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by ShawMark  
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**➔ TODAY'S VERSE**

Isaiah 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

**➔ FACES OF MONTGOMERY**

People who call our community their own.



Mayor Todd Barton smiles happily about the amazing turn out of citizens and beautiful Veteran's Day Parade last week. Thank you for your smile Mr Mayor!

**➔ THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** Cyril Derreumaux of Marin County, CA woke up one morning back in June, got into his kayak and paddled his way to Hawaii; he made the trip in a mere 91 days, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. Derreumaux told ABC News it was a personal, spiritual journey, "I wanted to do this to enjoy life," he said. He had modified his 22-foot kayak for the trip by adding "pedals and a small sleeping cabin but no motor or sail." Derreumaux paddled a total of 10 hours a day, four hours in the morning, two in the afternoon and four more in the evening. He said he hoped that "People outside of the kayaking world, outside of the ultra-endurance adventure, connected with the message of living life to the fullest."

**2** Hoosier Heartland State Bank is proud to offer FREE financial education classes to the community! This 3-course series will begin Monday after Thanksgiving. Classes will be held on Mondays at 7 p.m. at HHSB's Success Center, located in Crawfordsville at 1623 S U.S. Highway 231. NOV. 28: Financial Plan Basics: Intro to Budgets. DEC. 5: Budgeting: Managing Debt, Borrowing Basics, and Credit Cards. DEC. 12: Planning for Retirement: How Much is Enough? Space is limited! Go online to register or contact Lacey Rogers at lrogers@myhhsb.com or 765-364-0784.

**3** 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.

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## Happy, Smiling Faces!



Photo courtesy of Volunteers for Mental Health in Montgomery County

**Crawfordsville's annual Downtown Party Night is about a week away and the wonderful Volunteers for Mental Health in Montgomery County will be out and about. The group known as VMHMC will wrap up their formal collection drive for clothing goods. The clothes will be given to adult residents in 15 local long-term care and recovery facilities, group homes, homeless shelters and veterans. Also, VMHMC hopes that everyone downtown next Saturday will visit them next to Harry's Hideout. Partnering with Southmont FCCLA, the Volunteers for Mental Health also hope to put some extra party into the gala evening for little ones. From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. they will be handing out free candy canes and the kiddos can also participate in reindeer games. For information about the Christmas Gift Lift or VMHMC, visit www.vmhmc.org**

## Butch Says, 'Rodney For President!!!'



**BUTCH DALE**  
Columnist

Well, America, we did it again . . . voted for the same lamebrain members of Congress. Sure, there are a few good people and a few new faces, and there is likely to be a Republican majority in the House of Representatives, but the Democrats still control the Senate . . . so . . . STALE-MATE. With a few exceptions, this has to be the worst group of Democrat and Republican senators in our history . . . from do-nothings to incompetents to vainglorious phonies. Nothing is going to change. And to top things off, Oi' Joe

➔ See BUTCH Page A5



Photo courtesy of NMMS

**High School Musical Jr runs Nov. 18 & 19 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 20 at 2:30 at the NMHS Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students.**

## NMMS Presents High School Musical Jr

Join the NMMS "Wildcat family" as they present this family friendly musical about breaking social norms & being true to yourself. High School Musical Jr follows Troy Bolton and Gabriella Montez as they both search for the spotlight and a sense of belonging at East High. The stage musical has all of the classic songs that fans

will enjoy. "The story follows closely with the first movie, but new songs were added in for the stage version" director Mike Melvin says. The NMMS production has over 90 middle school students involved. "It takes a village to produce a production like this one. We

➔ See NMMS Page A5

## The Daily Almanac

**Sunrise/Sunset**  
RISE: 7:32 a.m.  
SET: 5:26 p.m.

**High/Low Temperatures**  
High: 28 °F  
Low: 22 °F

**Today is...**  
• Mickey Mouse Day  
• Apple Cider Day

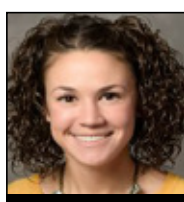
**What Happened On This Day**  
• 1626 The new St Peter's Basilica is consecrated  
• 1961 President John F. Kennedy sends 18,000 military advisors to South Vietnam

**Births On This Day**  
• 1797 Sojourner Truth Abolitionist and Woman's Rights advocate  
• 1968 Owen Wilson American actor

**Deaths On This Day**  
• 1886 Chester A. Arthur 21st President of the U.S.  
• 2002 James Coburn American actor

## Life Lessons For High Schoolers

Purdue Extension and Indiana 4-H are proud to announce our third offering of Life Lessons for 2023. This program is open to all high school students (grades 9-12) in Indiana. This virtual, 8-week series of lessons



ABBY MORGAN  
Purdue Extension Office



will focus on topics that will have positive effects on youth as they grow into adulthood. This workshop series is based on the mission of Indiana 4-H to "provide

real life educational opportunities that develop young people" at a state-wide level. Through Google Classroom, topics will cover one-hour lessons on auto care, basics of budgeting, etiquette and people skills, food prep and safety,

➔ See LESSONS Page A5

## ➔ HONEST HOOSIER

Happy 73rd to a member of one of our state's royal hoops families, Billy Shepherd!



## ➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Get an exercise partner and challenge each other to show up and to foster healthy competition. 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

James L. Helgers

## ➔ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

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

## ➔ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

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## ➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"Religion and culture are much in the news these days, usually as sources of difference and conflict, rather than for bringing people together. But the irony is that every religion has something to say about tolerance and respecting others."  
Queen Elizabeth II

## ➔ TODAY'S JOKE

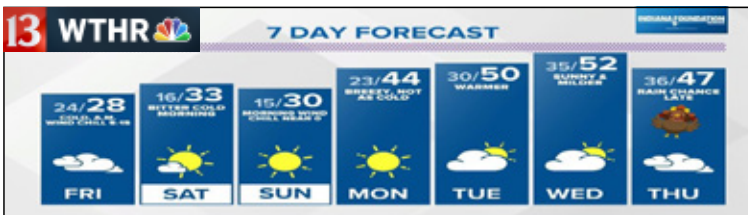
Why did the band recruit the turkey?  
Because he had his own drumsticks!

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OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY





## OBITUARIES

### James L. Helgers

Jan. 8, 1931 - Nov. 14, 2022

James “Jim” Lowell Helgers, 91, Mellott, went to heaven to be with the Lord, on Monday, Nov. 14, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at his home, surrounded by his family.

He was born at home in Mellott, Indiana on Jan. 8, 1931. He was the son of the late William and Ruby Dell (Moore) Helgers.

He was a life resident of Mellott and graduated from Richland Township High School in 1949.

He entered the Navy in 1951 for four years. He did his basic training in Chicago, then was stationed on the USS Oriskany Air Craft Carrier during the Korean War. He served in the Mediterranean Sea. After leaving the carrier he went to Greenland. He later was stationed in Jacksonville, Florida. He was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1954 attaining the rank of Aviation Ordnanceman. He was from a long line of family who served their country. From his father, William; his brother, Billy and his daughter, Belinda.

In 1955, he met his sweetheart, Connie Jo Brier from Attica. They were married on Sept. 18, 1955 in the Attica First United Methodist Church.

He went into the Helgers L.P. Gas business with his father. He later sold the gas business and worked for Ferrell Gas selling used propane trucks and tanks. In his career he traveled over one million miles picking up old trucks to sell and delivering new trucks.

He was a member of Fountain County Draft Board; member of the Fountain County Sheriff’s Merit Board; member of the Mellott Fire Department, serving as a former Fire Chief; Boy Scout Leader and Little League coach. He was a member of the Quigle-Palin American Legion Post and served as past commander. He was a life member V.F.W. Post # 3318 of Attica; 60 year member of the former Newtown Masonic Lodge and presently the Hillsboro Masonic Lodge, serving as Past Master. He was a member and served as a Sunday School teacher and Superintendent for the Mellott United Church of Christ and later becoming a member of the Hillsboro Church of the Nazarene.

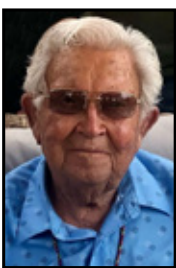
In the 1970’s he started Flagtown USA with the help of Donnie Palin and his mother, Ruby. They sold over 1000 flag poles and set around 500 of them around the area. One was even set in Hawaii.

Survivors include his wife, Connie of 67 years; a son, Stephen (Judith) Helgers, Darlington; two daughters, Belinda Helgers, Mellott and Kim (Dan) Allen, Veedersburg; eight grandchildren, Conner Simmons, Mitchell (Brandy) Allen, Karson Allen, Sara (Jeremy) Lewis, Jeremy (Janie) Edwards, Jamie (Shane) Sankey, Nathan “Shane” (Shannon) Helgers and Jackie (Jason) Ray; nine great-grandchildren, Brian (fiancée-Hailey) Newkirk, Erica Newkirk, Kayla Sankey, Kylie Sankey, Karah Sankey, Hayden Allen, Harper Allen, Hudson Lewis, Avery Lewis, Nathan Helgers and Allison Helgers.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Candace Jo Helgers; an infant great-grandson, Jasper Edwards; a sister, Rosemary Piety; and a brother, Billy Helgers.

God gave Jim a gift of a loving heart. He knew no strangers and touched a lot of hearts, both old and young.

Friends may call at the Hillsboro Church of the Nazarene, 453 S. State Road 341, Hillsboro, on Sunday, Nov. 20, from 4 - 8 p.m. with Masonic Services concluding the visitation at 8 p.m. A celebration of Jim’s life will be held at the church on Monday, Nov. 21 at 11 a.m. with Pastor Greg McDonald officiating. A burial of his cremated remains with a full military service will be held in the Newtown Cemetery, Newtown, IN at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the Hillsboro Church of the Nazarene, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation or the Conner Simmons Trust Fund through the Fountain Trust Bank. Condolences may be sent online to www.mausfuneralhome.com.



## Low Wallace Study Celebrates Hoosier Authors

The General Low Wallace Study & Museum is hosting twenty-four regional authors for their sixth annual Low Wallace Hoosier Author Fair during Downtown Party Night. The public is invited to Fusion54 at 101 W. Main Street on Saturday, Nov. 26 from 5 - 8 p.m. to meet Hoosier authors and celebrate Small Business Saturday.

“A new feature this year is poetry on demand,” event organizer Stephanie Cain said. “We’ll have at least two poets creating works on the spot for a small fee.” Authors will have books for sale and are happy to sign copies and chat with readers.

