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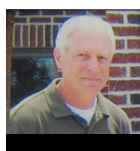
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The Best Gifts at Christmas



BUTCH DALE
Columnist

Do you remember the best gifts you received for Christmas when you were a youngster? Perhaps it was that new Schwinn bicycle...maybe a Red Ryder B-B gun, a Lionel train set, a Nintendo game set...or perhaps a cute Cabbage Patch doll, a Barbie playhouse, a beautiful bracelet with your name engraved on it. We all have memories of Christmas gifts from our childhood years...many happy, some funny, and a few disappointing I suppose. The first gifts that I can recall receiving (when I was about four years old) were a Gene Autry capgun, holster, and cowboy hat. My cousin who lived across the road also received the same items, and we wore these for months. With five of us kids, it was often difficult for my folks to scrape up enough money to buy very many presents. Mom and Dad were both born in 1924, so they were five years old when the Great Depression started in 1929...tough times for most families. My father told me that for Christmas, he and his five siblings usually received an apple or orange and one gift...clothing or a toy. His favorite gift was a pair of leather boots with a pouch on one side that held a small pocket knife. My mother also came from a large family...she had five brothers and a sister. She told me that most of their gifts were homemade, but one year she received an art set. That gift changed her



Butch (right) and his cousin, John Wells

life, as she became an extraordinary artist...drawing, painting, and also decorating hundreds and hundreds of "senior cords" for high school students. My Grandpa and Grandma Dale could not afford to buy gifts for all of their grandkids...after all, there were twenty-two of us. But Grandma always made several dozen sugar cookies for all us, and they were the best! My Grandpa and Grandma Grimes always gave us "practical" presents. One year I received a pair of cufflinks and a tie clasp...the next year a pair of nail clippers. Oh well, I knew it was the thought that counts.

From an early age on, I went to Sunday school at the Methodist church. In fact, I earned an attendance award for not missing a Sunday in ten years. I believe this helped to shape my opinion of what Christmas should be...not an emphasis on receiving gifts, but instead...giving gifts to others and honoring the birth of Jesus. However, little kids love to receive presents, and I was no different. I don't recall receiving any expensive gifts, but there were some that stick out in my mind.... When I was ten years old in 1958, I received a Daisy B-B rifle, which had been displayed in the showcase at Alvie Warren's hardware store. It was one of my favorite presents, and I practically wore it out shooting it. The next year, my brother and I wrote out an extensive wish list of items from the Sears and Roebuck catalog. Santa must have had a rough year, as I only received a baseball, a shirt, a pair of socks, and a tube of Brylcreem hair tonic.

➔ See BUTCH Page A4



➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Walking at least six miles per week can help reduce age-related memory loss. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Paper and online at www.thepaper24-7.com



➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

➔ THREE THINGS You Should Know

- 1 It's almost time for the big guy to scoot down the chimney! According to the book *The Christmas List*, did you know that there are 40,694,463 artificial Christmas trees on display? Well, that's what the book says - but we have to wonder how many elves it took to count all those fake trees!
- 2 Attention men who still want to play baseball. A League of Our Own Independent Baseball League is looking for players ages 19 and up. On Jan. 30, 2024 there will be a statewide tryout at the Mojo-Up Sports indoor Complex in Noblesville. The season begins Labor Day weekend Aug. 31. Interested? Visit www.aleagueofourown247.com or call (205) 264-1468.
- 3 Don't forget, beginning the week after Christmas your favorite Montgomery County newspaper is switching to our new Online Edition schedule. We will publish Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (with the exception of holidays). And we'll still have our regular Wednesday Print Edition. Be sure to keep an eye out for the same great content you love, plus a few new features!

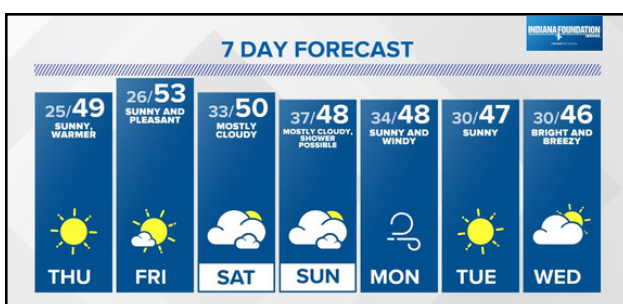
➔ TODAY'S JOKE

What are the best Christmas sweaters made from?
Fleece Navidad!

