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TODAY'S VERSE

Isaiah 30:21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Meet Kiki



Kiki

Kiki is a STUNNING GORGEOUS 3 year old female black/white tuxedo domestic shorthair cat available for adoption from AWL since 11/30/24.

Kiki is a LOVER that will gladly keep your lap nice and warm all winter long! Kiki is ready to find her furrrever home! DID YOU KNOW? Black cats and black and white cats are the LEAST ADOPTED cats in shelters. AWL is LOADED with cuddly cats right MEOW!! AWL is open Monday - Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p. Come say hi, snuggle cats, walk dogs, or lend a helping hand!



This deep thought came from a reader - thanks, kindly! The same water that boils and softens the potato hardens the egg. It's about what you are made of, not what's around you.

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Boomer Bits



Ask Rusty - About Social Security Benefits for Someone with Multiple Ex-spouses



ASK Rusty Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

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Dear Rusty:

If a financially well-off individual had multiple ex-spouses, could it happen that the multiple ex-spouses could each be collecting Social Security based on their own financial situation as compared to their rich ex-spouses? Thus, multiple payouts by SS? Just curious, because there are probably many people in this situation as a result of the ever-increasing number of people involved in multiple marriages that each lasted more than ten years.

Signed: Curious Ex-Spouse

Dear Curious Ex-Spouse:

A former spouse can only collect one SS benefit - either their own SS retirement amount, or an amount as an ex-spouse if the marriage lasted 10 years or more. And it is possible for multiple ex-

spouses of a marriage to the same person to qualify for benefits from those unions, if each marriage lasted at least 10 years. But each ex-spouse can only qualify for one benefit payment - either their own earned SS benefit, or their benefit as an ex-spouse. In other words, someone with two (or more) ex-spouses might have their ex's collecting full benefits on their record, provided that each marriage lasted at least 10 years. But an ex-spouse can only get one benefit - their own SS retirement amount or an ex-spouse amount - whichever is higher).

It's possible, also, that an ex-spouse can collect benefits from a former spouse at the same time as a current spouse is also collecting spouse

➔ See RUSTY Page A3

Top Scams to Watch Out for This Tax Season

(StatePoint) The days of filing paper tax returns are gone, and criminals are taking advantage. With taxpayers managing their sensitive information online, thieves are finding new ways to scam victims. In 2023 alone, the IRS reported \$5.5 billion lost to tax fraud schemes. And the increased prevalence of artificial intelligence means tax scams this year will likely be more sophisticated than ever.

Scammers have an arsenal of weapons, but no matter their tactics, the goal is the same - to have you give them money or access to it. Here are scams to look out for this tax season:

Tax avoidance scams. These scams often promise rewards too good to be true. Scammers claim to have specialized knowledge on exploiting loopholes to avoid taxes or maximize returns. High-income filers are heavily targeted through offers of seemingly legitimate annuities or tax shelters.

Refund scams. In this scam, a criminal will claim to be someone official notifying of an unclaimed or incorrectly

➔ See SCAMS Page A3

4 Indiana Destinations Voted Among Best for Senior Travel

As we age, our travel habits and preferences often evolve, with international trips becoming less appealing due to mobility challenges, health concerns, and logistical difficulties. Fortunately, the U.S. is home to an incredible array of winter getaway destinations, catering to every type of traveler, including four spots right here in the great Hoosier State.

The four, Nashville, French Lick, Plymouth and Madison, emerged among the most recommended for senior travel. Nashville was voted No. 85. Known as Indiana's artist colony, Nashville offers a variety of accessible attractions for seniors. Winter brings opportunities to explore art galleries, enjoy boutique shopping, and take scenic drives through snow-covered Brown County State Park. The town's welcoming community and nearby healthcare facilities make it an ideal destination for relaxation and inspiration.

French Lick came in nationally at No. 159. Known for its historic mineral springs, French Lick is a relaxing destination for seniors, even in winter. Accessible spa facilities, the famous French Lick Resort, and nearby attractions like the West Baden Springs Hotel provide rejuvenation and entertainment. Proximity to medical care adds to the town's appeal.

Plymouth, in northern Indiana was 176th. This quiet town is perfect for seniors looking to unwind during the winter months. Accessible attractions include Centennial Park and the Marshall County Historical Society Museum, providing engaging indoor experiences. The town's strong senior services and medical facilities ensure comfort and convenience.

And at No. 211 was Madison. This historic river town combines charm and accessibility, featuring a flat downtown area with antique shops, cozy restaurants, and scenic river views. In winter, seniors can explore gentle trails in Clifty Falls State Park or enjoy indoor attractions. Excellent medical care ensures a safe and enjoyable visit.

➔ See BEST Page A6

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you're over 60, talk to your doctor about getting a shot to prevent shingles.

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



THREE THINGS You Should Know

1 Today marks the 24th National Wear Red Day to raise awareness about heart disease. Wear Red Day is always the first Friday in February, which is American Heart Month. By wearing red, we raise awareness that heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, responsible for 1 in 3 deaths. We also raise awareness that a majority of cardiac events may be prevented with healthy lifestyle choices.

