

3 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS

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OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

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TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 16:8 I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Angie Hedrick gave a beautiful smile for our roving photographer. Thank you for your smile, Angie!

THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 Senator Mike Braun joined Senators Rand Paul, Mike Lee, Ron Johnson, and Rick Scott at a press conference to speak about the 4,155 page, \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill revealed late Monday night and expected to be voted on this week. "We're running trillion dollar deficits, and anyone who thinks that's a good business plan is blind to the reality of why that's not going to work in the long run," Braun said. "We can't just accept this as business-as-usual. We get rolled by the other side of the aisle because they are unapologetic about turning the federal government into their growth business, and we as conservatives complain about it but then go along with it. The only people coming out on the short end here are the people we say we're trying to serve. Borrowing money from your kids and grandkids without putting any forethought into what you're spending is a terrible business plan."

2 The community is invited to give with meaning with the American Red Cross at the 'Give Life, Give Blood' Blood Drive on Tuesday, December 27 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Faith West Community Church in West Lafayette.

3 Phileas Fogg went Around the World in 80 Days in the classic 1956 movie. But Fogg was a fictional character and so he didn't make it into the Guinness Book of World Records, recalls the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. But, recently, Laura Massey-Pugh and Stevie Massey circumnavigated the world in 180 days on a tandem bicycle and won Guinness' official recognition for their 18,000 mile triumph. It was the first time that the record keepers awarded recognition for the event to a male-female tandem team. A women's team holds the record for their event, having biked the world in 263 days, 8 hours and 7 minutes; a men's team did it in 281 days, 22 hours and 20 minutes.



Photo courtesy of Indianasanta.com

Santa and Mrs. Claus stand together on their porch. Santa has been getting ready all year for his big day!

Santa Claus Tells His Stories

EDITOR'S NOTE: The intrepid staff at your favorite Montgomery County daily got in touch with Santa - and we're happy to share the following from the big man! If you want to know more about this particular Santa, go to indianasanta.com, with our compliments!

I was reading a story about letters to Santa today and thought I would share with you some fun stuff that Santa experiences when he is in person with the kids.

While working at a Cabella's in Noblesville a few years ago I had some interesting notes.

On one day, I had a 3 day old baby in my lap and an 81 year old lady who had never sat on Santa's lap to get pictures. She had been walking around the store when I found her and asked her to get a picture with Santa.

One young man came up to Santa and asked for a Nintendo Switch, PS-4, iPhone 11, X Box 1 and numerous other electronics. I told him that my elves do not do good with electronics. Remember the Samsung phones that all started on fire? Those were my elves. Remember the iPhones that had such

a problem? Those were my elves. Remember the X-Boxes that kept on breaking? Those were my elves. So we don't do electronics anymore. Is there anything else? He said OK, how about a coloring book?

A young mom, in her mid-20's, came to visit Santa with her 7 or 8 month old child who started screaming the minute she tried to hand him over to me. I suggested Mom sit in my chair with the child and I would stand nearby. She had a strange request. She had a string with

See SANTA Page A5

Ball Saga # 5 - James Samuel and Sister, Nancy



KAREN ZACH
Around The County

Yep, you guessed it - James Samuel Ball was indeed born in Butler County, Ohio, son of Dennis and Margaret (Line) Ball on the second day of

March in 1817 and came as a young boy about nine, his father entering 400 acres of land, some of which JS farmed in his own time. The first thing the family did was build a log cabin and more than one of Dennis and Margaret's children it seems stayed there when they started married life, including James Samuel.

JS owned about 150 acres (Beckwith) and not only farmed grain but was quite a well-known and admired stock raiser. He married Catherine (Kitty) Hoff, daughter of Nathaniel Baldwin and Jerusha Larrison Hoff in February 1840 and they were parents to

See KAREN Page A5

Upcoming Holiday Closures

The holidays mean a few changes in schedules.

For the most part, banks and government offices will be closed on Sunday and Monday, Christmas and the day after. This includes the U.S. Post Office as well.

The same schedule follows a week later when New Year's Day falls on Sunday. Government offices and many businesses will also be closed Monday, Jan. 2. This also includes the U.S. Post Office.

