

# The Paper

## OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

50¢

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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# Ring in The New Year

As 2022 winds down to a close and before 2023 gets here, The Paper is proud to present several of our regular columnists all gathered in one spot on one day. We hope you enjoy them – and from all of us, thank you for reading The Paper and Happy New Year!

## Looking Back . . . And Moving Forward



**TIM TIMMONS**  
Two Cents

As the little paper that could ends another year and inches closer to turning 20, it seems a good time to reflect . . . as well as keeping one eye on the road

ahead. After all, it's not very wise to drive with both eyes constantly on the rear-view. First off, at the end of every year I think back to how many times I've heard some folks say that we won't last. The predictions of doom and gloom have ranged from two weeks to six months. Yet here we are. Hey, I get it. Most start-up companies don't make it five years. In addition, the entire media world is undergoing the most dramatic upheaval in its history. We've clearly beaten the odds.

But no one at the world-wide HQ is bragging. We realize we wouldn't be here without you . . . and you . . . and you . . . and, well, you get the idea. From loyal advertisers to loyal readers to staff – past and present – you have made this happen. You have given Montgomery County a truly local product. Hey, no offense to the Journal-Review, but the money made over there goes to an owner in Alabama. Nothing wrong with that either. But you all know the money made at The Paper stays right here. Important? Ask downtown business owners if they want

you to shop at the big box store or with them. They'll tell you the importance of local ownership. To be sure, it's been a lot of work, but it's also been a labor of love. Over these almost 20 years, we have won more news and advertising awards than any other media outlet in Montgomery County. The plaques and certificates line the walls of the WW HQ. More important than that, the report on our stewardship – what we have given back each year to this wonderful place we all call home – easily

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## Butch Learned A Few Things In 2022



**BUTCH DALE**  
Columnist

Well, we made it through the year by the skin of our teeth. Yes, our bank accounts took a hit, and those of you who own stocks or have a 401K may have hit the bottle a few times. The Covid dilemma waned, although it seems that regular flu and colds had an uptick. You win some, you lose some. I'm happy to just wake up in the morning. I take one day at a time. Listed below are a few personal opin-

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## New Year's Eve Dance Lessons



**JOHN MARLOWE**  
With the Grain

company of dancing fat guys and Filipinos is rare, indeed. Nevertheless, opportunities are out there, if you look carefully. It happened to me three years ago. My love life was a shipwreck, after being dashed upon the breakwater in the sea of "The One Who Got Away." Emotionally, I was still in survivor mode even though several months had passed since the breakup. New Year's Eve was drawing near. All I could think about was that I was going to be alone, and my ex no doubt would be having the time of her life at one of the numerous parties she'd be invited to attend. All week long I obsessed about my approaching loneli-

See JOHN Page A6

## A Look At Next Year



**KAREN ZACH**  
Around The County

done before); and the December one will be a bit different as we feature December babies – people born here in this month who went forth and prospered. I would encourage anyone who loves history and writing as well that if you know of an inventor, someone who had a great love story (or anything concerning any of the above themes) to please write an article about 5-600 words and send it our way. This could be a researched topic or someone you knew and just more a remembrance. We'd love to have more community involvement. As per my Thursday article, seems the sagas are working well. The Fruits family took the honors of beginning this project and with them Dunbar, Bannon, Himes and currently the Ball Saga. Lots of fun to research and write. Possible upcoming ones are: VanCleave; Guard; Durham; McCormick; Irons and well, who knows? So here I am wishing a very, super-ordinary, Happy New Year to you and each of yours. Plus, don't forget to Keep Reading!!!

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.

### TODAY'S VERSE

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

### FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Tammy Williams smiles brightly for our roving photographer. Thanks for your smile!

### THREE THINGS You Should Know:

**1** 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. Apply today by e-mailing resume to jobs@thepaper24-7.com.

**2** And then there was the holiday home invasion that occurred in Waxhaw, NC, the invader being a cute little squirrel, says the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. The homeowner, Taylor Stading, suspects it found its way into the house via a loose roof shingle. The squirrel led Stading and her family on a merry chase as it sought to settle in the branches of the family Christmas tree. Eventually she used a dust mop to help the critter exit the premises via an open window. It was all caught on video, providing the family with their own, very funny version of the classic Chevy Chase film *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*.

**3** In its continuing effort to support youth pursuing careers in agriculture, Ceres Solutions will offer \$25,000 through scholarships to high school seniors and college students this spring. Students receiving the scholarships are selected based on their commitment to agricultural youth programs and their desire to pursue higher education.

### HONEST HOOSIER

If you were born today in 1942, this is your 29,152nd day on this planet. Kind of sounds neater than saying 80 years, huh?



### INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

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### THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Show Us Those Smiles!

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

### TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Are you having trouble remembering things? Perhaps you're not getting enough sleep. 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.



### TODAY'S QUOTE

"The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals."  
- Melody Beattie

### TODAY'S JOKE

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.

### OBITUARIES

See page A2

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



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13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

27/43 BREEZY AND WARMER	39/52 BREEZY, MILD, CLOUDS	45/51 RAINY AND MILD	46/51 RAINY AND MILD	43/52 CLOUDY SKIES	39/53 CLOUDS, STILL MILD	43/57 RAIN CHANCES RETURN
WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE

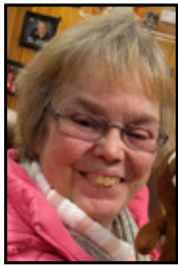


## OBITUARIES

### Brenda Sue (Cooper) Huffer

May 26, 1952 - Dec. 18, 2022

Brenda Sue (Cooper) Huffer, age 70 of Kingman, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022 at home while surrounded by her loving family.



She was born in Frankfort, Ind. on May 26, 1952 to the late Robert & Carrie (Freels) Cooper.

She graduated from Frankfort High School in 1970 and married the love of her life, Philip Huffer, on Dec. 5, 1981. She worked at Federal Mogul in Frankfort for 40 years before retiring. She enjoyed flowers, gardening, camping at Prophetstown, and traveling to Gatlinburg.

Survivors include her husband of 41 years, Philip Huffer of Kingman; two sons, James Wilson of Frankfort and Philip Paul (Andrea) Huffer of Frankfort; a daughter, Natalie (Andrew) Miller of Lafayette; two brothers, Truman Cooper of Beaver Dam, Ky and Bob (Christy) Cooper of Frankfort; four sisters, Jane Rodriguez of Frankfort, Phyllis Emens of Covington, Lori (Johnnie) Abbott of Frankfort, and Bonnie Curnett of Frankfort; mother-in-law, Barbara Huffer of Kingman; 20 grandchildren, many great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a daughter, Deanna Hoke; four brothers, Paul, Mike, Tom and Winston Cooper; three sisters, Lena Painter, Peg Downs and Linda Howe; father-in-law, David Huffer; and a great-granddaughter, Paityn.

