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TODAY'S VERSE

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Meet Henry



Henry is a handsome 1 year old male Giant Schnauzer available for adoption from The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 12/8/24. Henry is a vocal love bug that loves going out for walks, playing fetch, and will gladly sit for healthy treats! Henry finds the shelter life stressful and would love to snag a furrever home! AWL is open Monday - Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p. Come say hi!



I get it, the Colts are owned by the Irsay family. But they sort of belong to all the fans, right? Is anyone excited about any of the news coming out of HQ this week?

# The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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## Boomer Bits

### Ask Rusty – Have I Saved Social Security Money by Claiming at 62?



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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).

#### Dear Rusty:

I had to start collecting Social Security at 62, and I am 75 now. I believe that in the last 13 years I have saved Social Security money, so I do not know why I cannot draw my full benefits now.

If I had started drawing at 65 at \$1,200 per month, then I would have drawn \$16,400 per year. Instead, I got \$680 per month from 62 to 75, or \$8,160 per year, or about \$106,000 over 13 years. Compare that to the age 65 amount of \$14,400 per year for 10 years, which is \$144,000. So, by claiming at 62, at age 75 I have saved the government over \$38,000. It would make seniors lives so much easier if they could draw full Social Security at 75 years old, after getting only part of their SS.

Signed: Second-guessing

#### Dear Second-guessing:

The difference between benefits claimed at various ages causes many to reflect, as you have done, about what might have been had you waited longer to claim. But there is an error in your calculations. If your age 62 monthly benefit is \$680, your age 65 monthly benefit would have been about \$845, not \$1,200. Thus, at 75 you would have collected about \$101,400 by claiming at 65, vs. the \$106,000 you have received by claiming at age 62. In other words, you still would not have broken even had you claimed at age 65.

Social Security says that it doesn't matter when you claim – they say that if you claim early your payments will be less, but

➡ See RUSTY Page A3

### 10 Health Recommendations for the New Year

(StatePoint) Looking to improve your health in 2025 and beyond? Check out these recommendations from the American Medical Association:

Make nutritional tweaks: Reduce your intake of sugar-sweetened beverages and processed foods, especially those with added sodium and sugar. Drinking sugary beverages, even 100% fruit juices, is associated with a higher mortality risk,

➡ See NEW Page A3

### Navigating Your Finances During D.C. Top Transition

(StatePoint) It's common to wonder how a new presidential administration will impact your wallet. As policies and regulations change, many people are left questioning what it means for their money.

According to Certified Financial Planner® professionals, here's how to safely navigate your finances during a presidential transition:

Take market coverage with a grain of salt: Media

➡ See FINANCE Page A3

## Paper Has Home Show Tickets 4 You!

We're doing it again!

The Paper of Montgomery County once again has free tickets to give away for the 2025 Indianapolis Home Show which runs from Friday, Jan. 17 through Sunday, Jan. 26 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds and Event Center.

All you have to do to win tickets (valued at \$15 each) is either send us a selfie of you and our front page (Print or Online Edition) or drop by our office at 127 E. Main St. and let Jacob take your picture!

If you send us a selfie, email it to [news@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:news@thepaper24-7.com) and be sure to include your name, where you live (city or town, not specific home address) and a little bit about yourself. Then all you have to do is wait and watch. If you see your smiling face in The Paper – you win!

But wait, as the TV guy says, that's not all! If you come by our office – you don't have to wait at all! Jacob will get your photo and then hand you free tickets. Yes, it's that easy!

And what a year to win Home Show tickets! The Indianapolis Home Show returns for its 103rd year! An Indiana tradition, the oldest home show in North America offers the latest in decorating, landscaping, construction and remodeling ideas. Visitors to the Indianapolis Home Show can talk to hundreds of home and décor experts for advice and explore thousands of the newest home products.

The opening day of the show is special because visitors can pay honor to all our heroes! All active and retired military, police and fire personnel get FREE ADMISSION for the day, plus FREE PARKING at the State Fairgrounds. Just bring a valid ID, and come enjoy the Home Show on opening day!

And on Sunday, Jan. 19, the Home Show, as a thank you to those who help teach our little ones, is giving teachers and school staff FREE ADMISSION. Just bring a valid ID!

The show opens at 10 a.m. each day and on Monday through Wednesday closes at 7 p.m. Closing time for Thursday through Saturday is 8 p.m. and Sundays wrap up at 5 p.m.

Regular admission prices are \$15 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6-12 and free for children 5 and under.

➡ See HOME Page A3

### TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Kids who are allowed to add sugar to unsweetened cereal end up eating less sugar than those who eat pre-sweetened cereals.

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](http://www.thepaper24-7.com)



### THREE THINGS You Should Know

- In federal fiscal year 2024, Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received nearly \$24.7 million in federal funding from the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to reclaim more former coal mines to their pre-mining status. Hoosiers who own such property are encouraged to report it to the DNR – even if you don't want the work done right away. Owners of such land should email their information directly to the AML program at [abandonedminesrestoration@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:abandonedminesrestoration@dnr.IN.gov). They can also call 1-800-772-MINE (6463) or the Reclamation office number, 812-665-2207.
- Over 100 Indiana National Guardsmen answered the call to help their fellow Hoosiers during the snowstorm that hit central and southern Indiana on Sunday. The Hoosier Guardsmen, along with Indiana State Police and Indiana Department of Homeland Security personnel, assisted stranded motorists during the winter emergency. The Hoosier National Guard assistance teams were based in armories in Bedford, Edinburgh, Evansville, Indianapolis, New Albany, Shelbyville and Washington. Hoosier Guardsmen assisted approximately 50 motorists over the 48 hour mission.
- Pilar Bravo, Miss Marion County 2025, was crowned the 66th Miss Indiana State Fair recently. She was selected from a field of over 80 contestants. This year's pageant featured a talented group of finalists, with the Queen's Court including: 1st Runner-Up: Jordyn Leininger, Kosciusko County; 2nd Runner-Up: Sophia Sullivan, Ripley County; 3rd Runner-Up: Rebecca Brewer, Elkhart County; and 4th Runner-Up: Kelby Roberts, Rush County. Representatives from Morgan County, Shelby County, Vigo County, Wabash County, and Warren County also made it to the final round of 10. The title of Miss Congeniality was awarded to Maggie Taylor from Cass County.

### TODAY'S QUOTE

"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man."

Benjamin Franklin

### TODAY'S JOKE

Today's chuckle is actually a great quote from James Agate who said that his New Year's Resolution was to "tolerate fools more gladly, providing this does not encourage them to take up more of my time." Well said, James!

### MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton has scheduled his 139th monthly Community Forum for Monday, Jan. 27 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at his office, 300 E. Pike St. This event is designed to allow the public to come ask questions, discuss concerns, interact with the mayor and learn more about anything regarding the city.