➔ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

The annual United Way fund drive is in its final hours and is pushing to hit the goal of \$375,000. The money is needed to support 19 non-profit agencies serving Montgomery County and your help is important. Every penny counts - and can not only benefit those in need but can help you at tax time! Won't you please consider a gift where a gift is most needed? Go to www.uwmontgomery.org or mail a check to United Way in Montgomery County, PO Box 247 Crawfordsville, IN 47933.

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



The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset

RISE: 8:02 am
SET: 5:23 pm



High/Low Temperatures

HIGH: 54°F
LOW: 36°F



Today is...

- Bill of Rights Day
- National Cupcake Day
- International Tea Day



What Happened On This Day

• **2009** Maiden flight of Boeing 787 Dreamliner. Considered to be one of Boeing's most fuel-efficient airplanes, the Boeing 787 Dreamliner has suffered from problems associated with its lithium-ion batteries.

• **1791** U.S. Bill of Rights becomes law. The first 10 amendments to the Constitution of the United States are known as the Bill of Rights. They became law after Virginia ratified the amendments.



Births On This Day

- **1907** Oscar Niemeyer - Brazilian architect, designed the United Nations Headquarters
- **37** Nero - Roman Emperor

Deaths On This Day

- **2010** Bob Feller - American baseball player
- **1966** Walt Disney - American animator and director



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➔ TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 16:8 I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.



Happenings

Friday, Dec. 15, 2023

CHAMBER of COMMERCE
Nothing on calendar

MAIN STREET
Nothing on calendar

UNITED WAY
Nothing on calendar

WABASH COLLEGE
Final exams ongoing

CRAWFORDSVILLE SCHOOLS
Basketball (Boys Freshman)
North Montgomery at CHS 6:00 p.m.
Basketball (Girls Varsity)
North Montgomery at CHS 6:00 p.m.
Basketball (Boys Varsity)
North Montgomery at CHS 7:30 p.m.

NORTH MONTGOMERY SCHOOLS
Nothing on calendar

SOUTHMONT SCHOOLS
Nothing on calendar

Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023

BASKETBALL
(Boys Freshman) North Montgomery at CHS 6 p.m.
(Girls Varsity) North Montgomery at CHS 6 p.m.
(Boys Varsity) North Montgomery at CHS 7:30 p.m.
(Boys JV) South at Western Boone 6 p.m.
(Girls Varsity) South at Western Boone 6 p.m.
(Boys Varsity) South at Western Boone 7:30 p.m.
(Girls JV) South at Western Boone 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 18, 2023

NORTH MONTGOMERY SCHOOLS
North Montgomery School Board meeting at Central Office, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023

GOVERNMENT
Crawfordsville Redevelopment Commission at City Building, 8:30 a.m.
Crawfordsville Plan Commission at City Building, 5 p.m.

WABASH
Wabash College basketball at Catholic University Holiday Classic, 5 p.m.

Christmas Eve Concert Set at Freedom Baptist in Waveland

If you're looking for something different to do this Christmas, try a free jazz piano concert featuring Luke Gillespie at 10:30 a.m. on Christmas Eve at Freedom Baptist Church near Waveland. Gillespie, an acclaimed performer and educator of jazz piano, is a professor of jazz piano at Indiana University's Jacob School of Music. Gillespie has performed with David Baker, Buselli-Wallarab Jazz Orchestra, Sylvia McNair, Ann-Margret, Arturo Sandoval, and many others. Gillespie is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 1994 Indianapolis Jazz Festival Competition, best performance from the



Luke Gillespie

Indianapolis Star in 1993, and the 1990 Copland Piano Concerto Competition at Indiana University. Freedom Baptist Church is located just minutes west of the intersection of US234 and US47, between Crawfordsville and Waveland. The program is free.

