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**TODAY'S VERSE**

Romans 12:14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

**FACES OF MONTGOMERY**

People who call our community their own.



Pastor William Pike stands with Amelia Gorghuber in front of New Market Methodist after a recent service.

**THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** Looking for an early start to those wonderful fall festivals? Then consider heading over to Hillsboro's Homecoming on Aug. 13 at Betty Bailey Park on Murphy Street. This is the first town festival in Hillsboro in 11 years. The day kicks off with the opening ceremony at 11 a.m. featuring the American Legion, followed by several vendors and live music, the Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Department and town marshal. At 12:30 p.m. there's a baking contest and at 2 p.m. a watermelon eating contest, followed by a talent contest at 5 p.m. It all takes place in Hillsboro, a town of "600 happy people and a few old soreheads."

**2** Senator Mike Braun released the following statement today after the GDP fell once again in the second quarter, indicating a recession. Following a wave of inflation Senator Braun predicted would be kicked off by the \$2 trillion American Rescue Plan Act, the U.S. economy has now contracted for the second consecutive quarter. "Hoosiers didn't need a GDP report to know that they're paying the price for Joe Biden's reckless spending agenda and D.C.'s incompetence. Senate Democrats didn't go for solution to cut wasteful spending and unleash growth, so what's their plan? Hike taxes and spend another couple trillion we don't have on stuff we don't need!"—Senator Mike Braun. Last week, Senator Braun put forth a comprehensive solution to fight inflation by balancing our federal budget to unleash American prosperity and energy independence. The final vote on the Senate floor was 34-65.

**3** The Amorphophallus Titanum stinks. Better known as the "corpse flower," the rare plant emits a noxious odor when it blooms, explains the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden was expecting their corpse flower to bloom recently and prepared for the crowds it would attract. Resident horticulturist Jerome Stenger told reporters, "We've all heard how bad the smell is, but it's just one of those things that you want to experience in order to describe it in your own words. And the fact that the occurrence is so rare, sometimes just blooming once in a decade, makes everyone want to see it."

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**A Saunter Through Summer: Is Urban Gardening For You?**

On Saturday, Community Growers of Montgomery County is offering a free Garden Walk to four backyard gardens located in the westside neighborhoods of Crawfordsville. The Garden Walk takes place between 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Participants are invited to do the entire walk to all four locations or visit individual gardens. Organizers ask participants to bring their own lunches. The Garden Walk group will eat lunch in Kathy Steele Park (located on West Main Street right behind the Youth Service Bureau at 808 W. Pike). Community Growers of Montgomery County (CGMC) will transport your lunch for you.

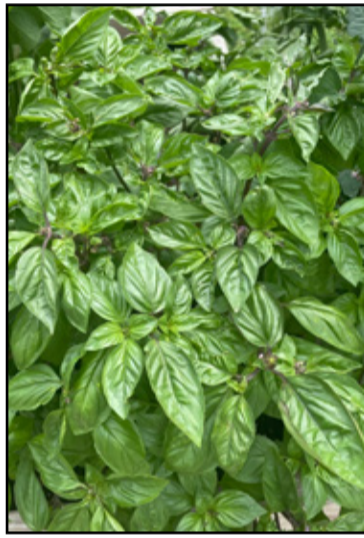


Photo courtesy of CGMC  
**Beautiful basil bounty at the first stop on the Garden Walk.**

This Garden Walk is not an ordinary "come and marvel" garden tour but rather a chance to see and learn how four gardening families with varied levels of experience have changed their city yards into native plant beds (pollinator gardens) and vegetable gardens. Participants will be able to observe and ask questions at each c. 30-minute

stop. Each garden and each gardener has a story to share. Signs will mark each of the locations and you may either walk or drive between gardens. Tom Meeks and Heidi Walsh (1st Stop at 207 W. Main at

See GARDEN Page A6

**PE Class Was The Best And Worst Of Times!**



**BUTCH DALE**  
Columnist

Like many boys, I participated in all of the sports that Darlington offered back in the good old days. Of course, there were only three...basketball, track, and summer baseball.

I enjoyed all three, and you would assume that I also enjoyed physical education class, which was required from grades 7 through 10...well, not so fast!

First of all, the PE classes were combined...7th and 8th grade, and then 9th and 10th grade. The boys' locker room was very small, and when 30-35 teenage boys occupy a tiny space, things happen. There was no shortage of pranksters who amused themselves by any devious means they could conjure up. One of the most common tricks was grabbing another boy's athletic supporter ("jockstrap") from the back of

See BUTCH Page A7

**My Open Testimony Against IN Senate Bill 1**



**BROCK ERVIN**  
Guest Column

I went to the Indiana State House Tuesday hoping to provide testimony to our senators regarding Senate Bill 1, a bill that proposes to make abortion illegal, except in the event of rape, incest, or when the mother's life will be "substantially and permanently impaired." Many people gave their testimony, but due to time constraints, mine wasn't included, so I give it here:

Dear Senators, I am here today to ask you to keep abor-

See TESTIMONY Page A7

**It's Not Too Late To Garden**

August is right around the corner, but it is not too late for you throw your hat into the gardening ring. I knew I would be moving late spring and I used it as an excuse to not even start a garden but now is my last shot at raising some of my own food for this year.

If you like to eat broccoli, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, spinach, lettuce, peas, beets, cucumbers, cabbage, collards, green onions, kale, kohlrabi, mustard greens, radish, or turnips you are in luck! Head over to your local garden center or nursery and pick up some seeds or seedlings.

There are some adaptations to make for a late summer planting:

- When possible, use fast maturing cultivars to ensure a harvest before a killing frost occurs
- Spade or till the soil 6-8 inches deep to loosen the soil and fertilize with balanced fertilizer if it is a heavily cropped soil



**TRICIA HERR**  
Purdue Extension Office



See PURDUE Page A7

**HONEST HOOSIER**

This from a reader: If I had a dollar for every time socialism worked, I'd have \$0.00



**INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION**

- Obituaries.....A2
- Dick Wolfisie.....A4
- Ken Thompson.....A3
- Classifieds.....A3

**TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

Eating whole grains instead of refined white starches results in less belly fat.

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](http://www.thepaper24-7.com).



**OBITUARIES**

See Page A2

The Paper appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank LINDA BERRISFORD for subscribing!



**The Paper**  
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

**THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE**  
For Your Information

Jim Baird stepped up for teachers this week. The Indiana Congressman from the 4th District, which includes Montgomery County, saw his bill, the Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act, pass the U.S. House of Representatives. "As a PhD scientist, I know how critical STEM education is to maintaining America's competitive edge, yet many students lack proficiency and confidence in their mathematical and statistical problem-solving skills," Baird said. "My bipartisan bill adapts our educational model to help students confidently integrate data in their everyday lives by offering teachers the support they need to develop modern, relevant curricula. I'm proud to lead this effort to secure American innovation and empower future generations as they enter the workforce."

**TODAY'S QUOTE**

"I wish that people who are conventionally supposed to love each other would say to each other, when they fight, 'Please - a little less love, and a little more common decency.'" Kurt Vonnegut

**TODAY'S JOKE**

Did your mom go anywhere for vacation?  
Alaska.  
What? You don't know?

**13 WTHR** 7 DAY FORECAST

66/80 FRI	61/81 SAT	62/82 SUN	67/83 MON	70/86 TUE	70/90 WED	73/91 THU
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## OBITUARIES

### Patrick Joe Bacon May 10, 1955 - July 17, 2022

Patrick Joe Bacon, age 67 of Kingman, passed away at home on Sunday, July 17, 2022.