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

## OBITUARY

### Thomas E. Wray

March 25, 1939 - January 6, 2025

Thomas E. Wray, age 85 of Crawfordsville, passed away on January 6, 2025 at Franciscan Health Lafayette East. He was born on March 25, 1939 to Russell and Goldie (Thomas) Wray in New Market. Thomas married Dolores Semenza in September of 1962 in Hollywood, FL and they spent over 58 loving years together, until her passing in 2021.

Thomas served in the United States Navy and was a member of the American Legion, Post 72. Thomas worked for the IBEW Local 728 Union, traveling across the United States. He enjoyed spending time outside, hunting and fishing. Thomas also enjoyed making wine and woodworking.

Thomas is survived by his three children, Michael (Laura) Wray, Mark (Adrianna) Wray, and Raymond Wray; five grandchildren, Brittney (Donnie) Wray, Lindsey (Todd Clay) Wray, Ariel (Llyod Slabaugh) Wray, Jacob (Tess) White, and Apryl Wray; and seven great-grandchildren, Donnie Jr.; Eli, Laila, Harley, Julianna, Sophia, Remy.

He was predeceased by his wife, Dolores; parents and he was the last of his siblings.

Cremation was chosen with no public services. Share memories and condolences at [www.SandersFuneralCare.com](http://www.SandersFuneralCare.com).

### Congressman Baird on 119th Congress, Speaker Johnson

Congressman Jim Baird, a Hoosier Republican, is part of the newly sworn in 119th Congress. As such, he issued a couple of statements about both his inclusion in the august body as well as the decision to keep Mike Johnson as Speaker of the House.



Congressman Jim Baird

"Serving in Congress is the honor of a lifetime, and I am grateful that I have once again been elected to represent the people of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. I will continue to advocate on behalf of Hoosiers to stop the reckless government spending, defend our Constitutional freedoms, support our troops, and restore America's national security and economic prosperity. As we begin the 119th Congress, I am committed to working with my Congressional colleges to deliver on President Trump's successful agenda and pass policies that put America first."

"For four years, Hoosiers have struggled under the Biden Administration's catastrophic policies, which the American people resoundingly rejected in November 2024. As we begin the

119th Congress, and as President Trump is sworn into office on January 20, 2025, the American people deserve a Speaker who is committed to advancing President Trump's America First agenda. For this reason, I was proud to cast my vote for Mike Johnson for Speaker of the House. I am confident in Mike Johnson's ability to work with the Republican-led Senate and President Trump to roll back the Biden Administration's burdensome regulations, unleash American energy dominance, secure our southern border, and restore economic prosperity. I look forward to working with Speaker Johnson to restore America's leadership and deliver on the mandate of the American people."

*Baird represents Indiana's 4th Congressional District, which includes Montgomery County.*

### Local Student Makes Dean's List

Krista Sixberry of Crawfordsville was named to the dean's list at Olivet Nazarene University during the recently completed spring 2024 semester. To qualify for inclusion on the dean's list, a

student must have been enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have attained a master grade point average of 3.50 or higher on a 4.00 grading scale.

### Strawberry Festival Queen, Junior Royalty Info Meeting Feb. 5

Interested individuals are invited to attend an upcoming informational meeting to learn more about the Strawberry Festival Queen and Junior Royalty Program, a unique opportunity for contestants to gain experience and build confidence. The informational meeting, which will be held Feb. 5 at 6 p.m. in the Donnelly Room at the Crawfordsville Public Library will provide an overview of the program and its requirements.

Junior Royalty contestants are not required to attend the meeting with their parents or guardian. If interested in attending the informational meeting, you must email [sfestqueen@gmail.com](mailto:sfestqueen@gmail.com) prior to the meeting to receive the required paperwork.

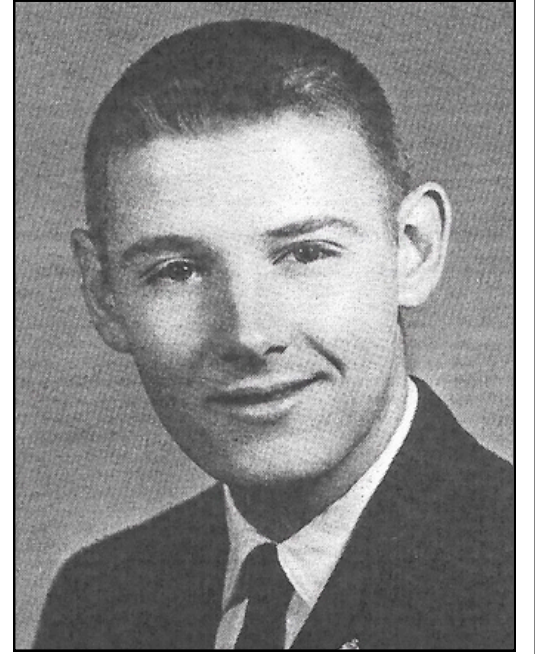
The Junior Royalty Program is open to boys and girls ages 6-10 as of May 1 and is \$25 to enter. The Strawberry Festival Queen program is open to high school girls with a \$45 entry fee. All contestants must reside or attend school full time in Montgomery County. The queen program offers girls the chance to learn and practice interview skills, as well

as compete for scholarship funds. At the informational meeting, program director, Jessica McClamroch, will provide an overview of the program, discuss the expectations and guidelines, and answer any questions.

The queen program is based on the belief that young individuals need to be empowered to develop their skills and pursue their dreams by learning to be their best self. The Scholarship Queen Program is an excellent opportunity for young women to gain experience and build confidence. The program provides a safe and supportive environment for girls to explore their potential and develop their leadership and interview skills.

If you are interested in learning more about the Strawberry Festival Queen or Junior Royalty Program, please email [sfestqueen@gmail.com](mailto:sfestqueen@gmail.com) for more details. Make sure to follow on Facebook at The Montgomery County Strawberry Festival Contest and on Instagram at [the\\_strawberry\\_festival\\_queen](https://www.instagram.com/the_strawberry_festival_queen) to stay up to date with events and details.

## Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia

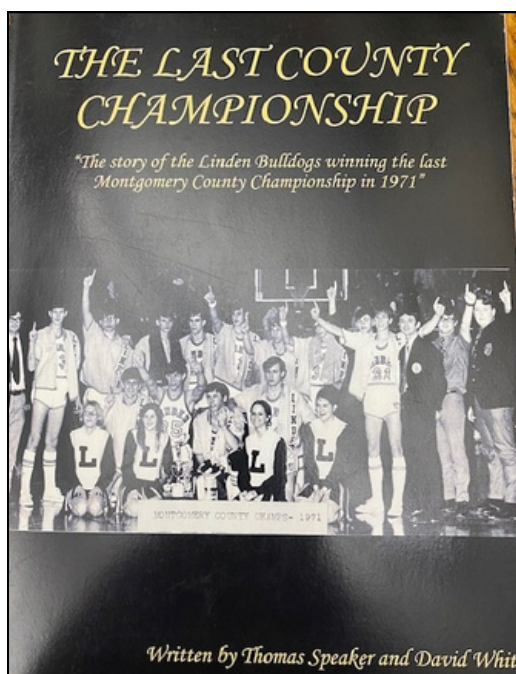


Do You Know this 1961 Waveland H.S. Grad?