North Montgomery Board Meeting

The North Montgomery School Board is scheduled to meet Monday at 6 p.m. at the Central Administration Office.

Agenda

1. Call to order, pledge of allegiance
2. Public Comment
3. Consent Agenda
 - o Minutes
 - o Monthly Claims
 - o Personnel, Extra-Curricular, Field Trips, Facilities Usage, Contributions, Gifts, Superintendent Stipends

- o Other
- o Consent Vote

1. Action Items

- a. Approve Early Literacy Achievement Grant Fund Distribution of Stipends
- b. Approve Budget Expenditures and Intra-Fund Transfer to Balance Various Funds

2. Other
3. Adjournment

South Montgomery School Board Meeting

The South Montgomery School Board met Monday this week. Here is the Board Action Report.

Mr. Hutson called the meeting to order and invited Mr. Kinkead to call roll.

-Those present were: Mrs. Hess, Mr. Hutson, Mr. Kinkead, Mr. Mason, Mr. Reeves, and Mr. Watson.

-Students and Staff from all buildings were recognized.

-Public Comments:

-Cindy Bannon - She stated that she is very proud of the FFA in parliamentary procedure and the BPA had one of the best showings in years, she is very impressed. She spoke accolades for Mr. Mike Tricker, on his WHIN recognition, Congratulation and very well deserved.

-Mr. Hutson attended the Band & Choir program and it was wonderful. Thanks to our band and choir directors and the talented kids.

-Approved minutes of previous meetings.

-Approved claims and payrolls

-Approved the following personnel:

-Approved resignation of Arianna Wright, Science Teacher - Southmont Jr. High School - effective May 24, 2024.

-Bobbi Harden - Instructional Assistant - Southmont Jr. High School.

-Dana Hunt - Spring Play Assistant Director - \$750.00.

-Aaron Charles - Corporate Sponsorship stipend - \$2430.00.

-Jason Kelsey - JH Wrestling Coach - ½ stipend - \$1000.00.

-Mike Haslam - JH Wrestling Coach - ½ stipend - \$1000.00.

-Desson Hanum - Winter Weights Program - \$1726.00.

Extra Duty

Recommendations: Kelley Hopkins, IHSAA Sectional Volleyball Help - \$40.00;

Ashley Hammond, IHSAA Sectional Volleyball Help, Fall Supervision, Regional Football Help - \$80.00;

Kathryn Yoakum, IHSAA Sectional Volleyball Help, Fall Supervision, Regional Football Help - \$350.00;

-Erin Blaydes, IHSAA Sectional Volleyball Worker, IHSAA Sectional Football, IHSAA Regional Football - \$255.00;

Raymond Jones, IHSAA Football and IHSAA Regional Football Help - \$120.00;

Melissa Norman, IHSAA Sectional Volleyball, IHSAA Sectional Football, IHSAA Regional Football Help - \$160.00;

Tiffany Collisi, IHSAA Regional Football Help - \$40.00;

Deryk Bengel, IHSAA Sectional Football Help - \$40.00;

Jamie McCormick, IHSAA Regional Football Help - \$40.00;

Chery Politz, IHSAA Regional Football Help - \$40.00;

Sharon Barr, IHSAA Regional Football Help - \$40.00.

-Approved Wrestling Overnight Trips:

-Calumet HS (Varsity) and LaPorte HS (JV) - Leave December 8 and return on December 9.

-Coaches Association Team State Rochester HS - Leave January 5 and return on January 6.

-Culver Academies - Leave January 19 and return on January 20.

-IHSAA Semi-State New Castle HS - Leave February 9 and return on February 10.

-IHSAA State Ford Center Evansville - Leave February 16 and return on February 17.

-Rescinded Trent Smaltz, Ladoga Clark Township Public Library Board.

-Appointed Jay Prosser to the Ladoga Clark Township Public Library Board.

-Added eLearning Day, April 8, 2024 to the 2023-2024 school calendar.

-Changed Fall Break to October 21-25, 2024 on the 2024-2025 school calendar.

-Approved Teacher Contracts

-Approved Administrative Contracts.

