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TODAY'S VERSE

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Meet Socks



Socks is a 10 year old (senior) female tabby cat available for adoption from AWL since 12/8/24. Socks came to us covered in mats after her owner sadly went into hospice. Bess's Pet Boutique quickly came to the RESCUE and got her looking her best! Socks is now ready to find a home to retire too! Socks enjoys the finer things in life, like lap snuggles, wet food, comfy beds, and window gazing! Socks is spayed, dewormed, and up to date on her shots. SENIOR CATS are the BEST! Senior cats are low maintenance, make less mess, and provide WAY more snuggles. Seniors are SO deserving of a loving home. Come say hi and ask the staff to meet Socks! AWL is open Monday-Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p.



Can't say I'm ever sorry to see January go. Even though February can be colder, I look at it as a step closer to spring.

# The Paper

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## Boomer Bits

### Ask Rusty – About When to Claim Social Security and Taxation of Benefits



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 ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

**Dear Rusty:**  
I am 65 and currently working full-time. Can I apply for and start receiving my Social Security benefit? I'd expect to have to pay income tax on it if/when I do.

**Signed: Curious Worker**

**Dear Curious Worker:**  
If you are working full time, you should likely delay claiming Social Security at this time. At age 65, you haven't yet reached your SS full retirement age (FRA), so you will be subject to Social Security's "annual earnings test" which limits how much you can earn from work while collecting early benefits. The earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 and if you earn more than the annual limit, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. If you earn significantly over the limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to

collect SS benefits. FYI, the annual earnings limit goes away when you reach your full retirement age, which for you is 66 years and 10 months, or March 2026.

As you obviously already know, a portion of your Social Security may be subject to income tax after you start collecting. The threshold for taxation of SS benefits depends on your IRS filing status – if you file your taxes as a single and your combined income from all sources (including half of the SS benefit you received during the tax year) exceeds \$25,000 then 50% of your received SS benefits are taxable. But if you file taxes as "married/jointly" and your combined income is over \$32,000, then up to 85% of your received SS benefits are taxable. Thus, whenever you claim

➡ See RUSTY Page A3

### Indiana 16th Best for Elderly

- A new study reveals the best states for elderly care – and the great Hoosier State ranked 16th in the U.S.
- Montana is top, ranking furthest from overcapacity with 174.16 beds per 100 residents.
- Oklahoma follows in second with 172.03 beds per 100 residents, followed by Oregon in third with 169.81 beds per 100 residents.

➡ See BEST Page A3

### How to Plan for Retirement

(Family Features) Being financially secure in retirement starts while you're still working. Because you likely don't want to remain in the workforce forever, creating a plan can help ensure you're confident in living comfortably in retirement when the time comes.

Retirement plans and

➡ See PLAN Page A3

### DEI, MEI, Silliness and More



TIM TIMMONS Two Cents

Scattershooting while wondering whatever happened to Fred Allen.

\*\*\* DIVERSITY.

Equity. Inclusion. Who can argue with the value and importance of those three words. Indeed, many of our country's principles and notions are based on exactly those.

But ever since Gov. Mike Braun and President Donald Trump took office and began fixing the glaring issues with DEI programs, too many folks have lost their minds. Indiana ACLU director Chris Daley said that one proposed law would "prohibit state agencies and public universities from funding any meaningful efforts to prevent discrimination and harassment in state employment. This will leave tens of thousands of employees without effective protection from unlawful employment practices."

Really? All the other laws that ban discrimination are going away?

On Braun's second day in office, he signed an executive order dumping DEI from the state government. That included closing the office of the Chief Equity, Inclusion and Opportunity Officer. Braun said instead of DEI, he wants MEI – merit, excellence and innovation.

How refreshing.

Look, the simple truth is that as a government – we surely ought to be above the ridiculous behaviors that reflect bigotry and stupidity. Does that mean that's true of all people? Of course not. Stupidity is hard to outlaw. But having a system that rewards people simply for the color of their skin, their differences, leads to a denigration of society.

No, no, no. That is not to say that society goes downhill when minorities or gays or others who benefitted from DEI are involved. Not at all. Everyone from all walks of life have the opportunity to step to the front of the line through their hard work and achievement – regardless of who they are, what they look like, where they came from or how they choose to live.

➡ See TIM Page A5

### TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Low doses of antidepressant medications can help hot flashes in some women.

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



### TODAY'S QUOTE

"The time is always right to do what's right."  
Dr. Martin Luther King

### TODAY'S JOKE

How do you know if a pool is safe for diving?  
It deep ends!

### MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Interested individuals are invited to attend a Feb. 5 informational meeting to learn more about the Strawberry Festival Queen and Junior Royalty Program. It will begin at 6 p.m. in the Donnelly Room at the Crawfordsville Public Library. 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. If you are interested in learning more about the Strawberry Festival Queen or Junior Royalty Program, please email sffestqueen@gmail.com for more details.

