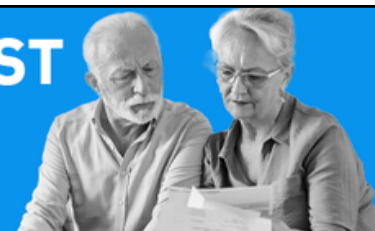


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➔ TODAY'S VERSE

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

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BTN

By The Numbers, a look at what's in the news . . . by the numbers. These are just numbers, not suggestions that they mean more or less than what they are. We do not suggest that one number is connected to another. These are simply facts

with no extraneous details, bias or slanted reporting. To borrow (and perhaps mangle a bit) a quote from legendary fictional detective Joe Friday, it's just the numbers, ma'am!

Welcome to the Merry Month of March – yes, it should be the Merry Month of May (as Julie Andrews sang in the wonderful musical Camelot). But we think it's Merry because spring officially arrives this month – as does Hoosier Hysteria, i.e., the boys basketball sectionals. And yes, we know it could snow then – at least according to Hoosier lore, but the warming trend is here and we can at long last start to say so long to Old Man Winter!

12 degrees

The average temperature on the first day of March is 46, and the average on March 31 is 58. The average for the month is right in the middle at 52.



The Power of 3

The month of March is the third month of the year.

For those into numerology, three is all about creativity, joy and self expression!

March*

Scads!

We all know there are too many holidays in today's world. March is no exception. Here are just some of the ones we found: **Mar. 1:** National Peanut

Butter Lover's Day, World Compliment Day, National Pig Day Day, International Women of Color Day, National Fruit Compote Day **Mar. 2:** Dr. Seuss's Birthday, National Read Across America Day, National Old Stuff Day, World Teen Mental Wellness Day **Mar. 3:** National Anthem Day, National Mulled Wine Day, World Wildlife Day, World Tennis Day **Mar. 4:** Mardi Gras, National Pound Cake Day, National Snack Day **Mar. 5:** National Cheese Doodle Day, Ash Wednesday **Mar. 6:** National Dentists Day, National Dress Day, National Frozen Food Day, National Oreo Cookie Day, National White Chocolate Cheesecake Day **Mar. 7:** National Cereal Day, National Flapjack Day, National Day of Unplugging, Employee Appreciation Day, Sock Monkey Day **Mar. 8:** International Women's Day, National Peanut Cluster Day, National Proofreading Day, National Retro Video Game Day **Mar. 9:** Daylight Savings, National American Paddlefish Day, National Barbie Day, National Get Over It Day, National Meatball Day **Mar. 10:** National Napping Day, National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, National Ranch Day, National Skirt Day **Mar. 11:** National Johnny Appleseed Day, National Napping Day, National Promposal Day, World Plumbing Day **Mar. 12:** National Girl Scout Day, Working Moms Day, National No Smoking Day **Mar. 13:** Purim, Popcorn Lover's Day, National Earmuff Day, National Good Samaritan Day, National Jewel Day, National K9 Veterans Day, World Kidney Day **Mar. 14:** Celebrate Scientists Day, International Day of Mathematics, National Children's Craft Day, National Pi Day, National Potato Chip Day, National Write Your Story Day **Mar. 15:** Ides of March, World Sleep Day, National Corn Dog Day, National Quilting Day **Mar. 16:** National Artichoke Day, National Panda Day, National Vaccination Day **Mar. 17:** National Corned Beef and Cabbage Day, St. Patrick's Day **Mar. 18:** Global Recycling Day, National Awkward Moments Day, National Sloppy Joe Day, Transit Driver Appreciation Day **Mar. 19:** International Read to Me Day, National Backyard Day, National Certified Nurses Day, National Chocolate Caramel Day, National Let's Laugh Day, National Poultry Day **Mar. 20:** Spring Equinox, International Day of Happiness, National Proposal Day, National Ravioli Day, World Flour Day, World Oral Health Day, World Storytelling Day **Mar. 21:** International Color Day, National Common Courtesy Day, National Crunchy Taco Day, National French Bread Day, World Down Syndrome Day, World Poetry Day, National Flower Day **Mar. 22:** International Day of the Seal, National Goof Off Day, World Water Day, World Maths Day **Mar. 23:** Cuddly Kitten Day, National Chia Day, National Chip and Dip Day, National Puppy Day, National Tamale Day, World Meteorological Day **Mar. 24:** National Cheesesteak Day, National Chocolate Covered Raisin Day, National Cocktail Day, World Tuberculosis Day **Mar. 25:** Tolkien Reading Day, Dante Day **Mar. 26:** Epilepsy Awareness Day, Make Up Your Own Holiday Day, National Spinach Day, Solitude Day, Wear a Hat Day, Manatee Appreciation Day **Mar. 27:** National Scribble Day, National Spanish Paella Day, World Theatre Day **Mar. 28:** National Black Forest Cake Day, National Hot Tub Day, National Something on a Stick Day, Respect Your Cat Day **Mar. 29:** Mermaid Day, National Mom and Pop Business Owners Day, National Vietnam War Veterans Day **Mar. 30:** National Doctors' Day, National Folding Laundry Day, National Pencil Day, National Virtual Vacation Day, Take a Walk in the Park Day, World Bipolar Day, Eid al-Fitr **Mar. 31:** Crayola Crayon Day, Eiffel Tower Day, National Farm Workers Day, National Prom Day, National Tater Day

Want Free Tickets To Flower & Patio Show?

Attention flower lovers . . . and spring lovers . . . and backyard lovers . . . and cookout lovers . . . The Paper of Montgomery County once again has free tickets to give away for the 2025 Indiana Flower & Patio Show, which runs from Saturday, March 15 through Sunday, March 23 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds and Event Center.

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

If you send us a selfie, email it to news@thepaper24-7.com and be sure to include your name, where you live (city or town, not specific home address) and a little bit about yourself (and no, adding a kind word about your favorite Montgomery County newspaper won't enhance your chances to win, but we sure would appreciate it). Then all you have to do is wait and watch. If you see your smiling face in The Paper – you win!