-Donations made to Southmont High School in the amount of 8595.01. Report from Superintendent - Dr. Carrie Milner

-Dr. Milner stated that it is good to be back! A very fine community, you have a lot to be proud of and I am here if you need to talk.

-Adjourned.

Montgomery County Lawmakers Push Survey

With Indiana's lawmakers set to return to the Statehouse on Jan. 8 for the start of the 2024 legislative session, Montgomery County legislators released online surveys to gather constituents' feedback on important issues.

To get started on the survey, lawmakers ask Hoosiers to visit their state representative's webpage at one of the following links and click on the red "Take My Survey" button:

- State Rep. Beau Baird (R-Greencastle), House District 44, in.gov/h44;
- State Rep. Mark Genda (R-Frankfort), House District 41, in.gov/h41; or
- State Rep. Sharon Negele (R-Attica), House District 13, in.gov/h13.

"It's always beneficial to hear from Hoosiers in my district on the topics that are most important to them," Baird said. "I hope they find my survey to be a valuable tool to easily share their thoughts ahead of the legislative session."

To complete online surveys, constituents must be a resident of the district and submit it by the Dec. 31 deadline. Constituents can check which House district they reside in by visiting the Indiana General Assembly's website at iga.in.gov, clicking on "Find Your Legislator" on the

homepage and entering a home address.

Constituents can also expect to receive or may have already received a copy of their state representative's survey mailer in their mailbox.

"As I prepare for the upcoming legislative session, it helps to know what Hoosiers consider to be the most important topics to focus on," Genda said. "Taking my survey, and following session in person or online are great ways to stay engaged."

The 2024 legislative session begins Jan. 8 and must conclude by March 14. Hoosiers can stay informed and engaged by visiting iga.in.gov, where they can watch session and committee meetings, read proposed bills, and view calendars and agendas.

"I'm eager for those I represent at the Statehouse to weigh in with their feedback," Negele said. "Please visit my website today and share your thoughts or be on the lookout for my mailed survey to complete. Your responses matter and I value your input."

To stay updated during the legislative session, Hoosiers can sign up for their legislator's email newsletter by visiting IndianaHouseRepublicans.com and entering their email address under "Subscribe to eNews" or by calling 317-232-9600.



State Rep. Sharon Negele (R-Attica) represents House District 13, which includes all of Benton and Warren counties and portions of Fountain, Jasper, Montgomery, Newton, Tippecanoe and White counties.



State Rep. Mark Genda (R-Frankfort) represents House District 41, which includes portions of Boone, Clinton, Montgomery and Tippecanoe counties.



State Rep. Beau Baird (R-Greencastle) represents House District 44, which includes all of Putnam County and a portion of Montgomery County.

Firewood Permits Available at Some Parks

The public is invited to cut certain downed trees at Brookville Lake and Whitewater Memorial State Park for firewood. Trees eligible for firewood have fallen as a result of natural causes or have been dropped by property staff. They are along roadsides or in public areas such as campsites and picnic areas.

Permit sales are ongoing and end Jan. 31. The cost of one pickup-truck load is \$10. All proceeds will be used for resource management and restoration efforts, including replacement of trees in campgrounds and other public areas.

A firewood permit must be obtained for each load at the park office between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Mounds State Recreation Area office. Permits are not available on observed state holidays.

Wood may be cut and removed between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. daily. For more information, call 765-458-5565.

Firewood cut at Brookville Lake and Whitewater Memorial State Park is for personal use only and cannot be sold. Mounds SRA at Brookville Lake (on.in.gov/brookville) is at 14108 State Road 101, Brookville. Whitewater Memorial State Park (on.in.gov/whitewatermemorial), is at 1418 S. State Road 101, Liberty.

Baby Boy Born

A baby boy was welcomed to the world Monday. Francisco Logan Nino was born at Witham Hospital in Lebanon to Francisco Nino and Kaitlyn Bathauer. Baby Francisco weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and is the couple's first child. The paternal grandparents are Luis Nino and Jackie Spikerman.