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

### THREE THINGS You Should Know

- 1 Churches and other historic houses of worship stand among the most architecturally distinguished structures in a community, and when congregations shrink, maintenance suffers and landmarks become threatened. That's why Indiana Landmarks created the Sacred Places Indiana Fund supported by funding from Eli Lilly. The fund awards matching grants and applications are open through June 15. Congregations can learn more during a free online informational webinar on Feb. 25. To RSVP go to www.indianalandmarks.org/sacred-places-indiana-webinar/, or call (317) 639-4534.
- 2 The Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission issued notice this week to over 8,200 tobacco sellers throughout Indiana, warning them about the illegal sale of nitrous oxide. Pursuant to Indiana Code § 35-46-6-3, a person who knowingly or intentionally uses or distributes nitrous oxide with the intent to cause a condition of intoxication, euphoria, excitement, exhilaration, stupefaction, or dulling of the senses of another person commits a Class B misdemeanor (unless used for medical purposes). However, the offense is a Class A misdemeanor if the person has a prior unrelated conviction. To date, 18 Indiana tobacco certificate holders have been cited for this illegal activity and some of their employees have been referred for criminal prosecution.
- 3 Spring Mill State Park will offer an event that explores the hardships winter presented for soldiers of the Civil War on Feb. 22-23. The Pioneer Village will be open from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. each day with "Abraham Lincoln" (a reenactor provided by Lawrence County Tourism) giving a speech at 12:45 p.m. in the Gristmill each day. A winter tactical battle reenactment will be presented at 2 p.m. on each day. At 1:45 p.m. on each day, guests will be directed to the viewing areas from where they can safely view the battle for possession of the village. Both before and after the reenactment, visitors can tour the village and visit with Lincoln, talk to soldiers, and get warmed by the fires.

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

## Groundbreaking Ceremony



The ceremonial groundbreaking for the new Wabash Community Center took place on the Wabash campus Saturday. From left, Kelly Taylor, CEO of the Montgomery County Community Foundation; Jack Engledow '53, Scott Feller, Wabash College President; Cory Olson, Wabash College Board of Trustees and chair of the building and grounds committee; Ike O'Neill '27, Clay Robbins '79, CEO of Lilly Endowment Inc.; and Jay Allen '79, Chair of the Wabash College Board of Trustees. The 56,000-square-foot building will serve as a community gathering space and will replace the 70-year-old Sparks Center. It is hoped that the Sparks Center will be razed this spring with construction to follow.

## Civil Rights Leaders Exhibit Opens Saturday

The Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County is excited to present *Civil Rights Leaders*. The exhibit opening event is Saturday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The exhibit was written and produced by Wabash College students in The Politics of the Civil Rights Movement class. Each student in the class researched one historical figure and played their role in a January 1965 civil

rights strategy meeting simulation. Students then created these displays to share what they learned about the civil rights leaders they studied.

The exhibit will be on display through Feb. 28.

The project was funded by the Restoring Hope, Restoring Trust, a five-year grant Wabash College received as part of a larger initiative available to colleges and universities across

Indiana. The five pillars of the grant focus on increasing enrollment at the college, innovating course content to be more inclusive of college and local history, supporting research on black historical sites in the state of Indiana, expanding academic and social support for student success and creating more meaningful and sustained partnerships with Montgomery County non-profits,

schools and residents. Community Partnership Mini-grants from RHRT allow local organizations to collaborate with Wabash on creative projects, such as publication fees for a book on the history of Crawfordsville's Lincoln School for Colored Children, a summer camp for Montgomery County youth at the Vanity Theater and mental health initiatives.

## HHSB Promotes Jill Pettit

Hoosier Heartland State Bank is proud to announce that Jill Pettit has been promoted to a Mortgage Loan Officer and will be the bank's dedicated real estate lender for Montgomery County.



Jill Pettit

Jill joined the HHSB team as a Mortgage Portfolio Manager in 2020 before being promoted earlier this year. She has 20 years of experience in the banking industry, including 12 years in real estate lending. As a Mortgage Loan Officer, she will assist clients in securing financing for their home purchases or refinancing needs, providing personalized guidance through every step of the mortgage process.

"We're thrilled to see Jill transition into the role of Mortgage Loan Officer," stated Trent Smaltz, Chief Lending Officer at HHSB. "Her deep understanding of mortgage portfolio management, combined with her dedication to our customers and community, makes her a perfect fit to guide Montgomery County residents through the home-buying process."

In addition, she is a member of Montgomery County MIBOR and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). She graduated from the Montgomery County Leadership Academy in 2019 and was a contestant in the Youth Service Bureau's Dancing With the Stars in 2024. Jill and her husband Brandon reside in Crawfordsville with their daughters Olivia and Vanessa.

## Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do You Know this long-time grade school teacher?

**HINT:** She began teaching at Garfield and Darlington in the 1930s, and ended up teaching fourth grade at Linden in the 1970s.

Answer on Page A3

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

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## ↓ RUSTY From Page A1

SS, you may wish to consider having income tax withheld from your SS benefit. This is optional, and you can do this by submitting IRS Form W-4V to your local Social Security office, or you could choose to increase your income tax withholding at work or, alternatively, pay estimated income taxes quarterly.

So, whether you can claim Social Security now depends entirely on how much you will earn from working full time prior to your FRA. If you exceed the annual earnings limit before your FRA, SS will take away some of your benefits or, if you greatly exceed the earnings limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to get benefits (until you

either reach your FRA or earn less). But note, if you decide to claim early and any SS benefits are withheld because you exceeded the earnings limit, you will get credit for that (in the form of a slightly increased benefit) after you reach your full retirement age.

*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.*

## ↓ PLAN From Page A1

financial aspirations are deeply personal and often tied to family life, ambitions and values, meaning it's entirely up to you when to start planning and saving for your post-work years. However, the worrying reality is that many households across the U.S. don't feel in control of their finances. According to a study from World Financial Group, 11% of households have "forfeited contributions to their retirement accounts," a decision that will have an impact later in life.

To ensure you're prepared, consider these steps to plan for retirement.

### Understand When You Can Retire and How Much Money You Will Need

Because nearly everyone has different goals for retirement, there's no one-size-fits-all approach to when and how much money you'll need to stop working. Assess your unique situation – including all your forms of income, assets and savings – and calculate what you'll need to maintain your standard of living and cover expenses, including any discretionary spending, in retirement.

