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 Lismet



Kismet is a gorgeous 3 year old female brindle boxer available for foster to adopt from The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 8/10/24. Kismet means fate or destiny. Kismet is often referred to as "meant to be". Kismet loves going out for walks, frolicking in a fenced yard, and will gladly sit for treats. Kismet is looking for her best friend! Could that be you? AWL is open Monday - Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p. Come say hi, snuggle cats, walk dogs, or lend a helping hand!

Free Tix to Xmas Gift+Hobby Show



We're doing it again!

The Paper of Montgomery County once again has free tickets to give away for the most popular Christmas Gift & Hobby Show. This year's extravaganza is scheduled for Nov. 6-10 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

All you have to do to win two tickets (valued at \$24) is send us a selfie of you and our front page (Print or Online Edition). Be sure to tell us who you are, where you are from and why you love The Paper. If we use your smiling photo on our front page - you win free tickets to the show!

It's really that simple! You can text or e-mail it to ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com

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Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

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CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

WWW.THEPAPER24-7.COM

Karen says

So Long,

Farewell

KAREN



🙀 Boomer Bits 🎋



Ask Rusty - About Taxation of Social Security Benefits



Social Security Matters

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security
Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a auestion, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or

email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Dear Rusty:

I am past my Social Security full retirement age, and I am still working. I am married and we file our income tax jointly. My husband is 64 and is not working now, but he may, or may not, be able to work in the next year or so. At what point will my Social Security benefits be taxed, if I decide to take them now?

Signed: Worried About Taxes

Dear Worried:

Many Social Security recipients are surprised to find that their benefits may be considered taxable by the IRS, so I welcome the opportunity to clarify this topic for you.

Whether or not your Social Security benefits are taxable depends on your overall combined taxable income for your IRS tax filing status. Taxation of Social Security benefits for a married couple (filing jointly) depends on your combined income as a couple, which is called your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income" (MAGI) by the IRS. Your MAGI

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Eating whole grains instead of refined white

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr.

John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each

THREE THINGS

You Should Know

over daylight savings time is in the

between bedtime Saturday night

and church Sunday morning, we

Hoosiers will "fall back" an hour.

Yes, daylight savings time in the U.S.

March and ends on the first Sunday in

if you don't have one of those clocks that do it

begins on the second Sunday and

Lake and Spring Mill State Park.

news again – mostly because

The seemingly never-ending controversy

starches results in less belly fat.

week in The Paper and online at www.thepaper24-7.com

November. So if you are up at 2 a.m. Sunday morning, and

automatically, re-set the clocks to 1 p.m. – and just our

advice, but go to bed and enjoy an "extra" hour of sleep!

The Indiana DNR plan for the strategic direction of the DNR

Division of Forestry is now available for public comment at

on.IN.gov/forest-management. Hoosiers are also invited to

attend public meetings in November or December to learn

more about the five-year strategic plan and ask questions.

The meetings will be held Nov. 6, Nov. 14, and Dec. 4.

Comments will be accepted online through Dec. 17 at 5

p.m. Meetings will take place at Fort Harrison, Salamonie

Our friends at Thelines.com have come up with Hoosiers'

favorite pro teams, based on Google search data over the

U.S. No big surprise, but the Indianapolis Colts finished

course that was before the quarterback decided he was

too tired to play. Our Pacers finished third, surprisingly

behind the Chicago Cubs. Chicago struck again at No. 4

with the Bears and the Cincinnati Reds were fifth?

first (hey, at least they finished first in something). Of

last 12 months for all 125 Major League sports teams in the

consists of your normal Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) on your IRS tax return, plus 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year, plus any non-taxable interest you may have had.

If your MAGI (filing jointly) exceeds \$32,000, then 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes taxable, but if your MAGI as a couple exceeds \$44,000 then up to 85% of your received SS benefits becomes taxable (at your standard IRS tax rate). Note that these tax thresholds are less for those who file their taxes as a single - e.g., for someone whose IRS filing status is "single," half of their Social Security benefits become part of their taxable income if their personal MAGI is over \$25,000, and up to 85% of their SS benefits are taxable if their individual MAGI is over \$34,000.

Another factor often misunderstood is that

See RUSTY Page A3

Doctors' Tips for a Healthy and Safe Holiday Season

(StatePoint) The holiday season is a joyous time of year, but it can also throw your wellness routines out of alignment. Doctors advise prioritizing healthy choices during this period, so you can start 2025 on the right foot.

"Everyone's holiday wish is to be happy, health and safe, but the season is often a time for overindulgence in food and drink, increased stress and exposure to respiratory illness," says Bruce A. Scott, M.D., president of the American Medical Association (AMA).

The AMA recommends taking

■ See TIPS Page A3

5 Things to Know **About Medicare Open Enrollment**

(Family Features) Medicare Open Enrollment, which runs from Oct. 15-Dec. 7 each year, is the one time you can review, compare and make changes to your Medicare health and prescription drug plans for the next year. Because plans - and your health - can change, it's important to compare plans every year. Visit Medicare.gov to see what's new for 2025, including a \$2,000 cap on outof-pocket costs for covered prescription drugs, get extra help with prescription drug costs and more.

See OPEN Page A5



50 years. Five decades. A very long time that in many ways seems like yesterday. Yep, you guessed it been writing historical articles

that long and I can still remember my first article that was published. I wrote one for Steve Thompson who had a genealogy article in the old Montgomery Magazine (Pat Cline editor) but my name wasn't on it. No biggee - it was still a thrill!