For us at The Paper, following

See CLOSURES Page A5

The Daily Almanac



Sunrise/Sunset:
RISE: 8:02 a.m.
SET: 5:21 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures:
High: 40 °F
Low: 30 °F



Today is...
• Abilities Day
• National Re-Gifting Day



What Happened On This Day:

- 1894 The Dreyfus affair begins in France when Alfred Dreyfus is wrongly convicted of treason
- 1975 President Gerald Ford creates the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in response to the 1970s energy crisis



Births On This Day:

- 1912 Lady Bird Johnson Wife of Lyndon B. Johnson, 38th First Lady
- 1989 Jordin Sparks American singer-songwriter and actress

Deaths On This Day:

- 1989 Samuel Beckett Irish/French author, playwright, director and Nobel Prize laureate
- 2002 Joe Strummer English singer-songwriter, guitarist and actor

HONEST HOOSIER

3 Montgomery County shopping days until Christmas. Hey Santa, how about being extra nice to the folks fussing and feuding over solar energy! There may be a lot of disagreements, but they all are just doing what they believe best.



INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

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TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you're trying to get pregnant, or are pregnant, be sure to take 400 micrograms of folic acid a day to help prevent birth defects.

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
Nadeen Michelle DeZarn



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



THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE Churches! Listen up!

The Paper is offering any Montgomery County church a free ad to let folks know what time services are, sermon topics . . . or really, anything they want - something that is especially valuable as we all try to get people together in places of worship so that we can begin to find some common ground that unites us, instead of focusing on what divides us? If you represent a church and would like a free ad each week in our Faith section, just e-mail ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"The way you spend Christmas is far more important than how much."
- Henry David Thoreau

TODAY'S JOKE

Why did Santa's helper see the doctor?
Because he had a low "elf" esteem!

7 DAY FORECAST

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
30/40 RAIN TO FROST SNOW, COLD & WINDY FINISH	-5/3 FREEZING DRIVE CAREFULLY	-3/12 SNOW & SLEETS WINDY, WINDCHILL 10 TO 15	-3/15 WINDCHILL 20 TO 10	2/22 CHANCE OF LIGHT SNOW	18/28 NOT AS COLD	18/39 WARMING UP

➔ OBITUARIES

Nadeen Michelle DeZarn

Aug. 15, 2022 - Dec. 18, 2022

Infant Nadeen Michelle DeZarn, 4 month old daughter of Jerrid Michael and Kelsi Danielle (Moore) DeZarn of Williamsport, passed away in the Riley Children's Hospital, Indianapolis on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022.

Nadeen was born in the Riley Children's Hospital on Aug. 15, 2022.

Survivors include her parents, Jerrid and Kelsi DeZarn of Williamsport; two siblings, 11 year old Laeton DeZarn, Crawfordsville and one year old Morrelli DeZarn, Williamsport; her paternal grandparents, Mary Kay DeZarn, Crawfordsville and Tamala (the late Randy) Clarkston, Clinton; maternal grandparents, Daniel & Laura Moore, Crawfordsville and Rob (the late Macah) Cook, Montezuma; adoptive paternal grandmother, Mary Bender, Williamsport and adoptive grandparents, Arnold and Melissa DeZarn, Lakeland, FL; uncles, Greg (Amanda) Bender, Justin (Melissa) Bender, Alex (Ashley) DeZarn; aunts, Christina (Rick) Gray, Jennifer (Jeff) Pickering, Joslynn (Javier) Jimenez, Jessica Burnett, Casey Moore, Samantha Moore and Charlie Moore.

Sweet Nadeen is now dancing in her wings and getting all the loved from her grandparents. Although, now we will have to remember you longer than we've known you, forever our baby you'll be.

Friends may call at the Maus Funeral Home on Wednesday, Dec. 21 from 11 a.m. until the service time at 1 p.m. with Dave Clark and Brenda McIntosh officiating. Burial will follow in the West Union Cemetery near Montezuma, Ind. Memorial contributions may be made to the Riley Children's Hospital or to the family for expenses.

➔ Births

A son, Casen Riley Martens, was born on Dec. 12, 2022 at Witham Health Services to Josh and Sunny Martens of Crawfordsville. The baby weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces.

Casen will be welcomed home by a brother, Cohen.

