

⇒ TODAY'S VERSE

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Psalm 119:89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. (KJV)

FACES OF **MONTGOMERY**

People who call our community their own.



Valerie Wharf and Chris Stockdale were all smiles when one of our roving photographers happened upon them. Thanks for the smiles, guys!

THREE THINGS You Should Know:

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. 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.

Even though Congress approved a one-week government funding bill Wednesday night by a 224-201 count, Republican Indiana Congressman Jim Baird was one of those voting against it. Baird told The Paper "This short stop-gap funding billwhich expires next week— falls woefully short of what Americans deserve and is yet another reminder of Congressional Democrats' failure to govern responsibly. The American people need certainty amid soaring inflation rates eating away at their savings, not another 11th hour attempt by Congressional Democrats to narrowly avert a government shutdown. We simply cannot afford a haphazard approach to something as serious as funding the government, which is why I voted against their continuing resolution."

Who knows what they were arguing about. It had something to do with a golf game, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. Fifty-one year old Mark Curtis Wells of Biloxi, MS got into an argument with an unnamed fellow golfer and wound up biting the guy's nose off. Biloxi's SunHerald news reports that Wells, his victim and other golfers had been arguing about a game played earlier that day. They took the quarrel into the parking lot where the cops found the victim with a "disfiguring facial injury." The cops arrested Wells on a charge of felony mayhem. It cost him \$5,000 to bail himself out but he will soon be facing charges that could land him up to seven years in prison.



Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

50¢

Roads To Be Paved

Montgomery County has been awarded \$999,542.03 in funding from the State of Indiana Community Crossings Matching Grant Fund Program. The award will allow the County to pave 7 miles of roads in 2023.

The roads to be paved are as

follows: CR 500 S from SR 231 to SR

CR 100 W from New Market Limits to CR 500S

CR 500 E from CR 300 N to SR 47

CR 200 E from 150 S to Elmore Street

Traction Road from CR 400 E to City Limits

CR 300 S from SR 47 to US

"This is a big deal for our County," said Commissioner



Placement Rate Six months after graduation, 95 percent of the members of the Wabash College Class of 2022 have settled into a first destination-employment, graduate school, or service.

It marks the sixth consecutive year in which Wabash graduates have claimed their first destinations following graduation at rates among the highest in the nation. Over those six years, Wabash graduates have secured first destinations within six months at a rate of 98.4 percent, well above the 84.1 percent Career Outcomes Rate as reported by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, which is the best current measure for national comparison.

"Employers, graduate schools, and service organizations are eager to hire and enroll Wabash graduates because of the depth and breadth of their liberal arts

See WABASH Page A5



WWW.THEPAPER24-7.COM

Sunrise/Sunset RISE: 8:03 a.m.



High/Low **Temperatures** High: 34 °F Low: 29 °F



Today is... Stupid Toy Day Boston Tea Party Day



What Happened On This Day

• 1946 The Constituent Assembly of India meets for the first time to write the Constitution of India • 1960 The first episode

of Coronation Street, the world's longest-running television soap opera, is broadcast in the UK



Births On This Day

 1866 Wassily Kandinsky Russian/French painter

• 1901 Margaret Mead American anthropologist

Deaths On This Day

• 1980 Colonel Sanders American businessman and founder of KFC

• 1988 Sylvester American singer-songwriter, pianist and producer

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA Staying Safe During Winter Holiday Travel

As we enjoy the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and share the roads with many other travelers, let's remember to stay safe. Colder temperatures and winter storms are hazardous but they typically come



MONICA NAGELE



Follow these easy tips for preparing your car and traveling this winter.

Get your car ready for cold weather

 Service the radiator and maintain antifreeze level; check tire tread or, if necessary, replace tires with all-weather or

use before winter arrives.

- Keep gas tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Use a wintertime formula in your windshield washer.
- Be sure cell phone is fully charged.
- Have an ice scraper and snow brush in the car.

Prepare a winter emergency kit to keep in your car in case you become stranded. Include:

- blankets
- food and water
- booster cables, flares, tire pump, and a bag of sand or cat litter (for traction)
 - a shovel
- maps and compass • flashlight, battery-powered
- radio, and extra batteries
 - first-aid kit
- plastic bags (for sanitation). When planning travel, be

aware of current and forecast

See TRAVEL Page A5

Butch Says Old Fellers Are Like Old Trucks



BUTCH DALE

Columnist

If you grew up on a farm here in Montgomery County, your family likely owned a truck . . . either a half-ton or a larger grain truck. And I would wager that for many of you, that was the first vehicle that you drove (not counting a tractor), before you even had a driver's license. My Dad had a 1947 International pickup when he started farming after WWII. It had a flathead six-cylinder engine and a push pedal starter on the floorboard. On the dash was a crank in which you could actually raise the bottom of the

windshield up to get some fresh air...a feature that certainly wouldn't pass today's safety standards! I drove that pickup one afternoon when I was seven years old...without asking permission. Dad was not a happy camper when he discovered that I had sheared off the passenger side running board and rear fender on a large concrete post...Oops! Later on, he traded that pickup for a Dodge 3/4-ton, which he allowed me to drive to the elevator and to baseball practice when I was

about 14 years old. I have owned several pickups...both new and used... through the years. Two years ago, I decided to buy another one, but the prices of new trucks were out of sight, and I just couldn't find a decent pre-owned one with low miles in my price range. But then I found one for sale on Craigslist...a Ford Ranger with only 64,000 miles on the odometer...but it was "pretty dang

See BUTCH Page A5

⇒ HONEST HOOSIER

9 Montgomery County shopping \$\infty\$ days until Christmas. Counting the days until I can get back out on the Municipal Golf Course! Hey, only 93 days until spring!



