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**TODAY'S VERSE**

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

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People who call our community their own.



Joe Ellis smiles happily for The Paper while approving membership to the DAV. Thank you for your smile, Joe! Joe Ellis smiles happily for The Paper while approving membership to the DAV. Thank you for your smile, Joe!

**THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** The Crawfordsville Investment Club will meet Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., at the Crawfordsville District Public Library. The program is "High Yield Dow Stocks." The Crawfordsville Investment Club meets for educational purposes only. Visitors are welcome. For more information call (765) 362-2826.

**2** Earlier this week, U.S. Senator Mike Braun and Senator Todd Young introduced resolution on the floor of the U.S. Senate condemning the attack that occurred in Greenwood, Indiana on July 17, 2022, honoring the memory of the victims of the attack, and praising the actions of Elisjsha Dicken who valiantly engaged and thwarted the shooter. "Hoosiers are united in mourning for the victims of the senseless shooting at the Greenwood Mall and grateful for the heroic actions of the Good Samaritan that prevented the shooter from taking more lives. I am proud to recognize 22-year-old Elisjsha Dicken of Seymour, Indiana here on the Senate floor today for defending himself and others in an act of bravery in the face of danger." — Sen. Mike Braun "On July 17, a tragic shooting occurred in my home county at the Greenwood Park Mall, resulting in the deaths of three innocent victims. As we condemn the shooting and continue to grieve the lives lost in this horrific incident, we are thankful for the quick actions taken by Eli Dicken and first responders. There is no doubt that Eli's bravery and decisive actions saved countless lives." — Sen. Todd Young

**3** 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."

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**Athen Arts**



Photo courtesy of Carol Baird

Athen Arts is showing their first featured artist show "Splashing Colors" by member artist Carol Baird. The photo above shows one of two paintings in the show. The artist/gallery reception is August 12 at 6-8 p.m. Athen Arts gallery hours are Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Come check out the new location!

**The Daily Almanac**

**Sunrise/Sunset**  
RISE: 6:49 a.m.  
SET: 8:56 p.m.

**High/Low Temperatures**  
High: 86 °F  
Low: 71 °F

**Today is...**  
• International Beer Day  
• Work Like a Dog Day

**What Happened On This Day**  
• 1962 Nelson Mandela is arrested and jailed  
• 1981 President Reagan fires 11,359 striking air-traffic controllers

**Births On This Day**  
• 1930 Neil Armstrong American pilot, engineer, astronaut, first person to walk on the moon  
• 1968 Marine Le Pen French politician

**Deaths On This Day**  
• 1895 Friedrich Engels German philosopher  
• 1991 Paul Brown American football coach, executive

**Butch Wonders About Those Senior Citizen Moments**

Yes, folks, sakes alive, I'll turn 74 this October. Hard to believe...until I look in the mirror. I feel like I'm 40, and I still work full time and do the same things I did many years ago. My plan is to reach 100 and still have good health and a sharp mind. Perhaps you have the same goal. Age is a state of mind. However, according to various "experts", if you experience any of the following, you may be slipping:  
1. When you fall asleep in your recliner, with your head back and your mouth wide open, does your spouse jiggle your



**BUTCH DALE**  
Columnist

➔ See BUTCH Page A6

**Surprise! Heeere's Shelle**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** As the headline noted, Shelle Norman is Butch Dale's daughter. She decided to surprise her dad with a column of her own that shares some insights on one of The Paper's most popular columnists.

"A father holds his daughter's hand for a short while, but he holds her heart forever" -unknown.

Many of you read my dad's column every week and get a glimpse into what his childhood was like growing up in the small town of Darlington, Indiana. You laugh at his stories of being a mischievous little boy, and you agree (or disagree)

➔ See SHELLE Page A6



**HONEST HOOSIER**

Don't you hate it when people answer their own questions? I sure do.



**TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

Consider sitting on an exercise ball instead of a chair - it helps your balance and keeps you more alert. 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.



**INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION**

Obituaries.....A2  
Dick Wolfsie.....A4  
Ken Thompson.....A3  
Classifieds.....A3

**THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

**Join The Team**

Looking for a part-time job that does not involve the words: Would You Like Fries With That? The Paper of Montgomery County offers jobs that include pagination and page design, basic clerical and even some photography and writing. We're looking for bright and eager people to join our winning team! This could be the perfect job for part-time students all the way up to Baby Boomers looking for something to do. Let us know you are interested by sending an e-mail with your resume and a note telling us what you love about newspapers to jobs@thepaper24-7.com.

**TODAY'S QUOTE**

"August rain; the best of the summer gone, and the new fall not yet born. The odd uneven time."  
Sylvia Plath

**TODAY'S JOKE**

Can't get everyone to show up for the family meeting? Turn off the wi-fi and watch how quick they come running!

