

➔ TODAY'S VERSE

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Meet Aries



Aries is an adorable 1 year old male mix breed cutie available for adoption since 5/2/24 (owner/guardian surrender). Aries likes going out for walks, playing fetch, and frolicking in a fenced yard. Aries is neutered, dewormed, microchipped, and up to date on all of his shots. Aries is looking for his best friend. Could that be you?

AWL is open Monday-Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p. Come snuggle cats in a community cat room, walk dogs, or lend a helping hand!!

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BTN

By The Numbers, a look at what's in the news . . . by the numbers. These are just numbers, not suggestions that they mean more or less than what they are. We do not suggest that one number is connected to another. These are simply facts with no extraneous details, bias or slanted reporting. To borrow (and perhaps mangle a bit) a quote from legendary fictional detective Joe Friday, it's just the numbers, ma'am!

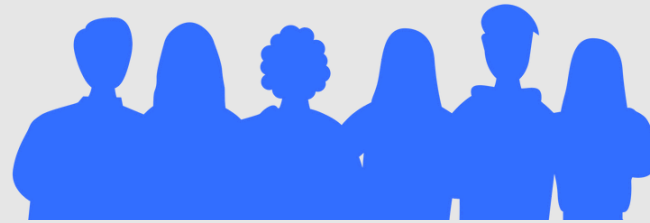
The Great Hoosier State – Our Beloved Indiana

Hoosiers still get a lump in their throat when we hear Jim Nabors belt out back home again in Indiana. We take great pride in being from Indiana, so today's By The Numbers will take a close look at some of the great numbers behind our state.

6,785,528 According to the U.S. Census Bureau, that's the number of people living here during the head count of April, 2020.

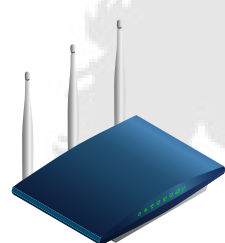
1.1%

Growth rate from 2010 to 2020.



92.7 and 86.7

Almost 93 percent of Hoosier households have a computer under their roof. But only 87 percent have broadband internet.



16.9%

The percentage of the population that is aged 65 or over, you know, the really cool ones in the crowd!

50.3%

Women are in the majority of Hoosiers living in the great state we call home.



24

How many minutes the average person drives going to or from work.

\$35,578

Per capita income



Butch Remembers Toys from '50s



BUTCH DALE
Columnist

My Dad told me one time that as a child growing up in the 1920s and '30s his parents just didn't have any extra money to

buy him and his five brothers and sisters any toys. In those days many kids simply made their own toys out of whatever they could find. They also thought up various games to play at home and at school. Dad said he was thrilled to receive a bouncy rubber ball for Christmas one year. He tossed it to his older brother, who threw it back ... but it landed on the stove and melted!

The kids of my generation ... the "baby boomers," were very fortunate in that most of us had plenty of toys. Some of these toys were very simple, but we used our imagination and creativity and had hours of fun. A few involved skill, determination, and concentration. Others not so much. Some were downright boring. Here are a few that my brothers and sisters and I had through the years, primarily in the 1950s . . .

Mr. Potato Head, Slinky, Balsa wood airplanes, Woolly Willy, Gyroscope, Plastic army men (and plastic cowboys and Indians), Play-Doh, Etch-a-Sketch, Cowboy cap guns, Wind-up train set, Tonka trucks, Silly Putty, Magic 8 Ball, Colorforms, Matchbox cars, Viewmaster, Lincoln logs, Tinkertoys, Pogo stick, Hula Hoop, Pinball game, Whiffle bat and ball, Chemistry set, Paint-by-numbers, Erector set, Howdy Doody puppet, Doctor and nurse set, Lock-and-key skates, Electric football, Bas-Ket basketball game, jacks, and jump ropes. My brother had several little farm toys, such as a tractor, baler, wagon, etc. which he played with in the sand box.

We also had an assortment of board games, such as Scrabble, Uncle Wiggily, Yahtzee, Checkers, Monopoly, Chutes and Ladders, Sorry, Candy Land, Go to the Head of the Class, and Clue, just to mention a few. Back in those days, of course many girls had their favorite dolls to play with, namely the Terri Lee dolls, Betsy-Wetsy, and of course,

➔ See BUTCH Page A3

➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Regular physical activity keeps the mind sharper.

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

"The problem with being punctual is that nobody's there to appreciate it."
Franklin P. Jones

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

What kind of music do killer whales like?
Orca-stra!

