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TODAY'S VERSE

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Meet Bullseye



Bullseye is an adorable 4 month old black/white female one eyed kitten ready to find a permanent HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!! Bullseye arrived at the shelter 8/19/24 sick and with a massive swollen eye. After unsuccessful attempts to save the eye, Bullseye had her eye removed 11/19/24 and is recovering like a champ in her foster home. Bullseye is affectionate, loves lap lounging, feather toys, and playing with her new foster kitten friends. Bullseye is currently being fostered by a shelter employee and would LOVE to snag a home just in time for the holidays!!

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Boomer Bits

Ask Rusty – Veteran Asks about Credit for Military Service



ASK Rusty
Social Security Advisor

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 question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Dear Rusty:

I served in the U S Army from January 1958 to Feb 1961. What increase should I receive for those years and who do I call and at what phone number?

Signed: Proud Veteran

Dear Proud Veteran:

First, thank you for your military service! I expect you are referring to the "special extra credits for military service" which are available to some who served in in the US Military in earlier years. It is important to note that these "extra credits" take the form of an adjustment to your military pay record while serving and are not an incremental amount added to your monthly Social Security benefit because you served.

Military pay has been subject to deductions for Social Security since 1957.

Thus, while serving between 1958 and 1961 you paid SS tax on your military earnings. But, for purposes of determining your Social Security benefit, your military earnings record would be increased by \$300 for each quarter you served on active duty, up to a maximum of \$1,200 increase per year of service. That means for 1958 - 1960, when calculating your SS benefit, \$1,200 would be added to your military earnings record for each year you served. FYI, for those who served after 1967, this adjustment was automatically made by Social Security. But for service years prior to 1967 (as in your case) you would need to inform Social Security of your service when you claimed SS and provide a copy of your military form DD-214 (your

➔ See RUSTY Page A3

Isolation in Retirement & the Ladder



BONNIE ZICKGRAF
Snr. Pastor (Ret); BSN, RN
Guest Columnist

There are those among us who live alone throughout the year, but during the holidays, being "single" by any cause (divorce, or the loss of a loved one...or even by choice) can still be especially tough, lonely, and downright depressing!

I became a widow six years ago after almost forty years of marriage. The heartbreak of grief is not a journey I'd wish for anyone. Let's face it. Loss can be grueling whether from the loss of a friend, a

➔ See LADDER Page A3

Paraplegic Calls Out Medicare

By Chris Collin

It's been 16 years since a motorcycle accident paralyzed me from the chest down.

But today, I can work and live independently, thanks to a revolution in wheelchair technology.

➔ See CHRIS Page A4

Surprise! Santa Sends Back Letter

Guest Columnist EDITOR'S NOTE: Paper Publisher Tim

Timmons recently shared a letter to Santa in his weekly Two Cents column. Imagine his shock when he got this from the Big Guy himself a few days later.

Timmy (may I still call you that in adulthood?),

Your old pal KP was kind enough to let me use his computer to respond to a letter you recently sent. (Although I haven't received it, KP was kind enough to forward it to me. Hey, who says newspapers can't still be first?)

Anywho (as the two of you like to say), it's kinda busy up here, so I'll get right to your requests.

But first, let me say, there is no age limit on the magic known as Christmas. From birth to death, all you have to do is believe. I'll always be here for you and your family. Especially those 'grandpups' you spoke of!

Now, let's get down to business. I'm aware of your good behavior. There were a few moments I thought were suspect, but overall, you made the 'good' list.' I think it gets easier, as you get older, don't you?

I'll give you credit. Having not heard from you in quite some time, you opened with a tough one. Peace, huh? You're on target; peace isn't exactly in my wheelhouse. We all agree with you, right down to the last reindeer. Needless to say, it's been a tough year. And you are right. Too many haters have made your country a more difficult place to live. The downside is, I just don't see it getting any better. You know I have a microscope on people, and I don't like what I'm seeing. Seems like your folks are in constant crisis, interrupted by moments of success. You're a smart guy. You know it should be the opposite. May I suggest you appeal to a higher authority than myself on this one? (BTW, I'm all in with God. How else could I do what I do in one night without him?)

Happiness? I can help you with that one, but it's limited. Back to that one night thing I mentioned; it's all the happiness I can bring. Funny; you may be the only one who has ever thanked me for the gifts I left. You're welcome,

➔ See SANTA Page A3

➔ **TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

Kids who get adequate sleep are the least likely to become obese.

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Paper and online at www.thepaper24-7.com



➔ **THREE THINGS You Should Know**

- 1 Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales recently joined business leaders in celebrating the ribbon-cutting and grand opening of Terra Gaucha Brazilian Steakhouse in Indianapolis. Since the start of his administration, attracting new businesses to the Hoosier state has been a major focus for Morales. The Secretary of State's Business Services Division is responsible for registering businesses throughout the state. INBiz is Indiana's one-stop portal for Hoosier businesses. Through INBiz, business owners can register, maintain, and file required paperwork.
- 2 Our friends at Mixbook, an online photobook company, set out to uncover the most enchanting Christmas light displays across the country. Through a survey of 3,000 families, they explored the destinations people dream of visiting to fully immerse themselves in the holiday spirit. Turns out, three displays right here in Indiana made the national list: The Festival of Lights in Michigan City ranked 96th, Charlestown's Christmas City came in at 106 and Pleasant Grove Farm Christmas Light Show in Lyons was ranked 145. Tops in the nation? Peace, Love & Lights Holiday Light Show in New York State's Catskills.
- 3 As the first semester rounds to a close on campuses across the country, SmartAsset has released its tenth annual Best Value Colleges study. SmartAsset's new analysis compared institutions across five metrics, including scholarships, starting salary, tuition, living costs, and retention rate to determine the 'Best Value Colleges' in Indiana. The top five are Notre Dame, Rose-Hulman, Purdue, Wabash and Valparaiso.

➔ **TODAY'S QUOTE**

"It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air."
W.T. Ellis

➔ **TODAY'S JOKE**

Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas Eve? Because it "soots" him!

➔ **MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

Just a reminder, there will be no Paper of Montgomery County Print or Online Edition on Wednesday, Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas Day. There will also be no Paper of Montgomery County Print or Online Edition on Wednesday, Jan. 1 in observance of New Year's Day. The Paper will publish the regular Monday and Friday Online Editions both weeks.



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

Winter Reading at CDPL

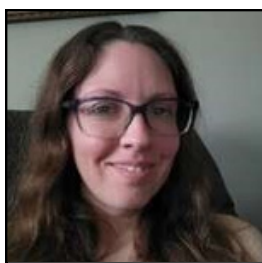


Karen Record

It's beginning to look a lot like . . . winter! The Crawfordsville District Public Library invites you to participate in our winter reading program, available for all ages from kids to adults. It begins on Monday, Dec. 23, and runs through Jan. 30. During the cold days of January, and a few in December, you can read at home and earn prizes by completing one of our winter reading programs.

Starting with our smallest patrons (up to age 10), children can build a polar bear wonderland to complete their challenge. They will receive a reading chart and read for a specific amount of time for each piece of a Winter Wonderland scene. They will also complete a fun activity on the back of their reading chart. Once they have that part of the goal finished, they will earn a prize from our treasure chest! Then they can read more to earn other pieces of the scene and color a picture to earn a prize book to keep. Once the goal is finished they will have a completed polar bear winter wonderland scene to take home.

Moving up to our tween and teen patrons (ages 11-18), this group will receive a reading chart with snowflakes. They will read 30 minutes per snowflake. Once they have crossed off four snowflakes, they will earn a prize from the treasure chest. When they have crossed off four more, they will receive another prize from the treasure chest. Once they have



Megan Taylor

crossed off the last four snowflakes, they will earn a prize book to keep.

Finally, adult patrons (ages 18 and up) can participate in our "The Universe Belongs to the Curious" BINGO challenge! Read a variety of different books this winter, from fiction to nonfiction, and explore books and resources that celebrate curiosity and learning. You can register online at cdpl.beanstack.com or download the free Beanstack app from your device's app store. Complete a BINGO to earn a free prize book or go ahead and complete the entire board to enter to win one of our winter prize bags! Prefer paper? No problem! Stop by our second floor info desk to pick up a paper copy beginning Dec. 23. We will also have activity packets full of fun word games, puzzles, and more to keep you entertained during the cold, snowy days of winter, and book displays full of recommended books to help you get started on the challenge!

The library's normal operating hours are Monday-Thursday 9am-9pm, Friday-Saturday 9a-5pm, and Sunday 1-5pm. For the holiday season, the library will be closed Dec. 24-26 and Dec. 31-January 1.

Megan Taylor is Assistant Manager in the Adult Services Department and Karen Record is the Manager of the Youth Services Department.

Enjoy Holidays Without the Weight Gain!



