

SPRING

Sale!

Sale ends May 30th

Anything Goes!

by ShawMark

shawmark.com

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➔ TODAY'S VERSE

Proverbs 1:7 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

➔ 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 local nonprofit organization Humans United for Equality (HUE) will host a Montgomery County Family Fun event on Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. at Pike Place. Hoosier Ice Queen will be on hand to sell shaved ice, and lawn games such as corn hole, giant Jenga, and giant Connect Four will be available to play for free.

2 Earlier this week, Congresswoman Erin Houchin (R-Ind.-09) released the following statement on the passage of the Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023. "They said it couldn't be done, but Republicans have delivered a real solution to limit spending for the American people once again. Let's be clear: Democrats created this mess by adding trillions upon trillions to the debt. Families in my district are sick and tired of it and want to see action. The House Republican bill will right this wrong with a reasonable solution to limit spending, save taxpayer money, and grow the economy," said Congresswoman Houchin.

3 The open Grief Support Group continues to meet on the first and third Thursday of each month. The next meeting is Thursday, May 4 at 7 p.m. at Goin Memorial United Methodist Church in the Peace Chapel on the north side of the Sanctuary. Please register at www.dusk-to-dawn.org or call (765) 267-1760. The group meets again on May 18 at 7 p.m. Celebrating its 10th anniversary as a non-profit association, the organization helps alleviate the suffering associated with loss and grief by providing free access to support, counseling, education and resources for anyone in need. These services are made possible through community donations and grants such as the one awarded by the Putnam County Community Foundation.

The Paper

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CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANAWWW.THEPAPER24-7.COM

My Third Grade Teacher Was The Tops !!!!



BUTCH DALE
Columnist

I was very fortunate to have many outstanding teachers when I attended Darlington school, and one of the very best was

Naomi Shannon Peterson, my third grade teacher in 1957. Naomi was born in 1897 and grew up in Shannondale, which was named for her grandfather, David Shannon. She attended school there through the 8th grade, and with no way to travel to Darlington High School, Naomi walked a mile south each morning to catch the interurban line which ran to Crawfordsville. Her persistence paid off, as she graduated from Crawfordsville high school in 1916.

After graduation, Naomi enrolled in Madame Blaker's Teacher's College in Indianapolis. This 12-week course became the foundation for her life-long teaching career, although she took several other college courses later in life. In the fall of 1916, and only 18 years old, Naomi started teaching in a one-room schoolhouse near Waynetown. She

walked a half mile to school each morning and arrived early enough to build a fire to keep her students warm in the crude frame building. During the remainder of WWI, Naomi



taught the first four grades at Kirkpatrick before heading over to Linden for a short stint. When Naomi and three other new women teachers could not find a room to stay in at a private residence on their first night, they rented a room at the Linden Hotel. Since there was

➔ See BUTCH Page A5

Making Crawfordsville Beautiful, One Street At A Time



ABBY MORGAN
Purdue Extension Office
PURDUE EXTENSION

On Thursday, April 13th, you may have driven through downtown Crawfordsville and saw a group of youth that you thought were taking in the sights. However, these youths are part of the

Montgomery County 4-H Junior Leader program and they were doing more than taking in the sights of Crawfordsville.

As part of their Earth Day celebration, the Junior Leaders spent that Thursday evening picking up trash throughout downtown Crawfordsville. This has become an annual tradition in one small effort to make a difference in our downtown area. There were 19 Junior Leaders that evening helping pick up trash and within just a few blocks, they picked up 3-4 bags of trash. Even just taking an hour to pick up this amount of trash truly does make

a difference. They realize it is everyone's responsibility to help take the initiative to keep our community clean.

One of pillars of the 4-H program is civic engagement. "4-H civic engagement programs empower young people to be well-informed citizens who are actively engaged in their communities and the world" (<https://4-h.org/parents/civic-engagement/>). Through a variety of educational programs and opportunities, such as picking up trash in our community, youth gain skills to be positive, contributing members of their community starting from their time in the 4-H program to when they are an adult and having families of their own.