He was born in Crawfordsville on May 10, 1955 to Joe Phillip Bacon and Patricia Ann (Myers) Hack.

He attended Fountain Central High School and was a house painter his entire life. He was a great painter and loved tinkering and working on stuff.

Survivors include his father, Joe Phillip Bacon; his mother, Patricia Ann Hack; his son, Patrick T. Bacon; two brothers, Michael Bacon and Bert Hack; a sister, Melody (Louis) Borst; three grandsons, Dylan, Seth, and Braxton; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Jack Bacon. Cremation was chosen with a private family viewing. Sanders Funeral Care entrusted with care.

Share memories and condolences online at [www.sandersfuneralcare.com](http://www.sandersfuneralcare.com).

### Karla Jean Kitterman March 27, 1946 - July 27, 2022

Karla Jean Kitterman, 76, Crawfordsville passed away Wednesday morning at home.

She was born on March 27, 1946 in Lafayette to Kenneth Charles Blessing and Juanita Ruth North.

She had worked for Kraft and retired from Penguin Random House. She married Elvis Appel on June 25, 2011 and he survives.

She enjoyed Purdue Football, Indianapolis Colts, Nascar, rides in the country and spending time with friends and animals.

Funeral services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Monday at Hunt and Son Funeral Home with Clifford Appel officiating. Friends may call 1 - 2 p.m. Monday. Following funeral services she will be cremated.

Online condolences and memories may be shared at [www.huntandson.com](http://www.huntandson.com)



## Taste 2022 Advance Tickets Go On Sale



Advance tickets for the fifteenth annual Taste of Montgomery County go on sale August 1 in select Crawfordsville locations. The Taste of Montgomery County will be held at the General Lew Wallace Study and Museum on Saturday, Aug. 27, from 12 - 10 p.m.

Visitors can purchase Taste tickets at the Carriage House Interpretive Center of the General Lew Wallace Study and Museum, home of the Taste; the Montgomery County Visitors and Convention Bureau at Fusion 54; Milligan's Flowers & Gifts at 115 East Main; Crawfordsville Parks & Recreation Community Center at 922 E. South Boulevard. Advance tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for students. Credit cards can be accepted only at

the Museum.

The Taste of Montgomery County is an annual fundraiser for the Lew Wallace Study Preservation Society, the organization that maintains General Lew Wallace's original artifacts and keeps his legacy alive. All proceeds from gate ticket sales directly benefit educational programming at the museum, while food ticket sales

are split between the museum and the vendors.

The benefits of purchasing advance tickets are twofold. Advance tickets are cheaper—adult tickets at the gate on the day of the Taste will be \$7 and student tickets will be \$3. Advance ticket holders will also be able to get into the gate faster on the day of the Taste, as they won't have to wait in

line to purchase tickets.

This could be a real advantage when crowds gather for the live musical acts scheduled to play at this year's Taste! From 1 - 3 p.m., the Elizabeth Lee Duo will perform. Indiana-born Nashville star Eliana Weston will take the stage from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. The Warrior Kings headline from 8 - 10 p.m. with hard rock-blues fusion.

The restaurants and caterers showcasing their foods at this year's Taste include: Aki Les Voy Takeria, China Inn, Coal Creek Cellars, Four Seasons, Francis & Mount, Greek's Pizzeria, Hoosier Ice Queen, Sunoco Crawfordsville, The Juniper Spoon, and more.

For more information, visit [www.TasteOfMontgomeryCounty.com](http://www.TasteOfMontgomeryCounty.com).

## Farmers Are Innovators; I Get To Help Them Incorporate Best Practices And Track Their Stewardship Success

For almost two decades, Sina Parks has been immersed in the agricultural community... and for the last 10 years, she has focused on resource stewardship. From her role as an advocate, a member of the Ag and Natural Resources Advisory Committee through her service on the local Extension Board, Sina has learned the challenges facing local producers at close range. Today, she's in a new role providing leadership within the ag community on stewardship. And at no time, she reports, has she seen such in uptick in engagement and action on the stewardship front than she is seeing right now.

"I'm having far more conversations... seeing more growers make a commitment to carbon sequestration programs, and we're also seeing increased interest in making cover crops an effective stewardship strategy on the farm," says Sina. "Fortunately, Ceres Solutions has already invested in the people and the resources to help navigate these profit opportunities with local farmers." Today, Sina serves as the area's only fully dedicated precision ag and stewardship specialist, employed through a unique partner-



Photo courtesy of Ceres Solutions

**Sina Parks serves as the area's only fully dedicated precision ag and stewardship specialist, employed through a unique partnership between Pheasants Forever, Ceres Solutions Cooperative and other key conservation stakeholders.**

ship between Pheasants Forever, Ceres Solutions Cooperative and other key conservation stakeholders.

Everything Sina does--as an advocate and on the farm with growers--supports her passion to protect resources and build resilience in healthy soil. Through mid-August and early September, Sina will be in the field helping to provide local growers the information they need to plan, plant, and maintain a variety of cover crops that will

reduce compaction, prevent erosion, scavenge nutrients in deep soil and maintain soil health at optimal levels. "Cover crops can help achieve all these objectives, when you know the right crops and the right solutions for your specific goals," says Sina.

"We have a simple mission," says Sina. "Through sustainability and stewardship, Ceres Solutions supports and protects those in the communities we serve." Growers are finding that

cover crops add biodiversity and build a better environment for the soil. "When your challenge is to improve water quality, increase water holding capacity and increase organic matter, starting a simple mix can improve soil health and increase continued adoption," she advises. "As you gain experience and success, we help farmers add new types to their blend." To learn more about these strategies, visit [www.ceres.coop](http://www.ceres.coop) or follow Sina Parks at Ceres Solutions Cooperative on social media.

Ceres Solutions is a 100% farmer owned cooperative. We are a leading supplier of agronomy inputs, seed, technology, information, diesel fuel, gasolines, retail station services, lubes, propane gas, feed, animal nutrition support and more. With outlets in 37 Indiana and Michigan counties, the organization is proud to invest in each team member, as well as making investments in our local communities and our youth through 4-H, FFA, academic scholarships, hunger relief and more. To learn more about Ceres Solutions, please follow us on Facebook or visit our website at [www.ceres.coop](http://www.ceres.coop).

## Pro-life Groups Continue To Oppose Indiana SB 1

James Bopp, Jr., General Counsel for the National Right to Life Committee, said today: "All major pro-life groups, including the National Right to Life Committee, continue to oppose the adoption of SB 1, since minor and ineffective amendments by the Rules Committee did nothing to address the pervasive and fundamental defects in SB 1, which will result in abortion on demand in Indiana if SB 1 is adopted."

SB 1 was written with the advice of, and includes language proposed by ACOG, The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the nation's leading pro-abortion medical group. When introduced, it was condemned by all major state and national pro-life groups.

In the Senate Rules Committee vote on Tuesday, a few minor amendments were adopted



James Bopp, Jr.

which did nothing to fix the major defects in SB 1, so Right to Life groups continue to oppose the adoption of SB 1.

According to Bopp, "SB 1, the ACOG pro-abortion bill, is so fundamentally flawed and its effect is so devastating to the unborn child that it needs wholesale replacement or defeat on the Senate floor. The Indiana Legislature is perfectly capable, as it has consistently done in the past, to propose and to pass suitable pro-life legislation, and it should do so now."

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# Kenny Talks Strong Predictions For Boilermaker Football



**KENNY THOMPSON**  
Columnist

The 2022 Big Ten football media days are officially over and the hours of coach speak will be sifted for any nuggets of real information by fans and news organizations alike until the season opener Aug. 27 in Dublin, Ireland when Northwestern faces Nebraska.