Maternal grandparents are Bridget Lollar and Henry A Lollar Jr.; paternal grandparents are Don Martens and Kristi Martens.

➔ Meeting Notes

Board of Works and Public Safety Meeting

The City of Crawfordsville Indiana

Dec. 21, 2022 at 10 a.m.

City Building 300 E Pike St Crawfordsville, IN 47933

I. Approval of the minutes from Dec. 14, 2022.

II. Approval of the claims for the week of Dec. 19, 2022

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

A. Hector Monroy at 1720 E. Elmore - discuss water reconnect adjustment

B. Agreement between

the City and HWC Engineering

C. Agreement with VS Engineering to complete an Engineering Report for Traction Road Improvements

D. Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Montgomery County Health Department Regarding Provision of Nursing Support During Nursing Shortfalls

E. Agreement between the City and Abbot Controls for HVAC services at Fusion 54

F. Solid Waste Disposal Agreement between the City and Waste Management

V. Department Heads

VI. Adjournment

Purdue Offering New Fully Online Master Of Science In International Agribusiness



Purdue University is offering a new fully online Professional Master of Science in International Agribusiness aimed at agribusiness professionals worldwide. Applications are being taken now, and the program launches in January 2023.

The new degree is particularly valuable for learners looking to enhance their skills in data analytics, quantitative data analysis and data-based decision-making. This knowledge is applicable whether they work in industry or government, management or marketing, and in a range of areas from commercial agriculture to food product development and production, and from natural resources management to managing supply chains. The program also teaches a skill set applicable to working in the fast-paced global economy in general, as well as the dynamic, rapidly growing international agribusiness and food industry specifically.

While the 100% online option is new, the mature, rigorous curriculum has been taught and refined for a decade by Purdue's Department of Agricultural Economics faculty, who excel at teaching, research and engagement in their field. Each of the instructors also has multiple years of experience teaching in online and hybrid modes.

In addition to the re-

quired courses, students choose one of two specialized online graduate certificates - in Spatial Data Science or in Biotechnology Quality and Regulatory Compliance, the latter from Purdue's top-ranked (U.S. News & World Report) Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering. The graduate certificate satisfies 12 credits of the 36 needed to earn the full master's degree in international agribusiness.

Learners should be able to complete the degree in 18-24 months. The coursework is asynchronous, making it readily accessible for working professionals or new graduates who are ready to start work but also want to earn an advanced degree.

"That makes it nice for time management, and it also makes it work across time zones," said Nicole Widmar, associate head of the agricultural economics department and graduate program chair.

Some previous knowledge of quantitative methods is helpful, Widmar said, but students do not need to have a bachelor's degree in agricultural

economics to enroll in the master's program. The degree is attainable for someone with a background in related fields such as marketing food products or land management, for example.

Core courses include:

- Applied Quantitative Methods for Decision Making
- Economics for Food and Agribusiness Managers
- Communication and Issues Engagement for Agricultural Professionals
- Problem Solving and Project Management for Decision Makers
- Quantitative Managerial Decision Making
- The Macroeconomic Trade and Policy Environment of the Food System
- Strategic Food and Agribusiness Management

In addition, core requirements include a capstone course with an analytic paper, which can be either academic in nature or work related, in lieu of a thesis.

The two graduate certificates also can be taken separately from the master's program.

The online Biotechnology Quality and Regulatory Compliance Graduate Certificate is designed to provide professionals education on important aspects of the topic on the way to becoming leaders in pharmaceutical, medical device and biotechnology industries. The curriculum covers drug development, regulatory practices, quality management and the molecular basis of manufacturing pharmaceuticals, among other topics.

The online Graduate Certificate in Spatial Data Science teaches how to use big data to make a big impact in agriculture and land management while mastering key concepts of geographic information systems (GIS) and spatial data science, including data sources, projections, spatial data processing and analysis methods, data and metadata creation, and a conceptual framework for solving spatial problems.

For more information about Purdue's online Master of Science in International Agribusiness and to apply, visit the program website.

Safe Travel Tips During Arctic Weather For Seniors And Those With Health Issues

With Arctic weather moving into the area late this week, holiday travel - especially for seniors and those who have health issues - could become more challenging, and even dangerous.