2 Gov. Mike Braun hosted a fireside chat this week to discuss the impact that skyrocketing property taxes have had on Hoosiers. "I want to thank Mark Gross and Jennie Reith for taking time out of their day to talk with me today about how property taxes are impacting their daily lives. Households across Indiana have seen their property taxes increase, some by double. Senate Bill 1 on property tax relief had its first hearing in committee and many Hoosiers showed up to express their support. This bill will cut property taxes, cap future increases, and reform the tax system. I encourage taxpayers to reach out to their legislators to express their concerns about property taxes and the need for relief." Hoosiers can contact their legislators by following this link: <https://iga.in.gov/information/find-legislators>

3 Launching a new business after high school or college is always a challenge, but it doesn't have to feel daunting - many cities across the country offer support and an ideal working environment for young entrepreneurs and SEO experts Search Logistics <<https://www.searchlogistics.com/>> investigated the 50 most populated U.S. cities to identify the best locations for young entrepreneurs with Indianapolis coming in third. This was determined by analyzing co-working affordability, wage data, internet infrastructure, tax data, cost of living, and personal income. Jacksonville, Fla. was tops, followed by Tampa. In third was Indianapolis. The city performed well among the cost of living factors, producing a score of 95.98 out of 100.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us."

Helen Keller

TODAY'S JOKE

Where do Boomers go on a Valentine's Day date? Lunch, and then a good nap!

MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Montgomery County Treasurer Heather Laffoon was part of a roundtable of government leaders who met with Indiana State Comptroller Elise Nieshalla and discussed automating data inputs, reviewing and approving the settlement process, addressing future training needs and cybersecurity assistance to mitigate security and fraud risks.

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

Environment Grants Available Through Indiana American Water



Photo courtesy Indiana American Water

Last year, Friends of Sugar Creek in Crawfordsville used the American Water Charitable Foundation's Environmental Grant to promote its "Adopt a Storm Drain" conservation program. "Friends" Executive Director Cindy Woodhall and board member Randy Wheeler pose near a recently adopted storm drain.

About Indiana American Water

Indiana American Water, a subsidiary of American Water is the largest regulated water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and wastewater services to approximately 1.5 million people.

Indiana American Water is thrilled to announce the launch of the American Water Charitable Foundation 2025 Water and Environment Grant Program. The Foundation invites community partners to apply for grants that promote clean water, conservation, environmental education, climate variability and water-based recreation projects.

In 2024, the American Water Charitable Foundation awarded a combined total of \$1 million to 59 organizations in 11 states, supporting organizations located in communities served by American Water.

Last year in Indiana, Friends of Sugar Creek in Crawfordsville requested funding to help promote their community-wide water quality program titled, "MOCO Adopt a Storm Drain." The program seeks to engage community members to continuously monitor, and clear storm drains from litter, yard waste, and other debris. Clearing street drains reduces pollution that enter waterways like nearby Sugar Creek. Cindy Woodhall, Executive Director, Friends of Sugar Creek said, "Our MoCo Adopt a Storm Drain is a volunteer program that encourages the community residents to pledge 15 minutes

twice a month to ensure a cleaner watershed and a healthier Sugar Creek."

"The American Water Charitable Foundation is proud to work collaboratively Indiana American Water and launch the Water and Environment Grant Program, supporting impactful initiatives and programs across the nation," said Carrie Williams, President of the American Water Charitable Foundation. "Our charitable focus to Keep Communities Flowing empowers communities to learn how every drop counts while engaging local organizations on the importance of protecting this vital resource."

The Foundation supports three pillars of giving: Water, People and Communities. Since 2012, the American Water Charitable Foundation has invested over \$20 million in funding through grants and matching gifts that positively benefit the communities where American Water and its employees live and work.

Learn more about the American Water Charitable Foundation, eligibility and how to apply at <https://www.amwater.com/corp/Customers-and-Communities/American-Water-Charitable-Foundation/apply-for-a-grant>

Extension Office: Avian Flu is Back



TRICIA HERR
 Guest Columnist

There is a lot of news to keep up on recently, almost overwhelmingly so. For those who own chickens or other poultry, the news that Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H1N5 has been reported in Indiana has likely hit your eyes and ears. On Jan. 4, the Indiana State Board of Animal Health sent out updates of a confirmed case in Indiana, in Jay County. The last reported positive case of HPAI before then was in February 2024.

Since the Jan. 4 case in Jay County, there has been two more cases in Jay County and cases in Jackson, Shelby, Adams and Allen counties. There also have been cases in 2025 reported in our neighboring states of Ohio, Illinois and Michigan.

Why do outbreaks of Avian Flu in those counties matter to us in Montgomery County? HPAI is a financial and management risk to farms and hobbyists across the state. These outbreaks stand as good reminder and call to action to make sure we are protecting ourselves and our poultry. According to the 2022 Montgomery County Ag Census, Montgomery County had over \$5,600,000 in eggs and poultry sales. According to the Indiana BOAH, "nationally, Indiana ranks first in the production of ducks, third in eggs, third in turkeys, and overall is a significant producer of broilers."

What to know about HPAI?

HPAI is a highly infectious and fatal form of avian influenza that can strike poultry without warning. Although most avian influenza viruses are classified as low pathogenic and cause mild or no symptoms, some LPAI strains can mutate into HPAI viruses. Wild migratory waterfowl are considered the natural reservoir for these viruses. HPAI can cause sudden death in birds without warning. Other clinical signs include lack of energy and appetite, decreased egg production or deformed egg production (deformed shaped or weak shells), swelling of the head and or eyelids, nasal discharge, coughing or sneezing, overall incoordination and diarrhea.

If you notice any of these signs in your flock, immediately contact the USDA APHIS at (866) 536-

7593 for assistance and further steps. Visit in.gov/boah/ for more info.