Visitation will be at Sterling Christian Church, 701 S Sterling Ave, in Veedersburg on Friday, Dec. 30, 2022 from 11 a.m. till the time of the memorial service at 1 p.m., with Pastor Derrick Jackson officiating. The service will be live-streamed and recorded which can be viewed on her obituary page at [www.sandersfuneralcare.com](http://www.sandersfuneralcare.com). Memorial donations may be given to IU Simon Cancer Center, PO Box 7072, Indianapolis, IN 46207 or donate online at [www.cancer.iu.edu](http://www.cancer.iu.edu) in her memory. Share memories and condolences online at [www.sandersfuneralcare.com](http://www.sandersfuneralcare.com)

### Leslie A. Alenduff

Feb. 13, 1949 - Dec. 23, 2022

Leslie Anne (Brooks) Alenduff, 73, rural Attica, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday, Dec. 23, 2022 at 6:40 p.m. at her home with her family at her bedside.



She was born on Feb. 13, 1949 in Salem, Ohio. She was the eldest child of LaRue Perry and Louise (Mosbey) Brooks.

The family later moved to Hillsboro, Ind. where she was educated in the Hillsboro School and a member of the second class to graduate from Southeast Fountain Central High School in 1967.

She met her husband William Lew Alenduff while working a the Attica Bowling Alley restaurant in October of 1967 when he was transferring to MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina. They were married on Feb. 11, 1968 when he was transferring to Okinawa.

She was a member of the Attica Free Methodist Church and was baptized in the Church of Christ in 1969. Her hobbies were making jewelry and coloring books. She especially enjoyed spending time with her family and spoiling the grandchildren.

This marriage was blessed with three children, Wendy, Nov. 12, 1968; Patrick, Feb. 12, 1970 and Jody, Oct. 14, 1974.

Survivors include her husband of 54 years; Wendy Alenduff, Patrick (Trena) Alenduff and Jody (Jenny) Alenduff; six grandchildren; a sister, Carolynne (Jim) Laube; two brothers, Jeffrey (Kathy) Brooks and Philip (Linda) Brooks; many nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

Friends may call at the Maus Funeral Home, Attica, on Wednesday, Dec. 28, from 4 - 7 p.m. Funeral services will be held at the funeral home on Thursday, Dec. 29, at 11 a.m. with Pastor Jerry Badgley officiating. Burial will follow in the Riverside Cemetery, Attica. Memorial contributions may be made to the Attica Free Methodist Church. Condolences may be sent online to [www.mausfuneralhome.com](http://www.mausfuneralhome.com).

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No. 54D01-2205-MF-000409 wherein U.S. Bank National Association was Plaintiff, and M&D Service Center Inc and Christopher C. Miller, were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 8th day of February, 2023, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 600 Memorial Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana.

Lots numbered 12, 13, 14, 25 and 26 as the same are known and designated on the recorded Plat of Highland Park Addition to the City of Crawfordsville, as platted by Enoch Simms, upon part of the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 5, township 18 north, range 4 west, in Montgomery County, Indiana, EXCEPT THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED TRACT: Beginning at a 5/8" by 24" capped rebar stamped Deckard Srvy. Firm #44 (hereinafter referred to as a Deckard rebar) marking the southeast corner of said lot numbered 14, thence north 27 degrees 05 minutes 48 seconds west (relative to a previous survey bearing of cardinal North and South along Meridian Avenue in said Addition) along the easterly lines of the above referenced Lots and their northwesterly extension for a distance of 156.74 feet to a Deckard Rebar in the center line of a 12 foot wide vacated alley; thence north 89 degrees 58 minutes 16 seconds west with said center line for a distance of 57.01 feet to a Deckard rebar; thence leaving said center line and running thence south 01 degrees 33 minutes 00 seconds west for a distance of 139.12 feet to a P.K. nail on the south line of lot numbered 14; thence south 89 degrees 47 minutes 10 seconds east with said south line for a distance of 133.0 feet to the place of beginning, containing 0.305 acres, more or less.

More commonly known as: 1215 Danville Ave, Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
 Parcel No. : 10-05-442-115,000-030  
 Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws

Alan W. McEwan  
 24051-49  
 Doyle & Foutty, P.C.  
 41 E Washington Street  
 Suite 400  
 Indianapolis, IN 46204  
 Madison Township  
 1215 Danville Ave, Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
 Street Address

The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street addressed published herein

SERVICE DIRECTED TO:  
 Christopher C. Miller  
 1216 Mill Street  
 Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
 MANNER OF SERVICE: Certified Occupants  
 1215 Danville Ave  
 Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
 MANNER OF SERVICE: Sheriff

NOTICE  
 DOYLE & FOUTTY, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR  
 PL4541 12/21 12/28 1/4 31 hspaxlp

### Sandra Kay Conrad

Nov. 6, 1941 - Dec. 23, 2022

Sandra Kay Conrad of New Ross passed away suddenly at home. She was 81.

Born Nov. 6, 1941 in Fowler, Ind., she was the daughter of Arthur Shelton and Jane Dukes Shelton.

She attended school at Jamestown and graduated from Granville Wells. She married Bruce Conrad in 1996 and he passed away in 2010.

Mrs. Conrad was a member of Whitesville Christian Church, where she handled church dinners. She worked as a beautician, owning the "Powder Puff" on Green Street. Later, she worked at Davidson's Greenhouse.

Survivors include her daughter, Makay Adams of Kokomo; son, Pat Fellows of Chicago; granddaughter, Brandi; and brother, Garry Shelton.

Visitation is scheduled from 1 - 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 30 at Whitesville Christian Church, 3603 S. Ladoga Road. Services will begin at 3 p.m., led by Pastor Mike Whitacre. Private burial will take place at the Greenlawn Cemetery in Darlington at a later date.



### Shirley J. VanCleave

April 22, 1948 - Dec. 26, 2022

Shirley Jean VanCleave of Crawfordsville passed away Monday night at Ben-Hur Health. She was 74.

Born April 22, 1948 in Crawfordsville, she was the daughter of Ben Daniels and Irene Daniels.

She married David VanCleave and they celebrated 50 years together before his passing in June 2018.

Mrs. VanCleave was a member of Grace & Mercy. She loved going to church, singing, playing the piano and loved children. She attended school at Russellville.

