



JOIN THE PAPER OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY WITH DEBBIE SCHAVIETELLO FOR A SPECIAL PRESENTATION

February 20, 2024 | 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Fusion 54, 101 W Main St, Crawfordsville, IN 47933

TRAVEL WITH US on Exploring Britain & Ireland
09-22-24 – 10-06-24 | 800.581.8942



TODAY'S VERSE

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Teal is Looking for Some Buddy to Love



Teal is a 6 month old male husky/lab mix available to foster/adopt at The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL). You can't buy love, but you can adopt it! Teal is a happy ball of energy that loves to play and be showered with endless love. Teal is looking to meet his match! Could that be you!? AWL is open Monday - Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p Come say hi!!

TEAL IS GOOD WITH:
KIDS: YES
CATS: Not Sure (slow intros - leashed)
DOGS: Not Sure (meet and greet required if has other dogs)

Mcaww.com
1104 Big 4 Arch Rd
Crawfordsville, IN 47933
765-362-8846
INSTAGRAM: @mocoawl

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

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CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

WWW.THEPAPER24-7.COM

Butch Says Some Things Should Always Be Saved



BUTCH DALE
Columnist

I think most of you would agree that many people today are part of the "throwaway society." After making something, completing a project, or replacing a used item with something new, what happens with the leftovers? Yep, everything goes to the dumpster. Now I will admit that with many items, there is no choice...not practical...no room to store it...or obviously just plain junk. But many times, if at all possible, some things should always be saved.

Those of you who grew up during the Great Depression, and those of you who are the children of the depression era folks, know what I am talking about. When a person grows up not having much, it makes you want to hold onto everything you do have. Why? Because you just never know when you might need that button, scrap piece of wood, leftover ball of string, old can...well, you get the idea. I am proud to say, to my wife's chagrin, that I save almost everything. I learned this from my parents, who were born in 1924 and were five years old when the Great Depression began. Also, Mom had six siblings, and Dad had five siblings. Both went through tough times as youngsters and had few material possessions...and on a few occasions, very little food to go around. That's one reason why I was told over and over, "You are not getting up from the table until you finish everything on your plate...There are people in Africa who are starving." And to this day, I DO finish everything on my plate...at home or when I go out to eat. Too much prepared food? Hey, leftovers are fine with me! Dad made lots of things out of wood when we lived on



See BUTCH Page A3

Seeking a More Satisfying Understanding



LWV
The League of Women Voters, open to men as well as women, is a nonpartisan, multi-issue political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. For information about the Montgomery County LWV, visit: www.lwvmtg.com or message to LWV, PO Box 101, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

"It raises too many questions. I don't write the questions. I write the answers," says author Isabel Wilkerson in Ava

Duvernay's "Origin" - now out in theaters - when asked to write about two 911 calls the night George Zimmerman killed teenager Trayvon Martin.

"Like 'Why does a Latino man deputize himself to protect a white community against a black boy? Why is the cause of everything racism? Racism as the primary explanation for everything isn't satisfactory,'" Wilkerson tells an editor.

In "Origin," viewers follow Isabel Wilkerson as she wrestles with her questions, even as her husband dies suddenly, her elderly mother passes away and finally, her cousin dies. It's as much a study of her grief as how "grief brain" intersects with her work, shaping how she frames the answers she's seeking.

It's not race, she theorizes because race "is fluid and superficial, subject to periodic redefinition" but caste, "which is fixed and rigid . . . to meet the needs of the dominant caste . . ." Indeed, in the U.S., eastern Europeans, Asians and Jewish people, among others, were all outcast races at various times.

Wilkerson chases her research first to Germany where two American sociologists who visited a Berlin library in 1933 were warned to leave Germany post haste because they were black. Thirteen years after forming as an anti-Marxist, pro-nationalist party and six years before invading Czechoslovakia, the Nazi Party burned 20,000 books in one night, which the sociologists witnessed. A visit to Berlin allows tourists to find the illuminated monument marking the book burning.

At the moment, the U.S. took an "America first" stance, and nationalism turned dictatorial, founded on beliefs about the superiority of each country's civilization took hold in Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan and later Russia. What began as nationalism and arguments

Timmons Talks This, that and tuther . . .

Notes found on the back of a Valentine's Day card my younger self wrote to Janie from the Popeye and Janie Show.