Authors are a mix of returning guests and first-time attendees. Poets include Josh Brewer, Tony Brewer, Wendy Hill, and Mark Lilley. Mark R. Frank’s works on spirituality join several Chris-



tianity-specific books by David J. Marsh, Jody Simms-Burks, and Kelly O’Dell Stanley.

Historical fiction is well represented by authors Gretchen Carlson, Julie Jones, and John J. Uskert. Mystery

writers include Garrett Hutson, Allen Salter (writing as Sam Reaves and Dominic Martell), and M.K. Scott. Laura VanArendonk Baugh and Stephanie A. Cain will be selling fantasy novels and Eric Grayson writes

horror novels.

Eric Freeze, Ethan Hollander, and Tom Pado write on topics as various as travel, politics, and engineering. Authors with Indiana-specific books include Amie Kunkle Cox, Glory-June Greiff, and Shannon Hudson.

Each author is individually responsible for taking payments, so readers should make sure to bring cash as well as credit cards. This event is made possible with support from Crawfordsville Main Street, Downtown Party Night, and Visit Montgomery County.

The Hoosier Author Fair is open to the public. For more information about the event and the authors participating, visit <https://www.ben-hur.com/programs/lew-wallace-hoosier-author-fair/> or call 765-362-5769.

## Southmont Junior High School Honor Roll

Grade 6 High Honor Roll: Andrew Badertscher, Hayleigh Boots, Cassidy Dittmer, Briellah Halstead, Alexis Harden, Parker McCaffry, Paxton Moore, Emma Plemons, Lanie Ramsey, Kemberlee Redman, Emily Simpson, James Stumph, Jason Swick.

Grade 6 Regular Honor Roll: Cheyenne Bachmann, Elijah Badillo, Gabriel Becerril, Emma Bengel, Kohen Bonebrake, Job Bradley, Chance Brock, Jamie Buckler, Reese Bullock, Callen Bupp, Kasen Bushong, Johannah Calder, Dwayne Catubay, Bentley Chapman, Hunter Chieppo, Gabriele Church, Hailey Douglas, Ryan Ebert, RYannah Faulk, Colton Fox, Troye Fry, Sophia Gard, Callaway Garlock, Layla Grimes, Owen Grimes, Benjamin Gurule, Caiden Halstead, Jackson Halstead, Eli Hannum, Kirra Hopkins, Janice Hudson, Emery James, Chloe Jones, Henry Keller, Ella Kelly, Tyson Kelsey, Eliana Korhorn, Avery Langevin, Kai Lewin,

Erin Marburger, Gavin Mason, Remy McClure, Naomi Mershon, Emily Mohan, Mason Musser, Olivia Myers, Brayden Parker, Austin Parrish, Grace Pendleton, Brynlee Pruett, Caydence Ray, Grant Reeves, Jack Sarver, Gabriel Schindler, Clay Sering, Macie Shaw, Emory Siple, Jordan Snarud, Isabella Snow, Emilyn Steiner, Emma Stephens, Skyler Strickland, Brody Tolliver, Jayce Wagoner, Danika Ward, Ellee Wethington, Amelia Woods.

Grade 7 High Honor Roll: Annie Alesi, Ella Barry, Daxton Cottrell, Hayden Harkrider, Rebekah Johnson, Margaret Grace Klein, Zoey Larue, Claire McCutchan, Kaycee Perez, Camryn Priebe, Lane Slavens, Liam Trautwein, Kaylee Turner.

Grade 7 Regular Honor Roll: Keirstyn Archer, Ava Arthur, Jasmine Ashment, Layla Bauman, Ava Bradshaw, Kelcie Buck, Isabella Cade, Brita Cleek, Owen Cook, Hayden Cornelius, Bethany Cregger, Kamarri

Davis, Braxton Ebert, Zakota Flaurr, Ella France, Kaleb Frazier, Brayden Fullenwider, Maggie Gilliland, Benjamin Gleason, Gavyn Gleason, Lakynn Hart, Madison Hester, Judah Hoenshell, Emberlynn Hoskins-Sprague, Ethan Hutchison, Katarina Jennings, Bryor Johnson, Makenzie Lacy, Leonardo Lara, Ella Largent, Fiona Leahy-Lonas, Haiden Leslie, Sophia Lockard, David Long, Drew Magill, Paul Malone, Caden Miller, Arlon Musick, Chance Odum, Lillie Ottenburg, Creek Plemons, Kynzi Powell, Amy Roeder, Kaelynn Sanburn, Damien Severe, Malcom Simpson, Khloe Spencer, Hunter Thompson, Allison Turner, Haylyn Wallace, Kaylee Wallace, Ava Wells, Caden White.

Grade 8 High Honor Roll: Indeya Albertson, Kayden Davis, Emmalie Dexter, Paxton Gentry, Layla Gomez, Eden Hernandez, Addison Kendrick, Dean McGaughey, Luke Parker, Natalie Rhoads, Michael Schin-

dler, Marlena Trautwein, Lennon Woods.