Poultry Owners

How to protect yourself and your birds? Register your premise with the *Premises Identification Program* so that if a case were to occur here in our county, you would be contacted if your birds were located within the a certain radius of the initial case for monitoring.

Indiana state law requires premise identification for all sites associated with the purchase, sale or exhibition of the following species: cattle, swine, sheep, goats and cervids. Equine and poultry sites may be registered on a voluntary basis.

Practice good biosecurity and good sanitation. Limiting who interacts with your birds, prevent wild / migratory bird interactions, clean and disinfect your feeders and watering equipment, cleaning and disinfecting your personal equipment (shoes and boots), and avoid borrowing or sharing with other farms with birds.

Impact to Consumers

Eggs (and milk) are being tested at processing facilities before going to market. Fully cooked eggs and pasteurized milk are safe to consume. Runny eggs are not fully cooked! (Cattle can also contract HPAI and the virus has been found in raw milk.)

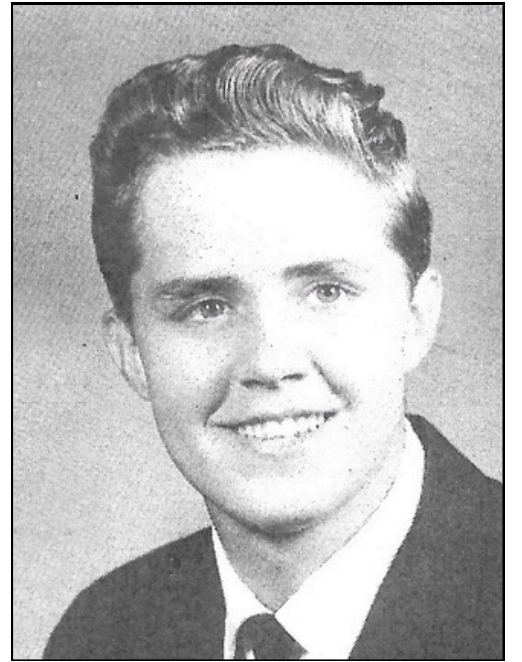
Egg prices are up, and will likely not come down until outbreaks are managed across the Midwest and the markets have settled.

Upcoming Extension Events:

Steps To a Healthy You: "Learn practical guidelines to a healthier lifestyle and making the Mediterranean diet approachable and achievable." – Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m. from Feb. 19 through March 19 at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds Bi-State Homesteading Conference: Local Food Panel, Beekeeping, & Backyard Poultry – Feb. 18 at The Beef House in Covington, 10:30-2:30 p.m. eastern time. If you would like more information on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza or the upcoming Extension Events, contact Tricia Herr at the Purdue Extension office (765) 364-6363 or triciaherr@purdue.edu. You can also go Indiana BOAH website, <https://www.in.gov/boah/>.

Tricia Herr is an Extension Educator / Agriculture & Natural Resources for Purdue Extension Montgomery County Office

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do You Recognize This 1967 Waynetown H.S. Grad?

HINT: He was active in many sports and clubs, and enjoyed participating in county and state vocal contests.

Answer on Page A3

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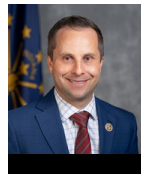
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Deery Talks About Proposed Water Protection



SPENCER DEERY
Guest Columnist

State Sen. Spencer Deery (R-West Lafayette), who represents Senate District 23, which includes portions of Montgomery and Tippecanoe counties and all of Fountain, Parke, Vermillion and Warren counties, shared his reaction after Senate Bill 4 was voted on.

"I have long suspected that the first legislation we would pass to expand water protections in our state would not accomplish everything I, or our community, wanted. That is certainly the case with Senate Bill 4. However, my committee amendments significantly improved the bill. Under these changes, if an entity attempts to build a pipeline from Tippecanoe County to the LEAP district in Boone County, or any other distant location, the project would need to be studied and evaluated against the public interest.

The flow of water would

be capped, and the permit could be revoked if its terms were not followed. These were meaningful wins, but their impact was initially limited because they only applied to pipelines with a capacity exceeding 30 million gallons a day. I am grateful to the chairman of the Senate Committee on Utilities and my colleagues for hearing my argument that it made no sense to establish a regulatory framework and then apply it only to such large pipelines. The amendment I presented on the floor Monday, which was approved by the Senate, reduced the trigger threshold threefold to 10 million gallons a day, which is the amount I advocated for last year. With these changes to the bill, I decided to vote in favor of the legislation."

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.

↓ RUSTY From Page A1

benefits on the same record. And there is no detriment to either's amount because multiple spouses or ex-spouses are collecting on a one person's SS record (Social Security is, after all, a means for spouses, or ex-spouses, to avoid poverty). However, an ex-spouse's own SS retirement benefit (from their personal lifetime work record) must be less than any ex-spouse benefit they are entitled to from a former spouse. Essentially, if the "10-years-married" rule is satisfied, ex-spouses are subject to the same benefit rules as a current spouse.

You are correct that we see some cases like this these days, but each

eligible ex-spouse can only get one benefit, and their ex-spouse benefit is always offset by any personal SS retirement benefit the ex-spouse may also be entitled to on their own lifetime work record.

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.

↓ SCAMS From Page A1

calculated refund, prompting the victim to share information – and possibly bank account numbers – to claim it.

Violation scams. This is a fear-based scam, where the criminal poses as an IRS official threatening some punitive action, claiming the victim committed a violation and needs to contact them to resolve the situation.

