

# The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

50¢

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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**TODAY'S VERSE**

Romans 8:38 - 39 "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow - not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below - indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." (NLT)

**FACES OF MONTGOMERY**

People who call our community their own.



One of our roving photographers caught Cameron and Cooper outside and having fun and the boys were nice enough to offer a smile! Got a great photo of your loved one? E-mail it to news@thepaper24-7.com along with the pertinent info (and your contact information so we can reach you if we have questions).

**THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** Tickets are still available for Chamber members for the Sept. 7 dinner. Although the event is approaching a sell-out there were still some tickets left as of press time. Contact the Crawfordsville-Montgomery County Chamber for more information..

**2** Every few minutes, an underground utility line is damaged because someone began digging without first contacting 811. Customers should contact 811 to request that local utility companies mark the approximate location of buried electric, natural gas, water, telecommunications, and cable lines in the designated project space and minimize the risk of injury or disruption of utility service. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, requires contacting 811 by phone or online to notify utility providers of planned digging and to allow for marking of underground utilities before digging. Striking a single line can cause repair costs, inconvenient service outages and fines, severe injuries and even death. The depth of utility lines can vary for several reasons, such as erosion, previous digging projects and uneven surfaces.

**3** The Arts Federation (TAF) is looking to hire a full-time Programs Officer to oversee its nationally regarded programs and exhibition series. TAF's work is centered around increasing inclusivity, diversity, equity, and access and these values permeate through every facet of the organization's culture.

**BTN**

By The Numbers, a look at what's in the news . . . by the numbers. These are just numbers, not suggestions that they mean more or less than what they are. We do not suggest that one number is connected to another. These are simply facts with no extraneous details, bias or slanted reporting. To borrow (and perhaps mangle a bit) a quote from legendary fictional detective Joe Friday, it's just the numbers, ma'am!

**\$7.5 Billion**

"Indiana pulls more than \$7.5 billion in income tax. What is her plan to replace this revenue? From mask mandates to progressive government offices, Crouch has willingly embraced Gov. Holcomb's liberal agenda. Nice conservative talking points, but no conservative solutions," he tweeted.

**10% - 15% Savings**

Crouch's 'axe the tax' website called for a "reasonably necessary" reserve fund, specifically calling out the \$3 billion surplus. But she declined to say whether that amount was too much. It falls in the 10-15% savings range traditionally recommended by fiscal experts.

**\$44.5 Billion**

The latest state budget totaled \$44.5 billion, or more than \$22 billion in expenditures annually and set aside nearly \$3 billion in reserve accounts to cover rainy days, tuition support shortfalls or Medicaid spending gaps.

**From \$6 Billion to \$3 Billion**

"I support reducing taxes on Hoosiers and look forward to working with the commission to do so in a way that does not endanger public safety, students, and our roads," Doden said. "I'm cognizant that the state surplus was already halved from \$6 billion to less than \$3 billion in the last two years. I'm concerned that the "axe the tax" plan axes resources to help taxpayers in our small towns and hometowns plagued by fentanyl and mental health crises, which will be my number one priority as Governor."

**Celebrating 25 Years!**

The Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District is celebrating 25 years of 4th Grade Field Days. Field Days are held in Darlington each August and every 4th grader in the county is invited to attend. Students rotate through eight stations and learn about a variety of topics including water quality, wetlands, pollinators, and forestry. There are educational talks and hands-on activities that aim to jumpstart students' interest in the environment and protecting our natural resources. The event spans two days each year and requires over 25 people and hundreds of volunteer hours to run the event.

**\$900**

Qualified candidates may be of any major and must be at least a college sophomore. Recent college graduates, as well as graduate and law school students, are also encouraged to apply. Positions are open to Indiana residents, as well as nonresidents who attend an Indiana college or university. Interns earn a \$900 biweekly stipend and benefit from scholarship and academic credit opportunities, professional development, community involvement and networking.

**\$2.8 Billion**

Indiana does have \$2.8 billion in outstanding debt, however, according to McGoff's slides. The state pays more than \$100 million in debt service annually, although that's expected to drop to \$20 million in 2030 and even lower in 2033.