From that, Steve went up

north to teach and thus Pat asked me with a big smile to take over the genealogical article over (she loved it that my writing is more Little House on the Prairie style vs technical) and I entered into the wonderful world of sharing history. I have always loved history - a natural I guess as my paternal grandmother was born and raised in Italy and she loved to share stories with me (two brothers, two male first cousins so I spent lots and lots of time with my Nona and heard many stories many multiple times but never got tired of them - ever). My dad used to tell me I was born a history buff. Been in many clubs (DAR; Genealogy; Historical ...) pertaining to such and written so many articles, I'd really not be able to tell you how many. Fairly sure I'd not be remiss of saying over 1,000. I've written other things too - a how to write column. children's lit one, other historical pieces for nearby counties, a booklet on early doctor's of MoCo and my big one: the book, Crawfordsville, Athens of Indiana. I also write little pieces, such as an OTD (On This Day - so & so happened to such & such) for two Facebook pages, Who's Who items for the three GenWeb

When I came up with the idea of writing the Montgomery Memories, I was so thrilled to have a boss (thanks TT) who sees the value of the history of a community. I love genealogy as most of you know (I actually go beyond that - it is my passion - I live and breathe it) but I really have had as much fun with the local folks' genealogies as I do our family's. Right, I don't find Kings and Queens or Adam and Eve for all of the local folks but there is almost always someone interesting in the subject's past as well as about whom I chose to

pages I do (with a lot of help

from hubs and many other

wonderful folks).

I realized a few weeks ago that I am about out of a couple of things that it takes to do well in the local history world. One was ideas and two steam. So, I told Tim I was going to hang it up at the end



TODAY'S QUOTE

"I don't run away from a challenge because I am afraid. Instead, I run toward it because the only way to escape fear is to trample it beneath your feet." Nadia Comaneci

TODAY'S JOKE

Forgive us, but we're in the spirit of Christmas so we're starting the Yule jokes a little early this year (hey, with all the strife in the world, can't we all use some holiday cheer)!

What goes Ho Ho Whoosh, Ho Ho Whoosh? Santa going through a revolving

MONTGOMERY MINUTE

The Salvation Army of Montgomery County is gearing up for the 2024 Christmas Red Kettle Campaign and is looking for dedicated people to assist with the campaign. Bell ringers can sign up to ring the bell at www.registertoring.com. Ringing takes place at Walmart and Kroger. Shifts are two hours, but hour shifts will also be accepted. Organizations can also sign up for an entire day at either location. For more information contact Clay Adams at clayadams47933@gmail. com. You may also reach Clay via phone or text at (765) 376-7194.

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

See KAREN Page A3



PAGE A2 • FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024



OBITUARY

Robert Alan Surface

May 5, 1955 - October 29, 2024

Robert "Bob" Alan Surface, age 69 of Crawfordsville passed away on Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at Franciscan Health Lafayette. He was born in Crawfordsville on May 5, 1955 to the late Thomas and Sandra (Harwood) Surface.



Bob graduated from South Montgomery High School in 1974 and went on to attend Purdue University. He worked at Crown Cork & Seal for 25 years and then retired from Whitesville Mill Service, where he was a Scrap Yard Manager. Bob owned Surf and Son Lawn and Garden with his son, Beau.

Bob married the love of his life, Tammy Kay Tauscher, on October 2, 2010. Throughout his life, Bob appreciated camping with his family at Nevins Campground, located on Raccoon Lake. He enjoyed deer hunting, fishing, gardening, processing gold and silver, and feeding his koi fish. Bob loved spending time with his family, especially during the holidays. He was a master griller and smoker. Bob was well known for roasting hogs in New Market for the Fire Department Hog Roast and was famous for his BBQ sauce. Bob also enjoyed mushroom hunting with Beau. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Crawfordsville.

Bob will be deeply missed by his wife, Tammy; son, Beau (Abby) Surface; daughter, Lori (Jeff) Pollard; siblings, Jeanie Surface Cummins and Anita Jo (Rich) Blanford; grandchildren, Jaleeza, Henley, Remi, Ada, Collin, Cora, Nella, Tyler, Dani, and Eli; stepchildren, Shelly (Tilmer) Paulson and Tony Fifer; his beloved fur babies, Doodle and Winnie; and several nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held for Bob at Sanders Funeral Care, 315 S. Washington Street in Crawfordsville on Saturday, November 2, 2024 from 11:00am until the time of funeral service at 1:00pm. Burial will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery South. Share memories and condolences online at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

Looking for a part-time job that does not involve the words:

Would You Like Fries With That?

The Paper of Montgomery County is looking for clerical help. This could be the perfect job for part-time students all the way up to Baby Boomers looking for something to do.

Basic data entry skills are required. Experience with QuickBooks is a bonus.

E-mail jobs@thepaper24-7.com

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Election Trust and Integrity is My Duty as Your Secretary of State



MORALES Guest Columnist

Chief Election Officer and as an immigrant elected to a

As Indiana's

statewide office, my duty is to do everything I can within my authority to ensure that our elections are conducted in a lawful, accountable, and trustworthy manner for all Hoosiers.

It's entirely appropriate for election administrators, starting with myself, to respond to concerns that non-U.S. citizens can register to vote and vote, under what is basically an "honor system" for the citizenship qualification. Concern about the ease at which a non-citizen may register to vote and cast a vote, have been expressed to me directly from voters and local election officials, and is not far-fetched or unreasonable.

There has been a critical

outcry from some, that not relying of the "honor system" for U.S. Citizenship is somehow mean spirited or unpatriotic. I disagree. I'm sure virtually no respectable Hoosier would try to sneak into a Taylor Swift concert, or attend a Colts game, or board a commercial airline, without a ticket, or carrying a prohibited item. Still, despite our trust in people's honesty, it's virtually unquestioned that everyone attending a concert or game, or boarding an airplane will be asked for their ticket and screened for dangerous, prohibited items. Asking everyone is not discriminatory, accusatory, meanspirited, or unpatriotic it's basic common sense. In another context, President Ronald Regan once famously said "trust but verify". Asking 70,000 Colts fans to show their ticket and pass security screening is not a challenge to their integrity or an effort to lower game attendance. Likewise, unobtrusive screening for non-U.S. citizens who may have intentionally or unknowingly registered to vote is not casting dispersion on all who are eligible to vote.