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

FOR THOSE eight or nine of you who follow this column, or the thousands of you who read The Paper Online Edition, John Marlowe is no

stranger. He was one of our most well-read columnists and his death at way too young an age because of cancer left many of us sad beyond words. If that includes you, I'd like to ask for your help. John's columns won first place in the Hoosier State Press Association contest multiple times. If this were high school basketball, John would be a state

champ many times over. He would be a cinch for the state Hall of Fame over in New Castle. Well, with your help, I'd like for us to nominate John for inclusion in the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame. Not only was his work consistently recognized as the best in the entire state, his words touched many of you. John belongs in the

See TIM on Page A3

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Learn to read food labels and watch for ingredients that end in -ose, that means it's a form of sugar.



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

"Love is the greatest refreshment in life."
Pablo Picasso

TODAY'S JOKE

What's the best recipe for a perfect morning on February 14?
A hug and a quiche.

THREE THINGS

You Should Know

- 1 A 70th anniversary celebration of Milan High School's legendary 1954 Indiana Basketball State Championship will be held on March 23 in the town of Milan. Festivities will take place in the Milan High School gymnasium beginning at 11 a.m. and admission is free and open to the public. The celebration will include remarks from dignitaries and feature a panel discussion with the Milan players. Following the formal ceremony, the Milan players and actors from the movie Hoosiers will sign autographs and food trucks will be on hand.
- 2 Edith "Edie" Recagno Keenan Ceccarelli was born in the town of Willits, Calif. and still lives there. She's the oldest resident in Willits, a town with a population just shy of 5,000 residents. In fact, at the age of 116 years, she's the oldest woman in America and the second oldest woman in the world. Each year, on Feb. 5, the whole town comes out to celebrate her birthday and Edie wonders, "Why am I still here?" As one of her best friends put it, "God has a plan for you."
- 3 Somehow 3-year-old Ethan in Queensland, Australia managed to work his way into a claw machine via the chute through which prizes are dispensed. In this case it was a Hello Kitty plush toy machine. Using hand gestures Dad signaled his boy to stand far back in the machine's container allowing police to smash through the glass pane. All's well that ends well. When the ordeal came to a successful end, one of the police officers told Ethan, "You won a prize, which one do you want?"

THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Ready for the annual update that is the state of the community address? Then mark Thursday. Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton and County Manager Tom Klein will share all the details beginning at 7 p.m. You can catch it all on the City of Crawfordsville's Facebook page with links to listen or on WCDQ 106.3.



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



See LWV on Page A5

➔ OBITUARY

Denver Carter

March 17, 1959 - February 8, 2024

Denver Dale Carter, age 64, of Crawfordsville, passed away on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at Franciscan Health Indianapolis. He was born in Batesville on March 17, 1959 to Ray Thomas and Vivien Leigh (Bostic) Carter.

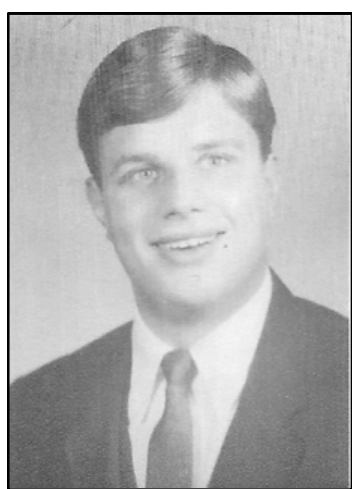


After graduating from Greensburg High School, Denver embarked on a career as a laborer in the lumber industry. He worked for B & D Lumber Company and Fleetwood. On February 27, 2018, Denver married the love of his life, Marianne Rankin, in Crawfordsville. He was a passionate fan of IU Basketball, Indianapolis Colts, and NASCAR. Denver was a member of the Crawfordsville Eagles and the Sons of the American Legion.

Denver will be deeply missed by his wife, Marianne; beloved cat, Devo; sister, Debbie (Jerry) Borgman; brother, Dwayne Carter; nieces, Nickie (Brian) Mahon and Lorie Jordan; three great-nephews, and one great-niece.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a nephew, Ross Jordan.

A gathering of friends and family will be held at Sanders Priebe Funeral Care, 315 S. Washington Street in Crawfordsville on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 from 12:00 noon until 2:00 pm. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be given to the American Liver Foundation, PO Box 299, West Orange, NJ 07052 or the American Kidney Fund, 11921 Rockville Pike, Suite 300, Rockville, MD 20852. Sanders Priebe Funeral Care is entrusted with care. Share memories and condolences online at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.



Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia

Do you recognize this person?

Hint:

He graduated from Waynetown High School in 1968 and you can find him at C'ville city council meetings.

Answer on Page A4

Diesel is a 7 year old male American Pit Bull Terrier mix that has been at The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 3/2/2020 (1,442 days). Diesel is a handsome senior boy with a superstar personality! Diesel absolutely loves water (pools, showers, or sprayed with a water hose)! Diesel will jump for joy to play in water! Diesel also loves going out for walks, car rides, and treats/toys. Diesel is SUPER ready to break out of this joint and go to his forever home! Diesel maintains his buff physique with Purina Pro Plan Veterinary Diets Gastroenteric Dry Dog Food. Diesel is looking for his best friend! Could that be you? Diesel is available for adoption, to foster, or just simply going out for walks.

AWL is open Monday - Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p. Come say hi!!

**Thank
you
for
subscribing!**

The Paper
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY
An Independent Newspaper - Founded 2004

Vol. 20 Sen. Phil Boots, President USPS Publication Number: 022-679	Issue 19 Tim Timmons, Publisher Report address changes to circulation@thepaper24-7.com
Annual Print Subscription: \$84	Annual Online Subscription: \$42
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↓ BUTCH From Page A1

the farm. He saved almost every scrap piece. I couldn't understand why...until later on when he needed just the right piece for another project...proving he did not have to make a trip to Metzger Lumber to purchase it. I save all but the tiniest of scrap lumber in a shed by the barn. Mom was the same way. She was an excellent seamstress, and she saved scrap pieces of cloth for recycling to be used on a future sewing project, or to give to Grandma Dale, who enjoyed making quilts for family members. In fact, she made a wonderful quilt from scrap cloth for my wife and me as a wedding gift.

As a youngster, when I had outgrown some of my toys and playthings, they were handed down to my brother Gary, who was four years younger. I'm not sure whether he appreciated the fact that he was receiving "secondhand" toys, but I do know there was one thing he was glad to receive...my prized Cushman motor scooter, which I got when I was 13, and he inherited when I received my driver's license at age 16. A few weeks ago my wife and I were discussing some of the toys that our four kids had when they were little...how some of those toys are now "collector" items worth lots of money. For instance, the Star Wars toys and figures we had purchased for Neil, our oldest son. We ended up giving those to some kids who lived nearby, as their family was quite poor. My son Clark had a Dukes of Hazzard pedal car, which he eventually outgrew...and we gave it to another little boy. The same goes for Brett's Ninja Turtles collection. We always tried to recycle toys to youngsters whose parents perhaps could not afford many things. During this discussion, I asked my wife what had happened to our daughter's Cabbage Patch kids. I recalled spending hours waiting in line to purchase those dolls in the early 1980s. Early one morning I drove to Lafayette and stood in line at Service Merchandise, along with hundreds of others, to buy a Cabbage Patch kid. On another occasion, I met up with someone to buy one of those dolls in a private transaction...knowing I was going to pay an exorbitant price, so Shelle could have it for Christmas. My wife thought for awhile...after all, it had

been forty years ago. "I'm not sure what happened to those. I don't think we gave them away." The next morning I decided to look upstairs in all three closets. No luck. The only other place might be the attic...the door not opened in at least twenty years. After brushing away the cobwebs, I shone my flashlight into the small space, where old trunks, boxes, and other loose odds and ends lay covered with dust.

In the first box were drinking glasses which had belonged to my mother-in-law. In the second box were stacks of moldy-smelling books and photo albums, along with warped 33 rpm records. Next to those was a large black garbage bag. I tore open a small hole in the middle and peered inside...old stuffed animals. I brought the bag out into the room, and opened it...and there...staring me in the face, was a Cabbage Patch kid! All together, there were FIVE dolls inside...their faces a little dirty, and their clothes a little musty-smelling, but no holes, or tears, or imperfections. I had saved them! I took the dolls downstairs for my wife to see when she arrived home from work. She was amazed that they were in such good condition after all of these years, but while I was at work the next day, she spent the entire afternoon cleaning the dolls up and washing their clothes. They looked like new!

