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by ShawMark
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TODAY'S VERSE

Revelation 19:9 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Sam Melvin gives a big smile for one of our roving photographers. Thanks for your smile, Sam!

THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 The Indiana Department of Transportation announces restrictions on U.S. 231, starting on or after Saturday, April 1. This is part of the ongoing major pavement improvement project in Greencastle. The northbound lane will be restricted between State Road 240 and Washington Street. Northbound traffic will be shifted into the existing southbound lane within the work zone, and will be restricted to ten-foot wide. Crews will be resurfacing U.S. 231 between S.R. 240 and Washington St, and also replacing curbs, gutters and sidewalks within this stretch of road. These restrictions are expected to last through the end of May, weather permitting. The official detour follows U.S. 231 to eastbound/westbound U.S. 40, or S.R. 240 to northbound/southbound S.R. 75 to eastbound/westbound U.S. 36 to U.S. 231.

2 Indiana Sen. Mike Braun spoke out earlier this week on President Joe Biden's bailout for Silicon Valley Bank. "Community banks and their customers in Indiana should not be on the hook for bailing out Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank for their risky financial decisions. President Biden created this chaos with his inflation bomb spending agenda, and now he wants Hoosiers to pay for his coastal elite bailout through increased fees at their banks. I'm exploring legislative actions to make sure the costs of this bailout don't get passed onto regular Americans."

3 Mauricio Henao parked his car at the base of a hillside on the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu, CA and got out to answer his cell phone; it saved his life. A few moments later a rockslide -- including a giant boulder -- landed on the car, compressing it in a matter seconds. It happened in the wake of recent torrential rains; the call saved his life, says the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. Henao was succinct when he described it: "I was in the driver's seat, walked out, got a call, ran back inside, came out and the car was just totaled," he told KTLA-TV.

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Give Grandma A Kiss Goodbye



BUTCH DALE
Columnist

We all have thousands and thousands of memories in our lives. Some of the events that we recall seem as if they just happened yesterday, while others are more difficult to remember. As I have aged, I have noticed that my short term memory is slipping. Sometimes I can remember better what happened fifty or sixty years ago...than what happened two weeks ago.

Very few people can remember much of anything that occurred when they were younger than age five. But amazingly, some of those moments are still etched in my mind...the capgun, holster, and cowboy hat I received for my birthday, the Captain Hook boat that Santa brought, the scary nights sleeping upstairs alone with my head under the covers, the "Teddy Bear of Bumpkin Hollow" book that my parents read



Ella Grimes

to me hundreds of times...just to name a few.

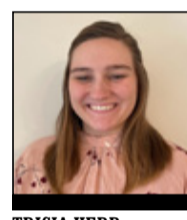
I spent quite a bit of time with my Grandpa and Grandma Dale, who babysat me when Dad and Mom went out for a night of fun, and then later on when Dad and my uncles farmed their ground. They lived just two miles away, and I was at their home quite often, so I have many cherished memories of being with them.

My grandparents on mother's side, Orville and Ella Grimes, lived in Crawfordsville. I was able to visit with them, but not near as much. Mom had five brothers...James, Donald, Ralph, Herman, and Charlie...

See BUTCH Page A5

National Ag Week

National Ag Week is next week, March 21-27, 2023, and National Ag Day starts off the week on Tuesday, March 21. This will be the 50th celebration of National Ag Day. It was founded to recognize and celebrate the insurmountable effect Agriculture has on every single person's life. Every bite of food you have ever consumed, from



TRICIA HERR
Purdue Extension Office



pureed sweet potatoes and carrots as an infant to the milk and cereal you had this morning. I think about the number of potatoes and beers that will be consumed to celebrate St. Patrick's day. Now,

not the best example for our national Ag Day, but approximately 13 million pints of the Irish beer, Guinness will be consumed worldwide.

I don't care if you drink soy milk, oat milk, or goat milk. It all came from agriculture! There are farms and farmers right here in our county and

See AG Page A5

JUMP Has A Blast At Plaza

The JUMP program is one of the many programs at the Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau. It is a one-on-one mentoring program designed to offer kids another positive role model in their life and an opportunity to have some fun together! Childhood is fleeting so it's nice for these kids and their mentors to be able to go out and experience new things. They are creating memories that will last a life time.

As part of the JUMP program, the Youth Service Bureau offers one free monthly group activity to the mentors or mentees in the program. This month was a fun one! The group started off with 2 rounds of laser tag, pizza and soft drinks, arcade tokens and bowling. The kids and adults all had a blast and many of them tried things they had never done

See JUMP Page A5

ATHENS ARTS

Upcoming Calligraphy Class

A calligraphy class is being held at the Athens Arts next month. Calligraphy is the art of decorative handwriting. It is a skill that can beautify almost anything from creating invitations, decorating an art journal, to enhancing a signature. In parts of the world, calligraphy has long been a major art form equal to sculpture or painting.

