

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

50¢

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

WWW.THEPAPER24-7.COM



Brought to you by:



TODAY'S VERSE
Psalm 119:89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. (KJV)

FACES OF MONTGOMERY
People who call our community their own.



Angela, Janeane, and Ashley are always ready to greet you with a smile at Crawfordsville Audiology! Thank you for sending in your smiles!

THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 The Glass family of Chino Hills, CA spent more than a year seeking to recover Jana Glass' wedding ring. Somehow their 5-year-old son had accidentally flushed it down the toilet. They sought help from plumbers to no avail. Fourteen months later a public works crew working in the sewer near their home stopped in their tracks when they came across the sparkling diamond ring. They remembered that Mrs. Glass had lost her ring in the sewer, cleaned it up and, to her grateful surprise, returned it to her.

2 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.

3 St. Helena island in the South Atlantic Ocean is the home of the world's oldest living creature – a giant tortoise that goes by the name of Jonathan and that is more than 191 years of age. According to the Guinness World Records Jonathan was at least 50 years old when it was brought to St. Helena from the Seychelles islands in 1882, making him the world's oldest living land animal.

No Chestnuts For The Open Fire



TRICIA HERR
Purdue Extension Office



Today, it is almost extinct. The American Chestnut was dominant, once billions existed stretching from present-day Maine to Alabama and Mississippi. They stood over 100 feet tall and over 10 feet in diameter. It was an integral food source for American Indigenous peoples. It was not only an excellent food source for themselves, but the wildlife. The nuts and their leaves contain higher levels of nutrients than other local tree species. Call it a "keystone" of its time, being the source of energy for many invertebrates, mammals, and turkeys. And if American Chestnuts were still here today, they would still be considered a keystone species to

"The Christmas Song", written in 1945 hides some interesting information about American History. The American Chestnut (Castanea dentata) was once one of the largest trees in eastern North America.

much of Appalachian country. The expiration of the American Chestnut began when European settlers began to settle the Appalachian range. The American Chestnut was discovered by the new inhabitants who found the mighty tree to be rot-resistant and straight-growing. It quickly became a favorite choice for building materials, furniture, and fencing. The chestnut forests were also used for silvopasture. (Silvopasture is the deliberate integration of trees and grazing livestock operations on the same land. – US Forest Service) The chestnuts were harvested and sold each winter.

In 1904, the discovery of American chestnut blight, Cryphonectria parasitica, was first recorded in New York, some sources say it had started before the turn of the century. Believed to be introduced by imported Asian Chestnut Trees, the disease spread rapidly. The blight would cause cankers and the trunks and branches, killing the upper portions of the tree. The roots, however, were not affected. By 1950, the American chestnut was wiped out throughout Maine to Mississippi. The living roots continued a painful cycle of new stump sprouts living for several years before being infected again and dying

again. The blight cannot kill the underground root system as the pathogen is unable to compete with soil microorganisms.

To this very day, the American chestnut still survives, reduced down a few hundred stumps in the eastern US. Two organizations seek to change the sad sprouting from roots cycle and develop blight-resistant American chestnuts to reintroduce into the Eastern United States. The American Chestnut Foundation and The American Chestnut Cooperators Foundation are working hard with breeding efforts to maintain genetic purity and blight resistance.

I begin to think that it was a mere miracle, that in 1945, there were still enough chestnuts for Bob Wells to reminisce about to write the opening lyric of "The Christmas Song" made famous by Nat King Cole. So, if you do happen to enjoy some chestnuts this holiday season, know that they once stood 100 feet tall in our eastern neighbor states, and one day soon we hopefully won't have to import them from Italy, Turkey, and France.

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

Montgomery County's Southern "Belle"



KAREN ZACH
Around The County

southern part of our county and northern part of Putnam as well as northeast Parke. Blanche Lafollette was born 15 December in 1883 the daughter of Robert Easley and Sarah Jane Patton Lafollette.

I was born on this gal's birthday 66 years later. She had a sister, Hallie four years younger who married Arthur Spencer and moved to Little Rock, Arkansas. Hallie's two children, Charles and Mary were the only grandchildren of the Lafollette's. Definitely, that's not to say Blanche didn't have a wonderful fulfilled life, as she surely did!

