

**▶ TODAY'S VERSE**

Matthew 24:34-35 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass

**▶ FACES OF MONTGOMERY**

People who call our community their own.



Betty Munroe smiles happily while pumping gas after her work day. Thank you for your smile, Betty!

**▶ THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** On Saturday at noon there will be an Easter Bake Sale at the Russellville Community Center. Please come and get your homemade goodies for your Easter dinner. There will be decorated Easter cakes, homemade pies, candy, cookies and much more. At 1 p.m. promptly the annual Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Russellville Community Church, gets going. Come and visit with the Easter Bunny and two Giant Carrots. This will be behind the Community Center. Special areas will be marked off for age groups. Immediately following the Easter Egg Hunt will be roller skating in the Russellville Community Center Gym. The cost to roller skate is \$3. Refreshments will be available to purchase during the bake sale and while roller skating. Roller skating ends at 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend all three events at the Russellville Community Center.

**2** Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb signed an Executive Order declaring a disaster emergency for Sullivan and Johnson counties after the storms ripped through those communities last weekend. "First and foremost, my thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who have perished in this storm and all who are suffering losses because of this incident. I will remain in contact with emergency management officials as well as local officials in Sullivan and Johnson counties as we continue to assess the damage, and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security is actively engaging with FEMA to assess the damages from the incident."

**3** If the images of the storm damage from last week across western and central Indiana inspire a desire to help, Kroger offers an option. Since cash may be the most important commodity to quickly address their needs, Kroger has stepped up to help. Cashiers can easily enter your contribution through a special "disaster relief" button on their registers. Many Kroger stores across Indiana and Illinois will take part in this charitable promotion.

# The Paper

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## Strawberry Festival Queen And Junior Royalty Program

The 18th annual Strawberry Festival Queen Program along with the 16th annual Junior Royalty Contest will take place Saturday at Crawfordsville High School.

The Strawberry Festival Queen Program has been a longstanding tradition in Crawfordsville as the program focuses on empowering contestants to reach their best self while enhancing interview, leadership, and overall professional development skills.

Twenty-seven high school girls will compete for the title of the 2023 Strawberry Festival Queen title and 11 children will compete for the titles of the 2023 Strawberry Festival Prince and Princess. The program will award a queen, first runner-up, second runner-up, and Miss Congeniality who will reign of the Strawberry Festival, which is June 9th-11th at the Lane Place. Other awards include a photogenic award, a mental attitude award, and a humanitarian award.

Queen contestants are collecting items for Kids Count and whichever contestant has the

most donations in her name, will receive the humanitarian award. The community is invited to bring donations the night of the program. Items needed include: new markers, crayons, pencils, coloring books, play doh, sensory toys, sponges, plastic silverware, straws, toothbrushes, tooth paste, kid's cups, baby wipes, and sanitizing wipes. The program will also accept new or gently used puzzles, board games, card games, blocks, and legos.

Tickets will be sold at the door and are \$7 (cash only) for anyone age 6 and older.

The Strawberry Festival Queen and Junior Royalty Program is directed by Jessica McClamroch. Assisting Jessica are committee members Jayde Anzola, Mary Davis, and Jewel Johnson. Sponsors for this year's program include: PNC Bank, Perry Equipment, John's Trophys & Awards, and JNAVISUALS.

Stay updated with the program by following The Montgomery County Strawberry Festival Contest on Facebook or on Instagram at the [\\_strawberry\\_festival\\_queen](#).

## From The White House To The Outhouse ...



**BUTCH DALE**  
Columnist

Well, I have to admit it. I had planned on writing a column about good ol' Joe and his White House directives, shenanigans, and gaffes, but I think just about everyone is tired of thinking about him... and, in fact, all of the politicians who have screwed up our beloved country. But along

those thoughts, a similar topic popped into my head...our old farm outhouse!