MONICA NAGELE
 Guest Columnist

'Tis the season for joyful celebrations, festive treats—and the annual battle against food guilt. While holiday break rooms overflow with sweet temptations, the stress of balancing health goals with holiday cheer can feel overwhelming. But here's some good news: one day of indulgence, like Christmas Day, won't derail your health. However, several weeks of overindulging might leave you noticing your pants feeling a bit snug.

On average, Americans gain about one to two pounds during the holidays. While that might not seem like much, research shows these small increases often accumulate year after year. A gain of just one to two pounds annually can add up to 10 pounds over a decade—and losing it is much harder than gaining it!

So how can you enjoy holiday treats without the extra weight? Here are some simple strategies:

Don't skip meals. Skipping meals to "save calories" for a big holiday dinner can backfire, leading to overeating later. Start your day with breakfast—people who eat breakfast often consume fewer calories overall. Incorporate high-fiber foods like fruits and vegetables, which can be eaten in larger quantities to satisfy hunger while staying low in calories.

Practice portion control. Even healthy foods have calories, so focus on small portions. Enjoy a little bit of everything, including your favorite dessert, without overdoing it.

To avoid overeating, pick a strategy that works for you; Use a smaller plate, fill up on vegetables first, eat slowly and savor your food, wait 10 minutes before going back for seconds, stand across the room from the buffet to avoid mindless grazing. Whatever approach you choose, stay consistent.

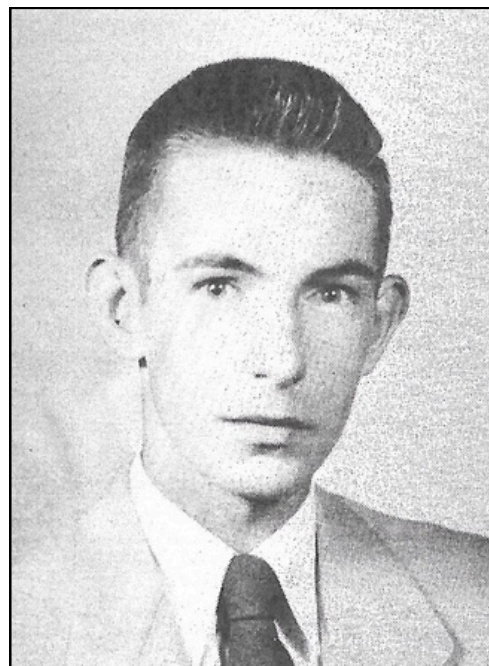
Don't wait for the New Year to start exercising! There is no reason that fitness should only be our goal for one month of the year. Physical activity can help offset those extra holiday calories. If you already have a workout routine, stick with it. If not, consider starting small: go for a walk with friends and family after dinner, or organize an impromptu football game if the weather allows. Staying active is a great way to balance holiday indulgences.

The holidays are about joy, connection, and yes—delicious food! By not skipping meals, practicing portion control, keeping active, and sticking to a plan, you can savor all your favorite holiday dishes while staying on track with your health.

Happy Holidays!

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

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do You Recognize this 1955 Coal Creek H.S. Graduate?

HINT:
 He started up his own telephone company.

Answer on Page A3

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.

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↓ RUSTY From Page A1

discharge papers). SS would then make the appropriate adjustment to your military earnings record prior to calculating your benefit amount. And, for clarity, additional credits for military service are not available to those who served after 2001.

A key point to understand is that this adjustment to your military pay may – or may not – affect the amount of your Social Security benefit. Social Security determines your benefit amount based on your highest earning 35 years over your entire lifetime (adjusted for inflation). If, after you served in the military, you had at least 35 years of civilian employment where you earned more than your military pay, it is probable that your military pay is not included when calculating your Social Security benefit. If that is the case, it is likely that the “special extra credits for military service” would have no effect on your Social Security payment. If, however, your military pay (including those special extra credits) for any year is more

than you earned in civilian life, then you can contact Social Security (1.800.772.1213), provide them with a copy of your DD-214, and ask that they recalculate your Social Security benefit to include the extra credits for your years of military service.

Again, thank you for your service to our country, and please do not hesitate to contact us again if you have any further questions. FYI, you may also find the “For Veterans” section of our AMAC Foundation website interesting (www.amacfoundation.org)

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/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

↓ SANTA From Page A1

by the way. And not trying to tap out once again, but I'd say that higher authority I mentioned earlier, has given you a decent share. Your family alone is a pretty fair payoff, wouldn't you say? But just for giggles, let's toss in a fair share of colleagues (might I mention, I enjoy reading Butch Dale?) A goodly amount of friends, and a pretty steady group of advertisers who help keep the presses rolling, are all in. So there!

Your last request is a no-brainer. Even in the toughest of times, there will ALWAYS be people who have more, willing to give to those who have less. That was set in motion long before I ever dropped down the first chimney. Here's where I do the thanking. As I know you are, I'll always be grateful for those folks who make a community just that, a community. Think about those

from your past who have helped make you who you are. In essence, your community. Never forget your parents. Or people you've worked with. They all played a role in helping you be the man you are today. You picking up what I'm putting down? Good!

It was good to hear from you Timmy. I've missed you.

Peace, Happiness, and a spirit of Community be with you.
Santa



Kirk Puckett is the above referenced. He has known Timmons for more than 30 years and is a retired educator, administrator and law enforcement professional. According to Santa, and Timmons, on the scale of good guys, KP ranks in the top 1 percent.

↓ LADDER From Page A1



There indeed was “sparkle” in this gift.

family member, a partner, a pet, a job, or a home...hurt can run deep! Despair can creep in and become overwhelming. Sometimes we're thrown into a situation beyond our control or not by any of our own doing, but by the ways of this world. Yet...here we are.

And during the dark times, we can find ourselves in isolation. Even on days when we feel “okay”, we become.... “eh”. Ambivalent towards life as we crawl our way back to “a new normal”.

(Oh, how I disliked that phrase! Not sure why. Maybe because it sounded like “work”. I was never “normal” to begin with! How can I go back to where I've never been in the first place?)

On the other hand, being occasionally isolated can be refreshing! Think about this. As a single person, I can drink directly out of my own milk carton while the refrigerator door stands wide open without anyone making a single comment. I don't need to be concerned about playing my “oldies” music too loud. Besides, I never heard that the *Rolling Stones* changed their name to “*Strolling Bones*” because of their maturity status. Who said they were *old*?

I can unashamedly watch reruns of the original *Law and Order* TV show for the tenth time as the sole Supreme Commander over the remote control. I can even walk around the house quite scantily if I choose to do so. Yes, I confess, I boldly run outside to feed my birds sometimes wearing a purple top with green pajama bottoms and hot pink slippers. I'm not really eccentric. I'm...just...single and... I am alone. Or... am I?

Yes, we do seem to pray more about the

topic of loneliness as the holidays approach. Being alone is one thing. Feeling lonely in isolation is quite another. Yet today, I experienced the surprising and faithful ways of God. I'd like to share this brief, true-to-life incident with you. And it all happened right here in Noblesville, Indiana!

As a bit of background, I recently retired after working the past sixty years of my life. I wasn't sure full retirement was meant for me. I occasionally felt lonely and “lost”, so I prayed quite a bit for God's guidance, yet His answer always seemed to be the same. “Rest and receive deep joy.”

I prayed that I heard Him right...that He didn't really mean, “Deep rest” and receive joy. I know the time clock of this life isn't held directly in my hands. God knows I'm not quite ready for the “deep rest” part, either. So again, I prayed for guidance and wisdom to learn the clear path that God wants me to take in retirement. What in the world was God trying to tell me now?

I must say... I'm so very glad we have a patient God! He knows I can be a slow learner. I ask that He speak to me every day to show me this “new normal retirement”. In fact, my relationship with Him has grown much deeper since becoming a widow. Jesus is my sparkle and my treasure, especially since reading Matthew 6:21, “Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.” (NLT)

This is not to say we must be single or old or anything else to have a relationship with our divine Creator. We just need a heart that's open enough to receive Him and, at least for me, to be still enough to get close and to hear Him.

We can do this through prayer. So, again I prayed. What exactly is this “deep joy” He continues to tell me about? What do I need to do next to please God in my “new normal” road of retirement?

God...do you hear my prayers in my isolation and my loneliness?

Then I finally heard Him speak through the people at worship in

Noblesville today. Here is what I heard.

During the “Children's Moment” shared with the kids by the altar, the Director of Children's Ministries spoke to the numerous “wee ones” about forgiveness and how we must forgive to find our sparkle and joy.

(Wait . . . did she just say finding our “*sparkle and joy*”?)

A few minutes later, the main message given by the Director of Youth Ministry reflected on the gospel of Luke 1:68-79, which focused on forgiveness and “doing enough” for God. Wait...did he just say . . . ?)

Then with the help of the youth group, a 10-foot-tall ladder was hauled to the front of the sanctuary. The Director proceeded to climb up and down this ladder over and over again to explain the up-and-down path of life while trying to earn God's favor and salvation.