HINT: He became a veterinarian and married a girl from New Ross.

Answer on Page A3

### Book Signing at Linden Library



*Written by Thomas Speaker and David White*

Photo courtesy Linden Carnegie Public Library

Daryl Warren, Montgomery County's newest Basketball Hall of Fame member, will be at the Linden Carnegie Public Library on Saturday Jan. 25 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Richard Ward Community Room. Daryl and Coach Tom Speaker will be signing the book "The Last County Championship". The book, written by Coach Speaker, was first published in 2011. It has recently been republished. It is the story of the Linden High School Bulldog's 1971 basketball team and their victory in the last county tournament championship in Montgomery County. The story features the players from Linden in the three years under Coach Speaker.

**The Paper**  
 OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
 An Independent Newspaper - Founded 2004

Vol. 21  
 Sen. Phil Boats, President  
 USPS Publication Number:  
 022-679

Issue 4  
 Tim Timmons, Publisher  
 Report address changes to  
[circulation@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:circulation@thepaper24-7.com)

Annual Print Subscription: \$89  
 Annual Online Subscription: \$42

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## ↓ RUSTY From Page A1

you'll get more of them. Where SSA's argument falls apart is when life expectancy is longer. Our experience is that if you wait until your full retirement age (FRA) to claim (which is age 66 in your case), vs. claiming at age 62, you will collect the same amount of total money at about age 78. In other words, the "breakeven age" for waiting until FRA to claim is about 78. So, you will reach your personal "breakeven age" in about 2 ½ years (at age 78). And this is precisely why we encourage everyone to understand their life expectancy when deciding when to claim Social Security – those who expect to live longer will, indeed, get more SS money if they delay claiming.

Your benefit is determined by your age when you claim, and if you claim before your FRA your monthly amount is permanently reduced. If you claimed at age 62 and your monthly amount was \$680, then in the four years until you reached age 66 (your FRA) you would have received about \$32,640. If you had, instead, waited until your FRA to claim, your benefit at age 66 would have been about \$906/month. Collecting \$906/month (at 66) vs. \$680/month (at 62) would make your breakeven age about 78. If you claimed at age 65 instead of 62, your breakeven age would have been about a year earlier (77).

So, have you saved Social Security money? Up to this point, you have not. Since you

claimed at age 62, you have collected about \$680/month for 13 years until you were 75 (or about \$106,000). If you had waited until age 65 to claim you would have, instead, collected about \$101,400 – in other words you have received more, so far, by claiming at age 62. But that will change when you reach 77 (your breakeven age, had you claimed at 65). Starting at age 77, you will have received less in cumulative lifetime benefits because you claimed at age 62. Which, again, is why – at the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory Service – we encourage everyone to consider life expectancy when deciding when to take Social Security. Of course there are other factors too, not the least of which is financial need, but life expectancy is key. And since the benefit you get when you claim is permanent (except for annual Cost of Living Adjustments), deciding when to claim Social Security is a decision which affects a lifetime.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).*

## ↓ FINANCE From Page A1

headlines might feel overwhelming, but it's wise to avoid making big investment decisions based solely on the 24-hour news cycle. Unlike what you may hear, U.S. market growth and resilience have historically remained steady regardless of the political climate. For investment planning and advice, always rely on trusted resources, such as the insights of your financial advisor.

Focus on fundamentals: Market volatility around election cycles is historically short-lived, so now is not the time to try to game the system, fully revamp your portfolio or reverse course on your long-term investment strategy. As always, you should stay focused on sound investment principles, like diversification and compound interest.

Examine your tax strategy: Consider whether your tax strategy will need tweaking in light of laws ushered in by the new administration. Whether it is your

capital gains taxes or your small business taxes, new regulations can impact what you pay. Your financial advisor can help ensure you continue to maximize every dollar you earn.

Take a look at your savings: Policies coming out of Washington could affect healthcare costs, energy prices, Social Security income and other factors that impact your overall financial picture. Work with a CFP® professional to create a holistic financial plan that is both tailored to your needs and adaptable to change.

To find a CFP® professional that will work in your best interests throughout this presidential administration and beyond, visit [LetsMakeAPlan.org](http://LetsMakeAPlan.org).

Navigating your finances during a presidential transition can feel tricky but with a big-picture mentality and the partnership of a qualified financial advisor, you can meet your financial goals.

## ↓ NEW From Page A1

according to a study published in JAMA Network Open. Drink water and choose nutritious, whole foods including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts and seeds, low-fat dairy products, and lean meats and poultry.

Get active: A recent study published in JAMA found that putting down the TV remote and going for a walk can improve healthy aging—highlighting the importance of small everyday habits. Adults should get at least 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity activity, or 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity activity.

Get up-to-date: Get your vaccines in advance of respiratory virus season—including the annual flu vaccine and the updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine for everyone six months and older, as well as pregnant people. People 65 and older and those who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should receive a second dose of the 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine six months later.

RSV can be dangerous for older adults. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend those 75 and older, and 60 and older at high risk for severe RSV, get vaccinated. Immunizations are also available to protect babies from getting very sick from RSV. This is important because RSV is the leading cause of infant hospitalization nationwide.

If you have questions, speak with your physician and review trusted resources, including [GetMyFluShot.org](http://GetMyFluShot.org). You can also reduce the spread of respiratory viruses by covering coughs and sneezes, frequently washing your hands, wearing masks, improving air quality, and staying home if you are sick.

Get screened: Make an appointment for preventive care, tests and screenings to help your doctor spot certain conditions before they become more serious.

Know your blood pressure numbers: Visit

[ManageYourBP.org](http://ManageYourBP.org) to understand your blood pressure numbers and take necessary steps to get hypertension under control. Doing so will reduce your risk of heart attack and stroke. If checking your blood pressure at home, visit [ValidateBP.org](http://ValidateBP.org) to see if your device has been tested for accuracy.

Learn your type 2 diabetes risk: Take a 2-minute self-screening test at [DoIHavePrediabetes.org](http://DoIHavePrediabetes.org). Steps you take now can help prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes, which carries a higher risk of heart disease, kidney disease and vision loss.

Drink only in moderation: If consuming alcohol, do so in moderation as defined by the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans—up to one drink per day for women and two drinks per day for men, and only by adults of legal drinking age.

Quit tobacco and nicotine: Ask your doctor for resources and guidance for quitting tobacco and nicotine. Declare your home and car smoke-free to eliminate secondhand smoke exposure.

