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Have a very Merry Christmas!

➔ TODAY'S VERSE

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.

➔ FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Santa and The Paper are ready for the season. The Paper is giving away free tickets to the Christmas Gift + Hobby Show at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, and Santa, aka Gary Behling, just snagged a couple! Want to win your own? Just take a selfie of you with our front page (online or print) and e-mail it to news@thepaper24-7.com. Once you see your smiling face on our front page, you've won! Be sure to include your name and phone number - and hey, if you'd like to say something nice about The Paper, we wouldn't mind!

➔ THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 The Paper has an immediate opening for someone who is good with computers and creative to help build our daily pages. The job pays between \$12 and \$15 an hour, depending on experience. If interested, please send resume to timmons@thepaper24-7.com.

2 Monroe Lake will once again kick off the new year with its First Day Trail Run and Walk at Fairfax State Recreation Area in Bloomington, on Monday, Jan. 1 at 3:30 p.m. This is an untimed, noncompetitive run/walk. Participants complete a 3.7-mile, 2.9-mile, or 1.3-mile course before ringing in the new year with tapping the bell as they cross the finish line. Advance registration is \$15 per person and available online only through Dec. 30 at bit.ly/monroefirstday. Same-day registration, cash or check only, will be available at the Bay View Shelter inside Fairfax SRA from 2:15 to 3:15 p.m.

3 Looking for something to do on Dec. 9? Then you might want to head over to Russellville for the Second Annual Russellville Small Business Market Holiday Showcase. Things kick off at 10 a.m. and wrap up around 4 p.m. There will be more than 50 vendors offering a variety of items, as well as plenty of things to do for both grown-ups and little ones. Santa will even make an appearance and photo prints will be available for a low price.

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Butch Is Running For President!!!!



BUTCH DALE
Columnist

Fellow Americans, friends and neighbors, illegal immigrants...I am hereby announcing my intention to throw my hat in the ring. I want to be your next President. After examining the qualifications of all of the 46 previous U.S. Presidents, I have reached the conclusion that our country certainly is the land of opportunity...anyone, yes, ANYONE can be elected to lead our nation. So why not me?

We have problems...the border, inflation, terrorism, race relations, energy, drugs, China, Russia...the list goes on and on. It's one worry after another. And now our country's biggest concern at present--Taylor Swift's romance with Travis Kelce. How will that turn out? I can't sleep at night just thinking about it.

Let's face facts, the President doesn't do a whole lot on his own. Take Joe Biden for instance. He is like the scarecrow in the Wizard of Oz... "And my head I'd be scratchin', while my thoughts were busy hatchin'...if I only had a brain." You see, Presidents appoint others to do all the work. The problem right now is that OI' Joe selected people based on gender, race, politics, and

connections...instead of qualifications. Let's face the facts. These people have failed to deliver. As your next President, I promise to appoint people who will get the job done! Here are my picks...

Secretary of Defense....Clint Eastwood. (Yes, I realize that Clint is in his 90s. In his last movie, he looked like a 98 lb. homeless person on meth. But not to worry, he still has his Smith & Wesson 44 magnum handy. "Go ahead, make my day!")

Secretary of Agriculture.... Willie Nelson (as a special consultant for marijuana cultivation, not only can Willie help farmers increase their profits, he can also keep the pot-smoking public just as dumb as ever.)

Secretary of Homeland Security...Chuck Norris (We need an expert to give instructions to the U.S. Border Patrol on more effective kick and karate chop techniques...NOT to illegal immigrants, but to all smug, liberal, anti-semitic, Hamas-loving politicians who hate America.)

Secretary of Health...Kim Kardashian (not too smart, but she looks pretty healthy to me.)

Secretary of the Treasury... It was difficult selecting one person, so I am appointing a committee of four...Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates, Elon Musk, and Mark Zuckerberg... (The U.S. is \$34 trillion in debt. These

four alone can pay it off, and still have plenty left over...inflation problem solved!)

Secretary of Education...Fred Rogers and Big Bird (Would you be mine, could you be mine, won't you be my neighbor? Howdy neighbor!)

White House Press Secretary....Dolly Parton (for two good reasons...any questions?)