Illinois also hosts Wyoming that day but the focus will be on the Cornhuskers, who are likely playing for coach Scott Frost's future at his alma mater. The Wildcats are hoping to prove last season's dismal 1-8 conference record was a fluke.

Expectations are higher for Purdue, which is coming off its first nine-win season since 2003. Athlon Sports' Steve Lissan has the Boilermakers finishing second to Wisconsin in the Big Ten West Division.

"In a balanced Big Ten West, Purdue has enough talent, depth and experience to contend for a division title again this season," he writes.

To the shock of no one outside Ann Arbor, Mich., Ohio State is Athlon's favorite to win the East title.

"The Boilermakers have a few concerns to address, namely how the defense improves under a new coordinator, but contending for the Big Ten's West Division title is within reach," Lissan writes. "A favorable

schedule sees Purdue miss Ohio State, Michigan State and Michigan in crossover play, and Penn State visits West Lafayette in the season opener."

Not surprisingly, Lissan ranks O'Connell among the Big Ten's best quarterbacks. The questions once again are will Purdue have a decent running game to support O'Connell and will a more experienced offensive line make that possible?

"Iowa transfer Charlie Jones and Broc Thompson are likely to be the go-to options on the outside," Lissan writes, overlooking probably the No. 1 target in senior tight end Payne Durham.

Defensively, Lissan is wondering who will step up for coordinator Ron English after the departures of George Karlaftis, DaMarcus Mitchell, linebacker Jaylan Alexander and safety Marvin Grant (a puzzling transfer to Big 12 bottom feeder Kansas).

Lissan is far less optimistic about Indiana,

picked to finish last in the East.

"New offensive coordinator Walt Bell inherits a group that averaged only 10.4 points a contest in Big Ten action last year," Lissan writes. "Former Missouri signal-caller Connor Bazelak should provide much-needed stability under center, with fellow transfers Shaun Shivers and Josh Henderson (RB) and Emery Simmons (WR) helping to add options at the skill talent spots."

Lissan also notes IU will be hard pressed to improve from giving up 35 points a game in conference play, especially with the departure of its best player, linebacker Micah McFadden.

ESPN.com writer Bill Connelly figures there will be a four-way battle for the West Division title among Wisconsin, Purdue, Iowa and Minnesota. "Quarterback Aidan O'Connell returns after throwing for 3,712 yards, both lines return a large majority of contributors, and the secondary is loaded with seniors. But (David) Bell is gone, as are (defensive coordinator Brad) Lambert and end George Karlaftis. Does that hurt a little or a lot?"

"The Music City Bowl provided hope. Without Bell ... Purdue beat Tennessee in overtime, 48-45, thanks to 534 yards from O'Connell. Broc Thompson caught seven

balls for 217 yards, and tight end Payne Durham caught a pair of touchdowns. And they're both back. If defensive co-coordinators Ron English and Mark Hagen can keep the ship steady, and O'Connell can produce greatness with Thompson, Wright, Durham, slot man TJ Sheffield, among others, this is a West contender."

As for Indiana, Connelly wonders if 13 transfers plus new offensive (Walt Bell) and defensive coordinators (Chad Wilt) is going to be enough to improve significantly from 2021.

"It's hard to be particularly confident about whether all this change will have the desired effect. (Among other things, Bell's recent track record is terribly uninspiring.)" Connelly writes. "Last year's collapse was comprehensive, and as is generally the case in the Big Ten East -- especially for schools crazy enough to schedule Cincinnati in nonconference play -- the schedule is unforgiving. Tom Allen created something impressive at IU, but it all fell apart almost overnight."

CollegeFootballNews.com writer Pete Fiutak expects another bowl season for Purdue but not to contend for the West crown.

"Purdue football has always been a little bit of a

Little Engine That Could sort of program without the next-level star power of the biggest of Big Ten teams, but when it was rolling back in the day under the late, great Joe Tiller it had a scheme and style that made everyone worry," Fiutak writes.

"... It would take something amazing to break through to an even higher level and be deep in the hunt for a Big Ten Championship appearance - in other words, the rest of the Big Ten West has to be down - but after what the team did last year, it's not crazy."

"The special teams have to be better, more takeaways would be good, a better running game would be great, and ... forget about what Purdue won't be and probably can't do. It's going to give everyone a fight again."

Fiutak's keys to Purdue's season include a more effective running game and stopping the run defensively. A victory against Penn State in the season opener would be welcomed, too.

"Purdue is coming off a terrific year, but nothing would crank up 2022 like taking care of Penn State at home in the Big Ten opener. Beat Penn State, and all of a sudden the toughest games on the slate won't seem so rough. Even better, win, and there's a chance for a 4-0 September with a win

at Syracuse.

"As long as the passing game is clicking and the team can own West Lafayette, there's a solid shot at another nine-win season."

Fiutak isn't as bearish about Indiana's 2022 potential but improving the Big Ten's worst offense (290 yards a game) is a must.

So is Missouri transfer Connor Bazelak giving the Hoosiers a passing threat that an injured Michael Penix, Jack Tuttle and Donaven McCulley couldn't do last season.

Defensively, create turnovers and developing a pass rush will be the challenges for new coordinator Chad Wilt.

It also would help if Indiana could beat good teams. Fiutak notes that of the Hoosiers' 42 victories over the last eight seasons, 36 came against FCS teams or schools with losing records.

"Indiana will be better," Fiutak writes. "It's not going to win the Big Ten East, and it's going to take a whole lot of big breaks to get bowling, but it's going to be stronger, sharper, and it's actually going to start scoring again."

*Kenny Thompson is the former sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier and an award-winning journalist. He has covered Purdue athletics for many years.*

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# Duke Energy Indiana Transmission Towers Repurposed For Eagle Nesting Platforms

Duke Energy is converting two electric transmission towers that have reached the end of their useful service life into nesting platforms for bald eagles at the Wabashiki Fish & Wildlife Area in West Terre Haute, Ind.

In early August, Duke Energy will deploy a specialty helicopter crew to begin stripping inactive electrical lines and equipment from 50-foot transmission towers that span approximately 1,000 feet in the floodplain along the Wabash River. Crews will then work to install two nesting platforms at the top of the towers. The platforms will each be 8 feet wide and 6 feet long and constructed with fiberglass grating and steel supports — strong and large enough to accommodate bald eagles' colossal nests, which are the largest of any North American bird. Eagle nests typically measure 5 to 6 feet wide and 2 feet deep and are lined with grass, moss and sometimes cattails.

According to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, more than 350 bald eagle nesting territories have been recorded in Indiana. The



birds have periodically been spotted at Wabashiki Fish & Wildlife Area since it opened to the public in 2010. With the addition of these nesting platforms, park officials hope to attract even more of these once federal- and state-endangered species to the area.

"A lot of hard work has gone into restoring the bald eagle population in Indiana over the last 50 years, and their recovery is one of our state's great conservation success stories," said Adam Grossman, superintendent of the Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department. "The creation of nesting towers like these have been critical in supporting their survival here, and we're grateful for partners like Duke Energy that are finding

creative ways to support these majestic birds and allow them to thrive right here in West Terre Haute."

The project will be completed in early September, long before eagles begin looking for nesting sites in January and February. Local residents can expect to see and hear helicopter activity in the area during daylight hours as the work progresses. Property owners near the impacted transmission line have been notified of this work by mail, and Duke Energy account holders are being notified through calls or text messages. The helicopter may cause wind disturbance at ground level. Homeowners have been advised to secure outdoor furniture or other items that could

be moved by the wind.