Grade 8 Regular Honor Roll: Lino Aguiar, Drayton Barker, Kamryn Beard, Isaac Becerril, Andrew Blaydes, Savannah Bradley, Alizabeth Brown, Edwin Burris, Lily Bushong, Joanna Castillo, Makenzie Clate, Brayden Cochran, Jayden Conrad, Tyler Coudret, Tyler Cregger, Samantha Crosby, Landon Dagley, McCallister Dalton, Lillian Davis, Marley Dillon, Damian Douglas, Jacee Edwards, Alicia France, Jaycee Gerald, Jentry Gobin, Jaiden Golladay, Gavin Gray, Landon Grimes, Kimber Hill, Briana Howard, Claire Kessler, Kaydence Lewin, Emerie

Lieske, Emily Link, Samaya Morton, Hayden Overfelt, Olivia Phelps, Alexis Rector, Trent Reeves, Madelyn Roberts, Cooper Scott, Macy Scott, Amarah Shannon, Layla Shaw, Daniel Simpson, Jessica Starnes, William Stumph, Layla Testerman, Payge Wagoner, Alexis Weiler, Molly Williams, Makinzie Wood.

## Ladoga Elementary Honor Roll

High Honor Roll – 1st GRADE – Corbin Halstead, Madison Wilbert, 2ND GRADE – Bennett Grimes, Karleigh Johnson, Gabriel Turner, Alba Wimmer, 3RD GRADE – Hannah Roark, Avery Siple, 4TH GRADE – Hunter Dale, Calvin Hauser, 5TH GRADE – Ivy Arthur, Braylyn Burkholder,

Amarah Kiger, Keegan Light, Lucas Moulton, Honor Roll – 1st GRADE – Makenna Bamford, Andrew Byerly, Zoe Frazier, Adeleigh Halford, Caspen Lowery, Remi Pendleton, Parker Perry, Zoey Pettice, Brayton Russell, 2ND GRADE – Josiah Bradley, Hadley Brown, Henley Cline, Maverick

Dorsey, Aysayah Flake, Elliot Johnson, Kasen Jones, Maddalynn Kelly, Nicholas Long, Riggs Long, 3RD GRADE – Sydney Alford, Adora Burris, David Dawson, Kasen Dorsey, Noelen Duncan, Cooper Hart, Alison McDaniel, 4TH GRADE – Victor Bamford, Jaylin Burgess, Lillian Casto, Brooklyn Ear-

lywine, Annalyse Fenton, Chloe Gurule, Lyla Hart, Kavika McQueen, Jeydon Rainwater, Martha Shattuck, Madeline Stephenson, Eli Wethington, 5TH GRADE – Emmalin Bertram-Brown, Dallas Brown, Hudson Bruton, Adalynn Burris, lillia Dawson, Natalie Scott, Trinity Hamilton, Carter White,



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# Kenny Breaks Down A Potentially Chaotic Big Ten Finale

It's not the path optimistic Purdue football fans, and this columnist, predicted when forecasting a Big Ten West Division championship this season.

Saturday's 31-24 victory at Illinois not only secured The Cannon trophy for another season in West Lafayette, it helped create a four-way tie for first place with two weeks to go.

With Iowa traveling to Minnesota on Saturday in a clash of co-leaders, at most there could be a three-way tie going into the final weekend. No one needs three guesses to figure out which of the four division leaders has the most favorable remaining schedule.

Purdue.

Let the angst begin.

A noon Saturday game against Northwestern on Senior Day. The same Wildcats who are giving up 28 points a game and averaging a league-worst 15 per game. A team that has yet to win a game in the continental United States this season, having beaten Nebraska 31-28 in the season opener at Dublin, Ireland.

Indiana has been even worse defensively than its last-place numbers of a year ago. The Hoosiers again rank last in total defense and are giving up almost 35 points a game.

So, Purdue is going to be the West Division representative against Ohio State or Michigan in Indianapolis on Dec. 3?

To borrow Lee Corso's catch phrase on ESPN GameDay, not so fast my friend.

Purdue fans will be rooting for P.J. Fleck's Gophers to row the boat one more time against the Hawkeyes. A tie with Minnesota would send the Boilermakers to Indianapolis. If Purdue ties Iowa for the division, the Hawkeyes advance



**KENNY THOMPSON**  
Columnist

based on the head-to-head victory over the Boilermakers.

A three-way tie, not outside the realm of possibility, is complicated. First tiebreaker is record versus the other two leaders. If the three-way tie is Purdue, Minnesota and Illinois, the Boilermakers advance with a 2-0 mark. If the three-way tie is Purdue, Iowa and Illinois, all three teams are 1-1.

That would move us to tiebreaker No. 2, winning percentage inside the division. For argument's sake, let's give Purdue and Illinois wins over Northwestern, and Minnesota beats Iowa and Wisconsin. The Fighting Illini get the Big Ten championship berth with a 5-1 division record over 4-2 marks by Purdue and Minnesota.

In all, the Big Ten has eight tiebreakers if three or more teams share the division's best record. Imagine the Big Ten Network ratings if somehow we got to tiebreaker No. 8, a random draw?

Here's a more likely scenario:

- Purdue beats Northwestern and Indiana to finish 6-3 in conference play
- Illinois loses Saturday at Michigan, beats Northwestern to finish 5-4.
- Minnesota wins at home against Iowa and at Wisconsin to finish 6-3
- Or, Iowa scrapes together enough defensive



**Braden Smith**

touchdowns and field goals to win at Minnesota and then smother Nebraska to finish 6-3 as well. The Hawkeyes finish 5-1 in division play and go to Indianapolis.