Survivors include six sons, David Wayne VanCleave (Melissa), Tom VanCleave (Stacey), Mike VanCleave (Robin), Donald VanCleave, Johnny VanCleave (Kim), Joshua VanCleave (Brittany); grandchildren, Corey, Destiny, Heaven, Destiny, Aubrie, Trenton, Trevor, Brittany, Perry, Kristifer, Tacie and Tyler; great-grandchildren, Bryleigh, Ethan, Olivia and Addison; sister, Judy; three brothers, Ben, Jr., Rick and Jeff.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; brother: Les; and two sisters, Brenda and Linda.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday at Grace & Mercy Ministries, 257 Oak Hill Road. Services will begin at 1 p.m., after which she will be laid to rest at Oak Hill Cemetery South. Arrangements were made through Burkhart Funeral Home.

Online condolences may be made at [www.Burkhart-FH.com](http://www.Burkhart-FH.com).



### Stephen Lidester

June 2, 1956 - Dec. 27, 2022

Stephen Lidester of rural Crawfordsville passed away Tuesday morning at home. He was 66.

Born June 2, 1956 in Crawfordsville, he was the son of Richard "Dick" Lidester and Barbara Seaman Lidester.

He attended New Market school and graduated from Southmont. He married the former Kathy Reed on Aug. 27, 1988. She survives.

He worked at Pool's for 18 years and then at Thrifty, later working several years at Nissan in Lafayette. He liked watching sports, especially IU basketball, Nascar and IndyCar, attending the 500 every year. He was also a big Yankees fan. He had extensive knowledge of sports statistics and trivia. He had been working to restore his '65 Chevy.

Survivors include his wife, Kathy Lidester; mother, Barbara Lidester; step-daughter, Jennifer (Jack) Lazar; daughter, Ashlea (Mike) Korte; son, Tyler Lidester; bonus daughter, Sarah (Jason) Gray; and five grandchildren, Hunter, Cameron, Luke, Jayse, Charlotte.

He was preceded in death by his dad, Dick Lidester and three uncles, Bill Lidester, Jack Lidester and Larry Lidester.

Visitation will be from 4 - 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29 at Burkhart Funeral Home. Services will be at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 30 at the funeral home. After the service, he will be laid to rest at Oak Hill Cemetery South.

Online condolences may be made at [www.Burkhart-FH.com](http://www.Burkhart-FH.com).



### Susan Kay (Tefft) Roe

June 20, 1949 - Dec. 24, 2022

Susan Kay (Tefft) Roe, age 73 of Crawfordsville, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, Dec. 24, 2022 at Franciscan Health Lafayette.

She was born in Enid, Oklahoma on June 20, 1949 to the late Robert Hughes & Catharine M (Turner) Tefft.

She graduated from Carrier High School in Oklahoma and Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri. On May 28, 1971 she married the love her life, Pastor Tony Roe. Throughout the years she was a teacher at Enfield Christian Academy in Enfield, Connecticut, Bethlehem Baptist Academy in Fairfax, Virginia, and was a substitute teacher at Southmont Schools and North Montgomery Schools in Crawfordsville. She was a member of Faith Baptist Church and the Montgomery County Tea Party. She enjoyed playing the piano, singing, cross stitch, and was very active in the church.

Survivors include her loving husband of 51 years, Pastor Tony Roe; a sister, Roberta (Joe) Haskit of Enid, Oklahoma; sister-in-law, Kathy (Don) Smith of Ladoga; a brother-in-law, Rodney (Lori) Roe of Crawfordsville; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and sister, Ann (Ron) Watkins.

Visitation is scheduled at Faith Baptist Church, 5113 S 200 W, Crawfordsville on Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022 from 4 - 6 p.m. The funeral service will be at the church on Friday, Dec. 30, 2022 at 11 a.m., with Pastor Keith Harris officiating. The service will be recorded which can be viewed on her obituary page at [www.sandersfuneralcare.com](http://www.sandersfuneralcare.com). Burial will follow at Indian Creek Hill Cemetery. Memorial donations may be given in her memory to Faith Baptist Church. Sanders Priebe Funeral Care entrusted with care. Share memories and condolences online at [www.sandersfuneralcare.com](http://www.sandersfuneralcare.com).



### Morris W. Geiger

Dec. 26, 2022

Morris W. Geiger age 87 of Crawfordsville, passed away 10:28 p.m. Monday, Dec. 26, 2022 in Franciscan Health Crawfordsville. Arrangements are incomplete at Family and Friends Funeral Home of Wingate.

### James David 'Dave' 'Meathead' Mitton

Dec. 24, 2022

James David 'Dave' 'Meathead' Mitton age 69 of Williamsport passed away 11:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24, 2022 in Compass Inpatient Care, Indianapolis from complications of a stroke. Arrangements are incomplete at Family and Friends Funeral Home of Wingate.

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Thanks for reading The Paper!

Dreaming of a new home?

find it here!  
 thepaper



# Happy New Years To You - Here's To Dignity, Respect And Doing

"When people come to court, other than lawyers, I mean, it's usually a new experience for them," said Judge Harry Siamas, as we sat across from each other at the defense and prosecutor's tables in Montgomery County's Circuit Courtroom.



The League of Women Voters, open to men as well as women, is a nonpartisan, multi-issue political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. For information about the Montgomery County LWV, visit: [www.lwvmtcoin.org](http://www.lwvmtcoin.org) or message to LWV, PO Box 101, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

black chair behind the original desk, a polished wood desk as imposing and beautiful as the doors into the room.

"It's obviously changed somewhat," Siamas said, as we swiveled to look around the room. Indeed there are plastic shields mounted on his bench and the desk for the court reporter, a sign of the pandemic, along with the foot-pump sanitizing stations outside the doors to the court. The sun beamed through the east windows and created a glare on 13 framed pictures around the room. Siamas had these pictures hung during his tenure on the bench, a clue that he loves history.

Indeed, Siamas told me about the history of the court, founded in 1823, which dovetails with the bicentennial of the county. He and the research librarians at Crawfordsville Public Library couldn't find a picture of the first judge who served, Judge Call, but they found most of the pictures of the 16 judges who've served in the past 200 years. Siamas, who majored in history at Indiana University, once planned to earn his Ph.D., but academic positions in the field dwindled in the 1970s when he attended, so he followed a backup plan, law.

His path into law began with his father, a local law enforcement officer. "In some ways, I felt like I got into the family business. My father was a very even-handed law enforcement officer and it was interesting to me that when I came to practice law as a prosecutor. I prosecuted

quite a few repeat offenders that my father had put in jail, and almost to a person they would tell me, 'You know, I respected your father. He always treated me with respect even though I had done something wrong.'"

