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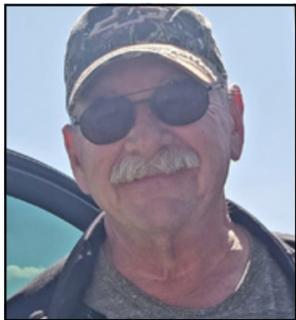
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TODAY'S VERSE

Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Donald Carson gives a happy smile for The Paper after a pleasant breakfast on a beautiful morning. Thank you for your smile, Mr Carson!

THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 Richard and Suzanne Gilson bought their cottage in Wildwood, NJ about four years ago and have been hard at work fixing it up all this time, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. They were turning the ground in their front yard recently and came across what they thought were weeds. Instead, what they dug up were bundles of cash -- \$2,000 worth of the paper money. The cash was dated 1934 when \$2,000 had the buying power of about \$40,000 today. They tracked down the granddaughter of the folks who owned the house back then who explained that her grandfather told her mother to bury the loot as a precaution. The Gilsons have decided not to spend the dough; it has more value today as a memento, they say.

2 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.

3 Looking for an early start to those wonderful fall festivals? Then consider heading over to Hillsboro's Homecoming on Saturday 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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OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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Splashing Colors



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 today 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: 6:56 a.m.
SET: 8:48 p.m.

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

Today is...
• Middle Child Day
• Baseball Fans Day

What Happened On This Day
• 1990 The largest dinosaur fossil is found
• 1981 The IBM Personal Computer is stocked in stores for the first time

Births On This Day
• 1990 Mario Balotelli Italian footballer
• 1983 Klaas-Jan Huntelaar Dutch footballer

Deaths On This Day
• 1992 John Cage American composer
• 1982 Henry Fonda American actor, singer, producer

Butch's Random Thoughts, Observations, And Questions ...



BUTCH DALE
Columnist

First...on the national scene...OK, what about Donald Trump? Is he a criminal? Or was he set up AGAIN by the DOJ and deep state? I guess we'll find out...eventually. To

be honest, I never liked Trump, but I voted for him in 2016. There was no way I could have voted for Hillary, one of the most conniving and corrupt politicians in U.S. history, in my opinion. And yes, I would definitely vote for a woman for President. Women have more common sense than most men. Condoleezza Rice, Tulsi Gabbard, and Kristi Noem come to mind. Now what about poor Bill Clinton? How would you like to wake up every morning and see Hillary's mug? No wonder he had hundreds of

➔ See BUTCH Page A6

Enjoy The Summer Harvest

Summer time in Indiana offers colorful, tasty and fresh produce that you can't get any other time of year. Many people have grown gardens and have more than they know what to do with. Maybe you're the lucky recipient of extra produce or you're the one trying to off-load the produce. Let's think of some ways we can use this produce without increasing our food waste.

Lots of times we have tried vegetables one way and don't care for them, so we decide we shouldn't eat them anymore, but sometimes it takes multiple ways to try a food before you learn to like it. Let's take beans, zucchini and spinach for exam-

ple. These are 3 vegetables that many people tell me they don't care for. However, when we chop them and mix them with seasonings and stick them in a tortilla to make a quesadilla they suddenly become vegetables that many can't resist.

If you have children, this could be a great time of year to introduce them to new foods. These fruits and vegetables



MONICA NAGELE
Purdue Extension Office



➔ See PURDUE Page A6

HONEST HOOSIER

Here we are, two and a half months until Halloween, and some places have been advertising Halloween merchandise for a month already. How did this happen?



INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

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

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Limit TV and computer time for kids - let them discover their imaginations. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Paper and online at www.thepaper24-7.com.



OBITUARIES

See Page A2 For Obituaries

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



The Paper
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Let's Go!

Make sure to head out to the Midwest Railroad Fair this Saturday at the Linden Depot Museum from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. There will be food courtesy of Harry's Hideout and Jesus Carmel Corn & Kettle Corn as well as exhibits from Amtrak, Operation Lifesaver, Rails to Trails and more. Select attendees will get to take part in a gourmet meal on the 1837 steam engine built by members of the Depot Museum. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$1 for children 12 and under and free to members. Don't miss this exciting event at the last remaining junction depot in Indiana (it's listed on the National Register of Historic Places).

TODAY'S QUOTE

"Be happy - it drives people crazy."
Unknown

TODAY'S JOKE

Simply going to church doesn't make you good and holy any more than standing in a kitchen makes you a gourmet chef.

13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

71/86 FRI	71/90 SAT	73/90 SUN	73/88 MON	65/79 TUE	59/79 WED	60/81 THU
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OBITUARIES

Denise Cochren

Nov. 5, 1959 - Aug 9, 2022

Denise K. Cochren of rural Crawfordsville passed away Tuesday evening at home at the age of 62.