The instructor will provide all supplies needed to learn calligraphy, an elegant writing form. We encourage you to join this fun class and learn something new!

Class will be on Thursday, April 13. Choose either an afternoon session (1 - 3 p.m.) or an evening session (6 - 8

p.m.). Class is open to anyone 12 years and older. Cost is \$35. Classes meet at Athens Arts, 216 E. Main Street, Crawfordsville, IN.

To reserve a spot for the April 13 class, stop by Athens Arts Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or call 765.362.7455 during business hours to pay via credit card.

Come be PART of it! This project in part is made possible through funds from The Arts Federation (TAF) via the Biden-Harris Administration's American Rescue Plan (ARP) allocation to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

See BUTCH Page A5



Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 7:50 a.m.
SET: 7:53 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
High: 45 °F
Low: 45 °F



- Today is...**
- St. Patrick's Day
 - Submarine Day
 - Camp Fire Girls Day



- What Happened On This Day**
- 1992 Apartheid in South Africa comes to an end. In a referendum, 68.7% of white South Africans voted for an abolishment of racial segregation in the country
 - 1941 The National Gallery of Art opens in Washington, D.C. U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt opened the gallery, which today houses one of the world's finest art collections



- Births On This Day**
- 1919 Nat King Cole American singer, pianist, television host
 - 1948 William Gibson American/Canadian author

- Deaths On This Day**
- 460 Saint Patrick Irish missionary, bishop
 - 2005 George F. Kennan Diplomat, United States Ambassador to the Soviet Union

HONEST HOOSIER

Ah, bless the Irish soul of me dear grandmother Pauline - and Happy St. Paddy's Day to you all!



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Think of exercise as a way to improve your health, not necessarily as a way to look better. 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

None

INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

Obituaries.....A2
Kennedy Thompson.....A3
Classifieds.....A4

THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

For Your Information

The Senior Golf League has scheduled an organizational meeting for Friday, March 24 at 9 a.m. at the Municipal Golf Course. The purpose will be to enroll members and discuss the calendar for the season. Weekly scrambles are on tap for each Friday beginning March 31. On Mondays and Wednesdays the League also plans nine-hole outings. Eligible members must be 55 years old and pay the seasonal dues of \$20. Membership also includes two meals during the season. Discussion will be held for a fund-raising campaign to finance a stone for Larry Lynch, recently deceased. Weather depending, golf may follow the Friday meeting.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"May your troubles be less, your blessings be more, and nothing but happiness come through your door."
- Irish Blessing

TODAY'S JOKE

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Irish.
Irish who?
Irish a Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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



7 DAY FORECAST

57 57 PARTLY CLOUDY	45/45 45/45 PARTLY CLOUDY	22/31 22/31 COLD WITH FLURRIES	19/36 19/36 MUCH CLOUDY AND COLD	21/46 21/46 SUNNY AND WARMER	27/54 27/54 SUNNY	33/56 33/56 SUNNY AND WARMER
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED



Lt. Gov. Crouch, OCRA Announce The Town Of Hillsboro To Receive \$20,000 In Federal Grants

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs announced Thursday that the town of Hillsboro will receive \$20,000 in federal grant funding. The grant will be used to support the town in planning for the construction of a new fire station.

"Community Development Block Grant funds help improve the quality of life in our Hoosier communities," Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, said. "I am proud of the town of Hillsboro for taking the initiative to better their community and begin the process of building this new fire station."

The State of Indiana distributes [in.gov/ocra/cdbg]Community Development Block Grant funds to rural communities, which assist units of local government with various community projects such as planning, infrastructure improvement, downtown revitalization, public facilities and economic development.

"Congratulations to the town of Hillsboro on earning this grant," said OCRA Executive Director Denny Spinner. "Planning is a key element in the success of a project, and this is proof of this town's thorough-

ness and hard work as they carry out their plans for a new fire station."

The Planning Grant Program strives to encourage communities to plan for long-term community development with the aid of subject matter experts and community input. The application being funded this quarter address critical infrastructure expansion and improving public safety resources.

The town of Hillsboro will utilize the \$20,000 in Planning Grant funds to support a feasibility study relating to the construction of a new fire station for the Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Department. The study will include gathering public input, evaluating existing facility, assessing current location and alternate sites. The town will also study and analyze data, input and develop the final plan with the cost estimates and scope of work to be completed during the construction phase.

Funding for OCRA's CDBG programs originates from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant program and is administered for the State of Indiana by OCRA. For more information, visit in.gov/ocra/cdbg.

Only One Week Left To Apply For Dr. Gerald Bepko Community Engagement Award

The deadline to submit applications for the Gerald Bepko Community Engagement Award (Bepko Award) to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education is Wednesday, March 22, 2023. The award was created in 2019 in honor of Dr. Gerald Bepko and his dedication to service at Indiana University and the Commission for Higher Education. The award highlights a faculty member who is engaged in teaching, research or service commitments that contribute to the work that is being

done to deepen partnerships within the community.