"Conservation is an integral part of who we are as a company," said Rick Burger, government and community relations manager at Duke Energy. "We're proud to partner with the Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department to repurpose these transmission towers in an innovative and sustainable way to build a better future for the environment and the communities we serve."

The Wabashiki Fish & Wildlife Area's 2,600 acres of lush marshland along the west bank of the Wabash River make it an ideal natural habitat for bald eagles. As the water level of the river rises and falls, receding floodwaters trap large numbers of fish in the floodplain. Pools of water abundant with stranded fish remain and offer rich hunting grounds for eagles and other wildlife.

The Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department hopes to one day build a viewing platform at the Dewey Point trailhead for visitors to come and safely observe eagles that may eventually settle down at the nesting platforms.

# Permission Has Been Granted

My church's men's group recently had a discussion about who was the boss in our homes. Many of the members had never thought about it and didn't know how to respond. I told them I was sure I was the boss, but I wanted to check with my wife to see if she agreed with my saying that.

After giving it more thought, I realized I do something that may reveal I am not the boss. Whenever I share with my wife what my plans are, I follow my declaration with "okay?"

"Mary Ellen, I'm going to take a shower, okay?" Why have I formed this as a question? Am I asking for permission?

When I was single, I took a shower anytime I wanted; I didn't need to inform anyone. I could just do it...unless I hadn't paid the water bill. Why do I need consent now? In all fairness, my wife has never said, "No, I don't want you to take a shower," but occasionally she'll say: "Don't use all the hot water." One morning, she remarked, "It's about time," which really got my attention.

Last Tuesday, I said, "I'm going to the drug store, okay?"

"Sure...and while you're there, get a bottle of my shampoo and some dental floss, and pick up my prescription refill. And I also need a L'Oreal Voluminous Butterfly Mascara, Black/Brown color. Any man who can find that earns an A-OK. Good luck.

Then, just yesterday, I announced, "I'm going for a walk, okay?" Now, I knew Mary Ellen would have no objection, but phrasing it as a question gave her the option to add: "That's fine, but be sure to bring your water bottle, don't track in any mud when you get back, and don't walk in the middle of the street. The neighbors are complaining about having to swerve around you."

Ending with "okay?" must be a subconscious



**DICK WOLFSIE**  
Funny Bone

need for approval in whatever I do. In retrospect, I wish I had just said: "Mary Ellen, I am going for a walk." I tried that earlier this afternoon. Here's what she said:

"That's fine, but be sure to bring your water bottle, don't track in any mud when you get back, and don't walk in the middle of the street. The neighbors are complaining about having to swerve around you." Yeah, so much for that theory.

Mary Ellen may be the boss after all. She handles all our investments, medical policies, landscaping choices, mortgage decisions, bequeathing, last will and testament updates, our automatic sprinkler system and any home security issues, just to name a few of her responsibilities. I am proud to say that oil changes for both of our cars are my department. That, along with doing the dishes, pretty much sums up my obligations in the Wolfsie household. As you can tell, I don't do very much. But in all fairness, Mary Ellen won't let me.

After admitting to all of this, I want you to know that starting right now, I am going to be more assertive in all my conversations, more positive in my tone and more confident in my decisions, okay?

*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.*

# Blood Donors Needed Now To Help Prevent Blood Shortage

Just as most cars need to be refueled constantly, so does the nation's blood supply. The American Red Cross has faced a concerning drop in blood donations this summer. Donors are needed to make an appointment to give in August to help prevent a blood shortage.

The decline in donations has caused the Red Cross blood supply to shrink nearly 20% in recent weeks. The availability of blood products will continue to decline if donations do not increase. People should not wait until they hear there is a blood shortage to give. Type O negative blood donors especially needed now.

"This is a concerning trend that may soon make it tougher to keep blood products stocked on hospital shelves," said Paul Sullivan, Red Cross senior vice president of donor services. "By choosing a time to give now, donors can help pump up the blood supply for those in immediate need of lifesaving care and those who rely on transfusions for treatment."

Donors can schedule an appointment to donate using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, by visiting RedCrossBlood.



## American Red Cross

org or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Fuel up on us As blood donations drop, gas prices have reached all-time highs in the U.S. As a thank-you, all who come to give Aug. 1 - 31 will be automatically entered for a chance to win gas for a year, a \$6,000 value. There will be three lucky winners. Everyone who comes to give blood in August will also receive a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of choice.

Blood drive safety The Red Cross follows a high standard of safety and infection control. The Red Cross will continue to socially distance wherever possible at blood drives, donation centers and facilities. While donors are no longer required to wear a face mask, individuals may choose to continue to wear a mask for any reason. The Red Cross

will also adhere to more stringent face mask requirements per state and/or local guidance, or at the request of blood drive sponsors. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at a drive.

How to donate blood Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable 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 or use the Blood Donor App.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or Cruz-RojaAmericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

# Indiana Gets Another Win For Unborn Babies

A federal appeals court this week handed Indiana the state's fourth legal victory this month in cases involving the state's abortion laws.

The 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that Indiana can immediately begin enforcing a law requiring the notification of the parents of minors who obtain abortions — a law previously enjoined by a federal district court before it could ever go into effect.

"This pro-life victory is not just a win for me or this office," Indiana Attorney General Rokita said. "It's a win for all Hoosiers who believe in protecting the sanctity of life, the health of women and the crucial importance of families."

Indiana law generally requires the consent of



AG Todd Rokita

adult parents in order for minor females to obtain abortions, but the law exempts minors who successfully persuade a juvenile court that they are mature enough to make the decision for themselves.

The parental-notification law requires that even in those cases, however, the adult parents must be notified that their minor child is undergoing the procedure. The law does not

require that notification in cases in which the juvenile court finds that it would endanger the well-being of the minor undergoing the abortion. A minor in Indiana is defined as someone under age 18.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade on June 24, Rokita has secured three earlier wins for Indiana pro-life laws.

On July 7, Rokita achieved another historic pro-life legal win when a federal district court granted his motion to lift an injunction on dismemberment abortions, which occur well into an unborn baby's development.

Then, on July 11, a U.S. appellate court vacated judgments in the Whole Woman's Health Alliance v. Rokita case that had invalidated several other

Indiana laws protecting unborn children and the health of their mothers.

On July 18, a U.S. district court vacated a judgment against an Indiana law prohibiting abortions sought on the basis of the unborn child's race, sex or disability.

"I look forward to working together with all Hoosiers of good will to continue building a culture of life in Indiana," Rokita said. "Let it be clear that we value the life of every individual, born and unborn. Let us work to ensure that everyone has the best possible chance at the best possible life, and certainly let us give special priority and emphasis to the mothers bringing these children into the world. Truly, the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."

# Food Finders Food Bank Receives \$24K From Bayer Fund

Food Finders Food Bank announced today it received a grant for \$24,000 from Bayer Fund, the philanthropic arm of Bayer in the U.S. This grant will be used to support the food bank's Mobile Pantry Program, ensuring additional food resources are sent throughout the food bank's 16-county service area covering North Central Indiana.

"The mobile pantry is the best method for reaching our neighbors facing hunger in rural communities. It allows us to distribute an average of 5,500+ meals in two hours or less," said Katy Bunder, President & CEO at Food Finders Food Bank. "Bayer Fund has been a great partner to our food bank, and we are grateful for their support."

This grant will not only provide support to Food Finders, but also the communities served by the food bank by allowing them to target counties with the highest need or the fewest food resources.