Yes, I know it sounds like I'm ancient, but when I was born way back in 1948, we had no indoor plumbing...no hot water...no bathroom...no toilet. Like many other farmers, Dad farmed the ground for "halves" and was provided a house by the landlord. We had a pitcher pump in the kitchen, with a well just outside. Mom heated up the cold water on a small coal stove, and I bathed in a square metal wash tub. Since we had no indoor toilet, my parents used a "potty chair" when I was a small fry. As I got older, I was expected to use the outhouse, which was located about fifty feet east of the house. Many people in those days, even a few in town, had

▶ See BUTCH Page A5

## Carnegie Museum Storytelling Program

The Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County is thrilled to welcome professional storyteller Debby Gullery, Saturday April 15, 2023 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. for Folklore & Fairytales: Come Explore the World!

Debby will share fun and unique folktales and stories from around the world. The presentation is aimed at preschool and elementary school students and their caregivers. Caregivers must remain with their child(ren). The program is free and is funded in part by a grant from the Montgomery County Community Foundation.

Advance registration is required. There are two identical sessions at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. To register, follow these links or guests can register at the Crawfordsville District Public Library calendar. Links to the 11 a.m. session: [bit.ly/3wR-Wxt7](https://bit.ly/3wR-Wxt7) or 1 p.m. session: [bit.ly/3JDYQOw](https://bit.ly/3JDYQOw).

The Carnegie Museum is located at 222 S. Washington Street, Crawfordsville. Admission is free, and the museum is wheelchair and stroller accessible. The Carnegie Museum is open Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## The Daily Almanac

**Sunrise/Sunset**  
RISE: 7:21 a.m.  
SET: 8:12 p.m.

**High/Low Temperatures**  
High: 82 °F  
Low: 55 °F

**Today is...**  
• 404 Day  
• Holy Tuesday

**What Happened On This Day**

- 1975 Bill Gates and Paul Allen establish Microsoft.
- 1969 Denton Cooley implants the first artificial heart

**Births On This Day**

- 1928 Maya Angelou American author, poet, actress, director
- 1979 Heath Ledger Australian actor, director

**Deaths On This Day**

- 1968 Martin Luther King, Jr. American minister, activist, Nobel Prize laureate
- 2013 Roger Ebert American journalist, critic, screenwriter

## Annual Exhibit Of Sugar Creek Quilters' Guild

The Mary Bishop Memorial Gallery at the Crawfordsville District Public Library would like to welcome the public to view the Annual Exhibit of Sugar Creek Quilters' Guild. Their impressive textiles will be on display now through the end of April during CDPL's hours of operation. A limited amount of quilted works will be for sale during the exhibition through our Circulation department.

On September 14, 1992, the first assemblage of the Sugar Creek Quilters' Guild met at the Old Jail Museum where an exhibit of Log Cabin Quilts was being held. Organizers, Katie Mitchell and Anita Hardwick had no idea that 30 quilters

would fill the room and be excited about joining together for the joy of quilting. They decided their purpose was to encourage the enjoyment of sewing and strengthen the bond between quilters. The Guild has shared its work with the community since the group was created and they have exhibited their quilts at CDPL almost every year since 1995.

The Guild's activities started with a workshop making baby quilts for newborns at the Well Baby Clinic. They have made quilts for the Family Crisis Center, Marie Canine Cancer Center, Well Baby Clinic, and

▶ See GUILD Page A5

**▶ HONEST HOOSIER**

Hear that sound? It's the tax man. He's coming.



**▶ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

Walking at least six miles per week can help reduce age-related memory loss.

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](http://www.thepaper24-7.com).



**▶ OBITUARIES**

Robert D. Wilcox

**▶ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION**

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**▶ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

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**▶ TODAY'S QUOTE**

"Man is the only animal that laughs and weeps; for he is the only animal that is struck with the difference between what things are and what they ought to be."  
William Hazlitt

**▶ TODAY'S JOKE**

What's a stepladder's favorite holiday?  
April Stool's Day!

The Paper appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank **GEORGE SPENCER** for subscribing!



**13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST**

72 PM STORMS NORTH	55/82 A.M. STORMS WARM & MUDDY	65/73 WEATHER AWARE DAY STRONG WINDS	41/57 BREEZY COOLER	35/60 MOSTLY SUNNY	41/63 MOSTLY SUNNY	44/70 WARMING BACK UP
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

## OBITUARIES

### Robert D. Wilcox

Dec. 4, 1937 - March 31, 2023

Robert Wilcox left this earthly world and went to his permanent home with his Savior, Jesus on the night of March 31 at his Darlington home.