### Choose an Appropriate Retirement Plan for Your Needs

In addition to figuring out how much you should save, having the right savings vehicle is an important consideration. A good place to start is an employer-sponsored retirement plan with fund-matching, such as a 401(k). If a workplace retirement plan is not available, consider setting aside money for retirement through an IRA that provides access to a range of investments, including stocks, bonds and mutual funds. Some insurance products may also provide benefits during retirement, such as life insurance coverage, supplemental income and tax advantages.

### Take Stock of Your Current Assets

Your current assets include more than just what's in your bank account. Beyond your paycheck, factor in real estate, investment accounts and any insurance policies you may have. If you need help understanding your finances, take a financial literacy quiz to test your knowledge and then consider meeting with a financial services expert.

### Create a Retirement Budget and Look at Ways to Reduce Expenses

Your retirement budget should look similar to yours while still part of the workforce. Start by accounting for how much money is coming in and how much is going out toward fixed expenses like utilities, cellphone bills, insurance premiums, rent or mortgage and vehicle payments then track other expenses like groceries, gasoline and other spending toward non-essentials like entertainment and clothing. From there, look for ways to cut expenses to stretch your funds further, such as canceling a streaming service, dining out less or skipping a new movie release.

### Account for Unexpected Expenses

Before retirement, consider how you'd handle unexpected expenses such as a medical emergency, home or vehicle repair or moving into an assisted living facility. Suppose you don't have the appropriate health and homeowner's insurance coverage. In that case, you may be covering those costs out-of-pocket, which could limit or hinder your financial flexibility on a fixed income.

Test your literacy and find additional resources to plan for retirement at [WorldFinancialGroup.com](http://WorldFinancialGroup.com).

## ↓ BEST From Page A1

- Alaska was reported as the worst state for elderly care, ranking closest to overcapacity with 114.56 beds per 100 residents, followed by West Virginia with 115.93 beds per 100 residents.

As people live longer, the demand for elderly care has reached an all-time high, and widespread concerns about the capacity to care for the growing senior population have arisen. These anxieties are only compounded by the increase in health issues among the elderly during the winter.

That's why personal injury lawyers Triumph Law, P.C. examined data from KFF.org to identify the states with the best and worst capacity levels for elderly care.

The research calculated the number of certified beds in care homes per state based on the number of facilities in each state and the average number of beds per facility. This was then compared to the number of residents per state in nursing and care facilities to identify their capacity rates.

Montana was deemed the best state for elderly care with 174.16 beds per 100 nursing home residents. Montana reported 5,580 beds for 3,204 residents.

The second-best state was Oklahoma, which had 172.03 beds per 100 residents. This equated to 28,207 certified beds for 16,397 residents in the state.

Ranking as the third best state was Oregon, with 169.81 beds per 100 residents. In the state, there was a total of 10,681 beds for 6,290 residents.

Texas followed in fourth, with 155.55 beds per 100 residents. Overall, this figure correlated to 132,765 beds for 85,351 care facility residents.

Completing the top five best states for elderly care was Missouri, which reported 155.35 beds per 100 residents. There were a total of 53,142 beds for 34,209 residents in the state.

Other states that had a high-capacity rate for elderly care were Idaho (152.65), Utah (151.36), Arkansas (150.66), Wisconsin (148.99), and Wyoming (147.15).

At the other end of the spectrum, Alaska was found to be the worst state for elderly care, with its nursing and care facilities nearing overcapacity. There were 114.56 beds per 100 residents, which corresponded to 834 beds for 728 care home residents in total.

Following in second was West Virginia, with 115.93 beds per 100 residents. West Virginia reported 10,726 certified beds for 9,252 care home residents.

In third was New York, with 116.30 beds per 100 residents. This figure represented 112,655 certified beds for 96,866 residents overall.

Ranking fourth was North Dakota, which reported 116.47 beds per 100 residents. This amounted to 5,244 beds for 4,502 nursing and care facility residents.

Rounding out the top five was Florida, which had 117.41 beds per 100 residents. In total, this corresponded to 84,476 beds for 71,948 residents. Other states that were among the worst for elderly care, with beds nearing overcapacity, were California (117.66), Virginia (119.30), South Dakota (19.78), Rhode Island (122.08), and Maine (123.13).

Commenting on the findings, Robert Carichoff, Personal Injury Lawyer for Triumph Law, P.C. said, "Life expectancy has extended significantly in recent decades, with individuals living well into their 80s, 90s, and beyond. However, while the longevity of Americans is undoubtedly something to celebrate, there has been an understandable increase in age-related diseases and deterioration, meaning that the need for quality elder care has never been so high.

"The elder care sector is facing a significant challenge, and many states are not fully equipped to deal with it. While some states have plenty of capacity for the booming numbers of elderly residents, many states are reaching overcapacity, and this will be a severe problem in the future if it isn't one already.

"Economic, healthcare, and staffing challenges may be factors affecting the states struggling the most with elderly care, alongside disparities in the demographics. Many states ranking among the worst for elderly care have some of the largest elderly populations, so resources are stretched thinner as demand is more intense. Additionally, some of the most populated states such as New York, California, and Florida have higher costs of living which can complicate operational expenses or hinder the expansion of care facilities. Consequently, while these states are home to large elderly populations, the high demand and cost pressures can lead to limited per-capita capacity. "Going forward, funding for elder care is paramount, as this can ensure that the care is to the best possible standard, resources are fully replenished, and employees are paid well. Hopefully, we will only discover more ways in which we can help people of advanced age be happy, comfortable, and live their best lives way beyond retirement."