People would not visit a doctor or hospital, board a commercial airline, or entrust their child to a licensed daycare center, if they did not have confidence that government agencies had done their duty to assure that everyone conducting those activities met required qualifications. As a matter of duty, and in the interest of integrity and assurance, government should respond to any reasonable concern that any government regulated provider may

lack required

qualifications.

I do not believe or suspect that 585,774 non-citizens are on Indiana's voter registration list. I know for a fact however, that there are some non-U.S. citizens on Indiana's voting rolls who have been issued a government ID which would allow them to

As a naturalized immigrant myself, I know the process to U.S. Citizenship. I know that federal and state laws for resident aliens, parolees, even illegal migrants, have holes that can be exploited for voting. Here are a few real examples:

Recently, a non-citizen contacted my office explaining that he had registered to vote, and wanted to know how to cancel his registration, which he recognized was illegal and might derail his hopes for immigration. He was directed to a state form to complete and submit for that purpose.

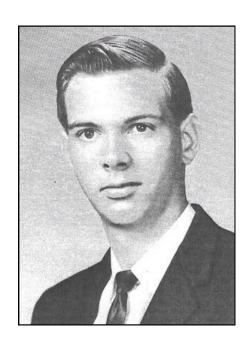
The question remained, how had he become registered in the first place? His voter file included a completed and signed voter registration form. In Box 10, where an individual attests that they are a citizen, he had correctly checked "NO". Pursuant to law his completed registration form was forwarded to a county voter registration office, where a clerical mistake entering his information into the computerized voter registration database had been made. This was not the individuals fault.

A second example came directly from a County Clerk. A registered voter in her district asked if they needed to be a citizen to vote. The Clerk explained the law, and through the conversation discovered that the individual had been unintentionally prompted to register to vote during a visit to an Indiana BMV branch.

This example is the most common way that noncitizens end up on Indiana's voter registration list. The National Voter Registration Act provides that most federal and state government agencies that provide services or assistance to the public must inquire about voter registration and offer forms and assistance with registering. Some government agencies provide aid and assistance to individuals in need, without regard to residency, immigration status, or citizenship.



Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do You Recognize This 1967 New **Market Grad?**

HINT: He was the leading scorer in basketball for the **Purple Flyers and** the tallest player in the county.

> Answer on Page A3



Vol. 20 Sen. Phil Boots, President USPS Publication Number 022-679

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1

RUSTY

only a portion of SS benefits are added to your income amount taxed by the IRS. The amount added – somewhere between 50% and 85% of the SS benefits received during the tax year (depending on your MAGI) – becomes taxable income at your normal IRS tax rate.

So, in your case, if you claim your SS benefits now, and your combined income (your MAGI) exceeds the above levels for a married couple, then a portion (either 50% or up to 85%) of your SS benefits received during the tax year will be included in your income taxable by the IRS. Note, too, that it is possible to have

income tax withheld

supportive and told me

and hubs in that too). I

From Page A1

from your Social Security benefits by submitting IRS form W-4V to your local Social Security office. You can download this IRS form at www.irs.gov/pub/irspdf/fw4v.pdf.

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/p rograms/socialsecurity-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amac foundation.org.

From Page A1

the editor of

1

KAREN

love it but the old body of the year, then I had a widow-maker's heart is wearin' down so I'm basically using this last attack and am looking most likely at Open article to say so long. Heart Surgery coming One more thing: God up in the next couple of bless each and months, so I actually everyone of you! bowed-out a bit early and Tim has been super Karen Zach has been

if I had something I Montgomery Memories, wanted to write about our monthly magazine to just send it in. YES! all about Montgomery County. Her column, So, on a whole, I'm Around the County, has done with what has appeared on Fridays in been my life for fifty The Paper of years yet the door is Montgomery County. still jarred if I want to You can reach her at step back in. Thus, so karen.zach@sbcglobal. long, farewell and net and join all of us at thanks so much to all The Paper wishing her the readers and friends Godspeed on her who have supported cardiac recovery and a me through the years long, happy and (have to include family healthy retirement!

Looking for a part-time job that does not involve the words:

Would You Like Fries With That?

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Basic data entry skills are required. Experience with QuickBooks is a bonus.

E-mail jobs@thepaper24-7.com

Thank you for reading
The Paper

I

TIPS

these steps during the holidays:

1. Vaccines are a safe and remarkably effective defense from a number of serious respiratory viruses that circulate in the fall and winter. To protect yourself and your family, get up to date on your vaccines, including the annual flu shot, as well as the updated COVID-19 vaccine for everyone 6 months and older. Vaccines are also available to protect older adults from severe RSV. Tools to protect infants during RSV season include maternal vaccination as well as the monoclonal antibody immunization. If you have questions, speak with your physician and review trusted resources, including getvaccine

2. Watch what you eat. Pay particular attention to labels and avoid processed foods as much as you can, especially those with added sodium and sugar. Consider having a healthy snack before the big meal or offer to bring a healthier dish for the holiday spread. Drink water instead of sugar-sweetened beverages, and eat nutritious, whole foods like fresh fruits and vegetables alongside richer holiday fare.

answers.org.

3. Stick to your exercise schedule and prioritize physical activity during this busy time of year. A good rule of thumb for adults is at least 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity activity, or 75 minutes a week of vigorousintensity activity. Brisk walks, bike rides, hikes and even familyfriendly sports like basketball and touch football are good for heart health.