➔ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

The parent company of a store in Crawfordsville is growing. **Runnings, a Minnesota-based retailer, announced the purchase of Economy, a family owned company with eight stores in North Dakota. Once this acquisition is complete, Runnings' footprint will expand to 90 locations in 12 states from New York to Montana.**

➔ THREE THINGS

You Should Know

- 1 A pair of New York anglers, James Kane and Barbi Agostini, don't use hooks when they go trolling; they use magnets in hopes of reeling-in valuable items made of iron. For example, they recently landed an old safe containing an estimated \$100,000 in cash. The Treasury Department told them that quite a bit of the hundred dollar bills they landed were damaged beyond recognition but they can probably replace the rest with between \$50,000-\$70,000 worth of the "recoverable" bills with brand-new cool cash.
- 2 Kevin is one big dog, so big that he's been recognized by the Guinness World Records as the world's tallest dog. The Great Dane lives in Des Moines, Iowa and is 3 feet and 2 inches tall. As his owner, Tracy Wolfe, described him, "Kevin is the epitome of a gentle giant. In fact, he is scared of most things. He is terrified of the vacuum. He won't let it come within 6 feet of him! He will jump and run to get away from it."
- 3 Nicolas Barrioz and David Peyrou were having a drink in a pub in France when they got the idea of building the world's tallest bicycle. And so, they got busy building the bike – a bike that measures 25 feet, 5 inches high, big enough to get the attention of the Guinness World Record judges who, indeed, declared it to be the world's tallest rideable bicycle. Barrioz was move. As he told the folks at Guinness, "this experience has completely transformed my worldview. Before this, I really needed self-confidence; I was shy and had a negative self-opinion. Now I feel unstoppable; I think I can repair, build or design anything."



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

OBITUARY

Angela Dawn Fruits

November 20, 1967 - June 16, 2024

Angela Dawn Fruits, age 56, of Darlington, passed away on Sunday, June 16 at her home. She was born in Lafayette on November 20, 1967 to Curt Fruits and Ester (Rascoe) Fruits.



Angela was a member of Church of Christ at Lebanon. She graduated from Rossville High School. Angela worked as a waitress at Denny's in Lafayette, Old Chicago in Lebanon, and Lost Frontier in Thorntown. She also worked at Wesley Manor Nursing Home in Frankfort and FTIC in Jamestown. Angela loved helping care for the elderly people when she worked at the nursing home and she enjoyed reading.

Angela is survived by her parents, Ester (Gordon) McCord of Darlington and Curtis Fruits of Clarkshill; son, Vincent Johnson of Lizton; brothers, Merrill (Carolyn) Fruits and Reese (Paula) Fruits, both of Clarkshill; and a grandson, Carter Reese Johnson of Lizton.

There will be a memorial gathering at the Venture Church, 7865 N. County Road 100 E in Pittsboro, on Saturday June 29, 2024 from 11:00 am until the time of the service at 1:00pm. Sanders Priebe Funeral Care is entrusted with care. Share memories and condolences online at www.SandersFuneralCare.com

Wabash Ranked Highly for International Students



Wabash College is ranked 47th among the best national liberal arts colleges who offer great value for international students, according to Study Abroad Aide.

Ranking liberal arts colleges according to performance, value, and affordability, Study Abroad Aide (www.studyabroadaide.com) highlighted Wabash as one of the 50 most outstanding liberal arts colleges throughout the country that provides both high-quality and budget-friendly education for students around the world.

"One of the things that sets Wabash apart from other schools is that we have a diverse group of international students, as we enroll international students from South America, Africa, Asia, and Europe," said Amy Weir, Director of International Programs. "That encourages our international students to find friendships with students from countries besides their home countries, including with domestic students."

Additionally, Study Abroad Aide ranks Wabash inside the top third among degree-granting institutions worldwide based on academic reputation,

international and total student enrollment, affordability, and value.

"Wabash College celebrates the rich tapestry of cultures woven together by our international student community, each thread adding brilliance to our collective experience," said Chris Dixon, Senior Assistant Director of International Admissions. "Students are empowered to engage in groundbreaking research, immersive learning experiences, and vibrant extracurriculars, all with small class sizes that offer unparalleled access to professors. To be recognized for our global inclusivity is not just an honor, but a testament to the warmth and acceptance that define the essence of our campus."

This fall, the College will welcome its largest new international student cohort, nearly 40 students representing 17 nations.

Study Abroad Aide strives to give prospective college students a broad range of guides that are factual and useful in order to make the college selection process easier.

Juvenile Mentoring Program Jumping With Activity



Photos courtesy YSB

Malibu Jacks was just one of many activities Mentors and Mentees did together.

The Juvenile Mentoring Program of the Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau had a great time together at Malibu Jacks this month in Lafayette. Malibu Jacks is a favorite event for our group, who enjoyed pizza, playing in the arcade, riding amusement park rides, and activities while they were there.