Follow dosage instructions: When taking prescription opioids or other medications, store them safely to prevent diversion or misuse, and properly dispose of any leftover medication. If you're prescribed antibiotics, take the full course to prevent antibiotic resistance—a serious public health problem.

Manage stress: Good mental health is part of good overall health. Get sufficient sleep (at least 7.5 hours per night), exercise and ask for help from a mental health professional when you need it.

More health resources and tips can be found by visiting [ama-assn.org](http://ama-assn.org).

"The best way to address the post-holiday doldrums is to do something good for your health," said Bruce A. Scott, M.D., president of the AMA. "Even small, positive choices you make now can have a big impact on your long-term wellbeing."

## ↓ HOME From Page A1

The following are some of the special features at this year's show.

**Centerpiece Home**  
Davis Homes is the builder of this year's Centerpiece Home, a structure built entirely inside the Exposition Hall at the Indiana State Fairgrounds! This year, Davis Homes showcases its two-story Sutcliffe Deluxe Craftsman.

Davis Homes, a local, family owned builder, is currently building in more than 20 Davis communities and custom communities in Marion County, along with building On Your Lot Custom Homes throughout Central Indiana. The Centerpiece Home interior is designed by Greg Riley and Ann Walker from Model Home Interiors. Landscaping comes courtesy of Precision Outdoors based out of Indianapolis.

**Good Bones**  
Mina Starsiak Hawk is Committed to "Good Bones" in Indianapolis and Beyond

With her keen real estate acumen and strong sense of purpose, Mina Starsiak Hawk is dedicated to the art and the business of saving old homes. Mina co-founded the home renovation company Two Chicks and a Hammer with her mother in the late 2000s, with the goal of revitalizing Indianapolis one property at a time. She then became the star of the hit HGTV network show Good Bones, currently in its ninth season. With dozens of homes rehabbed and more than 13 million viewers per season, the show is one of the network's most successful series, and generated the spinoff show Good Bones: Risky Business. Mina will be on stage on Saturday, Jan. 18.

**100 Day Dream Home**  
HGTV's Mika and Brian Kleinschmidt Build Homes in 100 Days

Custom home designers Brian and Mika Kleinschmidt create, build and completely personalize a home from the ground-up for their clients in only 100 days in HGTV's "100 Day Dream Home." Mika is a realtor and Brian is a developer. Together, this husband-and-wife team make dream homes come true, helping clients design and build the perfect house in the perfect location. Catch Mika and Brian at the Home Show on Saturday, Jan. 25 and Sunday, Jan. 26!

**NEW THIS YEAR:**

**Cooking Stage with Food Demos and More**  
For the first time, the Home Show will feature a cooking stage Monday-Friday of the show. Chef Ross Katz, owner of RHB Resources, a chef centric consulting and management company dedicated to advancing

the culinary scene through education and implementation, will be onsite along with Chef Michael Gomez of Indy's own Gomez BBQ, demoing delicious recipes. There will also be a Traeger Grill giveaway tied to the cooking stage – stay tuned for more details!

**Nina Klemm Debuts "House of Sleek" Furniture and Designs**  
Interior designer Nina Klemm, known from Bravo's Flipping Exes, merges her expertise in design, real estate, and fashion with her brand, Sleek by Nina K. Specializing in home staging, styling, and custom transformations, Nina's latest work highlights modern trends in interior design. She's also expanded her brand with House of Sleek (@shophouse ofsleek), an Indianapolis-based furniture boutique, to offer curated, high-quality pieces that elevate her designs. Check out Nina's custom designer room at the Expo Hall and discover the perfect blend of sleek style and luxurious furniture.

**Backyard Retreat by Millers Mini Barns**  
Head to the West Pavilion to enter a Backyard Retreat, courtesy of Millers Mini Barns. It's the perfect place to gather design and décor inspiration for your outdoor spaces – complete with an A-Frame Cabin designed by Jamie Markley and a Pool House designed by Nancy Riesterer.

**Sip Back and Relax at the Wine Bar**  
The Wine Bar by Booher Remodeling and PRP Wine International is the place to wine down. Featuring an open concept in the West Pavilion, the Wine Bar has a variety of wines for Home Show attendees to treat their taste buds.

**Expert Advice on the Precision Outdoors Living Stage**  
Check out all the Home Show stage presentations on the Precision Outdoors Living Stage in the West Pavilion, designed and constructed by Precision Outdoors. A local landscaping company servicing the Indianapolis area for almost two decades, Precision Outdoors offers everything to build your outdoor dream space.

**The Marketplace Offers Boutique Shopping Experience**  
At the Marketplace, Home Show attendees can find everything from affordable furniture to unique knick knacks you won't see anywhere else! Check out this boutique shopping experience – with everything from curated home décor and furniture to clothing, gift items and accessories. Take your next step in everything home décor, located in the Expo Hall.

### Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia

**Answer:**  
Larry Robison  
(who married Lynn Harris)



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# Coping with Winter

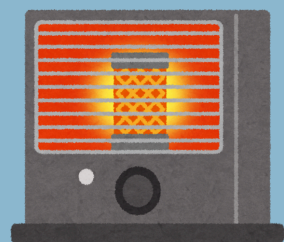
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## Resolutions to help inspire a brighter, more energy-efficient and safer 2025:

### Power Up Your Energy Efficiency

- Glow smarter. Switch to ENERGY STAR® certified LED light bulbs to reduce energy use.
- Out with the old. Replace older appliances with energy-efficient models that work smarter, not harder. Take advantage of available appliance rebates to save even more!
- Get tech-savvy. A smart thermostat can keep the home cozy and save energy.
- Seal the deal. Weatherize at home by sealing air leaks and adding insulation.
- Freshen up. Replace HVAC filters regularly for better air quality and system performance.



### Make Safety a Priority

- Use space heaters safely. Keep space heaters at least three feet away from flammable items, and never use stoves or ovens to heat the home.
- Check your detectors. Test smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors and replace their batteries regularly. Replace alarms according to the manufacturer's guidelines.
- Know the signs of CO poisoning. Early symptoms include headaches, fatigue, nausea, and dizziness. If CO poisoning is suspected, leave the area immediately, get fresh air and call 911.
- Report suspected natural gas leaks immediately. If the "rotten egg" odor of natural gas is present, leave the area on foot, call 911, and notify CenterPoint. Avoid doing anything that could cause a spark.
- Call before you dig. Contact 811 before starting any digging projects to avoid underground utility lines.