Junior Leaders is a great opportunity within the 4-H program for youth that are currently in grades 7-12 to enhance their leadership and other important life skills. Junior Leaders also teaches youth the importance of giving back to the community through a variety of community service projects that are completed throughout the

➔ See ABBY Page A5

Take Home A FURever Friend

Bryce Callis of the Boy Scouts and Montgomery County Animal Welfare League are hosting a pet Adoptathon at the Animal Welfare League. Adoption fees will be reduced and there will be food, fun, prizes and a silent auction. Donations will also be accepted during the event. The event is to take place on May 13 from 10 am to 1 pm.

The Animal Welfare League is located at 1104 Big Four Arch Rd. in Crawfordsville. If unable to attend, check out the AWL's social media and see what the AWL is looking for in donations. Some of the donations the AWL is looking for include:

- Wet Dog Food
- Dawn Dish Soap
- Milk & Bone Soft n' Chewy Dog Treats
- Wet Cat Food
- Fabric Softener Dryer Sheets
- Glad 13 gal Trash Bag
- Purina Dry Cat Food
- And Much More

Wrapping Up Reader's Choice

Readers' Choice is wrapped up for another year, and once again, The Papers' annual promotion to recognize your favorites in a multitude of categories was a huge success.

Back when our company was founded, the staff at The Paper brought Montgomery County this fun and good-natured promotion that features local businesses, people, products and more and gives you, our readers, the opportunity to vote for your favorites. We often joke that this is like Chicago politics and encourage you to vote early and vote often.

You see, this has never been about the rigidity of the process. Instead, it is designed to be an absolutely fun and very positive way for our readers to cast a good light on their favorites. And oh, how you have responded!

➔ See WRAP Page A5

Want MORE?

The results for winners, runner ups and honorable mentions of the following categories;

- Electrician**
 - Electronics Company**
 - Employment Agency**
 - Excavating Service**
 - Factory**
 - Farm Equipment Dealer**
 - Financial Planner**
 - Floor Covering Service**
 - Flower Shop**
- will be inside on A5!

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 6:37 a.m.
SET: 8:43 p.m.

High/Low Temperatures
High: 71 °F
Low: 46 °F

Today is...

- Cinco de Mayo
- Revenge of the Fifth
- Museum Lover's Day

What Happened On This Day

- **1980** The British Special Air Service (SAS) terminate the Iranian Embassy siege in London.
- **1955** West Germany regains full sovereignty after World War II.
- **1904** Cy Young pitches the first perfect game in modern major league baseball.

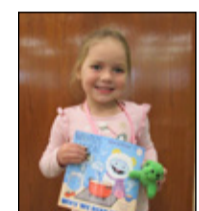
Births On This Day

- **1988** Adele English singer-songwriter, musician
- **1818** Karl Marx German philosopher

Deaths On This Day

- **1995** Mikhail Botvinnik Russian chess player
- **1821** Napoleon Corsican/French military officer, political leader

Local Girl Completes Reading Program 4x Over



JULIA NICHOLS

Julia Nichols, age 4, has completed the Crawfordsville District Public Library program "1000 Books

Before Kindergarten" for the fourth time. Julia, along with her parents, Tyler and Mindy Nichols, have read 4,000 books.

Julia's favorite book is First 100 Pretty Pink Words by Thomas Nelson. Mom said, "The reading program has been a wonderful program to encourage our kids to read books and spend time together. We love listening to them read and watching them look through books with each other."

➔ HONEST HOOSIER

This from a reader: If shutting down Russia's pipeline crippled their economy and drove gas prices up, why did we shut down ours?



➔ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

Kenny Thompson.....A3
Classifieds.....A3

➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Keep meat tenderizer in your first aid kit - apply it to stings to destroy the venom. 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.



