

5 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS
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The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

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CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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TODAY'S VERSE

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." (NIV)

FACES OF MONTGOMERY
People who call our community their own.



Tex Kersey smiles brightly for The Paper. Thank you for your smile Tex!

THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 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!

2 DNR's Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) will host its annual waterfowl workshop on Wednesday, Feb. 1, at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis from noon to 3:30 p.m. This workshop is required for all contractors who want to become qualified Water Control Operators (WCOs) and conduct waterfowl trapping, transporting, relocation, or euthanasia for hire. All first-time WCOs must attend the workshop. All other WCOs must either attend the workshop or test out. To take the test, contact Debbie Walter at dwalter@dnr.IN.gov or call 812-789-2724, and she will send the test to you. The test will be available to take beginning Feb. 1. Registration for the workshop must be completed by Jan. 23. For more information on becoming a WCO and to register, contact Jessica Merkling, urban wildlife biologist, at jmerkling@dnr.IN.gov or 260-244-6805. To view more DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

3 You don't want a judge throwing this book at you; it's the world's biggest book ever -- 7 feet tall, 11 feet wide and weighing in at 496 pounds, reports the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. It has the appropriate title, I Am Texas, and was authored by 1,000 "great school" elementary and high school students. It was the brainchild of the Literacy nonprofit iWRITE and The Bryan Museum in Galveston, TX.

Butch Finally Gets To Go Out To Eat In The '60s



BUTCH DALE
Columnist

I honestly don't ever recall my folks taking our family out to eat to an actual restaurant when I was a youngster. We went to hundreds of cookouts and family gatherings at my relatives' homes . . . the Dales, Cohees, Wells and Hamptons, and the food served on those occasions was phenomenal! But when I obtained my driver's license in 1965, I was ready to take a good-looking gal out to eat. By that time, I had been making big money . . . detasseling corn for 60 cents an hour, baling hay for \$1 an hour, and my steady income of mowing yards in town for \$1

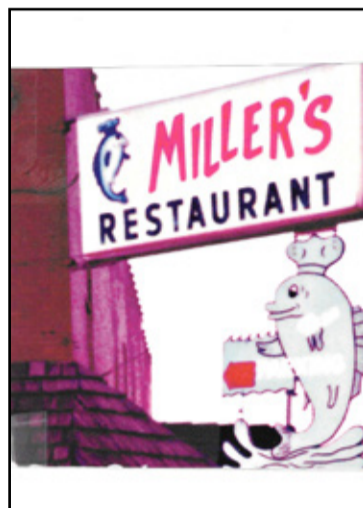


Photo courtesy of Butch Dale

each. I was wealthy! So where did teenagers go to satisfy their food cravings in the '60s? The cheapest fast-food establishment was the Satellite on South Washington street, and then later on . . . two Justrite restaurants were built . . . not sure when . . . one on South Boulevard and the other on Darlington Avenue (where the Forum is located now). However, kids wanted places to congregate, see their buddies

➔ See BUTCH Page A5

Is Biden Actually Older Than Your Average Joe?



JOHN MARLOWE
Columnist

The conversation at my favorite breakfast diner was already in full stride by the time I wandered in. It seems that most major news sources were reporting that President Biden was assuring friends and colleagues that he was running for re-election in 2024, despite his age and his relative unpopularity.

"The real story," Eddie stated bluntly while stirring his coffee with the handle of his knife, "is that Biden's wife, Jill, is finally onboard with the idea after weeks of contemplating the wisdom of a second term. She's not sure he can do it, either."

Without exception, everyone thinks Biden is too old for the job . . . everyone seated at the big round table in the corner of the diner, that is. It's the table that waitress Shawna has dubbed the "Loser Table." She calls it that not because she dislikes the men sitting there, but because the morning con-flabbers usually only order coffee, and she can't make any money.

"If he's re-elected and serves out his term, he'll be 86 years old when he leaves office," Herm said. "That's too old for anyone to still be on the job."

➔ See JOHN Page A5



Photo courtesy of CDPL

1,000 Books Read Before Kindergarten

Tommy Smillie, age 2 1/2 has completed the Crawfordsville District Public Library program "1000 Books Before Kindergarten". He is the son of John Smillie and Katie Ansaldi. Tommy's favorite book is The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle. Mom said, "Reading the 1000 books has been a special part of our family's day. We love coming to the library and checking out new books!"

