

# The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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**TODAY'S VERSE**

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

**FACES OF MONTGOMERY**

People who call our community their own.



Adam Phipps of the Knights of Columbus smiles brightly while handling out Tootsie Rolls during the annual Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade in beautiful downtown Crawfordsville. Thank you for your smile Adam!

**THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** Four Indiana communities have been awarded Owner Occupied Rehabilitation grants totaling \$1,000,000. The grants will be used to empower the communities to directly fund homeowners of low-moderate income to make needed repairs on their homes. Communities awarded will set up a program to fund low- and moderate-income homeowners to make repairs on their homes. Eligible repairs include roof repair or replacement, ADA accessibility, heating and cooling replacement, lighting and electrical upgrades, and water heater replacement. The four Hoosier communities received \$250,000 each: the cities are Lawrenceburg, North Vernon and Seymour along with Jefferson County.

**2** Sagamore News Media is looking for talented sales people. Whether you sell by phone or in person, we want to talk with you. Hourly rates begin at \$15 per hour and only go up from there. If you have good sales skills, this might be the job you have been looking for. There is no cap on earnings and multiple people in the past have earned \$50,000, \$60,000 and beyond - all the way into six figures. Sagamore News Media owns newspapers in Noblesville and Crawfordsville and feature award-winning work every day. Come be part of our team! Apply today by e-mailing resume to jobs@thepaper24-7.com. We can't wait to talk with you!

**3** Ivy Tech Lafayette will host the Food Finders Food Bank Mobile Pantry on the college's southside campus today at 11 a.m. The campus is located at 2101 S. Creasy Lane, Lafayette. The Mobile Pantry will be distributing food, including fresh produce, an assortment of frozen items, essential non-perishable items, and breads to people in need. This will be a drive-through distribution. All clients must remain in their vehicles at all times, and must not arrive prior to 10:30 a.m. Anyone in need of emergency food assistance is welcome to attend. Call Food Finders at 765.471.0062 for income guidelines.



Photo courtesy of HHSB

HHSB's Trent Smaltz with the 2021 Shared Values Award winner, Beyond Homeless, Inc.

**2022 Shared Values Award**

The winner will take home the grand prize of a \$5,000 DONATION! The 1st Runner-up will receive a \$2,500 donation and the 2nd Runner-up will receive a \$1,000 donation. At Hoosier Heartland State Bank, we love our local charities! They change lives through love, compassion and service, making our communities a great place to work and live. Please help us identify our next Shared Values Award winner by nominating your favorite local not-profit organization! The nomination period runs from Dec. 1-31, 2022. Final-

ists will be determined from your nominations, and each will have a chance to vie for the Grand Prize of \$5,000 and recognition as HHSB's Shared Values Award winner. Optionally, enter your name and contact information and be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift card! Visit myhhsb.com to submit your nominations or nomination forms can be dropped off at any HHSB branch or mailed to: Hoosier Heartland State Bank, Attn: Executive Committee, 1671 South US Highway 231, Crawfordsville IN 47933.

**Crawfordsville Student's Gap Year Leads To A Passion For Missions**

For Katie Baird, a junior from Crawfordsville, Indiana, becoming a missionary felt like a daunting task. But after spending a gap year in the Dominican Republic, she discovered a passion for relational missions and a confirmed direction for her life. Baird first had an interest in missions in her sophomore year of high school following a Samaritan's Purse work trip through her church. Over the next year, she began thinking about going into long-term missions as a career but felt unqualified. "The short-term missions trip sparked my interest, but I always thought of full-time missionaries as "Christian superheroes," said Baird. "But then in the spring of 2017 I watched a documentary called "The Insanity of God" about a couple working in South Sudan. I saw them struggling with the same things I do, humbly serving in the way God called them

to. That was a pivotal moment for me." In Baird's senior year, she was invited to attend a missions conference in Germany, where her youth pastor first mentioned the idea of taking a gap year. "I was entirely set to go to college - I had a roommate and everything," said Baird. "But I felt like if I was called to missions, I should do a longer-term trip to get an idea of what full-time missions looks like." After deciding to pursue a gap year, Baird coordinated with a missionary couple working with Haitian refugees in the Dominican Republic and raised funds for her seven-month trip. On October 5, 2019, Baird arrived in Santiago de los Caballeros and was introduced to missionaries Wilby and Lisa Romain. "I showed up in the DR with very little Spanish speaking ability and even less Haitian