➔ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE Community Announcement:

Crawfordsville Investment Club to Meet Tuesday. The Crawfordsville Investment Club will meet Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., at the Crawfordsville District Public Library. The program is about Portfolio Diversifications. The Crawfordsville Investment Club meets for educational purposes only. Visitors are welcome. For more information call 765-362-2826.

➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less."
-Marie Curie

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

What kind of underwear do Indy 500 drivers wear?
Speedos, of course!

➔ OBITUARIES

None

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



7 DAY FORECAST

70 COLD START, WARM LATER	46/71 SHOWER, CHANCE LATE	52/73 EARLY SHOWER, RICE LATER	54/80 SUNNY AND WARMING	60/81 SCATTERED SHOWERS AND STORMS	61/81 SCATTERED SHOWERS AND STORMS	56/76 PARTLY SUNNY
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED

Montgomery County Garden Masters Thank Attendees

The Montgomery County Master Gardeners would like to thank the over 600 people who attended our Annual Spring Plant Sale & Show this past Saturday, April 29 at the 4-H grounds.

We had an outstanding sale and are already looking forward to Spring 2024. Our thanks to the Crawfordsville Boy Scouts who assisted customers by carrying their plants around for them and out to their cars and the North Montgomery High School Key Club whose 4 young ladies helped tremendously in areas so the Master Gardeners could be available for customers.



RAY CLAYCOMB and DAUGHTER

Thanks also to the vendors who participated selling plants we did not have and providing information to customers. Those vendors are HHSB providing popcorn to customers, RDM Farms of Fowler, Bit of Wild and Davidson's of Crawfordsville

and Walnut Fork Farms with their jams, jellies and creamed honey.

Organizations who provided information such as Friends of Sugar Creek who were raffling off a kayak and Crawfordsville District Public Library giving out free seeds from our Seed Library, signing up new members and showing gardening style books available at the library. We look forward to a bigger and better sale & show next year.

Save the Date for our Annual Plant Exchange on September 30, 2023. If you missed us, we will be at the Crawfordsville Farmer's Market this Saturday, May 6.

Nearly \$10 Million In Grants Available To Train Teachers In 'STEM' Subjects

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education is accepting applications for the STEM Teacher Recruitment Fund grants until Friday, June 2, 2023. The grants are awarded to local organizations and colleges to support programs that recruit, prepare, place and retain educators in schools with teacher shortages in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subject areas.

"We are pleased to continue increasing the number of high-quality STEM teachers in Hoosier classrooms," said

Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. "Indiana currently faces an unprecedented demand for talent within STEM fields. It is imperative that we advance student exposure to these high-demand careers and bolster the overall quality of STEM instruction to meet the state's current and future needs. The STEM Teacher Recruitment grants are a proven tool to do both."

The full grant application and budget worksheet are available on the Commission's website.

To be eligible for the grant, organizations

must present programs that result in individuals becoming licensed or trained to teach science, technology, engineering or math in Indiana public K-12 schools. Individuals receiving program support through this grant must seek employment in an eligible Indiana public school.

The STEM Teacher Recruitment grants have supported thousands of new educators in high-demand STEM fields since the Commission began administering the program in 2015. Winning entries will be announced on June 30, 2023.

Young, Colleagues Introduce Bipartisan Kids Online Safety Act

U.S. Senators Todd Young (R-Ind.), Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) introduced the Kids Online Safety Act, comprehensive bipartisan legislation to protect children online and hold social media companies accountable.

"Hoosier parents are concerned about protecting their children online and want social media companies to do more to safeguard their platforms. Our bipartisan bill would require these companies to take new measures to protect children from harmful content and empower parents with additional tools to safeguard their children and protect their personal information," said Senator Young.

The Kids Online Safety Act provides young people and parents with the tools, safeguards, and transparency they need to protect against online harms. The bill requires social media platforms to put the well-being of children first, ensuring an environment that is safe by default. The legislation requires independent audits by experts and academic researchers to ensure that social media platforms are taking meaningful steps to address risks to kids.