On Oct 4, 1905 at her parent's home, she married Fred

Decided I should check out the hundreds of pictures on the GenWeb page and write about a gal this week. I discovered a wonderful Southern Belle who lived in the

Belles. A month later, they joined the newly dedicated Russellville Christian Church where they both remained active until their deaths.

Blanche owned a beautiful voice and sang in the church choir as well as a ladies' trio (singing at many weddings and funerals) for over 40 years. Added to that, she taught Sunday School for that time frame and spent more than two decades in the state women's missionary service, serving ten years as the district secretary along with five each as recorder and treasurer.

Blanche served as the Parke County Federation of Women's Club president three times. As Worthy Matron of the Russellville Order of Eastern Star, she served many years as its chaplain, as well. Add being very active in the Home and Garden Club. Do believe she loved her home and cooking as she was often found scoring high in candy making at the local fairs and her Angel Food Cake must have been amazing as it won over and over.

The Belles family (father Milton, mother Laura Mitchell)



Photo courtesy of Karen Zach

was made-up of mainly Fred and three brothers, Charles, Frank and Glen but there was one sister, Bertha. Milton was born in Iowa but went to the Russellville area where his children grew-up much of their young lives.

Fred was in clubs and community as much as Blanche especially anything involving their farm. He was an Elder in the church and filled all the lay offices, plus taught classes as did she sometimes even together and also serving a

➔ See KAREN Page A4

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 8:00 a.m.
SET: 5:24 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
High: 48 °F
Low: 25 °F



Today is...

- Free Shipping Day
- Monkey Day
- National Screwdriver Day



What Happened On This Day

- 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. Adam Lanza shot and killed 20 children and 6 adults at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.
- 1958 Soviets Reach the Southern Pole of Inaccessibility. A Pole of Inaccessibility is a location on Earth that is extremely difficult to access.
- 1911 Roald Amundsen reaches South Pole. Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen and his team reached the South Pole, becoming the first men in recorded history to set foot on the most southern point on Earth.



Births On This Day

- 1966 Fabrizio Giovanardi Italian race car driver
- 1503 Nostradamus French astrologer

Deaths On This Day

- 2013 Peter O'Toole Irish actor
- 1799 George Washington American general, politician, 1st President of the United States

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Twenty percent of kids between the ages of two and five are overweight – get them out of the strollers and turn off the TV! 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

Service Directory.....A3
Classifieds.....A5
Earth Talk.....A4

THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE Community Forum:

Mayor Barton will be hosting his December Community Forum on Thursday, **TONIGHT** 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

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."
-Charles Dickens

TODAY'S JOKE

How do sheep in Mexico say Merry Christmas? Fleece Navidad!

OBITUARIES

None

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



8 51246 00100 5

The Paper
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

7 DAY FORECAST

28/46 SUNNY, NOT AS COLD	25/42 PARTLY SUNNY	22/46 SUNNY	26/51 MOSTLY SUNNY	28/51 ABOVE AVERAGE	30/55 BALMY FOR DECEMBER	31/46 SUNNY, COOLER
TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON

Meeting Notes

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation Board of Education Regular Meeting

Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
 Mollie B. Hoover
 Elementary -
 1301 S. Elm St., Crawfordsville, IN 47933

AGENDA

- I. Roll Call
- II. CHARACTER COUNTS!SM Corporation – Pillar of Responsibility
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Spotlight on Excellence
 - a. CHS Academic Letter sponsor and recipients
 - b. CHS Wrestling Team
- V. Building Principal Report - Principal Marci Galinowski - Mollie B. Hoover Elementary
- VI. Consent Agenda:
 - Approve Previous Meeting Minutes, Construction Accounts Payable Voucher, Payroll Claims Vouchers, Register of Accounts Payable Voucher, and Surplus Items
 - VII. Old Business
 - VIII. New Business
 - a. Consider Choir Trip - Music in the Parks - Kings Island - CMS/CHS Choir Representative
 - b. Consider Policy 8550 Service Animals - Public Events (First Reading)
 - c. Classified and Non-CBA Pay Rates Revised
 - d. Consider Classified Handbook
 - e. Consider Substitute Handbook
 - f. Consider Consumer Price Index Amendment for SSC Agreement
 - g. Resolution for Transfer From Rainy Day Fund
 - h. Consider the name of the new community preschool
 - IX. Personnel
 - a. Consider Christina Eldrenkamp Resignation - CMS Life Skills Teacher
 - b. Consider Sindy Torres Resignation - Nicholson Teachers Aide