Born Nov. 5, 1959 in Benton, Ill., she was the daughter of Roy Pyle and Edna Sharpe Pyle Reaves.

She grew up in Marion, Ind. and graduated from Marion High School. She married Phil Cochren on April 19, 1989.

Survivors include her husband, Phil Cochren of rural Crawfordsville; step-son, Sean Cochren; mother and step-father, Edna and Gerald Reaves; sister, Deb Brown; brother, Don Pyle; sister, Doneta Pyle; and sister, Amy Gwaultney.

She was preceded in death by her dad; and a sister, Diane Pyle.

In keeping with her wishes, there will not be a public service. Her family will hold a private gathering to remember her. Cremation arrangements were entrusted to Burkhart Funeral Home.



Jeffrey Dale Pitcock

Oct. 3, 1959 - Aug. 9, 2022

Jeffrey Dale Pitcock, age 62, of Crawfordsville, passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022 at Wellbrooke of Crawfordsville.

He was born in Crawfordsville on Oct. 3, 1959 to Corvin D Pitcock and Shirley (Deckard) Fulwider.

He graduated from North Montgomery High School in 1977. He enjoyed fishing and trapping. He lived in South Carolina for 27 years. His favorite pastime was deep sea fishing. He made many friends there and became known as the local "Mr. Fix it." Even though he was an ornery fellow, he was a joy to be around and will be missed by many.

He truly didn't know a stranger. In the short time he had in Crawfordsville at Wellbrooke he touched many people. He was a ball of energy and loved making people laugh. He was still joking up until his last few days. He had a deep faith and knew he was going to a better place and we look forward to seeing him again.

Survivors include his parents, Corvin (Eleanor) Pitcock and Shirley (James) Fulwider; two siblings, Cheryl (Keith) Griggs and Cindy (Will) Frazee; a niece, Carissa Griggs; and two nephews, Luke (Shelley) Griggs and Joel (Haley) Griggs.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents.

Cremation was chosen with no services. Sanders Priebke Funeral Care is entrusted with care. Share memories and condolences online at www.sandersfuneralcare.com.



Ronald V. Williams

Feb. 7, 1967 - Aug. 9, 2022

Ronald V. Williams of Crawfordsville passed away Tuesday at home. He was 55.

Born Feb. 7, 1967 in Crawfordsville, he was the son of Ronald Williams and Barbara J. Taylor Williams.

He graduated from Crawfordsville High School. For the past 38 years, he's been a member of Laborer Local 274 in Lafayette.

Survivors include his parents, Ronald and Barbara Williams; daughter, Cassie Williams; son, Wesley Williams; brother, Kenneth (Sharon) Williams; sister, Deborah (Kent) Rhodes; brother, Kevin Williams; and brother, Mike (Lisa) Williams.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents.

Visitation is scheduled from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13 at Burkhart Funeral Home, 201 W. Wabash, with services starting at 1 p.m., led by Pastor Dan Aldrich. Burial will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery South.

Online condolences may be made at www.BurkhartFH.com.



Obituary deadline
The Paper publishes obituaries daily at www.thepaper24-7.com.
All obituaries must come from a funeral home. A photo may be included and should be sent as a high-resolution JPEG.
Daily obituary deadline is 3 p.m. for the following day's print publication.
To read more obituaries, visit www.thepaper24-7.com.

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Have You Herd Of G.O.A.T.s?

Want to know who the G.O.A.T. is (The Greatest of All Time) for any particular endeavor? If you google G.O.A.T. for baseball announcers, there is little disagreement. Number one is Vin Scully.

Scully passed away recently at the age of 94. He called Dodgers games for 67 years, both in Brooklyn and L.A. He wasn't just an announcer and play-by-play man (he did both): he was also a poet and a painter. On the radio, he created vivid pictures of what was happening on the field, but in the TV booth, he helped the viewer understand the game, and when great moments happened in baseball as they so often do—like Henry Aaron's homerun to break Babe Ruth's 40-year record in 1974—he knew when to let the cheers of the crowd tell the story. Rumor has it when Aaron hit that historic blast, Scully retreated to the restroom to heed nature's call because he decided the next two minutes of the game did not require "his" call. When he returned to the mic, that's when



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

you heard his poetry. It's worth listening to the YouTube.

Carl Erskine, Hoosier native and former Major League pitcher, is now the only living Dodgers link to the Jackie Robinson age of baseball, covering the late '40s and '50s. (With one exception: Robinson's widow, Rachel, just celebrated her 100th birthday.) I spoke to Carl at a retirement village in Anderson, Indiana, where he and his wife Betty are about to celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary in October.