INSIDE TODAY'S

Obituaries.....A2 Dick Wolfsie.....A2 Ken Thompson......A3 Classifieds.....A3 🗢 TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Don't watch TV before going to sleep - the bright light and activity may keep your brain awake. 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.thepa-

OBITUARIES

None

per24-7.com.



The Paper appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank MARK VAN HORN

for subscribing!



THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE Want To Go?

Shop Small this Holiday Season! Support local artisans as well as some of your favorite Crawfordsville Farmers Market vendors at the Holiday Winter Market! Open 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., you'll find delicious baked goods, meat, eggs, spice mixes, hot cocoa bombs and candies, personal beauty products and a wealth of handcrafted locally produced gift ideas for everyone on your list! Find us on Facebook for updated information!

TODAY'S QUOTE

"Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone." - Charles Schulz

TODAY'S JOKE

How did Scrooge win the football The ghost of Christmas passed!





PAGE A2
FRIDAY, DEC. 16, 2022

OBITUARIES

Donna Churchill Livingston

June 14, 1959 - Dec. 13, 2022

Donna Jean Churchill Livingston passed away of Lafayette, Indiana on December 13, 2022. She passed away peacefully in the comfort of her home.

She was born on June 14, 1959 to Norma Marie Churchill and Ronald C Jackson in Marion, Ind.

She moved with her family to
Crawfordsville, Ind. which she
made her home several years into her adulthood before moving to Lafayette, Ind.

Survivors include her loving husband, Cedric P. Livingston, Lafayette, Ind.; four children, Aarron Vance, Sharae Torbert, and Ezell Vance III(Lafayette) and Elijah Vance (Covington)

A celebration of her life will be held Monday Dec. 19 at Grace and Mercy Ministries, 257 Oak Hill Road, Crawfordsville, IN. Viewing will be at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by Funeral service at 1 p.m.

Gerald "Jerry" Martin VanHook

May 21, 1955 - Dec. 15, 2022

Gerald "Jerry" Martin VanHook, age 67, of Hillsboro, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022 at IU Arnett Hospital.

He was born in Crawfordsville on May 21, 1955 to the late Thomas Martin and Doris Mildred (Nunan) VanHook.

He graduated from Fountain Central High School in 1973. He mar-

ried the love of his life and high school sweetheart, Sherri J. Graham. He was an avid nature enthusiast and enjoyed hunting. He was a member of the Local 157 Plumbers and Steamfitters for 47 years. He was a "jack of all trades". He loved spending time with his grandchildren. He was a great friend and mentor to everyone he met.

Survivors include his wife of 45 years; two children; Craig (Teresa) VanHook, Bobbie (Andrew) Fisher; five grandchildren, Alexis, Averie, Logan, Zoey, and Samantha; four siblings, Tim (Bonnie) VanHook, Brenda (Steve) Leffert, Diana (Russ) Lemmons, and Millie VanHook; and several nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Paul VanHook.

There will be a visitation at Sanders Priebe Funeral Care, 315 S. Washington Street, in Crawfordsville on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022 from 2 - 4 p.m. Sanders Priebe Funeral Care is entrusted with care. Share memories and condolences online at www.sandersfuneralcare.com

John Wilcox

July 16, 1965 - Dec. 14, 2022

John Wilcox of rural Crawfordsville passed away Wednesday evening at home. He was 57.

Born July 16, 1965 in Lafayette, he was the son of Robert D. Wilcox and Doris Ann Greenup Wilcox.

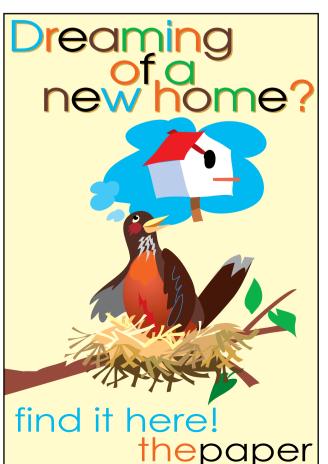
He attended North Montgomery. He married Melissa Brown on July 27, 1985. She survives.

He was a member of the Darlington Conservation Club's coon hunting group for many years. He was also a member of the Geriatric Riding Club. He was baptized at the Garfield Christian Church. He farmed with his dad, did excavating, tree trimming and was a union laborer. He went to work at the Montgomery County Highway Department for about five years and then started his own excavating business.