Community Christmas Dinner

A strong community allows us to endure. WE are strengthened by charitable works. This is a call to those who are looking for ways to give back to the community. Francis and Mount is hosting a Community Christmas Dinner on Sunday, Dec. 25 at 12 - 3 p.m. The dinner will be located at 1905 Lebanon Road at Family Baptist Family Life Center. Call 765-362-5650 or 765-266-2341 and leave a message for meal delivery. If you would like to donate time, money and/or supplies call 765-366-2341 or 765-376-1002 and leave a message.

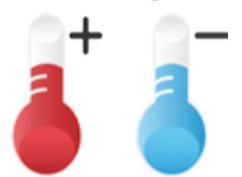
A strong community allows

➔ See DINNER Page A5

The Daily Almanac



Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 8:05 a.m.
SET: 5:24 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
High: 39 °F
Low: 26 °F



Today is.....
• Go Caroling Day
• Dot Your I's Day



What Happened On This Day
• 1803 The Louisiana Purchase is completed at a ceremony in New Orleans
• 1860 South Carolina becomes the first state to attempt to secede from the United States



Births On This Day
• 1868 Harvey Samuel Firestone American businessman and founder of the Firestone Tire, Rubber Company
• 1976 Aubrey Huff American baseball player

Deaths On This Day
• 1812 Sacagawea Lemhi Shoshone member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition
• 1996 Carl Sagan Astronomer and author

HONEST HOOSIER

5 Montgomery County shopping days until Christmas. Take a drive down West Main Street and enjoy the lights!



INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

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

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

When you read a food label, make sure you determine how many servings are in the package. 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 KEITH HESS for subscribing!



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TODAY'S QUOTE

"May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace, the gladness of Christmas give you hope, the warmth of Christmas grant you love."
- Author Unknown

TODAY'S JOKE

What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?
Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

33 INCREASING CLOUDS MON	26/39 PARTLY CLOUDY TUE	28/36 MAINLY CLOUDY WED	32/42 RAIN, LATE DAY SNOW THU	15/15 SNOW LIKELY, COLD, WINDY FRI	-1/7 ANOTHER CHILL SAT	-1/9 ANOTHER CHILL SUN
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OBITUARIES

David Allen Johnson

Nov. 16, 1949 - Dec. 18, 2022

David Allen Johnson of New Market passed away at home Sunday.

He was born Nov. 16, 1949 to Donald and Patricia S. Dawson Johnson.

He attended Crawfordsville High School and Potter Business College. He also attended IVY Tech of Lafayette with three degrees, auto body maintenance, computer engineering, and a certified welding degree. He was given the Dean's Award for all his times attending.

He served in Vietnam from 1970-1971, served in the Indiana National Guard for 22 years. He retired from Wabash National after 22 years in 2014. He served as Boy Scout Master of Troop 348 of New Market, Indiana. He worked at Dave Stetler Chevrolet, was employed at R.R. Donnelley for 11 years and Morris Neal Body Shop.

He liked riding his Harley, camping, hiking, traveling to the Smokeys, cooking out, setting around a campfire, taking walks, working in the local food pantry at church and he enjoyed his Beagle dogs.

He attended Oak Hill Tabernacle, One-Way Pentecostal Apostolic Church, While Truth Apostolic Faith in Lafayette and was a member of Crossroads Community Church of the Nazarene and was a member of the American Legion of Crawfordsville.

He married the love of his life, Diana K. Turpin in August 1981. They were married for over 40 years.

Survivors include his wife, Diana Johnson; daughter, Dakota (Gerald) Orwig; son, David (Lindsey) Johnson; four granddaughters, Cheyenne, Kassidi and Laney Johnson and Alyssa Legran; sister, Joyce Brady; two brothers, Jack (Renee) Johnson of Lafayette and Jeff Johnson of Florida; two step-brothers, David (Sharon) Zimmerman of Wingate, Jeff Zimmerman of Lafayette; many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins with long-time family friend, Marsha Shepherd and family.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Patricia S. Dawson Johnson; step-mother, Martha Ann Johnson; step-brother, Jerry Zimmerman; father-in-law, Arville Turpin; mother-in-law, June E. Turpin and several nephews, aunts and uncles.

Celebration of life will be held at Crossroads Community Church Thursday, Dec. 22, with visitation from 10 - 11:30 a.m. and services beginning at 11:30, with Pastor Mark Roberts officiating.

David and his family wish to thank Bonnie, Comfort Keepers, Visiting Angels, Care Hospice and Guardian Angels. Donations may be made to Compassions Ministry or Journey of Hope, both are in care of Crossroads Community Church of the Nazarene, 117 E. 234, Ladoga, IN 47954.

Evan Florey

Sept. 21, 1996 - Dec. 15, 2022

Evan Florey passed away on Dec. 15, 2022 at Kindred Hospital.