**\$3.3 Million**

Five Indiana counties are choosing to give up a combined maximum of \$3.3 million in enhanced public health funding from the state in 2024, with the bulk of that funding coming from Johnson County, which qualified for up to \$2.1 million in funds.

**The Daily Almanac**

**Sunrise/Sunset**  
RISE: 7:10 a.m.  
SET: 8:27 p.m.

**High/Low Temperatures**  
High: 79 °F  
Low: 58 °F

**Today is...**

- National Bow Tie Day
- Red Wine Day
- Radio Commercial Day

**What Happened On This Day**

- 1963 Martin Luther King Makes His "I Have a Dream" Speech. The historic speech that was a call to end racism in the United States was given in front of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington, a political rally organized by human and political rights groups. Over 200,000 people gathered in Washington DC to demand jobs and equality for African-Americans.
- 1937 Toyota Motor Corporation is Formed. The car company was first founded in 1933 as a subsidiary of the Toyoda Automatic Loom Works, Ltd. The division was headed by Kiichiro Toyoda, the son of the Toyota founder, Sakichi Toyoda.
- 1845 First Issue of Scientific American hits the newsstands. The science magazine was founded by American inventor and artist Rufus M. Porter. The magazine began as a weekly newsletter and is now the oldest continuously published magazine in the United States.

**Births On This Day**

- 1965 Shania Twain Canadian singer-songwriter
- 1749 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe German writer, scientist

**Deaths On This Day**

- 1987 John Huston American director
- 1955 Emmett Till American murder victim

**HONEST HOOSIER**

On this day in 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King gave his famous "I have a dream" speech. Sure seems like a lot of folks are trying to kill that dream today.



**INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION**

Casey Williams.....A3  
Classifieds.....A3  
Carrie Classon.....A4

**THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

**Say Cheese!**

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

**TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

If you have bad breath, try flossing your teeth regularly. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Catch his column each week in The Paper and online at www.thepaper24-7.com.



**TODAY'S QUOTE**

"Courage is being the only one who knows how terrified you are."  
-Tom Clancy

**TODAY'S JOKE**

How do cats stop fighting?  
They hiss and make up.

**OBITUARIES**

**ALLENE VIRGINIA (SHOFNER) PLUNKETT**

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



**7 DAY FORECAST**

<b>80</b> BECOMING SUNNY	<b>58/79</b> SUNNY AND WET	<b>56/82</b> SUNNY	<b>61/78</b> MOSTLY SUNNY	<b>55/80</b> COOL MORNING	<b>58/85</b> SUNNY WARMER	<b>66/88</b> MOSTLY SUNNY
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

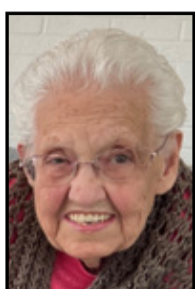


## OBITUARIES

### Allene Virginia (Shofner) Plunkett

September 6, 1926, Friday, August 25, 2023

Allene Virginia (Shofner) Plunkett, age 96 of Crawfordsville, went to meet her heavenly father on Friday, August 25, 2023 surrounded by her loving family.



She was born on September 6, 1926 in Louisville, Kentucky to Jesse William Shofner and Parthena Ermine (Hutchinson) Shofner. She grew up in Louisville and went to school in Atherton, Kentucky. In 1947 she moved to New Ross with her parents.

Allene was married to Melvin J. Plunkett on May 5, 1950 at the North Salem Church of God. Melvin and Allene met at a cook out at a friend's house. He preceded her in death on June 14, 2000. Allene worked at the L&N Railroad in Louisville until moving to Indiana. After marrying Melvin, she helped on the family farm and was a stay-at-home mom until they moved to Jamestown, then she worked at Ingress Plastines and sold real estate at Melvin Plunkett Realty with her husband. She was a member of Crosspoint Fellowship Church in Crawfordsville.

Allene enjoyed car rides, beautiful sunsets, chocolate ice cream and milkshakes, reading the bible, visiting the horse farm to see Valeska, and being with her family.