**OBITUARIES**  
Russell Howard Ruby, Jr

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



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**13 WTHR** **7 DAY FORECAST**

71/86 AFTERNOON STORMS FRI	71/90 HOT & HUMID, STRAY STORMS SAT	73/90 HOT & HUMID, STRAY STORMS SUN	73/88 HOT WITH LATE DRY STORMS MON	65/79 CLEARING, MORE COMFY TUE	59/79 HUMID AND PLEASANT WED	60/81 MICE THU
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## OBITUARIES

**Russell Howard Ruby, Jr**  
April 15, 1936 - Aug. 2, 2022

We remember the Father, the man, and the educator as we mourn his passing on Aug. 2, 2022. He was in his home and was surrounded by his family when God called him.

We celebrate the life of Russell Howard Ruby, Jr., Son of Russell Sr., and Ethel (Smyers) Ruby, born in Hamlet, Ind. on April 15, 1936.

His early life had his family moving to Walkerton, Ind. in 1942 where he would enter Walkerton Public Schools and devote his life to music. He began his musical career in the 5th grade with the Clarinet. When he entered the 8th grade, the band director asked if he would learn to play the Oboe, a question that launched his 40+ year career. Studying music at Indiana State University in Oboe, English Horn and Saxophone he received a Bachelors and Masters Degrees in music education.

During his tenure at ISU, he earned the distinction of outstanding freshman music student, principal Oboist/English Horn with the Terre Haute Symphony, elected Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia music fraternity and culminated his four years at ISU being awarded the Harold Bright Senior Band Key as well as being selected by the faculty as outstanding senior music student.

In his music teaching career, he taught with an emphasis on Bands in public schools starting in LaPaz, Ind., moving to Penn High School and their elementary band feeder programs, then to Bremen Public Schools, and finally spending the last 17 teaching years in Crawfordsville Community Schools as Director of Bands and its feeder program. He led the Crawfordsville High School Band to multiple awards in concert performance and marching band competitions. He taught community responsibility through music by having his band students participate in every community function requested by the City of Crawfordsville or Montgomery County.

After retiring from education, he stayed active in music and education by serving as an adjudicator for the Indiana State Music Association, keeping in contact with the local students, attending school events, and regularly corresponding with State Legislators concerning the educational legislation of Indiana.

He was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Crawfordsville where he found time to be a volunteer choral director, member of the adult choir and member of the music committee. He served as Lay Member to the Annual Conference for several years, chaired the local church Administrative Board and volunteered as requested for any committee.

His new church The First Christian Church in Crawfordsville found him active in the choir and having the teacher become the student, as he learned how music can be performed virtually! He found a home amongst the people of First Christian Church as they represent the community, he had been serving for over 40 years.

Service to the community is a hallmark of Mr. Ruby. Executing the duties as the President of the New Jail Bonding Committee for Montgomery County for 18 years, while concurrently participating in the Montgomery County Civic Band, Community Chorus, singing with Crescendo Group, and serving as an Observer for the League of Women's Voters of Montgomery County was just a few examples of his community service.

In retirement, he owned and operated Blue Ribbon Enterprises, making satin award ribbons for athletics, groups, churches, international organizations, art, for local and national organizations. Blue Ribbon Enterprises manufactured over 150,000 ribbons per year, each by his hand (no automation), for distribution across the State of Indiana, United States, and every so often internationally. He often reminded people that during life they do not retire, they just "recycle".

He is survived by Sandra Kay (Kelch), of whom he married 60 years ago in 1962 at Gessie, Ind.; as well as their two sons, Mark Allen (Deanna) and Brian Lee (Swarin "Nina"); four grandchildren Krista (Coleman), Heather (Alzman), Chanya, and Pitchaya; and one great grandchild, Vincent (Coleman).

The family will receive guests at First Christian Church, 211 S. Walnut Street, on Saturday, Aug. 6 from 10 a.m. - Noon. A service to celebrate his life will be held immediately after the visitation.

Memorial donations may be made to the Montgomery County Civic Band, P.O. Box 719, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 or the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration, 2700 Horizon Drive, Suite 120, King of Prussia, PA 19406 or at www.theaftd.org/



## Senator Mike Braun Calls For Maximum Penalties For Criminals Who Target Cops

Following the tragic murder of an Elwood police officer by a career criminal who had previously shot at police, Senator Mike Braun is restating his support for strengthening penalties for criminals who target police. Senator Braun has been an original cosponsor of the Thin Blue Line Act since his first year in office.

Carl Boards II, who shot and killed an Elwood police officer on Sunday, had previously been convicted of criminal recklessness (and other lesser charges) after shooting at Indianapolis police during a pursuit in 2006, striking the police cruiser mul-



Senator Mike Braun

multiple times. Boards was sentenced to 25 years in prison, but was released after 13 years.