Courtesy of CenterPoint Energy

## Here are a few things to keep in mind as winter rolls in:

- **Wear a coat and dress in layers if you work outside or participate in outdoor activities.** This will help regulate your body heat and keep you warm. Be sure to keep your skin covered by wearing a hat, scarf and mittens. Hats help keep the body warmer and mittens are more effective than gloves.
- **Know what to do if you experience frostbite or hypothermia.** If the cold causes pain in your body, numb or tingly skin, slurred speech, or shivering, go indoors immediately. Remove wet clothing, wrap up in a warm blanket and if you can, sip on warm fluids to stabilize your body temperature.
- **Gather supplies for your emergency kits.** It's important to keep an emergency kit in your home. This kit should include nonperishable food, a can opener, water, blankets, prescription medications, a weather radio, a flashlight with extra batteries, a portable cell phone charger, kid-friendly activities, and pet food. It's also a good idea to make sure everyone in the family has the phone numbers for emergency contacts. It's also important to keep an emergency kit in your vehicle in case you are stranded in the cold. This kit should include an ice scraper, jumper cables, a small shovel, blankets, nonperishable food, water and a portable cell phone charger.
- **Heat your home safely.** If you use a space heater, remember to keep it at least three feet away from items like curtains, rugs, furniture, bedding and other items that can burn. The heaters should be plugged directly into the wall and the cords should not be frayed or damaged. Never use a gas stovetop or oven to heat your home. This can release carbon monoxide into the air and cause serious health risks, even death.
- **Check on elderly friends and neighbors.** Older adults often have a harder time regulating body temperature, so they are at a higher risk of experiencing cold-weather related injuries. Be sure to check in on them to see if their heat is working properly and they have what they need to make it through the cold.

Courtesy of FEMA

## Snow Shoveling Tips to Protect Your Heart

"Shoveling snow can be a very vigorous activity, and you're basically doing it in a freezer," says Dr. William Gill, a cardiologist who is president of the American Heart Association board of directors in Indianapolis. "Those conditions can very quickly lead to stress on the heart. For example, after only two minutes of snow shoveling, participants in a study had heart rates exceeding 85% of maximal heart rate, which is a level more commonly expected during intense aerobic exercise testing. The impact is hardest on those people who are least fit."

### To help make snow removal safer, the American Heart Association suggests:

- **Give yourself a break.** Take frequent rest breaks during shoveling so you don't overstress your heart. Pay attention to how your body feels during those breaks.
- **Don't eat a heavy meal prior or soon after shoveling.** Eating a large meal can put an extra load on your heart.
- **Use a small shovel or consider a snow thrower.** The act of lifting heavy snow can raise blood pressure acutely during the lift. It is safer to lift smaller amounts more times, than to lug a few huge shovelfuls of snow. When possible, simply push the snow.
- **Learn the heart attack warning signs and listen to your body, but remember this:** Even if you're not sure it's a heart attack, have it checked out (tell a doctor about your symptoms). Minutes matter! Fast action can save lives — maybe your own. Don't wait more than five minutes to call 9-1-1
- **Don't drink alcoholic beverages before or immediately after shoveling.** Alcohol may increase a person's sensation of warmth and may cause them to underestimate the extra strain their body is under in the cold.
- **Consult a doctor.** If you have a medical condition, don't exercise on a regular basis or are middle aged or older, meet with your doctor prior to the first anticipated snowfall.
- **Be aware of the dangers of hypothermia. Heart failure causes most deaths in hypothermia.** To prevent hypothermia, dress in layers of warm clothing, which traps air between layers forming a protective insulation. Wear a hat because much of your body's heat can be lost through your head.

It's also critical for people to recognize the signs of a heart attack and to call 9-1-1 immediately if they experience any of those signs.

### Heart Attack Warning Signs

Some heart attacks are sudden and intense — the "movie heart attack," where no one doubts what's happening. But most heart attacks start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Often people affected aren't sure what's wrong and wait too long before getting help. Here are signs that can mean a heart attack is happening:

- **Chest discomfort.** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.
- **Discomfort in other areas of the upper body.** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
- **Shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort.**
- **Other signs** may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness

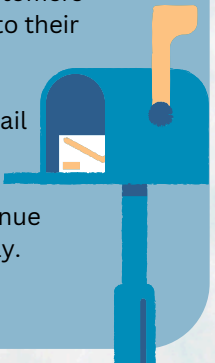
Courtesy of The American Heart Association

## Keep Carriers Safe by Clearing Paths of Snow and Ice

USPS is reminding customers of the importance of keeping walkways, sidewalks, and areas around mailboxes clear from snow and ice so letter carriers can provide safe and timely mail delivery.

Snow and patches of ice in front of mailboxes can make it difficult for letter carriers to safely deliver the mail. Residents maintaining a clear path to the mailbox — including steps, porches, walkways, and street approach — will help letter carriers maintain consistent delivery service. Customers receiving curbside delivery should also ensure clear access to their mailboxes for letter carriers who deliver from the street.

Postal employees make every reasonable effort to deliver mail in many difficult weather conditions. With your help, we can keep our letter carriers, your neighbors, and your property safe. Thank you for protecting our letter carriers as we continue to bring packages and correspondence to your door each day.



Courtesy of USPS

## Ice on Trees & Power Lines

Stay away from power lines that have fallen or are sagging. Consider all lines energized as well as trees or limbs in contact with lines. Please report any downed power lines to local emergency services.

If a power line falls across a car that you are in, stay in the car. If you MUST get out of the car due to a fire or other immediate life-threatening situation, do your best to jump clear of the car and land on both feet. Be sure that no part of your body is touching the car when your feet touch the ground.

Courtesy of Duke Energy

## Snow Thrower Safety Tips

- Review the owner's manual.
- Check equipment.
- Store and use fuel properly.
- Turn OFF the snow thrower if you need to clear a clog.
- Operate in visible conditions.
- Use extreme caution on slopes and hills.



Courtesy of Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI)

# Ranking Recruiting Classes for 20 Years Under Coach Matt Painter



**KENNY THOMPSON**  
Columnist

If you go strictly by the recruiting rankings, it seems impossible that in Matt Painter's 20 seasons as Purdue men's basketball head coach that the Boilermakers have five regular season Big Ten championships, two Big Ten tournament titles and a trip to the NCAA championship game during his tenure.

Only once has Painter recruited a top-ranked class.

This year's Purdue squad is currently featuring a starting lineup of two Indiana Mr. Basketball winners, two Mr. Basketball runners-up and the 266th-best player (C.J. Cox) in the 2024 recruiting rankings provided by 247 Sports. Caleb Furst and Trey Kaufman-Renn, the runner-up to Furst for Mr. Basketball in 2021, are the second and third highest ranked recruits in the Painter era behind the late Caleb Swanigan.

Fletcher Loyer was also a four-star recruit in 2022, but the player who beat him out for Mr. Basketball, Braden Smith, was rated 198th overall and just the ninth-best player in Indiana. Smith's suitors included Belmont, Toledo, Montana and Appalachian State, so it wasn't just the recruiting experts who poorly evaluated the junior point guard.