She is survived by her children, Phyllis (Todd) Stevens of Jamestown, Anna (Robert) Tunin of Crawfordsville, and Patrick (Becky Keppel) Plunkett of St Paul; a daughter-in-law, Diana Plunkett of Jamestown; 12 grandchildren, Sandy (Jeffrey) Kaufman, Brian (Rachel) Plunkett, Jason (Brittany) Plunkett, Dustin (Amanda) Plunkett, Rebecca (Dennis) McKinney, Tamera (Gary) Williams, Josh (Erin) Plunkett, Amanda (Jeremy) Simon, Matt (Katie) Tunin, Ross Tunin, Ana Tunin, and Jesse Tunin; 20 great grandchildren, Hannah, Rachel, Brady, Grant, Gabriel, Caleb, Lauren, Cole, Trevor, Carson, Brantly, Blake, Jake, Zach, Emma, Isaiah, Jonah, Haley, Mekenzie, and Madison; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Melvin; a daughter, Nancy (Charles) Riley; a son, Michael Plunkett; 8 siblings, Helen Shofner, Alexander Shofner, Mary Agnes Rose, Manley Raymond Shofner, Jesse William Shofner Jr, Evert Eston Shofner, Earnest Allen Shofner, Carrol Fredrick Shofner; a granddaughter, Rachel Riley; and a great granddaughter, Caitlyn Simon.

Visitation will be Sanders Priebe Funeral Care, 315 S Washington St, in Crawfordsville on Tuesday, August 29, 2023 from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm and on Wednesday, August 30, 2023 from 10:00am till the time of the funeral service at 11:00 am with Rev. Tony Raley officiating. Burial will follow at New Ross Cemetery. Share memories and condolences online at [www.SandersFuneral-Care.com](http://www.SandersFuneral-Care.com).

## Long, Sheldon, Stuff And Lawlazuki Win By Two

The Senior Golf League braved the hot conditions last week and the team of Jim Long, Bill Sheldon, John Stull and Abdulali Lawlazuki fired an 11-under part to win by two.

Second- and third-place teams both shot 9-under. Second was Dave Hart,

Terry Reed, Pat Henry and Alan Personett with Scott Baker, Steve Snyder, Jay Furnia and Sonny Shelton third.

Denny Wilson (No. 11) and Dale Wilson (No. 17) won the proxys. And Fred Phelps recorded the long drive for an 80-and-up senior.

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If you would like to display your art please contact:  
**Linda Weaver** (Art Walk Chair) at  
[CrawfordsvilleArtWalk@gmail.com](mailto:CrawfordsvilleArtWalk@gmail.com) by September 10.

Learn more on Facebook by checking out  
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Thanks for reading The Paper!





Photos courtesy of Subaru

## All-New 2024 Subaru Impreza Rs, Crosstrek Sport Make You Turn Around

### 2024 Subaru Impreza RS

My daughter and I are finishing our avocado toast when she asks if we can go to the bookstore. When a nine-year-old wants to put down screens and read, parents dare not resist. But since we're in the 2024 Subaru Impreza RS, I suggest we take the long way. She can pick the music. Giggles and nods abound. While she's dialing in "The 10 Spot" I crank the RS onto the 1465 on-ramp in north Indianapolis and watch her smile grow.

Back in the spring, I drove the RS, based on the redesigned Impreza hatchback, through California wine country near Paso Robles. Its solid structure, crisp responses, and practical cabin made great first impressions. Back home in Indiana, I wondered if it would be as enjoyable on roads I know well whether strafing cornfields or taking my daughter to piano lessons.

Back in the café, I'm reminded how this all-new model does not look dramatically different from the outgoing Impreza. Sure, the RS package drives between Sport and WRX, but all Imprezas are distinguished by wider grilles and more muscular fender forms. I especially like the 18" dark alloy wheels, black trim, and

optional Oasis Blue paint exclusive to RS (though, ours is red). Notice RS logos that incorporate horizontally opposed piston heads in reference to Subaru's Boxer engines. It's all very cool.

While this car looks sporty, it is also very practical. The body shell is shared with the Crosstrek, making it adept at supporting active lifestyles with a wide hatch, fold-down rear seats, and crossbar mounting points on the roof for kayaks and bicycles. Heated cloth seats with red trim and alloy pedals add allure. Technology is enhanced by a new tablet-sized infotainment touchscreen plus wireless Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, and console charging. Crank up Harman Kardon audio. Safety is enhanced by a new three-camera EyeSight system to better employ automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, and new crash-avoidance steering.