Dr. Amit Arwindekar, medical director for UnitedHealthcare, is available to discuss how holiday travelers (including those already vulnerable with health challenges) can stay as safe and healthy as possible during upcoming travel:

Anticipate potential health issues. Packing a portable health kit with may prove helpful, so consider including items such as anti-inflammatory pain relievers, first-aid

supplies, earplugs and motion-sickness remedies. If traveling in a car during extreme cold, pack blankets and bottles of water in case of emergency. Also, consider a wellness checkup with a primary care doctor before departure to talk about travel plans.

Refill medications. Before any trip, it is a good idea to refill medications and pack extra doses in case of travel delays.

When traveling by airplane, always pack medication in carry-on luggage to help ensure access. For international travel, be sure to check prescription drug restrictions for each country to help avoid the risk of medications being

confiscated.

Dress for cold weather. Heat loss really depends on what body part is exposed. It's still recommended to wear a hat when outdoors, because prolonged exposure to cold temperatures may lead to frostbite or hypothermia. To help avoid the risk of your core body temperature dropping below 95 degrees, be sure to wear:

- A hat
- A scarf or mask that covers your face and mouth
- A water-resistant coat
- Mittens or gloves
- Several layers of loose-fitting clothing
- Water resistant boots

Stay active. Exercise is

a great choice for helping to reduce stress and improve mood. Incorporating physical activity as strategy for staying active. Using a fitness app may also help, providing access to thousands of workouts, from high-intensity interval training to yoga, and meditation.

Know when to not go. We love our friends and family and want to be with them during the holidays. But if the temperatures become dangerously cold or the roads impassable, consider delaying your travel a just a few days until the travel risks subside. A difficult decision, no doubt. But it may be something to consider.

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Water And Ice: Not So Nice; State Farm Releases 2022 Top Ten States For Frozen Pipes And Winter Water Losses

In advance of a major winter storm, now is a good time to remind homeowners and renters about preventing frozen pipes.

In 2022, State Farm paid over \$181M for nearly 9,000 claims from frozen pipe damage, with the average claim coming in just over \$20,000.

- Texas was the #1 state for these losses with \$64 million in claim costs.

- Illinois was ranked #3 in the country for frozen pipes and winter water losses. The insurer paid more than \$10.8M for these claims.

- In Indiana, State Farm paid \$2.4M for frozen pipe claims this year.

Frozen pipes
A one-eighth inch crack in a pipe can spray more than 250 gallons of water a day, ruining floors, carpets, furniture, and irreplaceable personal belongings.

When temperatures in southern climates dip below 20 degrees Fahrenheit, pipes can freeze

and burst. However, pipes can freeze anywhere due to exposure from cracks or holes in siding or because of pipes placed in outside walls with inadequate insulation.

There are some things you can do to prevent frozen pipes from happening.

- Let faucets drip overnight to keep water moving freely.

- Open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to uninsulated pipes under sinks and on exterior walls.

- Disconnect garden hoses or use indoor valve to shut off and drain water from pipes.

- Ensure your home maintains adequate heat inside, at least 55 degrees.

- Water can be shut off to prevent freezing pipes but note that fire suppression systems will be deactivated when water is shut off.

When pipes freeze

- If you turn on your faucets and nothing comes out, leave the fau-

cets turned on and call a plumber.

- Avoid applying flames to thaw pipes. Never try to thaw a pipe with a torch or other open flame because it could cause a fire hazard. Water damage is preferable to burning down your house!

- Use a hair dryer as a possible heat source (with caution). You may be able to thaw a frozen pipe using a hair dryer — again, make sure you are not in standing water. Start by warming the pipe as close to the faucet as possible, working toward the coldest section of pipe.

- Shut off the water supply. If your water pipes have already burst, turn off the water at the main shutoff valve in the house. Make sure everyone in your family knows where the water shutoff valve is and how to open and close it. Be sure to leave the water faucets turned on.

- Contact your insurance company if there is damage.



CENTER for RURAL AFFAIRS

New Guides Outline Cover Crop Initiatives, Insurance Guidelines

With the 2022 cash crop harvest in the books, producers who planted cover crops may benefit from taking time to learn about special programs and insurance considerations in their area. To help, the Center for Rural Affairs has released a series of resources outlining cover crop initiatives, as well as guidelines for maintaining crop insurance when implementing this conservation practice.