A few days later, I took the dolls to the library, and called Shelle, who teaches school, to see if she might stop by after work. I hid the dolls from view, and when she arrived, I told her, "There are five little kids who want to see you." With a puzzled look on her face she replied, "What kids? I don't see anyone." I then led her over to the couch, where her Cabbage Patch kids were lined up, with a sign I had made..."SHELLE, WE HAVE MISSED YOU!" Well, you should have seen the look on her face...and then a big smile. She exclaimed, "Wow, I can't believe it...this is great! I will certainly find a place to display my precious little Cabbage Patch kids....Thank you, thank you, thank you!" Shelle gave me a big hug and called my wife to thank her, too...Yes folks, there are definitely some things worth saving....

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.

↓ TIM From Page A1

Hall – and together I think we have a good chance to get him there. How? Pretty simple. If you agree, just send me an email (ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com) with what John's columns meant to you. You can be as brief or lengthy as you like. Entirely up to you. And if you knew him, share more. We'll take your responses and put together a formal nomination and send it in later this year. And with any luck, John and his work will be memorialized along with others who made a huge difference in Indiana journalism.

John's been gone eight months now. A lot of us miss him. This just feels like the right thing to do as a tribute he so richly deserves.

EVER WANTED to go to Ireland? How about Scotland? Great Britain? Well, let's go! The Paper and the good folks at Collette Travel are taking a tour there from Sept. 22 through Oct. 6. Fifteen wonderful days with stops at places like Stonehenge, Killarney, London, Dublin and more! And you can find out all the details at a special meeting next week. Here's the scoop. The hostess for the trip will be The Paper's own Debbie Schavietello (and her wonderful Mom). And the company behind the trip, Collette, might be the world's best travel agency. You've seen their trips for years on the Wheel of Fortune TV show.

Collette will be in town Tuesday to tell you all about how the trip works. You'll find out that they'll pick us all up in a bus right here in Crawfordsville and take us to the airport and continue taking care of

us until that bus brings us back 15 days later. Heck, you don't even have to drive out of town. It's all being taken care of for you by Collette and The Paper! The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at Fusion 54 in the heart of beautiful downtown Crawfordsville (the PNC Bank Building). Friends, this is a trip of a lifetime! We hope you'll come along with us. We're going to have a blast! See you Tuesday? Be sure to sign up through one of our ads and we hope to see you there!

TODAY IS the first day of Lent – Ash Wednesday. Whether you are a believer or not, what a good time to perhaps reflect on the state of the world. If there was ever a time when divine guidance was needed . . . Here's hoping that God is watching over us all!

JANIE WOODS Hodge was the object of many a schoolboy crush in the early and mid 1960s. Along with Cowboy Bob and Sammy Terry, she was one of the personalities on WTTV, Channel 4. Not surprisingly she was a graduate of Shortridge High School – a school that produced Kurt Vonnegut, Richard Lugar, Booth Tarkington, Marilyn and Gene Glick and many others. She was inducted in the Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame in 2015.

Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically in The Paper. Timmons is the publisher of The Paper and can be contacted at ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com.

AWL Offers Pet Bereavement Workshop

Mourning the loss of a beloved pet is real grief and needs the same kind of processing and support as any other kind of loss. Through a collaborative effort, the Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County is offering a half-day workshop to help people through the loss of their treasured pets. It will take place on

Saturday, March 2 from 9 a.m. to noon at 300 W. South Blvd in Crawfordsville. There is no cost to participate. Donations to support the AWL will be accepted. For more information or to reserve your spot, contact Gwynn Wills at gwills6735@me.com or (317) 345-5306.



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We appreciate our readers!

Thank You For Reading The Paper



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COPAYS AND DEDUCTIBLES MAY APPLY

PUBLIC NOTICES

**TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE**

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No. 54C01-2309-MF-000810, wherein Citibank, N.A., not in its individual capacity, but solely as owner trustee of the New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2019-6 was Plaintiff, and Gregory R. Norman and Taneema J. Norman were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the 13th day of March, 2024, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as is possible, at Sheriff's Office at 600 Memorial Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana.

Lots Numbered 50 and 51, as the same are known and designated on the recorded plat of Warren Place Addition to the City of Crawfordsville, in Montgomery County, Indiana.

More commonly known as: 808 Danville Avenue, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 Parcel No. 54-10-05-113-123.000-030

Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.