Survivors include his wife, Melissa Wilcox; daughter, Nicole Chase (Clint); son, John Cody Wilcox (Mindy Smith-Wilcox); granddaughter, Emaree Jolene Wilcox; dad, Robert Wilcox; brother, Mike Wilcox (Amy); sister, Sheila Henderson along with several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother; a sister, Carmen Wilcox; and great-niece, Katlynne Crawford. Visitation will be from 2 - 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18 at Burkhart Funeral Home. Services will begin at 4 p.m.

Donations in memory of John Wilcox can be made to your favorite charity. Online condolences may be made at www.BurkhartFH.com.



Mary Elizabeth Hughes Barker

Sept. 2, 1933 - Dec. 14, 2022

Mary Elizabeth Hughes Barker age 89 of Crawfordsville left this earth at 2:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022 in Wellbrooke of Crawfordsville.

She was born at her Grandparents home in Sterling, Ind. on Sept. 2, 1933 to William and Frances Wilkinson Hughes.

She graduated from Veedersburg High School in 1951; was baptized into the United Brethern Church in Veedersburg and later attended the Waynetown Baptist Church. She married George W. (Jr.) Barker in Sterling on Nov. 15, 1957. They were married 59 years until his death in 2016. They lived in Waynetown for many years, and moved to Crawfordsville in 1998.

She worked in secretarial and accounting positions and retired from MidStates Wire. Previous employers were the Veedersburg News, and RCA in Indianapolis.

She loved music, sang in a trio and at various functions in Fountain and Montgomery Counties; church choirs, and with Purdue Music Organizations' "The Crescendos".

Survivors include a special niece and nephew Carla and Jim Whitehead ,their sons Brett and Chris; sisterin-law, Sandra Myers; brother-in-law, Jim Barker; niece, Michelle (Rick) Daniel; sons, Ryan and Eric; nephew, Scott (Jacque) Hughes, Eliza and Will; Vicki Rush and family; Vanessa Homsher and family; Cindy (Allen) Jeffries and family; Matt McDonald and many cousins, including Cindy Ponder...the Willhite family; Steve, Ken & Erin, Jim & Wanda, Mig & Dwight and Pat & Courtney as well as many dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; beloved brother, Ernie (Bud) Hughes; cousins Jeanne Willhite and Mildred Clark; sisters-in-law, Pat Barker and Sandy McDonald; nephews, Wayne Rush and Larry Thomas.

Graveside Services will be held 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022 at Waynetown Masonic Cemetery with Pastor Ron Raffignone officiating. Family and Friends Funeral Home of Wingate is assisting the family. Visit us on line at www.familyandfriendsfh. com to sign the guest book or share a condolence.

CareSource Foundation Funds Expansion Of MICIAHEC Certification

The Metropolitan Indianapolis-Central Indiana Area Health Education Center (MICI-AHEC), an organization dedicated to helping recruit, train and place health care professionals in rural and medically underserved communities, has received \$82,000 of funding from the Care-Source Foundation. The area health education center, which is hosted by The University of Indianapolis through a strategic partnership, will utilize this funding to provide medical training scholarships for students and community residents interested in a career as a community health worker (CHW), certified nursing aide (CNA), medical interpreter or qualified

medication aide (QMA). "Through this grant, our team is able to provide up to 67 scholarships to individuals, growing the health workforce right here in Central Indiana," said Erica Young, executive director of MICI-AHEC. "This training will be foundational in inspiring students' passion and further exploration of the medical field. Additional benefits we hope to measure through these programs include greater workforce retention, students using this role as a stepping stone into medicine, nursing, or other health care careers, and the uplifting role these individuals will play within the local communities in

which they reside."

These health programs, designed to position quality health care workers within their own communities upon certification, can have a positive and lasting impact within populations.

MICI-AHEC strategically partners with local and regional organizations to offer key health careers to assist in reducing

health disparities. The students entering these programs will ultimately serve clients within their own community, where they are likely to share a cultural background as well as a greater understanding of the challenges being faced by residents within a given area. In addition to providing trusted support to residents as they navigate their own unique health circumstances, these certified individuals become a known resource, fostering greater awareness and health engagement among community members.

"One of the most crucial ways that we can reduce health disparities and improve access to care is by supporting greater diversity, representation and a health care provider presence in areas of need within the community," said Dr. Cameual Wright, vice president and chief medical officer for Care-Source Indiana. "Care-Source recognizes the importance of representing diverse backgrounds and cultures as this creates both trusting and lasting bonds, connecting residents to local health care resources. We look forward to seeing the impact these students will have within Indianapolis and the surrounding rural areas."

In addition to the student scholarships, MICI-AHEC will also devote a portion of this funding toward supporting the efforts of key personnel at The University of Indianapolis as they further expand these health programs. This area health education center, which is completely grant funded, educates. trains and retains health care professionals to serve Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan and Shelby counties.

Montgomery County Lawmakers To Serve On Key House Committees

Area lawmakers recently received appointments to serve on key House standing committees at the Statehouse.

House standing committee appointments are made by the Indiana House Speaker biennially after the November election and are in effect for the duration of members' two-vear terms. State Rep. Beau Baird (R-Greencastle) will serve as vice chair of the House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, and was reappointed to the House Ways and Means Committee.