Cover crop adoption has gained momentum, with a 50% increase in acres reported from 2012 to 2017. In addition, approximately one-third of acres planted to a cover crop received financial assistance to support implementation in 2018.

“Farmers across the Midwest are increasingly planting cover crops

to control erosion and improve soil health,” said Kalee Olson, policy associate at the Center. “Financial assistance and information on how cover crops may affect crop insurance coverage are important tools for interested producers.”

Each guide in the series explains cover crop cost-share initiatives on federal, state and local levels, as well as those available through private organizations. Among these recommendations are the Conservation Stewardship Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service.

In addition to cost-share incentives, the guides provide an over-

view of crop insurance premium discounts, such as the USDA’s Pandemic Cover Crop Program and state-based opportunities. The resources also include information on cover crop termination and reporting guidelines to ensure farmers remain compliant with crop insurance regulations.

“It’s important that a strong connection exists between crop insurance and conservation, so that farmers can invest in our natural resources without fear of losing an important federal safety net,” Olson said.

The guides are available in English and Spanish at cfra.org/publications. For more information, email Olson at kaleeo@cfra.org or call 402.687.2100 ext. 1022.

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INDOT Prepares For Winter Storm, Urges Adjustments To Holiday Travel

The Indiana Department of Transportation is preparing for a major winter storm expected to impact the state starting Thursday.

The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued winter storm warnings for much of Indiana starting Thursday afternoon through at least Friday, depending upon location. Blizzard warnings have been issued for counties bordering Lake Michigan. NWS is calling for snow with high winds and dangerously cold temperatures, causing snow-covered roadways and low visibility for holiday travel.

NWS Snow Totals
INDOT will be at a full call in most locations with nearly 1,000 trucks treating and plowing highways across the state by Thursday afternoon through the weekend. Trucks will remain out in full force for the duration of the storm and afterward to continue cleanup efforts.

Road conditions will be difficult as the storm moves through. INDOT's goal is to keep highways passable during



the storm. Travel should be carefully considered Thursday afternoon through at least Friday morning. Motorists that must travel should expect to encounter snow and ice-covered roads, blowing and drifting snow, and whiteout conditions due to high winds.

Light rain and some wintry mix is expected during the day Thursday, and will make a rapid transition to snow once the cold front passes through. Due to rain,

pre-treatment will be challenging, but will occur in some locations as conditions allow. Drivers should note that without pre-treatment, highways are more likely to develop slick spots and snow will more easily stick to pavement and bridges. Low temperatures will also impact the effectiveness of salt. INDOT is prepared to utilize additives as necessary to help the salt melt snow and ice from roadways. INDOT urges motor-

ists to closely monitor forecasts and adjust holiday travel to avoid higher-impact timeframes during the storm, which are anticipated Thursday evening through Friday morning in most areas. Travel impacts may linger through Saturday in the northern part of the state. Avoiding travel will keep drivers safe at home and give plow trucks room to work safely and complete their routes as quickly as possible.

If travel is absolutely necessary, slow down, increase following distance, don't crowd plow trucks, allow extra time to reach your destination, and pack an emergency kit with supplies such as blankets, extra clothing, snacks, water and a phone charger.

Monitor real-time travel conditions and view traffic and snow plow cameras online at 511.in.org or via INDOT's TrafficWise app. Regular updates will also be shared on INDOT's social media channels. Check for travel advisories in your area at in.gov/dhs/traveladvisory.

Indiana Wins Another COVID Vaccine Victory

Indiana has prevailed in yet another legal fight against President Joe Biden's executive overreach in the form of draconian COVID vaccine mandates.

This time, in a lawsuit filed by Indiana and two other plaintiff states, a U.S. appeals court has struck down a rule requiring vaccination for anyone working for federal contractors. "Hoosiers and all Americans should have the liberty to make their own decisions on whether to get vaccinated," Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita said. "That includes individuals who happen to work as federal contractors. No one should have to fear losing their jobs just because they opt against getting a shot."

In affirming a district court's injunction, the appeals court observed that President Biden's use of the federal Procurement Act to claim executive power to



Attorney General Todd Rokita

impose the mandate on third-party contractors is "truly unprecedented."