I threw him a few softball questions, because I knew he was a fan of the off-speed pitch. He explained to me what made Scully great. Just as important as his pas-

sion for the game, said Carl, "You always felt he was talking directly to you. You don't get that feeling today with many broadcasters. The voice of the announcer is part of people's lives. Sometimes they get bigger rounds of applause than the players."

Former Colts sportscaster Bob Lamey revered his peer, and he agreed with Carl's sentiment that you always felt you knew Scully, that he was part of your family...even more so than the players were. According to Lamey, one of Scully's greatest skills was to adjust his style to the broadcasting situation. Obviously, being on the radio required more visual description of the plays than announcing on TV, and Lamey described how Scully had a different presentation for day vs. night games. During summer afternoon contests, where there were many families in attendance, he might give a little extra explanation for something like a squeeze bunt or the infield fly rule. But at night, well, those were the true fans, not just

folks looking for pleasant afternoon entertainment. "They knew what a squeeze bunt was," Lamey mused. "No explanation needed."

"Most importantly," said Lamey, "I never once heard Vince Scully talk about himself. It was always about the game...and the fans and the players. Even if you were not a Dodger fan, he made the game fun. There will never be another one like him."

As a kid, I used to hide a transistor radio under my pillow and listen to night games, falling asleep to Vin's voice while he described a Jackie Robinson steal or a Carl Erskine overhand curve ball crossing the plate for the final out. Now, you may not agree that Vin Scully was the G.O.A.T., but this week it has been my honor to go to bat for him.

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.

Duke Reminds Residents That Safe Digging Starts With 811

Aug. 11 was officially named "811 Day," and as residents continue summer yard projects, Duke Energy wants to remind everyone to call 811 before digging to prevent potential personal injury and avoid electric outages.

"Keeping our customers safe and protecting our underground utility infrastructure are top priorities," said Stan Pinegar, president of Duke Energy Indiana. "Even simple digging jobs can cause serious injuries and disrupt vital utility services to communities, so it is important to call 811 to prevent unnecessary and potentially dangerous situations and outages in our communities."

The national "811 Call Before You Dig" system was created so anyone who plans to dig can make a free call to have underground utility lines clearly marked. Contractors, homeowners, business owners and anyone preparing for a digging project should call 811 at least three business days before digging begins. The local utilities will then send a crew to mark underground lines in the



area (electric, natural gas, water, sewer, phone, cable TV and others) with stakes, flags or paint.

From January to June 2022, Duke Energy reported nearly 260 cuts to its underground electric lines in Indiana.

"Our best defense is awareness and ongoing education to call 811 before you dig," added Pinegar. "We are committed to sharing this message with our customers and communities to avoid these accidents."

For a video that shows how to use 811, click here. For additional information about 811, visit Call 811 Before You Dig. To get in touch with the 811 center in your state, dial 811 or visit Call811.com.

Duke Energy Indiana
Duke Energy Indiana,
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Energy, provides about 6,300 megawatts of owned electric capacity to approximately 870,000 customers in a 23,000-square-mile service area, making it Indiana's largest electric supplier.

Duke Energy (NYSE: DUK), a Fortune 150 company headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., is one of America's largest energy holding companies. Its electric utilities serve 8.2 million customers in North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky, and collectively own 50,000 megawatts of energy capacity. Its natural gas unit serves 1.6 million customers in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio and Kentucky. The company employs 28,000 people.

Duke Energy is ex-

cuting an aggressive clean energy transition to achieve its goals of net-zero methane emissions from its natural gas business and at least a 50% carbon reduction from electric generation by 2030 and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The 2050 net-zero goals also include Scope 2 and certain Scope 3 emissions. In addition, the company is investing in major electric grid enhancements and energy storage, and exploring zero-emission power generation technologies such as hydrogen and advanced nuclear.

Duke Energy was named to Fortune's 2022 "World's Most Admired Companies" list and Forbes' "America's Best Employers" list. More information is available at duke-energy.com. The Duke Energy News Center contains news releases, fact sheets, photos and videos. Duke Energy's illumination features stories about people, innovations, community topics and environmental issues. Follow Duke Energy on Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook.

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Big Ten-ESPN Divorce Gives Kenny Opportunity To Talk Purdue Football

The Big Ten Conference's television divorce from ESPN after nearly 40 years together was big news this week in college football.

It's a risky move by commissioner Kevin Warren and the league. ESPN is famous for freezing out sports it no longer has rights to televise. For example, the NHL went into hibernation on the so-called worldwide leader in sports from 2005 to 2021.

The NHL was rarely on SportsCenter and certainly no discussion of the sport from Stephan A. Smith and the blowhards who get paid a lot of money to talk about the New York Yankees, Boston Red Sox and LeBron James.