When taking on the task of rating Painter's best recruiting classes, I focused more on results and less on the players' recruiting ranking. The first three classes on the list were easy, as you will see below.

## 2020: Zach Edey, Jaden Ivey, Ethan Morton

The so-called experts aren't always right and here's a prime example. This class was ranked 37th in the nation by 247 Sports, with Edey coming in at 436th overall. Two national player of the year awards later, it's obvious there were not 435 recruits better than the 7-4 Edey who is now

starting in the NBA for the Memphis Grizzlies.

Like Edey, Ivey was an NBA Lottery pick after spending two seasons at Purdue. Ivey, who was ranked the nation's 99th best player, was on his way to a breakout season with the Detroit Pistons when his 2024-25 season was ended by a freak broken leg. Ivey was averaging a career-high 17.6 points and shooting nearly 41 percent from 3-point range.

Morton came to Purdue as Pennsylvania's Mr. Basketball. He started 29 games as a junior before losing playing time to Lance Jones last season. Morton is playing his fifth season at Colorado State in 2024-25 thanks to the extra year of eligibility granted by the NCAA during the COVID epidemic.

## 2007: E'Twaun Moore, JaJuan Johnson, Robbie Hummel, Scott Martin, Nemenja Calasan, Chris Reid

The No. 1 ranked recruiting class in the nation according to 247 Sports not only brought in three of the best Boilermakers in the Painter era but placed him on the path to possibly surpass Hall of Famer Gene Keady as the winningest coach in school history.

If not for two ACL injuries suffered by Hummel, it's possible that Purdue's Final Four drought would have ended well before 2024. JaJuan Johnson literally grew from a 6-10, 195-pound string bean into the 2011 Big Ten Player of the Year and a consensus first-team All-American center. E'Twaun Moore became one of three Big Ten players at the time with 2,000 points (2,136), 500 (611) rebounds and 400 assists.

Robbie Hummel's knees are one of Purdue athletics' greatest "what if" stories. But when the 6-8 Hummel was on the court, his skills as a shooter and rebounder were so game-changing that Painter is still looking for a similar player 15 years after his final

game.

Martin transferred to Notre Dame after his freshman season, and Reid was a seldom-used 6-9 junior college transfer. The 6-9 Calasan, however, started 25 games in two seasons after transferring from Midland (Texas) College.

## 2014: Isaac Haas, Vincent Edwards, Dakota Mathias, P.J. Thompson, Jacquil Taylor, Jon Octeus (transfer from Colorado State)

Ranked only 33rd by 247 Sports, this group reversed a downward slide for Purdue following the Hummel-Johnson-Moore class. They came in after the worst season in recent Purdue memory, last in the Big Ten and a 15-17 overall record.

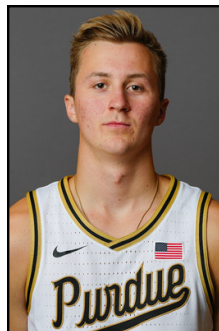
Octeus stepped into the starting lineup immediately, while Haas and Edwards were contributors as freshmen as Purdue rebounded to a 21-13 record and a tie for third place in the Big Ten.

Haas, Edwards and Mathias became 1,000-point career scorers while helping Purdue win the 2017 Big Ten title and coming within a rebound against Ohio State of winning the league again in 2018.

The injury curse struck Purdue again in the 2018 NCAA Tournament when Haas suffered a broken elbow in the opener against Cal State Fullerton. With the 7-2 center, Painter might have reached his first Elite Eight one year earlier.

2015: Caleb Swanigan, Ryan Cline, Grant Weatherford, Johnny Hill (transfer from Texas-Arlington) Swanigan, Purdue's first Indiana Mr. Basketball winner since Glenn Robinson in 1991 and a McDonald's All-American, lived up to expectations as the Big Ten Player of the Year in 2017 and a unanimous first-team All-American.

Cline, the runner-up to Swanigan for Mr. Basketball, was one of the heroes of Purdue's



Fletcher Loyer



Braden Smith



Zach Edey



Jaden Ivey

Elite Eight run in 2019. Only teammate Carsen Edwards made more 3-pointers in the Big Ten than Cline's 111 as a senior.

Hill started 11 games as a graduate transfer. Weatherford left for Georgia Southern after his freshman season.

## 2016: Carsen Edwards, Spike Albrecht (graduate transfer, Michigan)

As a sophomore, Edwards became Purdue's first winner of the Jerry West Award as the nation's top shooting guard. Not bad for a player ranked 139th in his senior class.

The following season, Edwards had an NCAA Tournament to remember, making a tournament record 28 3-pointers in just four games.

Albrecht was a scoring threat off the bench, but a lingering back injury limited his playing time.

## 2022: Braden Smith, Fletcher Loyer, Camden Heide, Will Berg, David Jenkins Jr. (graduate transfer, Utah)

Another recruiting class that rose above its national ranking (45th by 247 Sports). Smith has been playing at an All-American level for two seasons. The former Westfield star earned his first Big Ten Player of the Week honor on Monday after averaging 25 points and 9.7 assists in victories against Toledo, Minnesota and Northwestern.

Smith is the first Big Ten player to surpass 1,000 points, 500 assists and 400 rebounds during his first three seasons. Smith already ranks second in Purdue history for assists (574) and has a chance to top Bruce Parkinson's nearly 50-year-old mark by season's end.

Loyer is expected to reach 1,000 career points Thursday night at Rutgers. He is shooting better than 48 percent from 3-point range this season after sinking 44.4 percent as a sophomore.

Heide was a key reserve as a redshirt freshman on Purdue's national runner-up squad in 2024 and has made eight starts this season. The 7-2 Berg has made three starts and is currently backing up Trey Kaufman-Renn and Caleb Furst. Jenkins was a reserve guard who averaged 3.9 points in his only season at Purdue.

2021: Trey Kaufman-

## Renn, Caleb Furst, Brian Waddell

Kaufman-Renn is a first-team All-Big Ten contender in his second season in the Purdue starting lineup. The 6-9 forward/center is averaging 17.8 points and 6.3 rebounds through 15 games.

Furst started 12 games as a freshman, filling in for Mason Gillis. A highlight from Furst's sophomore season came against Duke in the Phil Knight Legacy final when he put up 11 points and 10 rebounds. The emergence of Zach Edey and Kaufman-Renn limited Furst's playing time as a junior, but the 6-10 senior has seen more playing time recently to shore up Purdue's rebounding issues.

A torn ACL before his freshman season slowed Waddell's progress to just 31 games during the past two seasons.

## 2006: Keaton Grant, Chris Kramer, Dan Vandervieren, Jonathan Uchendu

Kramer was a two-time winner of the Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year Award (2008, 2010). Grant was a four-year starting guard and still ranks among Purdue's all-time 3-point shooters. Vandervieren, a 6-10 center, transferred to Colorado State after his freshman season. Uchendu left Purdue after his freshman season and was killed in a hit-and-run incident in his home state of Arkansas in 2009.