➔ See FREE Page A7

Butch Remembers a Special Artist



During my term as Sheriff in the late 1990's, I appointed a couple of inmates as "trustys." This **BUTCH DALE Columnist** has been a

sheriff's prerogative for many years, and continues today. A trusty is someone who has been sentenced for a non-violent crime and ordered to serve time. They are considered trustworthy, and receive special privileges, such as a private cell and freedom to roam about on the jail grounds. Subsequently they help with various jobs at the jail...cleaning, laundry, mowing, washing patrol cars, etc. If a trusty disobeys any rules, they can no longer serve in that capacity.

One of the trustys I appointed was a fellow I attended school with. He

➔ See BUTCH Page A3

➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Don't watch TV before going to sleep – the bright light and activity may keep your brain awake.

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

"Innovation is seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought."
Dr. Albert Szent-Gyorgyi

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

Did you hear they arrested the devil? It's true! They got him on possession.

➔ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

The second Saturday of each month is the perfect chance to stock your home library. That's the monthly book sale at the Crawfordsville District Public Library. It takes place every month on the lower level from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hardcover books are 50 cents, paperbacks are a quarter, magazines 10 cents, CDs 50 cents, single DVDs \$1 and deluxe DVD sets \$3 a season. There are some special items that may have individual pricing. If you are downsizing and want to donate some books, the library will take gently used hardcover and paperbacks, DVDs and Blu-Rays, audiobooks and music CDs and complete puzzles and games. They cannot accept items with water or mildew or other damage, broken bindings, missing or items with strong odors like cigarette smoke.

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

➔ THREE THINGS

You Should Know

- The Indiana Legislature is considering legislation that would take public notices out of Indiana newspapers, taking away an important check and balance that newspapers and the government have worked with for decades. Hoosier newspapers think this is a step too far and are organizing an Indiana Newspaper Rally Day at the Indiana Statehouse on March 19 at 11 a.m. and are inviting the public to join in. The Paper is a proud participant and would love to hear from readers who might be interested in going! Please email publisher Tim Timmons for more details if you like. You can reach him at ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com
- Our friends at HostingAdvice surveyed 3,002 respondents to find out which websites employees visit first thing in the morning and found that 56 percent of Hoosiers log on to sports web sites. About one in five admitted to checking social media and about the same amount said they browsed online sales in places like Amazon or eBay. Only 3% actually checked sites related to their work. Shockingly, more than half said they wouldn't feel embarrassed if their boss could see their browser history. Only 7% said they'd be mortified and look for a new job immediately! Why are we not surprised!
- Registration for the annual Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) workshop, which is open to women ages 18 and older, is open now. This year's BOW workshop will be held May 2-4, at Ross Camp in West Lafayette. BOW is designed for women to learn outdoor skills in a relaxed, low-pressure environment. Participants will choose four activities from more than two dozen offerings, including fishing, archery, geocaching, wildlife tracking, shooting muzzleloader firearms, and outdoor cooking.



Two things in life that are inevitable are death and taxes. Jury's still out on which one is worse.

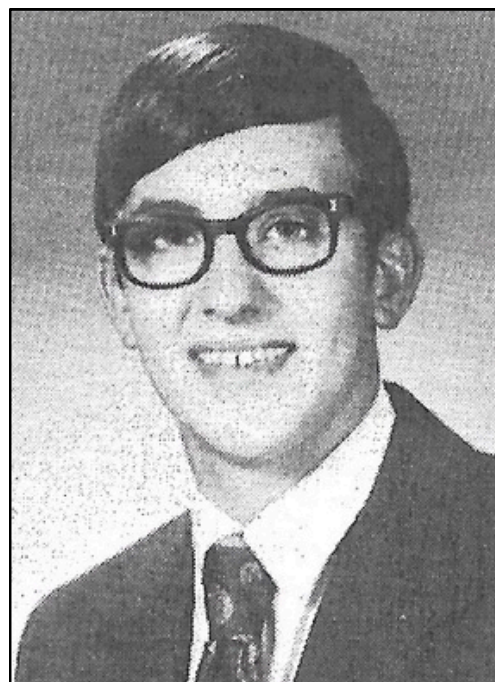
Crinoids in Clay!



Pleasant Hill Elementary fourth and fifth graders recently participated in a fun mix of science and art. Local artist Amy Westphal of Amy Westphal Pottery gave a special presentation to the students called Crinoids in Clay. Montgomery County is uniquely rich in crinoid fossils, and the kids learned some truly interesting facts about the physiology and lives of these ancient sea creatures. After the presentation, students were able to create their own crinoid "fossil" in clay, as well as see some fossils up close. Amy will fire the students' clay pieces in her kiln and return them for the students to take home. This event was proudly sponsored by the Linden Carnegie Public Library.

Photos courtesy of Linden Carnegie Public Library

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do You Recognize this 1972 South Montgomery Grad?

HINT:
 He served as a reserve deputy for many years on the county police department.

Answer on Page A3

Sen. Buchanan Welcomes South Students to Statehouse



Andrew Badertscher

State Sen. Brian Buchanan (R-Lebanon) welcomed two Montgomery County students to the Statehouse Andrew Badertscher and Hudson Beach. The two Southmont Junior High students served as Senate pages in January and February.

Pages spend a day at

the Statehouse touring the historic building, observing debates from the Senate floor and interacting with their state senator.

"The Senate Page Program provides a deeper understanding of state government for young Hoosiers,"

Buchanan said. "It gives our future leaders an



Hudson Beach

important connection to their legislature that goes beyond the classroom, and I always enjoy meeting the students who participate."

Students in grades six through 12 participate in the page program on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the legislative session. Groups serve on

Wednesdays.

To learn more about the Senate Page Program, visit www.IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Page-Program.

Buchanan represents Senate District 7, which includes portions of Boone, Clinton, Hendricks and Montgomery counties.

Meagan Lyon Earns High Dean's List at Millikin

Meagan Lyon of Crawfordsville has made the High Dean's List for Fall 2024 at Millikin University.

Students who attempt 12 graded credits during a fall or spring semester and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher earn Dean's List honors. Students earning a perfect 4.00 grade

point average on 12 graded credits attempted earn High Dean's List honors.

Millikin University is a private university that provides undergraduate and graduate education to a diverse student body of approximately 1,700 students on a 75-acre residential campus in Decatur, Ill.



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That's Not My Cake



My father and my niece have a wonderful tradition.

CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript
Born just 69 years and one week apart, they have celebrated their birthdays together for as long as my niece has had a birthday. Last night, we all went out to eat and then went to my sister's house to open presents and have a birthday cake. I live just a few blocks from a wonderful Italian bakery. They make the best chocolate cake ever, so I offered to bring the cake.

Last year, my father turned 90 and my niece turned 21, and so I bought a single candle that said "21" on it and put in nine candles, and they blew them out together. But this year, with my father turning 91 and my niece 22, I could think of no simple means of representing these ages in candles—without burning my sister's house down.

I thought, as long as the bakery was writing "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" on the cake, they could just as easily write "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!" followed by "22 & 91." Then I could put a single candle by each age and simplify the whole complicated (but mandatory) candle-blowing-out procedure.

So that's what I did. A nice young woman repeated the message back to me on the phone, and I headed out the next day to pick up the cake.

"Right here!" a young man who I had not seen working there before said.

"Could I have a quick look at it?" I asked.

I only asked because they put their cakes in sturdy boxes tied up with two lengths of strong ribbon and knot the ribbon at the top. It makes it easy to carry the heavy cake home, but there is no way of opening the box without scissors.

"Sure!" the young man said.

The cake said, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY."

I knew the young woman had understood me, so I suspected this was not my cake. I told the young

man that the ages should be on the cake, and he took the first cake back and went looking for my cake.

He was gone a very long time.

"Got it!" he finally said when he returned with another cake.

"Can I have a look at it?" I asked again. At this point, I was starting to feel like a bit of a nuisance, but the staff was as friendly as always, so I went around the counter and looked at the cake.

It said, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY 55."

"This is not my cake," I told the young man.

By now, the manager—or at least a more senior member of the staff—had taken an interest.

"Aren't you Karen Carlson?" the manager asked.

"No. I'm Carrie Classon."

The two bakery employees looked at the cake.

"We gave someone the wrong cake," the young man announced.

By now, a young woman (I believe the one who took the order) was involved. She confirmed what the cake should have said, and the manager wrote it down on a piece of paper, and the young man disappeared into the back again.

"So sorry for the delay!" the manager said. After a long wait, a new cake appeared. "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS! 22 & 91" it read.

They tied up the cake with very strong ribbon, and I walked home with my cake. And at least twice every block, I stopped to laugh out loud.

Because I knew Karen did not check her cake.

She had already taken that cake to someone who was going to get the most confusing birthday message they have had in all their 55 years.

*Till next time,
Carrie*

Icy Relationships



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

The Wolfsies are headed to Iceland this month. We are

thrilled to be taking a small group with us to enjoy this week-long adventure.

Mary Ellen is already checking the weather there, and she announces to me each morning that it is warmer in Reykjavik, the country's capital, than it is in Indianapolis. For some reason, this makes her feel better. In her dogged research, she has determined that the key to an enjoyable experience is to have many layers, a position I took concerning our wedding cake 44 years ago.

My sister, who is single, is going with us, but I want to warn her that if she is on the hunt, not for moose, but an eligible man, to keep the following in mind:

The biggest issue men have when hooking up with women in Iceland is not that the ladies are cold. The men can be a little frosty themselves—but temperature is relative. The problem is that the person they meet at the Moose Antler Pub could actually be a relative.

Iceland is the home of only about 380,000 people, and its lineage has been documented over the past 1,000 years. Generally, people don't move to or away from Iceland. (Why would they? And give up the best reindeer barbeque in the world?) The problem is that most people are probably related to each other, swinging from the same family tree.

Wedding planners and family reunion organizers compete for the same guests. Web dating services in Iceland were trying hard to match people

who engage in similar sports, love hunting, enjoy moonlight walks, and whenever possible, have different great-grandparents.

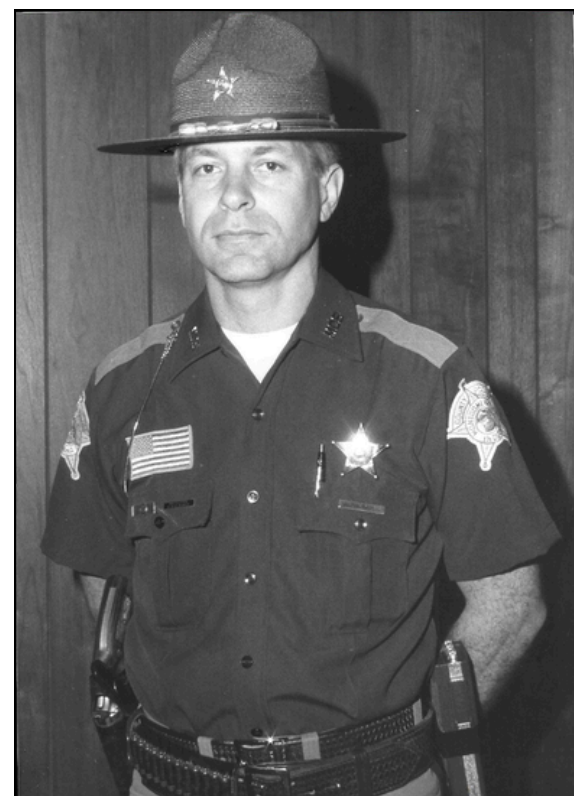
Smartphones once featured a "bump" function. Potential lovers could tap their phones together to see how closely they were related. The incest app drew rave reviews with a rating of 4.5 out of 5 on the Google Play Store. That put it a little behind the video game *Grand Theft Auto*, although stealing a car and kissing your cousin both carry similar jail terms.

Creators of the app were unhappy with the publicity. They claimed that the main intention of the application was to give data about the country's rich genealogical history and provide information about relatives' birthdays and anniversaries. But learning it's Uncle Olafur's 50th birthday doesn't have the same impact as an app that tells you who to cozy up with. One of the app's developers, Arnar Freyr Adalsteinsson, said he seldom used the bumping feature. "I just use common sense," said Arnar. "If the woman was attractive but named Gloria Freyr Adalsteinsson, I would be a little wary."

The manufacturer noted that the application was not for iPhones; it was only for Androids. I'm no expert on human sexuality, but if you're an android, it's probably safe to go home with anybody you want.

— Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in The Paper of Montgomery County. E-mail Dick at Wolfsie@aol.com.