More specifically, the

Kids Online Safety Act:

- Requires that social media platforms provide minors with options to protect their information, disable addictive product features, and opt out of algorithmic recommendations. Platforms would be required to enable the strongest settings by default.

- Gives parents new controls to help support their children and identify harmful behaviors, and provides parents and children with a dedicated channel to report harms to kids to the platform.

- Creates a responsibility for social media platforms to prevent and mitigate harms to minors, such as promotion of suicide, eating disorders, substance abuse, sexual exploitation, and unlawful products for minors (e.g. gambling and alcohol).

- Requires social media platforms to perform an annual independent audit that assesses the risks to minors, their compliance with this legislation, and whether the platform is taking meaningful steps to prevent those harms.

- Provides academic and public interest organizations with access to critical datasets from social media platforms to foster research regarding harms to the safety and well-be-

ing of minors.

In addition to Senators Young, Blackburn, and Blumenthal, Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.V.), Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.), Bill Cassidy (R-La.), Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), Steve Daines (R-Mont.), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), John Hickenlooper (D-Colo.), Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska), Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), Chris Coons (D-Del.), Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Mark Warner (D-Va.), Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), Peter Welch (D-Vt.), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.), Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.), Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.), Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Jim Risch (R-Idaho), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), and Katie Britt (R-Ala.) also cosponsored this legislation.

The Kids Online Safety Act is also supported by hundreds of advocacy and technology groups, including Common Sense Media, American Psychological Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Compass, Eating Disorders Coalition, Fairplay, Mental Health America, and Digital Progress Institute.

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Purdue Football Players Drafted In 2023 NFL Draft



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

When Jalen Graham's name was called by the San Francisco 49ers early Saturday evening, the linebacker



DURHAM PAYNE

became the fifth former Purdue football standout selected in Rounds 4-7 of the 2023 NFL Draft.

All-American wide receiver Charlie Jones, quarterback Aidan O'Connell, tight end Payne Durham, cornerback Cory Trice and Graham gave the Boilermakers their highest representation in an NFL Draft since 2004. If these five athletes have the same good fortune as the nine Purdue standouts taken 19 years ago, they will enjoy several seasons in the NFL.

ing fellow All-Americans Rondale Moore in 2021 and David Bell last season. Jones, a transfer from Iowa, led the nation with 110 receptions and set the Purdue single-season record with 1,361 receiving yards. The yardage ranked second nationally and his 12 touchdowns were fourth among receivers. His eight 100-yard games also broke a Purdue record shared by Bell, Moore, John Standeford and Steve Griffin.

Nick Hardwick, Stuart Schweigert, Gilbert Gardner, Landon Johnson, Shaun Phillips, Niko Koutouvides, Kelly Butler, Craig Terrill and Jacques Reeves lasted between three seasons (Butler) and 11 (Hardwick, Phillips) in the NFL.

The pick drew praise from ESPN's team of analysts.

Schweigert, Phillips, Terrill, Gardner and Johnson started on defense for Purdue in the 2001 Rose Bowl. Koutouvides and Reeves also saw action at linebacker and cornerback, respectively, against Washington. Hardwick, inspired by Drew Brees and the Rose Bowl run, joined the Boilermakers in 2001 as a walk-on. Butler was a highly regarded recruit out of Grand Rapids, Mich., who entered the NFL Draft after three seasons as a starting tackle.

"He can play inside or outside at 5-11, 175 pounds, Todd McShay said. "He ran a 4.4 in the 40-yard dash. I love his quickness just as much as his speed. He's kind of a little sneaky, one of those kind of a pain in the butt receivers."

The only Big Ten Conference schools with more players drafted were no surprise: champion Michigan (9), Ohio State (6) and Penn State (6). Indiana was the only Big Ten school with no draft picks.

Added Louis Riddick: "He plays big. Don't be misled. He's not just a slot guy. He will burn your rear end on the outside. I saw him whip every defensive back he went against this year."