"Subject to all liens, encumbrances and easements of record not otherwise extinguished in the proceedings known as Cause 54C01-2309-MF-000810 in the Circuit Court of the County of Montgomery, Indiana."

Attorney for Plaintiff: J. Dustin Smith
ATTORNEY NO. 29493-06
Manley Deas Kochalski LLC
P.O. Box 165028
Columbus OH 43216-5028
Sheriff of Montgomery County
Union Township
808 Danville Avenue
Street Address

The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein.

PL4805 1/31 2/7 2/14 3t hspaxlp

54C01-2401-MI-000116
STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MONTGOMERY CIRCUIT COURT)
) SS:
MONTGOMERY COUNTY) CAUSE NO. 54C01-2401-MI-000116
IN THE MATTER OF THE)
NAME CHANGE OF:)
KRISTI LYNN MANGOLD)
**NOTICE OF FILING OF VERIFIED
PETITION FOR LEGAL CHANGE OF NAME**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Kristi Lynn Mangold, an adult, has petitioned the Montgomery Circuit Court to change her name to "Kristi Sue Mangold."

A hearing on said Petition shall be held by the Montgomery Circuit Court, Second Floor, Montgomery County Court House, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933, on the 19th day of March, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Any interested person may appear and be heard at said hearing and/or file any objections to this request, with the Montgomery Circuit Court, prior to or on said date and time.

Justin L. Froedge, #31715-54
Attorney for Petitioner
118 East Main Street, Suite 300
Crawfordsville, IN 47933
(765) 364-9499

PL4811 2/7 2/14 2/21 3t hspaxlp

**TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE**

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Montgomery Superior Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No.: 54D01-1904-MF-000427, wherein PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, was Plaintiff, and J D Spencer, Janelle D. Spencer, was/were Defendant(s), requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 13th day of March, 2024, at the hour of 10am or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 600 Memorial Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana.

Lot Numbered 8, except the South 40 Feet thereof, as the same is known and designated on the recorded Plat of H.E. Green's 1st Addition to the City of Crawfordsville, in Montgomery County, Indiana, as the same appears of record in Deed Record 159 Page 73, in the Recorder's Office of Montgomery County, Indiana.

More Commonly Known As: 1551 Darlington Avenue, Crawfordsville, IN 47933

54-07-33-331-001.000-030

Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.

Jennifer L. Snook
MARINOSCI LAW GROUP, P.C.
455 West Lincolnway, Ste. B,
Valparaiso, IN 46385
Telephone: (219) 386-4700
Sheriff of Montgomery County
City of Crawfordsville
1551 Darlington Avenue, Crawfordsville, IN 47933
Street Address

The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein

Type of Service: Personal
SERVICE DIRECTED TO:
Janelle Spencer
1551 Darlington Ave
Crawfordsville, IN 47933
Bill Green
134 West Main Street
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

NOTICE: MARINOSCI LAW GROUP, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

PL4814 2/7 2/14 2/21 3t hspaxlp

NOTICE OF HEARING
Maintenance assessment hearing
Attention all Landowners
On the Needham-Booher #640 on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.
Montgomery County Government Center
1580 Constitution Row
Crawfordsville, IN 47933
PL4816 2/14 1t hspaxlp

**Montgomery County Board of Commissioners
NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF HEARING ON RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF CUMULATIVE BRIDGE FUND**

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of Montgomery County, Indiana that the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners will consider at the Community Meeting Room, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana at 8 o'clock a.m. on February 26, 2024, the re-establishment of the Cumulative Bridge Fund under the provisions of Indiana Code §8-16-3 for the following purposes: the construction, repair, maintenance and inspection of bridges in Montgomery County.

If accommodations are required to attend this meeting, please contact Auditor Mindy Byers at 765-364-6403.

The tax will be levied on all taxable real and personal property in Montgomery County and will not exceed \$0.075 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The proposed tax will be levied beginning with taxes due and payable in the year 2025. Taxpayers appearing at this public hearing will have the right to be heard on this issue. The proposal to re-establish the Cumulative Bridge Fund is subject to approval by the Department of Local Government Finance.

Within thirty (30) days of the adoption of the ordinance re-establishing the Cumulative Bridge Fund by the Board of Commissioners of Montgomery County, Montgomery County will publish a Notice of Adoption. Upon publication of the Notice of Adoption, twenty-five (25) or more taxpayers in the taxing district (Montgomery County) may file a petition with the County Auditor not later than 12 noon, thirty (30) days after the publication of the Notice of Adoption setting forth their objections to the proposed fund.