If the Big Ten is given similar treatment, it's unlikely Ohio State quarterback C.J. Stroud or any other Heisman Trophy candidate in the league will get a promotional push from ESPN. The same goes for Ohio State or Michigan getting a fair mention when the network's college football analysts discuss worthy candidates for the College Football Playoff.

There's been no love lost between ESPN and the Big Ten for nearly 20 years. The network's arrogance and perceived take it or leave it rights offer to then-commissioner Jim Delany angered him so much that it led to the creation of the Big Ten Network.

As we all know now, Delany had the last laugh. The Big Ten Network's success led ESPN into a business romance with



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

the SEC. That resulted in the creation of the SEC network and not so subtle promotion of its teams come playoff selection time by ESPN.

Which leads to a story Aug. 5 on ESPN.com by Bill Donnelly. The concept was a good one, pick out college football's 50 greatest true freshman seasons of all time. The number 50 was chosen to celebrate the anniversary of freshman eligibility being permanently granted by the NCAA in 1972.

Since that time, only three football true freshmen have been consensus All-Americans: Georgia running back Herschel Walker in 1980, Oklahoma running back Adrian Peterson in 2004 and Purdue wide receiver Rondale Moore in 2018.

Walker ended up No. 2 on Connelly's list, behind Pittsburgh defensive end Hugh Green. Peterson was ninth. Care to guess where Moore ended up on Connelly's list?

I could give readers three guesses times 10 and it's likely none of them would pick 31st.

Moore finished the regular season as the nation's leader in receptions (103) and was the Big Ten's regular season leader in

receiving yards (1164) and touchdowns (12). Moore was named the conference's Freshman of the Year recipient and the Richter-Howard Big Ten Receiver of the Year. Moore also made room in his trophy case for the Paul Hornung Award, given to the nation's most versatile football player.

Connelly wrote this about Moore in his rankings:

"Plenty of great freshmen have had great games, but almost none have so thoroughly embarrassed a national power.

"Moore's 12-catch, 170-yard performance drove a resounding 49-20 blowout of No. 2 Ohio State midway through his first season. He finished it with 114 catches, 1,258 yards and 12 touchdowns (including Moore's totals against Auburn in the Music City Bowl) – ridiculous numbers – but he might have made this list even if he'd just retired after the Ohio State game."

Connelly didn't mention it but Moore had arguably the most impressive debut in Purdue football history. In a 31-27 loss to Northwestern, Moore broke Otis Armstrong's single-game total offense record with 313 yards. That total included a 76-yard touchdown run.

Somehow, 31st just doesn't seem right for a history-making athlete.

Moore was one of 12 Big Ten players to make Connelly's top 50, one fewer than the SEC total. Boilermakers comprised one-fourth of the Big Ten total. All three were recruited by Jeff Brohm

and his staff.

David Bell came in 48th, and Connelly admits having a position bias against wide receivers in his countdown.

"You won't see many receivers on this list ... Players at this position rarely made any sort of measurable first-year impact until the 2010s, while running backs were leaned on heavily from the moment the rule changed."

Connelly picked 10 running backs for his list and wrote that he could have chosen "about 25 more."

"That said, Bell was a no-brainer. Filling in for an injured Rondale Moore, he gained at least 100 yards in six of his last nine games and finished with 86 catches, 1,035 yards and seven touchdowns."

Iowa fans probably feel like that was Bell's career totals against their Hawkeyes.

One spot behind Bell was the other top prize of Purdue's 2019 recruiting class, defensive end George Karlaftis.

"Purdue's 2019 signing class featured six four-star prospects, two became all-timers," Connelly writes. "While Bell was finding his way in the Boilermakers' offense, Karlaftis was erupting for 17 tackles for loss, 7.5 sacks and an interception."

"He wasn't just a playmaker, though. His elite motor and pursuit abilities helped him finish the year third on the team in overall tackles as a 265-pound defensive end."

Just for the record, the other four ESPN four-

star recruits in the 2019 class were wide receivers Milton Wright and T.J. Sheffield, defensive tackle Steven Fauchaux and safety Marvin Grant.

Wide receiver Mer-shawn Rice also was a four-star recruit according to Rivals.com.

Wright's Purdue career came to a premature halt in December 2021 when he was ruled academically ineligible for the Music City Bowl. Wright did not regain academic eligibility for 2022, a potentially big loss for the Boilermakers. A two-year starter, Wright caught 57 passes for 732 yards and seven touchdowns

Sheffield is projected to start in 2022. The redshirt junior started three games in 2021, catching 36 passes for 325 yards and five touchdowns. Sheffield led Purdue in punt and kickoff return yards.

Grant started every game in 2021 and made 76 tackles. Strangely, he transferred during the offseason to Kansas.

Fauchaux transferred to Marshall after two seasons at Purdue. The Thundering Herd converted him to offensive tackle.

