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TODAY'S VERSE

2 Timothy 2:7 Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

Meet Blue



Blue is a super handsome 5 year old blue and white pit bull terrier that's been at The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 11/05/21. Blue is very food/treat motivated, which helps learn new things. Blue is active and enjoys jogs/walks, exploring a fenced in yard, and playing with toys! Blue is dog selective, so a meet and greet is necessary for his new home. No small animals/cats. Can't adopt, but interested in fostering, please ask staff about fostering Blue. AWL is open Monday - Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p. Come Say hi!

No Edition on Monday

Monday is President's Day and as such, some places may be closed. This can include banks, license branches and more. The Paper doesn't publish on holidays, so there will be no Monday edition. President's Day used to be Washington's Birthday - a holiday that honored our nation's first president. Washington was born on Feb. 22. However, Abraham Lincoln was born on Feb. 12 and he was included and the name changed to Presidents' Day. It is a federal holiday and is celebrated on the third Monday of February. In most state, it is also an official state holiday.

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Boomer Bits

Ask Rusty – Should I Claim Social Security at 68, or Wait Until I'm 70?



ASK Rusty
Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

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Dear Rusty: I have a question regarding my SS benefits. I turned 68 this month and work part time. I earned \$28,000 last year but will probably gross \$36,000 to \$38,000 this year. My husband collects his SS, and he earned \$25,000 last year. I was told by a financial planner that I should apply for my benefits now, instead of waiting until I'm 70. I would collect \$1700/month at 68 and \$1944/month if I wait. Which is the smarter move?
Signed: Seeking Answers

Dear Seeking: I'm sure your financial advisor would agree that your decision on when to claim your Social Security comes down to just a few basic things - 1) how badly you need the money, 2) your life expectancy, and

3) whether you will receive a spousal boost from your husband when you claim.

Because you have already passed your full retirement age (FRA) of 66 years and 4 months, your work earnings won't negatively affect your monthly SS benefit amount. If you claim now, however, your work earnings will affect how much of your SS benefits will be subject to income tax. Assuming you file your income tax as "married/filing jointly," up to 85% of the Social Security benefits you receive during the tax year will become part of your income taxable by the IRS. If you do not urgently need the extra money that your

➔ See RUSTY Page A3

Reduce Your COPD Risk, No Matter Where You Live

(Family Features) COPD, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, is a serious lung condition that affects millions of people. Also known as emphysema or chronic bronchitis, COPD causes breathing problems that can worsen over time. Anyone can develop COPD, but smokers or ex-smokers and people who live in rural areas of the country tend to be more affected. In fact, rural residents are twice as likely to have COPD as people who live in large cities. They're also more likely to be hospitalized or die from the disease compared to other Americans. To help lower your risk, wherever you live, consider these steps from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI).

Avoid Air Pollution
 Air pollution may be a concern for many who live in rural areas. If you work on a farm, in mining or in

➔ See COPD Page A3

Meet our four generations of Easleys



KAREN ZACH
Around The County

As I perused this neat 4-generation picture (Montgomery County INGenWeb page), I thought, "Oh, please take

any 4 and 5 generation photos (even three) possible in your family." This is one reason why. The four fellows in this picture are Easleys - the oldest, (white hair, seated right facing photo) is Joseph Woodson Easley, his son also seated is Daniel Woodson Easley. Daniel's son is in the back, Charles Woodson Easley and CW's son JC (wish I knew his full name, assuming Joseph Charles) is the baby. This likely was taken in the fall of 1894 as JC born 29 March 1894 looks about six months old. Sadly, he passed away 3 Jan in 1895 of diphtheria. He had an older brother J. Loyd, who passed away on the day he was born 26 Feb 1891, and no picture of him, of course! Certainly, this is a very precious photo for this family! Luckily, Charles Woodson and wife, Nancy Eveline "Eve" Buser (daughter of William Hiram and Sarah Ellen Allen Buser) did have four daughters and several grands (Caretta see also below married Paul Everson - two daughters?); Mary married Howard Cowdin (at least one daughter, Norma); Velma lived to be 88, married Walter Tague no children and Lenora married John C Saidla - three children). Probably mentioned this family in the Vanclave Saga but not in detail, so wanted to tell ya' more as I love this picture! Joseph Woodson Easley (usually referred to as JW) was born 16 Sept 1823 in Woodford County, Kentucky, the son of Daniel Easley (born in NC, moved to Kentucky, to