↓ BUTCH From Page A1



had drinking problem later on in life, subsequently resulting in three OWI arrests with a sentence to serve 18 months in jail. He possessed many skills, and helped out with many handyman jobs at the jail. We became friends during that time, and after his release, he visited my wife and me at our home. He was a good guy, and was able end his drinking habit.

Another trusty who I appointed also had an alcohol problem, as was typical back in those days. (Most of today's inmates have a drug problem, which usually affects people much worse than alcohol.) This second trusty was very mild-mannered and polite. He was also an excellent worker, and we could count on him to help out with anything that needed to be done at the jail. He requested to have his own cell at night, as he liked to draw, and didn't want to be disturbed by other inmates, and I agreed. One day he showed me some of his drawings. They were amazing! I asked him if he had ever tried painting, and he said that he had done a few paintings at home, but would like to try it again. I told my wife, who was serving as the jail matron, about his artistic skills, and we decided to purchase some painting supplies, and let him give it a try. With our own money, we bought oil paints, brushes, and canvas and gave it to him one evening, and of course he was quite appreciative. Each evening, after supper and after his work was finished, he spent his time painting. His

finished works of art were outstanding and were admired by everyone who worked at the jail. I contacted the Crawfordsville library to see if his paintings could be displayed at a showing, and they very kindly agreed.

The public thought highly of his paintings, and we encouraged him to pursue his artistic endeavors after his release. After he had served his time, he sold several hundred dollars worth of his oil paintings! After I retired, I purchased two of his paintings, which are still displayed in our home. When I resumed my teaching career after leaving law enforcement, I lost track of this fellow. However, a few weeks ago, a library patron informed me that my former trusty was one of his co-workers. He stated that the fellow had given up drinking many years ago, and was a dedicated and conscientious worker...and still enjoys painting.

I sincerely believe that God has given everyone a unique talent, skill, aptitude, or special ability. Sadly, some people never realize what that talent is during their lifetime. Sometimes it take special circumstances for that to occur. But there is one person who discovered his special talent in art...while he was in jail...a good guy who became a trusty.

John "Butch" Dale is a retired teacher and County Sheriff. He has also been the librarian at Darlington the past 36 years, and is a well-known artist and author of local history.

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**Butch Dale's
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New Medical Technologies



JOHN R. ROBERTS, M.D.

Montgomery Medicine

Emerging medical technologies are transforming the way we diagnose, treat, and prevent diseases. Innovations in robotics, genetic engineering, personalized medicine, and regenerative therapies are reshaping the medical landscape, offering new hope for patients and increasing the efficiency of healthcare providers. These advancements are not just futuristic concepts; they are already being implemented in offices and hospitals, improving patient outcomes and changing the practice of medicine.

One of the most exciting advancements has been robotic-assisted surgery. Systems like the da Vinci Surgical System allow surgeons to perform minimally invasive operations with enhanced precision and control. These robots translate a surgeon's hand movements into smaller, more precise motions, reducing damage to surrounding tissues and leading to faster recovery times. In orthopedic surgery, robotic systems improve the accuracy of joint replacements, ensuring better alignment and longer-lasting results. Some patients are using robotic exoskeletons to assist them with paralysis or severe mobility impairments to regain function.

Genetic manipulation, particularly CRISPR gene-editing technology, is beginning to revolutionize the treatment of genetic disorders. CRISPR allows scientists to edit DNA with incredible precision, opening up possibilities for curing diseases like sickle cell anemia, cystic fibrosis, and even certain cancers. In 2023, the FDA approved the first CRISPR-based therapy for sickle cell disease, offering a potential one-time cure for a condition that affects millions worldwide. This technology also has implications for infectious diseases, as researchers explore ways to use gene editing to make cells resistant to viruses like HIV. The ethical concerns surrounding gene editing, such as the potential for unintended consequences, remain a topic of debate, but the potential benefits are undeniable.

Another transformative field is personalized medicine, which tailors treatments to an individual's genetic makeup, lifestyle, and environment. Instead of the one-size-fits-all approach, doctors can use genetic testing to determine which medications will be most effective for a particular patient. This is especially important in oncology, where targeted therapies can attack cancer cells while sparing healthy ones. Immunotherapy, a type of personalized medicine, harnesses the body's immune system to fight cancer, leading to remarkable success in treating previously untreatable forms of the disease. Advances in pharmacogenomics are also helping predict how patients will respond to drugs, reducing the risk of

adverse reactions and improving treatment success rates.

Wearable health technology is also making significant strides. Smartwatches and fitness trackers can now monitor heart rhythms, detect early signs of atrial fibrillation, and even measure blood oxygen levels. Continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) are transforming diabetes management by providing real-time blood sugar readings, reducing the need for frequent finger pricks. These devices not only help individuals take charge of their health but also allow doctors to monitor patients remotely, reducing hospital visits and improving chronic disease management.

3D printing is another technology reshaping medicine. From prosthetic limbs to custom-made implants, 3D printing allows for highly personalized medical solutions. Researchers are even working on bioprinting, where living cells are used to create tissues and organs. While printing fully functional organs for transplantation is still in the experimental stage, the potential to address organ shortages in the future is enormous. Scientists have already succeeded in bioprinting skin for burn victims, blood vessels, and even miniature functional heart tissue, bringing us closer to the goal of lab-grown organs.

Regenerative medicine is another promising frontier. Stem cell therapy is being explored for its ability to repair damaged tissues and organs. Clinical trials have shown promising results in treating spinal cord injuries, heart disease, and neurodegenerative conditions such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease. Some hospitals are using stem cell-based treatments to help patients recover from severe burns and orthopedic injuries, accelerating healing and reducing scarring. Tissue engineering is also advancing, with scientists working on lab-grown cartilage, ligaments, and other structures to replace damaged body parts.

While these technologies hold great promise, they also raise ethical and practical challenges. Gene editing poses questions about unintended consequences and the potential for misuse. Personalized medicine and wearable technology generate vast amounts of data, raising privacy concerns about how that information is stored and used. The high costs of some of these treatments may also limit access for certain populations. However, as these technologies continue to evolve, they are likely to become more affordable and widely available.

– Dr. John Roberts is a retired member of the Franciscan Physician Network specializing in Family Medicine.