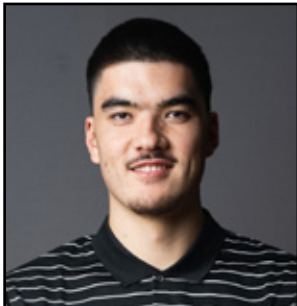
Ties are unusual in Big Ten divisional play. Since the conference went to an East-West format in 2014, there has been an outright West champion every year but 2019 when Wisconsin earned the tiebreaker over Minnesota. The East Division has had four ties, all involving Ohio State.

When Ohio State or Michigan improve the East's record to 9-0 against the West in the Big Ten Championship game, what happens next?

For the Buckeyes/Wolverines, an almost certain berth in the College Football Playoffs. The loser of the regular season matchup likely is going to Pasadena for the Rose Bowl

Entering Saturday's games, eight Big Ten schools are bowl eligible: Ohio State, Michigan, Penn State, Maryland, Illinois, Purdue, Minnesota and Iowa. Michigan State is likely to make it nine schools barring an upset at home by Indiana on Saturday. Wisconsin will be favored to win at Nebraska, elevating the Badgers to bowl eligibility as well.

Rutgers' path to bowl eligibility requires beating Penn State at home and winning at Maryland



**Zach Edey**

the following week. Very slim hopes for the Scarlet Knights to pull off that sweep.

Indiana, Nebraska and Northwestern are out of the bowl picture.

Next up on the Big Ten bowl list are the Jan. 2 Florida games. Pencil in Penn State for the Citrus in Orlando. An educated guess says the Big Ten West winner gets the former Outback Bowl, now called ReliaQuest, against an SEC foe in Tampa. Purdue graduate Jerry Palm, a contributor to CBS Sports online and on screen, has the Boilermakers facing Florida in the ReliaQuest Bowl.

If Purdue doesn't go to Florida, it is very unlikely to be sent back to Nashville for a second consecutive Music City Bowl on New Year's Eve. This spot would probably go to Iowa or Illinois.

The Duke's Mayo Bowl, set for Dec. 30 in Charlotte, N.C., probably comes down to Illinois or Purdue against an ACC rival.

I'll agree with Palm that Minnesota is a good bet for the Pinstripe Bowl in New York City on Dec. 29 against an ACC foe.

The Liberty Bowl, site of Purdue's 1980 victory over Missouri, is back on the Big Ten postseason list. Palm has Maryland taking on this year's Cinderella team, Kansas, on Dec. 28 in Memphis.

Palm also has Wisconsin taking on Oklahoma

in the Guaranteed Rate Bowl on Dec. 27 in Phoenix. That leaves a quasi-home game for Michigan State in the Quick Lane Bowl, with Palm projecting Miami (Ohio) as the opponent Dec. 26 in Detroit.

Noteworthy Carolyn Peck, who coached Purdue to the 1999 NCAA championship, is among the 12 finalists for the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame class of 2023.

Peck was the first African-American women's head coach to win a national title, guiding the Boilermakers to a 34-1 record that season. In two seasons before departing to coach the WNBA's Orlando Miracle, Peck went 57-11.

The hall of fame class will be announced Nov. 27 at halftime of ABC's broadcast of the Phil Knight Invitational championship.

Previous inductees include former Purdue coach Lin Dunn and former player Amy Ruley, who coached North Dakota State to five NCAA Division II titles. ...

Westfield's Braden Smith took advantage of his first nationally televised game with Purdue on Tuesday night, matching 7-4 center Zach Edey for a team-high 20 points in the Boilermakers' 75-70 victory against Marquette in the Gavitt Games.

Smith (15) and Edey (14) combined for 29 of Purdue's 43 points in the second half, helping the Boilermakers erase a nine-point deficit. Smith was 6 of 8 from the field (3 of 4 from 3-point range) and 5 of 6 at the free throw line.

The freshman point guard is now Purdue's second-leading scorer at 10.7 per game, exactly 10 points behind Edey. The junior center record-

ed his third double-double in as many games with 13 rebounds and is now averaging 20.7 points and 13.7 rebounds in just over 29 minutes a game. ...

Purdue quarterback Aidan O'Connell is one of three finalists for the Bulsworth Trophy, awarded to the most outstanding football player in America who began his career as a walk-on.

O'Connell leads the Big Ten at 297.2 passing yards per game.

Georgia quarterback Stetson Bennett and Troy linebacker Carlton Martial are the other finalists for the award, which will be presented Dec. 5 in Bentonville, Ark.

Bulsworth went from walk-on to an All-American at Arkansas. He passed away in an automobile accident in 1999, 11 days after being a third-round draft pick by The Indianapolis Colts. ...

Purdue basketball signee Myles Colvin and Carmel big man Sam Orme were ranked in the top five of Indiana's high school basketball senior class by Kyle Neddenriep of The Indianapolis Star.

Colvin was second behind Cathedral's Xavier Booker, a ranking Purdue coach Matt Painter disputes.

"I feel he is the best player in the state and one of the top 25 players in the country," Painter said. Colvin is No. 74 on the 247Sports composite rankings.

The 6-9 Orme, a Belmont commitment, was ranked fifth. Orme is a three-star prospect by 247Sports.

*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.*

## Classifieds

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# Dick In Jeopardy!

In last week’s column, I speculated on what personal recollections my wife might share during the “chat” portion of the show “Jeopardy!” if she were a contestant. All of Mary Ellen’s responses were totally true stories. This week, I cover what I would say if I were accepted to be one of the three challengers. Again, all my answers are what really happened.