I would also make sure that various current politicians and celebrity "political sidekick hacks" are not kicked out on the street without a job. I will help them obtain a profession to which they are better suited, such as.... Jane Fonda (ambassador to North Vietnam), Whoopie Goldberg and women on The View (can have their own comedy show...OOPS, they already have that!) Bernie Sanders (financial advisor to Vladimir Putin), Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (bartender at Hamas Bar & Grill), Barack Obama--(community organizer on Martha's Vineyard and part-time carnival barker), Michelle Obama (center for New York Knicks), Donald Trump (hair stylist for Howdy Doody), Melania Trump (my personal maid...NOTE: I will have to get my wife's permission first), Nancy Pelosi (centerfold for Mad Magazine), Maxine Waters (centerfold for Dog Journal magazine), John Kerry (Lurch on the TV remake of The Add-

➔See BUTCH Page A4

Gifts For The HoliDIY: Expand Your Gift Giving Dollar



MONICA NAGELE
Purdue Extension Office

When the holiday season rolls around, many family budgets become strained. With a long list of family and friends, finding enough money to go around may be challenging. To help reduce the stress of this holiday season, try Doing It Yourself (DIY) instead of purchasing them. Here are some things to consider when doing it yourself.

Is it feasible?

Consider first if this is the next Pinterest fail or the perfect homemade gift. Make sure to keep it simple and don't try to do something that you don't know how to do, like arm knitting. It looks so easy right?

Is it Safe?

When making gifts from the kitchen, food safety is crucial. Always buy fresh new ingredients, because you never know

how long the gift may sit in the recipient's pantry. Be cautious of allergies such as; milk, soy, peanuts, tree nuts, shellfish, wheat, and eggs. Label with the date made, list of ingredients, and storage and handling instructions. If you choose to give a home preserved food be sure that a USDA tested recipe was followed. Foods made with gelatin or Jell-O cannot be stored at room temperature because the sugar content is not high enough to slow growth of bacteria. Breads and cakes baked in canning jars with lids tightened on are unsafe. You may package ingredients in canning jars and ensure they are baked in a traditional dish.

Is it Budget friendly?

Make homemade mixes in a jar. Mixes for soups and cookies are popular gift items that are fairly inexpensive to make. For example, make a decorative hot chocolate snowman (directions below) for just \$2.78 per gift compared to a \$10 candle or hand lotion.

- Use 3 baby food jars to create your snowman. In the bottom jar fill it with your favorite mints, like peppermints or Andes mints. The middle jar

is for your favorite kind of hot chocolate mix. Save money by making your own. The top jar is filled with marshmallows. Decorating is free to your imagination.

- Create gift baskets. For the family member who loves movies, make a "night-in" basket. Get a large bowl for popcorn to use as the container. Add packaged popcorn and a coupon for a free movie rental.
- For parents with young children, provide a homemade coupon good for free baby-sitting. Other ideas include coupons for helping walk the dog, painting or cleaning.
- Fill a holiday mug with packets of flavored tea, hot cocoa or coffee for those who enjoy warm beverages.

Homemade gifts aren't just good for the pocket book they are good for keeping everyone in the holiday spirit. Most importantly have fun because the possibilities are endless!

- Monica Nagele is the County Extension Director and educator of health and human science for the Montgomery County Purdue Extension.

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 7:55 a.m.
SET: 5:23 p.m.

+ -

High/Low Temperatures
High: 58 °F
Low: 42 °F



Today is...

- National Brownie Day
- Start of Hanukkah
- Official Lost and Found Day



What Happened On This Day

- 1991 Romanian Constitution comes into force. Passed through a referendum, the Constitution marked a return to democracy for Romania after 42 years of Communist rule.
- 1987 First Intifada begins. The Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territories began after an Israeli army truck attacked a car and killed 4 Palestinians. The Intifada ended in 1991 after the Madrid Conference.
- 1941 U.S. enters WWII. One day after the Japanese Imperial Navy launched an attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States declared war on Japan and entered World War II.



Births On This Day

- 1953 Norman Finkelstein American academic, author, activist
- 1943 Jim Morrison American singer-songwriter, poet

Deaths On This Day

- 2004 Dimebag Darrell American guitarist, songwriter
- 1980 John Lennon English singer-songwriter, musician, producer

➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Smoking does not relieve stress - it actually reinforces it. 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.



➔ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

Kenny Thompson.....A3
Classifieds.....A3
Dick Wolfsie.....A4

➔ OBITUARIES
None

➔ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Community Forum:
Mayor Barton will be hosting his December Community Forum on Thursday, December 14th from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Mayor's Office. This will be the Mayor's 127th community forum. This event is open to the public to come ask questions, discuss concerns, and learn more about anything regarding the city.

➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall."
-Larry Wilde

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

What do you call Rudolph with lots of snow in his ears? Anything you want, he can't hear you!

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



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Ivy Tech Community College-Lafayette Announces New Vice Chancellor Of Workforce And Economic Development

Lafayette is thrilled to announce the appointment of Brooklyn Burton as the new Vice Chancellor of Workforce and Economic Development for the Lafayette campus. In her new role, Burton will play a crucial part in advancing workforce and economic development in the communities served by Ivy Tech.

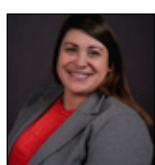
Brooklyn Burton brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of success to her new position. Prior to this appointment, she demonstrated exceptional leadership in workforce development, helping to secure over \$8.5 million in grant funding through strategic partnerships with Greater Lafayette Commerce and Skyepack. Her efforts supported students in grades 7-12 across the West Central region, with initiatives such as the 3E and the 1008 Student Learning Recovery grants.

Under Burton's guidance, Ivy Tech launched the Ivy + Career Link department, serving a 9-county region with a focus on skills training, work-and-learn opportunities, and career coaching. Her instrumental role in scaling up the Rapid Re-employment for Advanced Manufacturing Positions

(RAMP) initiative resulted in over \$13.5 million in funding, leading to the successful training and placement of over 1,500 participants in advanced manufacturing positions.

Burton's dedication to workforce development is further underscored by her impactful tenure at Region 4 Workforce Board and the Purdue Research Foundation. As Project Manager for Ready to Work and America's Promise Job-Driven Grants at Region 4, Burton orchestrated the entire lifecycle of these initiatives, showcasing her ability to navigate complex collaborations. Her experiences at the Purdue Research Foundation, where she provided high-level executive support and contributed to the foundation's overall success, highlight her strategic vision and collaborative approach.

Burton's appointment began on Monday, November 20th, and Ivy Tech looks forward to the continued positive impact she will bring to workforce development initiatives



BROOKLYN BURTON

'Tis The Season For Scams: 5 Ways To Protect You And Your Family

(Statepoint) In today's hyper-connected digital universe, cyber criminals have more information than ever before, with the ability to reach you through unsecure public Wi-Fi, your email inbox, via text message, and more.

According to a Scam and Robocall Report from T-Mobile, Americans lost an estimated \$39.5 billion to phone scams in 2022. Lucky for you, there are several ways to protect and safeguard your personal information to help prevent scammers from scammin' this holiday season.

1. Avoid Public USB Ports: Traveling by plane this holiday season? The FCC warns that cyber criminals can download malware to public USB charging ports to gain access to your information. Prevent this by using an AC power outlet instead.

2. Beware of Charity Scams: It's the season of giving, but the FCC warns many cyber crim-

inals take advantage by creating fake charities staged as real nonprofit organizations to gain access to your payment information. Woof. To prevent this, don't click on suspicious email or text links and verify the organization is registered at the National Association of State Charity Officials or Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance before donating this holiday season.

3. Screen Your Calls: Scammers are continuously upping their game, with total robocall attempts up 75% from 2021 to 2022. Detecting whether an incoming call is a potential scam isn't always easy, but T-Mobile's Scam Shield app makes it simple. Free to all T-Mobile customers, Scam Shield enhances your scam-blocking protections so you can say goodbye to scam calls. In 2022 alone, Scam Shield identified or blocked 41.5 billion scam calls in the T-Mobile network. That's a whopping 1,317 calls identified or

blocked every second. With Scam Shield, when the network detects a potential scam call, it is flagged and displayed as "Scam Likely" on your device. Customers who want even more protection can download the Scam Shield app or dial #662# from their T-Mobile smartphone to enable Scam Block, which automatically blocks any calls that match the database of scam calls. Take that, tricksters. To learn more, visit t-mobile.com/scamshield.

4. Shop Smarter Online: According to Statista, 57% of holiday shoppers plan to use their smartphone to make holiday purchases this year, and scammers are onto them, ramping up activity during the two weeks before Christmas. To minimize any cyber Grinches trying to steal your personal info, monitor your financial accounts regularly for suspicious charges and sign up for your bank or credit card company's text or email notifications

to stay on top of fraudulent activity.