## Nucor's Trevor Beers on IMA Board

The Indiana Manufacturers Association (IMA) announced its 2025 chair, vice chair, executive committee and board of directors recently and the board includes Montgomery County's Trevor Beers of Nucor Steel.

## Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College Honors Local Students

Several local students were included in more than 490 students who earned fall 2024 dean's list honors at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College.

Congratulations to these distinguished scholars on earning this academic achievement.

Bailey Mittal and Tara Wear of Crawfordsville both achieved Dean's

The 44-member board of directors will be led for a second year by Chair Angie Holt, president of Rathburn Precision Machining, and for the first year, Vice Chair Paul Perkins, president and co-founder of Amatrol, Inc.

List Highest Honors.

Olivia Bobenmoyer and Jenna Livingston of Ladoga each achieved Dean's List High Honors, as did Joseph Gerold and Macie Shirk of Crawfordsville.

In addition, Darcie Cox and Callee Riggle of Roachdale each achieved Dean's List Highest Honors.

## Discover Mediterranean Eating in 'Steps to Healthy You' series



**MONICA NAGELE**  
Guest Columnist

Are you ready to transform your eating habits, improve your health, and savor

delicious Mediterranean-style meals? The Purdue Extension "Steps to a Healthy You" program is here to guide you through a five-session journey that makes healthy living both achievable and enjoyable. Classes are every Wednesday Feb 19th through March 19th from 5 to 7 p.m.

This engaging series focuses on the 7 simple steps to eating the Mediterranean way, a practical approach to adopting the Mediterranean eating pattern—hailed as one of the healthiest diets in the world. From learning how to "Change Your Protein" to "Rethinking Your Sweets," each session is packed with tips, skills, and flavors to inspire a lifelong commitment to healthier eating. Each session combines interactive learning with practical demonstrations, including mindfulness skills, recipe demonstrations and hands-on guidance. Participants will leave the program with:

- A deeper understanding of

the Mediterranean eating pattern and its health benefits.

- Practical strategies to make healthier choices, like swapping out unhealthy fats, incorporating more fruits and vegetables, and enjoying whole grains.
- Confidence in selecting, preparing, and enjoying Mediterranean style recipes.
- Tools for mindful eating to help manage portions, reduce processed foods, and plan balanced meals.

Whether you're looking to boost your health, learn new recipes, or embrace a more mindful way of eating, "Steps to a Healthy You" offers something for everyone. Register today at [to take the first step toward living your healthiest life.](https://cvent.me/PBaX0e)

For more information or to sign up, visit [Montgomery County Purdue Extension](https://cvent.me/PBaX0e), <https://cvent.me/PBaX0e> or call Monica at 765-364-6363

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

**Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia**

**Answer:**  
**Margaret Cox Edwards**

## Catching Up On Purdue Boilermaker Alums in NFL



**KENNY THOMPSON**  
Columnist

Former Purdue star George Karlaftis and the Kansas City Chiefs can make NFL history Feb. 9 with a victory against the Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl LIX in New Orleans.

No team has won three consecutive Super Bowl championships. Only three other franchises have played in at least three consecutive Super Bowls: the 1971-73 Miami Dolphins, the 1990-93 Buffalo Bills and the 2016-18 New England Patriots.

The Bob Griese-led Dolphins lost Super Bowl VI to the Dallas Cowboys but won the following two Super Bowl titles against Washington and Minnesota. Buffalo is still trying to shed the stigma of four consecutive Super Bowl losses. The Patriots were denied back-to-back titles by the Eagles in Super Bowl LII, 41-33.

In an NFL season that saw several Purdue alumni sidelined with injuries, Karlaftis recorded eight sacks to go along with 32 tackles in his third season. He's added three sacks and nine tackles in playoff victories against Houston and Buffalo.

Aidan O'Connell battled thumb and knee injuries to still make seven starts at quarterback for the Las Vegas Raiders. His 1,612 passing yards and eight touchdown passes moved O'Connell up the list of Purdue alumni NFL quarterbacks. At 3,080 career passing yards, O'Connell moved past Scott Campbell (2,983) and is now just 185 yards away from catching Mark Herrmann.

But the Raiders' coaching change to 73-year-old Pete Carroll could spell the end of O'Connell's days in Las Vegas. With minority owner Tom Brady and handpicked new general manager John Spytek (an ironic last name considering Brady's connections to the cheating Patriots), O'Connell's career statistics of 3,830 passing yards, 20 TDs and 17 starts may not increase in 2025.

(A bit of trivia: Purdue quarterback alumni have amassed 252,963 passing yards, 1,664 TD passes and 1,191 starts according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Notre Dame QBs have 178,454 NFL passing yards, 1,144 TDs and 768 starts. Southern Cal is third at 178,167 yards along with 1,015 TDs and 788 starts.)

Tyrone Tracy Jr. was voted to the 2024 All-Rookie Team by the Pro Football Writers Association. Tracy became a starter in Week 5 for the New York Giants and finished with 839 rushing yards and five touchdowns. He also caught 38 passes for

284 yards and a score.

Running back Raheem Mostert was limited to 85 carries, 124 fewer than in 2023, and finished with 278 yards and two TDs for the Miami Dolphins.

Tight end Payne Durham scored the first two touchdowns of his NFL career and completed his second pro season at Tampa Bay with 11 receptions for 115 yards.

Oft-injured defensive back Cory Trice Jr. earned his first NFL start for the Pittsburgh Steelers in the season finale against Cincinnati. His team-high 11 tackles padded his season total to 21 to go along with an interception.