## 2012: A.J. Hammons, Rapheal Davis, Ronnie Johnson, Jay Simpson, Stephen Toyra

The 7-foot Hammons, Davis and Johnson were top 100 recruits in a class ranked 15th by 247 Sports. Johnson transferred to Houston after Purdue's last place finish during his sophomore season, but Hammons and Davis played critical roles in Purdue's basketball rebirth.

Hammons was first-team All-Big Ten as a senior and was selected Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year. Davis, who committed to Purdue as a high school freshman, was the Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year in 2015.

Simpson's basketball career ended during his redshirt freshman season due to a heart condition. Toyra came to Purdue as a walk-on from Faith Christian High School in Lafayette.

2008: Lewis Jackson,

## Ryne Smith, John Hart

Until Braden Smith, Jackson was the best point guard of the Painter era. Jackson's speed and passing skills made him a perfect complement to Hummel, Johnson and Moore.

Smith was a prolific 3-point shooter, making nearly 41 percent for his career. Hart, a reserve guard, is best remembered for scoring 14 points in 18 minutes to rally Purdue to victory at Illinois in 2010.

## 2017: Nojel Eastern, Sasha Stefanovic, Matt Haarms, Aaron Wheeler, Eden Ewing

Eastern, a four-star guard and headliner of the 32nd ranked class, was a standout defensive player and a starter on the 2019 Elite Eight squad. He left Purdue after his junior season and never played another college basketball game.

Stefanovic, the lowest rated recruit in the class at 381st, started 80 games and left Purdue ranked seventh with 226 career 3-pointers. The 7-2 Haarms, ranked 367th out of Sunrise Christian in Wichita, Kan., via Amsterdam, will be best remembered for his game-winning shot at Indiana in 2019.

Wheeler, once compared by ESPN analyst Dan Dakich to Kevin Durant, never harnessed his athletic ability and played his senior season at St. John's. Ewing, a transfer from Tyler (Texas) Junior College, was dismissed from the team after playing six games.

## 2018: Trevion Williams, Eric Hunter, Emmanuel Dowuona, Evan Boudreaux (graduate transfer, Dartmouth)

The 6-9 Williams earned honorable mention All-America honors in 2021. Making way for Zach Edey in 2022, Williams was voted the Big Ten's Sixth Man of the Year.

Hunter was a three-year starting guard, exceeding expectations for the class ranked 49th. Dowuona transferred to Tennessee State in 2021. The 6-8 Boudreaux played two seasons with 16 starts and averaged just over five points as a Boilermaker.

## 2019: Mason Gillis, Brandon Newman, Isaiah Thompson, Jahaad Proctor (graduate transfer, High Point)

Despite a serious knee injury that kept him off the court at New Castle and Purdue for two seasons, Gillis started 63 games before becoming the Big Ten Sixth Man of the Year in 2024. Gillis owns the Mackey Arena

➔ See KEN Page A6



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## ↓ KEN From Page A5

record with nine 3-pointers in a 2023 game against Penn State. He shot nearly 47 percent behind the arc as a senior.

Brandon Newman was seen as the leading player for the 55th-ranked recruiting class, coming off a runner-up finish for Indiana Mr. Basketball. The 6-4 Newman started 23 games his junior season but followed assistant coach Steve Lutz to Western Kentucky for his senior season. Newman then accompanied Lutz to Oklahoma State for his COVID season and scored his 1,000th collegiate point Tuesday night.

Thompson played three seasons for the Boilermakers and two at Florida Gulf Coast. He joined his brother, P.J., on the Purdue coaching staff this season as a graduate assistant.

Proctor averaged nine points a game in his lone season.

### 2010: Terone Johnson, Travis Carroll, Anthony Johnson

Much was expected from this trio, but only Terone Johnson became a regular. Terone scored 1,318 points as a two-year starting guard.

Carroll was a backup center to A.J. Hammons, and Anthony Johnson transferred after two seasons.

### 2013: Kendall Stephens, Bryson Scott, Basil Smotherman

None of the 29th-ranked recruiting class finished their careers at Purdue. Stephens was a member of the Big Ten All-Freshman team but played his senior season at Nevada. Scott left after two seasons for Purdue Fort Wayne, and Smotherman departed

midway during his junior season.

### 2009: Sandi Marcius, Patrick Bade, Kelsey Barlow, D.J. Byrd

The 40th-ranked recruiting class had one of the best athletes to suit up for Painter (Barlow) and an effective 3-point shooter (Byrd). But none could fill the void left behind by Hummel, Johnson and Moore. Byrd was the Big Ten's Sixth Man of the Year in 2012 and made 195 3-pointers.

### 2005: Tarrance Crump, Marcus Green, Chris Lutz, Corey Spates, Nate Minnoy

Painter's first recruiting class had moments, but Green was the only four-year player in the group. Crump, a junior college transfer, hit the game-winning shot in a 61-59 victory against No. 25 Virginia in the 2006 ACC/Big Ten Challenge at Mackey Arena. Lutz led the Big Ten in 2007 with 47.2 percent shooting from 3-point range.

### 2011: Jacob Lawson, Donnie Hale

The experts got this class ranking (91st) right. The athletic Lawson left after two seasons for Appalachian State. Hale departed Purdue after his redshirt freshman season to be closer to his New Albany home at Bellarmine.

### To be determined

2023: Myles Colvin, Lance Jones (graduate transfer from Southern Illinois)

2024: Daniel Jacobsen, Gicarri Harris, Raleigh Burgess, C.J. Cox, Jack Benter

*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.*

## Back in the Day with Butch Dale



**At one time there were several water-powered mills here in Montgomery County. However, mechanized mills and low water levels caused their demise. Shown above is the Kenworthy Mill, which was located near the Darlington covered bridge. It was built in 1847. We located one of the mill stones in Sugar Creek, and have it on display here in the Darlington Library.**

## Season of Joy brings not so Joyful Recalls

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita is alerting Hoosiers to important consumer protection concerns for products recalled in December. The office is encouraging consumers to take advantage of opportunities available to them to return, fix, dispose, or replace a purchased recalled item that could be harmful to their families.

“The holidays are over, now there is no better time to check your gifts for recalls,” Rokita said. “If you purchased an item in December that has been recalled, then you should immediately stop using the product and see what forms of reimbursement the company that sold or manufactured the product is offering.”