5. Use Secure Tools: Safeguard your online accounts with Multi-Factor Authentication, which requires users to enter two different kinds of information to log in, like a password and one-time PIN code. It's like having a digital bouncer to make sure only you get into your accounts. Another protection is a password manager, giving you the ability to securely store passwords across multiple platforms and websites. The tool also provides an autofill password function and a new password generator.

To learn more about the industry's top fraud trends and how to stay protected from scammers year-round, check out T-Mobile's Scam Shield Report found at t-mobile.com/news.

While cyber threats are on the rise, you can sleigh scams by staying vigilant and incorporating these best practices into your life this holiday season.

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Part 8 Of A Series Celebrating 100 Seasons Of Purdue Football At Ross-Ade Stadium



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

With these words, “we’re here to win a championship,” Joe Tiller brought hope to a fan base who wanted to forget the failures of coaches Fred Akers and Jim Colletto during the first six years of the 1990s.

Every Saturday in 1997 seemed like Christmas as the coach’s wife, Arnette, said at the time. From beating Notre Dame on national TV in his second game to an eventual 9-3 finish and an Alamo Bowl victory against Oklahoma State, Tiller became a hero in West Lafayette.

His promise of bringing a championship to Purdue would come true in 2000, with the foundation of that Big Ten title team coming from the Big Ten’s “worst recruiting class” in 1997 according to the experts.

That class included a Maxwell Award winner (Drew Brees), the first John Mackey Award winner as the nation’s best tight end (Tim Stratton) and three future NFL players in wide receiver Vinny Sutherland, linebacker/defensive end Akin Ayodele and defensive back Billy Gustin.

Best Ross-Ade games of the 1990s

Sept. 12, 1992: Purdue 41, No. 17 California 14 – The Boilermakers scored on their first six possessions and forced three turnovers on the way to a shocking 38-3 halftime

lead. “The first half was probably as perfect a football game as I’ve been around in a long time,” head coach Jim Colletto said.

Arlee Conners and Jeff Hill each scored two touchdowns in the first half.

Nov. 9, 1996: Purdue 9, No. 9 Michigan 3 – Five days after Colletto announced his resignation, the Boilermakers ended the Wolverines’ Big Ten title hopes.

Rick Trefzger’s 5-yard pass to Brian Alford with a 7:20 to play accounted for the game’s only touchdown. In the aftermath, students tore down the north goal post.

Sept. 13, 1997: Purdue 28, No. 15 Notre Dame 17 – Joe Tiller’s first victory snapped a string of 11 consecutive losses to the Fighting Irish.

Billy Dicken completed 26 of 39 passes for 352 yards. Edwin Watson scored on a pair of 1-yard runs, and Kendall Matthews added a 2-yard TD. But the biggest play belonged to safety Adrian Beasley, who scooped up a Ron Powlus fumble and went 43 yards for a touchdown that made it 21-10 in the fourth quarter.

Nov. 8, 1997: No. 24 Purdue 22, Michigan State 21 – The first of coach Joe Tiller’s three consecutive victories against Nick Saban was the most dramatic.

Leo Perez blocked a field goal attempt and Roosevelt Colvin returned it 62 yards for a touchdown to bring Purdue within 21-16 with two minutes remaining. Chris Daniels

recovered the onside kick, and Edwin Watson scored the game-winning TD with less than a minute remaining. Michigan State missed a 43-yard field goal in the final seconds.

Sept. 11, 1999: No. 20 Purdue 28, No. 16 Notre Dame 23 – “Let’s blitz ‘em!”

That was the call by Joe Tiller with 16 seconds remaining and Notre Dame at the Purdue 1 on third-and-goal. Linebacker Mike Rose and a few of his close friends dropped Jarious Jackson for a 9-yard loss. Without any timeouts, the clock ran out on the Fighting Irish.

Drew Brees rallied Purdue from a 10-0 deficit, scoring on a 9-yard touchdown run and throwing a 30-yard TD to Randall Lane. Two Travis Dorsch field goals were the only points scored in the fourth quarter.

Oct. 16, 1999: No. 20 Purdue 52, No. 5 Michigan State 28 – Chris Daniels set a Big Ten record with 21 catches for 301 yards to go along with three touchdowns in Purdue’s final matchup to date with a Nick Saban team.

Drew Brees threw for 509 yards and five touchdowns. The Boilermakers forced six turnovers, including four interceptions of MSU quarterback Bill Burke.