➔ See KAREN Page A3

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you work the night shift, put on your sunglasses before going out into the sun until you get home and go to bed. 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



THREE THINGS You Should Know

- The National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) has opened the application period for the third annual Lt. Governors' STEM Scholarship Program, sponsored by ACT, to award up to \$1,000 to 12 schools nationally to support STEM-related activities for youth. Applications will be accepted until March 15, 2024, with award recipients announced and funded in Spring 2024. In 2023, Linton-Stockton School Corporation (LSSC) in Greene County was one of 12 recipients awarded this scholarship. LSSC was awarded \$1,000 to create a schoolwide recycling program. NLGA will award 12 scholarships to 12 schools in 12 different states and territories, worth \$10,000 total. Instructions for applying, can be found at <https://nlga.us/strategies/nlga-state-strategies-in-stem/>
- Beginning Monday, hunters can apply for spring turkey reserved hunts by visiting on.IN.gov/reservedhunt. The online method is the only way to apply. No late entries will be accepted. Applicants must possess a hunting license that is valid for the hunt for which they are applying. Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 17. Hunters will be selected through a random computerized drawing. An email will be sent to all applicants when draws have been completed. Applicants will be able to view draw results online within two weeks after the application period closes March 17.
- According to the newly released agricultural census data from The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s National Agricultural Statistics Service, Indiana remains a top agricultural state, with agricultural products valued at over \$18 billion. The Census of Agriculture is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Even small plots of land - whether rural or urban - growing fruit, vegetables or some food animals count if \$1,000 or more of such products were raised and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the Census year. The Census of Agriculture, taken only once every five years, looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"All I ask is the chance to prove that money can't make me happy."
 Spike Milligan

TODAY'S JOKE

What'd the Colts' receiver say to the football?
 Oh well, catch you later.

THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

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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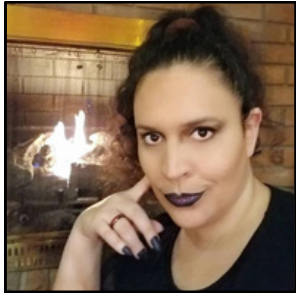
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Watercolor Class Open for 65 and Older

Athens Arts Artist Kenya Ferrand-Ott is offering a series of watercolor classes for students 65 years and older thanks to a Life Long Arts grant from the Indiana Arts Commission. Lifelong Arts Indiana is a grant for learning opportunities for aging services and provides artists to develop their skills in providing creative experiences for older adults.



Kenya Ferrand-Ott

The artist has chosen to partner with Athens Arts to hold all classes at their gallery located at

216 East Main Street, Crawfordsville IN 47933. The six (6) consecutive classes will start February 24 to March 30, Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. To reserve a spot for these classes, contact Athens Arts (765) 362-7455 and leave a message. There is limited space available.

For questions, please call (765) 301-0645.

Purdue Extension: Spring is Coming and So Are Events

We are enjoying some sunshine for the first time in months alongside tolerable temperatures. But winter is not over according to the groundhog, or more importantly, the location of the Earth relative to the sun. So, before spring truly arrives it is important to be prepared for the upcoming growing seasons. As temperatures rise, so do our number of calendar events and obligations. These warmer cold temperatures are perfect for pruning your fruit trees and your bramble bushes. Don't stress if you do not know how to best prune your trees. Purdue Extension is here to help when it comes to fruit trees, homesteading, gardening and being prepared for emergencies. There will be a Fruit Pruning Workshop on Feb 28th, 1-4:30 pm at Meig's Horticulture Research Farm near Romney. The event costs \$10 at the door. Participants will learn from Purdue Horticulture Experts to learn how to prune apple trees, raspberry bushes, and grapes, and learn more about diseases that affect our fruit trees. To learn more please email triciaherr@purdue.edu

The Illinois and Purdue Bi-State Extension team has two conferences coming up. On February 22 5:30-8:30pm ET at The Beef House, join us for the Bi-State Homesteading Conference. We will have a panel on good food safety practices, and Tabby Flinn from Purdue Extension will discuss why to start beekeeping, and Katie Bell from Illinois Extension will discuss how to manage backyard chickens. To register, email

triciaherr@purdue.edu or go to <https://bit.ly/BiStateHC>.

