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TODAY'S VERSE

1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

Meet Willy



Willy is a 3 year old male border collie that has been at AWL since 10/31/23. Willy loves to play fetch, go for walks, and be showered with endless love/attention. Willy is dog selective. A meet and greet is required to ensure he's found his perfect match! Willy is looking for his best friend! Could that be you? Willy is available to foster, adopt, or just simply take out for walks (with signed waiver, 18 years or older). Come say hi Monday - Friday from 12:15p-5p or Saturday's from 9:30-3p!

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Boomer Bits



Weaver Popcorn Hybrids Latest Commerce Park Addition

Company investing \$15 million and creating dozen jobs

Ask Rusty – Veteran Uncertain About Social Security and Healthcare Coverage



ASK Rusty Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

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Dear Rusty:

I'm not sure what I should sign up for in terms of Social Security: I am 64 and I am still employed full time and intend to stay employed until age 70. I am retired from the Navy and receive military retirement payments, and have military TriCare, as well as medical, dental, eye and life insurance through my employer. I don't want to lose benefits, but I also don't want to take Social Security until it reaches the maximum at age 70 (I think that is correct?). I will turn 65 in 4 months. Can you advise me?

Signed: Uncertain Veteran

Dear Uncertain Veteran:

First of all, thank you for your service to our country. From what you've shared,

and since you're still working full time, not claiming Social Security yet is a smart decision. If you were born in 1959 your full retirement age (FRA) is 66 years and 10 months and, if you claim SS before your full retirement age, you'll be subject to Social Security's earning test which would likely make you ineligible to receive SS benefits at this time.

The 2024 earnings limit (limit changes yearly) when collecting Social Security early is \$22,320 and, if that is exceeded, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). If you significantly exceed the limit, SS will

➔ See RUSTY Page A3

How to Protect Yourself From Falling Victim to Unreputable Contractors After Severe Weather

It's severe weather season in Indiana and Indiana Farm Bureau wants to remind all Hoosiers that it's easy to fall victim to unreputable contractors – but it's just as easy to protect yourself by following some simple steps.

WHO:

This issue affects any Hoosier with property damage or potential property damage due to severe weather.

➔ See VICTIM Page A3

How to Avoid Hefty Smartphone Repair Costs

(StatePoint) From listening to music to watching movies, connecting with family to counting steps, Americans say in a new study that they depend on their smartphones like never before. And they are putting their money where their mouth is. The amount of money they spent on

➔ See PHONE Page A3

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

See your dentist regularly – dental disease can contribute to a number of health problems like heart disease.

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 majority of couples opt for traditional weddings but there are those who go to great lengths to find unusual ways to wed. Some travel to Transylvania to tie the knot in Dracula's Castle and not so long ago a couple exchanged their vows in a ceremony that took place at the summit of Mount Everest in Nepal. Recently, Logen Abney and Tiana Ailstock in Verona, Ohio got married in the so-called "disco bathroom" of a local gas station. As Logen told Tiana, "from the first dance in this disco bathroom I vow to hop through life with you." The couple then pressed a red button to play what Logen called "the funk beats and mellow melodies, every rhythm in life."
- About a thousand years ago, on the seventh day of the Lunar New Year, the first "naked man festival" was celebrated in a temple in Oshu, Japan. Each year hundreds of loincloth-clad men assembled to pray for "a bountiful harvest, prosperity, good health and fertility." According to the chief priest of the Kokusekiji Temple, the site of the annual event, "this decision is due to the aging of individuals involved in the festival and a shortage of successors."
- The cow was born with two heads. It happened in Cossinade, LA. The odds were not one in a million, as the saying goes; it was one in 400 million, says Eric and Dawn Breaux who own the cow. The condition is called polycephaly and the experts say most of the time critters are stillborn or live just for a few hours or days. The cow was still alive on day eight when the news of its birth made headlines. At the time, Mrs. Breaux told reporters: "She has trouble lifting her head but is holding it up more and more as she is getting stronger. She is not standing on her own yet so she is unable to nurse on her mom. We have been bottle feeding her from the start."

TODAY'S QUOTE

"Springtime is the land awakening. The March winds are the morning yawn." Lewis Grizzard

TODAY'S JOKE

What is a king and queen's favorite weather? Reign-Y.

THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Total Eclipse of Art – a 5K Fun Run that takes place just two days before the big eclipse traverses across the great Hoosier state – is a local event from the good folks at Athens Arts. It's set to take off from Christ Lutheran Church on Saturday, April 6 at 9 a.m. (check in begins at 8). In fact, early registration is going on now and continues through March 15. It's a way to guarantee you get a T-shirt! After that, general registration is ongoing through March 27 – and the day of the race you can register, but it's cash only. The cost for those 15 and older is \$20, ages 6-14 is \$15 and under 6 is free. For more information, contact Athens Arts. You can stop by on Thursdays and Fridays between 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. or on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or call (765) 362-7455 and leave a voice message.



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



KAREN ZACH Around The County

James H. Galey – easy to find, ya' think? Well, I did but I was wrong! The big problem was there were three of them born within a few months within a few miles of each other and died the same year. At least one moved to Missouri so that helped some but had obituaries and other articles still here. Of the other two, oh, my I was literally doubling around in circles several times.