4. Use time with relatives to find out whether your family has a history of type 2

From Page A1

diabetes or cardiovascular disease, and whether other family members have been told they have prediabetes. With this information, you can better understand your risk and take charge of your health.

5. Prioritize your mental health. Factors like holiday spending and navigating time with extended family can bring on extra seasonal stress. You can help manage stress by getting sufficient sleep, exercising and seeking help from a mental health professional when you need it.

6. Make smart choices and plan ahead if you're driving. In December 2021 alone, 1,013 Americans died in alcohol impaired-driving crashes. Do not drive under any circumstances if you intend to drink. And if you are the designated driver, make a 100% commitment to sobriety.

7. Be prepared when traveling. Whether you're flying or taking a road trip, you might be tempted to grab convenient, unhealthy food for the journey. Consider packing your own snacks, such as fresh fruits and vegetables or small portions of dried fruits and nuts.

8. Get New Year's resolutions started early. Speak with your doctor or health care professional about quitting tobacco and nicotine use, and declare your home and car smoke-free to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure.

"The holiday season is a wonderful time to reconnect with family and friends – it's also a chance to reconnect with your physical and mental health," says Dr. Scott.

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia

Answer: Mike Deck

FOR THE RECORD

For The Record is a public service and regular feature in The Paper of Montgomery County. It is designed to tell you what is scheduled to happen and what actually does happen in meetings paid for with your tax dollars. The Paper encourages all citizens to take an active role in being involved in local government.

NORTH MONTGOMERY SCHOOL BOARD

Special Board Meeting Friday, Nov. 1, 7:30 a.m.

480 W 580 N, Crawfordsville

1. Call to Order

- a. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance 2. Hear Public Comment on the Agreement
 - a. Hear Public Comment on the Master Teacher's Contract
- 3. Action Items
 - a. Approve the 2024-25 Master Teacher Contract
- 4. Other
- 5. Adjourn

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TENTATIVE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

November 4, 2024 9:00 a.m.

South Montgomery Community School Corporation Board of Trustees

Administration Office

6425 South U.S. 231 Crawfordsville, IN 47933 The Board of Trustees of the South Montgomery Community School Corporation will hold a public hearing, pursuant to Indiana Code §20-29-6-19, in order to discuss and receive public comment on the tentative collective bargaining agreement, between the Corporation and the Teachers Association, for the 2024-2025 school year. This public hearing will be held in the Board Meeting Room of the Administration Office at on the grounds of Southmont High School which is located at 6425 South U.S. 231, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933. This public hearing will be conducted on Monday, November 4, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Members of the public are invited to attend and provide comments to the Board.



THE PAPER





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A4

TRUST

Before I became a naturalized citizen, I recall visiting a BMV branch and being asked if I wanted to register to vote. I knew enough English to say no, others however, may lack sufficient English comprehension to understand what was being asked or the ramifications.

Indiana has been a model for election laws, and frankly, I don't anticipate learning that many non-citizens have landed on our voter registration rolls. Still, voter concerns about non-citizens unfettered access to registration and voting exists, and even looms large for the important upcoming election. I'm not about to dismiss Hoosier's concerns without first inquiring into the facts.

My sincere hope is that USCIS will respond to my request to confirm citizenship for Indiana registrations made without credentials that can help confirm U.S. citizenship. Hopefully the activity will demonstrate to concerned Hoosiers that the issue is relatively small and

From Page A2

limited. I hope that this can serve to increase confidence in our elections and among our citizens.

When you vote on Election Day, I hope you will see "Indiana Voters Bill of Rights" posters in English and Spanish displayed at your polling location as well as signs laying out some basic requirements to vote: an unexpired government issued photo ID, and U.S. citizenship.

During the first 22 months of my term as your Secretary of State hardly a day has passed that I have not devoted some time and effort encouraging eligible Hoosiers to register to vote and to vote in our elections. I hope more Hoosier voters than ever vote on November 5th,including a record number of naturalized Hoosiers like me, and that they do so with confidence that my office has done all that it can to ensure the integrity of our

Diego Morales is Indiana's Secretary of State.

elections.

Thank you for reading The Paper

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

Notice is hereby given the Taxpayers of Montgomery County, Indiana, that the proper legal officers of Montgomery County will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the 2024 Budget Order from the DLGF at the regular Council meeting on November 12, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Community Meeting Room, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:						
Fund	Fund Description	Dept #	Department Description	Account	Account Description	Additional Amount Requested
9110	ICJI LE Train Grnt fka Handgun	0005	Sheriff	20500	Ammunition and Firearm Supplies	\$46,161.00
1000	County General	9655	EM-HS	30009	Aerial Photography	\$3,993.44
1237	Opioid Restricted Portion	0610	Health	20450	Education & Prevention	\$54,737.47
1237	Opioid Restricted Portion	0610	Health	30199	Harm Reduction	\$1,550.00
1237	Opioid Restricted Portion	0610	Health	30131	Intervention/Treatment/Recovery	\$116,321.00
1237	Opioid Restricted Portion	0610	Health	30132	Justice Services	\$19,000.00
8130	Bulletproof Vest Grant	0005	Sheriff	44500	Equipment	\$668.50
1235	PSAP LIT	0303	MCCCC	30128	I.T.	\$20,132.63
1000	County General	0011	Extension Office	30001	Travel Expenses	\$500.00

The additional appropriations as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). The DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action taken This will be considered a work session for the Board of Commissioners in conjunction with the scheduled Council meeting. Dated this 10/30 /2024

Auditor, Montgomery County



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OPEN

From Page A1



prescription drug plans for next year.



New for 2025

Compare Plans Every Year

All Medicare plans will include a \$2,000 cap on out-of-pocket

costs for covered prescription drugs. The cap only applies to drugs that are covered by your plan, so it's more important than

ever to check to make sure your drugs are covered.