Secondly, the Bi-State Garden conference was rescheduled due to poor road conditions on the original date. It has been rescheduled for February 27 at 11am-2pm ET (change to start time) at the Beef House. Participants will learn about Jumping Worms, Organic Lawn Care Options, Weed Management and Greenhouse Production of Landscape Plants. To register, email triciaherr@purdue.edu or go to go.illinois.edu/BiStateGarden

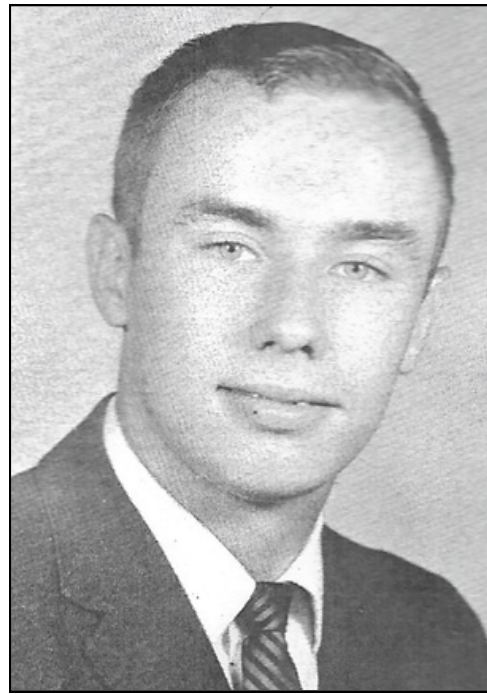
Extension to host multistate emergency preparedness workshop series for rural families

An upcoming four-part extension workshop, Emergency Preparedness Workshop for Rural Families, will focus on farm and ranch emergency management, first aid, fire protection, and hazardous materials for rural families. This project was supported by a grant from NCRCD through funding from USDA NIFA Award #2022-51150-38141. The program will be a 4-part series, held at the Fountain County Fairgrounds, 476 W US HWY 136 Veedersburg, IN 47987. Workshops will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. EST on March 5, 7, 12 and 14. Dinner is included. The program is a collaboration between extension women in Agriculture programs at Purdue University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, agricultural occupations have high rates of work-related injuries and deaths. While not all emergencies result in

bodily injury or death, they also may cost rural families in other ways. "In many farm and ranch families, safety is an important topic, but it sometimes gets overlooked because it does not directly impact profitability" said Jessica Groskopf, director of the Nebraska Women in Agriculture program. There is a registration fee of \$50 per person before Feb. 20. The fee increases to \$60 per person after Feb. 20. Participants should plan to attend each session. A virtual option is available for those unable to attend a workshop site, although in-person attendance is highly encouraged to better network with other attendees and interact with speakers. The virtual registration fee is \$75 before Feb. 20 and \$80 after Feb. 20. Registration may be completed on the Nebraska Women in Agriculture website, <https://wia.unl.edu/prep>.

Tricia Herr is the Extension Educator / Agriculture & Natural Resources for Purdue Extension at the Montgomery County Office

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do you recognize this person?

HINT:
 This 1962 New Market grad was one of the best baseball strikeout pitchers in the history of Montgomery County.

Answer on Page A4





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↓ RUSTY

From Page A1

SS will provide, then waiting longer to claim will also postpone paying income tax on your received benefits, and that may be a consideration. Your life expectancy is key in making your decision on when to claim. You already know that your benefit will be \$244 per month more if you wait until you are 70 to claim. If you claim at 68 (e.g., this month), you will collect about \$40,800 by the time you reach 70. If you, instead, wait until age 70 to get that extra \$244/month benefit, it will take you about 14 years collecting at the higher rate to offset the \$40,800 you would have received had you claimed now (in other words, you would break even moneywise at about age 84). If your life expectancy is longer, then waiting to claim may be the better choice. Of course, no one knows how long they will live but, for general guidance, average life expectancy for a woman your current age is about 87. Family history and your current health are obviously influencing factors as well. If you wish to get a more personal estimate of your life expectancy, I suggest using this tool:

www.socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/.