When the speaker felt he was “doing good” in life for God, the pastor climbed up the ladder. When he veered off the path or away from God, he climbed back down the ladder. (I'd have to watch the YouTube re-runs of the sermon to find the exact number of times he climbed up and down that ladder, but he definitely wore himself out. We can all do this in our own lives, can't we?

We become exhausted from trying to hear God's plan for us, possibly missing the message at all. And when we miss God's message, we begin to feel lonely or retreat into deeper isolation. We might feel ambivalent like we don't matter. Like our prayers aren't being heard or answered. In our self-loathing and unforgiving ways, our belief begins to spiral down that ladder, twisting the spoken words of Jesus, “My God, my God. Why have you forsaken me”---especially during the holidays? (see Matthew 27:46, NIV).

We can never climb that ladder high enough to earn our salvation or to fully meet human perfection. We are human beings, not perfect, but always longing, always climbing. In fact, we

don't need to climb that ladder at all. I believe we were made to be “perfectly imperfect” in our walk toward righteousness and for our salvation.

Then the pastor said it! God came down that ladder to be with us through Jesus Christ. We can find this hope in 1 Peter 5:10, “In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.”

If you are lost, feeling lonely or afraid, worried, heartbroken with grief, angry, bitter, or carrying any burden at all, please talk to God about it. Pray to him in solitude. You will not feel isolated. The prayer doesn't need to be fancy- just make it from the heart. And don't give up. Unlike this world, God will never give up on you.

We can be in solitude or isolation, but never alone because of God's presence. Emmanuel means “God with us”, plain and simple. No doubt about it.

He hears every prayer, and every prayer is answered in His time and in His way. He will make your path clear for the glory of the Kingdom. You are God's child, fully forgiven, and always loved.

Yes, I received deep joy today when I heard God speak through His people. How blessed we are to have a loving and caring God that wants to stay connected to us. He doesn't like isolation either and we don't need a ladder to reach Him. Just a prayer.

And one final note. I got home from church to find a gift left on my porch from a Secret Santa. Here is a picture. Do you see the name on the pancake syrup?

“Sparkle syrup!” Seriously? Glory to God! I can't make this stuff up!

Yes indeed, God surely speaks, and His words are sweet! He is here and we are never alone.

Bonnie Zickgraf is a retired pastor and Registered Nurse, with over 25 years in mental health nursing and health plan accreditation industries.

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia

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Ben Miller of Tri-County Telephone

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Farm Credit Promotes Natasha Cox

Farm Credit Mid-America announces the promotion of Natasha Cox to senior vice president of agricultural lending for Indiana, effective Jan. 1. In her new role, Cox will lead agricultural lending sales and support teams across the state.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to lead our Indiana team members as they continue to serve Hoosier farmers and producers. Our work to secure the future of agriculture and rural communities is important, not only in Indiana, but throughout Farm Credit Mid-America's service territory," Cox said. "In addition to supporting our team members as we provide reliable credit to farmers and rural residents, I am excited to continue deepening our relationships with agricultural partners,

sharing our expertise and helping Indiana agriculture continue to thrive."

Since joining Farm Credit Mid-America in 2004, Cox has held various roles serving Indiana farmers and leading team members. She most recently served as a regional vice president of ag lending for Indiana, leading a more than \$1 billion portfolio.

Cox earned a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Economics from Purdue University. She currently serves on the Indiana Corn Marketing Council Board of Directors, the Purdue Center for Commercial Ag Advisory Board, the Indiana Department of Ag Advisory Board and the Ag Alumni Seeds Board of Directors. In 2022, Cox was named the Purdue Agriculture Distinguished Alumni.

Cox also serves on the Wabash Heartland Innovation Board of Directors, working with staff and producers to develop a global epicenter of digital agriculture in the Midwest using Internet of Things (IoT) platforms. In 2020, Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch appointed Cox to serve on the Indiana Grown Commission, helping Indiana Farmers have greater product markets.

"Natasha brings valuable experience and insights to this role and Farm Credit Mid-America as a whole," says Tara Durbin, chief lending officer agriculture for Farm Credit Mid-America. "Her roots in Indiana's agricultural community and her dedication to advancing meaningful partnerships will be an asset to our customer-owners, partners and team members."

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.

WAYNETOWN TOWN COUNCIL

The Waynetown Town Council is holding a "special" town council meeting at town hall in the community room on Monday, Dec. 23 at 11 a.m.

- 2025 Employee Handbook
- All Fiscal, Salary and Benefits Provisions of the Police Standard Operating Procedures
- 2025 Salary Ordinance
- Police Agreements
- Any Other Employee Matters to Properly Come Before the Council

If Disability Accommodations Are Needed Please Call 765-234-2154 Ext. 12

Waynetown Town Council Meeting schedule for 2025

All meetings are held in the Waynetown community room 106 N. Vine St.

JANUARY 15, 2025	3rd WEDNESDAY	6:30 P.M.
FEBRUARY 12, 2025	2nd WEDNESDAY	6:30 P.M.
MARCH 12, 2025	2nd WEDNESDAY	6:30 P.M.
APRIL 09, 2025	2nd WEDNESDAY	6:30 P.M.
MAY 14, 2025	2nd WEDNESDAY	6:30 P.M.
JUNE 11, 2025	2nd WEDNESDAY	6:30 P.M.
JULY 09, 2025	2nd WEDNESDAY	6:30 P.M.
AUGUST 13, 2025	2nd WEDNESDAY	6:30 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 10, 2025	2nd WEDNESDAY	6:30 P.M.
OCTOBER 08, 2025	2nd WEDNESDAY	6:30 P.M.
NOVEMBER 12, 2025	2nd WEDNESDAY	6:30 P.M.
DECEMBER 10, 2025	2nd WEDNESDAY	6:30 P.M.

Back in the Day with Butch Dale



The 1960 Linden Bulldogs basketball team tied New Ross in wins that year with a record of 19-2. They beat the Blue Jays in the final game of the County tourney, but lost to New Ross in the semifinals of the Sectional. Their two leading scorers were Fred Johnson and Bill German. Shown above left to right: Coach Bill Springer, John Childress, Bill German, Ronnie Denhart, Jim Antle, John Hailman, Fred Johnson, John Switzer, John King, Gerald Young, and Mgr. Marvin Oliver. Like New Ross, Linden played all their games away, as their gyms were too small!

CHRIS

From Page A1

Unfortunately, not everyone in my position has access to the top-flight titanium or carbon fiber wheelchairs that have changed my life. That's in part because Medicare -- and the private insurers that follow its cues -- don't always cover them.

That needs to change. The millions of Americans who need a wheelchair to get around, to work, to live our lives deserve no less.

My first wheelchair was a heavy aluminum-framed one. Today, I use an ultralight, smooth-riding carbon fiber wheelchair. I don't know how I managed beforehand.

To appreciate the difference the composition of a chair makes, consider two scenarios. Wheelchair users who drive must cope with the problem of getting our chairs into and out of our vehicles -- in my case, without the use of abdominal "core" muscles or leg strength.

A standard chair can weigh 30 pounds or more for the frame weight, but additional accessories are needed to fit the consumer. The newer technology of titanium or carbon fiber may weigh less than half that.

The alternative, of course, is staying home.

Now consider road shock. Imagine swinging an aluminum tube, a titanium rod, and a carbon fiber composite at a tree trunk. With the aluminum, you feel pretty much the full extent of impact as

vibration in your arms. With titanium, that's reduced to a minor vibration. With carbon fiber's crisscrossed filaments, you barely feel a thing.

Medicare only covers the cost of heavier, "standard" aluminum chairs. If beneficiaries want one of the new, lighter models, they have to pay for it upfront themselves. That can cost around \$5,000, and in many cases much more when you add the options that make the chair a fit for you.

The wheelchair supplier then applies for Medicare reimbursement at the standard level of 80% of the cost of an aluminum chair -- which, of course, is less than the cost of an upgraded wheelchair. After Medicare reviews and processes the claim, the supplier reimburses the beneficiary for his 20% copay -- which, again, is based on the lower-cost aluminum chair.

That reimbursement process can take months. It requires submission of medical orders and wheelchair manufacturer attestations. That delay imposes a heavy burden on many disabled Americans.

It'd be great if Medicare and private insurers covered the most advanced wheelchairs since these chairs are deemed by professionals as medically necessary. Failing that, they should at least allow people to pay only what they owe in cost-sharing and.

would eventually receive as a reimbursement, rather than having to wait months for a rebate.

Congress needs to pass legislation to provide Medicare beneficiaries with access to titanium and carbon fiber wheelchairs. In the House of Representatives, that legislation is H.R. 5371, or the Choices for Increased Mobility Act of 2023.

This issue is personal for me in another way. After my accident, I went to work for a company that makes the lighter, more durable wheelchairs that have given me a new lease on life. I've made it my mission to ensure that others who need wheelchairs can experience what I have.