Eligible applicants include full-time faculty members at an Indiana public or private institution of higher education. Applicants must reside in the State of Indiana.

The deadline to apply for the award is Wednesday, March 22, 2023. Recipients will be announced at the H. Kent Weldon Conference on Monday, April 3, 2023. The application for the Bepko Award can be found on the Commission's website.

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the paper

HHS Awards Nearly \$1.6 Billion To Support Low Income Households To Lower Heating And Cooling Costs



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), announced the award of \$560 million this week in addition to the \$1 billion awarded last month for a total of \$1.56 billion to help cover American households home heating and cooling costs. The grant awards are part of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to help low-income households with their energy costs – a program that the Biden Administration significantly increased funding for through the American Rescue Plan and the Bipartisan Infrastructure law. This past year,

LIHEAP served over 6 million households with heating, cooling, and weatherization services. This release brings the total LIHEAP funding for Fiscal Year 2023 to \$6.1 billion, and is part of the Biden Administration's broader efforts to lower costs for American families and give them more breathing room.

"The Biden-Harris administration continues to put working families at the forefront. LIHEAP helps pay home energy bills, ensuring families stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer, further protecting the health and well-being of Americans," said Secretary Becerra.

These awards build on historic investments in LIHEAP during the Biden-Harris administration. In October 2022, LIHEAP released \$4.5 billion in funding, which included \$100 million of funding appropriated for FY23 through President Biden's bipartisan infrastructure law. Together, these funding releases total \$6.1 billion, increasing the Biden

administration's historic investment of \$3.9 billion in LIHEAP funding in FY 2022, and \$8.2 billion in FY 2021.

"LIHEAP provides a vital lifeline to households struggling to maintain affordable home energy services," said ACF Assistant Secretary January Contreras. "As the nation grapples with the impacts of climate change and extreme weather, which disproportionately impacts communities of color and lower-income households, LIHEAP is especially important to creating greater equity in accessing energy services."

LIHEAP provides households with not only energy assistance, but also provides crisis and weatherization assistance to help achieve safe and healthy indoor temperatures. LIHEAP's assistance with weatherization and energy-related minor home repairs, including the use of renewable energy, helps reduce energy consumption and make homes more energy efficient.

"For more than 42 years, LIHEAP has helped households maintain safe indoor temperatures each winter and summer," said Dr. Lanique Howard, director of the ACF Office of Community Services. "With an appropriation of \$6.1 billion, LIHEAP is well-positioned to support millions of households this year by reconnecting households to home energy services, preventing energy disconnections, and making energy bills more affordable."

Individuals interested in applying for energy assistance should visit energyhelp.us or call the National Energy Assistance Referral hotline toll-free at 1-866-674-6327.

For more information about LIHEAP and other Administration for Children and Families' anti-poverty programs, visit the OCS website.

All ACF news releases, fact sheets and other materials are available on the ACF news page. Follow ACF on Twitter for more updates.



Photo courtesy of The Crawfordsville / Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Of Commerce Celebrates Bush Design Co.

The Crawfordsville / Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce welcomed Bush Design Co. with a ribbon cutting. Owners Katie Bush and Lindsay Emmert have been working together for nearly 10 years and recently relocated the business to historic

downtown Crawfordsville on Main Street. Katie has a bachelor's degree in interior design and Lindsay is a certified interior decorator.

Bush design has fulfilled interior design projects from bathrooms to living rooms, they can make your space aestheti-

cally perfect.

Regarding her business's new location, Katie remarked, "We're very excited to be on Main Street and for the opportunities that will come with our new studio location. Lindsay and I both grew up here, and we're looking forward to

becoming a bigger part of our community!"

To have your space designed to your specific taste, contact Bush Design Co. at contact@bushdesign.co. For any questions regarding the Chamber, contact Stacy Sommer at ssummer@crawfordsville-chamber.com.

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Pundits Pooh-Pooh Purdue's NCAA Chances At Own Peril



KEN THOMPSON
Columnist

The national media is suffering from a case of selective amnesia.

That's the diagnosis from your friendly neighborhood basketball doctor, who watched hours of NCAA Tournament selection analysis this week.

"Duke is a bad match-up for Purdue, especially in Madison Square Garden," the drum beat begins. "Marquette is the kind of team that gives Purdue fits," the lyric sings.

I have four numbers in response: 75-70 and 75-56.

The first set of numbers is the final score from Purdue's comeback victory over Marquette at Mackey Arena on Nov. 15. The latter score was the championship game outcome of the Phil Knight Legacy over Duke in Portland, Ore., on Nov. 27.

"But Duke has improved since then," sayeth several ESPN college basketball experts.

But a team that won its conference by three games and takes 29 victories into the NCAA tournament, led by the soon-to-be national player of the year, hasn't?

To be fair, not everyone outside West Lafayette is discounting Purdue's chances in the tournament.

Andy Katz, a contributor at Big Ten Network and NCAA.com, likes the Boilermakers over UCLA in a Final Four that also includes Indiana and Arizona.