The RS employs Subaru's 2.5-liter "Boxer" four-cylinder engine developing 182 horsepower and 178 lb.-ft. of torque. It connects to standard all-wheel-drive through a continuously variable automatic transmission, which I don't love, but it can be paddle-shifted through eight pre-set

### 2024 Subaru Impreza RS Five-passenger, AWD Hatchback

Powertrain: 2.5-liter I4, CVT  
Output: 182hp/178 lb.-ft. torque  
Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind  
Wheels f/r: 18"/18" alloy  
Brakes f/r: disc/disc  
Fuel economy: 26/33 mpg city/hwy  
Assembly: Gunma, Japan  
Base/As-tested price: \$22,795/\$28,975

ratios. There's no manual. Fuel economy is a frugal 26/33-MPG city highway.

As we trade the comfortable ride of I65 for undulating two-lanes connecting Lebanon with Westfield, plus a couple of detours to flex the chassis, I rediscover the joy I felt in California. This car's suspension is near magical in its ability to go from a compliant commuter to one that grabs curves by the scruff. Tip into a corner and you notice how the horizontally-opposed engine keeps weight balanced low in the chassis, torque-vectoring all-wheel-drive gently rotates the car to sharpen corners, and steering provides precise feedback. It does very sports car things without any penalty during

### LIKES

- Multi-talented chassis
- Tech-laden interior
- Standard AWD

daily use.

It's said that if you don't turn around and look at your car as you walk away, you're driving the wrong car. As we walk into the bookstore – over sixty miles later – I look back. The RS' crossover utility is matched with sassy style and competent performance – an uncompromising driver's car that enjoys a little backpacking. Imprezas start at a very affordable \$22,795 and rising to just \$28,975 for our RS.

\*\*\*

### 2024 Subaru Crosstrek Sport

While in California for the Impreza RS debut, we also had a chance to preview the first-ever Crosstrek Wilderness all tarted up in a sportier suit and fortified for off-road duty. Since then, I reviewed the Crosstrek Premium with the 2.0-liter engine. By stepping up to the Crosstrek Sport with the larger 2.5-liter four-cylinder, we also source our fly ride from Lafayette, Indiana.

Jack up the Impreza for an impressive 8.7" of ground clearance, add gold trim, fortify bodysides with gray plastic, and

### DISLIKES

- Tame body design
- No manual transmission
- Marginal power styling

you essentially have the Crosstrek Sport. Its 18" black wheels are shod in off-road tires, and it has a roof rack pre-installed, but off-road is where the two cars diverge.

Behind a more extreme black plastic grille is the same 2.5-liter four-cylinder generating 182 horsepower and 178 lb.-ft. of torque, but Dual-function X-Mode allows the Crosstrek to automatically creep down inclines and better handle mud and deep snow. Fuel economy is also the same frugal 26/33-MPG city/highway as the Impreza RS. Unfortunately, drivers are also stuck with the high-revving continuously-variable transmission with paddle shifters.

Moving inside, the Crosstrek Sport is dressed with cloth seats – heated in front – with gold instead of red accents. The large tablet-style touchscreen, dual-zone automatic climate control, power sunroof, and wireless phone charger are included. Listen to the six-speaker audio system, though, and you'll pray to Subaru Gods for the superior Harman Kardon audio system. Subaru's new



CASEY WILLIAMS  
Auto Reviews

three-camera EyeSight system keeps everybody safe.

So, should you buy an Impreza RS or a Crosstrek Sport? If you really want to swish through two-lane backroads for weekend joy, buy the RS. I like both cars, but for most of us, the added ground clearance and crossover utility will win the day. However, there's one more thing to consider. While the Crosstrek Sport hails from Lafayette, Indiana, the RS is built in Japan with the other Imprezas. Given a base price of \$24,995, rising to \$32,210 as-tested in Sport trim, Crosstrek offers strong value against the Chevy Trax, Jeep Renegade, Honda HR-V, and Buick Envista.

Storm Forward!