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Gold Coin Dropped into Red Kettle

When Salvation Army volunteers are busy counting and sorting donations at the end of a long day of bell ringing, they never expect to see the sort of donation that was pulled out of a Central Indiana Red Kettle late last week: a gold coin worth at least \$2,000.

The \$50 Gold American Eagle Coin was discovered last week in a Red Kettle that had been outside the Walmart store on East Main Street in Plainfield. It was nestled among other bills and coins that had been placed in the kettle and was found while counting the donations at the end of the day.

"Whether it's a penny or a hundred-dollar bill, we presume every donation we receive is given with a measure of sacrifice," said Major David Martinez of The Salvation Army Eagle Creek Corps Community Center. "We count this as another opportunity to thank God that our community finds us worthy of such generosity."

The gold coin will support programs and ministries at the Eagle Creek Corps in 2024. The Salvation Army will have the coin appraised for authenticity before it is sold. As of December 11, 2023, the price of gold is \$1,994.83 per ounce, according to American Hartford Gold.

"Receiving a gift like this in a kettle is really a double portion for us," added Major Rachel Stouder, Central Indiana Area Commander. "We are grateful not only for its monetary value but also the morale booster of receiving such a



valuable sacrifice from a caring donor. Central Indiana truly does have some of the very best people."

This isn't the first time valuable coins have been donated to The Salvation Army of Central Indiana. Five coins made of silver, gold and platinum were dropped into Central Indiana Red Kettles last year. The coins had a total value of \$1,800. The annual Red Kettle Campaign has a goal of raising \$3.6 million through the Red Kettles located throughout Central Indiana. Bells started ringing early this year at various locations like Kroger, Cabela's, Walgreens, Walmart, Sam's Club, Needler's Fresh Market, Hobby Lobby, and Simon Malls. Volunteer bell ringers are needed to keep the kettles out all the way until December 23, so supporters are encouraged to visit RegisterToRing.com today to sign up for a 2-hour shift at a location of your choice.

Every donation dropped into Red Kettles during November and December provides help and hope to those in need, and all gifts stay right here in Central Indiana. Visit SACentralIndiana.org to learn more about how you can help The Salvation Army ensure that we can Love Beyond Christmas and continue to help those in need in 2024.

Entries Open for Bop to Top Stair Climb



Tuxedo Brothers will once again host the annual Bop to the Top Stair Climb in 2024. Bop to the Top is scheduled to take place Saturday, Jan. 20 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the One America Tower in downtown Indianapolis. Registration and fundraising information can be found at tuxbro.com, Tuxedo Brothers' website. Early Bird registration and pricing ends on December 31, so hurry and register for this outstanding event helping raise funds for Riley Children's Foundation. It is also necessary to register by Jan. 11 to guarantee your shirt! Participants are invited to climb the 36 floors of the OneAmerica Tower. There are 780 steps in all. All ages and abilities are welcome. The climb can be made as an individual or as part of a team.

This incredible event, now in its 41st year, is a third-party fundraiser for the Riley Children's Foundation. Over \$1 million has been raised so far for the Foundation! Tuxedo Brothers is an event management company owned and operated by brothers Don and Phil Carr. Since 1984, Tuxedo Brothers has managed more than 1,000 runs, walks and triathlons benefiting service and charitable organizations. Don and Phil, along with their team of employees, are honored that they have had the opportunity to host this fundraising event each year. Don Carr, President of Tuxedo Brothers, is extremely pleased to be part of this legacy. "I can't tell you what it means to be a part of such a meaningful event. To be able to help Riley Children's Foundation

work toward their mission is what it's all about."

Riley Children's Foundation is the fundraising arm of Riley Hospital for Children at Indiana University Health and the founding organization that opened Riley Hospital in 1924. Today, Riley Hospital is recognized as one of the best children's hospitals in the nation and is the only comprehensive children's research hospital in the state of Indiana.

Each year, as part of the Bop to the Top event, a 'Riley Hero' – an individual who speaks about their own experience as a child with Riley – is selected. This year's Riley Hero is Josh Jennings of Terre Haute.