"It's imperative we keep our state moving in the right direction by passing a budget that adequately funds essential government services while maintaining prudent reserves," Baird said. "We'll also be focused on finding ways to support local farmers and our booming agricultural industry, and continuing economic growth in communities of all sizes."

In September, State Rep. Jeff Thompson (R-Lizton) received an appointment to serve as chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, which is responsible for crafting the state's two-year budget and vetting bills with significant fiscal impact.

State Rep. Sharon

Negele (R-Attica) will serve as vice chair of the House Rules and Legislative Procedures Committee, and as a member of the House Courts and Criminal Code Committee, the House Joint Rules Committee, and the House Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications Committee. She was also reappointed as Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore, a House Republican leadership position.

"Every session, legislative committees meet to gather public testimony, hear from industry experts and collaborate with other lawmakers to discuss proposed legislation," Negele said. "I look forward to serving on these committees and addressing important issues facing Hoosiers, and working to make a positive impact on our local communities and state."

State Rep. Mark Genda (R-Frankfort), elected to his first term in November, will serve as vice chair of the House Employment, Labor and Pensions Committee, and as a member of the House Commerce, Small Business and Economic Development Committee, and the House Natural Resources Committee.

"Making Indiana a destination for employers, both new and existing, and supporting Hoosier workers are top priorities," Genda said. "Indiana's economy is running strong and we have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation, and I'm looking forward to helping us continue that momentum."

House lawmakers are scheduled to convene for session at 1:30 p.m. on Jan. 9. Hoosiers can visit iga.in.gov to find legislation, view calendars, and watch committee meetings and session.

Pediatric Doctor Joins OSF HealthCare Danville

OSF HealthCare has added a new pediatric physician to its team at the OSF Medical Group office in Danville to better serve the community of Danville and surrounding areas.

The addition of Luis Garcia Tillan, MD, offers increased access for patients in need of pediatric care at the OSF Medical Group office at 707 North Logan Ave-

He earned a Bachelor of Science from IP-VCE José Martí Pérez and a medical degree from Higher Institute of Medical Sciences of Santiago in Cuba. Dr. Garcia Tillan completed his pediatric residency at



Dr. Luis Garcia Tillar

San Juan City Hospital in Puerto Rico.

Whether you are a new patient to OSF or an existing patient, appointments for pediatric care with Dr. Garcia Tillan can be made by calling (217) 477-4716. To learn more about Dr. Garcia Tillan, visit osfhealthcare.org.



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John "Butch" Dale (765) 404-1354



Did Purdue Make A Mistake Hiring Ryan Walter?

This football coaching search was an opportunity for Purdue to be bold and reach for the stars like their Big Ten peers Nebraska and Wisconsin did a few weeks ago.

The hire of Illinois defensive coordinator Ryan Walters was disappointing upon first reaction, mostly because of the raised expectations for replacing Jeff Brohm that came from athletic director Mike Bobinski.

"I think we'll be able to attract a deeper and higher-quality pool than perhaps we were able to get in 2016," Bobinski said the day after Brohm took most of his coaching staff and a handful of recruits to Louisville. "We had really good people there, and we hired a really good coach. But I think we may have more of that to be able to select from this time around and that's a result of where we've come."

Talk about overpromising and underdelivering.

The reported coaching pool in 2016 included Air Force coach Troy Calhoun and Skip Holtz, Brohm's Conference USA rival at Louisiana Tech. Bobinski did an admirable job keeping this search quiet, but I would have remained mum too if I was going to foist a 36-year-old first-time head coach on a skeptical Purdue fan base.

Walters did make a good first impression Tuesday with at least one member of his new team. In a widely circulated video on social media, Walters awarded a scholarship to redshirt freshman running back Devin Mockobee. This was a wise move because a report circulated last week that Brohm tried to convince Mockobee to follow him to Louisville, technically an NCAA



KENNY THOMPSON Columnist

violation since Mockobee is not in the transfer portal.

Walters also won the press conference Wednesday afternoon but press conference victories don't count in the Big Ten standings in September. There will not be a more important hire for Walters than his choice for offensive coordinator.

The hire was greeted positively by Adam Rittenberg, a longtime Big Ten beat writer for ESPN.com who gave Purdue a B-plus.

"Walters is ready to lead a program," Rit-tenberg wrote. "Walters likely would have been the choice at Colorado if not for Deion Sanders, and had impressed several schools in interviews this cycle. He should energize Purdue's recruiting efforts, although his staff -- both on the field and in support roles -- will be very important to keep the program's momentum after its first Big Ten West Division

title. "After the Jeff Brohm era, Purdue fans will want the excitement on offense, and specifically with the quarterback position, to continue under Walters. Like all defensive assistants getting their first opportunities as head coaches, Walters

tailed plan for how he's going to approach the offense. Although the Big Ten is a league where defenses often carry the day, especially in the West Division, Purdue has stood out because of its quarterback tradition. How Walters addresses those areas will be essential to the

will need a de-

early part of his tenure.' Walters is Purdue's first defensive-oriented hire since Leon Burtnett in 1982, when he replaced a College Football Hall of Fame coach in Jim Young. As head coach, Burtnett shifted his focus to offense and leaned heavily on quarterbacks Scott Campbell, Jim Everett and Jeff George during his fiveyear tenure.