Back in the Day with Butch Dale



If you were headed to Crawfordsville from the Darlington area back in the day, you could always stop to rest at the Garfield general store on Old State Road 47. The photo above was taken in 1925.

Busy, Busy February at Extension Office



TRICIA HERR
Guest Columnist

Where did February go? My February FLEW by, jam-packed with programs and events!

I am excited to celebrate our graduates of the Annie's Project for Cut Flower Growers. This six-week course started in January and finished this week. Our eight participants in Crawfordsville learned from local Farm Credit professionals, local Farm Bureau Insurance Agents, Lawyers, Purdue Economists, local FSA and NRCS professionals, a panel of flower growers, and Purdue Extension Educators. It was a fantastic class that allowed the participants to learn about how personality types can interact in a business, create mission statements, learn what information you need to have prepared before going to a loan provider or the FSA office, and learn from other participants and speakers passionate

about growing cut flowers. Thank you to all our local speakers who helped teach this class!

Unfortunately, we did not have enough participants to host the Succession Planning Series, "Leaving a Lasting Legacy For Midwestern Farm Women" here in Crawfordsville. However, I was able to help still facilitate the online version of the class. Over ninety participants in the state of Indiana attended virtually, combined with the participants from Kansas and Nebraska this class reached over 500 participants! This is the second class I have offered that was the product of a NIFA grant applied for by Extension Educators from Nebraska, Kansas, and Indiana's land grant universities. We learn and interact with professionals and participants across the Midwest and Plains. We listen to speakers from each state each night and

then do "hands-on" activities in our in-person classroom. If you are interested in working on your farm or family business's estate or succession plan, please contact me! I can connect you with a Purdue professional from the Farm Succession Team or the Purdue Institute for Family Business to support you.

PARPS The Indiana Office of State Chemist has finished inputting 2024 PARP attendance records. If you need more Pesticide Applicator Recertification Programs to maintain your Indiana Pesticide License, please join us on Thursday at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds for the Statewide PARP at 6:30 p.m.

Tricia Herr is the Extension Educator / Agriculture & Natural Resources

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CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

The 2003 Kia Sorento was the first from the Korean automaker that made me do a double-take and think, "This upstart is not the same purveyor of cruddy little compacts I thought it was."

No, the first Sorento looked like a Lexus RX, approached the reliability of its Japanese competitors, and posted affordable prices. It changed everything. Over two decades later, the 2024 Sorento X-Line is still a styling delight...even if the price is a deservedly more upscale.

X-Line indicates it adopts the look of a handsome hiker, taking on a performance-oriented flair from the black grille flanked by vertical LEDs to sculpted broadsides hugging 21" black wheels, and a rear with individual taillamps that hint at Mustang. It's not especially imaginative, but adds distinct elements to an overall

design that would be just as welcome in Acura and Lexus showrooms.

Slide inside for a hearty dose of Euro chic. Twin 12.3" screens sprout from the dash for gauges and infotainment. Connect wirelessly through Apple and Android; charge wirelessly too. Start touching surfaces for sensory delights from the sueded headliner to matte finish woodgrain on the dash. Dual-zone automatic climate control, panoramic glass roof, and serene Bose audio add to the upscale ambience. Enjoy it all from heated and ventilated front seats, heated middle-row captain's chairs, and while gripping a heated leather-wrapped steering wheel.

If there are complaints, they're minor. Especially given the drenching of active safety systems on the Sorento, I'd love a head-up display. There's technically a split/fold third-row seat, but it's really for kids and dogs, not full-grown humans. Cargo space is severely limited with the seats

up. Separate rear seat climate controls would also be appreciated by those in the cheap seats.

Kicking those seats down the road is no problem given the 2.5-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine delivering 281 horsepower and 311 lb.-ft. of torque. Those spirits travel to the all-wheel-drive system through an 8-speed dual clutch automatic transmission. Shift by paddles if you must. And, if you want to go off-road, lock in the center differential with a console switch. Back on pavement, expect 20/27-MPG city/highway – quite good for a three-row non-hybrid crossover.

The comparison to Lexus continues with ride and handling. It's no sports car, so if you're looking for a BMW X5 at bargain prices, keep looking. However, the four-wheel independent suspension does an excellent job of absorbing rough city pavement and riding comfortably on long highway trips. It's

pleasant from behind the wheel with quick throttle response and precise steering, but you'll never forget this is a top-heavy SUV and not a sport sedan. Most owners will find it perfectly acceptable for carrying families and gear wherever they roam.

And, they'll roam safe in a womb of automatic emergency braking, adaptive cruise, lane keep assist, and rear auto brake. Blind spot cameras in the dash and a digital rearview mirror enhance visibility around the vehicle while safe exit assist employs blind spot sensors to prevent passengers from stepping into traffic.

Kia was serious about the Sorento from my very first encounter decades hence. It was a roomy, stylish, and peppy crossover that felt no shame in suburban driveways. Years of evolution have made it one of the benchmarks in its class. Sorento starts at just \$31,980, coming to \$48,285 with

SX-Prestige trim with almost every conceivable option. Competitors include the Honda Pilot, Nissan Pathfinder, Toyota Highlander, Chevy Traverse, Ford Explorer, and Subaru Ascent.

Storm Forward!

Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey.

| Likes | Dislikes |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luxurious interior Premium styling Peppy turbo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tight third row Limited cargo space No head-up display |

2025 Kia Sorento X-Line Prestige
Six-passenger, AWD Crossover
Powertrain: 2.5-liter T4, 8-spd trans
Output: 281hp/311 lb.-ft. torque
Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind
Wheels f/r: 20"/20" alloy
Brakes f/r: disc/disc
Towing: 4,000 lbs.
Fuel economy: 20/27 mpg city/hwy
Assembly: West Point, GA
Base/As-tested price: \$31,980/\$48,285

Genda Proposes Nixing Tax on Hygiene Products

State Rep. Mark Genda's (R-Frankfort) bipartisan legislation to exempt feminine hygiene and adult incontinence products from the Indiana sales tax was recently added to the budget in House Bill 1001.



State Rep. Mark Genda

In the United States, women are estimated to spend an additional \$20 on feminine hygiene products per month while aging adults are estimated to spend anywhere from \$50 to \$200 on incontinence products per month. Genda said his legislation, previously House Bill 1042, would eliminate the sales tax on these products to reduce costs for these necessities.