This grant is part of an ongoing relationship with Bayer Fund, with Food Finders Food Bank receiv-

ing a grant of \$20,000 for the Mobile Pantry Program in 2021 as well.

"Throughout the years, the grants given through Bayer Fund have helped strengthen our communities across the United States," said Al Mitchell, President of Bayer Fund. "We're proud to be able to provide support to develop programs like the Mobile Pantry Program that helps combat the critical issue of food insecurity and ultimately helping ensure even more Americans have access to healthy, nutritious food."

In 2021, Bayer Fund awarded more than \$13.1 million to over 3,400 charitable and nonprofit organizations to help address essential needs in Food and Nutrition, STEM Education and Health & Wellness. Over the last five years, nonprofit organizations across the U.S. have received more than \$75 million.

To learn more about Food Finders Food Bank visit <http://www.foodfinders.org>.

To learn more about Bayer Fund visit <http://www.fund.bayer.us>.

# With Abortion Ban Near-Certain, Health Advocates Turn To Birth Control

By: Whitney Downard And Leslie Bonilla Muñoz

As Indiana’s Republican-dominated legislature furthers its abortion-banning Senate Bill 1 during an ongoing special legislative session, attention is turning to birth control. Some lawmakers and health care providers are advocating for greater access to counterbalance the proposed ban, but it’s unclear how successful that push will be.

“I’m really very optimistic because I think — particularly in the environment that we’re in now — a basic understanding is that if you’re not pregnant, you will not seek an abortion,” Rep. Rita Fleming, D-Jeffersonville, told the Capital Chronicle.

“That’s a pretty simple fact,” added Fleming, who is also an obstetrician and gynecologist.

But there’s worry, too, that lawmakers will restrict access to birth control methods that use progestin, like the morning-after pill and a type of intrauterine device, or IUD.

“Although this bill doesn’t specifically contain it, I’m very concerned,” said Dr. Rhianon Amodio-Bankert, an Indianapolis-based OB-GYN. “... There’s a large group of people who spread untruths about progestin contraceptives ... that they cause an abortion by preventing implantation. And the medical consensus on that idea is that they prevent pregnancy by either preventing ovulation or preventing entry of the sperm into the uterus.”

While Indiana’s Senate refines its abortion ban plan, lawmakers in both chambers are tackling bills meant to support the

thousands of additional infants that could be born annually — and their families — should SB 1 become law. But some see room in the legislation to prevent unintended or undesired pregnancies from occurring in the first place.

“We want to make as many avenues available to help these people take those steps to ensure that they’re not having unwanted pregnancies if they’re not able or if they’re unwilling to carry a child to term,” said SB 1 author Sen. Sue Glick, R-LaGrange. “We would rather deal with it on the front end than ... going to an abortion.”

Sen. President Pro Tempore Rodric Bray, R-Martinsville, has also indicated that some of the \$50 million in Senate Bill 2, could go toward contraceptives.

But the bill doesn’t get into specifics, instead giving four state agencies the discretion to distribute the funds to programs that accomplish seven goals. Access to pregnancy planning is one.

Advocates ask for funds expansion

Advocates want more of a guarantee.

“If we’re going to have an abortion ban, don’t you think we need to start getting contraceptives to people who need it? Right now?” asked Kristin Adams, the president and CEO of the Indiana Family Health Council, in an interview.

“A lot of our abortions are due to failed contraceptives or no contraceptives, particularly in that younger population. ... I think we’ve got a huge chance for a disaster coming if we don’t get access for these individuals,” said Adams, who on

Tuesday pressed House and Senate committees to consider expanding the state’s existing contraceptive network and address its contraceptive deserts.

But some funding has already shrunk, imperiling the organization’s health care and family planning mission.

Adams’ organization receives the state’s allotment of Title X funds, which provides comprehensive family planning and preventive health services to low-income Americans. Last year, the state’s portion dropped from just over \$5 million to \$4.6 million, curbing plans to expand beyond the 27 funded clinics. The organization will expand with a mobile clinic inside of a box truck, but delivery isn’t anticipated until 2023.

Services provided by the clinics, some operated by the Indiana Family Health Council and some operated by healthcare providers such as Eskenazi Health, include pap smears, long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) insertion and preconception counseling for parents.

The Indiana Family Health Council’s 27 clinics performed 133 LARC insertions in the days since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, an increase that indicates the potential demand for contraceptive services in states without abortion access.

Adams said clinics didn’t offer tubal ligations or vasectomies because of financial costs. Planned Parenthood, whose main website offers a guide to tubal ligations, said its Indiana locations didn’t offer the services either.

“We know that supporting pregnant individ-

uals in need of services is the right thing to do but we cannot be siloed in our approach — we need comprehensive prevention efforts for unintended or untimed pregnancies,” Adams told the House’s Ways and Means Committee Tuesday.

Adams noted that bills in both the Senate and House provided funding for contraception through the state’s Safety PIN program but warned that would only reach women who were already mothers, not those attempting to prevent their first pregnancy.

The Safety PIN program aims to reduce infant mortality through parenting programs and limited services for families.

But the committee didn’t act on Adams’ request, rejecting several other amendments offered by Democrats that sought to address contraceptives in Indiana.

Adams said one dollar in Title X funding saved \$7.09 in Medicaid spending and that state rules surrounding LARCs for Medicaid recipients cost money when working devices had to be abandoned, rather than reallocated, because one person didn’t use them.

Same-day discussion Contraceptive experts have also focused on same-day access to birth control, arguing that it enables service to Hoosiers who don’t often interact with the state’s health care apparatus.

Indiana has a shortage of primary care physi-

cians and many counties are contraceptive deserts, meaning there are few to no providers capable of addressing reproductive needs for that community. And some people just

can’t get transportation, child care or time off work for anything but an emergency.

Fleming recalled working as an obstetrical hospitalist and serving women who came to the hospital to give birth without any prior prenatal care. Often, she said, the new mothers had positive drug screenings.

“They would ask for birth control,” Fleming told the Capital Chronicle. “They didn’t want to repeat this cycle of having babies when they were in the grip of drug addiction. And the best I could do for them was a Depo[-Provera] shot — three months of birth control.”

Dr. Tracey Wilkinson, a pediatrician with the Indiana University School of Medicine, pushed the Senate Appropriations Committee to remove existing barriers to contraceptives.

Wilkinson, speaking on behalf of the Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, shared her research on reproductive healthcare access, finding evidence in support of offering same-day treatment for long-term birth control methods.

“We found that close to a third of patients did not return for a second appointment and 28% of these patients ended up having a subsequent pregnancy within a year of our study,” Wilkinson said. Funding should be prioritized for clinics that promote comprehensive care, rather than focusing on one type of birth control, Wilkinson said. Pressuring patients to choose one form — or demanding a high fee for removal — were forms of

coercion, she said. “Legislation increasing access to contraception should be hailed as pro-life, as birth control gives people the ability to control the trajectory of their lives and does so by giving people the ability to decide when pregnancies will happen,” Wilkinson said.

Fleming, who’s long angled for legislation allowing more-accessible pharmacists to prescribe birth control, also suggested expanding same-day access at hospitals and syringe exchange programs, or creating mobile units — though she emphasized the importance of informed consent.

The special session will end mid-August, but some Republican leaders have indicated they’d be open to considering contraceptive-related abortion during a longer, budget-writing session that begins in January.

Adams said that might be too late for some people.

“I think if an abortion ban goes into place today... January is a long way away because those monies won’t become available until July,” Adams said in an interview. “So we’ve now delayed access to women who are truly in need or are fearful because they absolutely cannot get pregnant.”