In the end, if you believe you will attain at least average life expectancy and you don't urgently need the money now, waiting longer will not only give you a higher monthly benefit in your later years, but also the

most in cumulative lifetime benefits. If, however, you have reason to suspect you won't achieve at least average life expectancy, or you need the SS money sooner, claiming before age 70 is likely the better move. One other thing to consider: If your benefit as your husband's spouse will be more than your own earned maximum SS retirement benefit, then you should claim your SS benefit now. Your maximum benefit as a spouse would be 50% of your husband's full retirement age entitlement and, if that is more than your own benefit will be at age 70, then claiming now to get your maximum spousal benefit would be your best choice. To get a spousal benefit from your husband, your personal FRA entitlement (not your age 68 amount) would need to be less than half of his FRA entitlement. If that isn't the case, then you should make your decision based only on your own Social Security entitlement, as described above.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. Russell Gloor is the, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/prgrams/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

↓ KAREN

From Page A1

MoCo, purchasing 210 acres in Sec 2, Brown Twp November 1826 passing 1870 in Iowa) and Nancy (Deatherage), the Easley family dating back to Robert born about 1659 in Basses-Alpes, Prince, France and died 1711 in Henrico, Virginia. One of the ancestors of our four fellas married Nancy Woodson which is where that name continued for several generations and who knows, may still? In Montgomery County, JW married Lucinda Jane Vanleave (4 Aug 1826 – 2 Sept 1893 – both died New Market and buried in Indian Creek Cemetery), daughter of Benjamin and Mary (Brown) VanCleave on 5 March 1846. They were parents of three sons and five daughters. Joseph farmed in Brown Township and married Lucinda four years prior to the 1850 census, so their little family shows up in that. In fact, Daniel Woodson was born near New Market (Brown Twp 22 Sept 1848). He and Rebecca Davis (July 1868) were married; they had two children, Charles Woodson and James B. The daughter of James and Elizabeth Davis, she passed away quite young 9 May 1871, likely due to complications when having her youngest, James B about a month previously. DW must have had quite a bit of help with the little one as he didn't marry until 3 April 1875 Eveline Glenn (daughter of Thomas William and Martha Winifred Hanna Glenn), very large Brown Township farmers. They would be blessed with two fairly long livers, Emma Blanche (married Bert Long, went to California, produced three children and lived to be 72) and Walter Franklin, quite the amazing man in his own right (became one of the early Indiana theatre kings, serving for many years on the Board of the Motion Picture Industry of Indiana, living to be 79). However, Dan and Eve's other daughter, Grace Viola "Toddie" who was loved by all and said to have been very beautiful was not given the plus of long life, passing in November 1896 of a four-week intense illness with typhoid fever, lacking a few days of being 20 years old. Walter had this a bit earlier but recovered. Of the three men shown in the photo, Dan seemed to be the most

"in the news!" In March of 1884 (Indianapolis Journal 25th) it seems Charley Roberts, who for many years was known as the "Parke County Desperado," had taken not only his dinner from Dan's house but a revolver as well. As the Desperado heard Dan and his family returning home, Roberts tailed it away to Dan's neighbor, William Lydick, where he stole a mare. Eventually, at least the horse was found. An active member of the Red Men's Lodge, Dan was conferred, "The Haymaker's Degree" in February of 1895 but that reflected his hard work in the field, as well. Seems obvious he took after his father as in July 1896 the CWJ noted that "Uncle Joe," as well as "Uncle Wm. Hinkle and Uncle Milt Demorest" were the oldest haymakers in the area "and had just finished putting up Joe's hay!" To walk into the new century (1900) Dan was one who began the new sidewalks in Waynetown. The Review called it, "The Sidewalk Fever!" I picture Joseph Woodson as a bit foxy as he purchased a new buggy and driving horse after his first wife, Lucinda passed (2 Sept 1893) and tootled around wooing at least two widowed ladies. New Market bragged a bit in the CWJ 1 Nov 1895, saying, "Uncle Joe Easley one of the oldest citizens of our town was married last week. We congratulate Uncle Joe and his wife and wish them a long and prosperous life!" In his early days, "Charley" and Sam Vanleave had a buggy repair business on Opossum Ridge several years. Must have had beautiful babies as Carette Blanche won a baby contest in New Market as 1898 rolled in. He also was a carpenter and interior designer. Spending much of his life crippled (severe buggy accident) he did serve as town marshal in New Market. Most of the Easley's were primitive Baptists with several buried at Indian Creek as is Charley who passed 13 Jan 1923 of a stroke. Oh, my, way over my allotted words and yet I have so much "story" yet to tell. Let's suffice to remind you to take those photos; please document your family ties or it might be too late!