Josh is a champion powerlifter who holds seven state records and one world record. He has come a long way since he was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia at the age of six. Josh went through three years of chemotherapy at Riley Children's Health, and today he is cancer free. He is looking forward to sharing his Riley story and providing hope for others.

Tuxedo Brothers goal for 2024 is to raise at least \$15,000. If you are interested in participating in the climb and collecting donations for Riley Children's Foundation, you can set up a personal or corporate fundraising page. Collect donations from your friends, family or co-workers by creating an online giving page. Riley Children's Foundation receives 100% of funds raised by individuals and teams who set up fundraising pages, so please

consider the difference you can make in a child's life! You can also bring your donations to the event site on January 20.

Overall and Age-Group awards will be provided for those who want to get competitive in Bop to the Top, but it is not required. Those who simply want to take their time and climb the stairs are also encouraged to come out.

Participants are encouraged to visit <http://www.tuxbro.com> for registration and updates on this and all Tuxedo Brothers' events, or e-mail Jason Springer at Jason@TuxBro.com. You can also check out future events, including several 5K's, half-marathons, full marathons, triathlons and more on their website.



TUXEDOBROTHERS
EVENT MANAGEMENT



This year's Riley Hero is Josh Jennings of Terre Haute.

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Young, Braun Stand Up for Steel

U.S. Sen. Todd Young (R-Ind.) joined U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) and a bipartisan group of colleagues in calling on the Environmental Protection Agency to reject three proposed rules that would dramatically undermine America's steel industry, hurt steel manufacturers and steelworkers, and ship steel jobs overseas. In a letter to EPA Administrator Michael Regan, the senators urge the agency to reject the proposed regulations as currently written in the interest of American national and economic security and instead work to overhaul the proposed regulations in a way that protects American steelworkers. In addition to Sens. Young and Brown, Sen. Mike Braun (R-Ind.) and others also signed the letter.

"We have serious concerns with these proposed rules because they would dramatically undermine the domestic steel industry and national security while driving production overseas likely resulting in no net reduction in emissions from the steel industry globally," the senators wrote. In the letter, the senators write that the United States is the cleanest major steel producer in the world and that the proposed rules would force American steel production to move

overseas to countries with lower pollution standards. The senators specifically wrote about three proposed rules related to steel manufacturing and production:

1. National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Integrated Iron and Steel Manufacturing Facilities (EPA-HQ-EPA-OAR-2002-0083),
2. National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Coke Ovens: Pushing, Quenching, and Battery Stacks, and Coke Oven Batteries. (EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0085 and EPA-HQ-OAR-2003-0051), and
3. National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Taconite Iron Ore Processing Amendments (EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0664).

The full letter follows: Dear Administrator Regan: We write to you today regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) three proposed rules related to steel manufacturing and related supply chains. We have serious concerns with these proposed rules because they would dramatically undermine the domestic steel industry and national security while

driving production overseas likely resulting in no net reduction in emissions from the steel industry globally. Reducing the emission of harmful air pollutants should be done based upon sound science and with proven technology that is both technically and economically feasible. The irony is that the United States' steel industry is world's cleanest major producer of steel. American steel manufacturers take seriously their commitment to protecting the environment; however, rules that drive production overseas are bad for our economy, bad for national security, and bad for the environment. These rules:

1) National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Integrated Iron and Steel Manufacturing Facilities (EPA-HQ-EPA-OAR-2002-0083), 2) National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Coke Ovens: Pushing, Quenching, and Battery Stacks, and Coke Oven Batteries. (EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0085 and EPA-HQ-OAR-2003-0051), and 3) National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Taconite Iron Ore Processing Amendments (EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0664), if finalized as proposed, would require billions of dollars in capital

investments and increased annual operating costs for the U.S. steel industry. We support reducing harmful air pollution. We also support rules that are durable, realistic, and based upon proven technology and reflect a consensus view among stakeholders on how to best improve public health while protecting good paying jobs and supporting industries essential to our national and economic security. These rules fail to meet those standards. As you move forward with these rulemakings, we urge you to take an inclusive approach - working directly with major stakeholders in developing technically-sound final rules that achieve further emissions reductions while not harming the competitiveness of our American steel companies. Written properly, regulations can help American steel manufacturers lead the world in clean steel production. Poorly written rules undermine domestic manufacturing and promote reliance upon inputs made by foreign manufacturers - manufacturers that pollute more than their American counterparts. Regulations that cost American jobs, undermine national security, and are likely to result in no net reduction in emissions globally must be rejected.