History suggests Walters will continue the nearly century-long Purdue tradition of a losing hire following a winning head coach. Examples include Jack Mollenkopf to Bob DeMoss in 1970, Young to Burtnett and Joe Tiller to Danny

Hope in 2009. The last winning transition came in 1930, when Noble Kizer was promoted to replace Jim Phelan. All Phelan did was go 8-0 in 1929 and win Purdue's most recent undisputed Big Ten championship. Kizer would go 42-13-3 before a fatal kidney disease forced him to resign before the 1937 season. It would be nearly 20 years before Purdue found another consistently winning coach in Mollenkopf.

On paper, the 2023 Purdue schedule is not easy. Fresno State (9-4 in 2022) comes to West Lafayette for the Sept. 2 opener. A trip to Virginia Tech (3-7) and a rematch with Syracuse (7-5) in Ross-Ade Stadium wraps up the non-conference slate. September concludes with home games against Wisconsin (6-6) and Illinois (8-4).

Trips to Iowa (7-5) and Nebraska (4-8) sandwich a home game with Ohio State (11-1) in October. A trip to Michigan (13-0) and a home game with Minnesota (8-4) open November before the Boilermakers once again close the season with Northwestern (1-11) in Evanston and Senior Day against Indiana (4-8).

Walters is the youngest Purdue head coach since Stu Holcomb, who was 36 when he came to West Lafayette from an assistant coach's role at Army in 1947. The only younger head coaches in Boilermaker football history are Phelan (1922), Kizer and Isbell (1944). Each were 29 at the time.

Rapid, record rise for No. 1 Purdue

Monday's ascension of Matt Painter's Boilermakers to the top of The Associated Press college basketball poll for the second consecutive season is unprecedented.

Never has a school unranked in the preseason AP poll reached No. 1 faster than Purdue, according to Dave Worlock, the NCAA's director of media coordination/statistics. The Associated Press college basketball poll debuted in 1950.

Purdue is also No. 1 atop Joe Lunardi's latest NCAA tournament bracket for ESPN.

"Purdue's resume in replacing Houston as the No. 1 overall seed is awfully impressive for mid-December," Lunardi writes. "The Boilermakers have a best-inthe-nation five Quadrant 1 wins (only Kansas and Wisconsin have as many as three), and four of them have come away from home.

"For all the talk about the chip on Kentucky's shoulder after losing to St. Peter's in the NCAA tournament, perhaps we were shortchanging the team that lost to the Peacocks two rounds later. This Boilermaker team is clearly on a path to surpass that Sweet 16 showing from a year ago, and it will take a lot more than a St. Peter's to knock them out.'

Junior center Zach Edey claimed his third consecutive Big Ten Player of the Week award. It matches the school record set by Carl Landry during the 2006-07 season. Wisconsin's Ethan Happ was the most recent player to accomplish the feat in November 2018.

Edey leads the nation at 13.7 rebounds per game and seventh in scoring at 22 points a game.

The 7-4 Canadian is also starting to look like a national player of the year favorite among college basketball media. Edey ranks first in analyst Ken Pomeroy's Player of the Year standings, and veteran analyst Andy Katz also favors Edey for the award last won by a Boilermaker in 1994 when Glenn Robinson swept the postseason honors.

Noteworthy

Leading the nation in receptions and receiving yards was only worth a second-team All-America honor from The Associated Press for Purdue's Charlie Jones.

Jones has 110 recep-

tions for 1,361 yards. His 12 receiving touchdowns rank fourth nationally. The transfer from Iowa broke John Standeford's 20-year-old school record for yards in a season.

Jones is the third Purdue wide receiver in four years to earn AP All-America honors, following Rondale Moore in 2018 and David Bell last season.

The Athletic also honored Jones as a member of its All-Portal team. The site noted that Jones outperformed his former school's group of receivers for the 2022 season. Iowa's receivers combined for 72 catches for 752 yards and two touchdowns. ...

Jones' childhood friend, Purdue quarterback Aidan O'Connell, is ranked 12th in ESPN. com's list of top NFL quarterback prospects. That projects to a midto-late Day 3 draft pick. ESPN.com projects O'Connell to be a good fit for the Los Angeles Chargers.

"The Chargers are an ideal fit because of their propensity to rely on getting the ball out quickly. O'Connell's at his best when he can make quick decisions and keep pass-rushers from bearing down on him." ...

Purdue guard Marcus Mbow was selected to The Athletic's Freshman All-America team. Mbow was credited for giving up no sacks on 671 snaps.

Running back Devin Mockobee was a second-team selection.

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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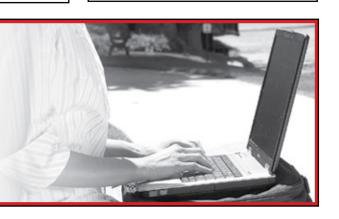
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Secret Shopper!