Filing support scams. Similar to tech support scams, criminals offer to help create IRS accounts to assist with the online filing process. Frequently posing as tax preparers, scammers will go through the motions of gathering the victim's personal information for tax forms they never intend to file.

Social media scams. Social media serves as a great place for criminals to find potential victims and carry out tax scams, fraudulently claiming to offer different types of services or possessing unique knowledge or access.

Recovery scams. Once a victim is scammed, criminals will try to strike again – believing the victim is gullible. Exploiting a time of vulnerability, they'll contact the victim with promises of helping them recover their losses and will leverage this as an opening to commit additional crimes.

While it is not always easy to pick out a scam, here are indicators to watch for:

- Promise of a big payout. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

- Request for your account information. The IRS will never ask for your credit or debit account information over the phone.

- Random contact. The IRS contacts taxpayers by mail first and will never contact via random phone calls or digital means. The IRS will not leave prerecorded, urgent, or threatening voicemails.

- Demands or threats. The IRS can't revoke your driver's license, business licenses or immigration status and cannot threaten to immediately bring in local law enforcement. Taxpayers are allowed an appeals process, so any message of "now or else" won't come from an official channel.

- Request for you to click a weblink. Odd or misspelled web links can take you to harmful sites instead of IRS.gov.

The IRS recommends these best practices to protect against tax fraud:

- Get an early start. File early so criminals have less time to impersonate you.

- Set up a verified account. Set up your own IRS account before someone else can and use an Identity Protection PIN – a six-digit number known only to you and the IRS.

- Wait for written notice. Do not respond to any supposed communications from the IRS if you haven't first received official notification through U.S. mail. If you get a call from someone claiming to be the IRS, hang up and call the official number on the website before engaging. Further, never click a link sent digitally as initial contact.

Apply good cyber hygiene. Do not use public Wi-Fi when filing your tax returns. Do use strong passwords, secured network connections and multi-factor authentication. Run all software updates and keep systems current.

If you fall victim to a tax scam, report it to the IRS. For more scam protection tips, visit PNC's Security & Privacy Center at pnc.com.

One wrong click can cause tremendous damage that ends up earning bad guys a windfall. However, a little caution can go a long way in helping you avoid a costly tax scam.

Southmont Junior High School Honor Roll 2024-2025 School Year Semester 1

Grade 6 S1 High Honor Roll: August Ashment, Catherine Barry, Mila Barsotti, Jaylin Burgess, Aaleeah Carrell, Karsyn Charles, Walker Cleek, Brooklyn Earlywine, Addilynn Edwards, Joslynn Gray, Calvin Hauser, Jolene Kappel, Hillary McCandless, Elouise McGaughy, Carter Scott, Harrison Simmons, Gage Tatman, Oliver Woods.

Grade 6 S1 Regular Honor Roll: Hunter Bonebrake, William Boots, Phoebe Buckler, Kaitlyn Burkhardt, Lillian Casto, Arthur Cohee, Jett Cummins, Dale Hunter, Elizabeth Deckard, Kady Dowell, Jackson Duke, Adalyn England, Ava Eubanks, Annalyse Fenton, Thomas Fishero, Ruger Foster, Kaylee Fox, Tori Frazier, Ryder Fruits, Ryan Gilliland, Chloe Gurule, Avari Hammers, Aiyanna Haslam, Hadley Hedge, Haven Hernandez, Raylan, Hester, Jacey Hoenshell, Adalyn Hood, Jeffrey Hopkins, Christian Jimenez, Presley Lesko, Karter Maddock, Kavika McQueen, Charlie Moore, Kinley Murphy, Hailey Nelson, Kinley Pickett, Kinzie Price, Rachel Reimondo, Sully Roark, Logan Rosenbaum, Lainey Sheldon, Hope Smith, Madeline Stephenson, Tregan Sutton, Wyatt Testerman, Rayleigh Thomas, Angel Waddell, Eli Wethington, James Williams, Arian Williamson, Brylee Winningham.

Grade 7 S1 High Honor Roll: Grant Albertson, Ivy Arthur, Ailise Bradshaw, Abigail Brown, Hudson Bruton, Braylyn Burkholder, Brolin Burris, Harper Cornelius, Jack Cripe, Lillia Dawson, Elijah Endicott, Calista Hale, Carter Harshbarger, Braycen high, Lorelei Hoskins, Kailyn Howard, Carter Kessler, Amarah Kiger, Allison Largent, Emery Light, Keegan Light, Luke Light, Tracy Long, Branson Mack, Emily Needham, Ryder Newkirk, Harmony Norton, Marilyn Prado, Addison Presley, Hallie Rhoads, Sequoya Roark, Isabella, Roberts, Taylor Sering, Judah Smith, Kobyn Stadler, McKinzie Stoner, Jordanna Troutman, Kenzie Turner, Ezra VerBryck, Noah White, Kendall Willhite.

Grade 7 S1 Regular Honor Roll: Delilah Amstutz, Addison Anglin, Hudson Beach, Drake Breen, Dallas Brown, Adalynn Burris, Jayden Carson, Maddox Clark, Shawn Covault, Alexander Dildine, Forrest Emerson, Summer Frazier, Cole Fullenwider, Lea Gregg, Bolten Hagenow, Trinity Hamilton, Alyssa Harshman, Arabella Jackson, Rachel Johnson, Easton Kelsey, Thomas Kelsey, Maci Largent, Charles Maddock, Hadley McArthur, Jayce Meece, Addison Millburg, Grady Miller, Juliet Miller, Lucas Moulton, Oliver Pattengale, Natalie Scott, Ryken Skelton, Hunter Tallman, Braylin Taylor, Ayden Thomas, Sophia Trammell-Smith, Carter White, Hailey White, Alexa Whitlow, Gunnar Williams, Jalyn Williams, Collyn Wright.