See MISSIONS Page A8

**Video Games, Cell Phone, i-Pad ... Butch Didn't Need Those!**



**BUTCH DALE**  
Columnist

Let me ask you this...How do kids today entertain themselves in their spare time? The answer is obvious. They are either fixated on their cell phone or i-Pad...or playing video games. Of course, many children play organized sports in school, which is great, but it seems that when school is over, the technological devices take over. My generation had no cell phones. In fact, my family didn't even have a landline dial phone until 1958 when I was in the 4th grade. And video games, tablets, i-Pads, computers, etc. would have sounded like science fiction back then. So what did we baby-boomers do for fun? Here is what I did....

See BUTCH Page A8

**The Daily Almanac**

Sunrise/Sunset  
RISE: 7:55 a.m.  
SET: 5:22 p.m.

High/Low  
Temperatures  
High: 48°F  
Low: 40°F

Today is...  
• Miners' Day  
• St. Nicholas Day

**What Happened On This Day**

- 1884 The Washington Monument in Washington, D.C., is completed
- 1897 London becomes the first city in the world to host licensed taxicabs

**Births On This Day**

- 1920 Dave Brubeck American pianist and composer
- 1967 Judd Apatow American director, producer and screenwriter

**Deaths On This Day**

- 1882 Alfred Escher Swiss businessman and politician
- 1988 Roy Orbison American singer-songwriter

**The Three Wise Men: Balthasar, Melchior & Butkus**



**JOHN MARLOWE**  
Columnist

I believe that I'll put my Christmas tree up, this year. Until a few years ago, that would have been odd to write. I love Christmas trees. We put one up every year when I was a child, sometimes two. I continued the tradition into my adult years, although I am not blessed with children in my home making merry around it.

I always went to the trouble of decorating the Christmas tree with do-dads, ornaments and twinkling light strands, anyway. Until three years ago. A combination of a lingering heartache, the fact that I was never home on Christmas and the residue of an endless home remodeling gave me little reason to go to the trouble of dragging the tree up from storage. I didn't turn my back on Christmas entirely. Close perhaps. Regardless, I did manage to set up a little tabletop Christmas tree each year. I found a scraggly loblolly in a thrift store, and like the renowned Charlie Brown, I took it home because it shared my sense of holiday forsakenness. This sorrowful spruce has served me well, but this year I want to put up the official "family" Christmas tree -- the

See JOHN Page A8

**HONEST HOOSIER**

19 Montgomery County shopping days until Christmas. Let's give our United Way a big of present!



**INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION**

Obituaries.....A2  
Slim Randles.....A3  
Notes.....A2

**TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

If you want youthful skin, limit your exposure to the sun. 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

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



The Paper OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

**THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

**Show Us Those Smiles!**

Are you a proud parent or grandparent? Got a great photo of your loved one? E-mail it to news@thepaper24-7.com along with the pertinent info (and your contact information so we can reach you if we have questions). C'mon, let's show off as many bright and smiling faces as we can and make clear exactly why Montgomery County is such a great place to raise a family!

**TODAY'S QUOTE**

"I want to become small again this Christmas so that I can feel again the entire joy of Christmas without the worries of the world on my mind."  
- Unknown

**TODAY'S JOKE**

What does Santa call lazy reindeer?  
Delicious.

13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

40/48 CLOUDY, DRIZZLE, SHOWERS	45/52 MAINLY CLOUDY	38/52 RAINY	40/44 WET AND BREEZY	30/43 MAINLY CLOUDY	29/43 PARTLY SUNNY	33/42 CHANCE OF RAIN, SNOW
TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON

## OBITUARIES

### Dale W. Maltzberger

Dec. 13, 1926 - Nov. 30, 2022

Dale W. Maltzberger of Crawfordsville passed away Wednesday night at The Waters of Tipton in Tipton, Indiana at the age of 95.

Born Dec. 13, 1926 near Crawfordsville, he was the son of Clarence Maltzberger and Frances Howard Maltzberger.

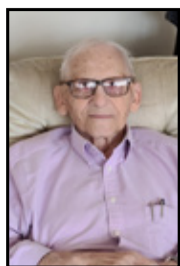
He attended school at New Market. He married Mary E. Pearson on March 4, 1949 and she passed away Feb. 6, 2000.

He was a farmer, carpenter and worked at Raybestos. He served his country in the Marine Corps during World War II. He was a member of the American Legion.