Over the past 20 years, I have written many humor columns about the holiday season. This is my favorite one, because not only is it based on something that really happened, but it's pretty much exactly what happened. In December of 2016, a UPS truck pulled up to our curb and, as always, we were eager to see what was in store for us. Actually, nothing was in a store. We bought everything online that

We saw the driver struggle with a huge carton the size of a bigscreen TV. He maneuvered it to the front porch and left it leaning against the door. I went outside to look at it.

"Who's it for?" asked Mary Ellen.

I checked the label and it was addressed to me, but that could have been misleading. Some of our credit cards are in my name, some are in Mary Ellen's; when a delivery is made, we are not sure who ordered it and who the gift is ultimately for. If the wrong person opens it, well, there goes the surprise on Christmas

"It says it's for me," I told her, "but I have no recollection of ordering anything so big. Maybe you ordered it, Mary

My wife thought for a moment and so began the weirdest conversation in our 34-year marriage. "Dick, I know what it is. It's that special item I mentioned two months ago that I wanted for Christmas. You said you found it in a catalog. Don't you remember? I am so excited! Thank you."

"I have absolutely no idea what it is. Can you give me a hint?"

"No, I can't give you a hint. That would ruin the surprise."

"Ruin the surprise? Ruin my surprise? The gift is for you! It's supposed to be your surprise. But you already know what it is. I'm the



DICK WOLFSIE Funny Bone

clue."

"It doesn't seem right to tell you. That's not in keeping with the spirit of giving, Dick."

"Okay, how about you whisper softly in my ear and I promise I won't tell you what you said." It scared me a little that for a brief moment this actually made sense to me. It was driving me crazy that I had no memory of what I bought her. "Is it a high-tech item?" I asked.

"Not really," said Mary Ellen.

"Do you plug it in?"

"No."

"Is it artwork?"

"No, not even close. But I don't want to play anymore. If you guess it, I'll have nothing to look forward to on Christmas morning. I want to see the expression on your face when I open it."

Later that morning when Mary Ellen went out grocery shopping, I opened the box. Let me tell you, it was a really neat present. I don't think I have ever been happier with something I bought my wife. Before Mary Ellen got home, I resealed it and then giftwrapped it and placed it under the tree. Of course, now we both knew what was in the package. It will still be a surprise on Christmas morning, as long as we can both keep a secret.

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.

Indiana Wesleyan University Rises To 12th On America's Top Online Colleges List By Newsweek

Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU) is pleased to announce its 12th-place ranking on Newsweek and Statista's list of America's Top Online Colleges 2023. Out of 200 colleges and universities recognized in this year's list, IWU is honored to be among the top names, improving from 37th place in Newsweek's 2022 selections.

"I'm very proud of this recognition for our school," says IWU President Dr. Jon Kulaga. "This is a huge testament to our incredible staff, faculty, and students who put in the hard work to make our programs among the top in the nation. It's an honor to be recognized by Newsweek, and we plan to build on that success by developing new, innovative learning pathways to glorify God and cultivate world changers for His Kingdom."

Finalists for America's Top Online Colleges 2023 list are scored based on an online survey with over 11,400 assessments from more than 9,000 respondents participating in online college degree programs and/or general online learning courses in the United States. According to Newsweek and Statista, respondents shared



INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSIT

their experiences by rating the institutions regarding several criteria, including organization and accessibility, support and service, cost of the program, perceived organizational reputation, expected success, and practical relevance of contents. The evaluation criteria also included institutional indicators, overall satisfaction with the organization, and to what extent they would recommend it to others.

In addition to being named 12th on the list overall, IWU is the highest-ranked private Christian university on the list. With more than 160 online programs, IWU offers many practical, relevant degrees for online learners. Its unique term structure enables

students to enroll at multiple points throughout the year and jump right into program requirements - often by taking one class at a time, so they don't need to disrupt their already-busy schedules. Additionally, IWU's generous transfer policy enables students to apply previously earned credits toward their degree to reduce their time to completion. For more information about IWU's online programs, visit indwes.edu.

About IWU Indiana Wesleyan University celebrates 100 years as a Christian, global, comprehensive university providing liberal arts and professional education to approximately 10,000 students worldwide.

faith-based universities in America with rich undergraduate, graduate, master's, and doctoral programs in such highly acclaimed academic units as the School of Nursing, School of Physical and Applied Sciences, College of Adult and Professional Studies, and School of Arts and Humanities. An early leader in adult and online education, IWU is known for excellence in innovation. Students live and learn on the beautiful 350-acre IWU-Marion traditional campus and study through IWU-National & Global programs offered online and at education centers in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University, founded by the Wesleyan Church denomination and IWU, prepares Christian leaders to engage in missional ministry locally and globally. Indiana Wesleyan University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlcommission.org), a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. It is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. For more information, visit indwes.edu.

IWU is one of the largest

How To Safely Dispose Of Used Medical Sharps

(Family Features)
Millions of people in the
United States use sharps
to manage short-term
or chronic conditions.
Sharps are needles or
devices that puncture the
skin to dispense medication. For many existing
sharps users and people
using sharps for the first
time, disposal can be
confusing, especially
while traveling.

Holiday travel requires sharps users to be

educated on local rules governing safe disposal.