The Thin Blue Line Act makes the targeting, killing, or attempted killing of a police officer an aggravating factor in favor of maximum sentences. Currently this

only applies to federal law enforcement; the Thin Blue Line Act would apply this to local and state police as well.

"The career criminal who killed an Elwood officer also tried to kill Indy cops 16 years ago, and should have paid a stiffer price. If you try to kill a police officer, you should pay the highest price possible. I support making the targeting of police in a violent crime an aggravating factor in favor of the harshest penalties available." - Senator Mike Braun

About Thin Blue Line Act:

- When a jury in a federal case considers whether to impose the

death penalty, the jury must consider certain "aggravating" factors.

- Current law states that if the murder victim is a federal law enforcement officer or federal prosecutor, this fact shall weigh as an aggravating factor in favor of the maximum penalty.

- The Thin Blue Line Act provides the same level of justice to local law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and first responders.

- It also enhances the penalty when a defendant targets a law enforcement officer, prosecutor, or first responder solely because that individual has chosen to protect and serve.

## Military Family Relief Fund Back To School Program

The Military Family Relief Fund Back to School Program is designed to assist veterans and their families that are experiencing financial hardship. This special program can assist qualified veterans with essential school expenses for the children that reside in their homes. The assistance amount would be \$500.00 per child residing in the veteran's household.

This program began on July 1, 2022, and end on Sept. 15, 2022. Any applications received after 4 p.m. on Sept. 15 cannot be processed. Any applications that are not

complete at 4 p.m. Sept. 15 will be closed.

The veteran must have an honorable, under honorable conditions, or certain other than honorable discharges.

The household income cannot exceed 2 times the US federal poverty guidelines.

An eligible child shall be under 18 years of age at the time of the application, or the child is 18 years of age and still enrolled in high school or a high school equivalently program.

Please note, if you have received a previous award, the maximum lifetime amount an applicant

may receive from the fund is two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00), unless a higher amount is approved by the commission.

Required Documents Checklist:

- Application: General Information form and Grant Request
- W9 (must have handwritten signature), Direct Deposit Form (must have handwritten signature)
- Proof that children reside with veteran. See list of accepted residency documents on grant request form
- DD214 that shows the type of discharge
- First page of the most

current bank statement for all accounts you own, showing account balance

- Evidence of income for applicant and spouse (2 weeks of most current pay stubs, VA compensation, Social Security, retirement, unemployment, etc.)

Send completed applications to:

Mail to: Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs  
Attn: Military Family Relief Fund  
777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Fax to: 317-232-7721  
Email to: MFRF@dva.IN.gov

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that on June 27, 2022, Cecil Gill filed with the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners a Petition to Vacate a portion 178' west of Lee Street in Linnburg, Indiana. A copy of this petition is available for public inspection at the office of the Auditor, Montgomery County Courthouse, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday and at www.montgomerycounty.in.gov.

On Monday, August 22, 2022 @ 8:00 am the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners will conduct a hearing at the Montgomery County Government Center, 1580 Constitution Row - Suite E, Crawfordsville, IN in order to receive public comment on the vacation of a portion 178' west of Lee Street in Linnburg, IN and to determine the public utility of vacating the road as requested. The public is invited to attend the hearing and to comment on the proposed request.

Jennifer Andel, Montgomery County Auditor  
PL4438 8/5 It hspaxlp

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# The Case For Cecil Isbell's Induction Into The Pro Football Hall Of Fame

It is almost a certainty that Drew Brees will be elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame the first year he is eligible in 2026.

However, there's a chance he won't be the third Purdue passing star to be enshrined at Canton, Ohio.

Long before Len Dawson and Bob Griese started their paths toward NFL immortality, there was Cecil Isbell.

Isbell, who starred for the Boilermakers from 1935 to 1937, is one of 12 senior committee finalists on the 2022 Hall of Fame ballot. Three of the 12 will eventually reach the voting stage for election from the Hall of Fame's full selection panel.

Technically, Isbell wasn't a quarterback at Purdue or for the Green Bay Packers from 1938 to 1942. But his passing exploits as a halfback in Curly Lambeau's Notre Dame-style box offense earned Isbell a place on the NFL's All-Decade Team of the 1930s.

Longevity, or lack thereof, has played a big role in keeping Isbell out of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. As writer Cliff Christi points out in Isbell's Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame biography, Isbell was more decorated during his five-year NFL career than the legendary Sammy Baugh.

This is the same Baugh who was one of the quarterbacks on the NFL's 100-year anniversary team. The same Baugh who somehow was selected ahead of the record-setting Brees on that honor squad.