Siamas grew up in Crawfordsville, graduated as an Athenian, and when he returned, he was appointed prosecutor by Gov. Otis Bowen in 1977. He served that role into 1983 but found that being a prosecutor demanded intense focus and balance. A prosecutor is an advocate, unlike a judge, and a good one must consider that they are advocating to put away a person. They have to guard against aggressiveness and consider the humanity of the person even if they are guilty.

For a dozen years, Siamas has practiced judicial wisdom when it comes to whoever enters the courtroom. Five times in our hour-long conversation, he used the word balance. Balance is about law and humanity. He made it his philosophy to treat the courtroom as his to run, but not his to control or dominate.

"This is a courtroom of the citizens who come here to have their issues decided and they just invited me to help them decide whatever their legal issue is," Siamas explained. "So it's really their courtroom. I'm a guest; they're the people who really reside here."

He's been entrusted to decide people's "most important" matters: life and death, custody of children, personal fortune. He's served at the election of the people, and as he sits there, sharing his reflection, dressed smartly, he shifts several times in the stiff wooden chair. He had taken the seat that didn't swivel or rock. Instead, he'd offered it to me.

On the back wall, four more framed pictures show the most recent county judges. The last one shows a beaming Judge Thomas K. Milligan, who looks like the sort of man who could be a favorite grandfather. Milligan mentored Siamas, and Milligan's impact and 36-year legacy have clearly been a fatherly ghost shaping Siamas' judicial philosophy. A philosophy driven by the awareness that everyone is human, humans make horrible choices, but still have good in them.

Siamas's legal practice included some heartbreaking cases. He defended Ar-

thur Baird in 1985, while in private practice. Baird, a Darlington native, murdered his pregnant wife, then his mother, followed by his father, all within 24 hours. Later he adjudicated over the Brandi Worley case and recently a case of neglect against Dylan T. Myers that resulted in "catastrophic injury" for Charlie Marshall and intersected with a similar charge against Myers in Boone County for a toddler.

What Siamas holds in balance is the knowledge that the vast majority of crimes are committed by younger people, that recent scientific evidence points to their brain's continuing development, and yet, the consequences should they be released on bail and become repeat offenders. He holds in balance the huge number of custody cases where couples are so caught in their acrimony that they neglect to acknowledge the trauma inflicted on their children. He holds in balance the traumatic cycles of neglect and abuse of children and teens.

I asked if his judicial philosophy has been informed by his wife Susie's career as an early childhood educator. Certainly, he's well-read on the data that teachers and therapists use to inform their practice. Siamas, who met his wife in college while at a Greek Orthodox event at Holy Trinity in Indianapolis, acknowledged how much he learned listening to her talk about education. He also raised three daughters and has two grandchildren. His childhood faith, his family, his mentors, his wife, parenting, this community and history appear to have informed his disposition toward people, those he's defended, prosecuted and judged.

He acknowledged he'd like to redo and improve upon his early years as a judge - who wouldn't like to redo their first years in a role with all the wisdom that experience imparts? He credited Judge Milligan for teaching by example that "if you treat people with respect, acknowledge their situation" it does wonders in reducing tension. If a person comes into court, acting up, Siamas says to them, "I want to hear your story. But what we have to do first is listen to them, then I'm going to listen to you. If they believe you are respecting them as a person,

then they're going to calm down and trust you will make a decision with some fairness."

As the year closes and the League wraps up the columns, no better example for democracy and our county than Judge Siamas' can be held up. As he wraps up his service in this community and turns it over to Judge Darren Chadd, we citizens can remember that humans all want a better life, dignity, respect, and many will do better and recover from mistakes with wise guidance.

Siamas noted at the end of the conversation that his grandfather, also named Harry Siamas, immigrated to the county in the 1930s. With almost no education and barely speaking English, he built a memorable restaurant, Coney Island, with his secret coney sauce - the recipe is buried with him. He proudly employed others, paid his taxes and became a citizen. He instilled that sense of citizenship in Judge Siamas, along with a giddy joy in working on the same block all these years later. Coney Island was where the courthouse parking lot is now.

In closing, Judge Siamas recounted a talk he gave for St. Johns some years back. He and his wife were at Longs Donuts in a rough area of Indianapolis. Like many great food dives, the long lines were worth the wait, but he started to feel a bit uncomfortable. He felt more and more out of place as the clock ticked off seconds and he observed the inner-city folks around him. Meanwhile, Susie started a game with a little girl in the line. The longer Susie and the girl played, the more people started smiling at each other. His anxiety dissipated. He realized how unfounded it had been. As the girl and Susie remained playful, he realized We are all basically good, all humans, and we have to bring that out in each other. That is our connection.

Happy New Year. Thanks for reading.

*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, multi-issue political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government. For information about the League, visit the website [www.lwvmtcoin.org](http://www.lwvmtcoin.org); or, visit the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, Indiana Facebook page.*

# A Good Bar Of Soap



**CARRIE CLASSON**  
The Postscript

A new year is coming, and I am focusing on the small stuff.

It is popular to make big, sweeping statements in a new year about the things that will change and be accomplished. I noticed a few years back that these grand announcements rarely had much effect.

What mattered, if I wanted to live a different kind of life, was the little things I did every day. I take my walk. I write a few words. I do my pushups. I've gotten used to watching in amazement how a tiny action, done daily, leads me to a place that seemed impossible just a few months earlier.

What I didn't notice until recently is that it works the same way with little rewards. Small things make my life better in surprisingly big ways.

It all started with my soap.

Every day, I wash my hands several times and, every day, I use whatever soap I found that was on sale. If a package of six bars cost 50 cents less, that was the one I would buy. But while I was in Mexico, I bought a good bar of soap that cost a lot more—still less than a cup of coffee—but much more than I usually paid.

"Wow! My hands smell good."

They felt good, too. I wondered why the heck I hadn't done this long ago. I thought of all the years I never got one moment's enjoyment out of washing my hands, and I wondered why on Earth that was. I went back to the store. I bought six bars. I gave some as gifts at Christmas. I stockpiled some for my own use.

I decided—in this new year—I was going to treat myself to a wonderful bar of soap every time I washed my hands.

Then I got a new coffee cup.

Why did I go for so many years using whatever old cup was in the cupboard instead of realizing what a nice thing it is to have a pretty cup? My new cup is lovely. It doesn't drip when I drink from it. It is brightly painted and handmade. It gives me a little pleasure every time I use it and I use it all morning long.

I thought of some of the larger purchases I'd made over the years that had given me very little pleasure. I thought of the purses and dresses that I rarely use, always imagining some special occasion when I would need them. The special occasion either never comes, or it ends up being a lot less special than I imagined. But a nice coffee cup? That cup gives me pleasure every day all day long.

Big stuff, I have decided, is overrated.