Survivors include his son, Larry Maltzberger (Mary) of Elwood; three grandsons, Brian Maltzberger of Indianapolis, Justin Maltzberger of Indianapolis and Colin Maltzberger of Chicago.

He was preceded in death by his wife; parents; brother, Woodrow Maltzberger; three sisters, Lillian Chase, Reba Hughes and Shirley Maltzberger; and his son, Gary Maltzberger.

Visitation is scheduled from 3 - 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7 at Burkhardt Funeral Home, 201 W. Wabash, Crawfordsville. Services will begin at 5 p.m., led by Pastor Josh Shoemaker. Burial will be held at the Waynetown Masonic Cemetery at a later date.



### Edward Wayne Gill

March 19, 1922 - Dec. 3, 2022

Edward Wayne Gill of Crawfordsville passed away Saturday at the age of 100.

Born March 19, 1922 in Crawfordsville, he was the son of Robert Gill and Emma Sering Gill.

He graduated from Crawfordsville High School. He married Helen Swisher Gill on Nov. 9, 1946 in Kokomo. She passed away Oct. 7, 2007.

He was a member of Woodland Heights Christian Church, the American Legion, where he served as commander, 40 & 8, Disabled Vets and VFW.

In 1942, when he was 20 years old, he joined the Marine Corps and served three years during World War II. He served in Guam and was wounded on Iwo Jima. He witnessed the raising of the flag on Iwo Jima. He was honored with a Purple Heart.

He worked 26 years at the power and light company as an operator on the main board. He also did plumbing, carpentry work and helped build the gazebo at Lane Place.

At age 74 he began running the 100-yard dash. He ran in 16 races in his area, and won 14 of them. He also participated in the Arizona Senior Olympics.

His grandson, Tyler, wrote in a second-grade essay -20 years ago- about his hero "My papaw is special to me because he teaches me how to be nice to others and help in my community." That was how Eddie Gill lived his life.

Survivors include his daughter, Linda Gowin (Terry) of Crawfordsville; daughter-in-law, Carol Gill of California; grandson, Ben Gowin (Jennie) of Greenwood; granddaughter, Deann Wolfe (Johnny) of California; six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife of 61 years; one brother; two sisters; son, William "Bill" Gill; and a grandson, Edward Andrew "Andy" Gowin.

Visitation is scheduled from 10 a.m. to Noon on Saturday, Dec. 10 at Burkhardt Funeral Home. Services will begin at Noon, with military honors. Pastor Steve Wilke will then officiate services. Burial will be at Oak Hill Cemetery North.

Donations may be made to the Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County, 1104 Big Four Arch Road, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 or Woodland Heights Christian Church, 468 N. Woodland Heights Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933.



## Meeting Notes

### Crawfordsville Community School Corporation

Board of Education - Regular Meeting Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022 at 6 p.m.  
 Mollie B. Hoover Elementary - 1301 S. Elm St., Craw-

fordsville, IN 47933  
 AGENDA  
 I. Roll Call  
 II. CHARACTER COUNTS! SM Corporation - Pillar of Respect  
 III. Pledge of Allegiance  
 IV. Building Principal Report - Principal Marci Galinowski - Mollie B. Hoover Elementary  
 V. Consent Agenda: Approve Previous Meet-

ing Minutes, Construction Accounts Payable Voucher, Payroll Claims Vouchers, Register of Accounts Payable Voucher, and Surplus Items  
 VI. Old Business  
 VII. New Business  
 a. Consider Transfer from Education Fund to Rainy Day Fund  
 b. Consider Transfer from Rainy Day Fund to Operations Fund

VIII. Personnel  
 a. Consider Resignation of Addison Conard - Assistant at Nicholson  
 IX. Change of Position  
 X. Assistant Superintendent Report  
 XI. Superintendent Report  
 XII. Other  
 XIII. Board Member Communication  
 XIV. Patron Comments  
 XV. Adjournment

## Meeting Notes

### Crawfordsville Council Committee Meeting

The City of Crawfordsville, Indiana Dec. 5, 2022 at 6 p.m. EDT  
 City Building, 300 E. Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933  
 Council Chambers  
 I. Fiscal Affairs  
 A. A Resolution Re-

garding Receipt and Approval of Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power Company's Proposed 2023 Budget and Salary Worksheets  
 B. A Resolution Regarding Receipt and Approval of Crawfordsville Street Department's Proposed 2023 Central Garage Budget and Salary Worksheets  
 C. A Resolution Regarding Receipt and Approval of the Crawfordsville Sanitation