Top players of 1990s Ross-Ade

Jeff Zgonina – More than 30 years after his final game in a Purdue uniform, Zgonina still holds school records for tackles for loss in a game (7), season (28) and career (72). Zgonina

still ranks in Purdue’s top 10 for career tackles (382) and sacks (29). The defensive tackle was the 1992 Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year. Zgonina went on to play 17 seasons in the NFL, earning a Super Bowl ring with the St. Louis Rams in 2000.

Mike Alstott – The only three-time Purdue Most Valuable Player, Alstott holds school records for rushing yards in a season (1,436) and career (3,635) as well as most 100-yard rushing games in a season (9 in 1995) and career (16). An All-American fullback as a senior in 1995, Alstott is the only Boilermaker to have more than 2,500 career rushing yards and 1,000 career receiving yards. His 39 career rushing touchdowns rank second to Kory Sheets’ 48.

Rosevelt Colvin – One of the stars of Joe Tiller’s first two Boilermaker teams, Colvin remains the record holder in season (15) and career (35) sacks 25 years after his final game. Colvin was the 1998 Alamo Bowl’s Defensive MVP. He went on to earn two Super Bowl rings with the New England Patriots.

Chike Okeafor – The first of two West Lafayette High School graduates to earn a place in Purdue’s Den of Defensive Ends, Okeafor recorded nine tackles and three and a half sacks in the 1998 Alamo Bowl upset of No. 4 Kansas State. Okeafor went on to play 11 seasons in the NFL.

Brian Alford – An immediate beneficiary of Joe Tiller’s passing offense,

Alford became a first-team All-American after catching 63 passes for 1,228 yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior in 1997. His 31 career touchdown catches remain a Purdue record and his 3,029 career receiving yards rank fourth behind John Standeford, Taylor Stubblefield and Dorien Bryant.

Matt Light – One of many to benefit from Joe Tiller position changes, having come to Purdue as a tight end, Light became the anchor of the best offensive line the Boilermakers have seen in a generation. Light started 37 consecutive games at left tackle. As a fifth-year senior in 2000, Light was chosen first-team All-Big Ten. He would go on to earn three Super Bowl rings in 11 seasons with the New England Patriots.

Drew Brees – The face of Purdue football today, Brees set two NCAA records, 13 Big Ten records and 19 school records as a three-year starting quarterback. For leading Purdue to its second Rose Bowl appearance and most recent Big Ten title

in 2000, Brees won the Maxwell Award as the nation’s outstanding player and the Chicago Tribune Silver Football as the Big Ten’s MVP.

Noteworthy
Two former Purdue guards were among the 18 men selected to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame’s Silver Anniversary team for 2024.

Darmetris Kilgore came to Purdue via South Bend Washington and Tyler Junior College. At



JOE TILLER

South Bend Washington, Kilgore led the program to its first sectional title in 32 years. He was a second-team NJCAA Division I All-American in 2001 before spending two seasons at Purdue.

Kenneth Lowe was a 1999 Indiana All-Star from Gary West. He was a three-year starter at Purdue and scored 1,079 career points. Lowe was a two-time Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year. He owns the second-best career free throw percentage (86.4) in Boilermaker history.

Purdue’s Matt Painter matched Indiana national championship coach Branch McCracken with his 210th Big Ten Conference victory Monday night against Iowa. The five Big Ten coaches ahead of Painter are Indiana’s Bob Knight (353), Michigan State’s Tom Izzo (333 as of Dec. 6), Purdue’s Gene Keady (265) and Ward “Piggy” Lambert (228) and Illinois’ Lou Henson (214).

- 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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Holcomb Defends LEAP Pipeline, Prepares For Last Legislative Session

By Whitney Downard
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Gov. Eric Holcomb defended the timeline process for a water pipeline from Tippecanoe County to Boone County for a massive, high-tech development grounded by a multi-billion-dollar investment from Eli Lilly.

Other companies coming to the area haven't yet been announced but the Indiana Economic Development Corporation hopes to pipe millions of gallons of water daily from the Wabash Alluvial Aquifer — though local officials aren't sold on the idea.

"When you deal with something on an unprecedented scale, as (the IEDC is) ... I'm pleased that they were operating at the speed of business, not to the speed of what we're used to," Holcomb said. "And knowing that there may be some bumps along the way but always know that the data would drive our ultimate decision."

To verify the water supply statewide, both the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and an IEDC contractor are working on a study — though the contractor for the latter,

narrower study has been moved to the Indiana Finance Authority.