Finally, here's this ones story (thanks to Susan Keedy Oaks for the great picture – Montgomery County INGenWeb) the one I began with! Born in Brown township, he spent the whole of his 70 years within probably ten miles of his birthplace, passing

➔ See KAREN Page A4



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➔ OBITUARIES

Polly Ann Rhoads

October 13, 1963 - March 18, 2024

Polly Ann (Simpson) Rhoads, age 60, of Crawfordsville, passed away on Monday, March 18, 2024 at Franciscan Health Crawfordsville. She was born in Crawfordsville on October 13, 1963 to the late Austin and Lucille (Hockersmith) Simpson.



Polly graduated from South Montgomery High School in 1982. She married Larry Rhoads on July 25, 2001 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. She was currently working at Penguin Random House as a material handler. Polly was a proud and loving grandma who enjoyed spending time with her grandsons. She loved gardening, canning, and traveling. Polly was a perfectionist when it came to making her famous deviled eggs for her family gatherings.

Polly will be deeply missed by her husband, Larry; children, Kayla (Adam Taylor) Rhoads, Lacey (Chris) Ogle, and Kristopher Rhoads; grandsons, Julien, Jethro, and Jericho; sisters, Sallie Hester, Peggy (Brad) Grayson, and Patti (James) McCollum; many nieces and nephews; a special friend Carin Burton; and her granddog, Alek. She was also a chosen mother to Evan Ponto and Olivia Shively.

She was preceded in death by her parents and mother-in-law, June Rhoads.

A visitation will be held for Polly on Friday, March 22, 2024 from 3:00 pm until 6:00pm at Whitesville Christian Church, 3603 S. Ladoga Road in Crawfordsville. A private family service will be held at a later time with Brandon Grayson officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Polly's name to the American Heart Association, PO Box 840692, Dallas, Texas 75284. Share memories and condolences online at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

Master Gardeners Offer Scholarship

The Master Gardeners are now accepting applications from Montgomery County students who are pursuing a higher education degree in any area related to agriculture, horticulture or plant sciences at an accredited Indiana college or university. Students at any level of their college studies, undergraduate or graduate, may apply for a \$500 scholarship to assist them with their college expenses. The scholarship is not automatically renewable, but previous recipients may reapply each year.

Applications can be obtained by contacting Nancy Bowes at nbowesslp@gmail.com, Tricia Herr at the Montgomery County Extension Office or from guidance counselors at Crawfordsville, North Montgomery and Southmont High Schools. Homeschooled students and current college students are also eligible and encouraged to apply.

Completed applications are to be returned to

the Montgomery County Extension Office, 400 Parke Ave., Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933. Applications must be received no later than April 8. Scholarship recipients will be notified by the end of May 2024.

Master Gardeners of Montgomery County is part of the Purdue Extension Master Gardeners Program. The Purdue Extension Master Gardeners Program trains gardening enthusiasts as volunteers to assist Purdue Extension with home horticulture education in Indiana communities. Purdue Extension Master Gardeners are "Helping Others Grow!"

The Program provides a learning framework for participants to increase their knowledge on a wide variety of horticultural subjects. In turn, participants volunteer and help others grow by sharing knowledge while providing leadership and service in educational gardening activities within their communities.

Alice M. Seitz

November 4, 1944 - March 17, 2024

Alice M. (Severe) Seitz, formerly of Waynetown, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Sunday, March 17, 2024 at home. She was born on November 4, 1944 to LaRue and Mary (Ethridge) Severe in Pana, IL.

Alice was employed for 25 years at Lake Shore Printing Company in Sandusky, OH and later owned New Horizons Silk Screening for 10 years. She enjoyed her cats and learning about her ancestry. Alice assisted in forming the Waynetown Neighborhood Watch. She also enjoyed cultivating a beautiful flower garden.

Alice is survived by 2 children, Anna (Bob) Klepzig of Wisconsin and Ron (Sheryl) Klepzig of Ladoga; 4 grandchildren, Jacob (Lynn) Cautley, Ryan (Carrie) Dale, Kody (Christina) Dale, Keirra (Tyler) Gross; 7 great grandchildren, Emma Rose, Logan, Hunter, Gage, Corbin, Rhettlynn, Hayleigh; 3 siblings, Shirley Severe, Patty Harlin, Larry (Linda) Severe; a half sister, Mary J. Reed; and several nieces nephews and extended family.

She was predeceased by her parents; husband, Elmer Sertz; grandson, Daniel Hagen; siblings, Daune Severe and LaRue Severe, Jr.; and half brothers, Bill Miller and James Miller.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Waynetown Christian Church Food Bank, PO Box 296, Waynetown, IN 47990.

Cremation was chosen with no services at this time, but a Celebration of Life to be held at a later date. She will be laid to rest at Indian Creek Hill Cemetery outside of New Market. Sanders Priebe Funeral Care is entrusted with care. Share memories and condolences at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do You Recognize this 1967 Waynetown Grad?