Isbell was the All-Pro Team passer in each of his final three seasons



**KENNY THOMPSON**  
Columnist

(1940-42). He retired with the record for most consecutive games with a touchdown pass (23), a mark that stood until the late 1950s when surpassed by Johnny Unitas with 47. Brees now holds the NFL record at 54.

No Packers quarterback threw more touchdown passes in consecutive games until 2003, when Brett Favre did it.

Here's an excerpt from Christi's profile of Isbell.

"His rookie year, Isbell finished fourth in the NFL in rushing and fifth in passing. By the eighth game of that season he had made such an impression that Chicago Bears coach George Halas declared Isbell was a better passer than his predecessor. Lambeau thought so, too, because the man Isbell replaced - Arnie Herber - was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1966.

"Arnie Herber is just a passer," Halas said. "... But this Isbell is a passer, kicker, runner and a line bucker... Green Bay's attack is three times more potent now than it has been in recent years and the answer is Isbell."

The next season, Green Bay won its fifth NFL championship, with Isbell rushing for 407 yards and passing for 749.

In 1942, Isbell became the first player in NFL history to pass for more

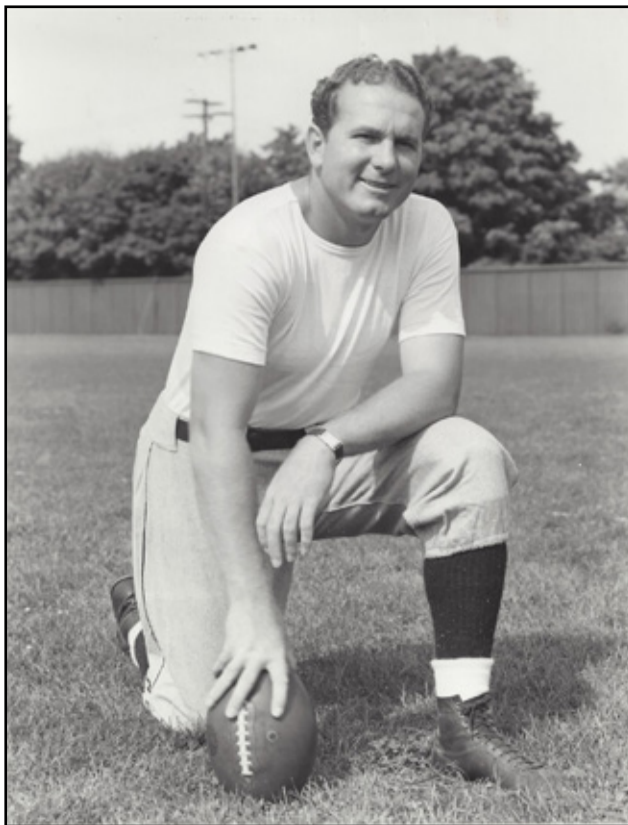


Photo courtesy of Purdue Athletics

## Cecil Isbell

than 2,000 yards in a season. At that point, Isbell's 2,021 yards were nearly 500 more than Baugh's career high at the time.

Isbell was at his peak in 1942, setting the NFL record for career touchdown passes (59) and the single-season mark of 24.

"Isbell was a master at any range - short, medium or long," Lambeau, the Packers' co-founder and longtime coach, said in 1945 when asked to name the greatest passer ever. "He could throw soft passes, bullet ones or feathery lobs. He's the best with Sid Luckman of the Bears a close second and Sammy Baugh a long third."

Isbell played 54 games with the Packers. To put that total in perspective, Chicago Bears great Gale Sayers' Pro Football Hall of Fame career lasted 68

games.

Today, it would be shocking news for one of the NFL's top quarterbacks to walk away at age 27. Colts fans recall with sadness and fury the premature retirement of Andrew Luck at age 29.

Purdue hired Isbell as backfield coach on July 15, 1943. At the time, no explanation was given as to why Isbell retired from the NFL. Later, Isbell reportedly said watching teammates like Herber being told they were through in Green Bay was difficult.

"I vowed it would never happen to me," Isbell said.

After helping Purdue go 9-0 in 1943, Isbell was promoted to head coach when Elmer Burnham departed for the University of Rochester.

Isbell lasted three seasons as head coach,

long enough to recruit and tutor Bob DeMoss, the pioneer of Purdue's Cradle of Quarterbacks.

Almost 20 years later, Isbell played a key role in developing Bob Griese into a championship quarterback. Griese's odd throwing motion confounded DeMoss and nearly led to Griese playing defensive back instead.

"The ball got there but it didn't spiral very well," DeMoss recalled. "We were trying to figure out what the devil was wrong with him and we finally got it figured out with the help of Cecil Isbell."

DeMoss showed film of Griese to his mentor, who only needed to see a couple of plays.

"Here's what's wrong with him," Isbell said. "He's not turning his wrist out."