Medicare plans change every year and so can your health. By comparing options, you could save money, find a coverage option



Start with the Official Medicare Source

Medicare.gov and 1-800-MEDICARE are the official sources for unbiased Medicare information. Start at Medicare.gov and click on "Find Plans Now." You can input the list of prescriptions you are taking and do a side-by-side comparison of plan coverage, costs and quality ratings.

Struggling with Prescription **Drug Costs?** Extra Help is a Medicare program that can help pay for your

drug coverage (Part D) premiums, deductibles and other costs. If you make less than \$23,000 a year (\$31,000 for married couples), it's worth it to apply. Go to ssa.com/ExtraHelp.



Medicare.gov | 1-800-MEDICARE | THE OFFICIAL SOURCE FOR MEDICARE



PAID FOR BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

SOURCE: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE FOR YOUR **FAVORITE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BUSINESSES!**

READER'S CHOICE 2024

Back in the Day with Butch Dale



Today there are many movie stars and singers who are cult heroes to many of their fans. Back in the 1920s silent film era and then in the golden age of movies, one of the most popular movie stars was Greta Lovisa Gustafsson, who was born in Sweden in 1905. Yes, she was a true star and cult figure ... the amazing Greta Garbo.

Soil & Water Offers Women's Learning Circle

The Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District is back with another Women's Learning Circle on Nov. 12 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. This free event will give you a foundation of soil health knowledge and resources to help you better manage your land and make the best possible decision regarding your lands future.

Learning Circles are a great opportunity to expand your network with fellow landowners in the area and share ideas and experiences. No matter the amount of land you or your family owns, the health of the natural resources on it is important not only for you and for your future descendants as well.

The Learning Circle will be led by women conservationists from around our area. Organizations include NRCS, Purdue Extension, CCSI, and the State Association of SWCDs. After a morning full of discussions and demonstrations there will be a free lunch and tour of a working farm and cover crops in the afternoon. The address and lunch options can

be found in the sign-up form. Registration is mandatory for this event to make sure there is enough supplies for everyone.

To sign up you can scan the QR code below, call the SWCD office at (765) 362-0405 ext. 121 or email programs@ montgomerycoswcd. com. While this event is free, spaces are limited so sign up soon!





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Ranking Big Ten (Plus Eight's) Hardwood Coaching Jobs From Top to Bottom



THOMPSON rank the Columnist coaching jobs in the conference

from best to worst.

On the eve

of the first

Big Ten (plus

eight) men's

basketball

season, let's

History plays a role in my rankings, as does recruiting area, coaching and NCAA tournament success.

Indiana

If this were 25 years ago, the Hoosiers would be the unquestioned best Big Ten program. But since Bob Knight was fired by university president Myles Brand in 2000, IU has gone through six head coaches counting Dan Dakich's seven-game stint after Kelvin Sampson was dismissed in 2008.

To put that in perspective, Purdue has had two head coaches since 1980.

The Hoosiers have so many advantages. Older fans remain loyal to Knight and passed along that passion to their children and grandchildren. Despite the best efforts of the Indiana High School Athletic Association to make sure every youth gets a trophy, the state remains fertile basketball soil.

Assembly Hall remains one of the Big Ten's, and the nation's, toughest places to play.

UCLA

I could almost write the same things about the Bruins, winners of 11 national championships and owners of at least 11 NCAA tournament success records.

As every basketball fan knows, UCLA has its own coaching icon in John Wooden. Wooden's 10 national championships remain the gold standard. But since Wooden's retirement after winning the 1975 national title, the Bruins have gone through 11 coaches.

Jim Harrick was the only one of those 11 to win a national championship (1995) but lying about a recruiting violation cost

him his job a year later. Larry Brown also exited after NCAA violations voided the 1980 tournament run to the title game.

For the others leading up to current coach Mick Cronin, not being John Wooden soon led to resignations or outright dismissals.

While passed by in prestige in recent years by schools like Duke and Connecticut, UCLA remains a destination school and can recruit nationally. It remains to be seen if the move to the Big Ten will benefit the Bruins.

Michigan

A strong recruiting base across the Midwest and a reputation for outstanding academics are two factors in the Wolverines' favor.

In my lifetime, the difference between the right coach (Johnny Orr, Steve Fisher, John Beilein) and the wrong coach (Brian Ellerbe, Tommy Amaker and most recently, Juwan Howard) makes the difference between an NCAA championship contender and a Big Ten also ran.

It says something about the Michigan job that new coach Dusty May chose the Wolverines over Louisville and other prominent vacancies when he chose to cash in on Florida Atlantic's 2023 run to the Final Four. Taking the Michigan job may have closed the door on the 2000 Indiana graduate returning to Bloomington in the foreseeable future.

Michigan State

Purdue isn't the only Big Ten school with long-term stability. Jud Heathcote and protégé Tom Izzo have been the faces of the Spartans program since

Each has a national championship built on the foundation of in-state recruits (Magic Johnson and Greg Kelser in 1979; Mateen Cleaves, Morris Peterson and Charlie Bell a.k.a. "The Flintstones" in 2000).

The winningest coach in Big Ten basketball history, Izzo has also built a reputation that his teams play their best basketball in March with eight Final

Fours to his credit.

Ohio State

Football is king in Ohio, but basketball is the crown prince.

The legendary Jerry Lucas and John Havlicek delivered a national title to Columbus in 1960. That squad began a fiveyear streak of outright or shared Big Ten titles.

But the end of the Thad Matta era began a decline in Ohio State's basketball fortunes. Fans and Ohio State officials hope Jake Diebler can bring the school its first Big Ten title since 2012.

Purdue

Ask any casual Big Ten basketball fan which school is the league's winningest program. You could probably give them three guesses and most probably wouldn't answer Purdue.