Rice has showed promise when not injured. He caught six passes for 69 yards and a touchdown in three games before being lost for the 2021 season with a foot injury suffered at Notre Dame.

One more thing Sports business reporter Darren Rovell, reacting to the report that ESPN had dropped out of the bidding for Big Ten rights, noted on Twitter that ES-

PN's first regular season Big Ten football telecast was Purdue's Sept. 8, 1984 upset of Notre Dame in the Hoosier Dome dedication game

Rovell added that ESPN's schedule leading up to Purdue-Notre Dame included a Canadian Football League rerun, wrestling and pistol shooting.

In a 2000 interview, quarterback Jim Everett recalled that the Notre Dame game established him as next in line for Purdue's Cradle of Quarterbacks. Everett beat out Parade All-American Doug Downing of Lafayette Jeff and Jeff Huber to start against the Fighting Irish.

Everett completed 20 of 28 passes for 255 yards and two touchdowns in the 23-21 victory. His 14-yard touchdown pass to Jeff Price with 13:57 remaining capped Purdue's comeback from a 14-3 deficit.

"I was ready to come out swinging," Everett said. "It just solidified where I'd come from, all the experiences I'd gone through and finally realizing, 'yeah! I can play. I can do it. There's no more wishing I could get it done.'"

Everett was selected Sports Illustrated and Associated Press Offensive Player of the Week. Never again was Everett challenged for his job.

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 Signs Landmark Bill Aiding Veterans Exposed To Burn Pits

By Jennifer Shutt

President Joe Biden signed legislation into law Wednesday that will provide health care and benefits to veterans exposed to burn pits in Afghanistan and Iraq, achieving a long-term, personal goal.

"I was in and out of Iraq over 20 times," Biden said of prior trips to the war zone he took as both a U.S. senator and as vice president. "And you could actually see some of it in the air — burn pits the size of football fields, and incinerated waste of war such as tires, poisonous chemicals, jet fuel, and so much more I won't even mention."

"When they came home, many of the fittest and best warriors that we sent to war were not the same," Biden added. "Headaches, numbness, dizziness, cancer. My son Beau was one of them."

Biden has long questioned whether his son Beau's 2015 death from brain cancer was a direct result of his exposure to burn pits during his time in Iraq as part of the Delaware National Guard.

During his State of the Union address in March, Biden called on Congress to address the legacy of burn pits by passing legislation "to make sure veterans devastated by toxic exposures in Iraq



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and Afghanistan finally get the benefits and comprehensive health care they deserve."

Danielle Robinson, the widow of Ohio National Guard Sgt. First Class Heath Robinson, for whom the bill was named, attended Biden's State of the Union Speech and was on hand Wednesday to watch him sign the bill. Her daughter, Brielle, was also at the signing ceremony.

Danielle Robinson, while introducing Biden on Wednesday, said that "as a military spouse, when your loved one returns home safely from a deployment, you count your blessings."

"You're filled with gratitude. Fear turns to relief as you begin living as a family again," she said. "But 10 years post deployment from Iraq, my husband Heath began the biggest battle of his life. A terminal stage four lung cancer diagnosis due to toxic exposure from a burn pit in Baghdad."

Burn pits, she said, "became the biggest nightmare of our lives."

Living alongside burn

pits The open-air burn pits used frequently during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq were used to dispose of common items as well as medical waste, batteries and even jet fuel.

U.S. military members often lived and worked alongside the pits, breathing in the toxic fumes almost constantly.

But after returning from deployment, soldiers experiencing illnesses they believe were a direct result of that toxic exposure had to try to prove to the Department of Veterans Affairs that their illnesses were linked to their deployments in order to qualify for health care and benefits.

Veterans, family members and veterans service organizations began calling on Congress to change the system, a years-long effort that eventually resulted in the legislation known as the PACT Act that Biden signed into law Wednesday.

The \$278.5 billion package would add 23 illnesses to the list of

toxic-exposure-related conditions presumed to be connected to military service.

Veterans with those diagnoses will no longer need to try to prove to the VA their conditions are linked to their military service in order to qualify for health care and benefits.

The measure would direct more resources to VA health care centers, employees and claims processing, as well as federal research on toxic exposure.

And the bill would expand presumptions for veterans exposed to Agent Orange, a chemical the U.S. military used during the Vietnam War. American Samoa, Cambodia, Guam, Johnston Atoll, Laos and Thailand would all be added to the list of locations where veterans are presumed to have been exposed to the chemical.

Bipartisan support

The bill, which was co-sponsored by Montana Democratic Sen. Jon Tester and Kansas Republican Sen. Jerry Moran, had broad bipartisan support in Con-

gress. However, once the House and Senate reached agreement on the final version earlier this year, it took weeks to move the legislation through the Senate, the House and then the Senate again.