The Cincinnati Bengals made Jones the first Boilermaker selection with the 131st overall pick. That extended a run of three consecutive Purdue wide receivers drafted, follow-

Troy Walters, the Bengals' receivers coach, told team radio broadcaster Dan Hoard that Jones is a technical route runner.

count against the eligibility clock.

"If it's a 15-yard route, he's going to run 15," Walters said. "If it's 12 yards, he's going to get 12. He knows how to manipulate coverages and defenders at the top of his route. He just knows how to get open."

"Joe (Burrow) wants you to be in the right spot at the right time and that's what Charlie does. He's someone that Joe can count on."

The Bengals are loaded at wide receiver with Ja'Marr Chase, Tee

Higgins and Tyler Boyd so Jones could return to his collegiate roots as a return specialist at first.

"It's something I want to do, and something I've loved doing," Jones told Hoard. "I want to be able to come in and make an impact any way I possible can."

Jones' childhood pal,



GRAHAM JALEN

O'Connell, became the first Purdue quarterback selected since Curtis Painter went to the Indianapolis Colts in 2009. O'Connell leaves as Purdue's all-time leader in completion percentage (66.7), passing efficiency (141.8) and 500-yard passing games (2). His 9,219 passing yards are sixth in school history, and his 65 touchdown passes rank fifth.

According to Levi Edwards of raiders.com, general manager Dave Ziegler saw O'Connell as a prospect since midseason of 2022.

"The one thing about quarterbacks that you don't get to see if you're just watching tape or if you're just watching games, I'd say over 50 percent of their success rate is really about what they're made of from the neck up," Ziegler said

of evaluating O'Connell. "Intelligence, ability to process, those type of intangibles, leadership. Felt like he has a lot of those different intangible qualities that we think are really, really important to have any chance to be successful in the league at quarterback."

"A lot of the things that he did at Purdue, some of the things that he showed - there's areas to grow into - but he showed a lot of the things we wanted from

the quarterback position."

ESPN's McShay agrees with the Raiders about O'Connell's intelligence.

"He will learn the offense fast and be ready to go as No. 2," McShay said.

Durham is one of only three Purdue tight ends drafted during the past 15 years, joining Dustin Keller in 2008 and former teammate Brycen Hopkins in 2020. Only All-American Dave Young caught more touchdown passes as a tight end (27) than Durham's 21.

"He's one of those guys that does everything well," director of player personnel Mike Biehl told Scott Smith of buccaneers.com. "I wouldn't say he's elite



JONES CHARLIE

at anything, but he does everything really well."

ESPN draft analyst Mel Kiper Jr. likes Durham's 6-5, 253-pound frame.

"At Purdue he evolved into a heck of a target," Kiper said. "I thought he played faster than the 4.87 time at the Combine. He will run you over once he gets his hands on the football."

Trice ended a seven-year drought of Purdue cornerbacks in the NFL Draft since Dallas took Anthony Brown in 2016.

"This guy could be a steal," Kiper said of Trice, who some draft forecasts had going as high as the third round.

Trice, like future teammate Joey Porter Jr. of Penn State, seems to fit what the Steelers are looking for from their cornerbacks.

"He played a lot of press coverage and that's huge," secondary coach Grady Brown told Teresa Varley of steelers.com. "Just the way that he plays press,

being able to go down and ... just use that frame to just take up a lot of space and make guys work on the line of scrimmage."

Graham played both safety and linebacker at Purdue, a versatility that impressed 49ers general manager John Lynch.

"When we took Dee Winters (a sixth round pick from TCU), there was some discussion about who we wanted: Dee Winters or Jalen Graham," Lynch said. "For Jalen to still be there at the end of the draft, we talked about bringing him in as a free agent but we said let's have some certainty to this. Jalen is a guy we really like and are intrigued by."

With its top offensive weapons now playing professionally, Purdue's cupboard of NFL prospects may resemble Old Mother Hubbard's.