Department's Proposed 2023 Budget and Salary Worksheets  
 D. A Resolution Regarding Receipt and Approval of the Crawfordsville Storm Water Department's Proposed 2023 Budget and Salary Worksheets  
 E. A Resolution Regarding Receipt and Approval of the Crawfordsville Waste Water Department's Proposed 2023 Budget and Salary Worksheets

F. A Resolution Approving Application for Tax Abatement—W Enterprises, LLC  
 II. Ordinances & Petitions  
 III. Traffic, Parking & Safety  
 A. An Ordinance Vacating a Portion of an Alley in Crawfordsville, Indiana - North-South Alley directly east of 110 West South Boulevard  
 IV. Annexation  
 V. Miscellaneous  
 VI. Adjournment

## Meeting Notes

### Crawfordsville District Public Library

Board of Trustees Meeting Notice and

Agenda Dec. 8, 2022, at 4 p.m. Donnelly Room  
 • Call to order  
 • Public Comments  
 • Minutes - action  
 • Claims - action  
 • Reports: Main Street,

Park Board, Friends of CMMC  
 • Old Business  
 • Director's Report  
 • Financial Reports  
 • New Business  
 • Insurance Renewal for 2023 - action

o Board Meeting Schedule for 2023 - action  
 • Adjournment  
 Upcoming board meetings  
 Jan. 12, 2023 - 4 p.m.  
 Feb. 9, 2023 - 4 p.m.  
 March 9, 2023 - 4 p.m.

## Meeting Notes

### Southmont Schools Board of Trustees

Executive Session Board Meeting Corporation Board Room Friday, Dec. 9, 2022 - 11 a.m.  
 AGENDA  
 The Board of School Trustees will meet in executive session on Friday, Dec. 9, 2022 at 11 a.m. in the corporation board

room at 6401 S. US Highway 231, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, to discuss job performance evaluation of individual employees, pursuant to I.C. 5-14-1.5.6.1  
 I. Call to Order  
 II. Roll Call  
 III. Adjournment  
 Future Meetings:  
 Dec. 12, 2022 - Regular Meeting - Corporation Board Room - 6 p.m.  
 Jan. 9, 2023 - Regular Meeting - Corporation Board Room - 6 p.m.



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# What Does Indiana's Transgender Athlete Ban Mean For Schools?

By Casey Smith

After Indiana's law banning transgender girls from competing in girls school sports took effect in July, at least one Hoosier school district is grappling with what the new statute does — and does not — require of schools.

The controversy centers around a proposed plan to codify the state ban in district policy — a move the Indiana School Boards Association and American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana (ACLU) say is unnecessary.

Indiana lawmakers passed the bill, which specifically blocks transgender girls from playing on K-12 girl's school sports teams. It doesn't impact transgender boys or college and professional sports.

Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb vetoed the bill, saying there is no current problem in Indiana and noting the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) already has a policy in place to ensure fair competition. Legislators then returned in May to override the veto.

The ban has since been put on-hold for Indianapolis Public Schools after a federal judge in July issued a preliminary injunction in favor of a transgender girl who would be blocked from playing girls' sports un-

der the state's new ban.

ACLU sued the school district on behalf of the 10-year-old student who said she would no longer be able to play softball on her school's all-girls' softball team.

Attorney General Todd Rokita has emphasized that the law remains in effect across the state and maintains his office will continue to defend the law "to protect Indiana's students."

School district floats its own ban

Indiana schools were required to align their policies with the new legislation by July 1.

But West Lafayette Community School Corporation officials drew criticism last month after the district proposed its own outright ban on certain transgender student-athletes.

The draft policy seeks to prohibit transgender girls from competing on girls school sports teams in the district. It would also lay out a specific grievance procedure for students who feel unfairly barred from a sports team.

West Lafayette school board members said their interpretation of the state law requires them to adopt a specific transgender athlete ban at the district level, too — even if they disagree with the policy.

One board member, Amy Austin, said she morally disapproved of



## Indiana Capital Chronicle

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the policy, but echoed other district officials' concerns that they must adhere to the state statute.

"We have to obviously follow the law, we're a state agency, right?" Austin said at the November school board meeting. "But, I didn't feel comfortable letting that go by without mentioning that I will grudgingly do what it takes to follow the law ... because people's very personal lives should not be subject to the government's interference."