The U.S. Senate 84-14 vote in mid-June sent the bill to the U.S. House, where it was supposed to quickly go to Biden for his signature.

But a provision that was intended to bolster the number of health care providers in rural or very rural areas by buying them out of their contracts if they agreed to work for at least four years at those facilities ran into a problem.

The House Ways and Means Committee cited a so-called "blue slip" issue with making those buyout payments exempt from taxes, noting that tax provisions must begin in the House.

After stripping out that one provision, the House voted 342-88 in mid-July to send the legislation back to the U.S. Senate for final approval.

The bill was on track to pass in late July until a group of Senate Republicans blocked a procedural vote, citing concerns with language that had been in the bill all along.

The move infuriated veterans, their families and advocacy organizations, who began camping out on the steps

of the U.S. Capitol and remained nearby until the Senate voted 86-11 earlier this month to send the bill to Biden. Celebrity comedian Jon Stewart, who was at the bill signing, took up their cause.

After signing the measure Wednesday, Biden handed the pen to Brielle Robinson, who had been seated next to Biden's grandson during the event.

"You see the little guy who's sitting right next to you? That's my grandson," Biden said. "His daddy was lost to the same burn pits, and he knows what you're going through."

Sign up for benefits

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs said in a statement Wednesday that any veteran or surviving family members who believe they are eligible for benefits can visit www.VA.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MY-VA-411.

Veterans can also visit their local VA to file a claim or learn more about the new law.

Biden said during his speech Wednesday that he wanted to urge "the veterans of those decades of war to promptly file for your claims."

"The VA will move as quickly as possible to resolve your claim and get you the benefits and the care you've earned," Biden said.

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Rokita Consultant Hired, But Facing \$18,000 In Lobbyist Registration Fines

By Leslie Bonilla Muñiz

A conservative policy activist and consultant working on contract for Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita's office was hired as a lobby-exempt, full-time employee after she mistakenly registered as a lobbyist for the wrong entity — but faces \$18,000 in related fines.

Erin Tuttle was nearly a year into her two-year, \$200,000-maximum contract, which includes "Contractor shall interact and communicate with legislators" as a duty, when the Capital Chronicle asked Rokita's office why she was not in the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission's list of registered lobbyists.

Chief Administrative Officer Larry Hopkins said the office had asked her to register with the state of Indiana, but found after the Capital Chronicle's inquiry that she had mistakenly registered with the city of

Indianapolis.

Contractors aren't exempt from the registration requirement, but employees are.

"Erin continues to serve as a valued member of the [Office of the Attorney General] staff in the same capacity as before but is doing so as an employee," Hopkins said in a statement Wednesday to the Capital Chronicle. "We will work with the commission to finalize any necessary procedures required to close out her obligations to that body."

Filing requirements

Indiana law requires lobbyists to not only file registration statements (within 15 days of becoming a lobbyist, plus annually), but also file semi-annual activity reports. Lobbyists must also complete separate filings for gifts, purchases, amendments and activity terminations.

Miss a deadline, and a lobbyist is fined \$100 a

day — up to \$4,500 — until the filing is in.

Four of Tuttle's five filings in the commission's public dashboard were marked as being 45 or more days after the deadline, totaling \$18,000. A notice within each filing says the fee will be charged to her account, but also describes an appeals process.

Tuttle is appealing the four fines. Her reason in the four filings reads, "I inadvertently registered with the wrong entity."

One filing was early: an activity report indicating Tuttle no longer meets the definition of a lobbyist.

The report, submitted August 8, covers May 1 to Oct. 31. It contains a checked box captioned, "Please check box if you would like to terminate the registered lobbyist status for the registrant."

Office spokeswoman Kelly Stevenson said Tuttle became a full-time employee on August 8.

FSSA Announces Pilot Program To Integrate Mental Health, Addiction Peer Recovery Professionals In IN County Jails

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's Division of Mental Health and Addiction today announced the launch of a pilot program designed to engage incarcerated individuals with mental health and substance use disorders with certified peer professionals and wraparound services.

The Integrated Reentry and Correctional Support program (IRACS) provides peer-driven, Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) support for inmates with mental health and substance use disorders upon arrival at one of the five Indiana county jail pilot sites. SIM provides a comprehensive picture of how individuals with mental health and substance use disorders encounter and move through the criminal justice system, aiming to divert them away from the justice system into treatment.

"The first three steps an individual takes upon exiting the justice system are often the most important steps they will take in their recovery journey," said Douglas Huntsinger, executive director for drug prevention, treatment and enforcement for the state of Indiana. "Regardless of how an individual ended up in the justice system, how they move forward matters. By providing access to peers and wraparound services while individuals are incarcerated, we intend to reduce recidivism and future involvement in the justice system."