Grade 8 S1 High Honor Roll: Andrew Badertscher, Elijah Badillo, Kohen Bonebrake, Hayleigh Boots, Cassidy Dittmer, Hailey Douglas, Savannah Elmore, Callaway Garlock, Owen Grimes, Benjamin Gurule, Alexis Harden, Kirra Hopkins, Violet Kline, Lydia Moody, Michael Moore, Emma Plemmons, Lanie Ramsey, Kemberlee Redman, Skyler Strickland, James Stumph, Jaron Swick, Amelia Woods.

Grade 8 S1 Regular Honor Roll: Cheyenne Bachmann, Gabriel Becerril, Emma Benge, Job Bradley, Chance Brock, Jamie Buckler, Reese Bullock, Jayden Buntten, Kasen Bushong, Hunter Chieppo, Gabriele Church, Colton Fox, Layla Grimes, Derek Hale, Briellah Halstead, Eli Hannum, Tyler Harper, Emery James, Henry Keller, Ella Kelly, Eliana Korhorn, Gavin Mason, Emily Mohan, Olivia Myers, Brayden Parker, Grace Pendleton, Grant Reeves, Marley Rhoads, Alexa Richey, Jack Sarver, Gabriel Schindler, Macie Shaw, Emily Simpson, Emilyn Steiner, Emma Stephens, Brody Tolliver, Carson Vaught, Danika Ward.

THE PAPER

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Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia

Answer: Jim Redmon

Purdue Passes IU on NCAA All-Time Victory List



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist
historical for the Purdue men's basketball program.

Last week's 81-76 victory against Indiana inside Mackey Arena was historical for the Purdue men's basketball program.

Sparked the scoring surge with season averages of 18.5 and 24.3 points as a sophomore and junior. Then came Jaden Ivey's 17.3 sophomore season in 2021-22, which enabled him to become an NBA Draft lottery pick. Zach Edey posted scoring averages of 22.3 and a nation's-best 25.2 points per game on his way to back-to-back National Player of the Year awards.

This season, it's been the three-headed attack of Trey Kaufman-Renn (18.7 ppg.), Braden Smith (16.4) and Fletcher Loyer (13.8). Smith lit up Iowa on Tuesday night with 31 points, while Kaufman-Renn put up 25 in his continuing bid to join Smith as a first-team All-Big Ten performer.

Kaufman-Renn and Smith were announced this week as semifinalists for the Oscar Robertson Trophy, presented to the nation's best player by the United States Basketball Writers Association.

To no one's surprise, Smith also is one of 10 semifinalists for the Bob Cousy Award given to the nation's top point guard. As of now, odds are that Smith will join Carsen Edwards (Jerry West for best shooting guard) and Edey (two-time Kareem Abdul-Jabbar top center) as major award winners in April.

Smith is on pace to become the first player since California's Jason Kidd in 1993-94 to average at least 15 points, 8 assists, 4.5 rebounds and 2.5 steals per game.

Smith's defensive effort against Michigan and Indiana helped Purdue record its first back-to-back 20 turnover games in Big Ten play since 2008 against Indiana and Minnesota.

Forty and counting
New Purdue football coach Barry Odom is no stranger to rebuilding projects.

The largest Boilermaker recruiting class in recent memory is going to have to be the foundation of any effort to recover from last season's 1-11 disaster.

"The 40 young men we've signed ... since things have changed in recruiting with transfers and portal and high school recruiting, what is the right number?" Odom said Wednesday on National Signing Day. "I think anyone who has studied what roster management looks like, the recruiting trends, I think those numbers are going to remain consistent as we go forward, 40 and 40-plus.

"Over the last two cycles that I was a part of before this (at UNLV), we signed 50 and before that 55. The ability to adapt, the ability to roster manage is so vitally important to the health of a program." Odom emphasized that Purdue will continue to recruit and develop high

school players. But he added that recruiting isn't completed for the 2025 season.

"We'll be really aggressive in the next portal window," said Odom of the 10-day period in April. "We still have a number of spots of need."

With just one returning starter on each side of the ball (running back Devin Mockobee and linebacker Hudson Miller) thanks to transfers, one could argue that every position is one of need.

The most important one, quarterback, will be one to watch when spring practice begins in March. It is hoped that either sophomore Malachi Singleton (Arkansas), redshirt freshman EJ Colson (UCF), redshirt freshman Evans Chuba (Washington State) or true freshman Garyt Odom, the coach's son, will establish himself as the unquestioned starter.

Seven of the 29 transfers to sign with Purdue followed Odom from Las Vegas. One is possibly the largest tight end in school history, 6-8, 290-pound Christian Earls. Another former UNLV heavyweight is offensive lineman Jalen St. John, who casts a giant shadow at 6-5, 330.

Fifteen of the transfers are seniors, three are juniors, five are sophomores and six are redshirt freshmen.

Purdue football legend turns 80 Bob Griese celebrated his 80th birthday on Feb. 3, and Sports Collectors Daily honored the former Purdue All-American's milestone by listing eight of his most collected appearances on football cards.