School board President Rachel Witt added that the Indiana attorney general has made "clear" the need for schools to specifically enforce the statewide ban at the district level.

The ACLU of Indiana said in a statement that the school district's policy is unnecessary and "sends the wrong message," however. Instead, West Lafayette schools can better serve students by "making it clear that they disagree" with the state's attempt to ban trans girls from sports, "not enshrining the ban into school policy."

ACLU of Indiana Le-

gal Director Ken Falk additionally told the Indiana Capital Chronicle that the law is not enforced by the state, but rather by "people who are concerned that transgender females are playing sports."

The law makes clear that schools must have in place a grievance procedure for students who feel they've been "deprived of an athletic opportunity." The law does not make clear what those policies should specifically consist of, but Falk said a grievance policy could simply require an email to an athletic director.

If a student or parent is not satisfied with the outcome of that grievance process, they can then file a lawsuit against the school corporation arguing that the law is being violated.

"At this point, given that this ban is state law, it's unclear why the school should have rules at all," Falk said. "This is all made up — this is a problem that doesn't exist."

West Lafayette superintendent Shawn Greiner asked school board members to table the

policy now. Witt said the district is waiting for legal battles to play out in court before moving forward.

What is — and isn't — required of schools Indiana joins more than a dozen other states adopting similar laws in the past two years.

Earlier, when the ban was under debate in the legislature, IHSAA Commissioner Paul Neidig expressed reservations that the legislation only addressed "a single gender and the grievance procedure."

He added that the IHSAA's long-standing gender policy already provides "the flexibility to assess competitive advantage in each unique case." The policy requires transgender girls who want to play sports to show they've completed hormone therapy, and that their muscle mass or bone density is typical of other girls the same age.

Even so, the association has not had any transgender girls finalize a request to play on a girls team.

"We have not received any inquiries for legal guidance from our

member schools but if we do receive questions, we would refer them to the IHSAA Gender Policy," Neidig said in a statement to the Indiana Capital Chronicle Friday.

Lisa Tanselle, general counsel for the Indiana School Boards Association, said the statewide organization has not fielded questions or concerns about transgender athletes policies from individual school districts.

"I have yet to entertain a phone call from a school board on this particular issue. Although that's not to say that doesn't mean school boards haven't done this," she said. "The statute doesn't really refer to the board adopting a policy. If a school corporation has a grievance procedure in place, that's good enough — that would suffice."

Multiple Indiana school districts, including the Fort Wayne and Evansville community school districts, did not reply to the Indiana Capital Chronicle's requests for comment about their athlete policies and grievance procedures.

Still, Title IV already requires school corporations to have a grievance procedure in place for complaints alleging sex discrimination. Tanselle noted that policies relevant to those federal guidelines could be enough to fulfill the Indiana requirement.

The Paper

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# Did Mike Pence Save The Republic?

Did Mike Pence save the republic and American democracy

What we didn't realize last June when the House Jan. 6 Committee began its hearings was that it was the recalcitrance of Vice President Pence that kept the American democracy as we knew it from unraveling before our disbelieving eyes.

We didn't realize that if Pence had caved to President Trump, delaying the Electoral College certification that day, that 245 years of existence as a democratic republic could have been lost.

That if a delay in the Electoral College count on Jan. 6 had occurred, that would have given President Trump an opening to invoke the Insurrection Act, declare martial law, and deputize the Oath Keeper and Proud Boy militias, who had planned to gather their weapon caches at a hotel across the Potomac River in Arlington and occupy the Capitol and White House in an effort to, as Trump advisor Steve Bannon put it, "kill the Biden presidency in the crib."

While Trump had been laying the "rigged election" groundwork for months, even years, on Election Night Trump did just what Bannon predicted: "This is a fraud on the American public. Frankly, we did win this election."

Except he didn't. Trump lost to Biden by more than 7 million votes. He lost the Electoral College 306-232.

Court defense documents in Oath Keeper founder Stewart Rhodes's sedition trial reveal: "When he believed that the President would issue



**BRIAN HOWEY**  
Howey Political Report

an order invoking the Insurrection Act, he was prepared to follow it. When that invocation did not come, he did precisely nothing." Rhodes lawyers wrote in court documents.

Trump did not invoke the insurrection act on Jan. 6 because Vice President Pence refused to join the coup d'etat.