Lauren and Leah are obviously having a great time.

The JUMP program matches an adult volunteer or a married couple with a Montgomery County youth who has similar interests. The goal of the program is for the volunteer to be a positive role model, be a friend to the child, and provide support and a listening ear. A mentor also does fun activities with their mentee to allow the child to experience new things that they might not have been able to try otherwise. These activities don't have to be elaborate, most of our kids are happy to hang out and spend time with someone.

Mentoring has a huge impact on youth in our community, causing mentees to be more likely to succeed academically, become involved in their community, and go on to become mentors as adults.

Malibu Jacks is just one activity that our mentors have enjoyed with their mentees this year. They have attended a bowling and laser tag party, put together drone kits, went to the movie theater, attended professional plays and musical productions, and watched professional basketball and baseball games and there are many more adventures planned for 2024 with the program. It has been fun to allow our matches to spread their wings this year with some new independent activities.

The JUMP program is currently looking for volunteers! If you would like to learn more or have questions about becoming a mentor for the JUMP program we would love to talk with you, contact Sara@mcysb.org or call 362-0694 ext 102.

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Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do You Recognize This 1960 New Ross 6th Grade Student?

HINT:
 He attended Purdue and became a well-known attorney in Crawfordsville.

Answer on Page A3



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Playing Cat Games



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

"I don't even know what game we're supposed to be playing!" my husband, Peter, told me.

He and our cat, Felix, have been playing their nightly game of chase and tag. Peter always loses. This might be because Felix makes the rules—and is the referee.

"When is the game over?" I asked.

"Whenever Felix wins!"

Last night, I was already in bed while the game was wrapping up. Felix was nowhere to be seen. Peter was silently creeping around the bed and out the bedroom door. Suddenly, Felix tore out from under the chair in the bedroom, tagged Peter and zoomed on past.

"Score!" I hollered from the bed. "Felix one, Peter zero—and Felix has won the game!"

Then Felix knocked all the pillows off the sofa to celebrate and came to bed with us.

"It's nice having a cat, isn't it?" I said to Peter.

"Hmm," Peter said.

"You sometimes used to win games when you played with dogs. That's because you were sneaky, and dogs are not as sneaky."

"Dogs are not sneaky at all!" Peter agreed. Peter used to hide from my old dog, Milo, and surprise him. He'd call him from the other room and hide on one side of the door or the other. More than half the time, Milo guessed incorrectly. Then Peter jumped out and surprised him. It was a very satisfying game for everyone.

"Cats are too sneaky," Peter said. "I don't stand a chance."

Felix was a street cat in Mexico before we adopted him and brought him home with us. He does not seem to be pining for life on the street. He has no desire to go outside and is quite content to watch birds through the window. He likes his food and water in their matching little blue-

and-white bowls, and he likes to have a treat at precisely 8:30 every evening. He spends much of the day luxuriating on my office chair in the sunshine, although he takes breaks to be brushed twice a day—always on the ottoman in the living room. Felix has things just the way he likes them. And every night, he plays the cat-and-mouse game with Peter—and Peter is always the mouse.

"Where is my aspirin bottle?" Peter complained last night, after the game was over.

"Where was it?"

"On top of my dresser."

"I'm guessing Felix knocked it off."

"From the top of the highboy?"

Peter has still not absorbed the fact that there is no surface upon which it is safe to set any small object. Like living on a boat or in a spacecraft, we must attach everything to something or put it inside something else. Yesterday, I found Felix rolling the pepper shaker across the floor.

And, of course, our life is so much better this way.

For several years, we had no pet, and we would regularly assure ourselves that life was simpler and, with our trips back and forth to Mexico, we were doing the sensible thing—for ourselves and for our imaginary pet.

But pets are not imaginary, once you have one.

While I cannot know with complete certainty what anyone (much less a cat) is thinking at any particular moment, I am sure Felix is a happy cat. He likes his new home in our condo. He likes his cat games and his many places to nap and his regular treats. I think he even likes us.

"You are a very good cat," I tell Felix every night before I fall asleep. Felix purrs and agrees.

Till next time,
Carrie

Where's Kevin?



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

It was the biggest news in our neighborhood since several septic tanks in our cul-

de-sac backed up and the sewage cascaded into Karen's yard. The story began when I went on a little jog around the neighborhood early in the evening. As I passed a row of homes, Brenda stood on the side of a neighbor's house, peering into the backyard. She motioned me to join her in this clandestine observation.

We both peeked around the corner and there was Kevin. I was surprised to see Kevin. You would have been equally astonished. You don't see Kevin in your neighborhood very often...probably ever. Kevin, you see, is a peacock.