He was born Dec. 4, 1937 in Romney to William Harold Wilcox and Freida Huddleston Wilcox. He was raised on a farm in rural Clarks Hill, Indiana. He attended Clarks Hill school and participated in the 4-H and FFA. Robert was involved in agriculture throughout his life.

He married his sweetheart, Doris Ann Greenup, June 6, 1955 in Sumner, Tennessee. They raised four children in rural Darlington. Doris passed away April 27, 1996. Robert was a devoted father and grandfather. He cherished his family.

Robert was a successful timber buyer and logger for over 50 years with Wilcox Logging. He specialized in veneer grade logs. He had a sincere appreciation for nature and the woods. He was a small farmer and enjoyed raising cattle. He was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. Robert loved to share the word of God with others.

Robert is survived by: son, Michael Wilcox (Amy); daughter, Sheila Wilcox Henderson; five grandchildren, Anita Wilcox Crawford, Misty Wilcox (previously Truax), Isaac Wilcox (Richetta), Nicole Wilcox Chase (Clint), and J. Cody Wilcox (Mindy); great-grandchildren, Britney Ward, Whitney Brissey (Alec), Clayton Ward, Dustin Crawford, Ean Melvin, Tori Truax, Conner Truax, Makayla Wilcox, Makenzie Wilcox, Malachi Wilcox and Emaree Wilcox; one great-great-grandchild, Jett Brissey; two brothers, Keith and H. Allen Wilcox; sister, Nancy Wilcox White, along with several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Doris, son, John Wilcox, daughter, Carmen Wilcox, infant daughter, Diane and great-granddaughter, Katlyne Crawford.

Robert's family will greatly miss his love and wisdom.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Monroe Cemetery, east of Stockwell, with Pastor Dick Shirar officiating. II Corinthians 5:8 says "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." Arrangements were entrusted to Burkhart Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Riley Children's Hospital, 30 S. Meridian Street, Suite 200, Indianapolis, IN 46204-3509.

## Volunteers Help In Aftermath Of Tornado Outbreak

When things look bleakest, Hoosiers respond the most. The violent tornadoes that swept across Indiana last Friday destroyed homes and businesses. But since then, the Salvation Army has been coordinating response efforts since the early morning hours and is currently at work in three of the hardest hit counties in the state: Sullivan, Johnson, and Lake counties. These teams are providing immediate needs like food, hydration, and emotional and spiritual care. Those looking to support these disaster responses can give online at HelpSalvationArmy.org.

The Salvation Army of Sullivan, Indiana has mobilized disaster team members in response to Friday's tornado outbreak, which left destruction across the community and damaged or destroyed over 200 structures. During the overnight hours The Salvation Army immediately opened shelter at City Hall, serving four displaced families in the immediate aftermath of the storm.

Early Saturday morning The Salvation Army transitioned operational focus to feeding, hydration, and emotional and spiritual care across the impacted area. One mobile kitchen (canteen), located in the Silver Street Corridor,

is providing meals those in a high impact area. A second roving unit is providing meals to impacted regions deeper within the county. The Salvation Army has served nearly 250 meals in the first few hours of this incident and is staging resources and personnel at First Christian Church.

Michele Smith, the Sullivan County Service Extension Coordinator, shared, "We are all trying to get our feet under us, These early moments of the disaster are very fluid, and it is nearly impossible for us to get into the highest impacted areas until emergency crews are able to clear roadways. Our mobile kitchens are ready to deploy to those areas to support first responders and survivors. Until then we will continue to do what we always do; which is meet human need in Jesus's name." She went on to say, "The community has already been very generous to us in these early moments and truly the best way people can support us right now is through financial donations."

The Salvation Army of Sullivan is prepared to serve for as long as we are needed. With the feeding capacity of the mobile kitchen, the support of First Christian Church, and other faith communities The Salva-

tion Army will do all it can to help Sullivan recover from this disaster.