"He's a unicorn. There is no one like Zach Edey



Matt Painter

in the country," Katz said. "He has taken his game ... to another level."

Matt Norlander of CBS Sports has Purdue reaching the Final Four for the first time since 1980, and reaching the title game before losing to Houston.

"I like this storyline: A No. 1 seed with the NPOY makes the Final Four. We don't get that every year. Purdue has the best player in college basketball. It has terrific offense, great rebounding and plays with discipline," Norlander writes.

"There are flaws; the Boilers might not get out of the first weekend thanks to that vicious 8/9 winner that will await. But Matt Painter is right up there among the top 10 coaches in college hoops. I think Purdue avoids Duke in the Sweet 16, which helps with the scenario I'm putting together here. I think Purdue can score on Marquette — and Marquette has major problems with teams that have size advantages. So here goes: I believe the Boilers end their March hex and finally break through to their first Final Four in 43 years, doing so with a heroic/dominant run from Edey in the process."

Norlander's colleague at CBS, Gary Parrish, also has Purdue reaching the Final Four before losing to Alabama.

CBS Sports is far more bullish on the Boilermakers than ESPN, whose long-term love affair with Duke (and LeBron James and the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox) is one reason why

Big Ten fans won't miss the former Worldwide Leader in Sports starting this fall.

Dick "Duke" Vitale and Jay Bilas, the former standout under Mike Krzyzewski, naturally picked the Blue Devils to go all the way.

Others to pick Purdue to reach the Final Four: Brian Hamilton, Dana O'Neil, Joe Rexrode and Eamonn Brennan of The Athletic. Brennan and Rexrode went even further, choosing the Boilermakers as their national championship selection.

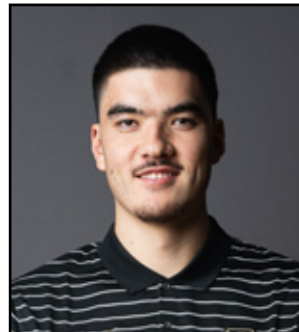
It's the fourth No. 1 seed in Purdue history and the first since 1996, a year that also saw the Boilermakers win the Big Ten by three games.

It's possible that Purdue could play Fairleigh Dickinson, Memphis and Kansas State — the same three opponents it faced in 1988 at South Bend and Detroit. Boilermaker fans are hoping for a different outcome. Not until Virginia in the 2019 Elite Eight had a loss felt like a kick in the stomach than the stunning defeat to Kansas State that year.

With seniors Troy Lewis, Todd Mitchell and Everette Stephens, a lot of Purdue fans felt that 1988 would be the breakthrough year for a national championship. Mark Monteth's book, "Passion Play," does an outstanding job of chronicling the season and the aftermath of Kansas State.

It's unanimous Purdue center Zach Edey collected all 58 votes to become a unanimous Associated Press All-American.

With first-team selections also coming from The Sporting News, the National Association of Basketball Coaches and the United States Basketball Writers Association (USBWA), Edey gives Purdue consensus All-Americans with different players in back-to-back years for the first



Zach Edey

time. Jaden Ivey was a consensus All-American in 2022.

Edey also is the USBWA District V Player of the Year. Purdue swept District V honors with Matt Painter chosen coach of the year.

The 7-4 junior center from Toronto needs 14 points and 27 rebounds to become the first player in NCAA history with 750 points, 450 rebounds, 50 blocks and 50 assists in a season. Assists became an official NCAA statistic in 1983-84.

Edey leads the nation with 26 double-doubles, is second in rebounding at 12.8 per game and sixth in scoring at 22.3 points.

He also is a finalist for the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Award, given annually to the nation's top center. He is the fourth Boilermaker to be a finalist, joining A.J. Hammons (2016), Isaac Haas (2018) and Trevion Williams (2021).

Edey is expected to become the second position award winner recognized by the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. Carsen Edwards won the Jerry West Award in 2018 as the nation's top shooting guard.

NCAA notes History says Purdue has better than a 50-50 chance to end its Final Four drought.

By sweeping Rutgers, Ohio State and Penn State in the Big Ten Tournament, the Boilermakers became the 10th team in league history to capture the regular season and tournament titles. Five of the previous nine reached

the Final Four (Michigan State in 1999 and 2019, Wisconsin in 2015, Ohio State in 2007 and Illinois in 2005). ...

Purdue's 15th NCAA Tournament berth under Painter ranks him eighth among active coaches. He is by far the youngest of the eight at age 52. The next youngest are Bill Self of Kansas and Mark Few of Gonzaga, both of whom are 60. ...

Westfield's Braden Smith, the reigning Indiana Mr. Basketball, is in pretty good company as the fourth freshman in Big Ten history with at least 330 points, 140 rebounds and 140 assists in a season. The other three are the legendary Magic Johnson at Michigan State (1978), D'Angelo Russell of Ohio State (2015) and the Buckeyes' JaQuan Lyle (2016).

