targeted educational programming, career coaching, stackable credentialing and employer tuition assistance programs. With this funding, GLC will create an accelerator to help learners overcome the setbacks caused by the pandemic and graduate from high school ready for both career and continuing education.

United Way of Central Indiana (UWCI): In 2021, the UWCI implemented a county-wide accelerated learning program across multiple satellite learning sites to offer in-person, extended learning time for students in Marion County demonstrating the greatest need. With additional round two funding, UWCI will facilitate another year of this accelerated learning program.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana: The Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana will enroll 770 youth and teens

in their re-LEARN program (Literacy, Education, Activity, Readiness and Nutrition) for transformative, in-person instruction. When age-appropriate, members will also enroll in Career Academy, a college/career readiness program.

Created this year through House Enrolled Act 1008, the Student Learning Recovery Grant Program allocated \$150 million to support accelerated learning plans, with a focus on partnerships between community organizations, education service centers, higher education institutions and K-12 schools. Applications for the first round of state grant funding opened in April 2021, with funding awarded over the summer to more than 110 school and community partnerships across the state, serving students in 83 of Indiana's 92 counties.

Many first-round recipients quickly deployed their grant funds as part of summer and fall learning recovery, and are continuing to use those resources to accelerate student learning outside of the typical school day. Highlights from this first round of grant funding are available online.

This grant provides an important financial resource to schools and community partners, with research

showing that the academic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are substantial. According to research from IDOE and the National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment, Inc., the academic impact ranges from moderate to significant across schools, academic subjects and demographic groups.

"Educators across the state are working strategically to help close learning gaps and reduce the significant academic impact we've seen from pandemic-related school disruptions. This is an enormous responsibility – and it requires all of us," said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. "This includes our schools, our higher education institutions, our families, and our community partners, joining together through student-focused partnerships. I'm grateful for the important work that's being funded through Indiana's Student Learning Recovery Grant Program, as we all come together to ensure that every student has the opportunity to build the knowledge and skills they need to succeed."

Questions from schools and community partners about the program may be directed to CommunityLearningGrant@doe.in.gov.

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HIKE From Page A1

more than 20 years ago at the Blue Hills Reservation, a state park in Milton, Massachusetts. The program was launched to foster healthy lifestyles and promote year-round recreation at state parks.

For more information, visit America's State Parks' website (stateparks.org) or facebook.com/Americas-State-Parks-205324976548604.

For Montgomery County residents, the First Day Hikes at Shades and Turkey Run are listed below, along with details for all the others received so far.

Shades State Park. Meet at the Hickory Shelter at 10:30 a.m. for this 1-mile moderate to rugged hike on Trail 1. Expert birder and park volunteer Alan Bruner will lead this hike, which includes Prospect Point, Silver Cascade Falls, and Devil's Punchbowl.

Turkey Run State Park. Meet at 2 p.m. at the Turkey Run Inn for a guided hike through Turkey Hollow on Trail 6 and the Trail 7 loop.

Brookville Lake. Meet at 4 p.m. at the Campground Shelter at Mounds State Recreation Area, which is across from the Wildlife Wander Trail. Hike is 0.7 miles, rated easy, and should last about 45 minutes. There will be a campfire after the hike.

Brown County State Park. This hike will be open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will be self-guided with interpretive stops along the way, including a hot chocolate stop. Participants should start at the Nature Center. The hike is 2 miles and should take about 90 minutes.

Cataract Falls. A brochure for this self-guided hike is available at the gazebo.

Chain O'Lakes State

Park. Meet at 2 p.m. at the Sand Lake Beach parking lot for this 1.5-mile hike over easy terrain, which should last about 90 minutes. The hike will be followed by cocoa and cookies as supplies last.

Charlestown State Park. Meet at the Trail 3 and 4 parking lot at 10 a.m. for a 2.5-mile, two-hour hike to Rose Island. The hike is considered moderately rugged.

Clark State Forest. Meet at the west side shelter at noon for a guided hike on a 1-mile loop in the White Oak Nature Preserve. Enjoy this easy hike and the talk given about the importance of white oak trees and responsible management.