Sullivan County is reporting that at least 200 homes damaged, so The Salvation Army will focus on both immediate relief for those who are displaced and long-term assistance during the rebuilding process. The EDS team is currently set up at First Christian Church at 105 N. Broad Street, where they fed those who sought emergency assistance early this morning and are preparing meals for distribution out in the community today. An EDS canteen has been brought up from Evansville to provide mobile delivery of food and water to affected areas of the county.

In Johnson County, Majors Mike and Mary Thomas of The Salvation Army's Johnson County Red Shield Center are leading the EDS response. They have brought an EDS canteen donated by FedEx to a staging area in Whiteland, which is the community hit hardest by the storms. The canteen will serve as a mobile kitchen to provide food and hydration to emergency responders, utility workers, and displaced residents.

Bert Williams, Assistant Divisional EDS Director for The Salvation Army Indiana Division,

is serving as the PIO for our response in Lake County. The EDS team in Lake County is led by Capt. Bersabe Vera, Area Commander for The Salvation Army of Northwest Indiana. She is joined by Lt. Joshua Bowyer of The Salvation Army's Hammond-Munster corps and Capt. Gloria Pelayo of The Salvation Army's East Chicago corps.

For the latest updates, follow The Salvation Army Indiana Division's EDS team on Facebook at facebook.com/EmergencyDisasterServicesIndiana.

One hundred percent of monetary donations given to The Salvation Army Emergency Disasters Services is used for direct response in affected communities. To learn more about the EDS ministry and responses in the U.S. and around the globe, visit disaster.salvationarmyusa.org. To support The Salvation Army's disaster relief efforts across the state, call 1-800-SAL-ARMY or make a secure donation online at HelpSalvationArmy.org. One hundred percent of your donation will go to directly serve those impacted by this event. To learn more about the EDS ministry and responses in the U.S. and around the globe, visit disaster.salvationarmyusa.org.

## CenterPoint Energy Recognizes April As National Safe Digging Month

In observance of National Safe Digging Month, CenterPoint Energy encourages customers to keep safety top-of-mind when planning for digging projects. Projects such as installing a garden, pool, fence or water sprinkler system require digging and the need for customers to call 811.

Digging without knowing the approximate location of underground utilities can result in serious injury or death, inconvenient service disruptions, and costly fines and repairs. Hitting underground natural gas, electric, communications, water and sewer lines while digging can have a major impact on communities and businesses. Making a free request before digging at www.811beforeyoudig.com or by calling 811 can help maintain the safety of everyone who digs, as well as the essential utility services in their communities.

"It is essential that anyone who plans to dig, regardless of how shallow the project might be, contact 811 beforehand to have buried utilities marked to allow for safe digging," said Shane Alexander, Director of Damage Prevention at CenterPoint Energy. "Callers should contact 811 a few days prior to the start of their digging project to give surveyors enough time to reach the site and mark the area."

In addition to working on projects themselves, homeowners often hire a contractor to complete digging projects on their property. If a contractor is completing the project, it is recommended the homeowner ensure the area has been marked prior to the start of the project. The homeowner is advised to let the contractor know work cannot begin until the area has been marked. Either the homeowner or contractor should place a request online or call

811. Private owned lines are not located by the utility. If the property owner has private owned lines servicing a sprinkler system or outdoor appliance, the property owner is responsible for ensuring these lines are marked.

CenterPoint Energy encourages everyone to take the following steps when planning a digging project:

- Always contact 811 a few days before digging, regardless of the depth or familiarity with the property.
- Plan ahead. Make a free 811 request on Monday or Tuesday for work planned for an upcoming weekend, providing ample time for the approximate location of lines to be marked.
- Confirm that all lines have been marked.
- Consider moving the location of your project if it is near utility line markings.
- If a contractor has been hired, confirm the

contractor has contacted 811. Don't allow work to begin if the lines aren't marked.

• Visit www.811beforeyoudig.com for complete information.

Those calling 811 are connected to a local 811 center that will take the caller's information and communicate it to local utility companies. Professional locators will then visit the dig site to mark the approximate location of underground utility lines with spray paint, flags or both. Once a site has been accurately marked, it is safe to begin digging around the marked areas.