My card collection includes just four of these Griese cards: his first Topps issue in 1968, a 1970 Kellogg's 3D card, a 1971 Topps "game card," and his 1972 Topps All-Pro card.

I've never seen his 1967 Royal Castle card, featuring a posed Griese inside Ross-Ade Stadium. Royal Castle was a South Florida hamburger chain that at one time had 185 restaurants in the Miami region. The other Griese cards on the Sports Collectors Daily list were a 1975 Wonder Bread issue, his 1977 Topps card and a 1978 card manufactured by Topps but placed into bags of Holsum Bread.

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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Tippicanoe County

Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Northend Community Center, 2000 Elmwood Ave. in Lafayette

Thursday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Purdue University - Krach Leadership Center, 1198 3rd St. in West Lafayette

The American Red Cross encourages donors to give blood now to help protect the blood supply from the ongoing impact of severe winter weather and wildfires. Donors of all blood types – particularly type O – are needed to help save lives.

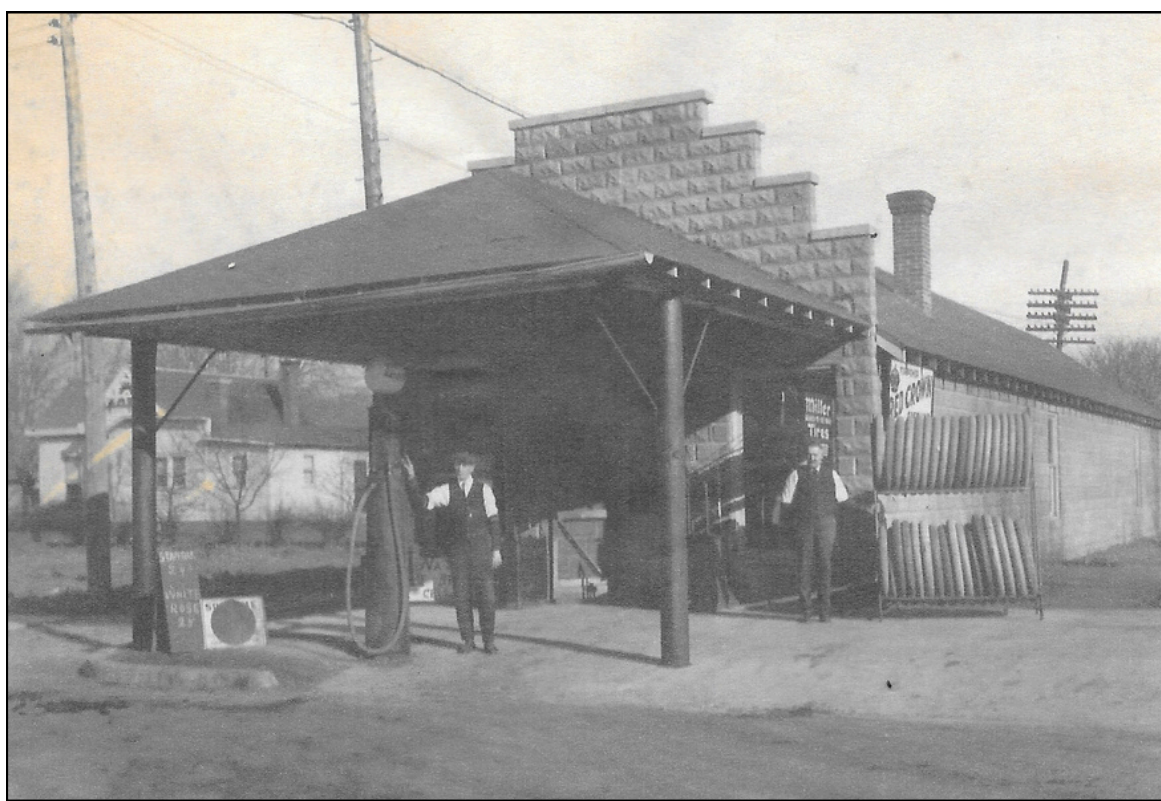
As dangerous snow and ice continue to sweep across the country, and wildfires in Southern California continue to burn and impact air quality, Red Cross blood drive cancellations have grown into the hundreds. Collectively, this has resulted in more than 12,000 uncollected blood and platelet donations in January. Here in the Indiana Region, 22 blood drives have been canceled since the new year because of adverse weather, resulting in 474 uncollected blood product donations.

More storms are certainly possible which could further strain the blood supply. Additionally, hazardous weather conditions have the potential to make it tougher to move vital blood products across the Red Cross network, possibly affecting deliveries to hospitals in some locations. As National Blood Donor Month continues, the time to give is now.

Where it is safe to do so, donors are asked to book a time to give blood by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

As an incentive, all who come to give through Feb. 28 will get a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. See RedCrossBlood.org/Flurry for details.

Back in the Day with Butch Dale



When people switched from horses to cars, gas filling stations started appearing in the small towns of Montgomery County. Shown above is the Crowder filling station on Madison Street in Darlington in the early 1920s. Red Crown gas was 24 cents a gallon. The Crowders also worked on cars and sold Miller tires.