The little place we rent in Mexico with the slightly worse-for-wear Formica countertop and the mismatched furniture is perfect. It is not fancy. It is small. It reminds me that simple is easier and I don't need big. It reminds me how little is enough.

So, in this new year, I am focusing on the small things—both the little things I do and the little things that surround me every day. I'm focusing on the things that consistently bring me joy—the fresh flowers on my desk, my colorful new coffee cup, the smell of good soap. The moments of joy add up and make my day better. The days add up to make a happier life.

Now I just have to figure out what to do with a year's supply of cheap soap.

Till next time,  
Carrie

*Photos from this week's column and podcasts can be found at [CarrieClasson.com](http://CarrieClasson.com).*

# Light And Strength For Christmas



**GLENN MOLLETTE**  
Guest Columnist

When I was a child at Tomahawk Elementary School in Martin County, Kentucky there were many kids who got little to nothing for Christmas. I had classmates who I would never ask if they got anything for Christmas because I already knew the answer. Some of these kids were just glad to be in school. At school they could receive a free lunch and have access to a bathroom which they didn't have at home. This also meant they could wash their faces and their hands which was difficult at home especially in the winter months. While most of us didn't have

much, what we did have seemed like a lot to those who had nothing.

This is where you need to stop and think. You stress about all you may not have but what do you have in comparison to those who have nothing? Do you have a place to sleep? Do you have a comfortable bed? Is your house or apartment warm and comfortable? Do you know you will have food to eat on Christmas day? Do you have a television to watch? Do you have a telephone? Do you have a few dollars in your pocket?

I'm very aware there are millions of Americans who are below the financial income poverty level. They have it tough. Our cities are filled with growing numbers of homeless populations. People are sleeping under bridges, overpasses and on riverbanks. Too many of these have met with unfortunate circumstances in life because of bad choices, addictions, unemployment, mental illness and family issues. The

list is never-ending. This doesn't make their lives any easier. Just because there is a reason for the problems doesn't make their burdens lighter or unnoticeable. Their reality is still harsh and painful.

Millions more immigrants are coming to America. Where will they sleep? Where will they work? Many of them will work for \$8 an hour and work hard but many will be homeless or stranded in homeless shelters on government dependence for a long time. Would any of us want to trade places with them? I don't think so.

Whatever darkness you are facing this Christmas is your reality. Seeing the hurts of others doesn't make your troubles go away. However, if you can be thankful for the life you have, then maybe Christmas will take on a whole new light.

Look to the most special gift of all this Christmas - the baby in the manger. Shepherds raced to see the baby just as the angels said they would. Wise

men came from the east and worshipped him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Mary and Joseph did the best they could as peasant parents of a new baby boy.

Keep the scripture of Isaiah 9:6 handy this Christmas. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

May His peace comfort your heart and be your light and strength through this season and every day to come.

*Dr. Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminaries in Kentucky. He is the author of 13 books including UncommSense, the Spiritual Chocolate series, Grandpa's Store, Minister's Guidebook insights from a fellow minister. His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states.*

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# Kenny Reflects On Memorable Moments In 2022 Sports



**KENNY THOMPSON**  
Columnist

With 2023 just days away, it's time to reflect on a memorable year in sports.

I have restricted my top 10 sports stories of 2022 to those opined upon in my weekly columns. Let the countdown begin.

1. Purdue football wins first Big Ten West Division championship – Yes, a prediction that actually came through. Although not quite the path I foresaw back in August, the Boilermakers claimed probably the next-to-last West Division title thanks to road victories against No. 21 Minnesota, Maryland, No. 21 Illinois and Indiana. Despite an expected loss to No. 2 Michigan in the Big Ten Championship Game, Purdue earned a berth against LSU in the Citrus Bowl on Jan. 2.

2. Westfield's Braden Smith wins Mr. Basketball – Smith probably will be sad to see 2022 come to an end. It's been a memorable 365 days for the 6-foot guard. While leading the Shamrocks to the school's first boys basketball sectional championship, Smith became Westfield's all-time leader in scoring (1,629 points) and assists (453). Then Smith became the school's first Indiana Mr. Basketball. Finally, Smith became

the starting point guard from Day 1 at Purdue, teaming up with Mr. Basketball runner-up Fletcher Loyer to lead the Boilermakers to a 12-0 start this season. Smith is Purdue's third-leading scorer at 9.4 points a game behind Loyer (13.2) and center Zach Edey (22.6).

3. Purdue basketball again atop rankings – With an all-freshman backcourt and All-American Jaden Ivey making millions with the Detroit Pistons, not much was expected from the Boilermakers during the pre-season. All Matt Painter has done is groom a potential National Player of the Year in Zach Edey and watched his freshman guards play like upperclassmen for the first third of the 2022-23 season. That's how Purdue became the fastest school in the Associated Press poll history to go from unranked in the preseason to No. 1 on Dec. 12. Aiding that record rise was a run of marquee victories against Marquette, West Virginia, and then-No. 6 Gonzaga and then-No. 8 Duke – the latter three out in Oregon for the Phil Knight Legacy championship game.

4. Jeff Brohm exits, Ryan Walters enters – Just two days after leading Purdue to the Big Ten Championship game, news broke that Louisville coach Scott Satterfield was leaving to take over at Cincinnati. That opened up the hometown dream job of Brohm, who turned down the opportunity to coach the Cardinals in 2018. Brohm's departure became official Dec. 8.

When speculation began about his replacement, no one had Illinois defensive coordinator Ryan Walters on their list. Purdue had not hired

a defensive-oriented coach since Leon Burtnett in 1982. Walters, 36, was a finalist for the Broyles Award given to the nation's top assistant coach. He'll have a giant task in 2023 with a more difficult schedule (at Michigan, Ohio State, 10-game winner Fresno State, at Virginia Tech, Syracuse) and a new quarterback among several key positions vacated by graduation or transfers.

5. Purdue family loses three legends – The unexpected death of former All-American forward Caleb Swanigan on June 21 marked the first of three Boilermaker greats to pass away in 2022. The 25-year-old Swanigan died of natural causes, the Allen County (Ind.) coroner ruled. The Indiana Mr. Basketball from Homestead became a first-team consensus All-American and the Big Ten Player of the Year in 2017. He was selected 26th overall by Portland in the 2017 NBA Draft.

If Len Dawson had not enrolled at Purdue in 1953, perhaps there would be no "Golden Girl" twirling a baton every home football game at Ross-Ade Stadium. Dawson, a Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback, died at age 87 on Aug. 24. Legendary Purdue Bands director Al G. Wright noticed that sportswriters were calling Dawson "the golden boy" after his four touchdown performance against No. 1 Notre Dame in 1954. Then, Juanita Carpenter's baton-twirling feats led another writer to remark "and now Purdue has a Golden Girl." Wright thought it was a great idea to promote his program and Purdue has fielded a Golden Girl

ever since.