↓ COPD

From Page A1

manufacturing, you may be at risk for COPD from environmental exposure to dust, fumes or smoke, such as from wildfires. Talk to your employer about ways to limit exposure on the job. Consider air pollution at home, too. Ventilate indoor spaces and clean often to prevent dust buildup. If you are burning wood or agricultural or solid waste, make sure appropriate ventilation is in place and working properly. Avoid using products with strong odors, which may contain chemicals that could irritate the lungs. Don't Smoke or Vape Rural communities have higher rates of cigarette smoking, which could contribute to higher COPD rates. One of the most important things you can do to protect your lungs and those of the people around you is avoiding cigarette smoke. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cigarette smoking is the main cause of COPD. If you smoke, it is never too late to quit. Steer clear of vaping, too. E-cigarettes don't contain tobacco, but they may contain chemicals that are just as harmful to your lungs.

Talk to a Health Care Provider

If you smoke or used to

smoke, work in a job that might put you at higher risk for COPD or you or someone in your family has a genetic condition called alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, it's important to talk to a health care provider about your risk and any symptoms you may have. These include coughing that may bring up lots of mucus, wheezing, chest tightness and shortness of breath. Early diagnosis and treatment can help you breathe better. Because people in rural areas may live farther away from their health care providers, more hospitals and clinics now offer telehealth services, which can make it easier to get effective COPD care. Ask a health care provider about getting vaccines for the flu and COVID-19, RSV if you're over 60 and pneumococcal disease if you're over 65. If you're at risk for COPD, you're more likely to have health problems from these vaccine-preventable illnesses. Wherever you call home, you can take action to lower your risk for COPD. Find more information about COPD from NHLBI's Learn More Breathe Better® program at copd.nhlbi.nih.gov.

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Answer:
Steve Powers**



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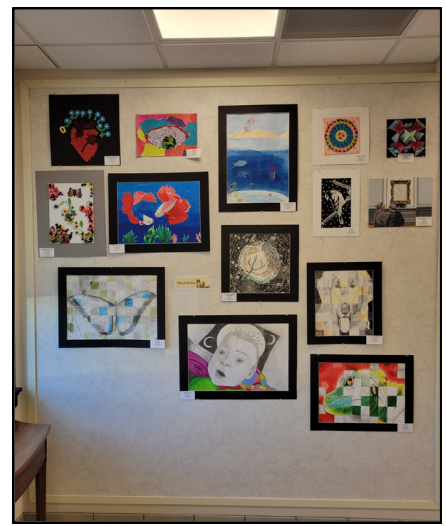
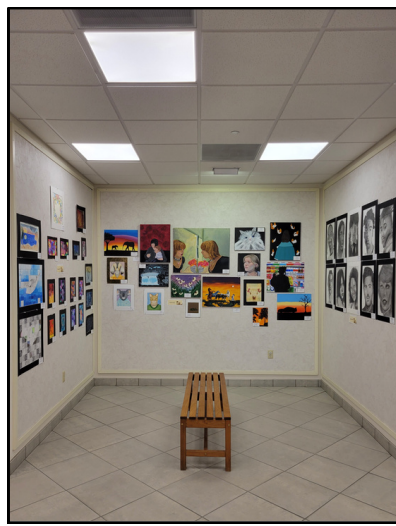