FOR THE RECORD

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

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025
8 AM

1580 Constitution Row -Room E109
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

CALL TO ORDER Board President Dan Guard
PLEDGE ALLIGENCE and PRAYER
CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Claims: AP \$
Payroll \$

Minutes: January 27, 2025

Acknowledge Receipt of Sugar Creek Advisory Board
2024 Annual Report

PUBLIC HEARING: Re-Establish Cum Bridge Tax Rate
for 2025

From Current Rate of \$0.055 per \$100 of assessed valuation, and the maximum property tax rate for the Fund per Indiana Code 8-16-3 is \$.10 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Notices of the public hearing were published on January 29, 2025 and February 5, 2025. The Commissioners have a purpose for the funds, specifically the construction, repair and maintenance and inspection of bridges, and desire to reestablish the tax rate of the Cumulative Bridge Fund at the proposed rate of \$0.075 per \$100 assessed valuation.

2nd Reading Ordinance 2025-2 Re-Establishing the
Cumulative Bridge Fund

NEW BUSINESS

Permission to Close Roads for Ironman GNCC Race
on October 23 to October 26, 2025

Open Highway Department Annual Bid for: Pea
Gravel, Sand and #8's

Emergency Management Advisory Council
Recommendation for Director

ORDINANCES

2nd Reading Ordinance 2025-3 Establishing FFY
2025 Indiana Department of Homeland Hazardous
Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant Fund
-\$16,300

2nd Reading Ordinance 2025-4 Establishing the FFY
2024 Emergency Management Performance Grant
Fund -\$44,827.63

Introduction Ordinance 2025-5 Establishing the
Montgomery County Right of Way
Permit Fee Fund

RESOLUTION

Resolution 2025-6 2025 EMA Director Contract

Resolution 2025-7 2025 Building
Administrator/Zoning Director Contract

Resolution 2025-8 2025 Highway Director
Contract

Resolution 2025-9 2025 Mapping Director
Contract

AWARD MONTGOMERY COUNTY EMPLOYEE OF
THE YEAR

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting Monday, February 24, 2025

MONTGOMERY COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

11:00 am

Montgomery County Government Center
1580 Constitution Row – Suite E
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81599838102?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81599838102?pwd=7cTRU3VVvlp0A5D2n88kz75TicAtM.1)
[pwd=7cTRU3VVvlp0A5D2n88kz75TicAtM.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81599838102?pwd=7cTRU3VVvlp0A5D2n88kz75TicAtM.1)

Meeting ID: 815 9983 8102
Passcode: 776113

AGENDA

Call to Order by Chairman Ron Dickerson

Consideration of Minutes – January 14, 2025

New Business
Suspension of HWC Study

Staff Reports
Financial Report – Jeff Peters – Peters Franklin
Engineering Report – Ryan Pattenau – Lochmueller

Approve Claims

Other Business

Adjournment

**Next meeting Tuesday, March 11, 2025 @ 11:00
am**

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

Would You Like Fries With That?

The Paper of Montgomery County

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

Basic data entry skills are
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↓ BEST From Page A1

However, planning a winter vacation isn't always straightforward for every demographic. Seniors, in particular, often face unique challenges when traveling. Accessible attractions, accommodations designed with mobility in mind, accessible transportation options, and senior-friendly dining options are critical factors that can make or break their vacation experience.

Freedom Showers (<https://www.freedomshowers.com/>) carried out a survey of 3,003 seasoned senior travelers to identify their top winter getaway recommendations. The survey highlights not only their favorite destinations but also the growing trend of seniors opting for domestic travel because of the enhanced accessibility standards in the U.S. and focusing on factors like ease of access, comfort, and activities suited to their needs.

The top 10 winter destinations for senior travel in the entire U.S. were as follows. Interestingly, all 10 were from Florida and Hawaii:

#1 Venice, Florida
Venice offers seniors a tranquil winter escape with accessible beach wheelchairs, flat streets, and a welcoming community. Its mild climate, strong senior population, and nearby healthcare make it an ideal destination.

#2 Mount Dora, Florida
Nestled along Lake Dora, Mount Dora is ideal for seniors in winter, with accessible streets and boutique shopping. The town's year-round festivals, like the Mount Dora Arts Festival, and proximity to healthcare facilities make it a lively yet relaxing getaway.

#3 Punta Gorda, Florida
Punta Gorda's picturesque riverwalk, accessible dining options, and local events make it a vibrant winter destination for seniors. Farmers' markets and sunset cruises add to the charm, while nearby medical facilities ensure a worry-free stay.

#4 Koloa, Hawaii
Koloa combines accessible shopping, cultural experiences, and scenic winter walks for seniors. Its calm pace and proximity to healthcare services make it an ideal destination for relaxation.

#5 Crystal River, Florida
Crystal River's warm Gulf Coast weather makes it a favorite winter destination for seniors. Accessible boat tours to view manatees and peaceful parks provide gentle activities, while the town's strong medical services ensure safety and comfort.

#6 Hanalei, Hawaii
Hanalei's tranquil north shore views and mild winter weather make it ideal for seniors. Accessible beaches, gentle walking paths, and cultural events offer enriching experiences. Excellent healthcare facilities ensure a worry-free stay.

#7 Volcano Village, Hawaii
Volcano Village offers seniors accessible trails and unique volcanic landscapes for a peaceful winter retreat. Cozy accommodations and local art galleries provide indoor activities, while nearby medical care ensures safety.

#8 Stuart, Florida
With walkable waterfronts and charming shops, Stuart is perfect for seniors in winter. Accessible eco-tours, cultural sites, and excellent healthcare make this vibrant coastal town a delightful retreat for older travelers.