I still like to ride a motorcycle -- modified to suit my needs, of course. I'm also a ski instructor and an avid bicyclist. Our national commitment to allow people with disabilities to make the most we can of our personal circumstances is exemplary. This simple, cost-free legislative change to Medicare's rules would make an outsized contribution.

Chris Collin is a regional sales manager at Motion Composites, a company that designs and manufactures ultralight wheelchairs, and is also a wheelchair user himself. He uses a carbon fiber framed wheelchair as his everyday chair. This article originally ran in RealClearHealth.

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The Paper

New Purdue Coach Has ‘Plan to Win’ – Will it Work?



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

New Purdue football coach Barry Odom has been working quietly to not only put together a staff but fill the many holes on the Boilermaker roster.

Odom has announced that his staff will include holdover running backs coach Lamar Conard, offensive coordinator Josh Henson from USC and two assistants from Arkansas, defensive line coach Kelvin Green and defensive ends coach Jake Trump.

For those Purdue fans wanting to know more about Odom, a handful of YouTube videos from the American Football Coaches Association offer a hint of his philosophies and coaching style.

“The Plan to Win” outlines six baselines that Odom used to win 19 games over two seasons at UNLV. Sadly, many of these principles have not been seen inside Ross-Ade Stadium for years.

1. Take care of the ball. The 2024 Rebels were tied for eighth in the nation in turnover margin at plus 13. Purdue was 130th out of 133 schools at minus-14, having forced only five turnovers in 12 games.

2. Run the ball and stop the run. UNLV’s 251.2 rushing yards per game average ranked fifth this season. Purdue tied for 110th at 115.3 yards per game. Defensively, the Rebels held foes to an average of 109.8 yards to rank 16th. Six Big Ten teams ranked in the top 11, including Indiana’s nation-leading 70.8 average. Purdue gave up an average of 200 rushing yards, ranking 119th.

3. Special Teams Factor. UNLV led the nation with five blocked punts and tied for third with three blocked kicks.

4. Preparation is our edge.

5. Penalties/Discipline. Part of Odom’s offseason preparation is called “Winning Edge.” Starting in late February, Odom’s teams gather at 6 a.m. for drill work. “It’s one of the best things I believe our coaches do ... in getting us a winning edge of having discipline and structure.

6. Finish in the fourth quarter. UNLV outscored its opponents 110-72 in the final 15 minutes.

At the same AFCA

Convention in Nashville, Tenn., Odom laid down the foundation of “The Rebel Way,” which presumably becomes the Boilermaker Way.

1. Commitment to being a great teammate. Not always easy to do in an era where some players only commit to the highest bidder. “Our accountability level to ourselves and our teammates will make the difference in our level of success,” Odom said. “How badly do we want to be great?”

2. Unselfishness. See above. “We over Me” seems cliché but it was obvious during last season’s 11-game losing streak fans saw far more “me” than “we.” That’s coaching and a lack of leadership from the players.

3. Three promises. Go to class, have a great attitude and have the willingness to be coached. “If you don’t go to class and are not responsible in that area, there’s no way in the world we can count on you when its fourth down and one and we need a stop ... or complete a slant,” Odom said.

4. Trust. “Build trust in each other to always

do the right thing for our team,” Odom said.

5. Growth every day. This covers academics, social life and athletically. “There is almost no limit to the potential of an organization that recruits good people, raises them up as leaders and continually develops them,” Odom said.

6. Toughness. This covers mental and physical traits.

7. Self-discipline. Have the character and the toughness to make the right choice.

8. Unmatched effort/urgency/enthusiasm.

9. Eliminate mistakes.

10. Be a great competitor. “Don’t ever accept losing. As soon as it’s allowed once, it will be easy to do the rest of your life,” Odom said.

11. Expect to win.

12. Consistency. “(Give) your very best every time.”

13. Leadership. “Be willing to change what isn’t right.”

14. Responsibility. No excuses allowed.

As of Dec. 17, Odom has supplemented the five-man recruiting class held over from Ryan Walters’ staff with five former UNLV signees. Odom says he has 13 questions for a recruit’s high school or junior college coach, including one that echoes former Purdue coach Joe Tiller’s must-have of “do what you’re supposed to do, when you’re supposed to do it, the way it’s supposed to be done and do it that way every time.”

Some are obvious (Does he have the ability and desire to be a great college player? Does he have a good attitude? Is he a great competitor? Can he be coached and how does he react to criticism? Any medical problems?).

Some are not so obvious (Does he love to play football? Is he liked and respected by his teammates and coaches? Does he lead vocally or by

example?)

Coaches are also asked to rate the prospect on a scale of 1 to 10 for traits such as toughness, character and work ethic.

Time will tell if this is a winning template for Odom at Purdue.

Big Ten goes bowling

Eleven of the Big Ten (Plus 8) are in the postseason, and the league has one quarter of the 12-man College Football Playoff field. Indiana opens both the conference and Playoff slate Friday night at Notre Dame. The winner gets a trip to New Orleans and a matchup with No. 2 seed Georgia in the Sugar Bowl.

The Hoosiers have parlayed the nation’s best rushing defense and the No. 2 scoring offense (44.3 ppg.) into the first 11-win season in school history. Notre Dame is third in scoring offense (39.8) and 10th in rushing offense (224.8). Both are in the top 10 nationally in total defense.

Amazingly, this will be only the second matchup of the two in-state schools in my 63-year lifetime. The Fighting Irish won 49-27 in 1991 to increase their series lead to 23-5-1 against the Hoosiers. Four of Indiana’s five wins against Notre Dame came between 1898 and 1906, long before Knute Rockne made his way to South Bend as an undergraduate. The other came in 1950, the same year Purdue ended Notre Dame’s 39-game undefeated streak.

It’s possible this matchup will come down to the final possession, but Notre Dame Stadium is a mighty difficult place to leave with a victory. The Fighting Irish will move on.

Ohio State and Penn State continue the Playoff schedule on Saturday and both should win. The Buckeyes should be motivated to get the



Barry Odom

bad taste out of their mouths for losing again to Michigan. They will ride the nation’s top-ranked defense to victory against Tennessee and earn a rematch with top-seeded Oregon in the Rose Bowl on New Year’s Day.

James Franklin is not known for winning big games, and SMU has the speed and playmakers to test Penn State in Happy Valley. A victory sends Penn State to the Fiesta Bowl on New Year’s Eve and a winnable matchup with third-seeded Boise State in the quarterfinals.

Most years, a Michigan-Alabama matchup is College Football Playoff quality. It’s a rebuilding year for both, but I like the Crimson Tide in the ReliaQuest Bowl on New Year’s Eve.

Here are my picks for the other Big Ten bowl games:

- Guaranteed Rate (Dec. 26); Kansas State over Rutgers
- Las Vegas (Dec. 27): Texas A&M over USC Pinstripe (Dec. 28): Nebraska over Boston College
- Music City (Dec. 30): Iowa over Missouri
- Tony the Tiger Sun Bowl (Dec. 31): Louisville over Washington. It’s too bad the winner of this game and the Pop Tarts Bowl champion (Iowa State or Miami, Fla.) can’t meet for the Kellogg’s Cup in Battle Creek, Mich.
- Citrus (Dec. 31): Illinois over South Carolina
- Duke’s Mayo Bowl (Jan. 3): Minnesota over Virginia Tech.

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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PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Crawfordsville, Indiana

Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Annexation Ordinance

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., the Crawfordsville Common Council will hold a public hearing on a proposed ordinance to annex property into the City of Crawfordsville. The public hearing will be held in the City Building’s Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana. Interested persons will be allowed to testify and be heard at the hearing.

The property proposed to be annexed is comprised of approximately 1.14 acres located at 368 West 150 South, Crawfordsville, Indiana (Parcel 54-10-07-100-024.000-027) and the associated right-of-way. A fiscal plan relating to the proposed annexation, descriptions and maps identifying the property, and the proposed annexation ordinance are available for inspection and copying at the office of the City’s Director of Planning and Building Services, on the second floor of the City Building, address above.

If accommodations are required to attend or participate in this meeting, please call 765-364-5160.

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MONTGOMERY MEMORIES



Christmas Traditions

DECEMBER 2024

A Publication of
The Paper of Montgomery County

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Contributing Writers



KAREN BAZZANI ZACH has been a contributor of local historical articles for almost 50 years. A native Montgomery Countian, she grew up in Waveland, married Jim Zach, and recieved her grad degree from IU while working at CDPL as Children’s Librarian. Karen authored one of the newer county histories, *Crawfordsville: Athens of Indiana*. After teaching English at Turkey Run HS for 21 years, she retired and is now enjoying visiting with her two children (Jay and Suzie), writing, reading, doing genealogy, and grandkidding!