Holcomb said that speed could help or hurt because being slow could mean losing the bid but thought that Indiana was "at a place, right now, (where) the interest is still there."

"No one was ever going to promise a company water if we don't have it; no was ever going to take water away from a community if we don't have it," Holcomb said.

Rather, he believed the studies would show "an abundance of water sources" similar to neighboring states, states he said were in the best position to attract businesses in coming years.

What's ahead for 2024

Holcomb said he wasn't yet ready to unveil his final legislative agenda as governor, which is set to be revealed on Jan. 8. Lawmakers seem keen to keep session short in 2024, meaning any priorities will need to be ready when legislators convene on that same date.

He shared three generalized priorities, including: government efficacy and transparency, wrapping up

outstanding or in-progress projects and increasing awareness of current government programs.

"We want to finish strong; we don't want to limp to the line," Holcomb said. "That will require us not only finishing some projects but also getting some programs (with) the structure in place."

For an example of the latter, Holcomb pointed to his initiative to send more dollars to beleaguered public health programs — an opt-in program that ultimately 86 out of 92 counties agreed to earlier this year.

"We want to make sure that the governance, the structure, the sharing of data, and expertise is actually in place," Holcomb said.

Other examples that Holcomb said would "far outlive me," include ongoing efforts to expand access to high-speed internet and Indiana's network of trails.

Something else Holcomb wouldn't reveal until 2024: whether or not he'd endorse any of the six contenders in the Republican primary for governor.

Holcomb has worked closely with several of

the candidates. Those running include U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, his Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, his former Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers, Fort Wayne businessman Eric Doden, his former Attorney General Curtis Hill and mother Jamie Reitenour.

But Holcomb said he wanted to see more policy proposals from the candidates and then make the decision whether or not to endorse.

"I don't know if, quite honestly, endorsements still have the impact that maybe they did 50 years ago," Holcomb said. "I think Hoosiers are very discerning and that's been proven election after election ... so I'll judge if, A, I think it will be helpful and, B, if I want to."

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Fryin' Without: A Baconless Christmas Chronicle



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

Christmas morning 2023 will be a big disappointment for me.

Not one of my presents will be bacon related. I just know

it. It's hard to imagine how Mary Ellen could have perused the current merchandise catalogs thick with bacony items and not realized that there should have been something under the tree that had at least a whiff of this American food addiction.

I used to belong to a bacon club where they send you a different slab of bacon each month. My wife kept trashing the package, maybe because the name of the company was The Strip Club.

Everyone loves bacon. When it's frying in the pan, you can almost hear a splattering of applause coming from the heavens. We wrap a \$50.00 filet in a strip of bacon to make it even better, and "No one has ever gone to see a Kevin Hot Dog movie," says comic Jim Gaffigan. Nor would we even know what a water chestnut is if it weren't for bacon. To get a taste of their newest gift ideas, I went to one manufacturer's website.

Their premier item is bacon shaving cream. The company suggested ordering early to be sure customers have a festive pork-scented holiday, which apparently is every man's fantasy. The ad claims the shaving cream delivers "maximum bacon scent when you need it most."

When that is, I have no idea, but they had me worked into a lather just thinking about it. By the way, the company lightheartedly warns that while using this product, "you can be eaten by bears," making some of the side effects of my Lipitor pale in comparison.

Overall, I was very impressed with the company's selection of pork-related products and their customer-friendly

approach in their follow-up correspondence. They even asked if I'd prefer to not receive their frequent email solicitations, because in their words, "No one likes spam." They had a point. I'll try their Bacon-Flavored Popcorn, but the idea of Spam Lip Balm makes me a little nauseous.

How about a container of Bacon Infant Formula? The product was launched several years ago accompanied by claims that the fat in pork is very important in the development of a newborn's brain. Now, it turns out this particular promotion was nothing but an April Fool's Day joke by the manufacturers. Yes, everyone is laughing except the 112 people who fell for this and still wait by the mailbox every day, hoping the product delivered before the baby is delivered.

Finally, my favorite (and this one is real): The Bacon-Scented Oxygen Inhaler. You've had a long day at the office; you're at the half point in a marathon, or suffer from COPD (Chronic Overt Pork Deficiency). Pick up your mini-inhaler, hold the device up to your snout and breathe in. You'll never be out of breath again, but you will experience periodic grunting

And so, Christmas morning will come and go. There will be no bacon salt, no bacon candles, and no bacon-flavored envelopes. Not even a package of bacon-scented stickers to slap on friends who might enjoy sniffing themselves at work for a quick bacon high. I will sit at the breakfast table somewhat consoled when my wife serves a bacon quiche. I will savor several pieces. I figure she might get some gift ideas for next year if I make a pig of myself.