Safety Sanoussi Kane completed his rookie season with the Baltimore Ravens with nine tackles in 15 games. Linebacker Jalen Graham made four tackles while mostly on special teams with San Francisco.

Although he missed nine games with an injury, Charlie Jones returned a kickoff for a touchdown and averaged 40 yards over five kickoff returns for the Cincinnati Bengals. Jones also brought back 14 punts for 99 yards.

Five Boilermaker alumni finished the 2024 season on injured reserve. Linebacker Derrick Barnes was one of several losses on the Detroit Lions defense, starting the first three games of the season before going down.

New England linebacker Ja'Whaun Bentley saw his season end after two games. A dislocated hip put Cleveland wide receiver David Bell out of action during his only game of the season. Wide receiver Rondale Moore never suited up for Atlanta after a trade from the Arizona Cardinals, suffering a leg injury during a preseason practice.

Veteran cornerback Anthony Brown's comeback attempt with Carolina ended with a preseason thumb injury.

### Where are they now?

One of the beneficiaries of Jayden Daniels' outstanding rookie season in Washington could be assistant quarterbacks coach David Blough.

The former Purdue and NFL quarterback picked the right time and place to go after retiring from a playing career with Detroit and Arizona. The Commanders' staff also includes second-year assistant defensive line coach Ryan Kerrigan, the franchise's all-time sacks leader with 95.5.

Two former Purdue assistant coaches found new homes shortly after season's end. Lou Anarumo is the new defensive coordinator for the Indianapolis Colts

following his dismissal in Cincinnati. He was defensive backs coach at Purdue from 2004 to 2011, and his pupils included Bernard Pollard and Ricardo Allen.

Terrell Williams was hired in Detroit as run game coordinator/defensive line coach. Williams' prize pupils at Purdue from 2006-09 include first-round picks Anthony Spencer and Ryan Kerrigan. Williams previously was employed at Oakland, Miami and Tennessee.

Tyron Tracy is the latest to benefit from the coaching of Joel Thomas, Giants running backs coach whose star pupils include Alvin Kamara and Mark Ingram II in New Orleans. Thomas coached at Purdue under Joe Tiller from 2006-08, during which Kory Sheets became Purdue's first 1,000-yard rusher in six seasons.

Robert Turner Jr., running backs coach for the San Francisco 49ers, has been in the NFL 27 seasons. While assistant head coach / offensive coordinator / running backs coach at Purdue from 1991 to 1994, Turner tutored all-time rushing leader Mike Alstott and 1991 Big Ten Freshman of the Year Corey Rogers.

Former players on NFL staffs include Jeff Zgonina (Dallas), Steve Jackson (Tennessee) and Nick Hardwick (Los Angeles Chargers).

### Noteworthy

Zach Edey is among the selections to play in the NBA Rising Stars series on Feb. 14 as part of All-Star Weekend in San Francisco.

The Memphis Grizzlies rookie center is averaging 9.6 points, 7.5 rebounds and 1.2 blocked shots in just under 21 minutes a game. His rebound average ranks second among rookies, his blocks are fourth and Edey is fifth in scoring average for rookies.

Starting 26 of the Grizzlies' 33 games so far, Edey is shooting 58 percent from the field and nearly 39 percent from 3-point range.

\*\*\*

**THE ATHLETIC** hangs another loss on the Purdue football program, placing the Boilermakers at the top of its transfer portal losers list.

How can a 1-11 team be criticized for bidding farewell to 32 players off one of the worst Purdue teams in my lifetime? Author Manny Navarro cites the 287 combined starts lost leads all Power 4 programs. Lost in that argument is that someone had to fill the 11-man starting lineups on offense and defense. That doesn't mean every player was competent at their job.

\*\*\*

**THE ATHLETIC** was much more positive

about Purdue junior point guard Braden Smith, selecting him to the Midseason All-America first team.

Author Brendan Marks credits the former Westfield star with Purdue's ability to win in the post-Zach Edey era.

"The spotlight in West Lafayette is firmly on Smith, and thus far he's proven more than capable of keeping the Boilermakers in contention," Marks writes. "Obviously much of that stems from his ballhandling and passing – Smith is tops nationally in assist rate, per KenPom – but Smith has also grown as a scorer."

Smith is second behind Trey Kaufman-Renn in scoring at 15.4 points per game. That is more than three points better than his sophomore year average. Smith's 8.9 assists per game is well ahead of his Big Ten record pace a year ago.

"Look no further than the 24 points he had in a 27-point blowout over Michigan on Friday – his sixth 20-point effort this season, or more than he had in his first two seasons combined," Marks writes. "Between that and his pesky on-ball defense – Smith has more games (9) with three-plus steals than games with one or no steals (6) – the 6-footer has been arguably the best point guard in the nation."

Maybe it's just coincidence but when Smith has recorded a double-double, as he did against Michigan, Purdue is 17-0.

Joining Smith on The Athletic's All-America first team is Duke freshman forward Cooper Flagg, Auburn center Johni Broome, Marquette guard Kam Jones and Memphis guard PJ Haggerty.

*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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# ↓ TIM From Page A1

And that's the way it should be. C'mon, can't we agree on that?

Oh, the other thing that has the left up in arms? Braun telling state employees they have to return to their jobs by July 1. Or in other words, no more remote working.

Let's think about that for a second. A lot of folks were allowed to work from home during COVID. Made sense then. But COVID is no longer what it was and the state has more than 10,000 workers who are still not reporting in person. Braun, that heartless tyrant, is now demanding they return to work! And he gave them a ticking clock to do so! Almost six months!

The audacity!