JOY WILLETT was born in Crawfordsville and spent most of her childhood in southern Montgomery County. She graduated from South Montgomery High School. Her undergrad was from Indiana State University and she earned her MBA at the University of Phoenix. Joy and her husband David have lived in Indiana, Arizona, California, and Illinois. As an amateur genealogist, she enjoys research and has written three family history books. She also writes poetry and fiction.

*You can view past issues of Montgomery Memories anytime online at thepaper24-7.com
Just click on “Montgomery Memories” under Local News*

Cover Photo courtesy of CDPL: Paul Clifton and Howard (middle) Clifton with Santa.

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December Feature - Let's Hear About Those Christmas Traditions

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

I love to ask a question on the Crawfordsville and Montgomery County History Facebook page and always get some super answers (see also Odds) and did the same about Christmas Traditions for this month's Montgomery Memories!

Patt H said that her mother is from Scotland so they had crackers (you know the poppy things that you pull and something is inside 'em and when they pop they make a popping sound – what fun). Said she still has 'em as she orders 'em online for her grandchildren. By the way, Tom Smith who had a candy shop (best Scottish tours) in London was inspired by the design of France's bonbons. They were wrapped in twists of tissue paper and one evening when he threw a log on his fire it popped. That gave him the idea of the crackers which he made and highlighted them for Christmas delight gifts! It went crazy from there.

Mike L, as many of you will probably be able to relate has wonderful childhood memories standing in line to see Santa in the little block building in front of the courthouse on Main Street. It was cold standing outside but warm inside (and fun to talk with Santa). Also, he couldn't remember whether it was Christmas eve or Christmas night but they would drive out along the Country Club Road to see Christmas lights and that New Years Day was always "take down the Christmas tree and decorations day!" Great memories!

Absolutely love this – Carole M. says "we gift or donate to a family in need every year!" What a wonderful giving idea!

My old principal (Dennis M) and his adorable wife a few days after Christmas sit down and go through each of their Christmas cards and write a personal note to ten of their Christmas card senders – we have gotten a couple of the God-filled wonderful letters – love it!

Since 1980, Leann has purchased a tree ornament with the year, and, her tree has never been artificial. She took her kids and now her grands to cut a tree each year then don it with the ornaments, now having plenty on them to make it just the ornament tree – love it. In response, we had a real tree for many years and it was always fun to tromp in the woods (we had permission), check them out and choose one. Mom had some good hot chocolate ready for us when we returned home and the spruce smell would bless the house throughout the holiday. We did that for about a dozen or so years, then dad got old enough he didn't want to tromp in the woods anymore. I can relate!

Melody M. says, "My favorite Christmas Tradition was going to Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. One of my earliest memories, of the soft lighting, the smell of incense, and families in attendance. The prayers, singing, and the beautiful Nativity set made it all so, so special." She went on to say that she misses those times. Have to ditto Melody as I loved to go to Midnight Mass. It had kind of an aura, a beckoning to remember the season and enjoy the peace and tranquility!

When our grands were young for several years, we had an indoor campout around the Christmas tree – lights were so alluring. So much fun. We'd tell jokes or stories, watch a movie or two, enjoy s-mores in the fireplace. At that point, they'd be tired and I'd sing 'em to sleep. Kumbaya was one of the most

popular but there were two or three others as well (Michael Row the Boat Ashore), and a couple I made up with them in it. Sometimes I'd sing 99 bottles of rootbeer on the wall 99 bottles of rootbeer and they'd get into the 70s with me before they started nodding off, one by one. Wonderful kiddos and such fabulous memories!!



Another of my original family traditions was probably fairly unique and never have figured out if I liked it or not, but it was indeed ours. As most of you know, I had twin brothers three years older than me – they were born on December 21st and I was born December 15th. One of our holiday traditions was that we got to pick one present from under the tree (except occasionally Mom would hide one they didn't want us to have until Christmas day when we opened them like the year I got my Teddy Bear which was bigger than me) and at supper time (we didn't even usually have a special supper, cake or card) we got to open the one we chose from under the tree. I remember one year I got a pair of socks. My aunt did make me one of those cakes with the doll inside it and the icing was her dress, gave me a beautiful card she had made and cleaned up the doll afterwards and dressed her in a cute dress my grandmother had made. My mother-in-law also spoiled me every year, as she couldn't believe I'd never had birthday parties (well, okay one but my mom let all three of us invite three people – think on it 8 boys and 4 girls and that was the end of that) – so loved her for that. So if you have a child with a December birthday make it special for them, please!

Lastly, almost always, we had a photo taken for the Christmas cards, sometimes with the three of us but just as often with mom and dad. Bet lots of you have those, too! Precious for sure!

Odds & Ends *Collected & Commented on by Karen Bazzani Zach*

When I asked on the Crawfordsville and Montgomery County History Facebook page, "What was your all-time favorite Christmas present," here are some of the answers.

I began the answers with my own which was when I was ten years old and my brothers were totally mum (that was amazing and a big surprise within itself), they'd not tell me anything at all about it. I tried giving them my allowance for hints – mum. Tried to talk them into telling me where it was as I had looked everywhere (well, except way up in the top of their closet which you couldn't see so I'd not have seen it anyway). Nothing worked. I was looking forward to opening my choice of Christmas presents under the tree for my birthday. The boys had told me it was big but very little else. I chose the biggest present to open December 15th which was a dress in a long box. That wasn't it, obviously, or at least I didn't think it was as the boys said it's something I'd never gotten before and since my grandmother was a professional seamstress, I'd gotten lots of clothes. Had to wait another ten days after that had been going on for three weeks or more already but ... ahhhhh ... it was well worth the wait. It was the coolest super large stuff bear ever -- I gave Teddy B (Teddy Bear) to our granddaughter on her 10th birthday but she said Teddy B stood for Teddy Baldwin (her last name). We had so much fun decorating him



for all the holidays, too. You can read Grandcestors to discover the one that only lasted a few days and one more was my hula hoop. After I nicked some furniture I was banned to the basement with that one and outside when it got nicer weather!

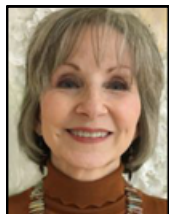
Terri S. made me laugh twice with her answer: "My favorite Christmas gift was a brooch my mom got me one year; but I didn't get it for Christmas. She hid it from me so well, she didn't find it until my birthday—in August. Then there was the stereo she hid in plain sight. I walked around it for about 2 months."

Cindy T P., noted that her favorite was a cabbage patch doll. "Jim and Carolyn Sayler Harshbarger heard there were some at a store in the old mall and my dad stopped in and got me the last one. I got my son an identical one in a football uniform when he was two and he named him Bo Jackson!" Love it !

Loving the family histories I was thrilled to hear Joy's favorite gift. "I had a gift. I always admired the cedar chest at my aunt's house, since I was a little girl. She'd open it for me when I visited and show me things she kept inside. She gave it to me at Christmas when I was a high school senior. I still have it."



Montgomery Memories



Nifty at Ninety - And Beyond

Joy Willett - Montgomery Memories

For the final edition of Nifty at 90... we meet Ruth McNeil. Ruth was born on June 21, 1886 in Benton County, Indiana. Her parents, John and Martha (Rhodes) McNeil were Hoosier natives. The McNeil's had seven children, all born in Benton County. The family was in Montgomery County by 1905. This is where Ruth married Fred Taylor on June 23, 1906. Ruth and Fred's first daughter, Bessie, was born a year later. A second daughter, Bernice, was born in 1912. By that time, the family had moved to Frankfort, Indiana. Fred worked as a printer for a newspaper. The couple divorced and Ruth was remarried by 1918 (WWI draft registration card, September 12, 1918). Her second husband, Alvin Ricklefs, farmed first in Fountain and then Tippecanoe County before they settled in Union Township, Montgomery County where Alvin continued to farm (U.S. 1930 Census). Ruth and Alvin had two children - Alvin Jr., born 1919, and Mary, born 1920. Mary died at nine months old.

The census for 1910 reported that Ruth's parents lived in New Richmond. While Martha kept house, John owned the telephone company and their oldest children worked - Bertha was a telephone operator, Lee was a driver of a "huckster" wagon, delivering groceries, Jessie was a telephone operator, and Boyd, at age 16, was a telephone lineman. John would later work in real estate.

We can imagine Ruth living as a typical Indiana farm wife. Her duty was to take care of her home and children - to do what was needed to help Alvin achieve his aspirations. Yet there was another part of her life, one that brought some notoriety. I found evidence of this in The Indianapolis Star dated July 3, 1927. Her poem, titled *Lindbergh*, celebrated the pilot's transatlantic flight. Here is an excerpt -

You say he rode alone? This Lindbergh?
Not so! For God was with him. Pilot of his plane.
It was His hand that guided sure and safely
The ship that sailed across the vast domain.

She was again published on November 29, 1931 (ibid). The opening stanza of her poem, *The Call of the Wild Geese*, had a decidedly autumn theme -

I see a flock of wild geese flying,
Wedge in wedge, until there are three;
And I hear the leader calling, calling,
Sailing over the world and me.