Dawson's legacy spans far beyond his nickname. The Alliance, Ohio native led the nation in 1954 with 15 touchdown passes and a 145.8 passing efficiency. Dawson would be a three-year starter and lead the Big Ten in passing and total offense all three seasons. His path to NFL glory took a detour after stops in Pittsburgh and Cleveland. In 1962, Dawson was reunited with former Purdue assistant Hank Stram with the American Football League's Dallas Texans. Dawson dominated the AFL and guided the Texans to the league title that year. While the Texans became the Kansas City Chiefs in 1963, Dawson's outstanding play continued. Dawson was the MVP of Super Bowl IV and would finish his NFL career with 28,711 passing yards and 239 touchdown passes. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1987.

One of the greatest defensive tackles in Purdue history, Dave Butz passed away at 72 on Nov. 4. Butz, who was 6-7 and 280 pounds during his Boilermaker career, was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame in 2014. A consensus All-American as a senior in 1972, Butz was chosen to Purdue's All-Time Team as part of the 100th anniversary celebration of Boilermaker football in 1987.

Selected fifth overall by the then-St. Louis Cardinals in the 1973 NFL Draft, Butz would become famous with Washington. The cost to obtain Butz was two No. 1 draft picks and a No. 2 selection but it proved to be a bargain. He was chosen the NFL's Defensive Player of the year

in 1983 after recording a career-high 11 sacks. He earned two Super Bowl rings with Washington.

6. Painter climbs wins list – Only his mentor stands between Matt Painter and Purdue's all-time basketball victory record. Painter surpassed Naismith Hall of Fame coach Piggy Lambert with his 372nd win, 83-73 at Iowa on Jan. 27.

Painter entered the 2022-23 season with 384 victories. After Purdue's 12-0 start, the earliest Painter could reach 400 wins at Purdue is Jan. 8 against Penn State at The Palestra in Philadelphia.

If Painter maintains his current average of 22 victories a season, he could reach Gene Keady's record of 512 during the 2027-28 season. Painter would be 57 years old.

Tom Izzo of Michigan State (673 and counting), Indiana's Bob Knight (658), Keady and the late Lou Henson of Illinois (423) are the only Big Ten coaches with more victories than Painter.

7. Jaden Ivey hits the lottery – The former Purdue guard had an emotional NBA Draft night when the Detroit Pistons selected him fifth overall. Ivey's mother, Niele, played for the Detroit Shock in the WNBA. His grandfather, James Hunter, played cornerback for the Detroit Lions from 1976 to 1982. Receiving a reported \$32 million contract over four years, Jaden Ivey is averaging 15.5 points, 4.3 rebounds and 4 assists a game for the Pistons (8-25).

8. George Karlaftis, too – Ivey wasn't the only newly minted Purdue millionaire. All-American defensive end George Karlaftis went to the Kansas City

Chiefs with the 30th overall pick of the 2022 NFL Draft. Karlaftis is the 22nd Boilermaker to be chosen in the NFL Draft's first round but the first since fellow member of the Den of Defensive Ends, Ryan Kerrigan, in 2011.

Karlaftis, who signed a four-year, \$11.9 million contract, has started every game for the Chiefs and has 3.5 sacks among his 26 total tackles through 14 games.

9. Purdue basketball claims 1,000th Big Ten victory – With its 82-76 victory against Michigan on Feb. 5 in Mackey Arena, Purdue became the first program in Big Ten history to win 1,000 conference games. The Boilermakers entered 2022-23 with 1,006 Big Ten wins and a healthy lead over Illinois (978) and Indiana (957).

10. USC, UCLA join the Big Ten – Few saw this move coming from the Big Ten. This response to the SEC adding Texas and Oklahoma stretches the Big Ten's influence from coast (Rutgers) to coast. No doubt both sides saw dollar signs in this arranged marriage. The Big Ten's new TV deal with Fox, CBS and NBC will be worth \$7 billion over seven years. The old Pac-12 television contract reportedly was worth \$21 million per school. With USC and UCLA expanding the Big Ten to 16 schools, it seems likely the current East-West division format will disappear when the two schools join in 2024.

*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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# A Contemporary Christmas Carol



**MARK FRANKE**  
Guest Column

Anne Perry is a popular author of Victorian era mysteries. She writes several series using her stable of inter-related characters. I've read some and understand why she has such a fan base.

Every Christmas she releases a novella using her regular characters but not in their usual milieu of murder and depravity. The focus of these short books is on charity, redemption and forgiveness. She writes them for the Christmas season, after all. And I read each one as soon as it hits my local library.

I can't write like Perry but I do have a true story to tell, one that might not meet Perry's standards for her Christmas tales but still should warm the cockles of most hearts.

We know the devastation wreaked by Hurricane Ian. Here in Fort Wayne, we all have friends and neighbors who spend their winters in Florida along the west coast in the St. Petersburg area. Someone told me once that there are more Fort Wayne natives in Fort Myers in January than in Fort Wayne. I

don't intend to field test that theory as I love our seasons here, all of them. And might an early winter presage a white Christmas? My grandchildren sure hope so.

So what does Anne Perry have to do with me? My wife's sister and her husband have a home in Ft. Myers that they had hoped would be their retirement residence . . . except that it bore the brunt of Ian, causing extensive wind and water damage. Their home didn't quite meet the FEMA standard for demolition so they are faced with the effort and expense of rehabbing their house.

Think about the difficulty of finding a competent, reputable contractor to help with that. The state or feds run commercials to hire only licensed contractors. That may be sound advice but it is not natural law. My in-laws are a case in point.

My wife's brother-in-law was working on his house when someone came to the door. He introduced himself as Carlos, a demolition contractor working on several houses on that street. Licensed or not, he gave the appearance of both professionalism and honesty. He was hired on the spot.

His work was excellent and priced appropriately. Now don't get me on a high horse about the immutable law of demand and supply. Yes, costs go up after a hurricane as businesses move prod-

ucts and services to the affected area. I get tired of self-serving politicians screaming price-gouging whenever they see an opportunity to score a political point. Price controls may be appealing to the economically illiterate but they only harm in the long run.

Carlos did excellent work, on time and within budget. Compare this to the licensed contractor who showed up with an offer to replace the siding. His price was three times the going rate. Fortunately this is still a free country and my brother-in-law politely refused the offer. So much for governmental licensing.

But the story doesn't end here. My wife's sister was at a local big box lumber yard buying a shower stall wall. What she didn't anticipate was that something this large was not going to fit into her vehicle. And forget about store delivery any time soon.