Kevin seemed not to notice us, but he was certainly aware of himself as he preened in the glass sliding doors, either proud of his own plumage or happy to see a fellow peacock in Fishers, Indiana, where such birds are not exactly indigenous. I only later learned his name was Kevin because I discovered he has his own Facebook page (Where's Kevin?). It turns out that there are also Kevins in several other cities. If you see a loose peacock, it's a Kevin.

When I told my wife, she was very surprised. Why? Because I am not a heavy drinker, and I am drug-free except for Lipitor. But the photo I took did not lie. Kevin the Peacock was proudly parading around our neighborhood.

My first assignment was to alert our neighbor Bob, who is the unofficial guru on all things animal-related in our adjacent valley. His frequent hikes keep our neighborhood updated on the owls, deer, turtles, and coyotes that inhabit the area. Bob has seen it all, but never a Kevin.

After my observation,

Thorntown Student Graduates

More than 6,500 University of Iowa undergraduate, graduate, and professional students received their degrees, a group that included Alexander Wallace of Thorntown. Wallace

there were additional sightings. Eric tried to entice the bird with a scattering of blueberries at his feet. I'm not sure what he would have done if the bird had approached him. Either was Eric. Bob got in the action by shadowing Kevin from the street as he paraded from backyard to backyard. Bob had no real plan except to prevent the bird from wandering toward a nearby busy traffic area.

At one point, Kevin ended up on our back patio. I was not home then, but neighbors showed Mary Ellen photos they had taken. My wife was just a floor above when all this happened. "How could I have missed all the excitement?" asked my wife when she saw everyone's iPhone pics. The explanation was simple: She was washing her hair. The shower was on, then the dryer buzzed along, and she was bingeing on old episodes of Grace and Frankie on her iPad. If six grown men had slayed a hippo on the floor below, she would have missed that, too.

Where did Kevin come from? Nobody knows. Where will he be next? Same answer.

Kevin's Facebook page has grown to almost 5,000 followers, and it includes a map of where he was last seen. I am sure he is the talk of everywhere he visits. I know he brought genuine joy to all who observed him in our little neck of the woods. Kevin roams freely, although he does have an affinity for one couple's home, which he often returns to, only to wander off again. If you are fortunate ever to see Kevin, enjoy his majesty and splendor and remember that expression: "free as a bird."

— Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in *The Paper of Montgomery County*. E-mail Dick at Wolfsie@aol.com.

Athens Arts Close-Out Sale Ends Soon

After 14 years of serving the community as a cherished arts hub, Athens Arts is sadly closing its doors. The gallery, located at 216 Main in beautiful downtown Crawfordsville, will be hosting a close-out sale featuring a wide range of items used throughout its years of operation.

From now through Thursday, the public is invited to visit and take advantage of the deep discounts on our furnishings, equipment, and art materials. The sale includes tables, point-of-sale equipment, office supplies, computers, printers, display racks, frames and numerous other items integral to our gallery's day-to-day activities.

Close-Out Sale Hours are noon to 7 p.m. with Saturday 10 a.m. to 2

pm. The Gallery is closed Sunday.

This sale represents the end of an era for Athens Arts, which has been a vibrant part of Crawfordsville's cultural landscape. Everyone at Athens Arts encourages the community to stop by, whether you are looking for specific items or simply to reminisce about the wonderful memories created over the years. Athens Arts extends its heartfelt thanks to the artists, patrons and community members who have supported them throughout this journey. The community's passion for the arts has been the cornerstone of their success.

For more information, please contact Athens Arts at (765) 362-7455 or email director@athensarts.com.

↓ BUTCH From Page A1

Barbie, which made her appearance in 1959. Most boys played sports all year round, primarily basketball and baseball. No one played soccer, which is a popular sport today. Believe it or not, I also played croquet in our yard quite often. The kids today have likely never heard of that game.

In addition to "store-bought" toys and games, I also made things in Dad's toolshed, although I never had any instruction or supervision with respect to his power equipment. I was fortunate not to cut off a finger or get shocked! Most of the time I just sawed and nailed pieces of wood scraps to make such things as toy cars and toy boats, although one time I tried to make a full-size

go cart. That did not turn out well.

Some of those toys and games from the 1950s are still around today and are still popular. You can also find many of these in antique stores or on E-Bay, and the prices are often unbelievable...because now they are "collector" items. But people are thrilled to buy them anyway, no matter what the cost. Would you pay a lot to have your 1953 Howdy Doody puppet or your 1959 Barbie? Let's ask the Magic 8 Ball...

Answer...."You may rely on it!"

—John "Butch" Dale is a retired teacher and County Sheriff. He has also been the librarian at Darlington the past 35 years, and is a well-known artist and author of local history.