- c. Recommend Debbie Brading - CMS Life Skills Teacher
 - d. Recommend Lisa Kidd - CHS Teachers Assistant
 - e. Recommend Hayden Stevens - CMS Physical Education Teacher
 - f. Recommend Madison Dossett - CMS Front Office Secretary
 - g. Recommend Grant Bailey - CCSC Speech Therapist (Fall 2024)
 - h. Recommend Javon Callison - CHS Math Teacher (Fall 2024)
 - i. Recommend Sara Stout - Hose Life Skills Assistant
 - j. Recommend Taran Hatch - Nicholson Life Skills Aide
 - X. Change of Position
 - a. Renae Tebbe (Bronnenberg) from CHS Receptionist to to CHS Administrative Assistant
 - b. Emily Fullenwider from CMS Guidance/Assistant Athletic Director to CHS Administrative Assistant
 - c. Emily Daley from CMS Administrative Assistant to CMS Guidance/Assistant Athletic Director
 - XI. Business Manager Report
 - XII. Assistant Superintendent Report
 - XIII. Superintendent Report
 - XIV. Other
 - XV. Board Member Communication
 - XVI. Patron Comments
 - XVII. Adjournment
- Patron's Comments are limited to 3 minutes per spokesperson for a total of 30 minutes.
- The meeting site is fully accessible. Any person requiring further accommodation should contact the Superintendent at the School Corporation's central office.

Board Of Public Works And Public Safety Meeting

- December 13, 2023 at 10:00AM
- I. Approval of the minutes from November 29, 2023.
 - II. Approval of the claims for the week of December 4, 2023 and December 11, 2023.
 - III. Old Business
 - IV. New Business
 - A. Brian Pyle requesting to place a dumpster at 1901 Michigan Street beginning December 15th for approximately 2 weeks
 - B. Resolution to Adopt

- Policy and Procedure for the Acquisition of Land or Structures
- C. Kiley Cornelius, Utility Office, with uncollectible accounts for 2023
 - D. Agreement with White Construction
 - E. Agreement with Price Excavating
 - F. Public Hearing for an Unsafe Building Order - 203 S. Water Street
 - G. Public Hearing for an Unsafe Building Order - 117 E. Market Street
 - V. Departments Heads
 - VI. Adjournment

Please visit us online:
thepaper24-7.com

Wabash College First Destination Placement Rate Rises

99% of the Class of '23 secures job, grad school, or service within six months of graduation

Six months after graduation, 99% of the members of the Wabash College Class of 2023 have settled into a first destination—employment, graduate school, or service.

It marks the seventh consecutive year in which Wabash graduates have claimed their first destinations at rates among the highest in the nation. Over those seven years, Wabash graduates have secured first destinations within six months at a rate of 98.4%, well above the 84.1% Career Outcomes Rate as reported by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, which is the best current measure for national comparison.

Nearly 70% of the Class of 2023 secured their first destination prior to graduating in May. Further, Wabash's 99% success rate this year was nearly four percentage points better than last year's figure for the Class of 2022. Since 2017, the Wabash first-destination rate has not been lower than 95%.

"Our first-destination rate is proof that a Wabash education adds exceptional value and that our graduates are in demand," said President Scott Feller. "We're proud of our professional development staff, internship program, and alumni network, all of which help produce these incredible results year-over-year."