#9 Paia, Hawaii
Paia provides seniors with accessible beaches, boutique shopping, and a relaxed coastal atmosphere. Its supportive community and proximity to healthcare make it a serene winter getaway.

#10 Hanapepe, Hawaii
Known for its art galleries and flat paths, Hanapepe is a charming winter retreat. Seniors can enjoy the town's historic charm, relax by the Hanapepe River, and participate in indoor cultural events.

The survey revealed that accessibility, comfort, and proximity to healthcare are critical factors influencing senior travel. Among respondents:

- * 29% indicated they no longer travel abroad, citing increased challenges and preferences for domestic trips.
- * 17% still travel internationally but less frequently, with only 12% maintaining the same level of international travel as before turning 65.
- * Accessibility is a major deciding factor: 33% of respondents said accessibility standards and laws give them confidence when planning U.S. trips, and 10% identified these standards as the primary reason they choose domestic destinations.

The survey also highlighted that many seniors perceive international travel as more challenging compared to domestic trips. Twenty-seven percent of participants felt international travel was significantly more difficult due to issues like mobility, transportation, and accommodations, while an additional 27% found it somewhat more challenging. A smaller but notable group—12%—avoids international travel

altogether, assuming it would be too challenging.

Despite these challenges, the U.S. is viewed positively as a senior-friendly destination:

- * 61% of respondents rated the U.S. as better than other countries for accessible travel.
- * 30% believe it is much better.
- * 31% consider it somewhat better.
- * 32% felt the U.S. is on par with other

destinations.

* Only 6% thought the U.S. lags behind other countries in accessible travel.

"The U.S. is miles ahead of many other countries in prioritizing accessible public spaces, travel, and accommodations," says Ryan Holt of Freedom Showers. "This makes it a standout option for senior travelers, especially as international travel becomes less appealing with age."

AMERICA'S BEST SNOWBIRD HAVENS WHERE SENIORS FLOCK FOR WINTER 2025

- 1. Venice, Florida**
- 2. Mount Dora, Florida**
- 3. Punta Gorda, Florida**
- 4. Koloa, Hawaii**
- 5. Crystal River, Florida**
- 6. Hanalei, Hawaii**
- 7. Volcano Village, Hawaii**
- 8. Stuart, Florida**
- 9. Paia, Hawaii**
- 10. Hanapepe, Hawaii**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11 Gulf Shores, Alabama 12 Port Aransas, Texas 13 Florence, Arizona 14 Hot Springs, Arkansas 15 Pacific Grove, California 16 Beaufort, South Carolina 17 Bisbee, Arizona 18 Green Valley, Arizona 19 Conway, South Carolina 20 Black Mountain, North Carolina 21 Tubac, Arizona 22 Southport, North Carolina 23 Wickenburg, Arizona 24 St. Simons Island, Georgia 25 Taos, New Mexico 26 Madison, Georgia 27 Magnolia Springs, Alabama 28 Orange Beach, Alabama 29 Cambria, California 30 Georgetown, Texas 31 Georgetown, South Carolina 32 Fredericksburg, Texas 33 Ojai, California 34 Boulder City, Nevada 35 Aiken, South Carolina 36 Borrego Springs, California 37 Cooperstown, New York 38 Solvang, California 39 Paris, Tennessee 40 Granbury, Texas 41 Washington, North Carolina 42 Cape May, New Jersey 43 Virginia City, Nevada 44 Eureka Springs, Arkansas 45 Pagosa Springs, Colorado 46 Glenwood Springs, Colorado 47 Silver City, New Mexico 48 Ocean Springs, Mississippi 49 Thomasville, Georgia 50 Davidson, North Carolina 51 Manitou Springs, Colorado 52 Newport, Rhode Island 53 Florence, Oregon 54 Mountain View, Arkansas 55 Bastrop, Texas 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 56 Saranac Lake, New York 57 Kennebunkport, Maine 58 Truth or Consequences, New Mexico 59 Lake Geneva, Wisconsin 60 Yellow Springs, Ohio 61 Edenton, North Carolina 62 Mesquite, Nevada 63 Jonesborough, Tennessee 64 Lexington, Virginia 65 Port Angeles, Washington 66 Berkeley Springs, West Virginia 67 Woodstock, Vermont 68 Lava Hot Springs, Idaho 69 Heber Springs, Arkansas 70 Cañon City, Colorado 71 Cedar City, Utah 72 Fallon, Nevada 73 Bethany Beach, Delaware 74 Breaux Bridge, Louisiana 75 Astoria, Oregon 76 Whitefish, Montana 77 Narragansett, Rhode Island 78 Columbia, Mississippi 79 Oxford, Mississippi 80 Foley, Alabama 81 Bay St. Louis, Mississippi 82 Brigham City, Utah 83 Manchester, Vermont 84 New Hope, Pennsylvania 85 Nashville, Indiana 86 Bristol, Vermont 87 Dahlonega, Georgia 88 Bedford, Pennsylvania 89 Fairhope, Alabama 90 Deadwood, South Dakota 91 Rhinebeck, New York 92 Saugatuck, Michigan 93 Stillwater, Minnesota 94 Natchitoches, Louisiana 95 Abbeville, Louisiana 96 Lititz, Pennsylvania 97 Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania 98 Clear Lake, Iowa 99 Madison, Connecticut 100 Oakland, Maryland
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Methodology: Online panel survey of 3,003 respondents aged 65 and older. We used a two-step process to ensure representativeness through stratified sampling and post-stratification weighting. Data was collected in January 2025.

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