FOR THE RECORD

NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MONDAY, JULY 8, 2024 @ 12:00 PM
Montgomery County Government Center
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Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Notice is hereby given that the Montgomery County Commissioners will hold an Executive Session for the following purposes: For discussion of strategy with respect to the implementation of security systems. [I.C. §5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(2)(C)].

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**Butch Dale's
Flashback Trivia**
**Answer:
Monty Harris**

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KENNY THOMPSON

With decades of experience as an award-winning sports writer and sports editor – most of it covering Purdue athletics – Kenny Thompson has a perspective and inside knowledge that few others have. Whether it's putting what's going on in the Big Ten in historical perspective or shooting straight from the hip on what's happening today, no one has a better take on Purdue and sports than Kenny!

Catch Kenny every Friday in *The Paper of Montgomery County!*

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All-Capable, Indiana-Built 2024 Subaru Crosstrek Wilderness Makes You Feel Dirty



CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

I've driven it in the mountains, I've driven it on trails. I've driven it through snow, and I've crept like a pack of snails. But, until now, I hadn't driven it in Midwestern spring weather. I first met the 2024 Subaru Crosstrek Wilderness, built in Lafayette, Indiana, at its preview in California wine country. Then, I put one through its paces in Utah last fall. One returned home to Indiana just in time for snow last winter. Now I'd just like to enjoy one without drama.

To be honest, it makes me feel a little dirty - the kind of dirty that makes you want to find dirt. Designers started with what's essentially a jacked up Impreza hatchback, gave it 9.3" of ground clearance, and clad it in angry black plastic cladding from fascia to wheelwells to lower sills, and around the back. Check the black anti-glare hood patch and 17" matte black wheels shod in Yokohama GEOLANDER tires too. The roof rack is rated 700 lbs. for pop-up tents. Anodized

copper accents identify tow hooks and other attachment points, so it's not all for show.

It looks like it can take you and your family almost anywhere on a weekend adventure... and it can. Wilderness editions employ a 2.5-liter "Boxer" four-cylinder engine that routes 182 horsepower and 178 lb.-ft. of torque through a continuously variable transmission. All-wheel-drive is standard. A turbo would be nice, as would a geared transmission, but the CVT can be paddle-shifted through eight pre-set ratios. Better, it can tow up to 3,500 lbs. - enough for a pop-up camper or fishing boat. Fuel economy rates 25/29-MPG city/highway.

Moving inside, a giant 11.6" tablet-style touchscreen takes center stage, but proper volume and tuning knobs plus buttons for key climate controls add convenience. Devices connect wirelessly through Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Charge wirelessly too. I'm a fan of the heated StarTex "vegan leather" seats that are all-day comfortable and easy to

wipe clean. Crank the crisp 10-speaker Harman Kardon audio! Looking closer, I remember copper accents on the steering wheel, shift knob, gauges, and seat stitching. Toss in gear and groceries through the wide hatch.

Back in Utah where asphalt turns instantly to rough gravel, the Crosstrek comes with a plethora of technology to stomp dirt. Dual Mode X-Mode, a traction control system that allows the car's AWD system to claw through deep mud/snow, employs hill descent control to automatically creep down steep inclines (in case you need such things). The enhanced suspension is as adept at soaking up potholed city streets as articulating over rough trails. It has an insane amount of capability whether tackling trails or just getting to dinner.

Being a Subaru, safety is a key feature. It's comforting to know the Crosstrek Wilderness comes with an extensive suite of safety tech that includes automatic emergency braking, adaptive cruise, lane keep assist, and blind

spot warnings. Rear cross path detection with auto brake protects rear fenders while a new three-camera "EyeSight" system detects obstacles ahead and can even steer around them.

The Crosstrek Wilderness laughs at rough trails and deep snow, but what's it like for urban sunshine and weekend fun? Turns out, pretty good. Its height and size make it easy to slip into with ample space for kids, sport and all the kit. A high seating position and short length make quick work of parallel parking spaces and downtown garages too. Thick

- Likes
- All-road capability
 - Angry style
 - Everyday practicality
- Dislikes
- No NAV
 - No front camera
 - Rambunctious powertrain

rubber and suspension travel add comfort no matter the road.

It's also a good deal. Base Crosstrek starts at just \$25,195, rising to \$35,810 for our well-optioned

Wilderness.

Storm Forward!

Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey.