## FIRST NIGHT ON SHOW

MAYIM: So, Dick, I understand you outright lied to get your first job as a teacher.

DICK: Yes, Mayim, that’s true. Arriving at my interview, I discovered that the English position I wanted had been filled. What they needed was a psychology teacher. The assistant superintendent asked me what I majored in. I said psychology, of course, and got the job on the spot. Then I taught that subject for 10 years. They never checked.

## THE SECOND NIGHT

MAYIM: Dick, is it true you once made the front page of a tabloid magazine?

DICK: In New York City, I became friendly with exercise guru Richard Simmons. The paparazzi snapped a photo of us jogging together in Central Park. The next week at the supermarket checkout counter, I saw one of those trashy tabloids with a photo of us on the lower left-hand corner of the cover. The headline read: EXERCISE WITH YOUR LOVER. I received calls from friends I hadn’t heard from in years. I thought the whole thing was funny. Richard thought it was hysterical. So did my wife. What about you?

## THE THIRD NIGHT

MAYIM: Dick, tell us about the time you had a very embarrassing moment on TV with a big Hollywood star.

DICK: Mayim, I interviewed Cyd Charisse, the gorgeous Hollywood actress and dancer. Her publicity person told me to mention Underalls, a pantyhose brand that I assumed was sponsoring her tour. This made sense; the woman had awesome legs. I mentioned Underalls numerous times until Ms. Charisse corrected me,



DICK WOLFSIE  
Funny Bone

saying she had nothing to do with Underalls, but she did want to talk about Enderall, her arthritis medicine. This week, 35 years later, I finally got hearing aids. Just a little late.

## THE FOURTH NIGHT

MAYIM: I’m told you have asked some really dumb questions on your TV shows. What was the dumbest?

DICK: I interviewed a man who had a six-foot-long alligator as a pet. When I got to his house, his reptilian giant had on a t-shirt that said, “I’m a Dick Wolfsie Fan.” I asked the owner if he had ever gotten in the tank with the gator. “No, Dick,” he said, “the gator put the shirt on by himself.”

## THE FIFTH NIGHT

MAYIM: Dick, I understand you were a bit deceptive in securing another job later in life.

DICK: Yes, many years back I went to the developer of the new Union Station in Indianapolis and told him I had spoken with the WTHR general manager and that he was interested in producing a morning show from their new facility. I totally made that up. Then I went to the general manager of WTHR and told him that the Union Station people were considering the possibility of broadcasting a morning program from the new venue. I kinda made that up, as well. Both sides ended up talking to each other. The show premiered April 26, 1987, with me as host.

I’m retired now. Thank goodness. I’ll never have to lie to get a job again.

*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.*

# Advocates Try Again To Increase Indiana’s Cigarette Tax

By Whitney Downard

With the 2023 legislative session around the corner, health advocates continue to push the General Assembly to do more to reduce Indiana’s smoking rate, which costs the state \$3.4 billion in healthcare costs annually, by increasing the cigarette tax.

Bryan Hannon, the American Cancer Society government relations director for Indiana, emphasized the need to discuss an increase to the state’s cigarette tax, which at 99 cents-per-pack is the 39th-lowest tax rate in the country.

“... There are evidence-based policies that we can pursue to reduce tobacco rates and unfortunately Indiana has not pursued those with any conviction of vigor in the last 16 years. And it shows in the data,” said Hannon, whose organization is pushing for a \$2 increase during their 47th annual Great American Smokeout on Thursday.

The Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids reports that Indiana’s adult smoking rate sits at 17.3 % in 2022, higher than the nationwide 12.5 % rate. For minors, the rates are 5.2 % and 1.9 % for Indiana and the United States, respectively.

Advocates like Hannon argue the state could decrease its smoking rate – which in turn reduces healthcare costs for businesses and preventable deaths – by increasing tobacco taxes.

A session primed to focus on the need for more public health funding could boost the argument for increased taxes.

Sen. Pro Tem Rodric Bray, R-Martinsville, said that ways to reduce Hoosier smoking rates would be part of the discussion on public health — an area that one report said would need nearly \$250 million in funding.

“We will be taking a hard look at our public health funding this year, including potential changes to our public health funding and infrastructure,” Bray said. “With that in mind, cessation efforts to help curb smoking will certainly be an issue we look at this legislative session.”

Hannon observed that part of that public health spending could be funded



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by increased taxes, though each issue had merit individually.

He said his organization has pushed for an increase at least since 2016, though legislators have been resistant. The last increase dates to 2007. Indiana’s cigarette taxes per pack rank lower than all of its neighbors.

## Vaping tax

Rather, the General Assembly did the reverse in the most recent session, reducing a tax on vaping products from 25 % of the wholesale price to 15 %, which went into effect on July 1. Sen. Travis Holdman, R-Markle, argued that his bill simply corrected a mistake from the 2021 session that introduced the 25 % tax, telling the IndyStar that 15 % rate was needed to “create more parity” with other products.

The 15 % tax is equal to neighboring Illinois and Kentucky but higher than Michigan, which has no tax, and Ohio, which charges \$0.10 per milliliter.

The difference between tax rates on e-cigarettes and traditional cigarettes could make vaping a more appealing option, rather than placing the emphasis on quitting altogether.

“Our preferred approach is that we tax all tobacco products equally,” Hannon said. “The concern there for us is that, in the public health space, when tax policy treats one category of products more favorably than the others, it can encourage switching rather than quitting.”