HINT:

He was a guard and co-captain on the basketball team, but he would rather guard his cattle.

Answer on Page A4

Tax-Season Comedy Opening at Myers

Myers Dinner Theatre is thrilled to continue its 2024 Season with the zany play, "Love, Sex, and the I.R.S.," written by Billy Van Zandt and Jane Milmore. This "slapstick comedy," directed by Dion Stover, will open tonight and runs until Saturday, April 20.

It's the 1970s. Jon Trachtman and Leslie Arthur are out-of-work musicians rooming together in New York City. To save money, Jon files tax returns listing the pair as a married couple. Then the Internal Revenue Service comes to investigate. Leslie has to masquerade as a housewife, aided by Jon's fiancée, Kate. Complicating matters further, Leslie and Kate are having an affair behind Jon's back, Jon's mother drops in unexpectedly to meet her son's fiancée, and Leslie's ex-girlfriend shows up demanding to know why Leslie has changed and won't see her anymore.

"I Love Lucy" meets "Some Like it Hot!"

Starring in this production are returning MDT actors, Daniel Lee Hollander (as Jon Trachtman) and TJ Bird (as Leslie Arthur). Other returning alumni include: Don Hart (I.R.S. Auditor Floyd Spinner), Donna Schulte (Vivian Trachtman), Jeff Williams (Sleazy Landlord Mr. Jansen), Taylor Fryza (Connie

and Grant Myers (Arnold Grunion). New to Myers Dinner Theatre will be Jessica Patrick (as Kate Dennis).

This hilarious production chock-full of mistaken identity will leave audiences wheezing with laughter! "Love, Sex, and the I.R.S." will feature a food menu that combines MDT classic fare, as well as new items themed to the production. Selections will include: bourbon meatloaf, Nathan's Famous Hot Dogs with sauerkraut, turkey breast, cheesy potatoes, green beans, corn, glazed carrots, fudge brownies and cherry delight.

Wednesday matinee seating for meals is at 11:30 a.m. and curtain at 1:30 p.m.

Friday evening performances will have seating for meals at 6 p.m. with curtain at 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday matinees will have seating for meals at noon and curtain at 2 p.m. Before the shows on Friday nights, popular songs from the 1970s will be performed live. During the Sunday matinees, trivia contests related to the setting of the show and its topics will be conducted before the show and during intermission.

Tickets may be purchased by phone at 765-798-4902, ext. 2, or by visiting the MDT

website at www.myersdt.com. Performance dates vary, so consult the online calendar for show dates and times. Theater prices are \$59.54 for dinner and show, \$47.50 for students (ages 4-18), and show-only for

\$39.50. Prices do not include taxes, handling fees or gratuity for waitstaff. Season tickets; group pricing; bus parking are also available. Myers Dinner Theatre is located at 108 Water St., Hillsboro, and is handicap accessible.



Photos courtesy Myers Dinner Theatre

Daniel Lee Hollander, TJ Bird and Jessica Patrick scheme to avoid paying taxes in "Love, Sex, and the I.R.S."

↓ RUSTY

From Page A1

declare you temporarily ineligible to collect SS benefits until you either reach your FRA or earn less. The earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA. So, if you're now employed full time and plan to stay so until age 70, and you expect at least average longevity (about 84 for someone your current age), delaying until age 70 to claim Social Security is how to get your maximum Social Security benefit.

As for your healthcare coverage as a veteran: TriCare requires you to enroll in Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) and Part B (coverage for outpatient services) at age 65, but you do not need to take Social Security when you enroll in Medicare. You must, however, enroll in Medicare at age 65 or you will lose your TriCare (military) healthcare coverage. You could choose to delay enrolling in Medicare at 65 because you have "creditable" employer coverage, but

if you do so you will lose your current TriCare coverage and need to rely solely on your employer healthcare plan. In that case, you would still be able to enroll in both Medicare and TriCare-for-Life without penalty prior to your employer coverage ending and have coverage under both programs thereafter. I suggest you contact TriCare directly at 1-866-773-0404 to discuss your personal TriCare coverage after age 65. You can also go to www.TriCare4U.com.

Whenever you enroll, Medicare will be the primary payer of your healthcare costs and TriCare will be the secondary payor. Your vision, dental, and prescription drug coverage would be through TriCare (Medicare does not cover those services) or acquired separately. Just remember, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B to have TriCare-for-Life coverage after age 65.

↓ VICTIM

From Page A1

WHAT: Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance wants to ensure that their clients, and all Hoosiers, choose a reputable contractor for property damage and don't fall victim to a company looking to take advantage of them.

WHY: Unfortunately, after a large severe weather incident, such as we experienced yesterday, some contractors will use this as an opportunity to take advantage of those who have experienced property damage. There are steps that Hoosiers can take to help ensure they are choosing a reputable contractor.

WHEN: After a storm, there is no shortage of contractor options available to choose from. Some companies will go door-to-door in affected neighborhoods to take advantage of residents who are vulnerable and who've just experienced

property damage.