He was born on Sept. 21, 1996 in Crawfordsville to Jeff and Sarah (Young) Florey.

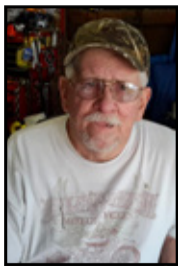
He was a graduate of North Montgomery High School, Class of 2015. He served in the United States Marines from 2016-2020 in Okinawa, Japan.

He enjoyed hunting and golfing. He spent 10 years in 4-H and enjoyed it so much he passed on his love for the organization to his nieces and went on to help them with their 4-H animals. He loved caring for dogs and leaves behind his pit/boxer dog, Maisy.

Survivors include his parents, Jeff and Sarah Florey; two sisters, Jennifer Engle (Clint) and Lindsay Stults (Nathan); nieces and nephews, Hallie, Ryleigh and Jaxon, Emerson, Grayson and Kayson; aunts and uncles, Jeff Young (Lisa), Carla McCloud (Darrell), and Kim Dagley and several cousins and extended family.

He was preceded in death by grandparents, Wayne and Dorothy Florey, Bob and Eleanor Young; and uncle, Rob Young.

Visitation is scheduled on Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022 from 4 - 7 p.m. in Sanders Priebe Funeral Care, 315 S Washington Street in Crawfordsville. A funeral home services will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. with military honors provided by the United States Marines and Legion Post 72. Burial will follow at Oak Hill South Cemetery. As a giving person, his final act of kindness was to give the gift of life through organ and tissue donation. Memorial donations may be made in his memory to National Alliance on Mental Illness, 615 N 18th Street, Suite 104, Lafayette IN 47904. Share memories and condolences at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.



Kathryn Ann 'Kay' Chase

Sept. 18, 1945 - Dec. 16, 2022

Kathryn Ann 'Kay' Chase, age 77 of West Point, passed away at 5:32 a.m. Friday, Dec. 16, 2022 in Ascension St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis.

She was born in Lafayette Sept. 18, 1945 daughter of the late Morris and Lucille Ritchie Brunton.

She married Jack E. Chase in St. Ann's Catholic Church in Lafayette May 1, 1965 and Jack survives.

She was a graduate of Southwestern High School and was employed 22 years as a clerical assistant at Mintonye Elementary School, where she loved all the students and her co-workers. She was an active member of the West Point United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women's group. She enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren. She was so very proud of each of them and thoroughly enjoyed their activities. She also enjoyed day trips and was always up for an adventure. Many special near life-long friendships were a great treasure to her.

Survivors include her husband, Jack; daughter, Anita (Bob) Bowen of Lebanon; two sons, Matthew (Amy) Chase of West Point and Darren (Dusti) Chase of Attica; daughter, Breann (Joe) Fink of Fremont; grandchildren, Bryce, Blake (Hannah), Kylee (Jesse), Brooke, Jessi, Brayton, Trinity, Amariah, Josiah and Zechariah; a sister, Peggy Lumley of Lafayette; and sister-in-law Jolinda Brunton of Linden.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, M. Lee Brunton and brother-in law, George Lumley.

Visitation hours are 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022 with funeral services following at 12 p.m., with Pastor Russ Alley officiating at the West Point United Methodist Church. Burial will follow in West Point Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be directed to West Point Fire, West Point Cadet Park or West Point United Methodist Church. Family and Friends Funeral Home of Wingate is assisting the family. Visit us online to sign the guest book or share a condolence at www.familyandfriendsfh.com



Young, Colleagues To Support Fish And Wildlife Restoration In The Great Lakes

U.S. Senators Todd Young (R-Ind.), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Rob Portman (R-Ohio), and Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) announced that the Senate passed their bipartisan legislation to support fish and wildlife restoration in the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Reauthorization Act reauthorizes critical resources to conserve and protect fish and wildlife populations in the Great Lakes. The bill will now head to the President's desk to be signed into law.

"Many Americans across the country consider the Great Lakes to be a crown jewel of North America," said Senator Young. "Reauthorizing the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act will provide the critical resources necessary to revive habitats across the Great Lakes Basin."

"The Great Lakes are a major part of Minnesotans' way of life, providing clean drinking water, fish and wildlife habitat, and opportunities for outdoor recreation," said Senator Klobuchar. "Our bipartisan legislation will provide resources to protect fish and wildlife, combat threats such as invasive species, and help ensure Minnesotans can safely enjoy the Great Lakes for years to come. Now that this bill has

passed the Senate, I look forward to seeing it swiftly signed into law."