The nation's second-ranked alumni network and fourth-ranked internship program, according to The Princeton Review, merge with Wabash's outstanding liberal arts education to drive its graduates to high levels of success. Wabash was ranked No. 9 on the DegreeChoices.com list of Best Liberal Arts Colleges and a Top Performer on Social Mobility



Photo courtesy of Wabash College

by U.S. News & World Report.

Of the 175 members of the Class of 2023, 91 (52%) elected to accept employment or postgraduate educational opportunities in Indiana.

"As an alumnus and dean, I am very proud of the outcomes our graduates achieve each year," said Steven Jones '87, dean for professional development. "I am hopeful they are passionate about further developing their skills and increasing their return on investment even more."

Through the work of the Schroeder Center for Career Development, students are regularly engaged in programming that keeps them focused on successful pathways after graduation. Weekly "Coffee and Careers" sessions and employment recruiting events are two of the many opportunities for students to connect with potential employers and graduate schools.

Additionally, the Professional Development team works to provide programming that meets the current senior class where they are. During the fall break, seniors had the opportunity to engage in a Professional Immersion Experience (PIE) on campus. Professional Development staff led students through a series of workshops on job search

strategies, articulating strengths and experiences, networking, interviewing, and accessing alumni as a resource. The program closed with mock interviews conducted by alumni and friends of the College and a networking lunch to share feedback.

"I am really proud of the tenacity the Class of 2023 showed in pursuing their post-graduate plans," said Cassie Hagan, director of professional development and the Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship. "To land these types of outcomes is evidence that our students are courageous enough to go after highly competitive jobs, fellowships, and graduate programs, or pursue passions in the arts, education, and advocacy work. Wabash is proud of what they have and will accomplish."

Members of the Class of 2023 showed interest in a number of fields, including commercial real estate, education, entrepreneurship, sports management, and logistics. They were hired by employers like Ernst & Young, Eli Lilly, Korn Ferry, Simon Property Group, Welch Packaging, Hometown Logistics, and UKG.

A total of 45 members of the class accepted postgraduate opportunities at institutions like Colum-

bia University, Cornell University, Florida State University, Indiana University, University of Notre Dame, Purdue University, Wake Forest University, and Washington University in St. Louis. Eight members of the class accepted international fellowships, including the Marshall and Yen-Ching Scholarships, while four others earned Orr Fellowships.

The exemplary post-graduate success rates echo much of the news for the 191-year-old liberal arts college. The Princeton Review offers 50 ranking lists, identifying the top-25 colleges nationally (of the 389 profiled) in each of those specific categories. The surveys address a range of topics that prospective students might find interesting or ask about on a campus visit, from academics and administration to amenities, politics, and social life. In addition to Wabash's outstanding internship program, alumni network, and career services, Wabash appeared in 40% of the 50 lists and ranked in the top-10 in 10 of those.

In September, U.S. News & World Report ranked Wabash 28th nationally as a Best Value School and included the institution in the Top Tier of National Liberal Arts Colleges.

Butch Buys Old Firearms
 Retired Sheriff and Licensed FFL

I will buy your old guns: Winchester, Colt, H&R, Ruger, Savage, Browning, Smith & Wesson, Marlin, & others

Call me anytime for a free estimate !!

John "Butch" Dale (765) 404-1354

exp REALTY

Whether you are selling your existing home or moving to your dream home, you need a real estate professional you can depend on. Clark Dale is a life-long Montgomery County resident, a graduate of Texas Tech and Indiana State universities, and a U.S. Army veteran. Clark is trained in all aspects of buying and selling a home. You can count on him to help meet your real estate needs.

CLARK DALE
 www.exp Realty.com
 PHONE: (765) 918-1773

Year End Sale

COME IN NOW FOR THE BEST SELECTION

Visit our website and register for a chance to win a \$50 gift card!

CROSSROADS
 FURNITURE COMPANY

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN
crossroadsfurniturecompany.com

Thank You for Reading The Paper!

New Survey: Most Indiana Private Schools Teach Cursive, Compared To Roughly Half Of Publics

The IDOE survey results provide the state's first cursive writing census and prompted one lawmaker call for more instruction.