2024 Subaru Crosstrek Wilderness
Five-passenger, AWD Crossover
Powertrain: 2.5-liter H4, CVT
Output: 182hp/178 lb.-ft. torque
Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind
Wheels f/r: 18"/18" alloy
Brakes f/r: disc/disc
Ground clearance: 9.3"
Towing: 3,500 lbs.
Fuel economy: 25/29 mpg city/hwy
Assembly: Lafayette, IN
Base/as-tested price: \$25,195/35,810



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College Football Hall of Fame And Boilermaker Basketball





KENNY THOMPSON

Columnist

How Can College Hall Continue to Bypass Drew Brees?

The best player in New Orleans Saints history was a unanimous selection for the team's Hall of Fame on May 30.

Drew Brees' 15 seasons in New Orleans not only earned the city a Super Bowl championship but established the quarterback's credentials to become a first-ballot Pro Football Hall of Fame selection when he becomes eligible in 2026.

Brees, who is the lone player honored by the Saints in 2024, was a two-time NFL Offensive Player of the Year and 13-time Pro Bowl quarterback who retired with the second-most passing yards (80,358) and passing touchdowns (571) in NFL history.

Those numbers are on top of what Brees accomplished at Purdue. He still holds the Big Ten record for career passing yards (11,792) and graduated with two NCAA records, 13 Big Ten marks and 19 Purdue standards.

Yet with those numbers I just listed, there's one Hall of Fame whose doors are closed to Brees.

This week's College Football Hall of Fame ballot once again does not have Brees, a black mark on this so-called organization which has been a vagabond shrine since being founded in 1951 by the National Football Foundation.

An investigation by the New Jersey attorney general into the finances of the Hall of Fame's foundation in the late 1960s resulted in cancellation of plans to build a permanent shrine at Rutgers. Next

stop, New York City. That is until that state's attorney general launched his own investigation.

Kings Mills, Ohio – home of Kings Island amusement park – was the next destination in 1978 with the hope that visitors to the park would also want to visit the hall of fame. When that wish failed to work out by 1992, South Bend won the bid to become the permanent home. Well, permanent lasting until it closed in September 2012.

The Hall of Fame's current home in Atlanta cost \$68.5 million when it opened on Aug. 23, 2014.

The College Football Hall of Fame's first requirement for enshrinement is a player earning first-team All-American recognition by an organization recognized by the NCAA and utilized to comprise consensus All-America honors.

Brees' lone first-team All-America honor came from Gannett News Service in 2000, which does not fall into either of the Hall of Fame's criteria. Brees, however, did win the Maxwell Award that is presented annually to the best all-around college football player.

Brees easily fulfills the second and third Hall of Fame requirements.

· He played his final game at Purdue during the 2000 season; the Hall of Fame has a 10-year waiting period. If they played pro football, an athlete must be retired to be eligible.

· A player's post-football record as a citizen also is weighed. "He must have proven himself worthy as a citizen, carrying the ideals of football forward into his relations with his community and fellow man. Consideration may also be given for academic honors and whether or not the candidate earned a college degree."

Just ask the people of New Orleans what Brees did for their proud city in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Additionally, the Brees Dream Foundation has contributed more than \$500 million to charitable causes globally. Its mission statement is to improve the quality of life for cancer patients and provide care, education and opportunities for children and families in need.

Brees was named the 2000 Academic All-American Player of the Year and ironically, a recipient of the National Football Foundation's post-graduate scholarship.

The lone exception to the first-team All-America rule to date is another well known quarterback.

Fran Tarkenton led the nation in passing in 1960 at Georgia but all that got the

future 18-year NFL star was second-team All-America honors. SEC Player of the Year Jake Gibbs of Mississippi swept first-team honors that season. Gibbs would go on to be a catcher with the New York Yankees.

Granted an exception by the National Football Foundation, Tarkenton was elected in 1987.

Since the Joe Tiller National Football Foundation Chapter received its charter in 2004, the group has helped five Purdue players and one coach earn induction:

quarterback Mike Phipps (2006), quarterback Mark Herrmann (2010), running back Otis Armstrong (2012), coach William "Lone Star" Dietz (2013), defensive tackle Dave Butz (2014) and defensive back Rod Woodson (2016).

Record-setting wide receiver Taylor Stubblefield once again is on the Hall of Fame ballot. The consensus 2004 first-team All-American set the NCAA record for career receptions (316) and led the Big Ten in receptions three consecutive seasons (2002-04).

Stubblefield and former Lafayette Jeff/Purdue quarterback Doug Downing will be inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame on Sunday during the Tiller Chapter NFF Honors Brunch at the Purdue Memorial Union. Brees also was elected but will be honored at a later date.

Purdue All-American wide receiver Larry Burton fell off the 2025 ballot, having exceeded the requirement that a player must have played their final game within the past 50 years. Burton's hopes now fall to the Football Bowl Subdivision and Divisional Veterans Committees.