Smith was impressive in the Big Ten Tournament semifinal win over Ohio State. He scored 14 points on 5 of 5 shooting from the field and 2 of 2 at the free throw line. Smith also handed up five assists and grabbed five rebounds.

Moving on up Purdue commitment Kanon Catchings of Brownsburg has been elevated 100 places to 17th in the 24/7Sports college basketball recruiting rankings for 2024. That leap puts Catchings among the site's 21 five-star players.

"A 6-foot-8 forward who has skill, length, fluid athleticism and feel for the game ... Kanon Catchings is just scratching the surface of how good he can be," 24/7Sports states. "He has a pretty jump shot out to the 3-point line, is a versatile scorer who can play as a big wing or a floor stretching four man and he's gaining more and more confidence each time he hits the floor."

"Few players left as big an impression on the 247Sports staff as Catchings did this winter,

and it will be a bit of a surprise if he doesn't see his national profile explode during the upcoming spring and summer months."

Quarterback rankings With the exception of Michigan (J.J. McCarthy) and Maryland (Tua Tagovailoa), the Big Ten will see massive changes at quarterback for the 2023 season.

Athlon Sports' Steve Lassen ranks potential Purdue starter and Texas transfer Hudson Card eighth and possible new Indiana quarterback Tayven Jackson 13th in his pre-spring practice quarterback rankings.

"With Purdue losing Aidan O'Connell, landing an experienced quarterback was a priority for new coach Ryan Walters and coordinator Graham Harrell," Lassen writes. "Card certainly fits that mold, as he brings 22 games of snaps (and five starts to West Lafayette). During his stint with the Longhorns, Card threw for 1,523 yards and 11 touchdowns to only two picks. His completion percentage was solid (65 percent) throughout his career in Austin."

Jackson comes to Bloomington from Tennessee.

"With Dexter Williams on the mend from a serious knee injury suffered in late November, Jackson should start for the Hoosiers in '23. The Indiana native ranked as a four-star prospect in the '22 signing class and returns to his home state after seeing limited action in three games at Tennessee. Jackson doesn't have a ton of experience (just four pass attempts), but there's intriguing upside for co-coordinators Anthony Tucker and Walt Bell to develop."

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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2nd Annual CENTERSTAGE Workshop At IUPUI To Focus On Theater Skills



The Africana Repertory Theatre of IUPUI (ARTI) will sponsor its 2nd Annual “CENTERSTAGE: A Theater Workshop,” from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, April 22, 2023, at the Herron School of Art & Design, 735 West New York Street, Indianapolis IN 46202.

“CENTERSTAGE: A Theater Workshop” is designed to attract a broad range of theater enthusiasts, from the novice to those pursuing careers in onstage production. ARTI Co-founder Dr. Khaula Muradha said the event heightens the capacity for theater to be an effective means of conveying culture, issues and the complexity of life across the African Diaspora. “This is to support and build on the efforts of those who create important narratives that tell our stories on stage in our own voice. We are uniquely positioned to facilitate the merging of various key elements critical to successful

theater production.”

The following are workshop sessions offered:

- 1. THE SHOW.** Playwriting and editing; directing; more effective and forceful acting. Methods for creating strong stories - conveyed with maximum impact on stage.
- 2. THE BUSINESS.** Production development and setting timelines, budgeting, auditions, venue/box office concerns, fundraising, grant opportunities and marketing.
- 3. ACTING PLUS.** Beyond conventional acting. Theatrical performances related to choreography, musical production and spoken word.
- 4. THE TECH.** Exploration of techniques, technology and opportunities in lighting and sound, as well as video technology and special effects.
- 5. THE LOOK.** The stage vision that accents the presentation. Artistic

direction; set design and construction; props; make-up and costuming.

Sessions will run concurrently and will be repeated, allowing each participant to attend two of the topic areas addressed.

CENTERSTAGE workshops will be led by a panel of experienced theater professionals, educators and practitioners who bring a wealth of diverse knowledge and skills. More information and workshop presenters will be announced soon! The Workshop will also feature the director of IUPUI’s Applied Theater program Emilio Robles as a session facilitator.

The event is free to the public, but pre-registration is required. For more information, go to onyxfest.com. Register for CENTERSTAGE at www.eventbrite.com/e/the-2nd-annual-centerstage-tickets-551796156157.

About A.R.T.I. (Africana Repertory Theatre

of IUPUI):

The Africana Repertory Theatre of IUPUI (ARTI) is a program of study offered by the IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI, the School of Education and the IUPUI Office of Community Engagement using a multidisciplinary approach to “edutainment.” ARTI was developed to document and artistically reflect the history, cultural life, and politics of peoples of the African Diaspora. As a public arts initiative, ARTI has a deep commitment to and focuses on artistic and community engagement. The Office of Community Engagement and the Schools of Liberal Arts and Education are supporting this proposal because it advances the idea that learning in the arts is invaluable at all stages of life, and the integration of the arts into the fabric of community life may advance civic engagement while also creating a college and career pathway.