"By eliminating the sales tax on these necessary items, I'm hoping we can ease some financial stress for Hoosiers," Genda said. "This is a common-sense, bipartisan provision to help Hoosiers and I'm pleased it was included in the House budget."

In 2022, Indiana passed a sales tax exemption on children's diapers to

make them more affordable for families. This bill would extend the exemption to include items like tampons, pads and adult incontinence products. The state estimates sales taxes on feminine hygiene products brings in round \$5 million annually.

House Bill 1001 passed the House and will now head to the Senate for further consideration.

For more information on HB 1001 and to track legislation, watch committee hearings and session proceedings, visit iga.in.gov. Genda represents House District 41, which includes portions of Boone, Clinton, Montgomery and Tippecanoe counties.

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Picture: Daughter, Ava Dale Barrel Racing



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Montgomery Murder Mysteries: *Those Beautiful Peepers*

EDITOR'S NOTE: Karen Zach, a 50-year-local history writer, presents her Montgomery Murder Mysteries – historical fiction, based on fact – of the first 13 or so murders in our county. Karen has written a weekly column for The Paper of Montgomery County and was the editor of Montgomery Memories, a monthly publication from The Paper for many years. Now that she is retired, she is sharing these stories and The Paper is very pleased to continue working with Karen and her talented writings.



KAREN ZACH
Montgomery Murder Mysteries

I know you probably don't want to hear about an unsolved murder, but I'm tellin' ya' none the less. It happened back in late August of '88. It happened to the man I love. There were many theories on who killed John Hooper at the time; it's talked of even today, five years later. Nothin' came of any of 'em though. Well, I have my theory too so listen. Then maybe someone will reopen this case and get the person who really done it, or at least that's why I'm telling this tale to this here Review reporter today in hopes that someone reads the account, comes forth and confesses. I think I know who you are – now, please do the right thing.

I may be puttin' my own life in danger by spinnin' this tale, but life ain't much without John anyhow. John was tall, taller than my pappy who was over 6'. His eyes matched his horse's. Funny, isn't it? John's horse had a peculiar name – Blackened Gold. His coat was as his eyes, golden with blackened specks, one thing what drew me to my John, those peepers.



Never liked John's horse much. He had a mean streak and would for no reason stop dead in his tracks. Near to bucked me off many a time. He was mighty protective of John, though and that's one thing what bothered me the most about John's murder. John went most every afternoon into Romney. Loved to get the mail, go to the café and drink some coffee. We were neighbors livin' right on the Montgomery/Tippecanoe County lines. John preferred going into Romney in Tippecanoe while my family preferred Linden in Montgomery. The community was small though and everyone knew everyone else, and I'm sure glad I got to know John.

My name's Dora. John and I were in love. Sounds like there'd be no problems but we were forbidden that love for several reasons. I'm not sure how to list them, in what order. Maybe it doesn't matter, so here they are. 1) John was 15 years older and my father found that unacceptable. 2) My father wouldn't let me marry until my older sister, Lucy, found a man and the only one she desired was John. 3) John's mother had the notion that he was her keeper since he was the

oldest of her three birth boys. She had a nephew and cousin with her as well, so John's responsibilities were multi-fold. 4) John's sister had poisoned herself over a jealous lover, Jonathan Kritzman, and most of the family had ill feelings toward anyone eyeing another.

Now, all of these problems represent a basis for murder, and any could be the answer, but you've yet to be told my theory. I've told no one to this date, but feel I've been quiet long enough. It's time to take a stand and I hope it produces the one person who knows he killed my John. I thank the *Weekly Review* for listening to my story!

My theory goes back to a few years ago when I was just thirteen. I wasn't interested in John or nobody then. My loves were books and riding my mare, Fleck. That's how I got to know John later on, through our horses. I'm getting ahead of myself, though. Mr. Hooper was alive back when I was young. The family was active in the church and community school. They were interesting as both Hooper parents had been born in New York and both John and his brother, William, were born in Michigan. They all had the oddest twangy voices but everyone around loved to hear them talk. John's voice was deeper than his father's when he was ten, or so he told me. How I loved that voice. His singing was the finest around. His love words were even better.

Leander Foster lived with the Hoopers back then. I think he was some of Mrs. Hooper's relation but I don't really know. Anyway, he would not leave me alone and in fact, one day when I was out galloping Fleck, Leander reigned in his horse so close, I fell off and bumped my head. Instead of trying to help me, he tried to take off my clothes. Lucky for me, John and William came along and beat the tar out of him. Another time Leander followed me into my father's barn and tried to take his way. Wes Blacketer saved me that time. It got so I wouldn't go anywhere. It was told around that Leander was beat-up pretty bad awhile after that because of his womanly ways, and a couple of years later, Leander moved back to Michigan. I heard tell he got married but I never knowed for sure. About the time John and I got serious, though, Leander showed-up again. He never mentioned a wife and we didn't ask. John and I could see right on that he was jealous all over again. For naught, as I'd never look Leander's way.

So, that's where my

theory comes in. The day John was killed, I had hit Leander with a pig castrator – poked him right in the face. Near put his eye out. When John and I met at our spot on Potato Creek, we dipped our feet in its water and enjoyed the almost-autumn like breeze. Our topic of conversation was our wedding plans. John had already talked to Rev. Vancleave. Even though our minister and friend knew he might fetch the wrath of John's mother and my father, he felt we truly loved each other and wanted to marry and raise a fine family. Yet, John was worried when I told him about Leander. When he took me back home in his buggy, he watched me enter the house before he went on his way. He was worried about my safety. Turns out I should have been worried about his. After