"I applaud the Senate for passing the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, which helps protect Lake Erie by delivering resources to Ohio and the Great Lakes region to address the greatest threats to our fish and wildlife — threats like invasive species and habitat degradation," said Senator Portman. "By reauthorizing this program through FY 2027, we are providing the Fish and Wildlife Service with the resources it needs to protect our Lakes and preserve our environment for generations to come. I look forward to it being sent to the president's desk for his signature shortly."

The Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Reauthorization Act, which the senators introduced last year, reauthorizes \$6 million annually through 2027 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to partner with other federal agencies, states, and tribes to conserve, restore, and manage fish and wildlife resources. The legislation also implements the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and renews continued efforts to address impacts associated with invasive species throughout the Great Lakes Basin.



USDA To Invest \$825K To Give Help To Underserved Rural Hoosiers

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Indiana State Director Dr. Terry Goodin announced yesterday that the USDA is investing \$825,000 to expand access to housing and water infrastructure for underserved rural people who live and work in Indiana. The USDA is investing in five projects that will create economic opportunities and improve the lives of Hoosiers in rural Indiana.

The investments are part of the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to ensure that people living in rural America have equitable access to the infrastructure and economic opportunities they deserve.

"These investments will benefit Hoosiers living in these areas for years to come. Housing Preservation Grants ensure very low-income families get the financial assistance they need to make repairs to their homes," Goodin said, "Community Facility Disaster Grants ensure towns have the necessary equipment to serve and protect their respective communities."

The funding benefits Hoosiers in rural Indiana and it reflects the many ways USDA Rural Development addresses economic development, infrastructure and social service needs for rural residents and communities.

For example:

- In Harrison County, Harrison Township Fire Protection District will use a \$236,500 grant to replace its aging ladder truck with a new one featuring a 100-foot ladder to allow firefighters to reach the roofs of multiple story structures.

- In Ripley County, Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission will use a \$200,000 grant to conduct a homeowner assistance program for housing rehabilitation in Ripley County, Indi-

ana. The Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) program will provide low and very low-income families the much-needed financial assistance by completing minor repair work to qualified participants homes.

- In Jefferson County, Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission will use a \$175,200 grant to conduct a homeowner assistance program for housing rehabilitation in Jefferson County, Indiana. The Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) program will provide low and very low-income families the much-needed financial assistance by completing minor repair work to qualified participants homes.

- In Martin County, Southern Indiana Development Commission will use a \$174,800 grant to conduct a homeowner assistance program for housing rehabilitation in Martin County, Indiana. This program will provide low and very low-income families the much-needed financial assistance by completing minor repair work to qualified participants homes.

- In Roann, the town will use a \$38,500 grant to purchase a law enforcement sport utility vehicle. This vehicle will replace an older vehicle past the end of its useful life and will allow the town to improve emergency services to the community.

These investments are in addition to the recent expansion of the Rural Partners Network (RPN), which is central to President Biden's commitment to ensure all rural people can benefit from federal resources. Led by USDA with support from more than 20 federal agencies and commissions, RPN is part of an all-of-government strategy to champion rural people and places, including Native American communities.

Obituary deadline

The Paper publishes obituaries daily at www.thepaper24-7.com.

All obituaries must come from a funeral home. A photo may be included and should be sent as a high-resolution JPEG.

Daily obituary deadline is 3 p.m. for the following day's print publication.

To read more obituaries, visit www.thepaper24-7.com.

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Snow Shoveling Can Be Hazardous To Your Heart

Snow Shoveling Can BWith a blast of snow and arctic air forecast for much of Indiana later this week, the American Heart Association, the world's leading nonprofit organization focused on heart and brain health for all, urges caution when picking up that shovel or even starting the snowblower. Research shows that many people may face an increased risk of a heart attack or sudden cardiac arrest after shoveling heavy snow.

The American Heart Association's 2020 scientific statement, Exercise-Related Acute Cardiovascular Events and Potential Deleterious Adaptations Following Long-Term Exercise Training: Placing the Risks Into Perspective—An Update, notes snow shoveling among the physical activities that may place extra stress on the heart, especially among people who aren't used to regular exercise. Numerous scientific research studies over the years have identified the dangers of shoveling snow for people with and without previously known heart disease.

"Shoveling a little snow off your sidewalk may not seem like hard work. However, the strain of heavy snow shoveling may be as or even more demanding on the heart than taking a treadmill stress test, according to research results," said Dr. William

Gill, a cardiologist on the American Heart Association's Indianapolis board of directors. "After only two minutes of snow shoveling, study participants' heart rates exceeded 85% of maximal heart rate, which is a level more commonly expected during intense aerobic exercise testing. The impact is hardest on those people who are least fit."