Ruth was published by The Indianapolis Star twice in 1932. In February, her poem *Night Birds*, was shared, and in March, *The Roamer* was published. Here is her poem *Night Birds*-

Then suddenly comes wings upon the sky
And noiselessly they travel through the night,

Impelled by some strange force...
And I know not what;
But oh, the things I see as they pass by...
Far worlds, and sunshine, where the birds stay,
Great cities, mountains and the oceans roar,
And moonlit lakes and peaceful brooks and fields,
And love that does not dwindle with the day.
And oh, the tumult rising in my soul,
As, fettered, I can only gaze and yearn...
But in my dreams I see the oceans roll,
And in my dreams my heart's desires still burn.

The popularity of Ruth's writing continued in 1933. She was published twice, *A Prayer* on February 26, and *The Home of the Herron* on September 10. Her next poem, *Envoi!* was included on November 18, 1934. In 1938 there was *A Sidewalk* on July 3 and *To an Artist* on December 18. 1939 was a very active year for Ruth. Its Summer was published on June 4, *Bridal Shower* on June 11, *Her Day* on July 30, and *Dishes* on August 13. Her Christmas poem, *O Let Us Go A-Caroling*, published on December 25, 1939, is the featured poem for this month's MM. The year 1940 was her most prolific. *The Symphony* was published on May 5, *My Mother* on May 12, *Lest We Forget* on May 26, *The Brook* on June 30, *My Mother's Hands* on July 21, *Fickleness* on August 18, *A Sycamore and the Wabash* on October 27, and *Cloud Soldiers* on November 24 (ibid).

In addition to writing poetry, Ruth was active in the Home Demonstration Club (Journal and Courier, April 24, 1937) and served as its president. Her children were graduates of Crawfordsville High School. Bessie married James Stout. They lived in the Crawfordsville area. Bernice married Lee Roy Voris. They made their home in Indiana, Oklahoma, and Nebraska. Alvin Jr. was a decorated World War II veteran and a seminary graduate who served as a minister in West Terre Haute.

Alvin and Ruth lived the last years in their lives with Alvin Jr. Ruth passed on December 16, 1962. She had been ill with heart disease for the previous four years. She was interred in Crawfordsville's Oak Hill Cemetery. Alvin died in September 1965. He was buried next to Ruth. May they each rest in peace, and may Ruth's poetry live in our memories.



Courtesy of R & S Fine, via findagrave.com



Town Talks

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

Ever heard of Bed Bug Corner – well, that was right here in MoCo in Coal Creek Township northeast corner of 1050N and 525W. From the GenWeb page – “supposedly a large house existed there and took in travelers, basically like an Inn but the beds became infested with bedbugs so it became known as Bed Bug Corner and guessing the Inn wasn’t so popular after that.

Another nearby Coal Creek town was Bristle Ridge which was on 970 North out of Wingate between 625 & 575W. John Bowerman wrote about it in 1984 and the Crawfordsville Star of March 2, 1882 had an article, as well. John said that most of the people who lived in the Bristle Ridge area were from Kentucky so they also called it “Kentuck.” It was sometimes called Buffalo Ridge (1890’s) and Honest Ridge as well. The Star said, “If we are to speak of the society on the ridge it would not be unfavorably. We look around our country and see it dotted here and there with school houses, showing that virtue and morality dwell in the hearts of the people. It is only through perseverance and integrity that success is attained; encourage Sunday school for they are the basis of Society. Show me a country Sunday School well carried on and you will find a virtuous and intelligent people. The truth that is instilled into the youth shows in the man or woman.”

Another story is that the original owner stole hogs and butchered them and buried the bristles so no one could find the evidence!” Oh, my well there ya’ have a couple of items on that one!

California existed in CC in the late 1800s – Sections 33,34,35 had land owners mentioned in a CWJ news article in Sept 1899.

This place in CC township makes sense – north of Elmdale south of Sleepy Hollow, east of Wingate and southwest of New Richmond called Coal Creek Valley. And, then there’s Elmdale which I don’t believe was ever an incorporated town.

Locust Grove dates back to 1847 at least when the post office began in early March but was discontinued by the Post Master General in November 1855. It was six miles northwest of Crawfordsville and from the time of the post office closing, the mail was sent on to Crawfordsville.

I know nothing about Martin’s Crossroads other than it was in the south part of CC Township and assumedly named for a farming family there.

Meharry Grove was a meeting place (yes, named for the Meharry family) for reunions, meetings, religious and political get-togethers. For some years it was also a camping area. Sec 3 West of Meharry Cemetery a mile and a half north of Wingate.

Mountview was found in an 1831 newspaper mentioned as being in Cole (sic) Creek township.

New Richmond (CDPL photo) is likely the largest and most active and lengthiest of the CC towns platted in late July of 1836 by Sam Kincaid.



Nine Mile Prairie is also known as running near the top of the county 1200 North although I don’t know if it was a town there of just the road.

Oakland had a school in the 1880’s-1920 or so in Section 30 and assumedly the school was in the town.

Patton Corner was mentioned in Phyllis Way Boone’s New Richmond book (loved that lady) but don’t know where it was other than in CC Township. It may have been in or very near to Mt. Pleasant as David Patton whose birth occurred March 23, 1812 in Butler Co Ohio came here early and died about there Nov 27, 1860 so makes sense under the Patton name. The Patton school was also in that area (Rg 5 Sec 27) in the 1870s and possibly earlier.

Many of you likely know that Pleasant Hill is now Wingate and was platted very early by Christian Bever in March 1832 (Sec 15). It was changed to Wingate in 1881 to honor a local man who was active in bringing the Clover Leaf Railroad and lots of jobs to the area.

Love this one – Polyopolis. We only know that there was a man named Bennet living there from 1870 through at least 1886 but moved to Linden by 1900. Other than Bennet don’t know anyone who lived in Polyopolis or how it got its name.

Rake Pocket was in Section #26 and School #3 was in its community. Montgomery County Remembers noted it was Rape Pocket but... It was right as you leave Wayne Township and enter into CC on the east side of the road and there was a blacksmith, sawmill, tavern, grocery and post office at least. A rake means a dissolute lewd man so when the men gathered here to drink at the tavern it became known as the rough guys making it called Rake Pocket. Oddly, the 1864 map has neither names there but the Crawfordsville Weekly Journal 24 June 1869 noted that Rake Pocket was a strong Democratic hold during the Civil War. “During the late years of the war it successively opposed the emancipation proclamation, enlisting of negroes, various constitutional amendments and the enforcement of the draft.” When Bill Poole sold his saloon and moved from the area, the saloon closed in Rake pocket, the men cleaned up and at the 1869 article time, the sawmill was still running having made the boards to build “a fair-sized town and the timber isn’t half exhausted!” Think this may also have been called Tattler’s Corner.

Sect 25 and 26 tally Round Hill a hamlet in at least the late 1800s and I’ve heard of that one myself in my years. There was Round Hill school and an active Methodist Church there. FYI - the Wabash football player (Ralph Wilson) who became famous as he passed away from an injury received in a game saying “Did Wabash win?” was raised in Round Hill. So sad!

Puzzles & Poetry

December 2024

CHRISTMAS DESIRES

By Cynthia Long

For all your Christmas desires and necessities, Crawfordsville, Indiana boasts a variety of wonderful locally-owned businesses brimming with attractive merchandise.

Don't forget to support your local businesses this Christmas.

Christmas

I love all the preparation

For December celebration

The office and school parties

Gifts for those you can't deny

Sending cards and buying wrapping paper

It's all just to prevent jealousy and anger

Now to the family you'll agree it's time

To pick up that tree and make it chime

With lights shining on branches and colorful wrapped packages under the tree

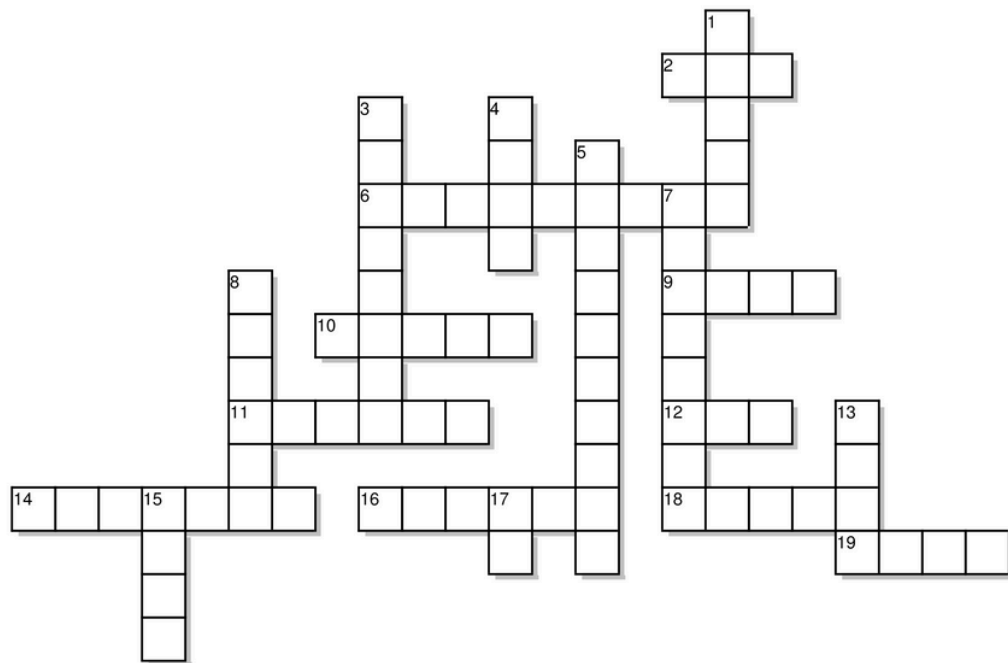
Don't forget the Nativity scene and color wheel don't you feel a bit of glee?