*Indiana Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Indiana Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Follow Indiana Capital Chronicle on https://facebook.com/IndianaCapitalChronicle and https://twitter.com/INCapChronicle*

## 2022 Indiana State Fair Opens Today

The 165th Indiana State Fair opens today and will continue through Sunday, Aug. 21 (Fair is closed Mondays and Tuesdays). The Fair opens daily at 9 a.m.

The 2022 Indiana State Fair will feature fan favorites and new attractions for all ages. The 2022 Indiana State Fair is celebrating its automotive focused theme, Fun

at the Speed of Summer - Celebrating Indiana’s Automotive Excellence, presented by Tom Wood Automotive Group.

Tickets are currently available to purchase online at IndianaStateFair.com.

Parking recommendations and directions on how to best get to and from the Fair are located at IndianaStateFair.com.

## Stop By Indiana Unclaimed Booth At State Fair

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita is inviting Hoosiers visiting the Indiana State Fair to discover their unclaimed property and learn about the services offered by his office.

“It’s a tradition for many Hoosier families to visit the State Fair and we invite them to stop by our booth and introduce themselves,” Rokita said. “Our booth offers all Hoosiers a chance to interact with our team and learn about the services our office provides them, including the opportunity to search for unclaimed property.”

Team members will be available to assist Hoosiers with unclaimed property searches. Staff will also have information

and tips to help consumers protect themselves from identity theft and other scams.

The Indiana State Fair runs from today to Aug. 21 and is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. The Attorney General’s booth is located in the Agriculture Horticulture Building and will be staffed from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day.

In 2022, Rokita’s office has returned more than \$31 million and still has more than \$700 million to be claimed.

Grab an elephant ear, take a ride on the Ferris wheel, and search for what you may be missing at IndianaUnclaimed.gov or text CLAIM to 46220 to search your name, family, or business.

## Visit DNR At The Indiana State Fair 2022

The Natural Resources Building is the place to be during the Indiana State Fair (IndianaStateFair.com) today through Aug. 21, excluding Mondays and Tuesdays. Natural Resources Building at the Indiana State Fair.

Located in the northwest area of the fairgrounds, the building offers information on all things DNR in air-conditioned comfort. While visiting inside, you can pick up the latest guidebooks on recreation, fishing, and hunting & trapping, along with manuals on boating, off-road vehicles, and much more.

To tie in with this year’s automobile-related fair theme of Fun at the Speed of Summer, many of the DNR displays will



highlight some of the vehicles, machinery, and other tools and gadgets the staff uses on the job.

Outside the building is the Fishin’ Pond, where children ages 5-17 can fish for free on opening day and then Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.,

and 4- 7 p.m. Updates and more can be found at dnr.IN.gov/statefair.

While shopping for outdoors-themed gifts, T-shirts and toys inside the building’s Mother Nature’s Mercantile, you can get an exclusive special deal on Outdoor Indiana magazine that is available only to fair attendees while supplies last. Simply buy a subscription at the cash register, and you will be handed the current July/August issue, highlights of which are at OutdoorIndiana.org. Your one- or two-year subscription (\$15 or \$28, respectively) will start with the September/October issue, so you will be getting one issue free.

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# Women's Legacy Fund Grant Presentation



Photo courtesy of Women's Legacy Fund

The executive board of the Women's Legacy Fund: Cheryl Hughes, Marilyn Spear, Karen Thada, Cathy Caldwell, and Ellen Ball, recently gathered to present checks to provide support for two local non-profit organizations whose projects will help children in Montgomery County. On the left, Cheryl Fuhrmann and Miranda, counselors with Dusk to Dawn Bereavement Services, receive funding for an after-school youth program focused on providing children with valuable social emotional skills, working toward the capability to deal with grief, and will be including components of music and movement. On the right, representing Volunteers for Mental Health, Chasity Surface and Denise Booher Walker, accept matching grant funds for Montgomery County educators to attend a Mental Health First Aid workshop, training educators to recognize youth with mental health crises, how to respond, and identify available resources for youth. The Women's Legacy Fund is administered through the Montgomery County Community Foundation and holds as its primary goal to better the lives of women and children in the Montgomery County community by supporting programming delivered by non-profit organizations. For information about the WLF grants, contact Karen Thada, kthada@sbcglobal.net or Cheryl Keim, cheryl@mccf-in.org, or check the MCF website. These presentations represented a second round of 2022 grants for WLF

## GARDEN From Page A1



Photo courtesy of CGMC

**Tom Meek with his son in front of their garden on the first stop of the Garden Walk**

10 a.m.) love to cook. As new gardeners, they find it especially rewarding to walk out the backdoor to pick a sprig of rosemary or a tomato for a recipe for dinner. It has been a happy surprise to them to experience how gardening connects them with community members, family, and friends alike. Most other differences simply disappear when people share tips about soil or plant species or shade planting. Gardeners commiserate about comical mistakes—"we thought a zucchini plant was an eggplant our first year," notes Tom—and all gardeners rue visits by squirrels and rabbits.

As a young family, Tom and Heidi were first expecting and then welcoming a new baby just as the pandemic began. They found themselves at home, their work patterns either changed or evaporated. This meant their time together expanded: Heidi and Tom resolved to try gardening. They built a garden box and began to explore growing tomatoes and peppers. At the Farmers' Market which they visit "every single week," they had begun to buy and use fresh and local vegetables. They also developed acquaintanceships with experienced gardeners that they could pepper with questions. They jumped in!—and now are in their third year.

Their garden this year might well be called a "pasta garden" as it focuses on peppers, tomatoes, eggplants, and herbs. Come to Tom and Heidi's on Saturday to see how various containers—from a five-gallon bucket to a large raised bed—can be used to start and house a garden. As Tom says, "Now that we have adopted gardening as our [family] hobby, we look toward introducing new fruits and vegetables and maybe making compost. In the future, they plan to introduce more pollinator plants into the mix. Their little son Henry is already well introduced to family gardening. Their special challenge this year is to learn better how to preserve harvests through canning and other preservation techniques.



Photo courtesy of CGMC

**At the second stop, you'll be able to see how Nate and Jackie use their greenhouse and how they make great use of their patio space.**

The second stop is also on West Main Street. This segment begins at 11:05 a.m. and is located at newly-

weds Nate Tompkins and Jackie McDermott's home at 511 W. Main. Nate is new to gardening. He will show visitors what he has in a small space, in pots, in other containers, and along a fence. The Tompkins/McDermott family property has limited sun and they will talk about how they work around that.

After visiting these two gardens, the Garden Walk group will head to Kathy Steele Park to eat lunch (11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.).

After the noon break, the Garden Walk heads on to its third stop at Kathy and Jim Brown's home at 912 W. Wabash Avenue. If you wish to join in for the afternoon portion, join the group at the Browns' garden at 12:25 p.m. On this property, Kathy, a longtime, small-space gardener, will show visitors her raised beds and how she over-winters vegetables in a small greenhouse/cold frame set up. Visitors will get to see what a large number of food varieties can be grown in a small space.

Both Jackie McDermott and her husband Nate Tompkins are transplants to the Midwest. Like their neighbors three blocks up the street (the Meeks/Walsh family), they were glad to find some good Midwest dirt in their new backyard. They too began gardening during the spring of 2020. The nature of their property doesn't leave a lot of available ground for a standard garden so they got creative and put plants primarily in pots, in a couple of raised beds, and began experimenting with growing things vertically up their fence. The couple has planted lots of sunflowers and currently sport a fine vertical stand of them along a brick wall. Nate says what encourages them to garden is really simple: "we like to watch things grow, to see flowers in the yard, and support the pollinators."