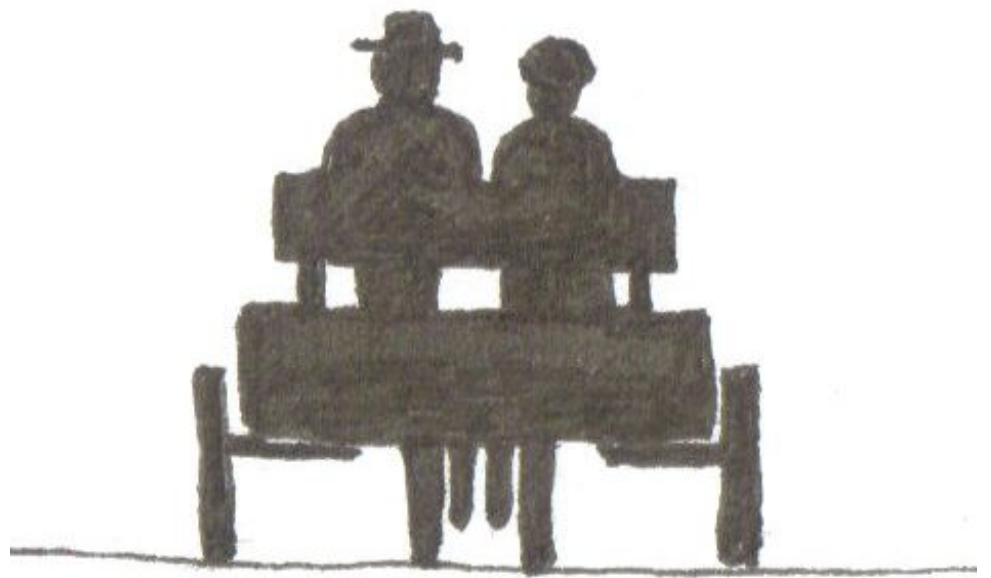
returning from Romney on that day, John stopped at Blacketers with Blackened Gold to feed some livestock he was tending which he had boarded there. That was late evening. When he left there the Blacketers and some other neighbors heard a shot gun blast. Mr. Blacketer wanted to go check, but his Mrs. wouldn't let him. As soon as they heard the shot, they heard someone yell. Blacketer listened carefully, though and heard Blackened-Gold dragging something behind. Turned out it was John. I was appalled to learn that 'cause Gold loved his master so. Thus, this never made sense. Yet, Ben Blacketer didn't go look, it was the Hooper's adopted boy, the nephew who found my John. That boy worshipped John just as I did and it's been hard

on him all these years not knowing if he could have helped. We both carry that guilt.

John had told people in Romney the very day he was killed that his gun had been stolen and his life threatened. He did not tell me. John had worked very hard getting the farm out of debt after his father's passing and that's why we felt we could then marry. In fact, John had a large amount of money on him when they found him by the fence, having been dragged over 240' by his horse. Gold would not have done that; he'd have simply stopped, especially as he would have sensed John in danger. The motive for murder then was not robbery. It was much more malicious. His body was riddled

with shot and slugs.

The papers said it was one of the cruelest murders in our history. I don't think it was done by a woman, not with the slugs. My theory, as you have probably guessed is that Leander did it in a fit of jealousy. By the way, Leander was never seen again, or at least not by anyone in these five years since John's murder. John's gun was never found, either. So, Leander, if you are out there, or if anyone else knows of anything more on John's death, please don't leave his soul hanging. I can never look into those beautiful peepers again, but at least I could close mine in solemnity each night if someone would just help solve this murder of old!



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KENNY THOMPSON

With decades of experience as an award-winning sports writer and sports editor – most of it covering Purdue athletics – Kenny Thompson has a perspective and inside knowledge that few others have. Whether it's putting what's going on in the Big Ten in historical perspective or shooting straight from the hip on what's happening today, no one has a better take on Purdue and sports than Kenny!

Catch Kenny every Friday in The Paper!

↓ FREE From Page A1

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

And what a year to win Flower & Patio Show tickets! The Indiana Flower & Patio Show is one of the oldest and most successful flower shows in the nation! The show features beautiful gardens crafted by many of Indiana's premier landscapers, hundreds of finer outdoor living experts and thousands of ideas, solutions and products to take home.

Inspiration grows here!

The Indiana Flower & Patio Show is produced by Marketplace Events, which produces more than 70 consumer shows in North America, including home, garden and holiday shows. The 70+ combined events, in 54 markets, currently attract 30,000 exhibitors, 2.5 million attendees and another five million unique web visitors annually.

In addition, there are two special days. Hero Day is Friday, March 21 and the Show pays honor and tribute to all our heroes! All active military, veterans, police and fire personnel get FREE ADMISSION for the day, plus FREE PARKING at the State Fairgrounds. Just bring a valid ID and come enjoy the Flower + Patio Show for the day!

And Teacher Day is Sunday, March 16 as the Show takes attendance for all educators. As a thank you to those who help teach our little ones, all teachers and school staff receive FREE ADMISSION to the show on March 16. Just bring a valid staff ID and enjoy the Flower + Patio Show free of charge!

Regular admission prices are \$15 for adults, and children 12 and under are free. The Show opens at 10 a.m. each day and closes at 8 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, 7 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays and 5 p.m. on Sundays.

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

Indianapolis Landscape Association Feature Gardens
The Indianapolis Landscape Association Feature Gardens in both West Pavilion and Expo Hall are brimming with color – from gorgeous greens to beautiful blues and everything in between. The area's top landscape professionals have a variety of affordable to big-budget options for your next garden or backyard project.

Contributing

landscapers are: All Pro Landscaping LLC, BGW Construction, Brookside Timber Frames, Country Gardens, Emerald Meadows Landscaping, Franklin Brothers Landscape LLC, Grok Landscapes by Design, Hamilton County Lawn and Landscape, Heath Outdoor LLC, Huser's Firefighter Lawn and Landscape, JMT Landscape Group LLC, Lakeshore Hardscapes, Lejendary Landscape, McNamara Florist, Moran's Lawn Care LLC, Plant Studio Inc., Primary Grounds, Precision Outdoors, Seacat Landscaping Inc., Start To Finish Landscaping, Sugar Creek Landscape, Thomason Landscape and Design, and Turner Scapes.

Learn Straw Bale Solutions with Joel Karsten

Joel Karsten, a farm boy who grew up tending a soil garden like other gardeners have for centuries, shook up the gardening world with his first book describing his breakthrough Straw Bale Gardening concept. Today, Joel Karsten's STRAW BALE GARDENS® technique has been adopted by gardeners all over the planet, and is arguably the fastest growing new method being used by vegetable gardeners since man started cultivating crops 10,000 years ago. Joel will share his technique and explain the advantages of the concept, and he appears at the Flower + Patio Show Friday, March 21 through Sunday, March 23. Come learn from Joel!