In the case of a hit pipeline, leave the area immediately. Once in a safe location, report the leak by calling the CenterPoint Energy utility emergency line at 800-227-1376.

Additional information about pipeline safety can be found at www.centerpointenergy.com/callbeforeyoudig.

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# Supporting Workforce Transportation, 'The Rise' In Vermillion County



**SPENCER DEERY**  
Guest Columnist

A bill I sponsored that would support workforce transportation and expand local road funding opportunities passed the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation this week.

House Bill 1046 would allow a public transportation corporation in one county to cross into another county to transport individuals as long as an interlocal agreement between the two counties

is in place.

This would allow a resident of a rural county to use public transportation to travel to a more urban neighboring county for work.

The workforce in the Greater Lafayette area has about 100,000 Hoosiers, and there are approximately 120,000 jobs in Tippecanoe County.

This bill would benefit economic regions like ours throughout the state by opening up job opportunities to Hoosiers who have been limited by transportation costs.

HB 1046 would also allow military base reuse authorities in Indiana to be eligible for funds from the Community Crossings Matching Grant Program, which has awarded more than \$1 billion for local infrastructure projects since its creation in 2016.

This would allow

authorities like the Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority, located in Vermillion County in the southwestern portions of our district, to apply for and be awarded funding to maintain the roads for the Vermillion Rise Mega Park.

The U.S. Army built the roads in what we now call 'The Rise.'

This bill will allow the property to compete for state funding to maintain the site's infrastructure while we turn it into a more prosperous industrial center that attracts new jobs and businesses to Vermillion County.

The bill was recommitted to the Senate Committee on Appropriations for further consideration.

*Spencer Deery is the State Senator for District 23, serving portions of Montgomery, Fountain, Tippecanoe, Parke, Vermillion and Warren counties.*

# Newest OrthoIndy Practice Comprised Of Established Lafayette Orthopedic Surgeons

Lafayette Orthopedic Clinic is the newest OrthoIndy practice in Indiana. The seven physicians at the 1411 South Creasy Lane location are Dr. John Bauman; Dr. Daniel Daluga; Dr. Michael Highhouse; Dr. Mark Page; Dr. Paul Rodenhouse; Dr. Peter Torok; and Dr. Joel Virkler, putting the total number of OrthoIndy physicians serving the Greater Lafayette area at eleven. With these additions, OrthoIndy now has nearly 100 physicians, and is the largest orthopedic practice in Indiana and among the largest in the country.

OrthoIndy CEO John Ryan heralded this expansion as the next step in OrthoIndy's commitment to the highest level of quality, cost-effective care to people across the state. "This is a key milestone in our continued pursuit of providing the best care to the most Hoosiers," said Ryan. "The Greater Lafayette community has enjoyed world-class care from the team at the Lafayette Orthopedic Clinic, and we

are thrilled to expand our resources and expertise to those in need of orthopedic care with access close to home."

Dr. Page, managing partner of the Lafayette Orthopedic Clinic, is excited for the future of orthopedic care in Greater Lafayette and the surrounding counties. "It's a perfect match to join forces with OrthoIndy, a team that shares our same commitment to excellent patient care."

Plans for a new free-standing OrthoIndy clinic, orthopedic urgent care center and surgery center in Lafayette are expected in 2024.

OrthoIndy has been expanding in Indiana recently with a new Brownsburg location that will include hospital and clinic services and a hospital outpatient surgery facility in Westfield, both scheduled to open later in 2023.

### About OrthoIndy and OrthoIndy Hospital

Founded 60 years ago, OrthoIndy is one of the most highly respected orthopedic practices in the Midwest. With nearly

100 physicians providing care to central Indiana residents from 11 convenient locations, OrthoIndy provides leading-edge bone, joint, spine and muscle care.

OrthoIndy physicians also provide care to the Indiana Pacers, Indiana Fever and Andretti Autosport, as well as local colleges and high schools.

Owned and operated by OrthoIndy physicians, OrthoIndy Hospital is central Indiana's first specialty hospital with a focus on patient safety, satisfaction and outcomes. With multiple hospital locations, OrthoIndy Hospital is the #1 hospital in Indiana for patient safety in Major Orthopedic Surgery, from the 2023 Carehex Awards by Quantros. It has earned 5 Stars from Healthgrades for Total Knee Replacement 16 years in a row; for Total Hip Replacement 10 years in a row; and for Spinal Fusion 10 years in a row. For more information on OrthoIndy, please call (317) 802-2000 or visit us at OrthoIndy.com.