By Casey Smith
Indiana Capital Chronicle

A new statewide survey shows that although most Hoosier kids attending private schools are continuing to learn cursive, far fewer Indiana public schools currently teach the writing style to younger students.

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) surveyed 1,770 schools across Indiana this fall. Of the 1,386 respondents, 91% of state-accredited non-public schools are teaching cursive writing, but only 52% of public schools reported teaching it.

The survey was part of an ongoing, yearslong push to bring cursive writing back to Hoosier schools, spearheaded by Republican Sen. Jean Leising. She said the new survey data indicates that many Hoosier students attending public schools are at a "clear disadvantage," and vowed to renew her legislative efforts to require cursive instruction.

"I have been an unwavering proponent of cursive writing in the Indiana General Assembly for more than a decade. My concerns originally centered around making sure our children could sign their names on legal documents and read historical texts, but it is now much

larger than that," Leising said in a statement Monday. "They need to have the necessary motor skills and strong cognitive ability to succeed academically and professionally, and learning cursive writing can only further support their development."

"Opponents of cursive writing say schools should focus more on teaching typewriting skills in an evolving age of technology and online work," she continued. "I argue, cursive is equally important, and we risk limiting development of student's learning abilities by moving away from essential handwriting curriculum."

Writing on the walls? The "Cursive Writing Survey" was sent out in August and September to all schools and corporations teaching grades K-6. Local administrators had until Oct. 1 to submit their responses.

About 78% of all schools participated in the IDOE survey. Of the 1,386 schools that reported, 80.4% were traditional public schools, 16.7% were state accredited non-public schools, and 2.9% were charter schools.

Of those schools that responded to the survey, 58.4% — equal to 809 schools — reported that cursive writing instruc-

tion is taking place in their classrooms. In the majority of schools where cursive is taught, instruction is primarily administered to students in grades two through four. A majority of the instruction takes place in grade three, according to the IDOE analysis.

Cursive is more commonly taught in private schools, though.

Of the 230 non-public schools that responded to the survey, 210 reported that cursive writing instruction is taking place. To compare, 580 out of the 1,110 traditional public schools that responded to the survey reported current cursive instruction.

Still, the survey is not totally conclusive, given that 384 K-6 schools across Indiana did not respond. The public report also doesn't indicate which schools participates — leaving it unclear how many students are represented in the study.

Leising wants cursive back

Cursive writing hasn't been required in Indiana's public schools since 2010 — something Leising, R-Oldenburg, has been working to change for years.

During the 2023 legislative session, her

Senate Bill 72 originally required traditional public and charter elementary schools to include some form of cursive writing curriculum for the state's younger students.

Leising — who has filed similar bills in the last decade to no avail — pared down the final version of the measure to instead require schools to report to the state education department about whether cursive writing is part of the curriculum there. The IDOE was tasked with creating a report with that information.

Leising maintained during the session that many private schools in Indiana are teaching the writing style, but the majority of public schools are not.

This week, the senator again pointed to research showing that writing in cursive heightens activity in certain parts of the brain tied to memory and encoding new information, which she reiterated "is integral to early childhood learning." Other studies cited by Leising show children who wrote in cursive had better reading and writing skills compared to those who didn't.

"While lawmakers look to tackle literacy during the 2024 legislative session, I plan to

join this initiative by also advocating for cursive writing curriculum, since various studies show knowing how to write in cursive helps improve information retention and comprehension abilities — supporting the successful development of reading and writing skills," Leising said. "It is clear our students need support — now more than ever — to build foundational reading, comprehension and writing skills for their future success."

Critics of mandatory cursive instruction say students already have too many subjects to master and that they're better off focusing on typing and coding.

Teaching cursive in public schools waned after the Common Core standards, which most states adopted, didn't include cursive in the recommended curriculum. Supporters have recently had some success in bringing it back, pointing to studies that show a link between cursive and cognitive abilities, including helping with reading and writing disabilities such as dyslexia and dysgraphia.

Indiana isn't the only state seeking to bring back cursive writing, however.

At least 22 states currently require cursive to

be taught as part of the public school curriculum, according to the National Education Association. And the list is growing.