The roster at purduesports.com lists 21 seniors. However, 15 have two seasons of eligibility remaining thanks to the NCAA's COVID-19 ruling that made 2020 not



O'CONNEL AIDAN

count against the eligibility clock.

Thanks to some recruiting misses by former coach Jeff Brohm's staff, the football class of 2023 would be even more lean without a handful of transfers. Former Iowa wide receiver Tyrone Tracy is now a running back. Jamari Brown (Kentucky) is a two-year starter at cornerback. Outside linebacker Scotty Humpich (Murray State), offensive tackle Daniel Johnson (Kent State) and 2023 transfer Isaiah Nichols (defensive end, Arkansas) are also entering their final season of eligibility.

The sixth true senior,

three-year starting safety Cam Allen, has something to prove after struggling with tackling in 2022. If he rebounds under first-year coach Ryan Walters, Allen is the best bet to be an NFL Draft pick.

Allen was part of Brohm's best-rated recruiting class (25th in the 247Sports composite) in 2019. That class was led by George Karlaftis (first round pick in 2022 by Kansas City), David Bell (2022 third-round pick by Cleveland) and Jalen Graham.

Karlaftis and Bell were among five four-star recruits. Wide receiver Milton Wright and safety Marvin Grant also became starters at Purdue. Academics ended Wright's career at Purdue. Grant transferred to Kansas before the 2022 season.

The fifth, defensive tackle Steven Fauchaux, never saw the field and transferred to Marshall, where he was converted to offensive tackle.

Only six members of that 27-man recruiting class remain at Purdue. Three - Allen, wide receiver T.J. Sheffield and tight end Garrett Miller - are likely starters this fall. Quarterback-turned-tight end Paul Piferi caught 10 passes for 143 yards and a touchdown in 2022. Linebacker Jacob Wahlberg was seventh on the team with 41 tackles. Defensive end Sulaiman Kpaka made



TRICE CORY

19 tackles in a reserve role.

- 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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10 Things I Recently Read



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

Did you know that when you prepare asparagus you probably make 12 mistakes? Hold on a few minutes while I explain why I am asking this question.

I have an app called Smart News. It's worth every penny, mainly because it's free. I am addicted to it because along with dozens of articles each day that summarize the news, it also includes provocative warnings with attention-grabbing teases. These were just in the past week...

- 6 things you do wrong in the shower
 - 5 kinds of pickles to avoid
 - 4 things your boyfriend should never know
 - 9 most ineffective pick-up lines
 - 7 things you are doing wrong with artichokes
 - 5 mistakes you make when loading the dishwasher
 - 5 names for a man that usually mean he's a jerk
 - 11 biggest mistakes you make at Costco
 - 6 mistakes you make with your toaster
 - 3 things you do wrong when making your bed
- Why I read these blurbs every day is baffling to me. It just gives me more stuff in my life to obsess about. Let's take a look at just a few of these:

Five things you do wrong loading the dishwasher. If you are a man and don't want to bother reading the list just load the dishwasher in front of your wife. You will quickly find out there are SEVEN things you are doing wrong.

Six things you do wrong in the shower. One of the things people do wrong is not washing their feet. With my aching back, I can't reach my feet. That's why there are seven bars of soap on the shower floor.

Three ways you make your bed incorrectly. I was surprised to find that putting the fitted sheet on top of the flat sheet was not included as a no-no. I did that once when Mary Ellen was on a business trip. In the morning, I was an hour late for work because I couldn't get out of bed.

Five pickles you need to avoid. Your wife finds you have an extra cell phone with 75 calls to a Denise. That's one pickle you are in. Avoid it.

Five names of men who are usually jerks. According to an actual survey, women claimed that certain male names often meant the guy was going to be a jerk. One of those names was Frank.

Nine pick-up lines you should never use. According to bartenders surveyed, one of the worst is: "Hi gorgeous, my name is Frank."