Great care is taken to wrap presents and decorate

All for the day when the relatives and family aggravate

Soon another year will be out of the way

And then the Christmas bills come to stay



ACROSS

- 2 --- Bug Corner
- 6 Eaten as a sauce or salad
- 9 Sent to friends & family
- 10 They wait under the tree
- 11 On KBZ pizza
- 12 December 31st
- 14 ----- Ridge in Coal Creek Township
- 16 Decorations that are strung
- 18 For feet and for fireplaces
- 19 Common tree topper

DOWN

- 1 KBZ's favorite Christmas gift
- 3 KBZ bread recipe
- 4 ---- Mile Prairie
- 5 KBZ grandmother's profession
- 7 Poet published in Indianapolis Star
- 8 Makes a tree shiny
- 13 Midnight ---, on Christmas Eve
- 15 Let it ----
- 17 Santa says it three times

Solution on next page

Burkhart Funeral Home

201 W. Wabash Avenue in Crawfordsville

765-362-5510

www.BurkhartFH.com

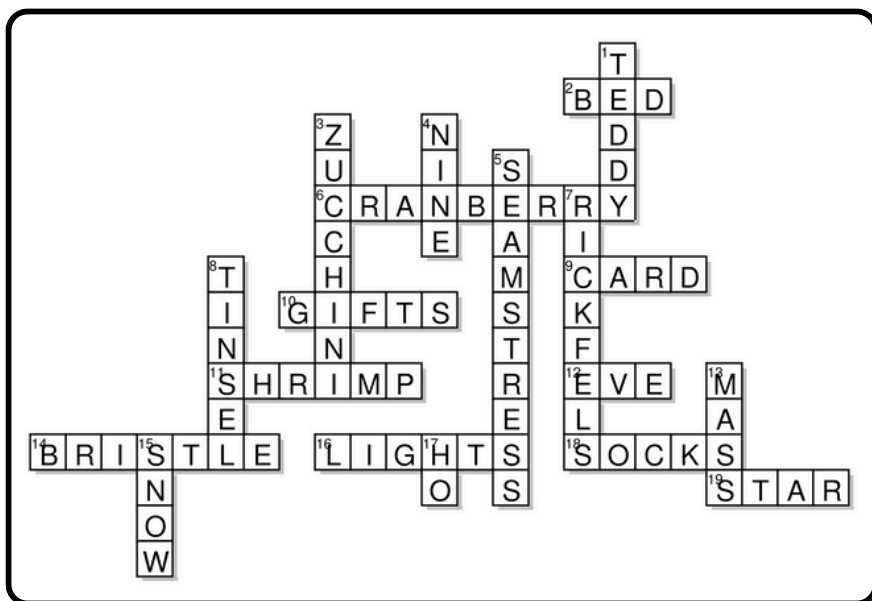


Puzzles & Poetry

O LET US GO A-CAROLING

By Ruth Ricklefs

O let us go a-caroling up and down the land,
 With happy hearts and faces, a merry, joyous band;
 To those whose hearts are weary...to those whose hearts are sad...
 We'll sing a joyful roundelay and make the whole world glad.
 We'll sing about the shepherds who watched their flocks that night,
 And how the angels caroled in a most wonderful light;
 We'll sing about a little Babe with manger for a bed
 And how the Wise Men brought their gifts...and by a star were led!
 "It came upon a midnight clear," O let us gaily sing.
 "For unto Bethlehem is born this day a king!"
 "Peace and good will to all the world," take up the glad refrain
 That's echoed through the ages...and let us sign again...
 "Silent night! Holy night!" Let music fill the earth
 And tell a weary heart-sick world about the Savior's birth;
 Forget the wrongs and bitterness while sweet bells softly chime...
 O let us go a-caroling this lovely Christmas time.





Karen's Kitchen

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

When my mother got sick, I went down and spent several days the first summer with dad teaching him how to cook. I made him a cookbook of fairly easy things to make (simple casseroles, easy desserts) but he was always calling me and often asking for something I had made but hadn't given him the recipe for (because I thought it would be too hard) – he became amazing at making this and it was a Christmas must.

Zucchini Bread

Mix: 2 Cups Sugar (I use 1/2 Sugar & 1/2 Splenda); 1 C. Oil; 3 eggs, beaten; 3 tsp. Vanilla

Add: 2 Cups unpeeled, coarsely grated, closely packed Zucchini

Add: 2 C. Flour

2 tsp. soda

1/4 tsp. Baking Powder

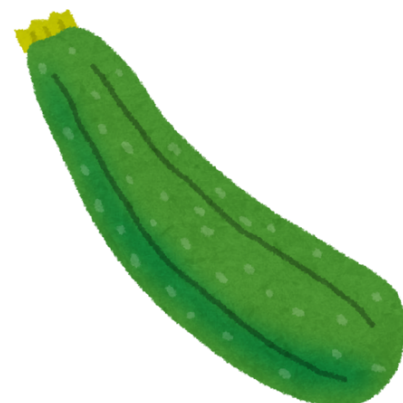
1 tsp. Salt

3 tsp (I usually use more) Cinnamon

Add: 1 C. Chopped Nuts (I've used pecans and also English Walnuts - both are good)

Bake 350 for 1 hour

Makes 2 regular or 3 small loaves - this is REALLY scrumptious!! It also makes for super Christmas gifts!



Speaking of Christmas yummys and traditions, we had one for the Zach Christmas and still make it every year (in fact we make two because we have part of the family always late and by the time they get there the other one is about gone) – I've given ya' this recipe before but if ya' haven't made it – NOW IS THE TIME since this is my last Karen's Kitchen!

Shrimp Pizza

Cream Cheese, softened (8-oz) -- spread in large pizza type plate.

Add: 1 Jar (Heinz) Chili Sauce (see note below)

4-5 Chopped Onions (green ones)

1 Chopped Green Pepper 6-oz. or so

Pkg. Frozen Baby Shrimp (thawed, and drained WELL)

8-oz. Mozzarella Cheese. Add to top



Use Tostito chips or something similar to scoop the appetizer. YUM!!! Some hints: I also use a jar of Cocktail sauce mixing it with the Chili sauce before putting it on. The finer the onions and peppers are chopped, the better and I drain the shrimp big-time before placing in on the pizza (otherwise, it gets watery).



County Connections

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories

I thought I'd take some of the major nationalities of people who made MoCo their home and tell you about some of their Homeland Christmas Traditions they may have followed here.

Ireland sent many to our area, and I can certainly, see this tradition: (hoganirishcottages.com/blog/Christmas-in-ireland) to put a lighted candle in your front window welcoming guests. Many years ago it also sent a message to Catholic priests that the occupants would enjoy a mass served in their home. The Wren Boys would dress in their old clothes, straw hats and dance from door to door singing with the body of a dead Wren. (okay that one seems far-fetched to me which many in Ireland must agree as it really isn't celebrated anymore but the places that still do give money they make to charities). In America we give Santa cookies and milk but the Irish equivalent is to leave the tired fella' a stout Guinness beer and some Mince pies and maybe carrots for his reindeer! One Irish (I have some Irish and Jim has lots) tradition I think I could definitely handle and actually we often have these is au gratin potatoes. I immediately thought of the potato famine which brought so many here so ... appropriate!