MORE: Additional sources of information that you may find helpful:

Insurance Institute of Indiana. President Marty Wood, (317) 464-2455, MPW@insuranceinstitute.org <http://www.insuranceinstitute.org/>

National Insurance Crime Bureau. Disaster Fraud (2024). Disaster Fraud. Retrieved from <https://www.nicb.org/pr-event-fraud-theft/disaster-fraud>.

Office of the Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita (April 2024). Protect yourself from Storm Chaser Scams, Tips from the Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita.

Retrieved from https://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/consumer-protection-division/files/Storm-Chasers-webversion_4_24.pdf.

↓ PHONE

From Page A1

screen repairs surged to \$8.3 billion in 2023, nearly tripling the amount spent in 2018 (\$3.4 billion). In its latest Mobile Mythconceptions Survey, Allstate Protection Plans found that despite the rising amount spent on smartphone repair, Americans are actually damaging their devices less frequently. In the past 12 months, 78 million Americans reported damaging a device compared to 87 million during a comparable period in 2020.

Cost Conscious Consumers

Last year, the three most frequent accidents and malfunctions reported were: damaged screens (67%), Wi-Fi or connectivity issues (28%) and touchscreen problems (24%). When Americans do damage their phones, repair costs remain a significant concern for many. In fact, 49% of Americans would not repair a damaged smartphone that still functions due to the high costs involved. This could be in part due to sticker shock and misconceptions around the cost of smartphone ownership. The survey found that the average cost for repairs and replacements is now \$302, yet 47% of Americans think repairs cost \$150 or less. The top reason given by respondents who have damaged a smartphone for avoiding or delaying repairs was the cost, with 39% saying they could not afford it.

The Race to Repair

Smartphones have taken center stage, with 45% of smartphone owners spending five or more hours a day glued to their screens and the overwhelming majority saying their phone has

completely replaced their digital camera. So it's no surprise that despite cost concerns, many American smartphone owners don't delay when dealing with damage, with 27% saying they would initiate screen repairs within a day due to the importance of their phones in everyday life. When it comes to broken buttons, 36% say they would wait a day or less to repair their phone, 30% for damaged speakers, 29% for broken microphones and 22% for broken cameras.

The good news? With a high-quality case, you can help prevent damage, and with a protection plan in place, you can avoid hefty out-of-pocket costs when mishaps do occur. For information on plans, which cover repair costs on everything from battery failure and cracked screens to liquid damage and touchscreen failure, and which are available to both individuals and families, visit AllstateProtectionPlans.com.

Since the introduction of the smartphone, Americans have spent \$149 billion on repairs and replacements. By taking a few precautionary measures, smartphone ownership can be a much more affordable prospect.

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↓ KAREN

From Page A1

away in Russellville where he lived his last ten years after retiring from farming in Brown Township, Montgomery for several decades. He passed 24 January 1929 while his wife died eight and a half years thereafter. They are eternally resting in Indian Creek Cemetery on Highway 47 which was not far from their farm!

James H. Galey was born August 24, 1858 to Samuel M. and Malinda Grimes Galey. Samuel was in the news a great deal, putting up ice – hauling gravel – visiting various folks – splitting cord wood – cabbages were ripe – pasturing Farmer Smith’s turkeys for the summer (1893) – giving parties – two horses killed by lightning – Howard Galey and Will Thornberry painting his house and on and on. Sam lived to be 85 years old, passing from Bright’s disease. Samuel was one of nine children while James’ mother, Malinda Grimes was one of 18 children, born to Edward and Rebecca. She was very active in the Methodist Church and they were married for almost 57 years until death did them part. They are buried in Russellville.

Not quite as popular in the old newspapers as his father, occasionally James would pop-up and we’d discover he opened his sugar camp or he was making a “rushing business of trading horses for cows – he means business and don’t you forget it!” (CWJ 28 Dec 1894). Granted that may have been the other James H. who lived in the same area but because of our boy’s interests, think they were bleeps about him.

Not sure on acreage but in 1910 and 1920, he was listed as a farm employer and owned his property. He had one sister, Mary “Alice” (born on Christmas day, 1856 died 6 May 1935 of uremic poisoning) he was close to who married James H. Allen and were parents of two daughters, Fannie and Mary Catherine. They had two brothers, Joseph who was two at his death and Leslie

who passed young, as well. On October 9th in 1879, James H. married Julia Etta Allen born 19 October 1858 daughter of Edward and Rebecca. They were living the next year in the Brown Township census with his parents, Sam and Malinda and would guess that is the farm they remained on since he was the only son.

Their three children were born there. Margurite was but 41 when she passed away but had a good life with her husband, Frank Wendell Hazlett (and their two sons, James and Joseph). She passed from stomach cancer and is buried with Frank at Portland Mills in Hollandsburg, Parke County. Her brother, Floyd Stanton was two years older and was a 35-year superintendent at Fairmount, passing away at age 62. He was married to his lovely wife, Pearl Harmas and they had one son as far as I know Stanton Kearney Galey who was an insurance agent for years, a WWII veteran and active in Boy Scouts! Their oldest, Etta married Fred G. Spruhan also from Waveland, who became an engineer for the B&O Railroad and they lived in Detroit, Michigan. As far as is known, they had one son, John Galey Spruhan!