DeMoss put Griese in front of a mirror and showed him the correct passing motion. After practicing all summer in his hometown of Evansville, Griese came back as a sophomore to claim the starting quarterback job.

"The rest is history," DeMoss said.

Isbell passed away June 23, 1985 at age 69. He is buried at Grand View Cemetery in West Lafayette, just a few miles from Ross-Ade Stadium.

End of an era  
Ryan Kerrigan may or may not have a chance at election to the Pro Football Hall of Fame beginning five years from now.

The former Purdue All-American defensive end signed a one-day contract last week to retire as a member of the Washington Command-

ers.

Before spending his 11th and final NFL season with the Philadelphia Eagles, Kerrigan had set Washington's career sacks record at 95.5. Playing for a dysfunctional, mostly losing organization Kerrigan more than lived up to his promise as a first-round draft pick in 2011.

Overshadowed his entire career by media favorite J.J. Watt, Kerrigan was more durable (172 games to Watt's 135 and only 6.5 fewer sacks). Incredibly, Kerrigan made 139 consecutive starts for Washington.

"I just want people to know that they got all of me," Kerrigan told Commanders.com writer Zach Selby. "I don't have any more, physically or emotionally, to give as a player. I put my whole life into being a football player."

Kerrigan was a four-time Pro Bowl selection, including three consecutive seasons from 2016-18.

The Muncie native was elected to the Purdue Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame in 2019. As a Boilermaker, Kerrigan was a unanimous All-American, Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year and Smith-Brown Defensive Lineman of the Year in 2010. He matched the NCAA career record with 14 forced fumbles, leading the NCAA with seven in 2009.

*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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# Biden Administration Announces \$725M In Funding From Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

The Department of the Interior announced that nearly \$725 million from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is available to 22 states and the Navajo Nation, including over \$24.5 million for the state of Indiana. These funds are aimed at creating good-paying union jobs and catalyze economic opportunity in coal communities by reclaiming abandoned mine lands (AML). The Notice of Funding Opportunity opened yesterday and follows the release of final guidance for how eligible states and Tribes can apply for the historic funding.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law allocates nearly a total of \$11.3 billion in AML funding over 15 years, which will help communities eliminate dangerous environmental conditions and pollution caused by past coal mining. This funding is expected to address the vast majority of inventoried abandoned mine

lands in this country and prioritize jobs for current and former coal industry workers.

"President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law delivers the largest investment in cleaning up abandoned mine lands in history. Through this program, we are investing in coal communities through job creation -- including for current and former coal workers -- and economic revitalization, all while addressing harmful environmental impacts from these legacy developments," said Secretary Deb Haaland. "We encourage all eligible states and Tribes to apply for this funding so we can reduce hazardous pollution and toxic water levels that continue to impact our communities."

The funding opportunity advances the Biden-Harris administration's unprecedented investments in coal, oil and gas, and power plant communities and workers, including through the Interagency

Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization. This effort also advances the President's Justice40 Initiative, which commits to delivering 40 percent of the benefits of certain climate and clean energy investments to disadvantaged communities.

AML reclamation projects support vitally needed jobs by investing in projects that close dangerous mine shafts, reclaim unstable slopes, prevent releases of harmful gases, including methane, improve water quality by treating acid mine drainage, and restore water supplies damaged by mining. AML reclamation projects also enable economic revitalization by rehabilitating hazardous land so that it can be used for recreational facilities or other economic redevelopment uses like advanced manufacturing and renewable energy deployment.

States and Tribes that apply for the funding

should:

- Prioritize projects that invest in disadvantaged communities consistent with the President's Justice40 Initiative;
  - Incorporate public review and comment into the selection of projects to be funded;
  - Consider prioritizing projects in a manner that maximizes the amount of methane emissions that can be reduced; and
  - Prioritize the employment of current and former coal industry workers, among other provisions.
- Applications for the fiscal year 2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law AML funds must be submitted by eligible states and Tribal AML programs on Grant Solution's website no later than March 31, 2023. States and Tribes are not required to complete the AML Reclamation Plan update, review and approval process as a prerequisite to receiving these funds.

# I've Got A Running Total

"Where are you?" asked my wife when she called me on my cell phone one afternoon.

"I'm in Walmart," I answered.

"Oh. Are you running errands?"

"No, just running...or jogging, to be more precise. Running in the aisles is not permitted. I just heard a mother say that to her kid."

"Why are you doing that in Walmart?"

At the time, I was not in the mood for a lengthy explanation, but here's the gist of it. It was 92 degrees outside—far too hot to exercise. I had considered going to Costco, but I forgot to bring my membership card and there are too many stations along the aisles to sample food, which kind of defeats the point of exercising.

"Are you doing any shopping at all?" Mary Ellen asked.