In October, the California legislature unanimously passed — and Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom signed — a law requiring the teaching of cursive or "joined italics" handwriting in grades one through six.

Earlier this year, New Hampshire Republican Gov. Chris Sununu additionally signed a bill requiring schools to teach cursive and multiplication tables.

Indiana lawmakers return to the Statehouse next month for a non-budget session. Legislative leaders have not included cursive instruction in their 2024 priorities, but literacy-focused initiatives — especially those affecting grade three — are expected to top education policy efforts.

- Indiana Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Indiana Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Follow Indiana Capital Chronicle on facebook.com/IndianaCapitalChronicle and twitter.com/INCapChronicle

The Paper SERVICE DIRECTORY

AUTOMOTIVE

DRISCOL ENTERPRISES
Auto Salvage

(765) 572-2478

5608 IN 25
West Point, IN

Pomp's
TIRE SERVICE, INC.
"The Tire Professionals"

\$15 OFF
OIL CHANGE SPECIAL

Complete visual inspection & air pressure check. No other discounts apply. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 12/31/23

114 N. Water St. • Crawfordsville
(765) 364-0584
Weekdays 7:30 am - 5pm
Saturday 8 am - Noon
pompstire.com

BANKING

TRI-COUNTY BANK & TRUST

Call us for your banking needs!

101 E. South Boulevard
Crawfordsville
765-362-9555

18 E. Washington Street
Roachdale
765-522-1000

FDIC

FUNERAL HOMES

Burkhart Funeral Home

201 West Wabash Ave.
Crawfordsville
(765) 362-5510

FUNERAL HOMES

MAUS FUNERAL HOME

206 Water St.
Hillsboro
765-798-5555

704 Council St.
Attica
765-764-4418

mausfuneralhome.com

HOME SERVICES

FEATURED BUSINESS

Pomp's
TIRE SERVICE, INC.
"The Tire Professionals"

\$15 OFF
OIL CHANGE SPECIAL

Complete visual inspection & air pressure check. No other discounts apply. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 12/31/23

114 N. Water St. • Crawfordsville
(765) 364-0584
Weekdays 7:30 am - 5pm
Saturday 8 am - Noon
pompstire.com

NURSING HOMES

WELLBROOKE OF CRAWFORDSVILLE

765-230-3755
517 Concord Road • Crawfordsville

RETAIL

RETAIL

Bellmore Country Store

6987 US 36
Rockville
765-344-1520

Mon • Tues • Wed • Fri
9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturday
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Fisher's DISCOUNT STORE

Discount groceries, bulk foods, meat & cheese

M, W, TH 8 am - 6 pm
TU 8 am - 8 pm
FRI & SAT 8 am - 5 pm
Closed Sunday

765-435-7231

6492 E 850 N Waveland

RETAIL

KING'S Repair, LLC

Plumbing Supplies
Bath tubs, vanities, toilets & water heaters

Pet Food & Supplies
Softener Salt
Bar & Chain Oil • Hydraulic Oil
Motor Oil • Electrical • Bolts
Custom-made Hydraulic Hoses

Bar Stock Steel
Channel • Angle • Flat
Pipe • Sheet Metal

765-597-2015
5947 County Rd 350 E • Marshall

Contact our advertising department at 765-361-0100 ext. 1 to be included in our next Service Directory.

BBB Tip: 6 Steps To Avoid Package Theft

The rise of online marketplaces and expedited delivery services is convenient for many consumers nationwide, allowing shoppers to search for the perfect gift for friends and family. Unfortunately, purchasing and having the item delivered to the proper address does not guarantee you will receive it. According to a Security.org study, approximately 79% of consumers experienced package theft in 2022.

Package thieves, also known as “porch pirates,” often take advantage of an opportunity and may frequent a neighborhood or community multiple times before moving on to another. They will often target houses that provide a quick in-and-out route, especially if the porch or area where packages are delivered is within 25 feet of the street and is easily visible.