The Galey family was prolific in the Waveland area for several generations although you rarely hear the name today. After all that James H. Galey go-around, I wasn’t sure I was excited about the name or this article, but now that it is all done and I reread it, glad I put the effort into it. RIP James H. Galey, son of Samuel and Malinda (Grimes) Galey, Sam the son of Joseph I. (buried Old Union Cem in Brown Twp) who was the son of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Woods) whose father was Samuel Smith Galey (mom Sarah Moore) who died in Shelby County, KY who was the son of Benjamin Galey (a super popular Galey name) and his wife, Martha Whiteside. Whew and no I can’t do that with the other James H., nor do I intend to – lol!!

↓ WEAVER

From Page A1

About Weaver Popcorn

Weaver Popcorn was created nearly 100 years ago by Reverend Ira Weaver here in Indiana and has become the largest popcorn company in the world. Today, Weaver Popcorn Hybrids, a seed company created out of the original Weaver Popcorn parent company, has been based in New Richmond, IN since the late 1970s. They specialize in popcorn breeding and seed production and now sell those seeds around the world, while still supplying seeds to a large portion of Indiana’s popcorn fields. The new campus in Crawfordsville will help to augment their current supply in order to grow their business and keep up with demand. The company will be headquartered at the new facility in Crawfordsville.

“Weaver Popcorn is an industry leader and we couldn’t be more excited to welcome their new state-of-the-art campus to Crawfordsville,” Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton said. “They have an incredible history and anchoring their new research and production capabilities in this community is a perfect fit. They are a great addition to the Crawfordsville Commerce Park and I am confident the synergy created within this new campus will further solidify their success in the global market.”

A Weaver company

official couldn’t agree more.

“Weaver Popcorn Hybrids is excited to move our main campus to Crawfordsville and bring with it a key component to Indiana agriculture, popcorn seeds.” said Brad Thada, Director of Sales at Weaver Popcorn Hybrids. “With Indiana’s state snack being popcorn produced in Indiana, we’re excited to keep our 4th generation, family owned company right here in Montgomery County, creating a high-quality product and helping farmers produce the best popcorn crop possible”

Butch Dale’s Flashback Trivia

Answer:
Clark Sennett

Embracing Diversity in National Nutrition Month



MONICA NAGELE
Guest Columnist

As National Nutrition Month progresses, Week 3 encourages us to embrace diversity in our diets, celebrate cultural foods and traditions, and explore culinary horizons beyond our comfort zones.

Variety extends beyond just the types of foods we eat; it also encompasses the forms in which we consume them. Whether fresh, frozen, canned, or dried, each form brings its own set of nutritional benefits. Fresh produce offers peak flavors and nutrients, while canned or frozen options provide convenience and year-round availability. Dried foods,

such as beans and nuts, offer a longer shelf life without sacrificing nutritional value.

Cultural cuisine embodies the traditional foods and culinary practices passed down through generations within a particular culture or region. Reflecting historical, geographical, and socio-cultural influences, these cuisines offer a diverse array of flavors, ingredients, and cooking techniques. Exploring and embracing cultural cuisine not only adds excitement and variety to our meals but also offers numerous health benefits.

Many cultural cuisines emphasize whole foods such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, legumes, and lean proteins. These ingredients are rich in essential nutrients like vitamins, minerals, fiber, and antioxidants, supporting overall health and well-being.

Traditional cultural dishes often feature a balanced combination of macronutrients (carbohydrates, proteins, and fats), providing sustained energy and promoting satiety. For example, Mediterranean cuisine typically includes plenty of vegetables, fruits, whole grains, seafood, and healthy fats from olive oil and nuts, contributing to a balanced diet.

Cultures such as Indian, Middle Eastern, and East Asian place a strong emphasis on plant-based foods, associated with reduced risk of chronic diseases like heart disease, diabetes, and certain cancers, as well as improved weight management and digestive health.

Sharing meals with family and friends is a fundamental aspect of many cultural traditions. Eating together promotes social connection, strengthens familial bonds, and fosters a sense of belonging and community, crucial for mental and emotional well-being. Engaging in cultural food traditions provides a sense of identity and cultural pride.

National Nutrition Month reminds us of the importance of variety and exploration in our eating habits. By incorporating foods from all food groups, including our favorite cultural dishes, and experimenting with diverse ingredients and cuisines, we nourish both our bodies and our souls. Let’s celebrate the richness of cultural diversity on our plates and in our lives.

Monica Nagele, MS/RD, is the Purdue Extension Montgomery County Extension Director, Health and Human Science Educator

A conversation From The Upper Room



CHUCK CLORE
Guest Columnist

“Azahmar, I don’t know what possessed you to bring those two fellows to me during” such a busy season,” the Jerusalem landlord said to his young apprentice. “Your task was simply to retrieve enough water to last us through the Passover celebration,”

“Sorry, Sire. But their mission seemed so urgent. Something told me to bring them to you.” Azahmar responded.