A study conducted in Canada a few years ago found that the chance of heart attack after a snowfall increased among men but not among women. The study found that, compared to no snowfall, a heavy snow – about 7-8 inches – was associated with 16% higher odds of men being admitted to the hospital with a heart attack, and a 34% increase in the chance of men dying from a heart attack.

Gill noted that winter weather in general can contribute to the increased risk and compared shoveling snow to working out in a freezer. Cold temperatures may increase blood pressure while simultaneously constricting the coronary arteries. Those factors, combined with the higher heart rate from the extra physical effort, may increase the risk for acute cardiac events. There are even studies that show an increased risk for heart attacks among people using automatic snow blowers. Similar to the extra exertion

of pushing shovel, pushing a snow blower can raise heart rate and blood pressure quickly.

"The impact of snow removal is especially concerning for people who already have cardiovascular risks like a sedentary lifestyle or obesity, being a current or former smoker, having diabetes, high cholesterol or high blood pressure, as well as people who have had a heart attack or stroke," Gill said. "People with these characteristics and those who have had bypass surgery or coronary angioplasty simply should not be shoveling snow."

Gill said the most important thing is to be aware of the dangers, be prepared and take it easy, including taking short breaks. Even people who are relatively healthy should note that pushing the snow with a shovel is better physically than lifting and throwing it.

The American Heart Association urges everyone to learn the common signs of heart trouble and if you experience chest pain or pressure, lightheadedness or heart palpitations or irregular heart rhythms, stop the activity immediately. Call 9-1-1 if symptoms don't subside shortly after you stop shoveling or snow blowing. If you see someone collapse while shoveling snow, call for help and start Hands-Only CPR if they are unresponsive with no pulse.

Basketball To Serve As Theme For 2023 Indiana State Fair

The Indiana State Fair announced on Monday the 2023 theme of BASKETBALL, and title partnership with Pacers Sports & Entertainment. The 2023 theme was announced yesterday morning on the basketball court at Governor Holcomb's residence along with representatives for the Indiana State Fair, Pacers Sports & Entertainment and more.

The theme will be activated through multiple interactive experiences, including All-Star Court (a Basketball Amusement Park), the Pacers Sports & Entertainment Court, exhibits paying homage to Indiana's rich basketball legacy and daily storytelling moments – 18 of Indiana's greatest basketball stories told through the 18 days of the Fair, team player meet & greets and so much more. The 2023 Indiana State Fair returns July 28 through Aug. 20.

"The Indiana State Fair is an annual celebration of agriculture, entertainment, and what it means to be a Hoosier," Governor Eric J. Holcomb said.

"Perhaps the only other Hoosier tradition that

brings together as many fans, as much nostalgia, and that sense of hometown pride is the love of basketball that's swept our state for more than a century, which makes it the perfect theme for this year's fair."

"The Indiana State Fair is an annual backdrop for celebrating our State's rich history and being the state that grew the game, BASKETBALL is the perfect theme!" said Anna Whelchel, chief marketing & sales officer, Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center.

"We unveil this theme today as we tip-off an incredible year of celebration for the 166th Indiana State Fair returning next summer with our great partners at Pacers Sports & Entertainment."

"The Indiana Pacers and the Indiana State Fair are both quintessentially Hoosier brands, and the Coliseum and Fairgrounds are, in the minds of so many fans, so closely linked to the Pacers' ABA championship teams and players," said Rick Fuson, Chief Executive Officer of Pacers Sports & Entertainment.

"We are thrilled that this

partnership will celebrate the game of basketball, the birthright of every Hoosier and such an important part of our state heritage."

The Indiana State Fair is rooted in telling the agriculture story – and the history of why the game of basketball grew here in Indiana is tied directly to agriculture. The game was affordable, and the playing season was based around the farmers' planting and harvest season.

After each harvest, farm kids could play basketball, and then when the season ended in March, they could go back to the fields for planting. Thus, the tradition of "Friday Night High School Basketball" became rooted in Indiana.

Basketball also has a rich history at the Fairgrounds where our iconic Indiana Farmers Coliseum has played host to high school championships, the ABA Pacers, All-Star Games and more. The Indiana State Fairgrounds first opened in 1892 – the same year basketball was introduced in Indiana – two great Hoosier traditions that have stood the test of time.