Shocked Americans (and the whole world) watched as President Trump begged Secret Service to let his armed supporters enter his speech at the Ellipse before he sent the mob to the Capitol. By the end of the day, some 150 Capitol and Metro PD officers had been wounded in what was described as "medieval" hand-to-hand combat that killed five people. A couple later committed suicide. It is a wonder that under siege police didn't fire into the crowd, setting off a gun battle inside the citadel of American democracy. The worst case scenario had, some how, some way, been averted. And yet, some 900 Americans are facing charges ranging from disorderly conduct to sedition.

According to Politico, Trump and Pence had a tense phone conversation on the morning of Jan. 6. The conversation came after Trump

had pressured his vice president for weeks to try and somehow object or delay as he presided over Biden's certification, Politico reported. Pence firmly resisted and would gavel down Trump's defeat in the early hours of Jan. 7, after rioters had been cleared from the Capitol.

"Vice President Pence uttered what I think are the six most chilling words of this entire thing I've seen so far: 'I'm not getting in that car,'" Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD) described Pence's refusal to Secret Service to evacuate the Capitol. "He knew exactly what this inside coup they had planned for was going to do."

Pence evacuated the Senate just minutes before the chamber was breached, and later was rushed to safety as rioters were just 40 feet away. Greg Jacob, the vice president's lawyer, testified at the third hearing and said he had not known they were that close. Jacob said Secret Service agents wanted them to leave the building but Pence refused to get into the car. "The vice president didn't want to take any chance" that the world would see him leaving the Capitol, Jacob said.

At 4:08 p.m., Pence gave an order to top Pentagon officials that was technically not his to issue: "Clear the Capitol. Get troops here. Get them here now."

The vice president's order to the military seemed to have finally snapped things into place. Pence had let congressional leaders know that armed Guard troops were on the way. "To those

who wreaked havoc in our Capitol today, you did not win," Vice President Pence said once lawmakers reconvened after many spent hours in lockdown. "Violence never wins. Freedom wins, and this is still the people's house."

At 3:32 a.m., Pence cited the results for Biden's victory in Vermont, which pushed the Democrat past the 270 electoral votes for Congress to confirm him as the next president nearly 15 hours after the joint session began.

Is Mike Pence an American hero?

Had he gone along with President Trump's coup conspiracy, we would be living in a very different nation than the one we grew up in.

Pence told David Muir on ABC World News Tonight, "I'll never forget the simmering indignation that I felt that day, seeing those sights on the cellphones as we gathered in the loading dock below the Senate chamber. I couldn't help but think not this, not here, not in America."

Pence reacted to Trump's 2:24 p.m. Jan. 6 tweet ("Mike Pence doesn't have the courage"), noting that it "criticized me directly at a time that a riot was raging in the Capitol hallways. The president's words were reckless, and they endangered my family and everyone at the Capitol building."

"It didn't end well," Pence acknowledged in an epic understatement.

*The columnist is publisher of Howey Politics Indiana at www.howeypolitics.com. Find Howey on Facebook and Twitter @hwypol.*

# Better Safe Than Sorry

"No, Doc," Windy said, "don't hurt or nothin' like that, but you know, with all the plagues goin' on right now, figgered it's better to be safe than ... " "Sorry?"

"I ain't never sorry I come to see ya, Doc. You know that. Fell to sleep t'other night when all them ad shows is on ... you know. Like how to cut yer boots with a knife and feel younger by wearin' a new shirt ... that stuff."

Doc nodded. Windy Wilson was one of his closest pals, as well as being a patient. The adventures of this old cowboy camp cook and mule packer were usually good for a laugh, anyway. But ol' Windy really seemed upset this morning.

"Windy," Doc said, kindly. "I'm thinking this is a sorta personal problem? I deal with personal problems all the time, so why not just tell me about it?"

"Thass what's so strange, Doc. I only caught a part of it when



**SLIM RANDES**  
Columnist

I was a-doizin' off, ya know? But I told myself ... Self, I better go talk to Doc, 'cuz that jest might be whass been holdin' me back on startin' some colts."

"Starting some colts? What's keeping you from starting some colts is you're old enough to know better! So what's this problem that the tee-vee said is keeping you out of the saddle?"

Windy looked up shamefaced. "They called it a deviated rec-tum."

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# Visit The 3rd Annual Festival Of Trees!