“Oh, don’t apologize. I

want to thank you. I found their requests compelling enough I let them have the largest of our rooms to prepare for Passover. Was I surprised when their eclectic band arrived?! Never has the upper room hosted such a variety of men with such camaraderie: fishermen and carpenters, a tax collector, and a doctor. The personalities are so opposite: the sons of Thunder, the Beloved One, and the impetuous Simon Peter. All are so different yet drawn together with such unity. The Nazarene displayed a calm leadership that I had never seen before.”

“Again, Azahmar, I thank you,” he continued, “Because of your initiative, I have witnessed true worship. When the Nazarene led them in song, it was like the psalmist David was touching the very heart of God. This experience has kindled in me something beyond the joy of the Passover feast.”

“How so, Master?” Azahmar questioned. “What could be more exciting than celebrating the deliverance from Egypt and walking with Moses to the Promised Land?”

This encounter has allowed me to walk with the very Son of God, the Messiah, into new

promises and expectations. You, Azahmar, have become an instrument of change in God’s hand. Because of this, I am rewarding you with greater responsibilities in my household. But know this: As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord beyond the comfort of religious tradition.”

The landlord continued, “As we speak, such an active faith stirs disapproval and unrest in the streets. The rich enthusiasm of the Passover Feast became silenced as He broke the bread and assigned new meaning of suffering to it. Even in the sanctuary of our upper room, I overheard Jesus speak of betrayal and death.

Pledges of allegiance rallied from the close band of the twelve. But fears of impending doom creeps into my heart. I don’t believe they are capable of tallying the cost of such loyalty.”

“I worry, Azahmar. What is to become of this glorious crew as they descend the steps and wander into the night toward Gethsemane?”

“Will they scatter like sheep when the shepherd has fallen?”

Chuck Clore writes and does illustrations for Sagamore News Media.



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



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Lite & Light: Todd Stokes' Etched Glass Art Show at Athens Arts

By Helen Hudson
For The Paper

Todd B. Stokes, noted regional artist in photography and in 2-D and 3-D etched glass, is bringing a dramatic glass art exhibit to Athens Arts in downtown Crawfordsville (216 E. Main). The show is entitled "Lite & Light" and promises a new way to see art using materials that are around us every day. This exhibit opens to the public on Thursday, March 21 with an opening reception for the artist on Friday, March 29.

"It's a great thing for our community when one of the artists chosen for one of our highly selective national "Untitled" Shows wishes to come back and mount an entire exhibition in our Gallery," notes Athens Arts Director, Diana McCormick. "Todd Stokes' unusual medium of framed 2-D and 3-D glass art pieces will be a treat for visitors to this show."

Stokes' art has developed across the last four decades, gaining in grandeur and clarity one might say, as it has grown from various segments of his own life. Not only does Todd Stokes' art itself bridge photography and glass etching, his work life also bridges two states (Indiana and Illinois). And, Todd Stokes' development into an apex glass artist

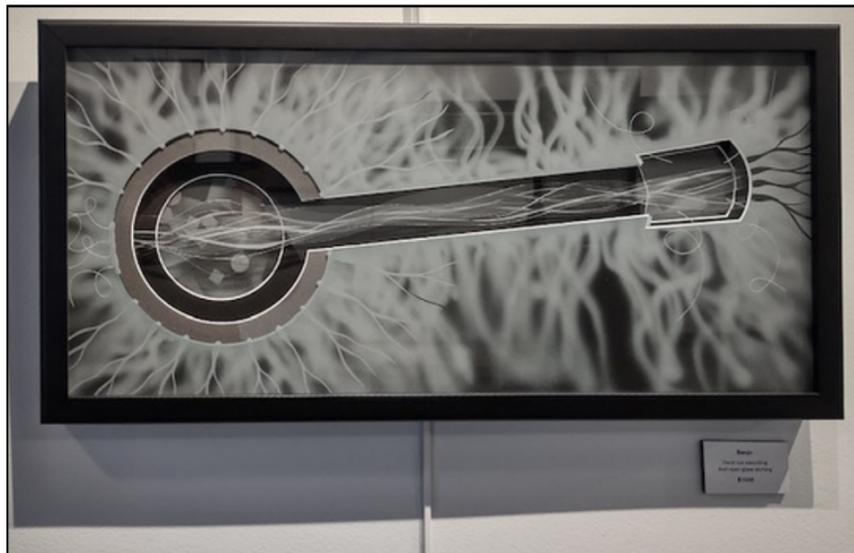
arose because of a bridge between generations.

In the mid-1990s, Todd's father, Gene Stokes, retired from working as a salesman and established his own business. In 1991 he opened The Golden Frame in Terre Haute. During that same time period, his son Todd who had graduated from Indiana State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Fine Arts Photography with a minor emphasis in Plexiglass Sculpture, was getting his career started by working with artist Tyler Guthrie in Memphis, Tenn. Guthrie owned Tyler's Gallery which included a custom picture-framing business, a business that Todd Stokes was learning as he studied with Guthrie. Once The Golden Frame opened, Todd Stokes decided to come home to join forces with his dad in the new enterprise. Hence The Golden Frame from its outset offered both custom framing and glass etching. Todd's dad focused on the business itself and the glass etching he did had a commercial approach: as Todd describes it, "For instance, he customized toasting glasses for weddings and created one of a kind awards and gifts."