Clifty Falls State Park. Meet at the Clifty Shelter at 2 p.m. for a two-hour moderately rugged hike along Trail 8. This trail meanders along the west side of Clifty Creek and offers scenic views of the canyon below. Water and cookies will be provided before the hike. The restroom at Clifty Shelter will be closed for the winter, so plan ahead.

Falls of the Ohio State Park. Meet at the Interpretive Center at 2 p.m. to hike the fossil beds and learn about Devonian sea life. Bring binoculars to look for winter birds. The Interpretive Center will be closed on Jan. 1 except for restrooms.

Ferdinand State Forest. Meet at the Sycamore Shelter at 9 a.m. to hike about 1.7 miles along a section of the Twin Lake trail with a brief stop to warm by a fire and have hot chocolate.

Fort Harrison State Park. Meet at the Delaware Lake Shelter at 1 p.m. for a 2-mile, one-hour hike. Friends of Fort Harrison will be providing hot cocoa

while supplies last.

Greene-Sullivan State Forest. Take a self-guided 1-mile hike around Reservoir 26, where you'll find a series of question and answers to related to natural resources.

Hardy Lake. Meet at the Main Trailhead across from the beach access road at 9 a.m. for a 2.75-mile, one-hour hike.

Harmonie State Park. Meet at the pool parking lot at 10 a.m. CT for a moderate 2-mile, 90-minute hike. Cookies and cocoa will be provided by the Friends of Harmonie after the hike.

Indiana Dunes State Park. Meet at the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center at 10 a.m. for a 1 1/2-mile, 90-minute hike on the 3-Dunes Challenge. Drinks, snacks, a campfire, and a 3-Dunes Challenge sticker will be provided by the Friends of the Indiana Dunes.

Interlake State Recreation Area. Stop by the main office to pick up a map for a scavenger hunt from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. CT and complete the hike for a prize while supplies last.

Jackson-Washington State Forest. Meet at the parking lot below the CCC playground at noon at start of Trail 1, just before the Pinnacle Shelter, for a 2-mile, one-hour hike to Pinnacle Peak.

Lieber State Recreation Area. Join the naturalist for Lieber's Sunset First Day Hike at 4:30 p.m. at Hilltop Shelter. Hike is a moderate 1.5-miles. Snacks and hot chocolate, and a campfire will be provided.

Lincoln State Park. Meet at the Nature Center at noon CT for a 1 1/2-mile, one-hour hike to the Sarah Lincoln Nature Preserve. Snacks and hot chocolate

provided at the Nature Center. A second 2-mile hike will be offered around Lake Lincoln.

Martin State Forest. Meet at the Hardwood Lake parking area at 10 a.m. for a half-mile guided hike.

McCormick's Creek State Park. Meet at Canyon Inn at 1 p.m. for registration for Winter Magic Photo Contest Hikes, which will begin at 2 p.m. Pick one of three different guided hikes. After the hikes, enter your photos and enjoy refreshments courtesy of Canyon Inn.

Mississinewa Lake. Meet at the Blue Heron Trail within Miami State Recreation Area at 4:30 p.m. for this hour-long hike. S'mores will be served. Advance registration is requested by calling 260-468-2127.

Monroe Lake. The ninth annual First Day Trail Run/Walk will take place at Fairfax State Recreation Area. Registration is from 2:15 to 3:15 p.m. at Bay View Shelter and the untimed event starts at 3:30 p.m. Participants can choose from a 1.3-, 2.9-, or 3.7-mile course. Cost is \$15 and includes a grab-n-go box meal, event patch, gift certificate, and an entry for prize drawing. Advance registration is required by Dec. 30.

Morgan-Monroe State Forest. Meet at the forest office parking lot at 9 a.m. for this walk on an accessible trail.

Mounds State Park. Meet at the Nature Center Front Porch before 5:30 p.m. for warm beverages. At 5:30 p.m. will be a .25-mile easy hike lasting about 45 minutes along an illuminated trail.

O'Bannon Woods State Park. Meet at the nature

center at 10 a.m. for a Walk with an Ox and the park's donkeys, Garth and Gracie. The walk will be on a roadway for about 1 mile, with photo opportunities with the animals. Refreshments will be served at the Nature Center.