Dick’s Photographic Memory

Returning from our vacation in the Virgin Islands last month, I sent my digital camera through the scanner at the airport. Then I forgot to retrieve it from the tray after it rolled out on the conveyor. When I came back five minutes later, it was gone. I almost always use my cell phone on trips to snap photos, but I took the old point-and-shoot as a backup.

I actually did use it quite a bit and the camera ended up being chock-full of pictures showing all the fun Mary Ellen and I had—you know, standing in front of an old church, standing in front of an old restaurant, standing in front of an old museum, and standing in front of people older than us, if we could find any.

I was hoping when he got home the thief might have a change of heart about taking my camera. I did have my name and e-mail address taped on the back. What value could my old camera have for anyone else? Crooks don’t have a conscience, and this guy took the cake, or in this case, the Kodak.

One day last week, I opened my e-mail and there was this note:

Dear Mr. Wolfsie: (Is that really a name?)

Thanks for leaving your camera unattended at the Nassau Airport. When I got home and started looking through your pictures, I was disappointed. There wasn’t a single racy shot out of the whole bunch. Oh well, you and the redhead make a lovely couple, so I’m e-mailing you back all of your vacation photos. Sorry I stole your camera. It’s a little antiquated but still a keeper. I mean that literally.

If I could, I’d like to make just a few suggestions from an objective observer. Your wife is very attractive, but I’m not a big fan of capri pants. I love her red hair, but I’m not crazy



DICK WOLFSIE
Life in a Nutshell

about the style. Otherwise, you are a lucky man. I wish I had a trophy wife.

Now, regarding you: Geez...no more selfies, I beg you. And when someone takes a photo of you, never pose for a profile shot with your head bent forward, looking down. Just curious, which of your chins is your favorite? You look pretty good for your age, assuming you’re 85 years old. (You must be that old, since you still use AOL.)

Here’s a thought: How about some more candid shots of you and your wife doing something that is more physical than just standing? Too scary? Maybe you can hire someone to pretend he’s you, parasailing or windsurfing.

Some final advice on your picture-taking: You apparently think half a head is better than none. That is true, except in photos.

Anyway, Dick, if I may call you that (after all, I feel like I know you), as I said, I am keeping the camera, even though I would have preferred a Nikon.

Author’s note: You guessed it. I made up this entire story. Just for the record, my wife’s hair looks fabulous.

Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in The Paper of Montgomery County. E-mail Dick at Wolfsie@aol.com.

Data Shows Mental Health, Education Declines For Hoosier Kids

By Whitney Downard

According to the Indiana Youth Institute, the kids are not alright.

The Hoosier State continues to lag behind its peers when it comes to child wellbeing, ranking 28th overall – just one place ahead of its ranking last year. But it has made strides in reducing the number of foster children in the state.

“Just like we keep stats for all of our basketball games... we also keep track of the data on child wellbeing,” Tami Silverman, the president and CEO of Indiana Youth Institute said. “We’re driven by the understanding that Indiana is a great place to be a kid – it certainly was for me. But it is not yet that way for all kids.”

The organization annually releases its Kids Count Data Book, documenting child well-being across metrics that include: family and community, health, economy and education. Across the six editions, Indiana’s rank has barely budged.

The 2023 report detailed mental health challenges for youth, shortages of child care providers and learning barriers for Hoosier kids.

Cost, access barriers to health care services

Whether primary care, dental care or mental health care – the vast majority of Indiana counties have a shortage. Half of parents who forego care told surveyors that they had trouble accessing an appointment while one-third said cost was the primary concern.

Taylor Johnson, the policy and data advocacy manager for the Indiana Youth Institute, noted that even schools fell short in support staff.

“(Reported) ratios show that children in Indiana schools especially do not have access to social workers and

psychologists who can provide valuable resources to process and cope with problems that many of our students are facing throughout the state,” Johnson said. “We have four-and-a-half items more students per psychologist than the recommended amount and 11 times more students per social worker.”

Hoosier students reported increasingly high levels of stress, anxiety and depression. Yet the state, all of which is considered a mental health care desert, doesn’t have many resources for kids.

“We know that every child, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or income may experience a variety of mental health issues. However, data does show that certain groups – particularly our Black, Hispanic and multiracial students – have poor mental health compared to that of their peers,” Johnson said.

One in four Hoosier students seriously contemplated suicide while one in five made a plan. In total, one in nine students attempted suicide at some point in their lives.

“All of us know that these statistics are not simply percentages on a slide or numbers in a report – they represent our kids, our students, our communities,” Johnson said. “Many of these children, especially those who are unable to find the care that they need, the answer in their minds... is suicide.”

If you or someone you know is considering suicide, please reach out to the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988.

For LGBTQ youth, please contact The Trevor Project by calling 1-866-488-7386 or texting 678-678.

The numbers are even worse for LGBTQ youth.