Eligible Purdue consensus All-Americans yet to make an appearance on the College Football Hall of Fame ballot are tight end Dave Young, who played his final game in 1980; punter/kicker Travis Dorsch (2001) and defensive end Ryan Kerrigan (2010).

Young, who died at age 64 in 2023, was the first tight end in college football history to lead the nation in receptions (6.1 per game) in 1980. Dorsch won the 2001 Ray Guy Award as the nation's best punter. Kerrigan set the Big Ten record and matched the national standard with 14 fumbles forced to go with 33.5 sacks and 57 tackles for loss.

Wide receivers Rondale Moore and David Bell will not be eligible until 2030 and 2031, respectively unless both are still playing in the NFL.

Purdue consensus All-Americans before 1974 who are not in the Hall of Fame are running back Ralph "Pest"

Welch (final game in 1929), tackle Elmer Sleight (1929), end Paul Moss (1932), running back Duane Purvis (1934), end Dave Rankin (1940), end Bernie Flowers (1952), middle guard Chuck Kyle (1968) and Burton.

Unfortunately for Purdue's winningest football coach Joe Tiller, his career mark of 126-92-1 (.577 winning percentage) falls just shy of the 60 percent standard set by the College Football Hall of Fame. Going 25-25 over his final four seasons at Purdue after posting a 62-37 mark over his first eight years dropped Tiller's winning percentage below 60.

The 2025 Hall of Fame ballot also includes Purdue offensive coordinator Graham Harrell for his accomplishments at Texas Tech and former Indiana University standouts Antwaan Randle El and Vaughn Dunbar.

The electorate consists of more than 12,000 NFF members and surviving Hall of Famers. Retired coaches Nick Saban and Urban Meyer seem a certainty for election.

Decommits Worked Out Well for Purdue Boiler Basketball

Would Purdue have reached the NCAA men's basketball championship game for the first time since 1969 with this trio alongside guard Fletcher Loyer and forward Trey Kaufman-Renn?

Hunter Dickinson at center. Jameel Brown at point guard. Dra Gibbs-Lawhorn at guard/small forward.

Dickinson, Brown and Gibbs-Lawhorn were either committed to Purdue or were coach Matt Painter's No. 1 target during their recruitment over the past four years.

Instead, Purdue wound up with Zach Edey, Braden Smith and Lance Jones. If only all consolation prizes turned out to be so valuable.

Purdue's recent good fortune with decommitments began in March 2015 when Indianapolis Tech guard C.J. Walker backed out of his pledge. In the aftermath, disgruntled former Purdue point guard Ronnie Johnson celebrated the decommitment, stating on Twitter that "CJ Walker has too much sauce to his game. Great decision."

Five months later, four-star guard Carsen Edwards of Humble, Texas, accepted the scholarship vacated by Walker. The same Carsen Edwards who scored 1,920

points in three seasons. The same Edwards who made an NCAA tournament record 28 3-pointers and averaged nearly 35 points a game while leading Purdue to within a second of a 2019 Final Four berth.

Who would Boilermaker fans rather have had wear gold and black?

That's why the unexpected release of five-star forward Kanon Catchings from his national letter of intent last week by Painter could end up working out for the Boilermakers.

The 7-2 Dickinson surprised Purdue when he chose Michigan, where he lived up to his four-star rating as a two-time first-team All-Big Ten selection. Dickinson abandoned the Wolverines after three seasons for a bigger paycheck at Kansas. There, he earned first-team All-Big 12 honors, but the Jayhawks were booted by Gonzaga in the second round of the 2024 NCAA tournament.

Painter's Plan B for the 2020 class, 7-1 Ryan Kalkbrenner, went to Creighton, where he's had an excellent career. Plan C, 6-8 forward Ben Carlson, struggled for two seasons at Wisconsin before playing his final two seasons at Utah.

Plan D ended up becoming a two-time National Player of the Year and Purdue's all-time leading scorer and rebounder.

Brown decommitted from Purdue in 2022 shortly after his primary recruiter, Micah Shrewsbury, took the Penn State head coaching position. In 41 games at Penn State, Brown has averaged three points.

When Painter searched for a guard to replace Brown, he discovered a game tape of an undersized Westfield guard, Braden Smith. That's how the Purdue and Big Ten single-season assists record holder ended up in West Lafayette.

Purdue fans first became aware of Gibbs-Lawhorn during his freshman season at local McCutcheon High School. After one season, Gibbs-Lawhorn moved on to prep schools in Utah and Florida but

he still seemed to be a priority recruit for Purdue.

After committing to the Boilermakers in Dec. 2021, Gibbs-Lawhorn backed out of his pledge the following August. Painter did not fill that scholarship when national signing day came in November, leaving a spot available for a potential transfer.