I've known some of the Greek families in Montgomery County but wasn't lucky enough to enjoy any Christmas activities with them. However, according to mygreekdish.com there are several traditions. For instance, every household prepares Greek Christmas treats. The "Karavaki" little ship tradition is still popular today after many years – the family decorates their boat with lights but if not a real boat then a model one. Children go door to door singing Christmas Carols accompanied by metal triangles. The lyrics are loaded

with prosperity and luck to the families. The Saint Basil's (like our Santa) cake has a coin inside and the person to get that lucky piece of cake with the money has a year of luck. It sounded pretty complicated to make. On NY Eve the owner of the house stands outside his front door and breaks a pomegranate by smashing it on the doorstep. "The seeds of the fruit spread on the floor mean happiness and health to his family!" I love this one! Some of the treats made in Greek homes for the holidays are Melomakarona, cookies similar to buttery shortbread cookies dusted with powder sugar. Diples sure looked good – fried dough served after being drizzled with honey syrup. Christopsomo is a bread with the name meaning, Christ's Bread. It is served Christmas Day to bring blessings to each of the family (greekreporter.com). And I do love my baklava!

In Italy (we haven't had many Italian families here but some including my own)

the lunch meal on the 25th is the traditional time for families to gather, but really Christmas has gone on since Dec 8th with decorating the Christmas trees. It continues on until the Epiphany on Jan 6 when the Three Wise Men brought Baby Jesus gifts. A dozen courses often is the traditional family meal. One difference is that those in Southern Italy will likely not have the same menu but overall, many have clams with pasta; lots of risotto; maybe marinated anchovies; many types of meats, cheeses; veggies (green beans, carrots, roasted potatoes, parsnips) and lots of seafood. Our biggie was we had to have bread sticks and Italian bread sticks are not like anyone else's (long, thin, hard and we dipped 'em in butter or other things). Truly, a traditional Italian Christmas meal (or any at my grandmother's house anyway) is what most people would eat in two weeks. It's truly unbelievable! A nativity scene of some sort with just a plastic manger with the sacred family may be displayed but others may have several elaborate visitors (wise men, common man, the animals) with hand-carved figurines spotlighted. My father remembered LeBefana (equivalent of Santa but an old Italian lady who got lost when she wanted to take Baby Jesus a gift and is still trying to find him but leaves gifts for other children on her way) giving Dad a piece of coal in his shoe (instead of Candy) on Epiphany Eve (Jan 5) when he was ten meaning no more presents. He was devastated!

German children receive their stockings on St Nick day (Dec 6) and get such items as oranges, coins, chocolates. (housebeautiful.com). Advent calendars originated in Germany "first used by German Lutherans in the 19th century." Burning a Christmas candle is a popular tradition. Christmas Eve is the big time for celebration beginning with decorating the tree, preparing food then as evening nears they gather around the tree with the children outside the room while Christkind (christ child) delivers their presents. After opening them a family likely will head to church services or eat their meal. The German tree tradition dates back in the 16th century with Martin Luther the first to add lights. In Germany putting up the tree is the last decoration as the rest of the home was decorated for quite awhile. An Advent wreath sits (four candles in a bed of pine cones with berries, dried flowers, festive ornaments with a white candle) on the family table. Christmas markets with ice skating, wine tasting and brats is quite a tradition. Wondered why I love Christmas angels so much – guess what? It's a German tradition to have them all around the house. I did and do and even had a tree with mostly angels. And don't forget your nutcracker!

Several English families came here or at least within the first couple of generations and one big item was to take down the Christmas tree before the 5th of January or else you might have bad luck. Christmas cards date back to 1843 (communicateschool.co/us-christmas-traditions). Their mince pies (more like tarts) date back to the Middle Ages and of course the proverbial Christmas Pudding is a must. Turkey on Christmas Day is also important and Christmas Crackers are quite popular. Caroling is a must either door to door for a charity or church group or in shopping areas. Top that all with hanging Christmas stockings I still love to do – how about you?



Grandcestors

Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories



Grandcestors – ahhh the Christmas fun of yesteryears.

From the time I was a tiny girl, we would go to my mother's parents (Carl and Hazel Morgan Smith) who lived right here in Waveland on Christmas Eve for a delightful dinner which was always about the same, so a traditional meal. Turkey, noodles, dumplings, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, a big tossed salad or applesauce, homemade or both, cranberry salad for others but I didn't like it back in those days – love it now!

After the dishes were washed up and put away, we'd all go into their tiny living room and open presents. They had very little money so we had more useable presents but we loved it anyway! Always got some delicious fruits my gpa' had ordered for us in a basket such as tangerines, delicious, juicy apples and such. Often we'd get gloves or hats or both. Always Pap would give us a silver dollar. Geez, wish I had all those now! We'd visit, laugh, look at old pictures and just have a good time before we would head to midnight mass. The first years we would go to Rockville but later we went to Crawfordsville for church.

The next morning we would wake up fairly early but not exceedingly so since we'd been to church the night before and open our presents at home. Admitting this as my father had nothing – literally most of the Christmases he was growing up – they were so poor, he grew-up in the Depression years in an immigrant family and he began working at age ten, staying with a good family at least who dearly loved him. He worked on their farm every morning, milking the cows, feeding and the like – just every day things to help Warney Harrison out and she so loved him she'd make things he particularly liked so could have been worse but it was bad enough. So, we had everything really as he wanted

us to not have a life like he had. One year I remember opening an even 12 presents including a Chatty Cathy doll that only lasted until New Years' Eve when we had company and a friend broke it. We usually got some clothes although dad felt clothes were for the beginning of school but if the socks were running out we might get a few of those! The boys got all kinds of toys, brother Gar a guitar one year. That type of thing. Definitely, we were spoiled because of dad's poor upbringing and he wanted us to have a wonderful holiday. We were taught to appreciate it however which I think was the best gift of all!

We'd head out fairly soon to Clinton to my Italian grandparents', Tony and Carolina (Berti Bazzani's. My grandmother was super talented and creative but again little money, so we would get things like scarfs homemade. Remember one year I got a dress she made. As a professional seamstress she knew what was "in" and could whip it up in minutes with no pattern. One of my fav dresses and another year she made my mom and me look alike ones when I was pretty small. The boys would get beebees for their guns and the like. Not much but given with lots of love. Then the food – we're talking an amazing meal.

My grandmother was a fabulous cook but mainly easy meats (always had a delicious ham) and Italian (our meal would consist of wonderful soups, usually a couple; lots of sausage made many ways; Ravioli; Risotto; Gnocchi; various chicken dishes as she raised hens; a huge salad with lots of her homegrown things that she had kept – lettuce, spinach, carrots, tomatoes and lots more – if you've ever had one of my salads bingo the same and always with a vinegar and oil mixture; always homemade Italian bread sometimes topped with pesto, or bruschetta; or dip the delicious bread sticks; and so many more things. This was all fixed every Sunday actually – know dad gave her more money than the meal would have cost but he helped her out that way many times!

I always laughed that part of our Christmas tradition at Nona's was for the kids to be sent outside to play or to the basement where there were toys and the adults all took naps! Any of you have a tradition like that? I just remember what wonderful times we had as a kid and hopefully my own two could write about good Christmases although our one tradition we so loved for about three years when Jim made homemade cinnamon rolls but when I made the comment it was becoming a tradition he never made 'em again! Go figure! Traditions – don't have any? Then, make some! They really give the family something to look forward to as well as to remember throughout time!

Montgomery Memories



In MoCo, it was a very good year in 1946

126 seniors at CHS and two service men, Charles Corbin and Harold Weliver received diplomas.

Maynard Darnall who had been city superintendent (replaced by Joseph Wagner) retired and went to work for the Americana Corporation.

Paul Hobson Crockett, one of seven sons of the William P. Crocketts (who had been principal at Waveland several years) was killed by a intoxicated driver while walking his dog in Indianapolis. He had survived nine campaigns in the Pacific during WWII. RIP Soldier

New Market this year formed a Band Parents Organization (New Market History) and main item of interest was to buy uniforms which were purchased and used in 1946-47.

Bowers School had 81 (principal, John Bowerman), 8 teachers, a custodian and four bus drivers.

Six-year-old Virginia Yelton was taken by a tall man with black hair from recess at Mills School. An alert was put out for a gray automobile. Her parents were separated her mother living in Arkansas and father in Key West, Fla. Turned out to be dad who took her, having told the school he was doing so. No decision had been made in court to who she would live with. Key West police checked – she was fine and case closed!

Alamo Canners won the county basketball title this year.

Twin Bazzani boys born this year at 3 # 4 oz and 3# 7 oz (I think know they at least lost to that weight) but possibly bigger at birth) in Terre Haute where they remained for a year then both spent the rest of their lives in Montgomery County.

This year, County superintendent was again John W. Ward who served from 1929 through 1957.

Quentin Carney enlisted in the Army Air Corps in Feb 1941, being an Aircraft maintenance officer with the 20th AF working on B-29 bombers. At the end of the war he entered the Air Force Reserves in Jan 1946 and retired as a Major 34 years later. He is buried at Ladoga with wife Alice Silvey. Thanks for your service!

Thomas Cooksey, one of our great mayors was reigning in 1946 as well as 1941-49.

As of the first of 1946, there were 82 from our county who died from non-battle reasons, Killed In Action; or body never recovered from Privates to Colonels. Rest in Peace, ALL!

CHS had 48 teachers this year.



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