From 1980 to last year's run to the NCAA championship game, Gene Keady and Matt Painter have combined for 11 of Purdue's Big Ten-best 26 championships, 959 victories and a winning percentage of .669. Keady is in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and Painter will likely join him someday.

But perception is reality and Purdue is the only school among my top seven Big Ten jobs not to win an NCAA national championship. Its three best chances were blocked by two all-time great teams (1969 UCLA, 2024 Connecticut) and a cheater (Larry Brown and UCLA in 1980).

Since Bob Knight's angry exit from Indiana in 2000, Purdue has slowly eroded the Hoosiers' instate recruiting dominance. Last season's NCAA runnerup had eight scholarship players from Indiana, including Mr. Basketball winners Braden Smith and Caleb Furst. The 2024-25 roster has seven native Hoosiers.

Mackey Arena is arguably the best basketball facility in the Big Ten and inarguably the loudest. If Painter can build off the school's first Final Four appearance in 44 years, perhaps Purdue could rise a couple of spots in these rankings.

Oregon

Nike co-founder Phil Knight was a year old when the Ducks won the first NCAA men's basketball championship in 1939.

It just seems like Knight, the co-founder of Nike, has spent his life trying to buy title No. 2 for Oregon. Having a billionaire benefactor plus the cool factor of having colorful uniforms and basketball courts keeps Oregon among the higher profile schools.

The right coach makes a difference with so many programs, and Oregon hit the jackpot in 2010 when it lured Dana Altman away from Creighton. In addition to being the only coach in school history to lead his team to three consecutive NCAA tournaments - a run that reached five in a row - Altman won half of Oregon's eight conference titles between 2016 and 2021. Oregon reached just its second Final Four in 2017.

Illinois

The eternal mystery in Champaign-Urbana is why a school located in a basketball-crazy state and just a few hours drive from talent-rich Chicago cannot consistently be a Big Ten and NCAA title contender.

Over the last 60 years, neighbors Indiana and Purdue each have more Final Four appearances (a combined eight) and Big Ten titles (27 combined) than Illinois. Lou Henson won just one Big Ten title but reached the 1989 Final Four. Bruce Weber raised two Big Ten banners and took Illinois to the NCAA title game in 2005.

The Fighting Illini went 17 years without a Big Ten championship until Kofi Cockburn, Trent Frazier and Co. delivered in 2022 under Brad Underwood.

Underwood used the transfer portal to his advantage a year ago with Terrance Shannon and Marcus Domask joining forces with Coleman Hawkins to carry Illinois to the Elite Eight. Whether that can be a sustainable strategy remains to be

Maryland The Terrapins own a

national championship, in 2002 during Gary Williams' successful tenure in the ACC. Williams took Maryland to seven Sweet 16 appearances between 1994 and 2003. But the Terrapins have been back to the Sweet 16 just once since, in 2016. Maryland also earned a share of its first Big Ten title in 2020 and finished 24-7 before COVID-19 wiped out the Big Ten and NCAA tournaments.

driving distance of

in the nation. But since

joining the Big Ten, the

Terrapins have yet to

some of the best

Maryland is within easy basketball high schools

program.

Wisconsin

Like their football team, the Badgers owe their identity on the basketball court to physical play and tough defense.

Thank Dick Bennett and Bo Ryan for bringing Wisconsin out of the basketball wilderness. Before Bennett arrived in 1995, the Badgers played in just two NCAA tournament: the 1941 national championship season and 1947.

Bennett and Ryan took the Badgers back to the Final Four a combined three times and to the NCAA tournament 19 times. Ryan's successor, Greg Gard, has two Big Ten titles to his credit.

Only a lack of a natural recruiting base is keeping the Badgers out of the top Big Ten echelon.

It's difficult to believe the Hawkeyes haven't won a Big Ten championship since 1979 and made a Final Four since 1980, the year Purdue defeated Iowa in one of the last NCAA tournament third-place games.

In the ensuing seasons since Lute Olsen delivered a Big Ten title to Iowa City, nine schools have captured at least a share of a Big Ten championship. It's not been for lack of talent. Former national player of the year Luke Garza, B.J. Armstrong, Roy Marble, the late Chris Street and Brad Lohaus are among the standouts to have played inside Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

Current coach Fran McCaffery is entering his 15th season without reaching the second weekend of the NCAA tournament in that span. But his teams score lots of points and play an exciting brand of basketball. The fan base is passionate but the Iowa job is not a win-orelse proposition.

Minnesota

A tough job from the bitter winter weather in a football state to playing in the second-oldest arena in the Big Ten.

Williams Arena opened in 1928 but hasn't officially been home to a Big Ten champion since 1982. The Gophers' 1997 title and their lone Final Four appearance were vacated by the NCAA due to recruiting violations.

the final game of the winningest coach in school history. L.J. Cooke went 250-135-2 from 1896 to 1924.

It's been a century since

Rutgers The Scarlet Knights have had their moments, most notably in 1976 when they took a 31-0 record into the NCAA tournament and reached the Final Four. Since then, the state university of New Jersey has had just one other Sweet 16 appearance (1979). But enthusiasm for Rutgers basketball has grown under ninthyear head coach Steve Pikiell and cozy Jersey

put together a consistent Mike's Arena (which seats 8,000) is a difficult place to play.

Imagine playing in the same city as your archrival, 11-time NCAA national champion UCLA. At least Trojan fans have a brand name in football.

USC hasn't won a conference championship since 1985, and its most recent Final Four appearance came in 1954.

Nebraska

The Cornhuskers are the only major conference program without an NCAA tournament victory. Nebraska didn't qualify for its first NCAA tourney until 1986, and this past season marked just the school's eighth NCAA berth.