That transfer, guard Lance Jones of Southern Illinois, became the missing piece for a Purdue team coming off an embarrassing NCAA tournament loss to Fairleigh Dickenson. Jones became Purdue's third-leading scorer (11.7), and his 3-pointer against Tennessee knocked down the door to that elusive Final Four berth.

In the long run, maybe Catchings wouldn't be the star of this Purdue freshman class. At the same time Catchings exited, 7-3 center Daniel Jacobsen was impressive while helping Team USA's U18 National Team win the gold medal at the FIBA Americup in Buenos Aries, Argentina.

Somehow just a second-team Americup All-Star Five selection, Jacobsen set an American record with 19 blocked shots over six games. The previous record-holder was Indiana Pacers center Myles Turner, who had 18 in 2014.

In just 16 minutes a game, Jacobsen averaged 9.2 points and 7 rebounds. He shot nearly 65 percent from the field (22 of 34) and was 11 of 14 (.786) at the free throw line.

With or without Catchings, expectations remain high for the reigning NCAA runners-up. The Athletic has Purdue ranked 13th, the highest Big Ten team on author CJ Moore's ratings.

"It's going to be difficult to replace Edey, but Matt Painter won a lot of basketball games before Edey showed up and he'll continue to do so," Moore writes. "Painter has a really good core returning, led by Smith, who became a killer in pick-and-roll last season as both a scorer

and distributor. If you asked college coaches to rank the best point guards in the country, he'd be near the top.

"Purdue got a head start on what life without Edey would be like last summer when it went on a foreign tour without him and Kaufman-Renn led the team in scoring. Painter also has three centers on the bench who could be next in line as dominant low-post scorers. The 7-foot-2 Will Berg has been learning behind Edey the last two years, and then Painter signed two centers in Daniel Jacobsen and Raleigh Burgess. Jacobsen was a standout ... at the tryouts for the U.S. U-18 team. When I asked two coaches there who stood out, both mentioned Jacobsen, with one saying he'll eventually be a star. He's 7-3, skilled and playing at Purdue, so odds are in his favor."

The Boilermakers' schedule should once again prepare them well for Big Ten play. The Athletic's No. 1 preseason team, Alabama, comes to Mackey Arena on Nov. 15 for the start of a two-game home and home series.

Purdue also plays No. 11 Texas A&M in this year's Indy Classic at Gainbridge Fieldhouse on Dec. 14. In between Alabama and Texas A&M is a trip to No. 14 Marquette on Nov. 19.

Michigan at No. 17 is the second-highest conference team, followed by Indiana (19th) and Illinois (20th).

"It's a huge year for (coach Mike) Woodson," Moore writes. "Based on this class, Indiana's donors are coming through financially, but that could quickly change if results don't follow."

Noteworthy

Purdue football has the new Big Ten's second-most difficult schedule, according to Bill Bender of The Sporting News.

Bender's criteria included the number of ranked teams from The Sporting News' preseason top 25 on the schedule. Purdue will play three top five teams – Ohio State, Penn State and Notre Dame – but the Nittany Lions and Fighting Irish come

to Ross-Ade Stadium.

"Wisconsin and Nebraska are unranked for now, but Purdue faces those teams on back-to-back weeks in late September," Bender writes. "This just isn't a friendly schedule for second-year coach Ryan Walters."

Michigan's schedule is rated the Big Ten's toughest. Indiana and Oregon tied for the 12th most difficult schedule. The Hoosiers also have to play at Ohio State but host Michigan and Washington. ...

Purdue cornerback Nyland Green, formerly of Georgia, was ranked among the top incoming Big Ten transfers by CBSSports.com writer Tom Fornelli.

"The defensive scheme Ryan Walters brought to Purdue puts a lot on the plates of its corners, who are often left alone in man coverage," Fornelli writes. "For that reason alone, Nyland Green will have a huge impact on Purdue's 2024 season. If the Georgia transfer can perform at a level matching his ranking out of high school (Green was the No. 2 CB in the 2021 class), it will go a long way in helping the Boilermakers defense improve significantly this season."

New Indiana quarterback Kurtis Rourke also made Fornelli's list.

"New coach Curt Cignetti has done excellent work in the transfer portal this offseason, but none of it matters if the QB doesn't work out," Fornelli writes. "Luckily for the Hoosiers, Rourke is a good bet to work out, as he was a highly productive player for one of the MAC's best programs at Ohio." ...

Former Purdue volleyball standout Annie Drews will compete in her second Olympics Games this summer in Paris.

Drews is one of eight returning players from the United States' 2020 gold medal-winning squad in Tokyo.

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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