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# Lack Of Competitive Politics Now Hitting City Halls



**BRIAN HOWEY**  
Howey Political Report

Indiana's political scene is in distinct decline. Our congressional races are no longer competitive in General Elections, whereas in past decades there would be half a dozen or so of seat changes between Republicans and Democrats. Since the 2011 reapportionment, not a single congressional incumbent has been upset. Our General Assembly has become lop-sided. For the first time since the Democrat/Republican two-party system took root in 1856, one party (the Republicans) have had super majorities in both the House and Senate since the 2014 election. That's an unprecedented five election cycles, and counting. The districts are so unbalanced that I will be amazed if this doesn't continue until the 2031 maps.

We've seen the constitutional Statehouse races become dominated by Republicans, with the last Democrat victory there coming in 2012. We've watched the GOP dominate at the county level, with Indiana Republican Chairman Kyle Hupfer telling me that his party controls about 90% of county courthouse offices. Now we are watching this lack of a robust election races coming to city halls across the state.

What jumps out after the Feb. 4 filing deadline is how many uncontested

mayoral races there are during this 2023 cycle, including cities like Kokomo and Elkhart that have had competitive races in recent cycles. There are at least 35 cities where only Republican candidates have filed, including Jeffersonville, Noblesville, Bedford and Columbus. There are 10 cities where only Democrats have filed for mayor, including Hammond, Elkhart, Lafayette, West Lafayette.

When I was a reporter at the Elkhart Truth, the one guaranteed election cycle which would be interesting was the mayoral one, where Democrats and Republicans routinely traded that office. In 2019, Democrat Rod Roberson succeeded Republican Tim Neese. He followed Democrat Dick Moore. In 1999, Republican Dave Miller upset five-term mayor Jim Perron by 1,400 votes.

In Kokomo, Democrat Greg Goodnight won the mayoral election in 2007 and held the post for three terms. In 2019, Republican Tyler Moore defeated Democrat Abbie Smith with just under 70% of the vote. With the 2023 election filing deadline last Friday, there are only two Democrat council candidates, and none for Kokomo mayor or city clerk.

Unless a party slates a candidate by noon July 3, this means that Republican incumbent mayors Mike Moore in Jeffersonville, Dave Wood in Mishawaka and Democrat incumbents Tony Roswarski in Lafayette, Rod Roberson in Elkhart and Tom McDermott in Hammond will have no challengers.

The situation in West Lafayette is intriguing. Four-term incumbent Republican Mayor John

Dennis is not seeking re-election and has endorsed Democrat Erin Easter. She is the only mayoral candidate filed.

According to independent journalist Dave Bangert, who published at the Based in Lafayette substack site, Mayor Dennis pushed Easter to run and introduced her at her campaign announcement. There are rumblings about Republicans slating someone after the primary. West Lafayette has been "hard blue" since 2016, outside of Dennis, who is Republican in name only.

When Gov. Eric Holcomb gave Mayor Dennis a Sagamore of the Wabash honor, Dennis dead-panned, "Leave us alone," before launching into a discussion about cooperation and faith in each other in ways that didn't lean on party affiliation. Dennis later said he didn't "understand that horse and elephant thing very much." Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski, a Democrat, reminded him it was donkey for Democrats, not a horse. "Really? It is an elephant, though, right?" Dennis said.

The irony is that while Indiana is losing its competitive political dynamic at the federal, state and local levels, there is a move afoot to politicize school board races.

According to the Associated Press, Indiana Republicans forged ahead Wednesday with a proposal that would upend the current non-partisan school board elections across the state despite opponents arguing the change would further inject politics into local schools. The Indiana House Elections Committee voted 6-4 along party lines to endorse a bill to

establish a system allowing a decision by each of the state's nearly 300 school districts on whether to require candidates to declare a political party. Each district's decision would be made through either a voter referendum or school board vote. It would be up to those votes whether candidates would be required to win a party's May primary in order to appear on the November general election ballot.