This, dear friends, illustrates one of the problems we have in our world today. The rules in government – and let's be clear, the government that would have no money without our taxes – have been very different from what us chumps in the private sector have. From less than 40 hour work weeks to very, very attractive benefit plans, a government job is often a lot cushier than the clock you and I are punching.

Braun, with his executive order, is at least adding some accountability and more common-sense standards to taxpayer-supported jobs.

It's way too early to say what kind of governor the man from Jasper will be. But this is not a bad start.

\*\*\*  
**WHILE ON** the subject, have you noticed how some Democrats and much of the national (and state) media haven't got the memo that more than 77 million Americans voted for Donald Trump?

I'm not smart enough to know if that number qualifies as a mandate, but I do know that when almost all the swing states went red instead of blue it signaled loud and clear that a lot of this country had had enough.

Yet listen to the TV news, or the hired hands in Congress and a lot of them are still singing the same song. A U.S. president and vice president lost their jobs over this. So have some of the members of the media. You would think others would learn . . . but apparently not.

\*\*\*  
**DID YOU** know that every Indiana county (except Marion) is preparing to conduct an annual count of the homeless tonight and tomorrow? According to the Indiana Housing & Community Development

Authority, the purpose is to provide an easy-to understand data point that helps state and local leaders measure progress toward ending homelessness and helps plan services and programs to appropriately address local needs.

So how is it handled here in Montgomery County? Macy Simmons, the director of addictions and recovery support services for Integrative Wellness, told The Paper that volunteers begin tonight and wrap up tomorrow. They check with shelters, warming centers and then, sadly, will check tomorrow at places homeless might be found.

The info is then compiled and passed to the IHCD and is used in various things like HUD vouchers and such.

As our pal Honest Hoosier might say, here's a big tip of the seed corn cap to Simmons and all the volunteers who take on this task! (And thanks to county administrator Tom Klein and county health department administrator Adrienne Northcutt for their help on learning how this works.)

\*\*\*  
**THANKS ALSO TO** many of you who reached out via email and texts on Biden's last day in office. Most were outraged with his last-second pardons and asked if I was going to write something. One that made me laugh out loud said there was enough material there to give me three months' worth of columns. It'd be even funnier if it wasn't so true.

\*\*\*  
**LAST NOTE:** Today is Jan. 29, which means in 48 hours the calendar flips to February – truly a month that can be as cold as a witch's heart. However, it also is one more step toward spring. For those who hate the cold as much as me, take heart. T-minus 50 days until the vernal equinox!

\*\*\*  
**OK, BE** honest. How many of you knew that Fred Allen was the host of Texaco Star Theater? What started as the most popular radio show in the country, turned into a hugely popular TV show. It actually was where Milton Berle got the nickname Mr. Television. Texaco Star Theater was on the radio from 1938-49 and on TV from 1948-56.

*Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically on Wednesdays in The Paper. Timmons is the publisher of The Paper and can be contacted at ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com.*

# Back in the Day with Butch Dale



Snow storms can cause many headaches, but ice storms are even worse because they frequently cause power outages. Shown above is the after-effects of an ice storm from the 1930s here in Montgomery County.

# Sen. Deery Shares Update



**SPENCER DEERY**  
Guest Columnist

Crafting a state budget is a difficult and complicated process because lawmakers must

balance many different priorities.

Historically, K-12 education has represented the biggest share of our state's General Fund spending. However, in recent years, Indiana's Medicaid spending has grown at a concerning rate, and it is eating away at the amount of funding we can give other priorities like education.

Medicaid is an important resource for some Hoosiers, but in order to ensure those who need it most can continue to use it, we must make changes to the program.

That's why Senate Republicans are prioritizing Senate Bill 2 this year, which would help control Medicaid spending by ensuring only those eligible can get benefits.

While it doesn't solve everything, this bill is an important step toward better fiscal management of Medicaid.

If you have thoughts on these or other issues, I encourage you to take my 2025 constituent survey and provide your feedback in the comment section.

### \*\*\* LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Some of my bills have moved through the legislative process. Here is a quick update:

- Senate Bill 121 would protect our rivers from destructive net fishing practices stemming from our country's failed immigration policies. It passed the Senate Committee on Natural Resources last week with bipartisan support and is currently on second reading in the Senate. This video filmed by a Montgomery County constituent shows the problem I am trying to solve.

- Senate Bill 255 would help our schools recruit more qualified STEM teachers and require schools to change their policies on bullying investigations to prioritize parental rights. It unanimously passed the Senate Committee on Education and Career Development Wednesday.



### \*\*\* STATEHOUSE Conversations

Last week, I had the honor of meeting with Indiana Lawmakers host Jon Schwantes to appear in this year's Statehouse Conversations.

During our conversation, I spoke with Jon about my priorities for the 2025 session. This conversation was a great insight into how our government functions.

### \*\*\* SENATE DISTRICT 23 INDOT Update

Flagging operations will occur along U.S. 136


between Hillsboro and Waynetown over Hannah Creek for bridge maintenance.

This work is expected to last though mid-May.

As always, I encourage motorists driving through construction zones to use caution so everyone return home safely.

*State Sen. Spencer Deery (R-West Lafayette) represents Senate District 23, which includes Fountain, Parke, Vermillion and Warren counties, and portions of Montgomery and Tippecanoe counties.*

# CASEY WILLIAMS



**Nobody but noooooobody gives you a better inside scoop on new cars than Casey Williams. Each week Casey puts you behind the wheel and gives you the lowdown on the latest out of Detroit, or other places! If you drive a car, this is a must read!**

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Montgomery County Board of Zoning Appeals  
Notice of Public Hearing to Consider Variance to the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance**

Notice is hereby given the Montgomery County Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 11:00 am to consider a Variance, to the bulk standards, from the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance. The meeting will be held in the Montgomery County Government Center Community Room, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

The proposed Variance (ZV2502), to the bulk standards, in the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 159 of Montgomery County Code. The request is for variance from the one-acre requirement on a Residential property. The petitioner requests a reduction to .689 of an acre.