The IRACS program is a collaboration between DMHA, Indiana Forensic Services and the Indiana Recovery Network, programs of Mental Health America of Indiana, and is being launched at Blackford, Daviess, Dearborn, Delaware, and Scott County jails. Inmates booked at each of the five jails will be evaluated as potential IRACS support clients, resulting in treatment and formal support

for identified clients.

Forensic peer teams are stationed at each jail and consist of a certified program supervisor, certified peer support, resource peer navigator, reentry peer, and peer engagement coordinator, all employed by the Indiana Recovery Network's regional recovery hubs. These teams work within the jail settings and collaborate with correctional, pre-trial and nursing staff and all community providers to support incarcerated individuals during their time in the program. Jail staff will receive special training to support IRACS personnel and incarcerated clients.

Using the IRACS Recovery Engagement Pathways, peers will walk alongside each identified client and provide responsive support and resources relevant to their needs. These pathways are reentry-focused and can change as their legal process develops and sentencing is established.

"The engagement pathways allow forensic peer teams to meet individuals as soon as they enter through the door of the jail and provide one-on-one support at a critical moment when meeting someone, where they're at, can make all the difference," said Jayme Whitaker, vice president of forensic services at Mental Health America of Indiana. "With the vision and funding provided by state leadership and the strong local collaborations in all five pilot counties, the IRACS

forensic peer teams are meeting people at some of their hardest moments and ensuring they have someone to walk alongside them, every step of the way."

The IRACS program is funded through June 2023 by Recovery Works, Indiana's voucher-based system to support partnerships between the justice system and mental health and addiction treatment providers. Each of the five pilot sites has received a grant of up to \$500,000 to build their teams and the infrastructure necessary to support a full-spectrum reentry process that collaborates with community partners outside the jail to ensure continuity in care upon release.

At the conclusion of the pilot program, data gathered will be reported by the participating sheriffs to FSSA for evaluation. If proven successful, the State of Indiana is committed to expanding the IRACS program to more Indiana county jails within the next three years.

"I want to thank the state of Indiana, local government and health officials, and all the volunteers who have made the IRACS program possible in Delaware County," Delaware County Sheriff Tony Skinner said. "We have been hit especially hard with substance use and untreated mental illness for the past several years and this program is exactly what our community needs to help us stem the tide and begin recovering."



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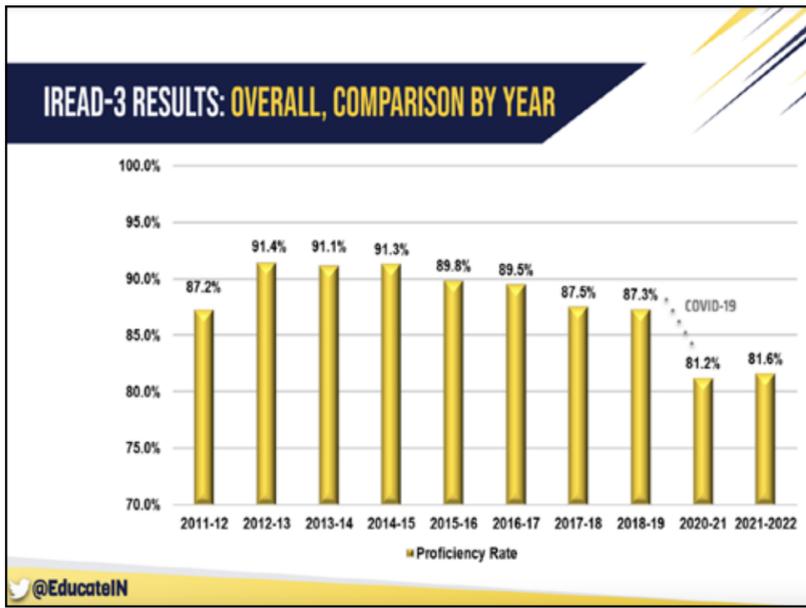


Photo courtesy of the Indiana Department of Education

New Test Scores Show Hoosier Third Graders Slightly Improved, But Reading Skills Still Lacking

By Casey Smith
 Nearly one in five Hoosier third graders this past spring did not master foundational reading skills, according to new standardized test results released Wednesday.

While Indiana's younger students have improved, the test results still lag behind pre-pandemic reading fluency.

New data reveals 81.6% out of the 65,000 third graders at public and private schools in Indiana passed the 2022 Indiana Reading Evaluation and Determination, also called the IREAD-3 test.

That's less than a 0.5% increase from the last academic year, and 5.7% behind the results from the 2018-2019 school year, which is the last data set available prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Indiana schools did not give standardized tests in 2019-2020 due to the pandemic.

The literacy rate is a significant drop from Indiana's high of 91.4% in 2012-13.