*-Send comments to Casey at [AutoCasey@aol.com](mailto:AutoCasey@aol.com); follow him on YouTube @ AutoCasey.*

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# Conjunctivitis “Pink Eye” Causes And Treatments



**JOHN R. ROBERTS, M.D.**  
Montgomery  
Medicine

Now that schools are back in session, the incidence of “pink eye” will likely start to pick up. This common condition accounts

for over 30 percent of patient visits for eye problems. Conjunctivitis is the medical term for “pink eye.” The conjunctiva is the continuous connective tissue membrane that covers the inside of the eyelids. It then folds back on itself to cover the front of the eyeball up to the edge of the cornea where the white part of the eye (sclera) meets the colored part of the eye (iris).

The purpose of the conjunctiva is to provide a barrier to keep infectious organisms from entering sensitive eye tissues. Conjunctivitis occurs when there is an irritation or breakdown of this defensive layer, a change in the normal organisms inhabiting the eye, or trauma that breaches the membrane.

The most common causes of conjunctivitis are bacteria, viruses, allergies, fungi, parasites, and chemicals. These irritants cause varying degrees of redness, discharge, irritation and perhaps even pain on exposure to bright light (photophobia).

It can be difficult to determine the exact cause of conjunctivitis unless a doctor has special equipment. Ophthalmologists and optometrists use special microscopes called slit lamps that can help differentiate the cause. A slit lamp is the instrument that you rest your chin on while the doctor sweeps a bright light across your eye.

Doctors without slit lamps can sometimes get clues to the cause of

the inflammation. For instance, people who have had a recent cold are more likely to be suffering from a viral conjunctivitis. Viruses are also more common from early spring through late fall. Bacterial conjunctivitis is more common in the winter and spring. Patients can usually recall an exposure to something that might cause a chemical or allergic conjunctivitis.

The symptoms of conjunctivitis can be quite variable. Most causes result in some type of eye discharge that results in matting of the eyes, particularly in the morning when the eyelids may stick together. Patients may describe cloudy vision and itching, burning or a gritty “dust in the eyes” sensation.

Bacterial conjunctivitis usually comes on fairly rapidly, has minimal pain, and may have some associated itching. There is often thick discharge that may be yellow or green. Staph and Strep are the usual causative organisms. More serious bacterial organisms include Chlamydia and Neisseria gonorrhoeae, the organism responsible for gonorrhea. These latter two bacteria can lead to severe scarring and blindness, particularly in infants.

Viral conjunctivitis typically starts more slowly than bacterial types and is usually painless. The discharge is generally more watery and does not result in as much matting of the eyelids. It usually lasts a week or longer and is transmitted like the common cold – through sneezing, coughing, touching infected surfaces and also through contact with contaminated swimming pools.

Adenoviruses are the most common cause of viral conjunctivitis. Varicella virus, the virus that causes shingles, can cause very serious eye infections. It can infect the surface of the cornea

and cause scarring and loss of vision.

Allergic conjunctivitis is also very common. The hallmark is itching along with watery discharge and burning. There is often associated sneezing and usually a history of exposure to some known allergen.

Treatment for conjunctivitis is based on the cause. Most cases will resolve on their own with time and don’t have any lasting effects. However, most people don’t want to wait it out.

Since it is often difficult to tell whether the infectious agent is bacterial or viral, most doctors choose to treat a presumed infection with antibiotic eye drops or ointments. Most patients prefer drops since they don’t interfere with vision. Ointments are more soothing and allow the medication to be in contact with the conjunctiva longer, but can temporarily cloud vision.

Local treatment with cool compresses can also be soothing. Most schools and daycares prefer children to be treated for at least 24 hours before they return.

Allergic conjunctivitis can be an ongoing problem as long as the offending agent comes into contact with the eye. The person should avoid the allergen if possible. In addition to cool compresses, over the counter antihistamine eye drops such as Naphcon A (naphazoline/pheniramine) can also help reduce symptoms.

There are steps you can take to help prevent conjunctivitis. Wash your hands frequently. You can also use hand sanitizer, but it is not as effective. Also, don’t share eye drops or washcloths with people who have colds or eye infections.

- Dr. John Roberts is a retired member of the Franciscan Physician Network specializing in Family Medicine.

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On Saturday, September 16th, Athens Arts will host the opening of:

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The evening will be an art, music, and culinary pleasure event! We will celebrate the artists and announce the award winners of the juried exhibition.