Some proponents of a lower vaping tax maintain that e-cigarettes are a safer alternative and ease a smoker’s decision to quit. However, not all medical experts agree. The Indiana State Medical Association (ISMA), a physician membership organization, said more research was needed and teens especially should be discouraged from vaping.

“Like traditional tobacco, e-cigarettes contain toxins and cancer-causing

chemicals,” ISMA said in a statement. “The ISMA also strongly supports the ban on the sale and marketing of e-cigarettes and other tobacco products to anyone under 21, and continues to support taxing e-cigarettes at a level equivalent to the tax rate on other tobacco products.”

The General Assembly increased the minimum age to purchase tobacco, including cigarettes and vaping products, to 21 during the 2020 legislative session.

Business leaders also hope that increasing the tax will reduce the state’s smoking rate, therefore decreasing healthcare costs for employers. But some worry that the state focuses on the revenue aspect rather than the interest in public health.

“The facts are, you increase the cigarette tax, you lower the smoking rate. We’ve seen the evidence on that and we’ve been pushing this for years,” said Mike Ripley, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce vice president of healthcare and employment law policy. “It’s not what we consider a revenue generator... but it is for the purpose of getting people to stop smoking.”

Hannon noted that an estimated 11,000 Hoosiers die annually due to tobacco- or smoking-related illnesses.

“This isn’t just about a budgetary equation or numbers on a spreadsheet, this is about lives,” Hannon said. “So the longer we wait, the more people will pick up the addiction.”

## Indiana falls behind on cessation spending

An IndyStar report from 2019 found that, after leading the nation in tobacco control funding in the early 2000s, monies sharply declined after 2003, covering just a fraction of the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In a post acknowledging that no state meets the agency’s proposed minimum for funding,

the CDC observed that states receive money for those very efforts from tobacco settlements and current tax rates.

“In fiscal year 2020, states will collect \$27.2 billion from tobacco taxes and settlements in court, but will only spend \$740 million in the same year,” the CDC said. “Spending 12 % (about \$3.4 billion) of the \$27.2 billion would fund every state’s tobacco control program at CDC-recommended levels.”

That \$740 million, or 2.7 % of state collections, pales compared to reported spending from tobacco companies, which annually spends \$8.2 billion on advertising. Indiana alone sees \$283 million of that marketing, according to the Indiana Department of Health.

A 2014 CDC report found that Indiana should be spending \$73.5 million, or 13 % of its funds, due to its higher-than-average smoking rates — more than 10 times the current \$7.5 million budget to the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Commission. Prior to 2003 Indiana spent as much as \$36 million combatting smoking in Indiana.


“Much like all of Indiana’s public health infrastructure, that tobacco program has seen a precipitous decline in its appropriations,” Hannon said.

In its annual report, the commission reported reaching roughly 75 % of Hoosiers in 39 counties, less than half of Indiana’s 92 counties.

Hannon said that while doctors, families and friends played a role in helping someone quit tobacco, the state also needed to provide support for cessation programs.

“We know that many people who use tobacco – they want to quit. The data shows (that) about seven out of 10 cigarette smokers want to quit smoking but it’s very hard to do and they need support,” he said.

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MLS



NMMS

From Page A1




Photos courtesy of NMMS

High School Musical Jr runs Nov. 18 & 19 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 20 at 2:30 at the NMHS Auditorium.

are grateful for all of our parent volunteers and this show would not have been possible without the support of our administration at North Montgomery" says director Bailey Mann. The casting process begun in September and the students have been working hard to bring this upbeat show to life. "We are blessed to have an incredibly talented group of students in the cast. I am proud of their hard work and perseverance throughout the show process. You will not want to miss this!" says director Megan Birk.

High School Musical Jr runs Nov. 18 & 19 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 20 at 2:30 at the NMHS Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students. Tickets can be purchased online by going to [nms.nm.k12.in.us](http://nms.nm.k12.in.us) and clicking on "Fine Arts Tickets".

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Meet The Cast

Troy Bolton.....	Colin York
Gabriella Montez.....	Courtney Ratliff
Sharpay Evans.....	Hannah Barnes
Ryan Evans.....	Chris Jara
Coach Bolton.....	Talyn Sheldon
Ms. Darbus.....	Audrey Cain
Chad Danforth.....	Owen DeSmet
Taylor McKessie.....	Sarah Hopper
Kelsi Nielson.....	Savannah Crowe
Martha Cox.....	Lilly Graham
Zeke Baylor.....	Sam Woolwine
Jason.....	Tyler Hintz
Jack Scott.....	Connor Laws
Darbus' Assistant.....	Peyton Page
Assistant Coach.....	Braylon Denham
Ripper.....	Ben Oppy
Moderator.....	Caden Tyo
Ms. Tenny.....	Kate Merica
Susan.....	Addi Moseley
Cathy.....	Riley Robinson
Cyndra.....	Holly Nelson
James.....	Jack Powell
Drum Major/Kratnoff.....	Brooklyn Jeffers

NYE Party Soloists: Skylar Hall, Kendra McClamroch, Lily Mycroft, Marlee Reed

All In This Together Soloists: Ben Oppy, Ava Stephens, Brooklyn Siegman, Olivia Williamson

Basketball Players: Hayden Allen, Zach Craig, Payson Frazier, Lincoln Heide, Alex Heisel, Korbin Lewis, Garrett Morrison, Jack Powell, Hunter Powell