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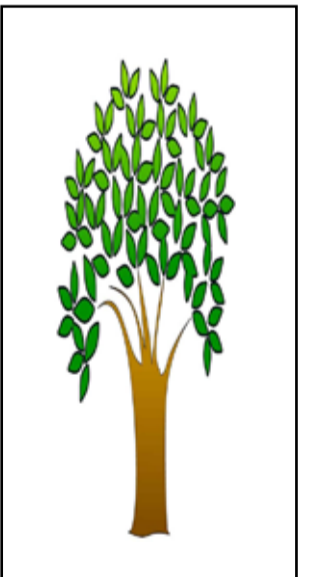
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Lt. Gov. Crouch Governs Via Collaboration

To understand Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch's governing philosophy, one only needs to look south of the Ford Center to the beautiful Stone Family Center for Health Sciences that houses the Indiana University School of Medicine's southernmost regional campus.

In 2012, then-State Rep. Crouch was in the process of dealing with a rare career setback. When Ways & Means Chairman Jeff Espich retired, she sought that influential perch. Speaker Brian Bosma tabbed Tim Brown instead. There were no sour grapes, with Crouch calling Brown's selection "really the best decision, and, the best for me long-term."

Four years prior, Dr. Steven G. Becker had reached out to Rep. Crouch. The IU School of Medicine was housed on the nearby University of Southern Indiana campus. It was the only regional medical school without its own facility. "He believed they could elevate the School of Medicine to get more people from this area if it had its own campus," Crouch explained of Dean Becker.

A local advisory group formed, along with a consortium of Evansville area medical interests. "The advisory committee was meeting at USI one evening in 2012 and one of the members said to me, 'You know, Suzanne, you're on Ways & Means. We need money to start this project and you can get that done, can't you?'"

"I'm like, yeaah, maybe," Crouch replied. At the beginning of the 2013 session, she went into Speaker Bosma's of-



BRIAN HOWEY
Howey Political Report

office and, "I had a whole list of projects I wanted funding for in Evansville and one of those projects was the IU School of Medicine, \$2 million."

Bosma added it all up and said, "Suzanne, that's \$22 million."

"I said, 'I've been here for eight years and have never asked for anything, so divide it by eight and it's not that much,'" Crouch said. "That's how we got the funding to start the project."

This was news to IU President Michael McRobbie. But local attorney Patrick A. Shoulders was president of the IU Board of Trustees and was emphatically for the facility. "He fast-tracked it, got it through, approved by the Board of Trustees before the end of the session so that the funding could be included," Crouch said. "That's how the whole thing got started."

Dr. Becker, concerned about emerging medical "deserts" and a lack of area medical school residency slots, now presides over this new state of the art facility, housing programs from IU, USI and the University of Evansville. "Suzanne was one of four or five people who was critical in making this happen," Dean Becker explained. "Suzanne is a problem solver. She makes things

happen." Lt. Gov. Crouch kicked off her 2024 campaign for governor this week. If she's successful, she would not only become the Republican Party's first credible female candidate for governor, but the GOP's first female gubernatorial nominee. If she wins in November 2024, she would become the first Hoosier woman at the pinnacle of power.

In past eras, the lieutenant governor was the heir apparent. In the television age of Hoosier politics, Republican Lt. Gov. Robert Orr of Evansville, and Democrats Frank O'Bannon of Corydon and Joe Kernan of South Bend, ended up on the second floor office of power. In 1968, Democrats nominated Lt. Gov. Robert Rock, but he lost to Secretary of State Edgar Whitcomb.

That came to an end in 2003 when Gov. Kernan, assuming office after the death of Gov. O'Bannon, nominated Kathy Davis as the first female LG. She was followed by Republican Lt. Govs. Becky Skillman and Sue Ellspermann. Of this group, only Skillman mounted a campaign for governor and it was brief, measured in weeks. Gov. Mitch Daniels and U.S. Rep. Mike Pence were pondering presidential runs, and the GOP powers that be appointed Pence as the gubernatorial nominee in 2012 to clear the Indiana lane for Daniels.

Lt. Gov. Crouch has, politically, conducted herself more like Orr and O'Bannon did. She has crisscrossed Indiana's 92 counties while holding a sprawling administration portfolio that includes

agriculture, rural affairs and tourism.

I asked Lt. Gov. Crouch, how do you win a primary against Sen. Mike Braun and Fort Wayne businessman Eric Doden, both capable of self-funding?

"You have a plan," she began. "You have enough resources - \$8 million to \$9 million. That will make me competitive. There will be about a million primary voters and I need to demonstrate that I am the person who is best prepared to lead them into the future." She has the support of GOP financier Bob Grand.

Crouch explains, "A governor's race is different from a senatorial race or congressional race. It's more about likability. It's more about what type of person people trust. Are you that type of person that people see leading us forward into the future? And improving their lives?"

Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke, an unabashed Crouch supporter and friend for more than 40 years, calls the region's collaborative nature "our secret sauce."

"I know there is collaboration everywhere, but it's so natural here because of deep personal relationships," Winnecke said. "So you can call Suzanne and say, 'Hey, can you talk to Sen. So and So?'" And she gets it. It's an easy phone call to her. She's also very, very accessible."

Those attributes are, potentially, the makings of a governor.

The columnist is managing editor of Howey Politics Indiana/State Affairs at StateAffairs.com/pro/Indiana.

Talk A Bit 'Bout Names



SLIM RANDES
Columnist

Alphonse Wilson verbosifyin' here, once again. Need to talk a bit 'bout names. Some of you might know me by my nickname, Windy.

Now you might think at first that I come about that name 'cause I've been known to verbulate quite a bit, and I have to remit here that I thought so at first, my ownself. But nossir ... not the case. Years ago, ol' Doc set me up to meet this nice lady from the county health depot and told her I was called Windy 'cause my emolument of the English language zifted like a heifer of realism through our mundaniety. Perked up the circumloquasion, I can tell ya. Fact.

But that's just on them nicknames, of course. On the birth certificate aspirations, there's a little scientificals in them. You memorate how mom used to call you by all three of your names? Yes she did. But she did it only when you was in trouble. She'd holler something like "Jeremy Pixilated Johnson, you get in here this minute!" And when you heard all three of your names, you knew you was in a pickle fer shore.

You see, appertraining to the use of a middle name? Wellsir, we need them for murderers, burglars and assassimators. You know an assassinator gets to be famous after the deed, right? And ever' body knows his name. You just take in there that Lee

Harvey Oswald fella. The newspaper guys had to throw the Harvey part in so's folks wouldn't ask themselves "I wonder if that's the Lee Oswald works down at the Gulf station."

Of course, some folks are just nominatin'ly deprived, of course. You just take my ol' grandpap for example. His middle name was nimmin. I seen it on them papers they give you for your obitulary after you die. Said right there "Constantine nmn Wilson." I had to go ask someone why they didn't capitulate the n in nmn, and the lady said it means no middle name. No middle name? Well-sir, then I memorialized that ol' Grandpap was the thirteenth kid in the family and I suppose they just ran out of middle names about then.

So the outcome of all this is, if you don't have a middle name, go get one. It'll come in handy if you take up criminal actuarials or if you die.

Slim Randles's middle name is Victor, but he was NOT named for a mouse trap.

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🔪 BUTCH

From Page A1

and prospective boy-friends and girlfriends and catch up on the latest gossip. The main gathering places were Zach's A&W just south of town, the Dog-n-Suds on US 136 East, and on further east...the Country Diner, which was located near the Ben-Hur Drive-In theater . . . all great places to park your hot car (or in my case the family station wagon), order from the speaker system, have your meal delivered and watch the cars full of kids circle the lot . . . "Yes, I would like a large Coke, fries and a cute waitress with nothing on it!" I wonder how many times they heard that from teenage boys?

Zach's and the Dog-n-Suds were both known for their coneys, onion rings and root beer, while the Country Diner specialized more in hamburgers, tenderloins and fountain Cokes . . . especially "vanilla Cokes." Then of course, there were places to satisfy our desire for ice cream . . . the Dari-Licious and Big Dipper . . . and I believe there was another one on the west side of town . . . the Dari-Delite.

One summer, between my junior and senior

year, to get in shape for the upcoming basketball season, on two occasions two of my friends and I jogged from Darlington to the Dari-Licious (about 8 1/2 miles one way). We each drank a milkshake . . . and jogged back. Crazy!

Now . . . what to do if you wanted to take a date to a "fancy" restaurant? Well, I can remember a couple that stand out in my mind . . . the Redwood Inn (located south of town) and the Apple Grove (located on West Market). But my favorite restaurant of all was northeast of Darlington, just across the county line . . . Miller's Restarurant in Colfax. Even though there was usually a long line of customers, it was worth the wait. Their specialty was fried catfish, and back then a 3-piece catfish supper, including onion rings, cole slaw or salad, bread and butter and a drink was \$3.25. The owner, Jim Miller, and his wife, Mary Ellen, had purchased an old beer joint and turned it into one of the premier dining establishments in Indiana. With several dedicated and loyal employees, like Velera Cain of Darlington, the

Millers served over five million customers during their ownership of the business. Not only local people and those from neighboring counties ate there, but it also attracted a few celebrities, including Indy race car drivers Johnny Rutherford and A.J. Foyt, and frequent guest Richard Afflis (the wrestler known as "Dick the Bruiser), and Channel 4 TV star Curley Meyers. And if Indiana played Purdue at West Lafayette, it was good to arrive early because of the large crowd.