"Oh, yes, over my right arm I have three T-shirts and I bought some hangers for my closet, which are in my left hand. I hadn't planned on buying anything, which is why I didn't take a cart. And this way I can go faster, although increasing my speed makes me look like a shoplifter."

I figured out that going a full lap around the store's perimeter is close to 1,000 steps, or about a half mile, but going up and down each aisle, I could easily log a full mile. After a while, I stopped to rest, because I was breathing heavily. I realized I shouldn't have taken my break in the lingerie department when I saw moms whisking their kids as far away from me as possible.

My jog was enjoyable. I began in produce and trotted through the meat department where they had a good deal on ground turkey. I took a trip through the pharmacy. Then I zoomed through electronics, sped past Tire and Auto and toddled by the toy department. I picked up speed in the candy section to avoid temptation. I muscled my way through



**DICK WOLFSIE**  
Funny Bone

sporting goods and when I got to the cat food shelves, people were in the aisle sharing Instagram photos of their kitties. I slinked my way around them.

After circling the store three times, a security guard came up to me. "What are you up to, Sir?"

"About four miles an hour," I bragged. Didn't even get a smile from him.

This reminded me of a time at the old L.S. Ayres when I bought a dinner jacket for a cruise my wife and I were planning. The clerk forgot to remove the security lock from the garment. When I left the store, the alarms went crazy.

"Where do you think you are going with that coat?" asked a security guard.

"Alaska," I told him. Apparently, my comeback wasn't funny then, either. Maybe it was the same guard.

Toward the end of my workout, I overheard several of the employees on the sales floor talking about me. I considered hiding in a dressing room, but I wanted to reach my 15,000 steps and I am not good at running in place.

When I got to the check-out counter, the cashier said I owed \$26.50, but my T-shirts and hangers should have only amounted to \$22.00. "What's the additional charge?" I asked the cashier.

"Mileage," she told me.

*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.*

# Young Votes For PACT Act To Support Veterans

Senator Todd Young on Tuesday issued the following statement after voting for the Honoring Our PACT Act, comprehensive legislation to provide toxic-exposed veterans with health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):



Senator Todd Young

"I am committed to ensuring that our veterans have access to the care they have earned, which is why I voted for this important bill. The PACT Act will provide new and important benefits to thousands of veterans who have been exposed to toxic substances. The bill also includes authorization

for a new medical lease in Lawrence, Indiana, which will help our Hoosier veterans receive better service.

"While I support this bill, I am disappointed that Senate Democrats rejected an amendment to fix a budget gimmick

issue included in the legislation. I voted for an amendment to fix this issue, because I believe this fix would help ensure the PACT Act's ultimate success.

"When this bill becomes law, oversight will be essential. We must not allow the presumptions of exposure that are extended under this legislation to overwhelm the VA system. The VA must be provided with the resources necessary to prevent any veteran covered under this legislation from waiting for care," said Senator Young.

The legislation passed the Senate 86 to 11. The

bipartisan legislation will expand health care for post-9/11 combat veterans, create a framework for the establishment of future presumptions of service connection related to toxic exposure, expand the VA's list of service presumptions, and improve resources to support VA's claims processing.

Senator Young previously voted for this bill in June. Due to technical errors in the version he voted for and the Senate passed in June, the bill had to be approved again by Congress, allowing for an opportunity to improve the bill via amendments.

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# Kansans Got To Decide On Abortion; What Does It Mean For Hoosiers?

By: Casey Smith

Indiana lawmakers have a new political calculus to consider after Kansans voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to keep abortion protections in their state's constitution.

Roughly 60% of voters in Kansas rejected a proposed constitutional amendment that would have removed language that guarantees reproductive rights. It would have also put the issue of abortion in the hands of the state's legislature. The Midwestern state is largely dominated by Republicans, similar to Indiana.

Indiana voters are unlikely to see a ballot measure affecting abortion laws, however.

Instead, Hoosier lawmakers are slated to choose if the state's current abortion law, which allows the procedure up to 20 weeks gestation, should stay in place. It's already a contentious debate — now made "even more complicated" by the Kansas decision, said Andy Downs, a former political science professor at Purdue University Fort Wayne.

"I would be willing to bet the discussions that are going on right now will be a little bit different today than they were (before the Kansas vote) because there will be people who will say, 'Kansas is a frigging Republican, conservative state, and two thirds said we shouldn't be doing this,'" Downs said.

The question, he continued, is whether the General Assembly will seek to match the direction taken by Kansas — "a comparable state" — or if lawmakers will view the issue as one specific to Indiana, needing a "Hoosier-specific" response.

The Indiana Senate last week passed a Republican-backed bill banning virtually all abortions, with few exceptions. The House is expected to vote on the measure as early as Friday during a special legislative session.