She heard a voice calling to her from across the parking lot. It was Carlos, and I'm sure you anticipated this, asking if she needed help. He offered to use his pickup truck to provide immediate delivery to their house and refused any payment for this service. He also offered to transport any other oversized products they needed. Note that this was after he had completed work at their house and was paid.

Anne Perry has it right. There are things that can't

be reduced to economic calculation. Or should I say a monetary one. Economists understand that value is subjective and personal. A dollar sign can be put on some things but not all. Another economic law is that people act rationally in their own interest. That means in their self-interest, but which oftentimes is driven by kindness.

There must be millions of Carlos types out there, people who see serving their fellow man as the motivating principle of their lives. Sure, Carlos was paid for his work at their house; after all, it is his vocation. Yet Carlos clearly does not subscribe to a purely mercenary philosophy of life. He marches to a higher drummer.

It is now the season of Advent. We Christians go through four weeks of contemplation, repentance and anticipation. Then we worship awestruck on Christmas Eve and, for many of us, return to our churches on Christmas morning for a festive service of adoration as we contemplate the ineffable miracle of the Incarnation. Nothing compares. Nor can it.

Merry Christmas, Carlos. The Star of Bethlehem shines through you.

*Mark Franke, M.B.A., an adjunct scholar of the Indiana Policy Review and its book reviewer, is formerly an associate vice-chancellor at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.*

# Dreaming Of A New Year



**RANDALL FRANKS**  
Southern Style Columns

A new year is upon us and with its arrival is the promise of another opportunity.

Perhaps it's the practice of making resolutions, or the celebrations of ringing out the old and ringing in the new. I always see Jan. 1 as a new chance to do things more effectively.

So, let's see what can I do?

The house, it needs to be kept cleaner, I can do that, let's get started, vacuum hose in hand, dust cloth in back pocket, Pledge in the other back pocket. I need a bucket, full of water, with ammonia for the floors. OK that's all ready, what else, where's that extension to clean the dust off the fans? There it is. OK I need some Comet to clean the bathrooms, and a sponge.

Great, I am ready now, cleaner house here we come, but before I get started, its about lunch time, let me make a sandwich.

That's another area I can improve. I should eat healthier – more leafy greens, and drink more water. OK lettuce on the sandwich... what else can I put on it? There is nothing else in here. I need to go shopping.

I need to more efficiently stock my kitchen. O.K. Let's make a list. I will open all the cupboards and see what is missing. Peanut butter, I need that, soup is always good. What about spaghetti? What's wrong with this pen?

Now I have to find a pen. There are none here so, into the office. I'll check by the phone. I don't know why, pens are never there when I need one.

Right, no pens. Look at this office, files everywhere. Look at that, I sat that file there last year and haven't touched it. I really need to get organized in my office.

No better time to start than the present. We will start with this file on that mystery book, I want to finish. Hmm. I better take a look at this before I file it.

That's a good story. Why haven't I finished it? That's it, that's what's needed, a twist to take us in a new direction. Let me just get this typed in the computer before I forget it.

I'll get this new book finished in no time at all.

Boy, I am getting hungry. What did I do with that lettuce sandwich? Kitchen. I was hunting a pen. Here's one.

Will you look at this mess, all these cleaning things in the middle of the floor. Look at the kitchen, cabinets open, refrigerator door open. It looks like I have been robbed.

I have got to get this place cleaned up, close the doors, the fridge. Now let's get the cleaning stuff back where it goes.

Now, doesn't everything look better? There is nothing like making things neater to give a new year prospective. I am still hungry, where's that lettuce sandwich? Here it is. Look here's a coupon on pizza delivery. That's a great deal. Where did I put the phone?

*Randall Franks is best known for his role as "Officer Randy Goode" on TV's "In the Heat of the Night" now on WGN America. His latest 2019 #1 CD release, "Americana Youth of Southern Appalachia," is by the Share America Foundation. He is a member of the Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame. His latest book is "A Badge or an Old Guitar: A Music City Murder Mystery." He is a syndicated columnist for <http://randallfranks.com/> and can be reached at [rfrankscatoosa@gmail.com](mailto:rfrankscatoosa@gmail.com).*

# Ring In The New Year With Traditions, Fruits, And Vegetables



**MELINDA MYERS**  
Guest Column

Start your New Year with a bit of luck and nutritious eating. Try a few of these food-related traditions and then plan on growing a few of your own to enjoy.

Eating grapes on New Year's Eve is a Mexican food tradition. One grape is eaten with each stroke of midnight and is believed to lead to prosperity in the year ahead. Grapes are low in saturated fats and relatively high in vitamins C and K.

If space allows, grow your own grapes in a sunny location on decorative arbors and trellises. Use these as a decorative and edible entryway to the garden, as screening, or to provide shade. Plan for the squirrels and birds that may join you during harvest season.

In the southern United States, black-eyed peas have long been part of the New Year's celebration. Many people believe the swelling of the peas as they cook



Photo courtesy of MelindaMyers.com

**Increase your good luck and prosperity by growing and serving a cabbage dish on New Year's Eve.**

represents prosperity, while others think their shape resembles coins.

Southern peas are warm-weather plants and should not be planted until the soil is warm and toasty, preferably above 65 degrees. Multiple plantings can be made at three-week intervals to have fresh peas all summer and fall. Space the seeds about two inches apart down the row. The rows should be three to four feet apart.

Southern peas are one vegetable that doesn't require pampering. They thrive in summer heat and stand up to the dry weather without a complaint. Most selections require 50-55 days from planting until harvest in

the green pea stage. If dried peas are desired, 65-75 days are needed.

Elevate the fun of future New Year's celebrations by growing your own. Plant black-eyed peas in a sunny spot in your garden. Wait for the soil to warm to begin planting the seeds. Make several plantings to have fresh peas all summer long. Most varieties are ready to harvest fresh in 50 to 55 days. Allow some of them to mature on the plant. These are usually ready to harvest in 65 to 75 days. Pull and hang the plants in a warm location to dry. Then shell and store the black-eyed peas for your winter and New Year's meal.

Increase your good luck and prosperity by including a cabbage dish. This German, Irish, and U.S. tradition is tied to the fact that cabbage leaves resemble money, promoting personal wealth.

You can start your own cabbage plants from seeds or purchase transplants from your favorite garden center. Plant cabbage in the garden in spring for an early summer harvest or plant in mid-summer for a fall harvest. Preserve your cabbage by quartering, blanching, and freezing some for use in your favorite cabbage dishes and New Year's celebration.

Growing your own fruits and vegetables elevates the fun of these New Year's celebrations. It also encourages all of us to eat healthier, a common resolution for many.

*Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her website is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).*

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**TIM** From Page A1

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Before we hit that 20th birthday, we have more to do. We are already hard at work making some changes for 2023 – including going to a

calendar-year subscription billing cycle (with a reader-friendly incentive we think you'll love) and making some improvements to our daily pages.

Folks, it's been a hell of a run. We're humbled by your support.

To our advertisers, we can't say thank you enough. Without you, there is no Paper of Montgomery County. Subscriptions are wonderful, but advertising pays the bills. We appreciate your support and your business so very, very much!

And to the businesses who don't advertise – I hope that 2023 changes that. I get it that many of you think the newspaper world is either dead or on life-support. But I would ask you to consider the following: There are two daily newspapers here. Does that sound like a dying duck to you? And please remember that we're not trying to

sell you what we don't have. Because what we DO HAVE is thousands of readers who aren't a good demographic, they are a GREAT demographic. Why not help your business and reach out to them? We're happy to make that happen! And if you are interested and don't hear from us, let me know. I'd be honored to personally handle your business!

OK, commercial's over. Now back to our regular programming.

To everyone, I'd like to end these ramblings with a quote from that wonderful TV character Gomer Pyle – thank you, thank you!

*Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically on Wednesdays in The Paper. Timmons is the publisher of The Paper and can be contacted at timmons@thepaper24-7.com.*

**JOHN** From Page A1

ness, until by nine o'clock New Year's Eve I could stand it no more. I was getting out of here!

My golfing buddy, David "Biscuit" Miller, was in the city for a rare holiday engagement in his hometown. I was going to find where he was playing and have a good time, regardless how I truly felt inside.

David is a national award-winning blues singer, and fronts a terrific jazz / funk / blues band that features an eclectic mix of amazing young artists and venerable musicians, some of whom played with renowned bands – like Rick James and Chick Corea – early in their careers. David usually schedules his holiday engagements in Florida or the islands, so this was a rare occasion to have him in town for the wintry New Year's week.

Several couples from our golf course were heading across town to see David play, but for weeks I had declined their invitations to join. I was more interested in feeling sorry for myself. New Year's Eve after all is mostly a "couples evening," and I had been, well . . . decoupled.

I decided that I would call fellow golfer and friend, Ray, to join me. Ray was like me. He didn't want to intrude on the other couples. Ten years my senior, Ray wasn't confident anymore driving on snowy roads at night, so opted to stay home.

"Get out of your paja-

mas, Ray!" I commanded. "I'll be at your place in 20 minutes."

Ray is Filipino. He is a Renaissance man, actually. As a retired civil engineer for an international engineering firm, Ray has been stationed in no less than 13 nations. He speaks seven languages fluently. He plays golf, and has taught himself how to play piano, both classical and jazz.

He could retire to any warm clime in the world, but chose Indiana simply because he discovered he could get a tee time in 20 minutes, instead of the customary two weeks required in his adopted California home.

No sooner than Ray and I settled in at the long table reserved for David's friends that I noticed something unusual on the dance floor. A young professional, maybe just a college student, was spinning and gyrating to the rocking sounds of David's music. What made this young man distinctive was that he was not only cutting a rug, he was cutting large swaths of it.

This man was huge! Not athletic huge, but lumpy huge. I marveled at his desire to be on the floor at the risk of mockery.

I too was heavy at that age, and even though I wanted to be one of the dancers having fun, I worried that instead of being Gene Kelly I was more likely to dance like Chris Farley. So, did I

ever even try?

Fat chance.

A little bit after ringing in the new year, the large man left with no less than the most beautiful woman in the club on his arm. What confidence, I thought!

It was then that my attention turned to Ray. I never knew Ray to be a dancer, but all night long, he accepted offer after offer from lovely women asking him to join him on the dance floor. Ray was terrific. He spun. He twirled. His feet were magic!

Again, I was stunned. I mentioned to Ray on the way home that I never realized he was such a good dancer.

"I didn't used to be," Ray admitted. "I used to be awkward and timid. But I decided that I didn't want to feel that way again, and I took two years of dance lessons."

I learned something that night: 1) If you love what you're doing, do it without worrying what others may think of you. The rewards far outweigh the potential of ridicule; 2) When pursuing a passion, be willing to learn from others. Not everything comes naturally to us. We miss out on so much fun believing there is no payoff for hard work.

Seems like two valuable lessons entering the new year! Happy New Year!

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

**BUTCH** From Page A1

ions from what I observed this year. . .

Some of the climate activists remind me of Chicken Little, who ran around and yelled, "The sky is falling!" Since Covid pretty much fizzled out, the government had to come up with something to further regulate and control our lives. I'm sorry, Chicken Little...no industrial solar on my farm...no matter how much money you offer.

The 2022 mid-term elections reminded me of a common medical condition...hemorrhoids...with the subsequent pain that we must endure. But it still feels great to vote! Many people around the world cannot.

Here in Indiana, we still put criminals in prison for serious crimes. In New York City, they are released with no bail to commit more crimes. And in San Francisco, criminals receive a stipend, aromatherapy, and a free visit to a psychoanalyst to help alleviate stress.

Free speech is one of the great things guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, especially if you have something very important to say. But no one does. Don't believe

me? Check out Twitter. Banks are now charging even higher interest rates when we obtain a loan. But when we loan them our money (savings and checking), they pay us diddly. I'm pretty sure that when the doors are closed, the owners sneak into the vault, roll around in piles of our money, and yell "Whoopee!"

The drug problem seems to stick around no matter what. As someone once commented, the main reason is that drugs only come in only two dosages...not enough...and too much.

Hollywood and TV celebrities continue to exhibit some very strange behavior to garner publicity. And they also believe their opinions actually matter. These are NOT normal people. Please keep that in mind.

Cell phones have become the new American drug. A few people have become addicted to them. I have witnessed them stare at their phone in a heroin-like trance. If the phone is lost or misplaced, they go berserk. "Where did I put it? I have to find it! Now! I need it! Please God, help me!"

Many of my fellow baby boomers are very happy in retirement. Others...not so much...bored and wondering what they will do each day. My advice...go back to work...or at least volunteer. You will be happy you did!

Finally, although our country has a few problems, I believe it is still the greatest country in the world. The good things far outweigh any negatives. If you don't believe me, go to a local school basketball game some evening. Good kids, friends and neighbors, exciting competition, buttered popcorn...and people still stand, face the flag, take off their hats, place their hands over their hearts, and sing along to the National Anthem. I am certainly happy that I live here in good ol' Montgomery County, Indiana...aren't you?

I wish all of you readers a Happy New Year. Thanks for reading my columns, and take care....Butch

*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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