See page A6 and A7 for more photos and information!

Photos courtesy of Kelsey Curran

# TREES

From Page A5



Photos courtesy of Kelsey Curran

See page A7 for more photos and information!

**TREES** From Page A6



Photos courtesy of Kelsey Curran

Time is running out to get to the Masonic Cornerstone's Event Center and see the 3rd Annual Festival of Trees. The beautiful display is open to the public on Friday and Saturday. Tickets are available online or at the door. To purchase online, just go to <https://www.themasoniccornerstone.com/upcomingevents>

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## MISSIONS From Page A1

Creole," said Baird. "My first few days were spent just living in their home, trying to get an understanding of their organization, and getting oriented."

After a week of settling in, Baird hit the ground running, jumping into a variety of ministries as part of the Romain's organization, Lafwa. Lafwa, Haitian creole for faith, works predominately with Haitian refugees in the Dominican Republic, who often flee to find economic and political stability. The Romain family works directly with three churches and two schools, as well as running a variety of community outreach programs. Three days a week, Baird organized a Christmas program with local schools. Weeknights were spent running an evangelism group around the city and meeting with a youth group. Sundays included a two-hour church service, a nighttime service and youth group in between.

"Church was incredibly different from what I was used to," said Baird. "Haitians are very musical - nearly an hour was worship. People were a lot more formal than I was used to, and church felt a lot more community minded. Although I could not understand most of what was being said, I did get to participate in worship and in times of corporate prayer."

By December, Baird started to find her direction and focus. With basic language skills she was able to communicate more effectively and started teaching English in the schools. As a high school soccer player, she also started coaching girls' soccer twice a week.

"My soccer team really became my point

of influence," said Baird. "Not only was I able to communicate better with younger children, but we had so much fun at practices that they started coming over to my house and banging on the bars on the windows so we could play soccer in the street. What was supposed to be twice a week turned into every day."

Despite the encouragement Baird felt from success in building relationships, she also faced many difficulties that forced her to confront the toll of full-time missions.

"Sometime around February I had a really terrible night where I thought it would be better to just go home," said Baird. "The Haitian culture can be very dark - there are still remnants of Voodoo and a feeling of evil I had not experienced before. The weight of the poverty I saw daily was hard. I heard my girls at soccer talk about their life in Haiti before emigrating. Hearing innocent, young kids talk about violence and not having food started to weigh on me."

Baird immediately wrote to her mom, missions pastor and mentor from home asking for prayer and direction.

"The next day I felt even more committed to missions than ever," said Baird. "It took that moment for me to realize that missions is not about how well things are going or what is getting accomplished but being faithful where God places you."

With a rekindled passion for her work, Baird jumped into her youth group and soccer girls, continued pursuing discussions about the Bible and doing neighborhood evangelism, and spent time working at the local schools and churches. But her time in the Dominican Republic

came to an abrupt end in March of 2020, when COVID-19 first spread to the United States.

"Wilby told me I may need to cut my trip short because the U.S. was closing its borders," said Baird. "I went from discussing cutting my trip short to landing in the U.S. within five days. I do not think my heart has ever been as broken as when I was told I had to leave early."

After a final game of soccer with kids from the school, Baird said goodbye to friends at church and flew to her aunt's home in Florida, where she said the unusual transition gave her little time to process.

"My time in the Dominican Republic taught me a lot about finding unity in Christ," said Baird. "The people I worked with were different from me in every way. We had different lifestyles, countries, colors of skin, styles of worship, but we were united in the one thing we care most about!"

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 5,082 undergraduate, graduate, and dual enrolled high school students in more than 175 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is one of the largest private universities in Ohio, recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, including the bachelors of international studies, high graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and the #4 national ranking by the Wall Street Journal for student engagement. For more information about the University, visit cedarville.edu.

## BUTCH From Page A1

If the weather was nice (and many times when it wasn't too great), I was outside. My mother insisted that I "get some fresh air...go do something!" Of course work came first, but if I had the chores done, I could always think of fun activities...like playing cowboys and Indians, playing army, and shooting my BB-gun. I played basketball down at the barn, and baseball and golf in our front pasture. I built a pole vault stand and practiced with an 8-foot steel section of a TV antenna. I rode my bike all around the countryside and fished at three nearby gravel pits. I built straw tunnels and hideouts in the barn, made things from scrap wood in Dad's toolshed, and went exploring in the woods behind our house. If friends came over, we often played hide and seek or competed against each other in rope skipping, hula hoops, horseshoes, dodgeball, in addition to sports. In the winter, we built snowmen and forts and had snowball fights.