Tri Kappa Art Show on display at CDPL

The public is invited to the Mary Bishop Memorial Gallery at the Crawfordsville District Public Library for the annual Tri Kappa Art Show. The show highlights artworks created by local high school students. Tri Kappa sponsors this juried art exhibit which gives the students from all three area high schools the opportunity to display and compete for cash prize awards each year. This exhibit is currently open and will be on display through Friday, March 15. The public is welcome to visit the gallery during CDPL's regular hours of operation. The Awards Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Donnelley Meeting Rooms (A & B) located in the CDPL basement. Tri Kappa is an Indiana-based, Greek service sorority that was founded in February 1901. They strive to "Bring women into a close, unselfish relation for promotion of charity, culture, and education." They have 7,000 members in approximately 220 Active and Associative Chapters. At the state level, the sorority has a close relationship with the Riley Cheer Guild which supports the music therapy program for children at Riley Hospital, as well as supporting other organization with financial donations and

many hours of volunteer service. Some of these organizations include Hands in Autism, Camp Riley, Ronald McDonald House, Mental Health Association of Indiana, Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Best Buddies and many other charitable causes. The local Crawfordsville Tri Kappa Chapter was founded in 1927 and they endeavor to keep the funds they raise through various events, such as the Daddy/Daughter Dance, here in the community. They provide scholarships to local high school students each year to assist with college expenses and sponsor this exhibit's awards. They have coordinated the Summer Lunch Program for more than 40 years, which provides lunches to approximately 75 students in the area who might otherwise not have access to lunch during the summer months when school is not in session. Tri Kappa also assists with the CHS Sunshine Society's Cheer Certificate Program around the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and they host an annual St. Patrick's Day dance for the clients of mental health providers in this community. If you are interested in learning more about the Tri Kappa organization, or if you would like to get involved with this dedicated group, visit their website at

<https://www.trikappa.org> for further assistance. For more information about CDPL's hours of operation, visit online at <http://www.cdpl.lib.in.us>. If you are an artist or a member of an artists' group and are interested in displaying your work at the Mary Bishop Memorial Gallery in 2024 or 2025, contact gallery coordinator Toni Ridgway-Woodall at (765) 362-2242 or email her at twoodall@cdpl.lib.in.us for more information.



Photos courtesy Crawfordsville District Public Library



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No Sophomore Slump for Purdue Alum Karlaftis



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

It's not supposed to be this easy. Two seasons in the NFL, two Super Bowl titles for Purdue All-American defensive end George Karlaftis. The Kansas City Chiefs' 25-22 overtime victory against the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl LVIII also gave Karlaftis an elite designation among former Boilermaker standouts. He became the 10th Purdue player to win multiple Super Bowl titles and the eighth to win back-to-back championships. The first two – Bob Griese and Tim Foley – starred for the Miami Dolphins, champions of Super Bowl VII and VIII in the early 1970s. Keena Turner earned the third and fourth Super Bowl titles of his career in San Francisco with victories in Super Bowl XXIII and XXIV. Rosevelt Colvin, Matt Light, Brandon Gorin and Gene Mruzckowski earned rings playing for New England's title teams in Super Bowl XXXVIII and XXIX. Dave Butz helped Washington capture victories in Super Bowl XVII and XXII. Rob Ninkovich started on the Patriots' Super Bowl winners in XLIX and LI. Karlaftis recovered a fumble on the game's opening drive. He finished with a half sack among his five tackles. There was no sophomore slump for Karlaftis, who shared the team lead with 10.5 sacks this season, an

increase of 4.5 sacks from his rookie season. In the postseason, he collected 19 tackles, three sacks and two fumble recoveries. A former Purdue player has been on the Super Bowl championship team 18 of the past 25 years, starting with Jeff Zgonina of the St. Louis Rams in Super Bowl XXXIV. That list includes Rod Woodson of the Baltimore Ravens in Super Bowl XXXV, David Nugent of New England in Super Bowl XXXVI, Mike Alstott of Tampa Bay in Super Bowl XXXVII and Chucky Okobi of Pittsburgh in Super Bowl XL. Gilbert Gardner and John Standeford were part of the Indianapolis Colts' championship squad in Super Bowl XLI. MVP Drew Brees led New Orleans to victory in Super Bowl XLIV. The list also features Mike Neal of Green Bay in Super Bowl XLV, Bernard Pollard of Baltimore in XLVII, Cliff Avril of Seattle in XLVIII, Ja'Whaun Bentley of New England in LIII and Brycen Hopkins of the Los Angeles Rams in Super Bowl LVI.