While Todd and his father Gene worked together for 15 years, Todd was introduced to, and then learned, glass

etching. Soon he was applying his artistic talents and he took those glass drills in another direction: "I adapted what I learned from my dad to a more artistic expression. My etched glass work combined with my picture framing skill helps me create a unique and intriguing glass art" based on that extending and bridging. Todd Stokes' glass work is deeply inspired by underlying patterns in the natural world accompanied by his desire to convey "the gift we exist in," our natural world. As we hurry to our computers and commute through space to get somewhere, and as more and more of the natural world is paved over and so hidden from view, we too often rarely stop to engage with and ponder "this gift we exist in."

Todd Stokes' art gives us a moment to pause and see. Thanks to this work in the shimmering medium of glass and Stokes' meticulous art, we viewers not only see elements of our natural world rendered beautifully and freshly, but thanks to the artist's eye we are led to understand and know them deeper down. This happens because, as Stokes puts it, "As I examine and analyze something that I see, I find myself breaking everything down into basic geometric shapes (circles, squares, and triangles)."



ATHENS ARTS ●

This deepens both the beauty and the mystery of natural things even as it simplifies. It becomes nearly mystical. He reports, "I'm given energy from this and directed to crystallize the essence of what I'm taking in. These basic shapes are in everything we see and make." Athens Arts (216 E. Main) is open Thursdays and Fridays from 10-6 and on Saturdays from 10-2. Admission is always free. The visiting artist's and resident artists' work is for

sale at the Gallery.

A Visiting Artist Reception for Todd B. Stokes will take place on Friday, March 29

between 6-8 pm. Music will be provided by Kenn Clark and light refreshments will be served.

Come and meet the artist as you enjoy seeing "Banjo," "Writhing River," "Quarantine," and other luminous glass works in person.



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Chamber Legislative Breakfast Fast Approaching



Want to know what our state government is doing? Then be sure to attend the Crawfordsville / Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's next State Legislative Breakfast at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 13, on the 3rd floor of Fusion 54 located at 101 W. Main Street in beautiful downtown Crawfordsville. The panel will consist of State Sens. Brian Buchanan (District 7) and Spencer Deery (District 23) along with

State Reps. Sharon Negele (District 13), Jeff Thompson (District 28), Mark Genda (District 41) and Beau Baird (District 44.)

The State Legislative Breakfast is sponsored by Valero Energy in Linden and will include a breakfast. The event is open to the public. The cost to attend the event with or without breakfast is \$10 for Crawfordsville / Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce members and \$15 for



Sen. Brian Buchanan



Sen. Spencer Deery



Rep. Sharon Negele



Rep. Jeff Thompson



Rep. Mark Genda



Rep. Beau Baird

non-members.

Space is limited so please register as soon as possible to attend online at CrawfordsvilleChamber.com. For more

information regarding the breakfast or the chamber, please contact Stacy Sommer at ssommer@crawfordsvillechamber.com.

Northridge Student is Page at Statehouse

State Rep. Sharon Negele (R-Attica) recently welcomed Bennett Oppy from New Richmond, who attends North Montgomery Middle School, to the Statehouse where he participated in the Indiana House Page Program during the 2024 legislative session.

"Paging at the Statehouse offers a firsthand learning opportunity to students all across Indiana," Negele said. "I am always excited to show students how our laws are made and how their elected officials are working for them in Indianapolis."

As a page, Oppy assisted lawmakers and staff with daily duties, toured offices of all branches of government in the Statehouse, and joined Negele on the House floor to learn about the legislative process.

Students ages 13 to 18 should consider participating during the 2025 legislative session. Contact Negele's Statehouse office at h13@iga.in.gov or 317-232-9600 for more information.



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It's Put Up or Shut Up Time for Purdue



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

Near the conclusion of CBS Sports Network's Bracket Breakdown show

Sunday night, analyst Gary Parrish was explaining why he was choosing Purdue to win the national championship.

Off camera, a hearty laugh from one of the panel expressed his belief in the absurdity of picking a team to win a title after three consecutive seasons of losses to double-digit seeds in the NCAA Tournament.

It's put up or shut up time for the Boilermakers.

Purdue has a once in a generation talent in Zach Edey, who on Wednesday became only the third Purdue player to earn consensus All-America honors in back-to-back seasons. The other two? Terry Dischinger and Rick Mount.

Edey is the nation's leading scorer at 24.4 points per game. Have you heard anyone bring that up in conversation? No. Instead you have a former prominent ESPN employee declare this week that Edey is "a plague on college basketball." That same person also declared Purdue "a plague" as well.

This is the nonsense the Boilermakers can silence with a six-game winning streak over the next few weeks.

Purdue has arguably its best point guard in nearly 50 years in Braden Smith, a first-team All-Big Ten selection and an honorable mention All-American by The Associated Press. It has Lance Jones, who

wasn't a part of last season's embarrassment and has enough confidence to fill Mackey Arena. It has Fletcher Loyer, who has overcome opponents' game plans to rough him up by improving his 3-point shooting percentage from 32 percent as a freshman to 44 percent this season.