As a crime of opportunity, preventing or discouraging package theft can be accomplished in several ways, depending on the location of your residence, type, and community. For instance, preventing package theft at an apartment complex in the middle of the city differs from a suburban residential community. However, consumers can use specific strategies to discourage the act no matter where they live.

BBB provides the following tips to prevent package thieves from affecting your plans:

Check with neighbors. Sometimes, your package may not be stolen simply at the wrong address. Before filing a report or contacting the

sender, check with your neighbors and see if the delivery service may have dropped off your package at the wrong address. Many delivery companies will take pictures of your package in the designated location – be sure to check for the photo and verify it is at the right spot.

Don't leave unattended packages. When possible, do not leave delivered packages unattended for long periods. If you are expecting a package, attempt to schedule its delivery when you know you will be home. Ask your neighbors if they mind holding on to packages delivered if you plan to be gone for an extended time.

Ship to store. If purchasing an item from a retailer with a physical location near your home, consider shipping it there instead. Retailers will require proof of purchase or identification before releasing packages they have received, and this is a sure way to avoid porch pirates.

Use a security camera. Installing a home security system with cameras or a camera-enabled doorbell is a great way to deter package theft, especially when highly visible. Consider including a sign that specifically states that the residence is under surveillance. Even if a package is stolen from your porch, the video evidence will help law enforcement track down the thieves (but be wary of the risk of internet-connected devices and research before you purchase).

Require a signature. Many delivery compa-

nies include the option to require a signature before leaving a package, letting you take physical possession of the item as soon as it is delivered. While this option works well for those often at home, especially for expensive items, it may create difficulties in receiving packages if your schedule and the delivery service differ. Be sure to check with the delivery company on their policy for packages that are not signed for; they may return it to the sender after a certain number of attempts.

Consider a package receiving service. Some major retailers, such as Amazon, offer secure package-receiving locations away from your home that you can access with a key or code. Some independent businesses also specialize in this service, allowing you to designate a different delivery location for your packages and the ability to pick them up on your way home.

If you fear your package being stolen, file a report with your local police department and the delivery company. Depending on your delivery service, they may offer insurance or other policies to reimburse you for your losses.

For more information and to learn how to protect yourself, Google “BBB 10 Steps to Avoid Scams”. If you spot a scam, whether you have lost money or not, report it to BBB’s Scam Tracker at BBB.org/ScamTracker and the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. Your story can help protect consumers from similar scams.

Enhanced Geothermal Power: The Clean Green Way Of The Future?

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Why are ecologists so bullish on “enhanced geothermal” power plants, and how do they differ from regular geothermal?

Geothermal energy is energy derived from the natural heat beneath the Earth’s surface. The word geothermal comes from the Greek “geo” (for earth) and “therme” (heat).

Humans have been harnessing the heat from the center of the Earth for eons in one form or another, but it wasn’t until the 20th century that we started utilizing it as a renewable power source. By drilling below the Earth’s surface and cycling water or other liquids down there, the heat is brought up to use directly as a heat source or indirectly to create steam that turns turbines that generate electricity. When ambient temperatures are colder than the ground, a geothermal heat pump removes heat from the collector’s fluids, concentrates it, and transfers it to the building. When ambient temperatures are warmer than the ground, the heat pump removes heat from the building and deposits it underground.

The world’s first commercial geothermal power plant opened in Italy in 1911, but the U.S. didn’t see its first utility-grade

geothermal plant until 1960 when the Geysers Geothermal Field opened for business in Northern California. Cut to the present and the U.S. leads the world in geothermal energy production with some 6,500 megawatts of power online from 93 different plants from coast to coast. Geothermal systems, which provide so-called “baseload” supplies of power—that is, available 24/7—are a good complement to other renewables which are only available on an intermittent basis (solar when the sun shines, wind when the wind blows).

And in November 2023, Texas-based Fervo Energy, with backing from Google, opened a new generation of geothermal plants in Nevada. This so-called “enhanced geothermal system” (EGS) facility supercharges the geothermal production process by using advanced drilling techniques to access deeper and harder-to-reach resources. EGS also involves using high-pressure water to break up the subterranean rocks so as to enable the extraction of larger loads of heat much more quickly. As the water circulates through these fractures, it absorbs heat from the surrounding rocks before being brought back to the surface to generate electricity. (Conventional geothermal plants tap into hot springs and geysers much closer

to the Earth’s surface.) And deeper drilling means enhanced geothermal can be implemented just about anywhere on the planet.