During testimony, State Rep. Alan Morrison (R-Brazil) said it's about local control. "There are some communities that want this and there are some communities that don't," Morrison said, according to Indiana Public Media. "Through this amendment, they will be able to make that choice."

State Rep. Tonya Pfaff (D-Terre Haute) said the entire concept is unnecessary. "I've not had any constituent come up and say that they thought this was a good idea, either local control or period," Indiana Public Media quoted Pfaff as saying.

What we are witnessing here in this era is a one-party dominance is the loss of political discourse. This comes while there is push by General Assembly lawmakers to begin the instruction of civics into our high schools. In the old days, that meant participating in dynamic General Election races between two major parties in three out of every four Novembers.

We're losing that. I'm not sure where all of this will lead us.

*The columnist is managing editor of Howey Politics Indiana/State Affairs at StateAffairs.com/pro/Indiana. Find Howey on Facebook and Twitter @hwypol.*

# He's Just Fishin'

It was just one of those things. It didn't really mean Marvin Pincus had lost his mind. Consider this yourself for a minute. Marvin had opened the mail that morning and in it was the Fenwick glass fly rod he'd ordered. Oh, it was used, of course. But there's a feel to a Fenwick that only a man dedicated to a life of using dry flies can appreciate.

The weather was gorgeous. The fish were biting on Lewis Creek. But there was a hitch. Marvin had broken his ankle the previous week and was temporarily in a wheelchair. It was his right ankle, so he couldn't drive down to the creek. And there, in his hands, was the Fenwick. He put it together, attached a reel and some four-weight line and set it on the couch and looked at it.

Marjorie was off visiting her sister, so she couldn't help him. But there's a pull, an irresistible draw to a fly rod. He had to cast it.

Now. It took Marvin about 20 minutes to negotiate the front steps with that wheelchair and the Fenwick. Oh, he could've called a friend to help him, but how could he possibly explain why?

Finally, he negotiated the sidewalk and then the edge of the street itself. There were no cars coming this early afternoon.

Up came the Fenwick. A few swishes in the air told Marvin he'd done



**SLIM RANDES**  
Columnist

the right thing in ordering the rod. So he ran out some line and began casting. About halfway across the street was a large mulberry leaf. He did a double haul on the line and sent the fly toward the leaf. It took several tries before he hit it, but when he made that cast, you could've sold tickets to it. His fly came to rest about three feet above the leaf and then fluttered gently down onto its target. Marvin's smile said it all.

Then the school bus came around the corner full of kids heading home, and Marvin realized he was casting a fly rod from a wheelchair onto dry pavement.

"Hi Mr. Pincus!" yelled one of the kids. "Catch anything?"

"A little slow today, Billy," he yelled back. "Isn't it hard to catch fish without water?" Billy yelled.

"It's okay, son," Marvin said with a grin. "I'm using a dry fly!"

*With a Fenwick fly rod, you can feel the fish breathe. Have a look. <https://www.purefishing.com/fenwick/>*

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# New Providers Join Franciscan Health Infectious Disease Lafayette



John G. Cotter, MD, MPH



Katelyn Boone, FNP-C

John G. Cotter, MD, MPH, and Katelyn Boone, FNP-C, have joined Franciscan Physician Network Infectious Disease Lafayette.

The two form a health care provider team focused on treating patients with a variety of infectious diseases. Their office is located at Suite 220, 3920 St. Francis Way, Lafayette.

Board-certified in infectious disease, Dr. Cotter also has served as director of the Comprehensive Care and Infectious Diseases Clinic and hospital epidemiologist at Rutland Regional Medical Center in Vermont. He is a published in professional medical journals and has lectured on a variety of infectious diseases and related topics.

Dr. Cotter received his undergraduate degree from Purdue University and earned his medical degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland. He completed an internal medicine residency at the University of Massachusetts. He also completed fellowships at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (infectious disease) and Mayo Clinic (transplant infection disease).