Purdue has Trey Kaufman-Renn, who has more offensive rebounds on the roster than anyone not named Zach Edey. It has Mason Gillis, who didn't pout over losing his starting job to Kaufman-Renn and became the Big Ten's Sixth Man of the Year largely based on 48 percent shooting from 3-point range.

And I haven't even mentioned former Indiana Mr. Basketball Caleb Furst or the two most athletic players on the roster in redshirt freshman Camden Heide and true freshman Myles Colvin. Heide and Colvin are shooting better than 44 percent from 3-point range.

While no tournament path is easy, a general consensus is Purdue has a better road to the Final Four than even the overall No. 1 seed and reigning champion Connecticut.

Indianapolis. Then Detroit if Purdue can handle Grambling and either Utah State or TCU. The Boilermakers even got a break when potential Sweet 16 opponent Kansas announced its best player, guard Kevin McCullar, is out for the tournament. "The time is here," Gillis said Sunday night on Big Ten Network. "We've got about a week to prepare. We've sat with this feeling all year. That's our motivation all year. We don't necessarily let the media pull us down or bring us up. But we

hear what they say and we use it as fuel.

"That's our biggest thing all year, to use what happened last year to learn from it, move on from it and get better from it. And I think we have. We still have to prove that. We have gotten better and I think that will show throughout the tournament." Not everyone in the national media is pessimistic about Purdue's chances. Here are a few of them.

- ESPN.com writer Myron Medcalf lists the Boilermakers as one of eight teams (Connecticut, Houston, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arizona, Kentucky and Creighton) with a national championship ceiling.

"This year, the Boilermakers boast the best offense in America, especially at the 3-point line (going from 32.2 percent to 41 percent). Issues with turnovers remain, but Matt Painter's squad has the talent to mimic history and win a national title, just like Virginia."

- ESPN analyst Jay Bilas, after the bracket was unveiled Sunday, declared Purdue has "the best draw of any one seed."

"Purdue has been outstanding all year long," Bilas said. "I think the only issue with Purdue is are they going to carry the baggage from the last three years into this tournament and play tight and play not to lose? Or are they going to put that baggage down and play to win? If they play to win, they have the goods to reach the Final Four and they can win when they get there. They're legit."

Bilas backed up his claim by picking Purdue to reach the national title game against Connecticut.

- C.J. Moore of The Athletic concurs.

"Purdue has the easiest path to the Elite Eight of all the No. 1 seeds, and for that reason it might be a smart champion pick," Moore writes. In my bracket, we get the national championship between the two teams who have been at the top of the rankings for most of the year and a game I've wanted to see.

"The Boilermakers have been one of the best two teams in the country all season, but a lot of people are going to pick an early upset because Matt Painter's team has been lost in the first round in two of the last three tournaments — including No. 16 seed Fairleigh Dickinson last year. This is not the same Purdue team. That one featured freshmen guards who were wearing down. Now Braden Smith and Fletcher Loyer are sophomores, and Smith, in particular, has made a big leap and is one of the best point guards in the country. He also has playmaking help in Southern Illinois transfer guard Lance Jones.

"I'm sticking with UConn, but I've got Purdue in the championship game."

- David Cobb of CBSsports.com picks the Boilermakers to win the Midwest Regional.

"Purdue has many of the same faces in key places as last season, but this isn't the same team," Cobb writes. "Point guard Braden Smith has taken massive strides as a sophomore, and Southern Illinois transfer Lance Jones has added punch. Edey is the same dominant force, and he

now has the supporting cast he needs to carry Purdue to its first Final Four since 1980."

Kevin Sweeney of SI.com predicts a national championship for Purdue, defeating Auburn in the title game. Not as optimistic is colleague Pat Forde, who has the Boilermakers losing in the Elite Eight to Creighton.

Notes

Overshadowed by the overtime loss to Wisconsin in the Big Ten Tournament semifinals, Edey became Purdue's all-time scoring leader with 2,339 points. Rick Mount's 2,323 points had been the standard for 54 years.

Edey is also Purdue's all-time leader in rebounds (1,234) and double-doubles (63).

He seems a good bet to retain the national scoring lead throughout the NCAA tournament. Runner-up Tommy Bruner of Denver (24.0) will not play in the postseason. Third is Illinois guard Terrance Shannon at 23.0.

If Edey concludes his Purdue career atop the NCAA scoring leaders, he will be the third Boilermaker to accomplish the feat, joining Glenn Robinson (30.3) in 1994 and Dave Schellhase (32.5) in 1966. ...

Mike DeCourcy of SportingNews.com and Big Ten Network has a rebuttal to Edey's critics who claim "he's just tall."

"It is the curse of the oversized big men that many spectators consider such a player's greatness to be more easily achieved," DeCourcy states. "Allow me to point out there were two taller players in major conference college basketball this

season and they averaged 7.3 points. Combined. What Edey is doing is not easy for anyone, at any size."

-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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