Okay, let's get to those asparagus. The first thing they mention is that people forget to peel the spear. Apparently, peeling makes the vegetable more edible. I am no expert, but I believe this is also true of bananas. Don't trim off too much? Also good advice for people mowing their lawns, barbers cutting hair and doctors doing circumcisions.

Don't ignore the great diversity of asparagus. There are, says Smart News, over 300 varieties including Jersey Giant, Colossal and Atlas. Sound familiar? Those are also the names of three championship wrestlers.

Finally, and I am not making this up. Don't cook your asparagus with the rubber band still on the stems. Yes, if your spears are exceptionally chewy one night, I think you have discovered the culprit.

- 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.

Doing Nothing To Attract And Retain Educators

By Keith Gambill
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Every Hoosier kid, from Michigan City to Marion and south to Madison deserves caring, qualified and committed educators. And every educator needs the support and resources to inspire imagination, curiosity and a love of learning, as well as to provide the skills students need to thrive and pursue the jobs and careers they want.

However, as demonstrated by the 2023 session of the Indiana General Assembly, the Republican supermajority is more concerned with creating problems rather than solving them.

If we are not able to attract and retain teachers and education support professionals because of low pay, lack of respect and inadequate funding, it's the students who lose out.

Too many students are in schools where decision-makers have driven away quality educators by failing to provide competitive salaries and support,

disrespecting the profession and placing extraordinary pressure on individual educators to do more and more with less and less.

Additionally, too many potential educators never go into the classroom in part because of appallingly low starting salaries and record wage gaps between teaching and professions that require similar education - gaps that get worse over the course of educators' careers.

So, what did our elected leaders do to solve these problems?

- They silenced teachers by eliminating a 50-year right to discuss students' learning conditions with school administrators.

- They threatened educators with a level-six felony and two-and-a-half years in jail if they recommend certain books to kids.

- They trampled on the ability for local schools and educators to work collaboratively with parents addressing individual students' mental health needs.

- They continued to drain

public schools of scarce funding by siphoning a billion dollars to wealthy Hoosiers so their kids can attend private school for free.

Instead of addressing Indiana's educator shortage crisis with positive solutions, Republican lawmakers ignored recommendations from educators and parents and focused on appeasing an extreme agenda designed to wage a culture war on public schools using misinformation and lies. They listened to wealthy corporate donors who gave their campaigns hundreds of thousands of dollars to privatize our schools.

This agenda may benefit their political donors, but it hurts local communities which cherish and rely on their local schools - where 90% of Hoosier kids attend. Our public schools should be what brings us together, not what divides us.

The current trajectory is deeply concerning. A strong public education system is vital for Indiana

to have an engaged citizenry and workforce prepared for future industries that aren't reliant on manufacturing. Without a vibrant, well-funded public education system, our state's economic future is at risk.

Educators will not stop fighting for our profession, our schools and our kids. We will not stand idly by as our union, our teachers and our public schools come under attack. We believe that a strong union and strong public schools are vital for the success of our students, our communities and our state. We are committed to standing up against any attempts to weaken or dismantle our public schools.

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Readers' Choice 2023 Results

🔄 BUTCH From Page A1



only one bed, all four ladies crammed into the large feather bed, which had slats supporting the mattress. Unfortunately the hotel was extremely close to the railroad tracks, and when a train rolled through that night, it shook their room so violently that the bed slats came loose. All four women ended up on the floor in one big pile... laughing hysterically!

Later on, Naomi taught at Crawfordsville, Ladoga, and Bowers before finally ending up at Darlington, where she taught for 22 years. She was married to Husted "Shoney" Peterson, and they lived in Darlington

all of their married life. Naomi liked knowing the students and their families, and she enjoyed being in church and several social organizations in town. In the 1930s, when she found out she was pregnant with her first child, she went to the principal, William Howard, and told him that she was resigning. Naomi had a good laugh when Mr. Howard expressed shock and asked, "Oh, Mrs. Peterson, is it anything that I've done?"