Previously, Rokita has also prevailed in cases involving 1) Biden's Occupational Safety and Health Administration vaccine mandate, which would have applied to anyone working for a company employing 100 or more people and 2) Biden's Head Start mandate, which would have required all staff and volunteers in Head Start preschool programs to be masked and vaccinated — and even required masks on children ages 2 and older.

Thanks for reading The Paper!

Classifieds

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SANTA

From Page A1

letters tied to it that spelled out CHRISTMAS. She asked me to hold that in front of her for the picture. Because she was sitting, I held it over her head. She said her husband had the rest of the string with the letters MERRY on it. I looked around for Dad but I didn't see him. I said to her let's find Dad and he can hold the rest of the sign. She said Dad was not here, he was in Afghanistan. We took the picture and as she got up I gave her and her child a hug and thanked them for their service.

On my first day this year I held a 6 week old and an 8 week old baby. The Mom of the 8 week old baby was so excited about getting the child's picture with Santa that she was in tears. I suggested we take another picture with her, the baby and I. She was very happy but still in tears. I never did get the rest of the story but she loved it so much.

A Mom and Dad came up with 5 kids. They all wanted individual pictures so we did individual and I talked to each child individually. All of the kids, except for one, had face paint on like they had just gotten it done earlier. The one girl who did not have face paint on, probably 11 or 12 years old, came up for her turn to talk to Santa and we talked a bit since it was so slow. When I asked the young lady what she wanted for Christmas she pointed to the rest of her family and said "I got it today and my family is what I wanted!" It turns out that her and her sister, and her brother were all adopted today and the adoption was final! I talked to Mom and she said they have been in the process for 1,635 days but it was finalized today! WOW!

Three cute young girls came up to see Santa all dressed in the same dresses and wearing reindeer antlers. My Elf Jim started to introduce them to me but I told him no, I know them. Their names are Giggly, Wiggly and Jiggly! They are my new reindeer! Well, Mom and Dad and the three girls all loved it. I talked to them for a while because we had some time but then they went to play. They were there almost an hour and everytime I saw them I would call them by their new reindeer names. They loved it!

4 Older teens who wanted their pictures taken with their entire family and Santa. Mom and one of the teens came back to do a picture of Mama kissing Santa Claus! Funny Picture.

Two dog pictures today. One with a small dog that sat on my lap and one with a large dog that I could have sat on him!

Family with two kids, Mom and Dad and Grandma and Grandpa. Both Dad and Grandpa wore caps that read US Coast Guard - Retired. I invited them both up for a picture with Santa and thanked them for their service.

3 children came up with their Mom. Approximate ages, 3, 5 and 8. They all told Santa what they wanted and Santa gave them 2 candy canes each. Santa

explained that he needed help spreading Love, Hope and Joy so Santa asked them that they take the second candy cane and give it to their best friend and tell them "Thanks for being my best friend", and "Merry Christmas!" The 3 and 5 year old were fine with it but when it came to the 8 year old he said, very seriously, "Santa, I don't have any friends." I asked why and he said that his past friends don't want to be friends with him so he is looking for new friends. I asked him if he wanted some of the past friends to be his friend and he said yes. When I asked him how many he told me three so I gave him 3 more candy canes and suggested that he tell these friends that he wanted to remain friends with them and to give them the candy cane and say Merry Christmas. He said he would do that and when I looked up at Mom she had tears rolling down her cheeks. It really seemed that this young man had been bullied and was having some serious problems with it. I told him that Santa would pray that he gets some good friends to give the candy canes to. He seemed a little better when he left.

Santa had 7 dogs today from small ones to very, very large ones. One scratched Santa's lip.

Mom and Dad and three very pretty girls came up for pictures. The girls all got their pictures together and then Mom and Dad and the girls got a family picture together. When I talked to the girls and asked what they wanted for Christmas they all told me but then the older girl, about 8 years old, said she had a secret to tell me. I bent over and told her to whisper it in my ear and she asked me if I could help make her Mom happy. I had no idea what was going on but I told her that Santa will pray for her family and especially her Mom. She thanked me and then went to her Mom.