"We know that students first learn to read, and then they read to learn," Indiana Secretary of Education Katie Jenner said in a statement. "Data shows a direct link between reading by the end of third grade and future learning."

In total, more than 14,000 Hoosier third grade students — more than 18% of those in the state — will need additional support to build their reading skills to meet grade-level reading standards, according to state officials. A student

who does not pass the IREAD-3 test typically must receive remediation, or risk being retained in third grade.

Jenner emphasized that includes low income, Black, Hispanic, special education and English learner students — who had "persistent learning gaps" even prior to the pandemic.

Black and Hispanic students increased pass rates by 2.1% and 1%, respectively, but their overall proficiency rates remain significantly below their grade level peers.

Roughly 64% of Black students and English language learners passed the multiple-choice IREAD exam in 2022 — 10% fewer than in 2019.

White students achieved above-average pass rates at about 87%, according to test scores. Reading proficiency additionally declined overall for third grade students receiving free or reduced-price meals, as well as those receiving special education.

Schools were also allowed to test second grade students with the IREAD-3 assessment for the first this spring. Statewide, nearly 400 elementary schools across the state opted in, with more than 20,000 second grade students participating. Of those students who were tested, 62% either passed the assessment or are on track to pass next year.

Lynn Schemel, director of assessment at the Indiana Department of Education, said students who lack foundational

reading skills — including a strong vocabulary and basic phonetics — are "even less likely to graduate on time" or may never receive their high school diploma.

"Students who are poor readers at the end of third grade are likely to remain poor readers throughout their life," she said.

State education officials said new education initiatives are coming together to help schools across the state make sure that students become strong readers. They pointed to the launch of a new instructional coaching program for kindergarten through second grade teachers that already has 54 schools participating in the program.

The state education department is also sending more than \$150 million to schools through a state-funded grant program that intends to help bolster student learning outside of the regular classroom. Separate microgrants to help parents access tutoring for their students will become available this fall.

Jenner said the department will announce another major literacy initiative next week.

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BUTCH

From Page A1

affairs. Reminds me of JFK. Both intelligent and capable Presidents. Just couldn't keep their pants zipped up. But JFK had a beautiful wife. Still can't figure that one out.

Well, Trump is business smart and cares about the future of our country. He did a lot of good things, but he is also arrogant and doesn't know when to keep his mouth shut. At times he was his own worst enemy, but at least he tried to drain the DC swamp. And then there is Barack Hussein Obama, who almost single-handedly destroyed Black/White relations in our country, and certainly gave impetus to the creation of Black Lives Matter and Defund the Police movements. He made it possible for George Floyd, a drugged-up, eight-time convicted felon who resisted arrest, to become a hero because of the actions of a stressed-out police officer...while one of our greatest Supreme Court justices, Clarence Thomas, also Black and a self-made man, is often considered a traitor by many of his race and looked down upon. Go figure. Barry, I know you are sitting in your new \$15 million home on Martha's Vineyard, counting your money and smiling right now...and likely planning your next instructions for ol' Joe. Thanks a lot.

Other observations.... Some men are now identifying as females even though they are biological males, and yes, there are females identifying as males...and they prefer to use a restroom that reflects their "gender identity." But hold on. Now there are children who are identifying as

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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

are at the peak of their flavor profiles, so what better time to try them. Get your children involved in growing and picking the produce. Or maybe involve them in the preparation of the food. When kids put their own sweat and time into growing or preparing something they are more interested in trying it. The more excitement you can build around trying the new food, the more likely they are to like it. It always tastes better when you learned how to grow it, prepare it and now finally get to eat it.

Here are a few tiny things to try at home to increase vegetable consumption:

- Select a dish for dinner and add one new vegetable ingredient to

it.

- Add produce to all meals, veggies are wonderful in an omelet.

- Going to a cookout. Make a veggie tray to take with you and share your harvest with others.

- Create a dip, hummus, dill or ranch, veggies raw or cooked make delicious snacks.

- Preserve it, you can freeze, can or dry pretty much any item. If you don't have a canner, many foods like cucumbers can be pickled and kept in the fridge.

- Store produce in appropriate locations to get the longest shelf life possible.

One idea is to make melon salsa. This is a great way to use any melon, onions and hot peppers that you have in plenty as well. Tomatoes

are another veggie that I can't work through fast enough. Try stuffed summer squash using zucchini or yellow squash, tomatoes, rice and protein of your choice. Making homemade tomato sauce is another great way to preserve those tomatoes and use all winter long in soups or for pasta night. Find these ideas and more at Purdue Extension's food link website at extension.purdue.edu/foodlink. The food link website, helps identify the types, selection, preparation and storage of foods that are locally grown in Indiana.

Monica Nagele is the County Extension Director and educator of health and human science for the Montgomery County Purdue Extension.

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