Braun Wants Truth on Biden

Hoosier Senator and gubernatorial candidate Mike Braun released the following statement on the House of Representatives' vote to formalize the impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden, which will grant the House the ability to better enforce subpoenas. "An impeachment inquiry is the only way we're going to get to the truth. Hunter Biden was selling influence abroad for millions and Joe Biden was 'the brand,' as Hunter's business partner Devon Archer testified. As Vice President, Joe

Biden spoke with Hunter's business associates over 20 times and used a fake email address to receive and send emails from his son's associates and to notify Hunter Biden when he would be calling the Ukrainian president. These facts must be followed, but President Biden's politicized DOJ and the White House have stonewalled at every turn. The House should vote to begin an impeachment inquiry; it's the only way to follow the facts - and the money - where they lead."

Trout Stocked Across Indiana

A total of 7,250 brown trout and 1,955 rainbow trout have been stocked in 17 bodies of water across Indiana. "The demand from trout anglers for brown trout has been increasing over the past several years," said Matt Horsley, fisheries biologist for northeast Indiana. "Stocking brown trout into our northern lakes and streams has the potential to extend trout fishing opportunities from just a month or so to several months, possibly even the entire year." The stocked brown trout averaged 8.25 inches in length. Brown trout stocking locations include:

- Fancher Lake, Lake County, 200 trout
- Harbor Lake, Porter County, 240 trout

- Little Kankakee River, LaPorte County, 250 trout
 - Potato Creek, St. Joseph County, 150 trout
 - Pinhook, St. Joseph County, 200 trout
 - Lawrence Lake, Marshall County, 1,380 trout
 - Myers Lake, Marshall County, 1,920 trout
 - Sand Lake, Noble County, 400 trout
 - Fairfield Northeast Lake, Tippecanoe County, 350 trout
 - Boones Pond, Boone County, 550 trout
 - Brookville Lake Tailwater, Franklin County, 1,610 trout
- Rainbow trout stocking locations include:
- Pinhook Lake, St. Joseph County, 200 trout
 - Shoaff Park Pond, Allen County, 300 trout
 - Memorial Park Pond, Huntington County, 200 trout
 - Johnson Lake, Jefferson County, 300 trout
 - Oak Lake, Clark County, 405 trout
 - Garvin Park Lake, Vanderburgh County, 550 trout

Anglers 18 and older will need an Indiana fishing license and a trout/salmon stamp to fish for trout. The bag limit for trout is five. This includes any combination of brook, rainbow, or brown trout, but no more than one may be a brown trout. There is no minimum size limit for lakes except for the 18-inch minimum size limit for brown trout at Oliver, Olin, and Martin lakes in LaGrange County, and the Brookville Lake tailwater in Franklin County. Streams have a 7-inch minimum size limit. There is no closed season for taking trout from inland lakes. Streams close to trout fishing from Dec. 31 to the last Saturday in April. For more information on DNR fish stockings, visit on.IN.gov/fish-stocking.

Makin' Bacon



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.

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But two years later, Santa recovered his finances and I received a baseball mitt and Milwaukee Braves hat...my best presents ever! I think that many of you will agree that Christmas has become much too commercialized today. Some children receive more gifts on Christmas day than I received total in the seventeen years I spent at home before heading off to college. Some of my best memories are the Christmas programs at school and in church, walking around town with other members of the Methodist Youth Fellowship and singing carols, and just being with all of the Dale family aunts, uncles, and cousins for a big get-together and pitch-in meal on Christmas afternoon and evening. The best present for me each year is to have everyone healthy and happy. But I will admit, the delight in opening those "special" gifts when I was a child are still floating around in my mind.

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