Sneak preview

Purdue will likely be the top overall seed on Saturday when CBS airs its NCAA March Madness Men's Bracket Preview show at 12:30 p.m. The 30-minute show will reveal the NCAA Tournament Committee's Top 16 seeds as of Feb. 16. If veteran college basketball writer Mike DeCourcy of The Sporting News and the Big Ten Network are

correct, it won't really matter if Purdue is the overall No. 1 seed alongside Connecticut, Houston and either Kansas or Arizona. Purdue's preferred tournament path would begin at Indianapolis and if successful, another short trip to Detroit in the Midwest Region. Connecticut would then get what it wants, short drives to Brooklyn and then Boston in the East Region. Houston almost certainly draws the Memphis-Dallas combination in the South Region. That leaves the West Region and Salt Lake / Los Angeles for Arizona. If it's Kansas, which did itself no favors with a 79-50 loss at Texas Tech on Monday night, the closest first round site is Omaha, Neb. On paper, Purdue will be favored in its next few games (at Ohio State on Sunday, vs. Rutgers on Feb. 22 and at Michigan on Feb. 25). DeCourcy calls that slate "the least challenging – and therefore most daunting – portion" of the Boilermaker schedule. "With more than a two-game lead in the Big Ten race and a stretch of four consecutive games coming against teams not currently in contention for the NCAA Tournament, there is the question of how Purdue manages not to assume victory will come easily," DeCourcy writes. "Most dangerous could be a Feb. 22 home game against a Rutgers team that's been transformed by the late-season addition of guard Jeremiah Williams." Williams put up 18

points, seven assists and five rebounds in the upset of then-No. 9 Wisconsin. Williams didn't join the Scarlet Knights until Feb. 3, helping them also win at Michigan and Maryland.

Moving up

If a couple of NBA Draft experts are correct, Purdue center Zach Edey is improving his chances of being a lottery pick. Jonathan Givony, writing for ESPN, has Edey ranked 13th in his latest NBA Draft ratings. "Edey continues to be the most dominant player in college basketball, even if his role has decreased somewhat for a well-balanced Purdue team that is ranked No. 2 in the country," Givony writes. "Nearly unstoppable around the basket, drawing fouls and crashing the offensive glass, the improvement Edey has made with his conditioning, mobility, quickness off his feet and defensive versatility stepping outside the paint has forced NBA teams to look at him through a different lens in his fourth season in college. "He's not just a 7-foot-4 big, he's also incredibly competitive and has been extremely durable throughout his career, only missing one of 123 games (because of the flu). Opposing coaches will try to come up with ways to challenge Edey on both ends of the floor for the remainder of the season, providing ample opportunity for NBA teams to evaluate him in a variety of situations." Givony also has Indiana center Kel'El Ware at No. 23, stating "there aren't many 7-footers who can cover ground, score with explosiveness and touch around the basket, space the floor and

protect the rim." "He has significant questions to answer about his physicality, feel for the game and intangibles but his skill level, age (19) and tools should keep him in the NBA conversation for a long time," Givony writes. Gary Parrish of CBS Sports has Edey going to New Orleans with the 13th pick but does not have Ware going in his mock first round. "Edey will be one of the most polarizing prospects in the draft," Parrish writes. "On one hand, he's an unstoppable force at the collegiate level, which makes him intriguing. On the other hand, he's a non-shooter who might struggle to guard in space at the next level. Either way, I'm convinced there's a place for Edey in the NBA, and with Pelicans center Jonas Valanciunas in the final year of his contract, it makes sense that Edey's place in the NBA could start in New Orleans."

By the numbers

Purdue's 79-59 victory against Indiana marked the first time since the 1933-34 season that the Boilermakers took both games from the Hoosiers by 20 or more points . . . In Edey's last four games against Indiana, he is averaging 29.5 points, 15.3 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 2.0 blocks per game . . . Edey ranks third in the nation in points per game (23.2), rebounds per game (11.7) and double-doubles (17). His 255 free throw attempts lead the country, and his 181 free throws rank third. Edey moved into fourth place on Purdue's career scoring list with 2,091 points, passing Dave Schellhase (2,074). He is 45 points behind



Photo courtesy Purdue Athletics

George Karlaftis

E'Twaun Moore for third. Teammate Braden Smith ranks sixth nationally at 7.1 assists per game. The Westfield graduate is the only player in the country with at least 300 points, 170 assists and 130 rebounds.