He has held a variety of clinical and academic appointments with Southern New Hampshire Medical Center, Dartmouth Medical School/Clinic, Tufts University and the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

A board certified family nurse practitioner, Boone specializes in infectious diseases. Her clinical interests include tuberculosis, transplant infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, bloodstream infections and HIV/AIDS.

Boone received her undergraduate degree in nursing from Indiana Wesleyan University in Indiana and earned her master's degree in nursing from the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Cotter or Katelyn Boone, call (765) 428-5950.

Franciscan Physician Network is a division of the Mishawaka, Indiana-based Franciscan Alliance. To learn more, visit FranciscanDocs.org.

## BUTCH From Page A1



Photo courtesy of Butch Dale

### Butch and Gary have bath time in 1953

these little outhouses, with most placed east of a residence, for obvious reasons...because of westerly winds. The outhouse was moved every few years, and a new pit was shoveled by hand. The old pit was covered up, and the grass was sure green in that area!

Dad told me that when he was a youngster, pages of the Sears catalog and newspapers were used for toilet paper.

Thank the Lord we had regular toilet paper by the time I came into this world! When my brother Gary came along in March of 1952, we still had no indoor plumbing. The metal wash tub was a little crowded now. But our landlord finally forked over the money so our farmhouse could be modernized...a new fuel oil stove, electric water pump, water heater, and bathroom...with a sink,

bathtub, shower, and toilet. The new bathroom was not very big, as one of the bedrooms was partitioned off to make room for it...but it was INDOORS...no need to bundle up and traipse down the dirt path to the outhouse on cold winter days! Mom no longer had to heat water on the stove for our bath. There was a large bathroom mirror above the sink. We no longer had to brush our teeth at the kitchen sink. Mom could do her hair and makeup, and Dad could shave in there. I kept my Brylcreem hair tonic nearby, too. "A little dab 'll do ya!" I think Dad appreciated the new bathroom more than anyone in the family, especially since he had served in the Army during WWII, without the benefit of indoor toilets and hot water. When he had to do his thing, he often stayed in there, with the door locked, for what seemed like an eternity...biding his time, reading magazines...a king on the throne!

Well, we kept the old outhouse for a few more years...mostly as a back-

up in case the water pipes froze, which happened on more than one occasion, as our house sat up on windy hill and had no insulation. By the time I reached high school age, there were only a handful of outhouses still used in the country and in town. A few teenage boys thought it was fun to tip over these outhouses on Halloween...not very nice, especially if someone happened to be inside at the time! Nowadays the few old outhouses that remain are sometimes kept as antiques...a reminder of life in the good ol' days. Well, I have many good memories of growing up on the farm, but I can't say the outdoor toilet is one of those.

And Ol' Joe, if you had been smarter, you would have been better off sitting in your outhouse instead of the White House.

*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.*

## GUILD From Page A1

Military Veterans. The Sugar Creek Quilters Guild has held educational activities for both adults and 4th graders during Pioneer Days. They give their support to the 4-H Youth organization by sponsoring awards for the sewing category. The Guild also hosted the State Quilt Guild with the help of merchants who displayed quilts in their windows and venues that provided exhibit spaces. Each year in November, the guild members bring creations

to be sold at the Holiday Bazaar to raise money for these community projects and programs.

The Sugar Creek Quilters' Guild meets on the 3rd Monday night of the month at 6:30 pm. Programs and Show & Tell featuring their members are major focal points of these meetings. Field trips and retreats also play an important role for the Guild's members. They have held basting meetings and afternoon bees. Challenges have been offered, fabrics

have been shared, and the block of the month has been available for members to enjoy and grow. They are continually accepting new members, professional and amateur, advanced and beginners, all are welcome. Janet Fields enthusiastically states, "We aspire to inspire! Now, as we begin our 31st year, we have learned various techniques and formed many friendships. Everyone is welcome no matter your skill level."

Please visit the Sugar Creek Quilters' page on Facebook to learn more about their organization. For more information about CDPL's hours of operation, please visit our website at <http://www.cdpl.lib.in.us/>. If you are an artist or a member of an artists' group and are interested in displaying your work at the Mary Bishop Memorial Gallery in 2024, please contact Toni the Gallery Coordinator at (765) 362-2242 for more details.

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