- 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.

ICC Honors County Leaders And Elects New Board For 2024

The Indiana County Commissioners (ICC), an association that represents the elected county commissioners in the 92 counties of Indiana, held its annual conference recently, in Indianapolis. The conference featured several workshops, breakout sessions, and awards for county leaders and staff. The ICC also elected its new executive board for 2024, led by Kellie Streeter, Knox County Commissioner, as President.

The ICC presented the following awards to recognize the outstanding contributions of county commissioners and their

support staff in various categories:

- 2023 County Commissioner Legislative Service was awarded to Kellie Streeter, Knox County.
- 2023 Outstanding Team Effort for a Board of Commissioners was presented to Jordan Brewer, Josh Uitts, and Bert Weaver, Clinton County and Christine Altman, Steven Dillinger, and Mark Heirbrandt, Hamilton County.
- 2023 County Engineer of the Year was presented to Charlie McKenzie, Elkhart County.
- 2023 County Highway Supervisor of the Year

was presented to Mike Kyburz, White County.

- 2023 Outstanding Supportive Auditor of the Year was presented to Rick Gardner, Madison County.
 - 2023 Outstanding Supportive Executive Assistant of the Year was presented to Lori Dossett, Montgomery County.
- "I'm exceptionally pleased to congratulate these amazing leaders representing counties across the state of Indiana and wish them continued success in their hometown communities," said Mark Heirbrandt, Hamilton County Commissioner and the outgoing ICC President.

dent.

President Streeter will be joined by Brian Baird, Johnson County Commissioner, as Vice President; Suzanne Weirick, Elkhart County Commissioner, as Secretary; and Chris Switzer, Vigo County Commissioner, as Treasurer.

"I'm honored and humbled to serve as the ICC President for 2024 and to work with such a dedicated and talented team of county commissioners and staff. I look forward to advancing the interests and needs of our counties and collaborating with our partners at the state and federal levels," said Streeter.

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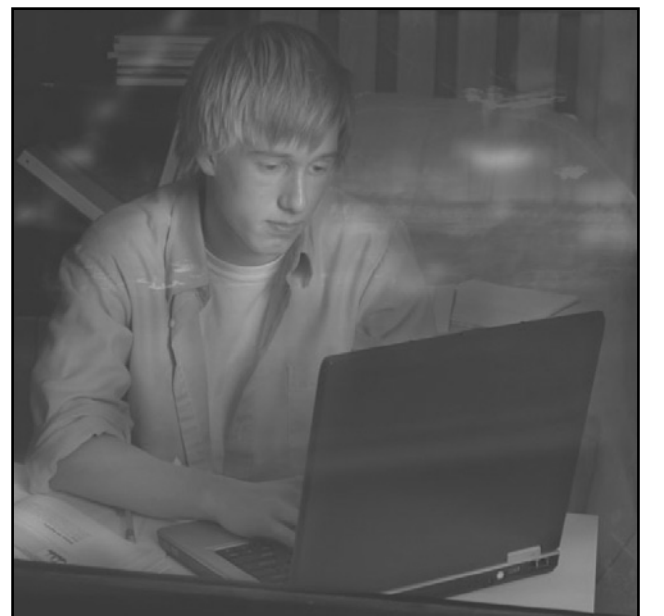
BUTCH From Page A1

ams Family...perfect!) Kamala Harris (emcee for Bloopers TV show), Elizabeth Warren (will replace Tonto as the Lone Ranger's new sidekick), Al Sharpton (personal minister for North Korea's Kim Jong Un), Joe Biden (mannequin at J.C. Penneys), Jill Biden (author of book entitled "I Married an Idiot"), Hunter Biden (Chinese loan specialist and prison cellblock graffiti artist), Bill Clinton (gynecol-

ogist), Hillary Clinton (NOTHING)...just go away...PLEASE...JUST LEAVE US ALONE!

Please vote for me. Campaign cash donations accepted now. I need the money for groceries. Thank you.

- John "Butch" Dale is a retired teacher and County Sheriff. He has also been the librarian at Darlington the past 32 years, and is a well-known artist and author of local history.



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