For gay, lesbian or bisexual youth, nearly two-thirds had seriously considered suicide while

over half had made a plan. One in five of those students attempted suicide.

The organization analyzed data from the Department of Health, which didn’t isolate suicidal ideation by gender identity, but other research shows that suicidal ideation and attempts are even higher among transgender youth – especially those whose households or communities aren’t affirming.

“These are wide and concerning gaps. It’s clear that many of our students in Indiana are experiencing declining mental health and suicidal thoughts... students who are Black, Hispanic, multiracial (or) belong to the LGBTQ community are experiencing this issue at much higher rates,” Johnson said.

Improvements for Hoosier youth

The report highlighted one area of improvement for Hoosiers kids: foster children. Since 2018, the number of children in foster care has decreased by 40%, or 13,600 children.

Bri Youn, the data and research manager for Indiana Youth Institute, noted that children of color – including Black and multiracial children – were disproportionately represented among foster youth.

“Our work and progress in this area as a state is certainly cause for acknowledgement, but we cannot become complacent in our efforts,” she said. “Research continues to show that children succeed when they are reunited with their family but only if the families have access to sufficient services and help to enable them to become better parents.”

Additionally, fewer children lived in poverty and fewer teen births occurred. The number of children without health insurance also decreased,

as did the number of children living in households with employment instability.

What does it mean for the General Assembly?

Though the legislative session just passed the halfway point, Silverman noted her organization’s year-round efforts, offering the institute as a resource for drafting legislation or supplementing their knowledge.

One area that has received a lot of attention this session is mental health, which senators named as one of their priority issues. Senate Bill 1 continues to advance through the process but doesn’t yet have a price tag.

“We are excited to see all of the focus on mental health. The data is very, very clear that our kids – even going into the pandemic – that clinical depression and anxiety were tremendous issues for our kids,” Silverman said.

When asked about child care, which the report highlighted, she emphasized the state’s capacity issues. While the current budget proposal expands the eligibility of the child care subsidies, advocates say it isn’t enough.

“We have working families that have to make tough decisions – do they not take a job? Do they step away from a job because of the lack of access?,” Silverman said. “We need to think about ways that we can provide more quality care for our kids.”

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BUTCH From Page A1

along with one sister, Elizabeth "Libby" (Baker). Their home, an old two-story house, was located at the very top of Danville Avenue, and I still remember visiting there before I started first grade at the age of five. I can remember Grandpa Grimes smoking a pipe and reading the newspaper as Grandma Grimes read to me Little Golden books. I remember the apple trees in the yard to the north of the house, and the steep embankment that led down to the sidewalk. I remember red velvet curtains that hung in front of the stairs that led to the second floor. I remember the family gatherings and my uncles, all of whom had served in the military, telling stories of their adventures. And I remember Aunt Libby's kids, Ronnie and Judy Baker, playing hide and seek with me in that large house.

But my most vivid memory is when I was 4 1/2 years old in 1953. Grandma Grimes was lying in hospital-type bed in the front room. There was a nurse, dressed all in white, also present in the room. When I went into the room to greet Grandma, her eyes were closed and she appeared to be asleep. My folks took me back to the living room, and I played jacks as my parents talked to my uncles and aunts in the kitchen...and then I headed

outside to play. After a while, Mom told me that Grandma was awake and wanted to see me before we headed back home to Darlington.

The head of the bed had been raised, so that Grandma appeared to be sitting up. She looked very tired, but still had that same big smile on her face when she spotted me. My Dad placed a small step stool near the bed for me to stand on, and Mom said, "Now give Grandma a big kiss...because you might not see her for awhile." And of course, I gave her a big smooch on the cheek...and she gave me a big hug...and held on to me more tightly than her normal hugs. As I stepped down, I waved goodbye, and Grandma told me she loved me and to be a good little boy.

That was the last time I saw my Grandma Grimes. I still have the clipping from the newspaper dated April 29, 1953: "Mrs. Ella C. Grimes, 54, wife of Orville R. Grimes, died at 3:15 a.m. Tuesday at the family home, 1003 Danville Ave. She had been in failing health the past year and seriously ill since suffering a cerebral hemorrhage."

I found the following poem recently...the author is unknown:

"Grandma, your life was full of loving deeds, forever thoughtful of our special needs. Today and tomorrow, my whole life

through, I will always love and cherish you. There was magic in grandmother's touch, and sunshine in her smile. There was love in everything she did to make our lives worthwhile. We found both hope and courage just by looking in her eyes. Her laughter was a source of joy, her words warm and wise. There was kindness and compassion found in her embrace, and shining down from Heaven above we see the glow of Grandma's face."

I know why I fondly remember my Grandma Grimes, even though I knew her for just a short time as a little child... because as someone once said, "Grandmothers hold our tiny hands for just a little while, but our hearts forever."

If your Grandma is still living, go give her a big kiss on the cheek today. And while you're at it, give your Grandpa a big hug, too! Quoting author Alex Haley, "Nobody can do for little children what grandparents do. Grandparents sort of sprinkle stardust over the lives of little children." They may have silver in their hair, but they have gold in their hearts.