Grandma and three young girls came into the store and wanted to see Santa. I talked to the two younger girls and then the older one who was about 14 years old. I asked her what she wanted for Christmas and after considering the question she said, "Well, we need a bigger house". I told her that Santa probably couldn't help with that so I asked her if there was anything else. She told me that they needed food. That floored me because I had never had anyone ask for food! For whatever reason this really got to me today.

A family of 4 kids came up and I asked them all what they wanted. The older girl, about 14, said she wanted world peace. I told her she could start it and gave her two candy canes. I then told her she could have one but to give the other one to her best friend and tell them thanks for being my best friend and Merry Christmas. I then told her if everyone did that maybe we could attain world peace. Her Mom overheard the conversation and thanked me for promoting that.

I had a very good

encounter with a young girl, maybe 10 years old, who told me that she didn't want anything for Christmas, she just wanted her brother and sister and her Mom to be happy and give them what they wanted. She said she did not need anything at all but her family deserved to be happy. She also told me that her Papa was never happy. I told her that she should give him one of the extra candy canes I gave her to give to him and for her to tell him that she loved him and that would make him happy. She started to tear up and I told her that I would say a prayer for her and her Papa.

When Santa and Mrs. Claus first visited Crawfordsville as a summer home a few years ago we were at Milligan Park with a photographer taking pictures of us outside in the fall colors. One cute 4 or 5 year old girl with long blonde hair came up and wanted to sit on Mrs. Claus' lap because Santa was so big she was a little nervous. Santa and Mrs. Claus talked to her a little bit and when I asked what she wanted for Christmas she thought about it a little bit with her finger to her lips and then said "Well Santa, I really need a new shotgun!"

Santa knew we were in Indiana then! LOL This year Santa has already visited with over 1,000 children here in Montgomery County and the Indianapolis area. From the Lilly Boys and Girls club in Indianapolis to the Carnegie Museum here in Crawfordsville sharing the spirit of Christmas is the joy of my life.

One little girl came in to the photo studio with her Mom and Dad during Downtown Party Night and sat next to Santa talking with me quite a bit. When I asked her what she wanted for Christmas she told me about a few dolls and then she said "One last thing." I asked her well what else would you want? With her Mom and Dad standing there just off camera she asked me "Can I get a new Dad?" I looked at the parents and I don't know what it was all about but they both laughed and took the little girl out of there very fast!

Sure, to the children that I see, Christmas seems to be about Santa and the presents that they get but I try to share with them the spirit of Christmas. One of my favorites is when I tell them that I want to tell them a secret. They snuggle up close with their ear near my mouth and I tell them this little secret.

"When you wake up Christmas morning remember to give Mom and Dad a hug and a kiss and tell them that you love them. That is the best present that you can give them, your love."

Another spirit of Christmas story that I use when I have the candy canes is to give them two candy canes and to tell them that one is for them and the other is for them to give it to their best friend and for them to say "Thanks for being my friend."

Santa is looking forward to seeing you soon. Check out my website at Indianasanta.com

KAREN

From Page A1

several children.

First son, Isaiah born later in 1840 married Mary Chambers, moved to Marion County, Iowa and farmed there along with some time spent as a butcher. At least two children, Walter and Ella. Isaiah was in the 5th Indiana Cavalry under Capt. Johnson and remained in the war for three years. He was an active member of the local Knoxville, Iowa GAR. Walter married parenting two children and Ella died at age 84 never having been married.

Sadly, little Druzilla died in infancy but after the allotted time, her brother Nathaniel Samuel was born and grew to adulthood, marrying Sarah Snyder and following his brother to Iowa where he was a carpenter. There were several carpenters in this family, perhaps reflecting the log cabin building experience. Dennis moved away as well, marrying Minnie Raleigh and was a carpenter in Maniton Spring, Colorado. Robert too was a carpenter (born Dec 22, 1845) married Mary Goodall and they lived in Iowa as well (Mitchelville), he passing away there at age 87. Albert died in infancy. Benjamin was born in 1849 and married Elmeda Schenck and stayed on his father's farm. He died young of a severe headache at age 44. Waynetown Masonic. George Washington married Lottie Heath, lived in Placerville, California and became a lawyer and rancher. They were parents of Chester, Ruth and Roberta. Margaret (Maggie) married Shadrack Cook when she was 45 years old - he lived but ten years later. She did however help raise a couple of his younger children. She passed away 2 Sept 1930 and is buried in Waynetown Masonic. Lastly, Jerusha Ball was lost early as well (10-1-1857 to 1-28-1876).