Dated this 12th day of February, 2023.
Board of Commissioners of Montgomery County, Indiana
PL4815 2/14 2/21 2t hspaxlp

NOTICE OF HEARING
Maintenance assessment hearing
Attention all Landowners
On the Shumaker-White on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.
Montgomery County Government Center
1580 Constitution Row
Crawfordsville, IN 47933
PL4818 2/14 1t hspaxlp

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Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia

Answer: Andy Biddle

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↓ LWV

From Page A1

of superiority evolved. Some citizens of those nations became enamored with their strong man. While Wilkerson researched the possibility that Germany codified castes, the film allows viewers to see her face thoughtful challenges. "It's not the same," a German woman tells Wilkerson. "The Nazis aimed for extermination, not subjugation." Wilkerson researches further and learns that the Nazi leadership admired American Jim Crow Laws and used them as a framework for the segregation policies the U.S. created – preventing intermarriage, creating separation in education, neighborhoods, and financial opportunity, but ultimately, dehumanizing black Americans as a whole group. "Dehumanize the group, and you have completed the work of dehumanizing any single person within it. Dehumanize the group, and you have quarantined them from the masses you choose to elevate and have programmed everyone, even some of the targets of dehumanization, to no longer believe what their eyes can see, to no longer trust their own thoughts. Dehumanization distances not only the out-group from the in-group, but those in the in-group from their own

humanity. It makes slaves to groupthink of everyone in the hierarchy. A caste system relies on dehumanization to lock the marginalized outside of the norms of humanity so that any action against them is seen as reasonable," writes Wilkerson in her second best-seller *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*. We've seen it, these false insinuations that some groups of people are more immoral by nature – inclined not to marry their baby's father, to be on government support, to be violent as young men, more likely to sell illegal drugs. Stereotypes fail, as Monica Guzman writes in *I've Never Thought of It That Way*, "People who are under-represented in your life are over-represented in your imagination." Some of those stereotypes changed over the years. Some used to apply to Irish women – too loose – or Italian men and women, and of course the horrific and untrue stereotypes about Jewish people and money. Now we have stereotypes about various indigenous peoples, Latino people, gay / lesbian, queer, bi- and trans people. We've seen some of the most vicious ideas soften, but others amp up. For black Americans, among other groups, stereotypes don't ever disappear fully. That came to bear in France at the start of the 20th century during the Dreyfus Affair. In 1894, Alfred Dreyfus, a well-off

Jewish military officer, who along with his family had assimilated into French culture, was accused and convicted of treason. Over the next 12 years, the case divided the French people, who were stoked by anti-Semitic media outlets. Even though Dreyfus was innocent and had done all that was asked of him to fit into French culture, he became an easy target, because he was Jewish. Wilkerson discovered that the Nazi Party linked black Americans to the Jewish "target caste." The Nazis were "impressed by the American custom of lynching . . . Hitler especially marveled at the American 'knack for maintaining an air of robust innocence in the wake of mass death.'" The idea of caste is associated with India, so Wilkerson travels to meet with Dalit people in India as had Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ("Dalit" means "broken or scattered" and refers to a class of Indian people considered untouchable and assigned to the worst jobs and roles in the country.) When MK Achutan, a Dalit who overcame the culturally imposed limitations on his life said Dr. King was a Dalit too, recognizing their shared experience and testifying to the position of African Americans in the American hierarchy. At first, it affronted Dr. King, though he soon saw the truth in it. Race is a convenient way to formulate a caste, a

scapegoat "out-group," Wilkerson determines. Wilkerson's grief reveals wisdom in the film. While dealing with her mother's home, the basement floods, leaving her worried it's structurally compromised. From this, she analogizes the U.S.'s situation to an ancestral home we inherited. Even though we didn't build the home or design it, we are still responsible for the repairs. America is our home and while our ancestors may not have participated in slavery or discrimination against other groups, we still live in a country fractured and compromised in the past. Wilkerson may prefer to write answers, but she leaves us with the implied question, how shall we repair the fractures? That is communal work.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, multi-issue political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government. For information about the League, visit the website www.lwvmontcoin.org; or, visit the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, Indiana Facebook page.

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