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the following consumer products were recalled in December:

- BCI Burke Recalls Playground Merry-Go-Rounds Due to Crush Hazard
- GIKPAL Dressers Recalled Due to Tip-Over and Entrapment Hazards; Violations of Federal Regulation for Clothing Storage Units; Sold Exclusively on Walmart.com by ONME Direct
- Precor Recalls Resolute™ Cable Multi-Station Exercise Equipment Due to Impact Injury Hazard
- Black Diamond Equipment Recalls PIEPS Pro IPS Avalanche Transceivers Due to Risk of Loss of Emergency Communications
- Charmast Power Banks Recalled Due to Fire and Burn Hazards; Sold Exclusively on Amazon.com
- Chervon North America Recalls SKIL 40V 5.0Ah Lithium-Ion Batteries for SKIL Lawnmowers and Outdoor Tools Due to Fire and Burn Hazard
- Melii Baby Silicone Spoons for Babies Recalled Due to Choking Hazard; Imported by Melii Baby
- Magnetic Building Sticks Sets Recalled Due to Ingestion Hazard; Violation of Federal Regulations for Toy Magnets; Sold Exclusively on Amazon.com by Elongdi
- Mr. Christmas Recalls Wireless Decorative Tree Light Controllers Due to Fire Hazard

- HTRC C240 Battery Chargers Recalled Due to Fire and Burn Hazards; Risk of Serious Injury and Death; Manufactured by Shenzhen Haitan Technology Co.
- Yoto Reannounces Recall of Yoto Mini Speakers for Children Due to Burn and Fire Hazards; New Full Battery Replacement Kit Now Available
- Touch of Class® Recalls Wall Teester Bed Crowns Due to Injury Hazard
- Stanley Recalls 2.6 Million Switchback and Trigger Action Travel Mugs Due to Burn Hazard
- Polaris Recalls RZR XP 1000 and XP 4 1000 Recreational Off-Road Vehicles (ROVs) Due to Fire Hazard (Recall Alert)
- Polaris Recalls Ranger Recreational Off-Road Vehicles and ProXD and Bobcat Utility Task Vehicles Due to Injury Hazard (Recall Alert)
- Belkin Recalls Portable Wireless Battery Chargers for Smart Watches Due to Fire Hazard
- Academy Sports + Outdoors Recalls Redfield 12- and 18-Gun Fireproof Safes Due to Serious Injury Hazard and Risk of Death
- QVC Recalls More than One Million Temptations Oven Gloves Due to Burn Hazard
- NetZero USA Recalls High Bay LED Light Fixtures Due to Fire Hazard
- Vacation Recalls The Legendary VACATION by Vacation® Black Label Scented Candles Due to Fire and Laceration Hazards
- Anker Soundcore Lithium-Ion Battery Powered Bluetooth Speakers Recalled Due to Fire Hazard; Sold Exclusively on Amazon.com by Anker Innovations

If you believe you recently purchased a recalled product, stop using it, and check its recall notice (linked above for all products). Then follow the notice's instructions, including where to return the product, how to get the product fixed, how to dispose of the product, how to receive a refund for the product, or what steps must be taken to receive a replacement product.

To view recalls issued prior to December visit the Consumer Protection Safety Commission website.

## State Challenges Rule That Impedes Home Ownership

### New Rule Tacks on 90-Year Payback to Cost of Home

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita is partnering with 15 states and the National Association of Home Builders to challenge new radical energy standards that will make the American Dream of homeownership unattainable for many hardworking Hoosier families.

According to the NAHB, new standards from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and U.S. Department of Agriculture can add up to \$31,000 to the price of a new home and take up to 90 years for a home buyer to realize a payback on the added cost of the home. For every \$1,000 increase in the median price, more than 100,000 American households are priced-out of being able to buy that home.

Even the agencies concede that by requiring all HUD- and USDA-financed new single-family home construction to meet the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and ASHRAE 90.1-2019, they will drive down production of affordable housing at a time when low and middle-class families are finding homeownership out of reach.

“As a conservative, I love efficiency and would note that one cannot be a true ‘conservative’ without being willing to ‘conserve’ God’s green earth. But over-regulation, that doesn’t yield meaningful results and comes with wild costs, is a bad deal that common sense

Hoosiers should reject,” Attorney General Rokita said. “In their name, we are rejecting this latest liberal crackpot whim with this lawsuit that if successful will help keep already terrible home ownership and rental costs from going through the roof. We’re seeing it more and more. We will continue standing up for homeowners and renters and fighting back against federal overreach.”

Attorney General Rokita thanked the Indiana Builders’ Association (IBA) for bringing this issue to his office. Rick Wajda, CEO of the IBA, said this ill-conceived policy will act as a deterrent to new construction at a time when Indiana and the nation desperately needs to boost its housing supply to lower shelter inflation costs. It is also in direct conflict with the current energy codes in the majority of jurisdictions around the country.

“At a time when Hoosiers are struggling to qualify for a mortgage or make a rent payment, this federal policy is the last thing our potential customers need,” Wajda said. “For every \$1,000 increase in the cost of a house in Indiana, over 1,900 Hoosier households are priced out of the market. We need to reduce barriers to housing, not increase them. The Indiana Builders Association appreciates the efforts of Attorney General Rokita to stop these onerous costs being put on Hoosier homebuyers and renters.”

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CRAWFORDSVILLE PLAN COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of a Public Hearing to be held by the Crawfordsville Plan Commission on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Crawfordsville City Building, Council Chambers, 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933, to consider amendments to the City of Crawfordsville Subdivision Control Ordinance and Zoning Ordinance.

The following Petition is to remove or amend specific Sections from the Crawfordsville Subdivision Control Ordinance and Zoning Ordinance, Petition No. 2025-\_\_-OA, City Code Sections 152.023 and 153.133.

The Amendment proposed for Section 152.023 (D) (1) and (2) of the Subdivision Control Ordinance proposes revised language regarding fees that pertain to all applications under the Subdivision Control Ordinance, which are established by an administrative fee schedule located in the Crawfordsville Department of Planning and Building.

The Amendment proposed for Section 153.133 (A) of the Zoning Ordinance proposes revised language regarding fees that pertain to all applications under the Zoning Ordinance, which are established by an administrative fee schedule located in the Crawfordsville Department of Planning and Building.

A copy of the Petition, and all materials pertaining thereto are on file and may be examined prior to the Public Hearing at the Crawfordsville Department of Planning and Building, City Building, 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933. Written comments in support of or in opposition to the Petitions are filed with the Secretary of the Crawfordsville Plan Commission before the Public Hearing will be considered. The Public Hearing is open to the public. Oral comments to the Petitions will be heard at the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing may be continued from time to time as may be found necessary.

Upon request, the City of Crawfordsville will provide auxiliary aids and services in association with meetings and hearings occurring in-person. Please provide advance notification to Megan Huckstep, at mhuckstep@crawfordsville-in.gov or 765-364-5152, to ensure the proper accommodations are made prior to the meeting.

Dated: January 3, 2025  
/s/ Megan Huckstep  
Megan Huckstep, Planning Director

PL5021 1/10 1t hspaxlp

### Public Notices Deadline:

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