A resource called SafetyIsThePoint.org helps people learn how to safely discard their used sharps and find disposal locations across the United States. The website features a clickable map and ZIP code search that explains disposal rules by location to help travelers comply with local regulations, no matter where they

are. Additionally, there are short videos explaining what sharps are and how to manage their disposal at home and on the road.

Free printable resources, a step-by-step guide for at-home sharps disposal and a disposal location finder in every state are available on the website for sharps users, health care providers, patient educators and advocates. The resources

can also be downloaded and sent to family members and friends ahead of travel.

No matter if you are traveling by plane, train, car or staying home this holiday season, it's important to know how to safely dispose of used sharps. SafetyIs-ThePoint.org can help.

Learn more about the rules of safe sharps disposal this holiday season at SafetyIsThePoint.org.

Visit us online at ThePaper24-7.com

WABASH COLLEGE



ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR FOR CENTER HALL & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Wabash College invites applications for the position of Academic Administrative Coordinator for Center Hall and International Studies. The position supports work done by departments, faculty and students in Center Hall and the International Center. Review of applications will begin on Jan 3.

To learn more about this position and how to apply, please visit the College's website at www.wabash.edu/employment.

Wabash College, a liberal arts college for men, seeks faculty and staff who are committed to providing quality engagement with students, high levels of academic challenge and support, and meaningful experiences that prepare students for life and leadership among diverse populations around the globe. Wabash is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from persons of all backgrounds.

WABASH COLLEGE



FULLFILLMENT AND FRONT DESK COORDINATOR

Wabash College seeks a dependable and motivated individual to provide front line support at Lilly Library. The Fulfillment and Front Desk Coordinator oversees resource sharing and works closely with partner libraries to ensure timely access to materials. The coordinator also is responsible for ensuring a high level of service to library users by hiring, training, and supervising student employees. This position requires tact and diplomacy when working with others, as well as the ability to work both independently and as part of a collegial team. Our library provides a place for research, learning, and reflection as well as collaboration in a warm and inviting setting.

To learn more about this position and how to apply, please visit the College's employment website at www.wabash.edu/employment.

Wabash College, a liberal arts college for men, seeks faculty and staff who are committed to providing quality engagement with students, high levels of academic challenge and support, and meaningful experiences that prepare students for life and leadership among diverse populations around the globe. Wabash is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from persons of all backgrounds.







OTRAVEL

weather conditions.

- Avoid traveling when the weather service has issued advisories or if road conditions are too
- If you must travel, inform a friend or relative of your proposed route and expected time of arrival.
- Be patient and remember snowplows are working to improve road conditions for your trip.
- Stay back at least five car lengths behind the plow, far from the snow cloud. Snowplow operators will pull over when it is safe to do so to allow traffic build-up to pass.
- Stay alert for snowplows that turn or exit frequently and often with little warning. They may also travel over centerlines or partially in

From Page A1

- traffic to further improve road conditions.
- Slow down to a safe speed for current conditions, and give yourself plenty of travel time.
- Buckle up and ensure children are properly secured in the correct child restraint.

Follow these safety rules if you become stranded in your car.

- Stay with your car unless safety is no more than 100 yards away, but if safety is not within a safe distance continue to move arms and legs, to keep warm.
- Stay visible by putting bright cloth on the antenna, turning on the inside overhead light (when engine is running), and raising the hood when snow stops falling.
 - Run the engine and

heater only 10 minutes every hour.

 Make sure the tailpipe is not blocked. Unfortunately, we

can't stop winter from arriving, but we can be prepared when it gets here. If you are traveling to another state, like I am, please remember that some states have a 511 road safety phone number you can call. Unfortunately, Indiana does not have one at this time. Hope everyone has a safe and happy holi-

Purdue University is an affirmative action, equal access/equal opportunity institution.

Monica Nagele MS/RD Purdue Extension Montgomery County Extension Director, Health and Human Science Educator

WABASH

education, combined with the experiences they gain through our nationally recognized career services office," said Wabash President Scott Feller. "We are proud of our recent graduates and look forward to engaging with them throughout their careers."

The nation's second-ranked alumni network and thirdranked internship program according to The Princeton Review combine with Wabash's outstanding liberal arts education to drive its graduates to high levels of success. Further, Wabash was ranked No. 9 on the DegreeChoices. com list of Best Liberal Arts Colleges and a Top Performer on Social Mobility by U.S. News & World Report.

"I am very proud of the resiliency demonstrated by the Class of 2022," said Steven Jones, Dean for Professional Development. "Given the impact of COVID-19 on their ability to secure in-person internships for two summers and the current job market, I am delighted with the 'Wabash Always Fights' spirit

they exhibited. Due to the work of the Schroeder Center for Career Development, students are regularly engaged in programming that keeps them focused on successful pathways after graduation. Weekly "Coffee and Careers" sessions and employment recruiting events are two of the many opportunities for students to connect with potential employers and graduate schools.