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.

AG From Page A1

our state of Indiana that grew the oats and wheat that fed you today or yesterday. Seriously. Now, the barley in your Guinness likely didn't come from Indiana. But, the soy or oil-based drinking straws which are becoming more common at chain restaurants did.

Your favorite lucky shirt for your favorite March Madness team is likely made of cotton. The gasoline in your car is a blend of ethanol and gasoline.

Everything in agriculture comes from our soil, water, and sunlight. When I reflect like this, I am in complete awe of it all. I often think about the quote, "no man is an island." We are all connected. We grow corn and soy up here in the Wabash River Valley and our water runs to the Mississippi River. South

of us, the water is used to grow the cotton that ends up on our backs to support our favorite school. Think about how far your orange juice traveled and the jobs it supported along the way from Florida to your table.

I want to be so bold as to ask a task of you, reader, this week. I ask you to think about how you contribute to agriculture and identify someone in your circle that plays a part in this super-connected system of agriculture. Then, thank them.

To go a step further, I ask that you thank a farmer this week. Thank the turkey farmers, beef growers, thank your neighbor that keeps bees, and the neighbor that shares their excess tomatoes and cucumbers. Thank the food scientists, genetic plant breed-

ers, conservationists, animal nutritionists, and grape growers. Thank your delivery driver, thank your grocery store clerk.

So, to all the farmers, growers, beekeepers, gardeners, food scientists, animal nutritionists, plant breeders, conservationists, horticulturalists, delivery drivers, grocers, and oh so many more out there that play a part in agriculture; THANK YOU.

For more information about Ag day, go to agday.org.

Master Gardner Plant Sale is April 29, 2023 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Fairgrounds

Tricia Herr is the Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator for the Montgomery County Purdue Extension Office. She can be reached at triciaherr@purdue.edu.

JUMP From Page A1

before. Sara Clapp, the facilitator for the JUMP event stated, "Everyone had a great time. I don't know when I have seen teenagers so happy at an activity before. There was something for everyone at this event."

The JUMP program is definitely a lot of fun but it is much more than that. It is an opportunity for our youth to try new things and form different ideas about the world in which they live. It is also about having an adult that cares about them and is there to offer support. Studies show that children who have mentors do better in school, get in less trouble and have higher self-esteem.

There are always kids in need of a mentor and it really just takes a bit of time and a kind heart to be a good role model for a child. Please contact Jill Hampton if you are interested in becoming a mentor as a single adult or a married couple. You may also contact her if you have a child you would like to enroll in the JUMP Program. Jill can be contacted at 362-

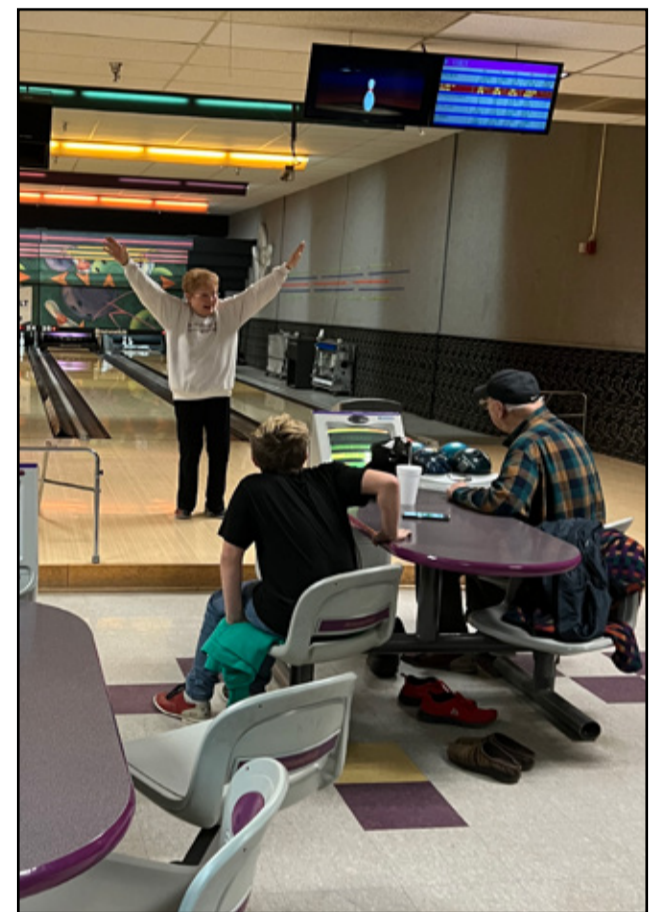


Photo courtesy of MCYSB

Karen Fruits jubilant at bowling alley with Ayden and Keith

0694 ext. 103 or email her at jill@mcysb.org for more information.

To learn more about the Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau, visit www.mcysb.org or

visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mcysb.org.

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