Parcel – 54-11-26-333-001.000-025

Citizens appearing at the public hearing will have an opportunity to provide comments concerning the proposed variance. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend. The Board of Zoning Appeals may continue the hearing from time to time as may be found necessary. Citizens may file written comments or objections with Marc Bonwell, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933 (marc.bonwell@montgomerycounty.in.gov) prior to the public hearing. All such written objections will be considered by the Board of Zoning Appeals. A copy of the proposed Variance is on file and may be examined at the Montgomery County Building and Zoning Department office at 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933 (765-364-6490), office hours are 8:00-4:30 weekdays except holidays.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if anyone intending to attend the public hearing needs reasonable accommodation, please contact the Montgomery County Commissioners Office, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, 765-361-2623

This notice dated January 24,2025  
Marc Bonwell,  
Building/Zoning Administrator  
Montgomery County, IN  
*PL5028 1/29 1t hspaxlp*

**Montgomery County Board of Zoning Appeals  
Notice of Public Hearing to Consider Variance to the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance**

Notice is hereby given the Montgomery County Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 11:00 am to consider a Variance, to the Use standards, from the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance. The meeting will be held in the Montgomery County Government Center Community Room, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

The proposed Variance (ZV2503), to the Use standards, in the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 159 of Montgomery County Code. The request is for variance from current Ag zoned property to allow Commercial Use

Parcel – 54-02-05-700-006-005-016

Citizens appearing at the public hearing will have an opportunity to provide comments concerning the proposed variance. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend. The Board of Zoning Appeals may continue the hearing from time to time as may be found necessary. Citizens may file written comments or objections with Marc Bonwell, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933 (marc.bonwell@montgomerycounty.in.gov) prior to the public hearing. All such written objections will be considered by the Board of Zoning Appeals. A copy of the proposed Variance is on file and may be examined at the Montgomery County Building and Zoning Department office at 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933 (765-364-6490), office hours are 8:00-4:30 weekdays except holidays.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if anyone intending to attend the public hearing needs reasonable accommodation, please contact the Montgomery County Commissioners Office, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, 765-361-2623

This notice dated January 24,2025  
Marc Bonwell,  
Building/Zoning Administrator  
Montgomery County, IN  
*PL5029 1/29 1t hspaxlp*

**Montgomery County Board of Zoning Appeals  
Notice of Public Hearing to Consider Variance to the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance**

Notice is hereby given the Montgomery County Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 11:00 am to consider a Variance, to the development standards, of the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance. The meeting will be held in the Montgomery County Government Center Community Room, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

The proposed Variances (ZV2504 lot #1, ZV2505 lot #2), to the development standards, in the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 159 of Montgomery County Code. The request is for variance from the 1-acre requirement on lots 1 (.57 of an acre) and 2 (.72 of an acre) of Country Estates subdivision.

Parcel – 54-11-25-333-001.000-025

Citizens appearing at the public hearing will have an opportunity to provide comments concerning the proposed variance. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend. The Board of Zoning Appeals may continue the hearing from time to time as may be found necessary. Citizens may file written comments or objections with Marc Bonwell, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933 (marc.bonwell@montgomerycounty.in.gov) prior to the public hearing. All such written objections will be considered by the Board of Zoning Appeals. A copy of the proposed Variance is on file and may be examined at the Montgomery County Building and Zoning Department office at 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933 (765-364-6490), office hours are 8:00-4:30 weekdays except holidays.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if anyone intending to attend the public hearing needs reasonable accommodation, please contact the Montgomery County Commissioners Office, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, 765-361-2623

This notice dated January 24,2025  
Marc Bonwell,  
Building/Zoning Administrator  
Montgomery County, IN  
*PL5030 1/29 1t hspaxlp*

**Montgomery County Board of Zoning Appeals  
Notice of Public Hearing to Consider Variance to the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance**

Notice is hereby given the Montgomery County Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 11:00 am to consider a Variance, to the bulk standards, from the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance. The meeting will be held in the Montgomery County Government Center Community Room, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

The proposed Variance (ZV2506), to the bulk standards, in the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 159 of Montgomery County Code. The request is for variance from the one-acre requirement on a Residential property. The petitioner requests a reduction to .9 of an acre.

Parcel – 54-11-12-221-004.000-025

Citizens appearing at the public hearing will have an opportunity to provide comments concerning the proposed variance. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend. The Board of Zoning Appeals may continue the hearing from time to time as may be found necessary. Citizens may file written comments or objections with Marc Bonwell, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933 (marc.bonwell@montgomerycounty.in.gov) prior to the public hearing. All such written objections will be considered by the Board of Zoning Appeals. A copy of the proposed Variance is on file and may be examined at the Montgomery County Building and Zoning Department office at 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933 (765-364-6490), office hours are 8:00-4:30 weekdays except holidays.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if anyone intending to attend the public hearing needs reasonable accommodation, please contact the Montgomery County Commissioners Office, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, 765-361-2623

This notice dated January 24,2025  
Marc Bonwell,  
Building/Zoning Administrator  
Montgomery County, IN  
*PL5031 1/29 1t hspaxlp*

**Montgomery County Plan Commission  
Notice of Public Hearing to consider a Development Plan for a Property in Montgomery County**