While Nebraska will probably always remain a football school, university officials have invested in the basketball program with the construction of Pinnacle Bank Arena and bringing in former Chicago Bulls coach Fred Hoiberg.

Washington

Stop me if this sounds familiar: the basketball program is overshadowed by football. The Huskies' basketball home, Hec Edmundson Pavilion, opened in 1927. Washington fared well in the various entities of the Pac-12, winning 24 conference championships. But NCAA tournament success has been rare with its most recent Final Four/Elite Eight appearance coming in 1953.

Penn State

Yet another football school on the lower half of this list but unlike some of its Big Ten peers, basketball appears to be an afterthought at State College.

Former Purdue assistant Micah Shrewsberry left Penn State for Notre Dame in 2023 after two seasons, with most of the roster following him out the door.

Success on the court has been rare. One conference title in school history, the 1991 Atlantic 10 postseason tournament. The school's lone Final Four came in 1954.

Northwestern Chris Collins has been a

miracle worker in Evanston, guiding the Wildcats to their only NCAA tournament appearances in 2017, 2023 and 2024. But the program's ceiling is low. Its most recent Big Ten championship came in 1933. Newly renovated Welsh-Ryan Arena has a capacity of just 7,500. For all of Collins' efforts, he enters the 2024-25 season one game under .500 for his tenure (162-163). Northwestern hasn't had a coach leave with a winning record since Arthur Lonborg in 1950 with a mark of 236-203-1.

former sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier and an awardwinning journalist. He has covered Purdue athletics for many years.

Kenny Thompson is the





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□ Moose Lodge

Backstep Brewing Co.
Applebee's
Canning Factory
Barefoot Burger
Waveland Pub
Francis & Mount
Station 308
Creekside Lodge
Buffalo Wild Wings
Corner Cafe (New
Richmond)

Richmond)

Shifty's Bar & Grill
Crash McClains

Carpenter's Barber Shop
 Andy Biddle
 Great Clips
 Hairport
 Lavender & Hops
 Option 6
 Bill Carpenter
 Dan Carlson
 KM Studio
 Nogginz
 Esquire
 Hair Loom
 Serenity
 Steve Power
 Beauty Bar on The
 Boulevard

Cabins and Candlelight
 His Harvest Home
 The Queen and I

Crash McClains
 Indy Road Pub

Barber Shop

Bar and Grill

 Advanced Chiropractic
 Northridge
 Chiropractic
 Russell Chiropractic
 Montgomery County
 Chiropractic
 Chiro Med HHSB
 Tri-County Bank and Trust
 Fountain Trust
 Chase
 First Merchants
 PNC
 First Financial Church

 Rock Point
 Alamo Christian
 Church
 Woodland Heights
 First United Methodist
 Whitesville Christian
 Darlington
 Congregational
 Maxe Methodist
 New Hops
 New Hops o Mace Methodist

New Hope

1st Christian Church

Waynetown Christian

Grace and Mercy

Ministries

Brown Valley

Christ United

Methodist

Bethel Church

Ladoga Baptist

Ladoga Christian

Church

Linden United

Methodist

St. Bernard's

Wabash Ave.

Presbyterian

Discovery
New Beginnings
Rainbows and Rhymes
Tabitha (France)
Jennifer Pruitt
Little Creations
Miss Colleen
Samantha Frederick

□ Giggles n Grins

Dr. John Walker
Dr. John Walker
Dr. Scott Frey
Dr. Steven Rasmussen
Dr. Steven Rolling
Dr. Jacy Robling
Dr. Scot White
Aspen Dental
Crawfordsville
Hometown Dental
Dr. Kenneth Pilcher
Dr. Michael Maze
Dr. Dan Wishler
Dr. Courtney Geiger

AB Driving School
 Straight Paths Driving
 School

Driving School

Dry Cleaner

Crawfordsville

Cleaners

Electric Company

CEL&P
 Tipmont
 Waynetown Utilities
 Duke

Ratcliff
Brian Purcell
Demoret Electric
Kevin McCord
Blake's
Hockersmith

Keller Electric
 Don Rose
 Goff
 Dean Justice

Electronics Company

Dentist

Furniture Store

Gas Station

D Crossroads Furniture

Crossroads Furniture
Rent-a-Center
Town & Country
American Rental
Big Lots
Cabbage's and Kings
Caldwell's Furniture
Stevenson's Mattress

Rroger
New Ross Mini Mart
Sunoco Midwest Clean
Fuel
Casey's
Bal Hinch

Bal Hinch
Circle K
County Market
Marathon
Walmart
Sunoco (Linden)

Presbyterian

First Baptist

First Church of Clothing Store Maurice's
 Heathcliff
 Cato
 Goodwill
 Walmart
 Denhart's Merchantile
 Dunham's Sports
 Eliza's
 Burke's

Club / Organization u 4-H
u Boys & Girls Club
u Eagles
u C'ville Firefighters
Local 4143
u American Legion a American Legion
Siwanis
Youth Service Bureau
Darlington
Conservation Club
Moose Lodge
MOPS
Pride
Tri-Kappa
Faith Alliance
Boy Scouts
Girl Scout 54
Cub Scout Pack 909

Coffee Shop

 Gamestop
 Edwards Compucycle
 Wal-Mart
 Vast □ Joshua Cup
□ Good to Go Expresso
□ 1832 Brew
□ Jack's Donuts
□ Starbucks

□ Workforce Plus Manpower
ProResources Excavating Service

o Simpler Times
o In his Time
o Reclaimed by Grace
o Milligan's
o Cracker Barrel
o Denharts Mercantile
o Just Because
o Harvest Inn
o Heathcliff Golf Course Crawfordsville Country
Club
Rocky Ridge
Turkey Run
Crawfordsville
Municipal