Ouabache State Park. The hike will start at 1 p.m. at the bison enclosure parking lot on Trail 1, an easy trail with a gravel surface, and will go around the American bison enclosure. The hike will include a stop at the feeding station where guests will be able to observe the bison up close.

Owen-Putnam State Forest. Meet at the Owen Putnam State Forest office at 9 a.m. for a guided hike on Poplar Top Trail.

Patoka Lake. Meet at the Nature Center at noon and grab a challenge sheet about Patoka history that participants can fill in during the hike. The winner will receive a 2022 Annual Entrance Pass. Cookies and hot chocolate will be served.

Pokagon State Park. Meet at the CCC Shelter for a 3-mile hike from 2 to 3:30 p.m. There will be a bonfire, cocoa, and treats after the hike. Park in the South Beach parking lot or near the basketball courts.

Potato Creek State Park. Meet at the Quaking Aspen parking lot at 2 p.m. for a 1-mile hike around Worster Lake. Bring binoculars. At 3:30 p.m., warm up at the Nature Center with a bowl of chili provided by the Friends of Potato Creek.

Prophetstown State Park. Meet at the Prairie View Picnic Area at 1 p.m. Jan. 1 or 2 for a 2-mile easy hike. Enjoy hot chocolate and apple cider by the campfire.

Raccoon State Recreation Area. Meet at the Bluebird Shelter at noon for this one-hour moderate-to rugged hike.

Salamonie Lake. Meet at the Interpretive Center at 10:30 a.m. for this one-hour hike through the woods along the Wildlife Management Trail. Advance registration is requested by calling 260-468-2127.

Spring Mill State Park. Two hikes will be offered. Meet at the Spring Mill Inn at 9 a.m. for a 90-minute moderate to difficult Nature Preserves Hike along Trail 3. For an easier hike, meet at the Gus Grissom Memorial parking lot at 10 a.m. for a 30-minute hike along Trail 6, which is paved and .25 miles long. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served in the Lakeview Room at the Inn after the hikes.

Summit Lake State Park. Meet Smokey Bear at the Park Office from noon to 2 p.m. for photos and a scavenger hunt on Trail 4.

Tippecanoe River State Park. Meet at the Fire Tower parking lot at noon for this .5-mile hike to the tower.

Versailles State Park. Meet at the Oak Grove parking lot at 1 p.m. for a 2.5-mile moderately difficult hike on Trail 1. Refreshments will be provided.

Whitewater Memorial State Park. Meet at the Poplar Grove Shelter at 2 p.m. for a 2.5-mile hike of the Memorial Loop Trail, which should last about 90 minutes.

Yellowwood State Forest. Meet at the forest office parking lot at 9 a.m. for a first day hike along the 1-mile Resource Management Trail.

BUTCH From Page A1

But hold on, sports fans . . . the greatest shot ever made belongs to a boy on the 7th grade B-team at Darlington Middle School in 1980. How do I know? I was the coach of that team. Although it is nice to win games, my goal with the grade school and junior high boys was to let them learn the fundamentals, practice teamwork and get some playing time . . . hopefully making a few baskets along the way. Many of the boys in those age groups just don't have the skills to go on and play high school ball later on. Their only chance for

glory and playing in front of their classmates, parents and grandparents are the years before high school. Mitch Maxwell, who had played on the B-team for three years, had never made a basket. He had taken several shots through the years, but just had no luck. In a game at Darlington, the opposing team had a commanding lead with about a minute left in the game, and we had no chance of winning. I called a time-out and designed a special play. (I had tried the same play a few years earlier for Ronnie Brown . . . yes, the same Ron Brown who works for