Naomi told me that she enjoyed teaching young children and treating them as individuals. She never used the paddle, but used other discipline tech-

niques instead and tried to use positive approaches. She always had a great sense of humor, and I will always remember the kindness she showed in helping me with a problem. She insisted that each student know all of the multiplication tables through "times 12" by the end of third grade, and that they could read at or beyond that grade level. At day's end, Mrs. Peterson always read from Laura Ingalls Wilder "Little House on the Prairie" books to the class...how special!

Naomi Peterson retired from teaching in 1962, after a career that spanned six decades. She continued to live a very active life as a member of several local organizations until her passing at the age of 99 in 1996. Thank you, Mrs. Peterson, for being our teacher and sharing your life with us. You were one of the best!

- 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.

Electrician
Winner:
 Hobson Electric
Runner Up:
 Keller Electric
Honorable Mentions:
 •Brian Purcell
 •Demoret Electric
 •Kevin McCord
 •Blake's
 •Hockersmith
 •Ratcliff
 •Don Rose
 •Goff
 •Dean Justice
Electronics Company
Winner:
 GameStop
Runner Up:
 Wal-Mart
Honorable Mentions:
 Edwards Compucycle
Employment Agency
Winner:
 Workforce Plus
Runner Up:
 Manpower
Honorable Mentions:
 ProResources
Excavating Service
Winner:
 Busse
Runner Up:
 Maxwell
Honorable Mentions:

•Douglas
 •Needham's Excavating
 •Arthur
 •Price
 •Slavens
 •Conner
 •Hamilton
 •TNT
Factory
Winner:
 Nucor
Runner Up:
 Pace Dairy
Honorable Mention:
 •Random House
 •Acuity
 •Lakeside Book
 •Midwest Bale Ties
 •Crawford Industries
 •CSI
 •International Paper
Farm Equipment Dealer
Winner:
 Bane-Walker Equipment
Runner Up:
 Booth's
Honorable Mention:
 AHW
Financial Planner/Planning Company
Winner:
 Mike Gaby
Runner Up:
 Edward Jones - Tyler Baer

Honorable Mentions:
 •CS Oats
 •Edward Jones - South
 •Joseph Marion - Joe Sadowski
 •Edward Jones - Brad Gonzo
 •Mariner Finance
Fire Department
Winner:
 Coal Creek
Runner Up:
 Crawfordsville
Honorable Mentions:
 •Walnut Twp
 •Waveland
 •Ladoga
 •Waynetown
 •Madison Twp.
Floor Covering
Store
Winner:
 Zahn's
Runner Up:
 Home Depot
Honorable Mentions:
 •Town & Country Homecenter
 •Flooring Gallery Plus
Flower Shop
Winner:
 Milligan's
Runner Up:
 •Country Hearts
Honorable Mentions:
 Just Because

🔄 WRAP

From Page A1

We annually see ballots that number in the hundreds of thousands - so many in fact that we had to find a way to automatic the counting process.

This year, rather than unveil all the winners at one time like we have in the past, we are revealing several categories a day.

Today's categories can be found inside and a quick list is also provided here.

When the final winners, runner-ups and honorable mentions are revealed, we will compile all of them into one keepsake edition that will stay posted on our website for the entire year.

Lastly, we encourage you to pay attention to the many businesses who are saying thank you with their ads. Without those supporters, local news and specifically your daily edition, wouldn't be here.

🔄 ABBY

From Page A1

year. These projects vary from year to year and are based solely on the needs in the community.

The 4-H organization is a great organization for your youth to get involved with. There are so many opportunities for them to enhance their leadership skills, become involved in the community, make new friends, and so much more. We are always accepting 4-H enrollments. If you have questions or are interested, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Extension office at (765)364-6363 or e-mail asweet@purdue.edu.

- Abby Morgan is the 4-H Youth Development Educator at the Montgomery County Purdue Extension Office. She can be reached at asweet@purdue.edu or 765-364-6363.

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