Cheerleaders: Chloe Arnold, Kendall Barnett, Hailey Campbell, Paisley Gillan, Skylar Hall, Emma Hieston, Ava Kincaid, Laina Newton, Genesis Orduna-Reyes, Cambria Pressler, Makenzi Snellenbarger, Grace Tello-Bell, Elle Waggoner, Sophie Welshimer, Zetta Zachary

Pep club Posse: Sophie Crum, Addi Moseley, Bailey Nichols, Ava Stephens, Brooklyn Siegman, Olivia Williamson

Brainiacs: Jayla Birge, Preslee Claycomb, Nicholas Daron, Bella Furgye, Bobby Hoffman, Brooklyn Jeffers, Bridgette Laws, Kendra McClamroch, Kinley McCoy, Kate Merica, Lily Mycroft, Ben Oppy, Emrik Phillips, Charlotte Powell, Dylan Priddy, Kyra Purple, Marlee Reed, Caden Tyo, Gabby Viveros

Thespians: Addy Biggs, Anna Cain, Abigail Cain, Mally Chamness, Kendal Godbey, Reese Goins, Addi Huber, Eleanor Keen, Erin McKinney, Maddison Mullen-Harlen, Holly Nelson, Riley Robinson, Anabelle Rose, Natalie Schultz, Emily Seamen, Lucy Smith, Taytum Snyder

MS Crew: Joe Zuk, Chris Bolen, Eli Nunan, Brooke Kunz

Directed by: Megan Birk, Bailey Mann, & Mike Melvin

BUTCH

From Page A1

will be around for another two years, reading whatever his handlers put on the teleprompter and making those hilarious gaffes. He should have been a comedian. Hey . . . that's it! What we need is a good stand-up comedian for our President!

Americans need someone to lighten things up a tad, make us smile, and help us forget all the nincompoop politicians, inflation and woke ideas. Joan Rivers, Don Rickles, Milton Berle, Jack Benny, Steve Martin, Bob Newhart, Jerry Seinfeld . . . now they would have been good. They may not have accomplished anything, but at least they would have made our lives more fun and interesting. Actually, when it comes to politics, comedian George Carlin nailed it on many things . . . for instance:

"In America, anyone can become President. That's the problem."

"Some people have no idea what they are doing, and a lot of them are really good at it."

"Never underestimate the power of stupid people in large groups."

"Bipartisan usually means that a larger-than-usual deception is being carried out."

"Never argue with an idiot. They will bring you down to their level . . . and beat you with their experience."

Folks, it's time to steady your nerves until 2024. We are going to hear the same gibberish and nonsense, see the same faces and be served with the same bunch of baloney. If you can't stand to watch Hillary, drink some Jack Daniels. (Note: If she starts looking attractive, you know you've had too much.) If you absolutely hate Trump, just replay Florida governor Ron DeSantis's victory speech, because I wager he will be our next President.

We just get no respect, just like comedian Rodney Dangerfield, who once said, "Life is no bargain, you know . . . I get no respect. Never did. My mother had morning sickness, AFTER I was born. And she never breast fed me. She told me she only liked me as a friend. And my old man, I asked him if I could go ice-skating on the lake, he told me to wait until it gets warmer. My wife, she is no bargain either. She kisses the dog on the lips, yet

she won't drink from my glass. And she only has sex with me for a purpose. Last night she used me to time an egg. I have no luck, no luck at all. The way my luck is running, if I was a politician, I would be honest."

So don't fret. Stay upbeat. Think of all the good things in your life . . . your friends, your family and the advantages of living in good old Montgomery County, Indiana. Because if you are in a continually bad mood, you could make it worse. As Rodney also related one time, "I was so depressed that I decided to jump from the 10th floor, so they sent up a priest who looked at me and said, 'On your mark, get set . . . '"

National politicians drive me crazy. It's true. But I still love my country. It's the best! And even though he passed away several years ago . . . RODNEY DANGERFIELD FOR PRESIDENT 2024!!!

*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.*

LESSONS

From Page A1

home care, online and social media safety, self-care, and mental health, and celebrating what we have learned. Youth will have a follow-up activity after each lesson to reinforce learning, including one "virtual" component and one "off-screen" component. Guest speakers will join the lessons during various sessions to bring in expertise and provide youth the opportunity to connect with professionals.

Registration can be completed through <http://v2.4online.com>. To register, create an account or sign in. The registration can be found under the Events tab. The \$30 registration fee covers the cost of all provided material, content, and supplies that will be sent to registrants. Financial assistance is available. Contact [hendrecs@purdue.edu](mailto:hendrecs@purdue.edu) for details or visit <https://bit.ly/23lifelessons>.

Lesson Schedule:

- Jan. 17 – Online & Social Media Safety
- Jan. 24 – Banking & Budgeting

- Jan. 31 – Self-Care
  - Feb. 7 – Food Prep & Safety
  - Feb. 14 – Home Care
  - Feb. 21 – Etiquette & People Skills
  - Feb. 28 – Auto Care
  - March 7 – Celebration!
- Lessons begin at 7 p.m. EST/6 p.m. CST
- Abby Morgan is the 4-H Youth Development Educator at the Montgomery County Purdue Extension Office. She can be reached at [asweet@purdue.edu](mailto:asweet@purdue.edu) or 765-364-6363.*

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