York Automotive. Ron was a fifth-grader at the time, but unfortunately the play was unsuccessful.) I told Brian Breaks, our center, to bend down when our guard dribbled down the floor . . . and to let Mitch climb on top of his shoulders. Mitch was to wrap his legs around Brian's neck and hold his hands up so our guard could pass the ball to him. After Mitch caught the pass, Brian was to turn around and walk up close to the basket so Mitch could get off a good shot. When the guard first attempted the pass to Mitch, he threw it over his out-

stretched arms. The other team grabbed it and went back down the court for an easy lay-up. I called another time-out . . . now with only 30 seconds left in the game, and I instructed my guard to make certain he got the ball to Mitch. It was our last chance. With 10 seconds to go, Mitch got the ball . . . Brian turned around and faced the basket . . . and Mitch heaved a two-handed shot from the TOP OF THE KEY . . . and ZIPPED IT as time expired! I jumped about three feet in the air, and the crowd gave Mitch a standing ovation. Brian carried Mitch off the

court to the whoops and hollers of the Darlington crowd. The referees, both of whom were smiling, told me that they had never seen a play like that . . . and that they could have called a "traveling" violation, but they just didn't have the heart to blow their whistles. Thank the Lord! At the awards banquet at the end of the school year, I awarded the usual trophies for MVP, most rebounds and best free throw percentage . . . but I also awarded a special trophy to Mitch Maxwell for the "greatest shot in basketball history." No, Mitch didn't

play any more basketball after junior high, but he will always remember that spectacular basket. Today Mitch lives in southern Indiana and is a very successful businessman. He visited with me here at the library a few years ago, and we both got a big chuckle over the successful trick play. Way to go, Mitch . . . you're the man!

John "Butch" Dale is a retired teacher and County Sheriff. He has also been the librarian at Darlington the past 32 years, and is a well-known artist and author of local history.

MARLOWE From Page A1

to emcee the event to connect Cinderella's night out with a New Year's Eve bash. For one thing, Cindy and I are alike. We can never seem to make it all the way to midnight. I don't know what it is, but once that final countdown begins . . . ten, nine, eight . . . I fall asleep long before zero. Same applies to rocket launches.

The whole countdown thing reminds me of my last colonoscopy, when the anesthesiologist asked me to count backward from 100. I conked out at ninety-seven. Colonoscopies aren't parties, by any means, but come to think of it, my body feels the same the morning after.

They say you should never go to a party hungry, and I understand. You risk succumbing to the temptations of the snack food table, and blow your diet on all that fatty food. The problem is that none of the snacks add up to a full meal. Parties make me hungry. I've discovered that sitting down with the entire tray of finger sandwiches in my lap calls a lot of attention to one's self.

Just once, I'd like to bring a foot-long baguette to a party, and make myself a real supper. C'mon, Prince. Cindy just put in a full day's work mending and cleaning. Somebody slip her a ham sandwich or a boar's head, for goodness sake!

Okay, I've never had bluebirds sew up my party attire, and I've never owned a pumpkin carriage. But I did own a 1977 yellow-orange Chevy Vega hatchback, once, which I think counts. It had a 140 cubic inch, 2.3 liter aluminum block engine, which meant it got tremendous gas mileage. Not that I ever noticed, mind you, because it used motor oil at a rate three times faster.

One year, I attended a New Year's Eve party on the east side. I used only 2.5 gallons of gasoline to make the 206 mile round trip. I used the same amount of motor oil just to get there. I remember that I was so embarrassed, because I had to hit the host up for two quarts of 30-weight from his garage to get back home. What really made me feel uncomfortable was that guy hadn't invited me.

In refreshing my memory of Disney's Cinderella on a Wikipedia page, I was shocked to learn that thousands of variations of the "Lost Slipper" fable exist. Seems like we humans like a good rags-to-riches story.

The ancient Greek story of Rhodopis appears to be the oldest adaptation known. However, my favorite story comes from Germans Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. Gotta love those Brothers Grimm!

In their version, called Aschenputtel or "Ashfool," the oldest mean stepsister, desperate to win Prince Charming and his kingly fortune for herself, decides to cut off her toes in order to make certain that when the Prince calls, her foot will easily fit the slipper. My understanding is that she used to be named Margaret, but now just goes by Ilene.

Although Halloween is fast encroaching on New Year's Eve as America's favorite party date, I believe New Year's Eve has one advantage over all holidays. On Jan-

uary 1, even if it's only symbolic, we turn the page and begin anew. Fairy godmother or not, we can change our lives if we make the effort.

If Cindy were here, now, I'll bet she'd tell us: "Keep putting in the hard work, and you might find happiness afoot. I'm having a ball!"

I wish the same for all of you. Happy New Year!

John O. Marlowe is an award-winning columnist for Sagamore News Media.

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