Nate and Jackie are excited about connecting with others growing locally through the Garden Walk. Visitors will enjoy and be impressed by the imaginative growing places this family provides for cucumbers, zucchini, eggplant, and sunflowers.



Photos courtesy of CGMC

**At the third stop, you'll see the Browns' asparagus rivaling the fence and their process of curing onions for storage.**

Kathy Brown (3rd Stop at 912 W. Wabash at 12:45 pm) has a job downtown that keeps her very busy interacting with kids and grown ups and otherwise being in the public eye. For her, gardening is a respite, "a relaxing and productive way to wind down," as she notes. Kathy also finds it really satisfying to grow her own produce. She uses her vegetables fresh in the summer, of course, but also really appreciates pulling "bags of vegetables out of the freezer and know[ing] exactly where they came from" during the winter.

When Kathy and her husband Jim bought their first home, Kathy immediately tried some gardening though she first focused on roses and other perennial flowers. When the Browns moved to Crawfordsville in 2003, they built a few raised beds to grow vegetables. When their children were little and needed lots of backyard play space, Jim and Kathy had little time to do "more than dabble." Once the kids grew and swing sets and sandboxes could go away, Kathy began to expand and experiment with food plants.

She currently grows a large variety of vegetables in a relatively small space. One of her big adventures in a little yard has been adding a cold frame. Because of this season extending space, last year they "were able to eat at least a little bit of fresh produce from early March all the way through early January."

Kathy encourages new gardeners to start small, have fun, don't fear experimentation, "take good notes and expect to make mistakes." Gardens and gardeners alike prosper by hands-on learning.



Photos courtesy of CGMC

**At the fourth stop, Dianne Combs has a beautiful garden with a variety of berries.**

Dianne Combs (4th Stop at 1418 W. Market at 1:15 p.m.) has a mother who made sure her daughters knew where their food came from. As a little girl, Dianne was entrusted with a little garden patch next to the backdoor of their house. She felt so important and learned very young how plants, grow, bloom and fruit, and how they should be cared for. Dianne has never looked back and has been gardening all her life, making sure that her three children had gardening experiences like she did. Dianne's big south-facing yard-become-garden testifies to the soil and species health that home gardeners can bring into their own small patches of ground whether the gardens be in a container or two or in a space big enough for fruits and nuts and everything in between. Dianne has been gardening in her current location since 2005.

Dianne will show tour participants her greenhouse and how she is currently working to increase soft fruit and berry crops in the yard even as she continues to expand her collection of native pollinator plants. She grows many edibles too and often mingles vegetables among flowers.

The four gardening families on this first annual Garden Walk sponsored by Community Growers of Montgomery County have various backgrounds and life experiences that have led them to care about putting a spade in the ground or a trowel in a pot.

Please join Community Growers of Montgomery County on Saturday for this chance to learn, connect, and to celebrate gardening, growing, and soil health. Anyone who eats food surely joins Nate Tompkins in expressing gratitude "to all our farmers" who grow our food and keep our soil healthy for the future.

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**TESTIMONY** From Page A1

tion legal. I hope you hear me out, because for a long time I believed differently – I thought it should be illegal. When I was in high school, I even got permission from the principal of my public school to organize a petition to ask our government to make it illegal. I thought that it was a terrible thing in God’s eyes, and I thought it was right and justified to abolish such a terrible thing.

It took years for me to learn that it’s a lot more complicated than that. Eventually, I realized that I was trying to enforce my religious beliefs on others, and in the process, I would be denying women the abilities and benefits that I experience as a man.

Day after day in this country, men turn their backs on pregnancies they helped to cause. They don’t even have to know that it happened. They can deny it. A woman who incurs an accidental pregnancy rarely gets justice from the man who did it, and it’s a difficult fight that many of them don’t want to pursue. To put it another way, a man can abort a baby he conceived just by pretending it’s not his or that it never happened.

When a man gets a woman pregnant, he can make the choice to stay in school, go to college, or pursue his career. He is not forced to put life on hold for 18 years, or even nine months, because despite what our laws may say, he is not forced to be a father. So, I realized a woman should not ever be forced to be a mother either.

Pregnancy also treats men and women unequally, because being pregnant is one of the most dangerous times in a woman’s life. Indiana of all places should know that. Compared to other states, Hoosier mothers face a high mortality rate. I know this personally. If my wife gets pregnant again, it may be her life that is sacrificed because of a law like SB1. She nearly died a few days after the birth of our third child due to post-partum cardiomyopathy. A few

days after birth, she laid in bed at home, lethargic, until she finally asked me to take her pulse - only 26 beats per minute. After rushing to the hospital, I listened to her gurgling as liquid filled her lungs in the emergency room. The doctors saved her life that day, but we were told it would happen again if she got pregnant again. And it would almost definitely be worse. Another example: a good friend of ours endured a torn placenta after birth and nearly bled to death. These are things that a woman may face because of pregnancy, but a man does not have to worry about such concerns.

So, I realized that it was wrong of me to force a woman to potentially give up her education, her profession, her wealth, her time, her wellbeing, her health, and possibly her life, because these are things that men will never be forced to do because of pregnancy. Forced pregnancies would treat men and women unequally under the law. Even if I could force a man to pay alimony, that’s no substitute for everything else that I’d be forcing a woman to sacrifice. It should be her choice to take these risks upon herself and nobody else’s. A law like SB1 would be nothing short of sexual discrimination.

In thinking this over, I also realized what the meaning and purpose of laws are all about. We don’t make laws to tell people right and wrong or what to believe. Laws are to ensure that society is functioning properly, and that we can cohabitate peacefully. Laws are made to help people and to protect us from inadvertent or purposeful harm or consequences that we may inflict on each other. In realizing this, I had to face the fact that abortion doesn’t pass this test. It is an entirely personal decision that has no effect on anyone else.

But lastly, I had to admit to myself the real reasons why I wanted abortion to be illegal, and they were, in fact, religiously based. I claimed that it was a baby

at conception. But now I realized that it’s not a baby, it’s a developing fetus. After having raised three kids of my own, I know that a four month old fetus is nothing at all like a baby.

I used to claim that it was murder, but who is being murdered? The baby has no name, no social security number. It’s not a legally recognized human being. How do you give a fetus an ID when you don’t know even know what it looks like. So, how can a woman who is voluntarily aborting a fetus that entirely depends upon her body be committing murder, especially when the concept of “personhood” is so subjective?

I used to claim that it can feel pain. But then I realized, I don’t even recall my own circumcision. I don’t recall pulling the clothes iron on my head that gave me the scar on my forehead when I was one. I don’t remember having chicken pox when I was two. I frankly don’t remember the first three years of my life? So how could I, in good conscience, claim that a fetus feels pain in any way similar to the conscious, self-aware pain that a woman would have to endure by suffering from an unwanted pregnancy... or the pain and misery that an unwanted child may feel growing up.

All of those things that I used to believe are valid beliefs. But they are only beliefs, and like many of you, my beliefs stemmed from my religious faith. So at the end of my long internal debate, that’s what I really had to admit to myself. I wanted abortion to be illegal because of my religion. And what made that realization worse was that it wasn’t anything in the bible or the scriptures that gave me such instructions. Abortion isn’t discussed in the bible. The point in time when the soul takes residence in the body – if that’s what you believe – is not in the bible. It was the other Christians around me who were telling me that abortion was wrong and should be illegal.

So, with that realization, I understood that I was asking you, our government representatives, to discriminate against people who didn’t believe the same things I did. And that was wrong of me.