But we also played lots of games inside, such as Scrabble, Monopoly, Yahtzee, Candy Land,

Sorry, checkers, pick-up-sticks, Old Maid, and my favorite game...Uncle Wiggily. One of the best games my brother and I played was Bas-Ket, in which we tried to flip a ping pong ball into the tiny basketball goals. My cousin gave us an electronic football game once, but when the switch was turned on, the tiny men buzzed all over the place. I received an electric golf putting game one Christmas, and it was fun. Of course, we also played hide and seek in the house...until the time my brother hid right behind me, while my eyes were closed...and urinated on top of my head before I had reached counting to

100...Thanks, Gary! I also remember playing marbles, jacks, slinky, and trying my best to do yo-yo tricks. We asked the "Magic 8-ball" hundreds of crazy questions. We also played birthday party type games such as pin-the-tail on the donkey and clothespin in a bottle. My sisters played lots of games, too, but also played house and with their dolls, and practiced their cheerleading skills. No matter what....

we could ALWAYS think of something. Yes, sometimes we had a little too much fun...got in trouble...and paid the consequences. Rock fights and BB-gun wars are good examples. Ooops! But we learned our lesson and survived. When Dad took away my BB-gun for a month (for accidentally shooting out the kitchen window), I had hundreds of other things to occupy my time. I have witnessed parents today threatening to take away their child's phone, i-Pad, or video games for bad behavior, and the child acts as if the world was coming to an end. The child is literally devastated.

Uncle Wiggily, Bas-Ket, and the other old games...where are you? We need you. We need you now. And if you refuse to play and stay in your room and pout...then...like we used to say...."you lose...SORRY!"

*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.*

## JOHN From Page A1

big tree that stood sentry not too near the fireplace in the family room for decades of Christmases.

The tree, a traditional fresh-cut evergreen in the early years, was a big part of our family heritage. I remember standing in front of it each year, transfixed by the array of bubble lights percolating on the boughs.

It always had silver garland, because Mom disliked gold, and bore all the heirloom Christmas ornaments passed through the generations.

I had two favorite ornaments. The first was a ceramic ornament depicting a somewhat athletic Santa Claus riding a white and red rocket. Perhaps it was a nuclear missile, I don't know. It was the height of the Cold War, but I preferred to think Santa was riding off to explore the galaxy rather than nuking a foreign adversary.

The other Christmas bauble that I cherished was a plastic ornament about the size of a deck of cards that depicted the Nativity scene. Mother picked it up while in Germany visiting Granddad, who was stationed there. The creche had a

decided Bavarian theme, complete with giant Black Forest pine trees and a snowcapped chalet for a manger, neither of which would likely be found near Bethlehem.

That didn't matter to me. I used to stare into the scene, and imagined myself a witness to the extraordinary birth. I envisioned myself as one of the wise men, a demonstration no doubt of my youthful hubris.

I was the wiseman, "Murry." Since I had no idea what myrrh was, that's the name I gave the wiseman who brought the spice to the baby. "Frank" brought frankincense; "Goldie" brought the gold. I made up pretend scenarios for each of the characters in the scene, including the arrival of King Herod one year, only to be trampled by the "watch camel" guarding the babe.

One year, while pulling the ornament out of the box, we noticed that Murry was missing—probably at the hands (or paws) of our cat, Bis-cuit, who considered the Christmas tree his own personal playground. Gaspar, the wiseman from India was gone. Sheared off at the base;

only his two buddies Balthasar and Melchior remaining to attend the baby.

That didn't deter me, though. Earlier that fall I had saved enough cereal box tops, and — along with my \$1.50 in hard currency — had sent away for a 1/60th scale replica of my favorite football player, Dick Butkus of the Chicago Bears.

Much to my parents' chagrin, Butkus was the perfect size, and I glued the middle linebacker right into Gaspar's sandals. For years Butkus hovered over the stable daring anyone to challenge the infant in the crib.

Today, the creche exists as a mere shred of its original splendor. Even Butkus is gone, along with the camel, the star, and at least three pine trees. Yet, in looking back, I can't help recognizing a metaphor: No matter how out of place you feel, there is always room for you under the Nativity tent . . . or Bavarian chalet, as the case may be.

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

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