Additionally, the Professional Development team works to provide programming that meets the current senior class where they are. During the fall break, seniors had the opportunity to engage in a Professional Immersion Experience (PIE) on campus. Professional Development staff led students through

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Photo courtesy of Wabash College

Ninety-five percent of the members of the Wabash College Class of 2022 have settled into a first destination—employment, graduate school, or service six six months after graduation, marking the sixth consecutive year in which Wabash graduates have claimed their first destinations following graduation at rates among the highest in the nation. In that span, Wabash graduates have secured first destinations within six months at a rate of 98.4 percent.

a series of workshops on job search strategies, articulating strengths and experiences, networking, interviewing, and accessing alumni as a resource. The program closed with mock interviews conducted by alumni and friends of the College and a networking lunch to share feedback.

"Our signature programming ensures seniors are approaching graduation with critical iob skills," said Cassie Hagan, Director of Professional Development and the Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship. "These graduating classes will meet the workforce with more experience navigating virtual work and self-managing. We want communication, critical thinking, and leadership, the trademark qualities of a Wabash man, to continue to ring true for those who didn't have as many in-person opportunities. Our goal is to shorten the learning curve and send our graduates off to continuing education and full-time employment ready for whatever the future of work may look like for them."

Members of the Class of 2022 showed interest in a number of fields,

including commercial real estate, education, entrepreneurship, and logistic. They were hired by employers like Amazon Web Services, Deloitte, Eli Lilly, First Merchants Bank, Kennected, PwC, Rialto Capital Management, Stryker, and UKG.

The exemplary post-graduate success rates echo much of the news for the 190-yearold liberal arts college. In addition to the internship program and strong alumni network, The Princeton Review offers 50 ranking lists, each identifying the top-25 colleges nationally (of 388 profiled) in those specific categories. The surveys address a range of topics that prospective students might find interesting or ask about on a campus visit, from academics and administration to amenities, politics, and social life. Wabash appeared in more than one-third of the 50 lists and ranked in the top-10 in 11 of

In September, U.S. News & World Report ranked Wabash 20th nationally as a Best Value School and included the institution in the Top Tier of National Liberal Arts Colleges.

those.

O ROADS

through this program

which will help our res-

said County Commission-

'Our goal has been to

idents and businesses",

improve our infrastruc-

ture and this grant will

goal", said County Com-

missioner Jim Fulwider.

help accomplish that

er Dan Guard.

From Page A1

The Community strategic plan for road Crossings initiative has resurfacing. By being provided more than \$1 able to leverage our money against the state, billion in state matching we are able to maximize funds for local constructhe improvements to our tion projects since 2016. For 2023, \$119 million "It is good that we are was awarded from the getting more roads paved program to local govern-

The County also paved 9 miles of roads in 2022 with funding from the **Community Crossings** Program. The paved

CR 775 E from US 136 to 500 S

roads are as follows:

CR 300 N from 425 E to 625 E

CR 400 W from US 136 to Old 55 CR 1100 N from 350

W to Cr 100 W 350 W from CR 1100 N to New Richmond City

The Community **Crossings Program** requires Montgomery County to pay for 25% of the cost to pave the roads. The estimated total

cost of construction is

\$1,332,722.75 million. For more information, contact County Administrator Tom Klein at tom. klein@montgomerycounty.in.gov.

BUTCH

It was made in 1996, so it qualified as an antique . . . like me. It had a 4-cylinder engine and didn't have much power . . . like me. The old boy struggled to make it up a steep hill. . . just like me when I'm shopping with my wife at the mall. The brake lines were a little rusty . . . like my arteries, and the cab headliner covering was worn and thin . . . like my hair. It had the old-fashioned crank windows, which coincided perfectly with my occasional cranky attitude. The suspension was stiff . . . like my joints, and the shock absorbers were shot...like my knees. The paint was weather beaten . . . like my wrinkled face, and to top it off, every once in a while, the windshield wipers started going back and forth unpredictably . . . without me even touching the controls. I

From Page A1

spur of the moment, too . . . perfect fit! Well, I couldn't resist the old hunk of steel . . . so I bought it . . . \$1,700 . . . what a bargain! It even came with a toolbox behind the cab to store my supplies . . . oil, power steering fluid, brake fluid, etc., stuff I have to add every so often to keep it going...just like the vitamins, aspirin, and prescription in my kitchen cabinet at home.

I drive the old Ranger just about every day. I drive slowly . . . don't want to blow the engine and have it end up in the truck salvage yard. You know, men are like old trucks. Just like a vintage truck, when you get older, you have to pace yourself. But you fellow old-timers, sometimes, when the mood is right, the timing is good, your battery is charged up . . . and the little lady turns on the ignition, you can get revved up and hit on all cylinders. You have

to pray that your transmission doesn't slip . . and you also need to make sure the bearings are greased up good so you don't break a crankshaft. That definitely would not be good.

So far both the truck and I are cruising merrily along. I'm happy . . . but I am keeping my fingers crossed. When I was young, I liked to drive fast, but now it's more enjoyable to just drive around the countryside . . . taking it slow and easy . . . 20 MPH down the middle of the road . . . looking at the crops and the wildlife and waving to neighbors . . . Oh Lord, it must be in my genes...I have become the reincarnation of my Grandpa Dale!

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.

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often do things on the





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Contact Kelley Mercer (765-364-1880)

at Whitlock Place Assisted Living to purchase tickets

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