What the Kansas vote could mean for Indiana

Downs said the Kansas decision "may actually influence" some of the more conservative members of Indiana's Republican Party, making the future of Indiana's proposed abortion ban more uncertain.

"Folks who are sort of borderline Libertarian might be inclined to say, 'Wait a minute, why are we getting into the business of people when we're the government, we're the party of small government. We want them out of people's business,'" Downs said. "And that could result in some sort of change in legislation."

How safe lawmakers consider their seats to be could also be part of their "calculation," Downs said. But the "vast majority" of GOP seats are unlikely to be lost

to Democrats. Instead, challenges from the right are more likely.

While some Republican lawmakers in the supermajority will see Democrats challengers use their voting records on abortion-restricting legislation against them, the supermajority is unlikely to lose its hold.

That's even despite a highly-guarded poll conducted by the House and Senate GOP campaign committees that indicates Hoosiers don't want a near-virtual ban on abortion.

"You could lose a few seats and still be a pretty sizable majority," he said. "And let's face it — at this point, so many people doubt the validity of polling. It will not be at all unusual for people to say, 'Who cares what the poll says?'"

The full House is scheduled to take up amendments on the bill on Thursday. Indiana lawmakers have remained hushed about what additional changes could be made.

"I think it's important for us to consider what did happen in Kansas. Absolutely," said Rep. Sharon Negele, R-Attica. She was the only lawmaker to field questions from the Indiana Capital Chronicle on Wednesday about the decision in Kansas.

Hoosier lawmakers opposed to a ballot question

The only type of legally binding statewide referendum allowed in Indiana is to change the state's constitution.

Rep. Vaneta Becker, R-Evansville, and Sen. Greg Taylor, D-Indianapolis filed amendments to the abortion bill that would have put a non-binding question on the ballot, but neither were successful.

Taylor's proposed ballot question sought to ask voters "Shall abortion remain legal in Indiana?" Senators voted down the proposal in a 13-33 vote on Saturday. Sen. Kyle Walker, R-Lawrence, and Becker voted yes with Democrats.

"(Republicans) don't want to hear from you. They don't want to hear from Hoosiers across the state of Indiana who know that bodily autonomy is just the first step in taking away some of our constitutional rights," Taylor said.

Becker's version of the ballot question would have asked "Shall access to reproductive health care, including abortions, be provided by Indiana law?" Her amendment was never heard on the Senate floor.

Abortion bill author Sen. Susan Glick, R-LaGrange, said if the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade had come down earlier, the GOP caucus might have given a ballot option more consideration.

"We discussed that, to be honest with you," Glick said. "But it is very difficult to get some of

these issues framed up and put on the ballot."

Downs said he is "unsure" how an abortion-related referendum would meet the criteria necessary under Indiana law, other than through a proposed state constitutional amendment.

Two separately-elected legislatures are required to approve a constitutional amendment before it can be placed on the Indiana ballot for a vote.

Indiana lawmakers last attempted to put a referendum on the ballot when Republicans tried to ask Hoosiers if same-sex marriage should be banned. After successfully passing a bill in 2011 to ban same-sex marriage and civil unions, lawmakers took up the issue again in 2013, but they were unable to find consensus on the measure.

Senate President Pro Tempore Rodric Bray, R-Martinsville, said even if the legislature jumped through the necessary hoops, he "cannot imagine how you would put (abortion matters) successfully on a ballot," given "the nuance of this issue."

The Senate leader questioned how a question would even be crafted: "Could you say 'Should abortion be legal? Should abortion be illegal for the first trimester? Should abortion be legal, with the exception of the life of the mother, or the life and the health of the mother, or the life and health of the mother and rape and incest?'"

Glick also raised concerns about the delay caused by a ballot referendum. Because lawmakers wouldn't be able to get a ballot question by the midterm election in November, the next chance to get voter insight wouldn't be until 2024.

"Generally speaking, it is a representative government that we have, and it's our job to determine and communicate with our constituents and make decisions based upon that," Bray said. "Usually, I think that responsibility is to be with us to make those decisions, and we're accountable to our constituents, and they ... decide whether we stay or whether we go."

Indiana legislators have rarely allowed Hoosiers to speak on ballot questions. In 2008, lawmakers eliminated most of the state's township assessors but allowed voters in the largest townships to decide if they wanted to keep the office.

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## BUTCH

From Page A1

arm to see if you're dead?

2. Are the names in your "little black book" mostly doctors?

3. Have you ever knocked on wood for good luck...and then answered the door?

4. When choosing breakfast cereal at the grocery, do you first look at the side label to check the fiber content?

5. Does your back go out more than you do?

6. What is the first thing you do in the morning? Drink a cup of coffee to get your brain working? And then do you smile...and get it over with...so you can be grouchy the rest of the day?