The Montgomery County Plan Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 1:00 pm to consider a Development Plan of a property in Montgomery County. The meeting will be held in the Community Room of the Montgomery County Government Center, 1580 Constitution Row CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN 47933

Petitioner: Plevna Implement

Purpose of Request- Plevna Implement

Review of Development Plan of a Agricultural Sales Business

Location: 50 E 800 N, Crawfordsville, IN 47933

DPR2025-1

Citizens appearing at the public hearing will have an opportunity to provide comments concerning the proposed Plan. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend. The Montgomery County Plan Commission may continue the hearing from time to time as may be found necessary. Citizens may file written comments or objections with Montgomery County Building/ Zoning Administration ATTN: Marc Bonwell, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933 or by email at (marc.bonwell@montgomerycounty.in.gov) prior to the public hearing. All such written objections will be considered by the Plan Commission. A copy of the proposed Plan is on file and may be examined at the Montgomery County Building and Zoning Administration office at 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933 (765-364-6490), office hours are 8:00-4:30 weekdays except holidays.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if anyone intending to attend the public hearing needs reasonable accommodation, please contact the Montgomery County Commissioners Office, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, 765-361-2623

This notice dated January 24,2025  
Marc Bonwell,  
Building/Zoning Administrator  
Montgomery County, IN  
*PL5032 1/29 1t hspaxlp*

**Montgomery County Plan Commission  
Notice of Public Hearing to consider a Development Plan for a Property in Montgomery County**

The Montgomery County Plan Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 1:00 pm to consider a Development Plan of a property in Montgomery County. The meeting will be held in the Community Room of the Montgomery County Government Center, 1580 Constitution Row CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN 47933

Petitioner: Samuel King

Purpose of Request- Beaver Lake Cabins

Review of Development Plan of a Commercial Business

Location: 8150 W 1050 S, Waveland, IN 47989

DPR2025-2

Citizens appearing at the public hearing will have an opportunity to provide comments concerning the proposed Plan. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend. The Montgomery County Plan Commission may continue the hearing from time to time as may be found necessary. Citizens may file written comments or objections with Montgomery County Building/ Zoning Administration ATTN: Marc Bonwell, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933 or by email at (marc.bonwell@montgomerycounty.in.gov) prior to the public hearing. All such written objections will be considered by the Plan Commission. A copy of the proposed Plan is on file and may be examined at the Montgomery County Building and Zoning Administration office at 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933 (765-364-6490), office hours are 8:00-4:30 weekdays except holidays.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if anyone intending to attend the public hearing needs reasonable accommodation, please contact the Montgomery County Commissioners Office, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, 765-361-2623

This notice dated January 24,2025  
Marc Bonwell,  
Building/Zoning Administrator  
Montgomery County, IN  
*PL5033 1/29 1t hspaxlp*

**NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given the Taxpayers of Montgomery County, Indiana, that the proper legal officers of Montgomery County will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the 2025 Budget Order from the DLGF at the regular Council meeting on February 11, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Community Meeting Room, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:						
Fund	Fund Description	Dept #	Department Description	Account	Account Description	Additional Amount
1170	LIT Public Safety	0005	Sheriff	11938	Deputy TW	\$1,339.00
1170	LIT Public Safety	0005	Sheriff	11205	Chief Deputy	\$1,339.00
4975	K-9 Gift Fund	0005	Sheriff	24202	Supplies	\$1,200.00
1000	County General	0007	Coroner	11168	PT	\$3,000.00
1191	Riverboat	0068	Commissioners	12020	INRPS	\$64,277.84
1191	Riverboat	0068	Commissioners	12054	Hoosier Start 401a	\$14,989.70
1000	County General	0380	Jail	11498	Corporal Salary	\$2,226.34
1000	County General	0380	Jail	11328	Corporal Salary	\$2,226.34

The additional appropriations as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). The DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action taken.

This will be considered a work session for the Board of Commissioners in conjunction with the scheduled Council meeting.

Dated this 01/29/2025  
Mindy Byers  
Auditor, Montgomery County  
*PL5033 1/29 1t hspaxlp*

## Deery Bill on STEM, Bullying Clears Senate

A bipartisan bill authored by State Sen. Spencer Deery (R-West Lafayette) that would make it easier for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) graduates to earn teaching licenses passed the Senate unanimously.

Senate Bill 255 would create pathways for college graduates with STEM degrees to obtain a teaching certificate if they pass a subject matter test, complete nine specific education credits and gain field experience in the classroom.

In 2022-23, the state

issued just 17 new teaching licenses in chemistry, 15 in physical science and five in engineering.

This has led to districts across Indiana filling classrooms with individuals who lack adequate classroom training. For example, the state issued 412% more emergency permits in these areas than new licenses.

SB 255 would also prioritize parental communication in bullying investigations in Hoosier schools.

"While I have worked to strengthen our laws to

prevent bullying in schools, I know that there is more that needs done so all students feel safe at school," Deery said. "Parents have the right to know if their child is part of a bullying incident, whether that child is the victim or perpetrator, so they know what is going on during the school day and can ensure their child's safety."

The bill would require districts make a reasonable effort to notify parents by the end of a calendar day if their child is the subject of a bullying investigation.

SB 255 now moves to the Indiana House of Representatives for further consideration.

Deery represents Senate District 23, which includes Montgomery, Fountain, Parke, Vermillion, Warren and Tippecanoe counties. He encourages residents to contact him with any questions or comments they may have. Deery can be reached by filling out a "Contact Me" form online at [www.IndianaSenatorRpublicans.com/](http://www.IndianaSenatorRpublicans.com/) Deery or by phone at (800) 382-9467.

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