The Miller family sold the restaurant in 1995, and five years later it burned to the ground at the hands of an arsonist. In Colfax today the only reminder is a Miller Restaurant sign proudly displayed near downtown. But hold on folks, you can still savor delicious catfish and onion rings . . . at Stookey's restaurant in Thorntown. Well, gotta go . . . writing this column made me hungry!

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

"How old are you, Herm?" I asked the farmer of 906 acres of corn and soybeans, knowing that he's still very active in the day-to-day operations of his agribusiness.

"I'm 90, but that's not the same thing," Herm said. "My boys help me on the farm, and are taking more and more of the responsibility."

"So, you think Biden doesn't have any help?" I asked rhetorically. "Gracious! There are hundreds of layers of decision-makers between any issue and any president. No one ever questions the competence or ages of the bureaucrats."

"Yes, but our President does make the ultimate decision," challenged Dave, the farm insurance agent. "He's more than a figurehead. It's not like he's the flip-pin' Queen."

"I'm not so sure about that," chimed in Bud.

After the laughter died, Rudy made a good point. "I'm just afraid that he's losing his memory. We can't have that in today's world."

"I grant you that a diminished memory is not helpful," I admitted. "However, isn't that more of a wellness issue than age? I mean, 8-year-olds forget stuff all the time, and we don't automatically assume they are incompetent or incapable. Age has very little to do with memory, as long as it's not impaired by health issues."

Just then Keith pushed back his chair and threw a dollar on the table. "I

just realized I may have left the well pump running in the cattle trough this morning. See you, tomorrow."

Danny and Jim followed Keith's lead, and that's when I first noticed Eddie on his phone. He was Googling the ages of Presidents. Google to breakfast diners carries the same weight in determining truth as the Guinness Book of World Records does for bars.

"Says here," Eddie began, "that if Trump wins, he'll finish his second term at age 84. It's not like he's a spring chicken."

"Are you ready to place your order?" asked waitress Shawna as she sauntered over to our table. I told her not just yet, and nosed my face back into the menu. Eddie jumped back on the Internet.

As we dug further, we discovered that nearly every President outlived the life expectancy for males in their generation. Taking the first eight Presidents, for example, their lives spanned 79.8 years, during a time when the average male lived less than 40 years. With the exception of Lyndon Johnson, who died of heart disease at age 64, the Presidents since Herbert Hoover (excluding John F. Kennedy who was assassinated at age 46) lived an average of 81.6 years.

"Why do you suppose that is?" asked Randy as he, Stan and Ray left the table.

"A great deal has to be that they are all

wealthy," I supposed. "We know that access to healthcare is better for people with resources. Plus, they don't work in dangerous jobs, for the most part, at least not on a daily basis. And don't forget that the average age a person becomes a president is 55.6 years. That means they've already cleared half of their lives before assuming office."

"I don't care. I still don't like Biden," said Martin. "I can't believe you want him to be president again."

"Who said that?" I asked. "I'm no supporter. Most of what he represents, I don't agree with. I just don't want to get in the habit of saying people can't do the job because of their age. I'd hate it if someone stopped me from working as I get older."

"I just don't understand you sometimes," said Donnie, making his way to the door — the last diner to leave the table.

"I'll have the half order of biscuits and gravy, two strips of bacon, toast and jelly, and whole milk," I said to my waitress, lifting my head out of the menu. I noticed now that I was eating alone.

"Where'd everyone go?" I asked Shawna. "Beats me," she said, bouncing three quarters in the palm of her hand. "I guess they are just sore losers."

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

🔪 DINNER

From Page A1

us to endure. We are strengthened by charitable works. This is a call to those who are looking for ways to give back to the community,

Francis and Mount needs your help to continue this tradition. After years and sometimes decades of service, we have several volunteers who would like to pass the torch to future commu-

nity servants. These jobs include delivery drivers, prep cooks, starch and veg preparation cooks, delivery meal assembly, buffet attendant and clean up crew.

Last year, Isaac Weliver trained with Former Chairperson and Culinary GodMother, Joyce Fitzwater. Joyce served as Chairperson from 2010-2021.

This year, Isaac has the honor of serving the community as Chairperson of the Christmas Dinner. His mother, Christie (Wilson) Weliver transitioned from this life to the next on Christmas 2017. He volunteers on Christmas in remembrance of her.

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