7. After your doctor gives you a mammogram, does he make you promise to never appear in a topless film?

8. Do you get a queasy sensation from going too fast in a rocking chair?

9. Do you tell friends you aren't bald...that you just have flesh-colored hair?

ored hair?

10. Do your kids start visiting more and doing lots of nice things for you...and then nonchalantly ask if you have a will made up yet?

11. When you are cleaning out your ears with a Q-Tip and discover a Preparation H suppository, do you then realize where you put your hearing aid?

And then there are the FINAL signs...

12. Does your spouse insist that you both go out to eat at a nice restaurant twice a week...for companionship, good food, and a little wine...and you agree...and then she goes on Tuesdays and you go on Fridays?

13. When your wife makes a batch of cookies and you start to grab one, does she smack you on the hand and say, "Stay out of those, we are serving those at your funeral!"?

14. Your doctor receives the results of

your tests. Does he inform you that you don't have much time left? So you ask him how long you've got...and he replies, "Ten." To which you reply, "Ten what? Months? Weeks? Days?" And your doctor continues, "Ten, Nine, Eight, Seven, Six...."

My wife has asked me, "If I pass away before you, are you going to get married again?" "Probably not, dear... but if I do, what would you think if I married a 25-year old sexy-looking beauty queen?" And she replied, "Well, at your age that could be fatal."

I smiled and said, "Well, if my new bride dies, she dies."

Yes, I was joking. My wife did not think that was funny. OOPS!

*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.*

## SHELLE

From Page A1

with his political humor. However, being his only daughter, have you ever wondered what it was like to have Butch as a father? Well, let me tell you a few of my OWN stories, and you can form your own opinion.

I will start by saying that I hit the jackpot in the parent department; I could not ask for two better parents, and they have shaped me into the person I am today. That may sound cliché, but it's true. However, I never said that they shaped me into a NORMAL person, and the majority of my craziness can be attributed to my dad.

For instance, I am terrified of airplanes, and I blame my dear old dad. The first time I ever flew, Dad comforted me the day before the flight by saying, "Gosh, I hope the plane doesn't crash. That would be terrible!" Gee, thanks Dad! I am also deathly afraid of bridges, especially the large ones that are built over bodies of water! I blame Dad for this fear, too. When we were little, Mom and Dad would occasionally take us to the Thorntown Dairy Queen for ice cream, and there was a rickety old iron bridge that we had to cross to get there. Dad would stop in the middle of the bridge and say, "Gosh, this bridge could fall in ANY minute!" I would sit in the back seat, terrified of falling into the creek below. Again, THANKS DAD! Don't even get me started on his storytelling - he loved to scare me with his own rendition of "The Monkey's Paw,"

and he was famous for his reciting of "Little Orphan Annie" by James Whitcomb Riley. I guess this was his way of making me want to behave, and it worked! For years, I was terrified of goblins getting me if I didn't watch out!

Now don't get me wrong, Dad didn't spend ALL of his time thinking of ways to scare me and make me paranoid. He also instilled in me great values such as the importance of saving money and not allowing things to go to waste. For instance, I can't tell you how many times he would instruct us kids to only run an inch of water in the bathtub - no need to waste it! You have no idea how many times I heard his stories of how meager his Christmas haulings were as a kid - one year he supposedly only received toothpaste and socks. Poor Dad! And if I heard it once, I heard it a thousand times: "Turn off the lights when you leave the room!" Even though he was a stickler for saving money and conserving energy, we never seemed to do without the things we coveted.

There was never a shortage of love in our home, and Dad always provided us with what we needed. We had the BEST Christmas presents each year; when Cabbage Patch Kids were all the rage, I received TWO of them! I know it wasn't easy for him to find those dolls, but he found a way to do it. He even bought me a 1979 Corvette for my first vehicle! I know that wasn't easy for him

to do, but he wanted to give me the world! Dad worked two jobs during most of my childhood years - police officer by night and librarian by day - so he sometimes couldn't attend my sporting events or other activities. I remember one year when he showed up to the 4H fairgrounds in his police uniform to watch me show my pigs - it was like the President himself (Republican, of course) had come! Other kids took for granted that their parents would be at their events, but I didn't. I loved it when Dad came to watch me because I knew that it wasn't easy for him to do.

So what is it like to be Butch's daughter? It quite possibly might be the best thing in the whole world. My dad is and always will be my hero, and I still ask him for advice to this day. My dad will always have my back - he is the one who convinced me to go to college at the age of twenty-one, become a teacher-now-librarian, and follow all of my dreams. Thanks, Dad, for always being my number one fan. I may be scared of flying and bridges, and I may have sworn off baths forever (only showers for me, thank you very much), but I will never question how much you love me. You held my hand when I was a youngster, but I know that you will always hold my heart. The goblins haven't gotten me yet, so I must be doing something right. I have you and Mom to thank for that!



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