Kenny Thompson is the former sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier and an award-winning journalist. He has covered Purdue athletics for many years.

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FOR THE RECORD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING SUMMARY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024

CONSENT AGENDA Approved.

Approval of Claims: AP & Payroll

Minutes: January 22, 2024

Acknowledge Receipt of 2023 Sugar Creek Advisory Board Annual Report
The Sugar Creek Advisory Board is required to submit an annual report to the BOC each year.

PRESENTATION: MONTGOMERY COUNTY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD
Travis King, the Jail Commander, received the County Employee of the Year Award.

NEW BUSINESS

Award Bids - Purple Heart Parkway Extension Project
Bid was awarded to Crider and Crider. Project will begin this spring with substantial completion in August. The County and City will each pay 50% of the cost of construction.

1. Crider & Crider - \$5,344,598.25
2. Calumet - \$5,371,000.00
3. Morphe Construction - \$5,600,000.00
4. William Charles Construction Company - \$5,887,000.00
5. Milestone Contractors - \$5,981,941.00

2023 EMS Report

Commissioners accepted the report from Barry Ritter.
Barry Ritter of Ritter Strategic Services has completed the 2023 quality assurance report regarding the provision of EMS services by the City to the Townships excluding Union Township. The report shows that the City has met or exceeded performance requirements outlined in the contract with the County. The Medic 54 ambulance responded to 660 emergency calls (71%) in the Townships excluding Union Township and other CFD resources responded to 272 calls (29%). The average response time was 10.04 minutes which is about 7 minutes faster than the contract's maximum acceptable response time.

50/50 Dust Control Program

Commissioners approved the costs for 2024.
- Program runs from February 20 to April 5, 2024. Dust control is an oil application that is sprayed in front of a residence on gravel roads. If they choose to participate, Montgomery County will pay half the cost to apply dust control up to 600', the minimum order is 300'. The benefit of doing dust control needs to be revisited in 2025.

Length of Application	Montgomery County Responsibility	Resident Responsibility	Total Cost
300 ft	\$505.48	\$500.00	\$1005.48
400 ft	\$670.65	\$670.00	\$1340.65
500 ft	\$840.81	\$835.00	\$1675.81
600 ft	\$1005.97	\$1005.00	\$2010.97
Every 100 ft after 600 ft	\$0.00	\$335.00	\$335.00

ORDINANCES: All ordinances with introduced.

Introduction Ordinance 2024-5: Re-Establishing the Cumulative Bridge Fund -
The tax rate for 2024 for the Cumulative Bridge Fund is \$0.075 per \$100 of assessed valuation, and the maximum property tax rate for the Fund per Indiana Code §8-16-3 is \$0.10 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

Introduction Ordinance 2024-6: Creating 2023 Election Security Local Grant Fund - \$64,240

The Montgomery County Clerk has been approved by the Indiana Secretary of State to receive a grant in the amount of \$64,240 for the purchase of scanners with ballot boxes; barcode scanners; hardware and training as detailed in the grant agreement;

Introduction Ordinance 2024-7: Creating 2024 Well Water Testing Grant Fund - \$2,000

The Montgomery County Health Department has been approved by the Indiana State Department of Health to receive a grant in the amount of \$2,000 for expenses related to well water testing as detailed in the grant agreement. The funds will be used specifically for supplies.

Introduction Ordinance 2024-8: Flood Control Amendments

Amends the flood control ordinance with minor grammatical changes as requested by the State.

RESOLUTIONS: All Resolutions Approved.

Resolution 2024-2: Establishing the Intent to Conduct A Commissioner's Sale to Sell Tax Sale Certificates for Properties That Are Severely Delinquent in Payment of Property Taxes

Three properties are severely delinquent and the BOC shall acquire liens and receive tax sale certificates of the properties listed on Exhibit A of the attachment and sell said certificates at a properly advertised Commissioners Tax Certificate sale. Established \$75 plus the administrative costs of the sale as the minimum price.

Resolution 2024-3: A Resolution Declaring Property as Surplus -

The Montgomery County Probation Department has determined that the miscellaneous IT equipment on Attachment A is no longer useful to the department.

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