The belief that life begins at conception, that God sends a soul down to Earth to inhabit a baby at the first spark that is created in the Mother’s womb, that’s a beautiful idea that shows reverence for life. But it is still a belief. It is a religious belief. And in order to preserve the rights of people to maintain such beliefs or others, that is the very reason why abortion must remain legal. I am asking you not to violate the inalienable rights of people to believe as they will. While some people may see abortion as an abomination in the eyes of God, it is an ugliness that must be left alone by the law in order to preserve the American fundamental belief that freedom of religion is of the highest importance in society.

I ask you to vote “no” to SB1, because religious and sexual discrimination is not who Indiana is.

I didn’t get to give this testimony or ask our senators in person, eye to eye, to avoid legalizing such discrimination. So instead I walked around the massive pro-life crowd and had discussions. I approached people with signs or emblems that indicated their religious beliefs, as well as their support for SB1. While we had meaningful and respectful conversations, it was clear that, despite their statements to the contrary, my religious beliefs were of no concern, and the sexual discrimination inherent in an abortion ban was alright with them. I get it. I used to feel the same way. But I was wrong, and I shouldn’t have put my beliefs above others, at least not through legislation. I only hope that our state senators will feel the same way.

*Brock Ervin is a resident of Crawfordsville and a teacher.*

**BUTCH** From Page A1

the waist, pulling on it as far as possible, and then letting loose so it would hit the victim like a sling-shot...what fun! Another stunt was to sneak up behind someone and pull up on his gym trunks as high as possible to make him look like a dork...or worse, pull his gym trunks down around his knees. This was hilarious when the unsuspecting boy was near a doorway as a girl was walking by...unless YOU were the one they did this to... how embarrassing!

And speaking of those gym trunks, everyone had to wear the required PE outfit...white trunks, white T-shirt, white socks, and white canvas tennis shoes. (Converse high tops were preferred). Yes, a group of teenage nerds. After heading to the gym, we stood around and looked stupid until the PE teacher, who was also the basketball coach, showed up with a clipboard in his hand and a whistle hanging from his neck. "Line up in rows, two arm lengths apart, and get ready for calisthenics!" Oh, what fun! But first he made us run in place and then stretch in a variety of goofy exercises..."one, two, three, four...one, two, three, four" and on and on. Then the hard stuff...push-ups, sit-ups, leg lifts, etc. At the chin-up bar, we had to go one at a time. Some boys couldn't even do one chin-up, and naturally everyone snickered or made snide comments. Then came the really dumb events...like the "crab-walk," piggy-back relay, and wheelbarrow relay. All exhaustive and boring.

Occasionally, the coach divided us into teams for whiffle ball, kickball, volleyball, badminton, etc., but by far the most fun activity was dodgeball. It was always a challenge to throw those red rubber balls and try to hit a moving target. Of course, nosebleeds were common if you were smacked in the face, but considered a sign of valor in this teenage war...Cruel?...maybe, but it did teach you to be quick on your feet. I wonder how many of the slower boys explained to their parents why the word "VOIT" appeared on their bare backs?

A couple of times each year, we had to drag a big mat to the center of the gym for boxing matches. The teacher tried to pair boys up according to height and weight, gave each a pair of boxing gloves, and blew the whistle. We had absolutely no instruction or boxing skills...just attacked each other... swinging, flailing, dodging, and dancing around on the mat for two or three minutes until we were exhausted or someone received an injury. If I had to go up against a friend, then he was no friend while I was in the "ring." If he sustained a black eye or bloody nose...tough luck...it was survival of the fittest! I did witness one boy knocked unconscious once...that was a little scary. We thought he was dead!

Another dangerous exercise was the rope climb. Yes, there was a large rope attached to the gym ceiling. It was approximately 1 1/2-inches in diameter, and we were

told to climb the rope and touch the ceiling. Now, the ceiling was very high...I would say 30-35 feet or so. Some boys just could not do it...too chubby or too weak, and there were others who, when they reached the ceiling, became frightened when they looked down from that height. I will never forget when a classmate of mine reached the top, looked down, and froze. Panic set in. He slid all of the way down, sustained rope burns to his palms, and hit the floor with a THUD!

By the end of the 45-minute period, everyone was tired and sweaty, so off to the dinky shower room we headed. Very dangerous territory. There was always the torture enthusiast who could snap his wet towel like a bullwhip and tag anyone in the rear end or legs in a split second. Then there were the "dutch rub" specialists who paired up, held you down, and ground a bar of soap (preferably Lava) into your skull. Another fun activity consisted of holding a victim down on the floor, and then turning on the ICE COLD water until one's previously red-dish-colored skin turned blue. And although these stunts were physically painful, you could NOT tell the PE teacher for fear of being branded a "tattle-tale," "cry-baby," or "fink" the rest of your school days...better to suffer silently in ignominious defeat.

But these were not the worst things that could happen. The worst... you might ask? Well, let me put it this way...you had to be very vigilant and alert when walking down the hallway from the showers to the locker room. I can't count the times I witnessed older boys grab an unsuspecting victim, snatch his towel away, and shove him NAKED out into the "subway" (the lower hallway in the basement), where girls could look out the door of the home economics classroom and see EVERYTHING! It was always better to stay in the shower too long and be late for the next class than to suffer eternal "hee-haws." A few of the hunted became good friends with an older (or stronger) boy who could protect them from these attackers.

As the clock edged ever closer to the next period's bell, the boys, dripping wet, hurried to towel off, get dressed, and hopefully make it to the next class on time. The entire locker room smelled of sweat, dirty socks, and Ban roll-on.

I was so glad to become a high school junior, when PE was not a required class, although I must admit that when I look back on those days, I always smile. And how did I get revenge for those "wonderful" years in PE class? Yep, I became a Social Studies and Health teacher...and coached...and yes, also I was also a PE instructor..."Boys, line up...it's time for calisthenics... but later on, we'll play dodgeball!"

*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.*

**PURDUE** From Page A1

Typically direct-seeded	Typically Transplanted	Either direct-seeded or transplanted
Turnip	Broccoli	Beet
Radish	Brussels sprouts	Lettuce
Mustard Greens	Cabbage	Spinach
	Collards	
	Green onion	
	Kale	
	Kohlrabi	

Photo courtesy of Tricia Herr

**Cool Season Plants for Late-Summer or Fall Planting (plant at least 4-8 weeks before first fall frost)**

- Late summer plantings mean hotter and sometimes drier soils. Make sure you have adequate soil moisture daily and shading the seeds may be necessary when soil temps are above 85 degrees F.

- The first frost is not something to stress about: lots of vegetables are tolerant to a light and hard frosts. Protect the sensitive plants with covers to

enjoy the typically several weeks of good growing temps that maintain after the first frost.

If you need any more advice on a later summer garden, or learn more about vegetables hardiness to frosts, don't hesitate to reach out to me!

If you are swimming in your current garden crops, you can share your overflow with your local extension educators and

Monica Nagele will give you food preservation tips in exchange.

Upcoming Events:  
July 29: Purdue Student Farm and Small Farms Field Day at Purdue Student Farm West Lafayette, IN

August 25: Clean Sweep at Hendricks County Fairgrounds in Danville, IN

August 25: Montgomery County PARP (2

points) 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. at HHSB Success Center in Crawfordsville, IN

September 8: Digital Ag Field Day: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Purdue ACRE West Lafayette, IN

*Tricia Herr is the Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator for the Montgomery County Purdue Extension Office. She can be reached at triciaherr@purdue.edu .*

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