Obviously, all these children needed schooling, and thus James and Kitty gave the property



and helped get the Ball School House rolling. The school was about on the corner of 650 and 100 N. The Ball cemetery is on 100 just east of 650 (thanks Sherry), just south of Christian Union Church and not too far south and west of Wesley so you know about where this family raised so many children, grands, etc.

Nancy Ball also was born in Butler, Ohio on 13 Dec 1818 and married (Dec 1840) Asher D. Fields who sadly passed away just seven years later (buried Harlow Cemetery near Waynetown) Nancy passing almost five decades later. Their children born were Eliza; Thomas J; Jasper Nathaniel; Margaret and Dennis. After her first husband's death she finished raising her children and then in May 1866, she married Elijah Hall (he had three grown children as well, Edward, Margaret and Mary, but he died eleven years thereafter then she was alone until her own death 2 August 1894 buried at Wesley Chapel, a quite revered older woman, a member of the Primitive Baptist Church since a small girl.

Eliza Ann Fields was called Lida. In August 1867, she married Milton Crane who sadly lived just slightly over a year after their marriage. I couldn't find her after the 1870 census when her sister Margaret and family is living with her. Couldn't find a marriage, death, census or... Anyone know what happened to her?

Jasper N(athaniel?)

the oldest son was born in 1843 and in the 1860 census at just 16 was listed as a farmer with \$900 real estate and \$200 personal property - quite impressive. He served in the 10th Indiana (Company B) and is buried in Thompson Cemetery at Yountsville, passing on Sept 29, 1864 just shy of being 21 and a half years old. Not listed as wounded or killed, I would guess he may have died from disease. Anyone know?

Thomas J. Fields lived in and around Waynetown most of his life where he owned a hardware store there for many years. He and wife, Sarah Williamson had at least one daughter, Nanny and one son, Ira. They are buried in Waynetown Masonic Cemetery.

Margaret was born June 20 in 1845 and passed away young in January 1882. She and William E. Rider had one daughter, Minnie who married AJ Bunnell.

Their youngest, Dennis Foster Fields was born, raised and married Catherine Ellis here. They were parents of Leah, Marion and Ralph. At some point they went to Salinas, California where in the 1900 census she was raising the children and working as a seamstress, Leah working with her as a milliner. On August 1, 1905, the Oakland Tribune had a short obituary for him (the beloved husband of Kate B, father of Mrs. EA Smith and TA and RE Fields, all of Oakland, a native of Indiana, aged 57 years 1 month and 20 days).

There you have two of the interesting Ball children, James Samuel and Nancy and you'll read the last next week featuring Salome and Sarah.

Karen Zach is the editor of Montgomery Memories, our monthly magazine all about Montgomery County. Her column, Around the County, appears each Thursday in The Paper of Montgomery County. You can reach her at karen.zach@sbcglobal.net.

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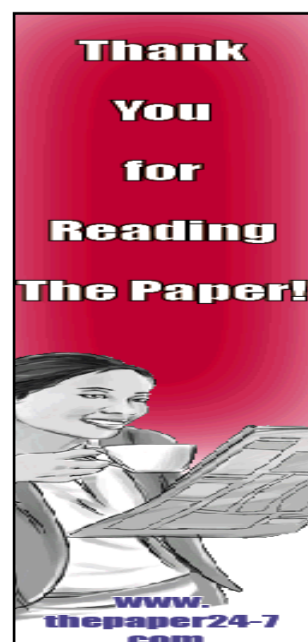
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CLOSURES

From Page A1

our custom of not publishing on major and postal holidays, there will be no Online Edition on Christmas Day and the day after, Dec. 25-26. And like the above mention, there will be no Online Edition on New Year's Day and the day

after, Jan. 1-2. However, it is important to note that our offices will be closed for the holidays from Dec. 26 through Jan. 2. If you need something during that time, please e-mail Tim Timmons at timmons@thepaper24-7.com.



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