 New Ross Grain
 Newtown Farm Service
 Waynetown Ag Center
 Cargill
 Peavy Co
 Westland Co Op
 ADM Grain Grocery Store

Interior Design □ Lora Craft-Whiles Internet Service Provider □ Metronet
□ AT&T
□ TDS
□ Hughes Net
□ Comcast/Xfinity □ Kroger
□ F&F Mart
□ Wal Mart
□ Four Seasons
□ Gregg's

Deling Arts Center
Candi Bell
Kelly McKinney
Heather Allen
Assey Hoffman /
Advanced Chiroprat
Nancy Morrison
Theresa Priebe
Massage by Becca
Carolyn's Soa Home Health C'ville Docs
 Crawfordsville Home
 Health Care
 Franciscan Home Care Carolyn's Spa
 Cassi Morgan
 Angelina Ball Hospital / Medical Center

 Franciscan Health Crawfordsville
 St. Vincent
 IU/Arnett Health
 Witham □ Four Seasons Market
□ Moody Meats
□ Miller Quality Meats
□ This Old Farm
□ Back 40 Amish Ladoga Frozen Foods

 Hampton Inn & Suites
 Holiday Inn Express
 Crawfordsville Motel
 Motel 6
 Comfort Inn
 Ramada Limited
 Super 8 □ Little Mexico
□ El Charro
□ Rancho Bravo
□ Mi Corcel
□ Blue Cactus Tacos & Tequila

Aki Les Voy Takeria Ice Cream Place Mini-Storage

Mexican Restaurant

Darilicious
Culver's
Big Dipper
Lindy Freeze
Dairy Queen
Steak n Shake
Emporium 109 Storage of America
 Pac Away
 Storage Express
 U-Rent-It Center Ice Creams La Michoacana Mom and Pop Store

□ Farm Bureau / Terresa

a Farm Bureau / Terresa
Hatke

JM Thompson

RT Insurance

Core Insurance

Darrin Bechtel

AllState

Austin Earl

Northwestern Mutual

Northwestern Mutual /
 Jack Wyatt
 State Farm / Chad

State Farm / Lnns
Bouwkamp

State Farm / Jason
Wagner

Farmers Insurance /
Ryan Love

Hannum

American Family Patrick Bissell

Tarter Insurance
Agency

Mitchelle Hunley

Mitchell Agency /
Barry Bruce

o Simpler Times
o Reclaimed by Grace
o In His Time
o Just Because
Denhart's Seed &
Mercantile
o Suncco Midwest Clean
Fuel
o Topline
o Milligan's Flowers
o Gregg's
Harvest In
o Emporium 109
o Shop Small Shop
Handmade
Coons Trim Company

Monument Company Moving Company

General Lew Wallace Study
Discontinuous Carnegie Museum
Rotary Jail Museum

D CVS
D Walgreen's
D Kroger
D Walmart Photographer

 Abbey Elaine Amanda Bar

Photography
Stacey Baschwit
Victoria Hunt
Photography
Lori Poteet
Memories by Madison

John Roberts, MDScott Douglas, MD

a Amanda Bannon
a Amethyst Crosby
Heather Stewart
Joe Boswell
Julie Abston
Natalie Gomez
Forgotten Aesthetics
Photography

Wendy'sForum Best Chili Wendy's
 Arni's
 K&K Cafe (Waynetov
 Neighborhood Café

Town & Country
 Scaggs/Largent Screen
 Printing
 Hayward
 Phantom Neon
 N'Print
 Coons Trim

Clark Dale

Best Bagel

Best Hamburger/

Culver's
 Barefoot Burger
 Crawfordsville Country
Club
 Creekside
 McDonald's
 Steak'n'Shake
 Buffalo Wild Wings
 New Ross Steak House
 Applebee's
 Burger King
 Neighborhood Cafe
 Breakfast Co.
 Wendy's

Cheeseburger

Dr. Aaron Altschul

Sherwin Williams
 Home Depot
 Ace Hardware
 Town & Country
 Morgan's Glass & Paint

Addler
 Buzz Kidd
 Home Depot
 Edward's Painting
 (Mike Edwards)
 Scaggs/Jargent Screen
 Printing
 High Rollers

Pest Exterminator

D Ruffcuts

Damie Halsey
Doggie Boutique
Puppy Cuts
Janie Daye
C'ville Vet Clinic

Rin Tin InnPet Resort.

Pharmacy

Cat's Nap
R and R Pet Boarding

Paint Store

Best Omelet Radio Station WCDQ 106.3
 WIMC 103.9
 WCVL

Best Tenderloin Real Estate Agency / Agent Sunoco
 Culvers
 Alice's Restaurant
 Francis & Mount
 Creekside
 Neighborhood Café

a Sunoco Midwest Clean Fuel Culver's Applebee's Buffalo Wild Wings Arby's New Ross Steak House Dairy Queen Burger King Creekside

D Steak n Shake

FC Tucker
Chad Hess
Davis-Morrison Realty
Faye Hemphill
Action Realty
American Dream
Julie Hess
Larry Walters
Leslie Pyle
Halderman Real Estate
Clark Dale New Market Welding New Market Weldin
 Jarrod Zachary
 Welding
 B & L Engineering
 C&F Fabricating
 Sugar Creek
 Fabricators
 Peacefield Wood &
 Weldfield Hive Realty Welding Septic & Sewer Services

 Dutcher Trenching
 Scott Septic & Portables
 Roto Rooter American Rental
 Rent A Center
 Town and Country □ Aaron's Rent To Own Historic Landmark □ The Breakfast Co.
□ Forum
□ Neighborhood Café □ Lane Place Elston Homestead
 General Lew Wallace
 Study
 Rotary Jail

Shaffer Dog Training
 Sugar Creek K-9
 Academy
 Stepping Stone Animal
 Training
 VonBernd K9 Training
 Center