Athens Arts is a tremendous asset to downtown Crawfordsville, the county, and the community bringing vibrant opportunities to engage the community in art and celebrating creativity! We appreciate your support and advocacy for the arts in our community. The national exhibition needs monetary award donors. **This is where you come in!**

Your monetary support is vital in keeping the gallery open for local artists to share their talents, sell their art, and bring visual arts to the community. We thank you! For this special exhibition, we would like to extend the opportunity for you to be part of the [untitled]3 celebration! Athens looks forward to allowing you to choose the award winner within levels. Athens Arts’ board and artists appreciate your continued support. This prize money will go a long way to celebrate the artists!

Kindly fill out this form and return to be received no later than September 6, 2023.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of award donation\*:  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$35\* \_\_\_\_\_ \$50\* \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500

\*Donations may be combined with other awards - award would be listed as: award given by ZXY company and CBA family

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3. (circle) YES NO  
Do you want to come to the gallery and choose the art piece for your award? (date/time TBA, Sept 14 or 15) A representative of Athens will contact you to set up a time.

Please make checks payable to Athens Arts.  
Mail this completed invoice with the check to:  
PO Box 207, Crawfordsville, IN 47933. Attention: Diana McCormick, Director.  
If you prefer to pay by card, please contact the Director.  
Deadline to be included in the program is September 6, 2023



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# Finding The Pattern In All The Chaos



**CARRIE CLASSON**  
The Postscript

It's seven minutes after 10 p.m., and the usual ruckus ensues.

My husband, Peter, is wearing earplugs. He is in the habit of doing this when we're staying in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, because our little apartment is right in the center of town and, like all the homes in San Miguel, there is no air conditioning because it is cool this high in the mountains.

But the last few weeks have been warm, and it's nice to have fresh air. So we open the sliding door to our little balcony, and we hear everything that happens on our street.

The occasional truck rattles down the cobblestones. The street is too narrow for large vehicles, so it's only a few small trucks and folks getting home late from work.

We are surrounded by churches in all directions, and church bells ring

early most mornings. Visitors are mystified, trying to understand when they ring and for how long. I suspect this is not, in fact, an exact science. Someone has to climb all the way to the top of the bell tower to ring the bells, and I guess anyone willing to take that job should be able to ring them as long as they like.

Firecrackers explode—sometimes in the evenings, but frequently in the mornings when the church bells ring. The fireworks have to do with the celebration of various saints and events on the religious calendar and so, while they are startling, I respect that they are part of the culture, part of living in the center of this very old city in the middle of Mexico.

But, usually, just before we go to sleep, the dogs across the street start barking like crazy, and even Peter's earplugs do no good.

This is the thing that used to irritate me the most.

I would be almost asleep, and there would

be this terrific yapping—loud and persistent and very high-pitched. I assumed it was random, and I was irritated that the owner didn't do something about this nightly nuisance.

It was Peter who finally recognized the pattern.

At roughly the same time every night, we hear a motorcycle come down the narrow cobblestone road. We hear it stop, and as soon as it does, two little dogs start barking. We hear the sound of a metal garage door open, and the barking increases. Then we hear the motorcycle start up again and the garage door close behind. That's when the barking reaches a fever pitch.

Peter says, "Daddy's home."

I wondered if he was right, so I started listening. Sure enough, it happened at the same time every night. Occasionally, Daddy got home an hour early, but generally, it was just after 10 p.m.

Motorcycle stops. Barking starts. Motorcycle starts. Barking goes crazy.

And who can blame these two unseen dogs for losing their little minds once a night—the most exciting time of the day—when Daddy finally gets home?

Of course, we don't know what happens. We don't even know which house the little dogs live in. But I imagine Daddy makes dinner for them when he gets home. He probably tells them what good dogs they are. I can tell from their excitement it is a happy household with these two dogs and Daddy.

And so now, in addition to the church bells and the firecrackers and the occasional rattling truck, I listen for those two excited dogs. They no longer annoy me. I imagine their anticipation—the motor stopping, the motor starting and finally the long-awaited moment.

Daddy's home!  
Till next time,  
Carrie

- Carrie Classon is a freelance writer and author and lives in New Mexico. Her columns appear each week.

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