Despite the invention of the EGS concept in the early 1970s, Americans are a little late to the party with regard to developing it for large-scale generation. The first commercial-scale EGS plants opened in France and Germany in the early 2000s, and these days dozens of others can be found across the United Kingdom, Australia and Japan.

Industry analysts think U.S. producers will soon catch up with other leading EGS countries given that it’s such a reliable and inexpensive energy generation system to maintain—although up front development costs are still high given that the technology is relatively new.

-CONTACTS: Geothermal explained, <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/geothermal/>; America’s first ‘enhanced’ geothermal plant just got up and running, <https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/geothermal/americas-first-enhanced-geothermal-plant-just-got-up-and-running/>; Fervo Energy, <https://fervoenergy.com/>.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

KAREN

From Page A1

decade as the Sunday School Superintendent. Add that he was a member of OES and served as the Master in the Russellville Masonic Lodge. The list of accomplishments was long, having been awarded the 1932 Master Farmer medal by Prairie Farmer, and was chosen as the 1958 Purdue Hall of Famer. Top that with being on almost every committee in Parke and Putnam County’s Extension Program, holding most of the offices in the Farm Bureau organization, always had a key position in the fairs of the 1920-50s in both Putnam and Parke Counties, always involved heavily in the wonderful one at Russellville. Having been a director of the Indiana Livestock Breeders Association for many years, he had the best of the best herds of Duroc Hogs, Pure-bred Shropshire Sheep and Shorthorn Cattle.

They worked as a team, both Belles enjoying all aspects of their lives. At one of the award presentations, the presenter,

Noah Hadley (Waveland Independent 30 Jan 1958), Parke Extension, noted that rarely did someone in the Milligan-Waveland-Russellville-Rockville-Greencastle areas refer to Fred or to Blanche but almost always it was “the Belles.” They helped guide hundreds of 4-Hers along the way, teaching them responsibility, right from wrong and many other excellent life-lessons. One young neighbor said of Fred, “He is the kind of man I would like to be known as – a true friend, a fine neighbor, topnotch farmer, tireless agricultural leader, loyal community worker and a true gentleman.”

Besides their farming, nonstop community work and religious involvement, they both worked, Fred putting great effort as head cashier in the Russellville State Bank which he “had built into a solid, sound and constructive enterprise badly needed in the community.” (WI 30 Jan 1958). The bank was partially a legacy as Blanche’s father

was long time president. Also, Fred sold Farmer’s Mutual insurance.

Blanche attended school in Parkersburg, Waveland and Raccoon but had the desire to further her education, thus attended Danville Indiana’s Central Norman and Indiana State. She taught in the areas where they lived.

Fred died unexpectedly (obit) a week before Christmas in 1960 after 55 years of love, respect and marriage with his partner, Blanche who passed away (Nov) just shy of 10 years from his death. They are buried side by side in the Russellville cemetery still together – two awesome southern Belles – RIP Anna Blanche Lafollette and your wonderful man, Fred Leroy Belles!

- Karen Zach is the editor of Montgomery Memories, our monthly magazine all about Montgomery County. Her column, Around the County, appears each Thursday in The Paper of Montgomery County. You can reach her at karen.zach@sbcglobal.net.

THE MASONIC Cornerstone GRAND HALL & EVENT CENTER

4th Annual FESTIVAL of TREES 2023

NOV 25 4-10 PM	DEC 1 1-9 PM
DEC 2 4-9 PM	DEC 9 4-9 PM

Admission:
Adults \$8
Seniors (65+) \$5
Kids (2-10 yrs) \$5

**221 S. Washington Street
Crawfordsville, IN 47933**
www.themasonicc cornerstone.com

relax & enjoy

THE PAPER

ThePaper24-7.com

got stuff?
sell it in the classifieds.
765.361.0100