More Growth at The Plant Market

After winter's chill begins to thaw, the Plant Market is the best place to get a sneak peek at all the sights and scents of the upcoming spring season. One of the most popular features at the Flower + Patio Show, the Plant Market has everything from fresh flowers and plants to gardening supplies right at your fingertips. And you can't miss it – it's right at the entrance of West Pavilion and Expo Hall.

Deck Wars

It's time to see who can build the most dynamite deck in the Deck Wars competition, sponsored by Trex, the world's largest manufacturer of wood-alternative decking and railing products! Three top decking contractors from Central Indiana duke it out in real time – designing and building one-of-a-kind decks. Each builder gets a 20x20-foot space in Expo Hall, and Flower + Patio Show attendees choose the LUCKY winner, decided on Friday, March 21!

Excitement is Blooming!

Get excited and get inspired by everything that blooms with our

floral professionals all show long! Appearing on the Oberfields Outdoor Living Stage, these designers will share with you everything from how and why to add lavender and elderflower to your garden; take you through a serene journey into healing gardens; share upcoming floral trends; and how to create lasting memories with joyful arrangements. There's bloomin' fun to be had by all!

The Masters of the Garden

Get ready to dig into all your gardening questions with the Purdue Master Gardeners! The Purdue Master Gardener Program trains gardening enthusiasts as volunteers to assist Purdue Extension with home horticulture education in communities throughout Indiana. Have a lawn problem? A dirt drama? Bring them to the Masters! Visit and learn from the best in Booth #506.

Rusted Kreations Flower Truck

Rusted Kreations brings Cora the Flower Truck to the Flower + Patio Show! This flower farmer from Delaware County offers everything from beautiful bouquets to gorgeous greenery for show attendees to purchase and enjoy on site. Come see Cindy and her blooms at the Indiana Flower + Patio Show in West Pavilion.

Green Living with The Hoosier Gardener

Learn about 10 no-fail native plants for our Indiana landscape – plus tips for their care – from Hoosier Gardener Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp! Writing and speaking about natural gardening for more than 25 years, Jo Ellen has all kinds of "dirty" secrets. She'll share them with you when she appears at the Flower + Patio Show on Saturday, March 15 and Sunday, March 23!

The Power of Gardening

Abby Perry, founder of Abby's Garden Parties, combines her Bachelor's in Psychology from the University of Michigan with her expertise as a Master Gardener, specializing in indoor houseplant and succulents. She is passionate about the therapeutic and creative benefits of gardening for mental health. Through Abby's Garden Parties, she offers workshops on house plant care and terrarium building at her retail store in Zionsville, Indiana, helping people nurture their creativity and well-being. Join Abby at the Flower + Patio Show for expert tips on indoor plants and the transformative power of gardening on stage Wednesday, March 19 and Saturday, March 22!

Luxury Shed Escapes

Greene County-based ShedEscape Designs creates the ideal places to escape the outside world, slow down time and make special memories. Does your family need a unique retreat to unplug and unwind so you can recharge and reconnect? From custom Playhouses, Studio Sheds, Cottage Homes to everything in between, check out ShedEscape Designs at the Flower + Patio Show to learn more about building your perfect escape! This exquisite feature is located in Expo Hall!

Blooming Sale!

Spot something in an Indiana Flower + Patio Show garden you can't live without? Almost all plant materials, hardscapes, structures and decorative pieces used to create the magnificent gardens at this year's event are available at our annual Blooming Sale – on the final Sunday of the show, March 23 at 5 p.m.!

Oberfields Tulip Tavern

Need a place to rest and recharge during your visit to the Flower + Patio Show? Visit the Oberfields Tulip Tavern in West Pavilion. Designed and constructed by Lakeshore Hardscapes, the full-service tavern invites show attendees to enjoy a variety of craft beers, domestics, wine and spirits in a unique patio setting.

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Crawfordsville District Public Library

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SAT/SUN |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31  | 1 Human Library: 10am-12p Pi Day at CMMC: 2-4p 2 |
| 3 1st Grade Book Club: 4p Blood Drive: 10a-2p Drop-in Resume Help: 5:30-7p | 4 Baby Story Time: 9:30a Tech Tuesday Beginners' Excel: 6p Master Gardeners Presents: 6:30p | 5 Toddler Story Time: 10a Kindergarten Book Club: 4p | 6 Preschool Story Time 10a Lego Club: 4p | 7 Wiggle and Giggle: 10a | 8 Book Sale 10a-4p  9 Intermediate Tech Excel: 1:30p Daylight Savings Time  |
| 10 2nd Grade Book Club: 4p Drop-in Resume Help: 5:30-7p Yarn Works: 6p | 11 Baby Story Time: 9:30a Dungeons & Dragons for Beginners: 5p Tech Tuesday Beginners' Word: 6p Master Gardeners Presents: 6:30p Genealogy Club: 7p | 12 Toddler Story Time: 10a Kindergarten Book Club: 4p | 13 Preschool Story Time 10a 5-8 Grade Book Club: 4p CDPL Board Meeting: 4p | 14 Wiggle and Giggle: 10a  | 15 Teen Craft/Activity: 2p 16 Intermediate Tech Word: 1:30p |
| 17 3rd Grade Book Club: 4p Drop-in Resume Help: 5:30-7p  | 18 Baby Story Time: 9:30a Tech Tuesday Beginners' PowerPoint: 6p Master Gardeners Presents: 6:30p | 19 Toddler Story Time: 10a Kindergarten Book Club: 4p  | 20 Preschool Story Time 10a Yarn Works: 10a  | 21 Wiggle and Giggle: 10a | 22 Lichen Appreciation Hike: 10a 23 Intermediate Tech PowerPoint: 1:30p |
| 24 4th Grade Book Club: 4p Drop-in Resume Help: 5:30-7p | 25 Tech Tuesday Beginners' Computers: 6p Genealogy Basics: 6p Master Gardeners Presents: 6:30p | 26 Mystery of History Club: 7p | 27  Teen Anime Club: 6p | 28 | 29  30 Sunday Fun Day Tech Expense Tracker: 1:30p |
| 31 Drop-in Resume Help: 5:30-7p | | | | | |

MARCH 2025

Adults All ages
Teens Children



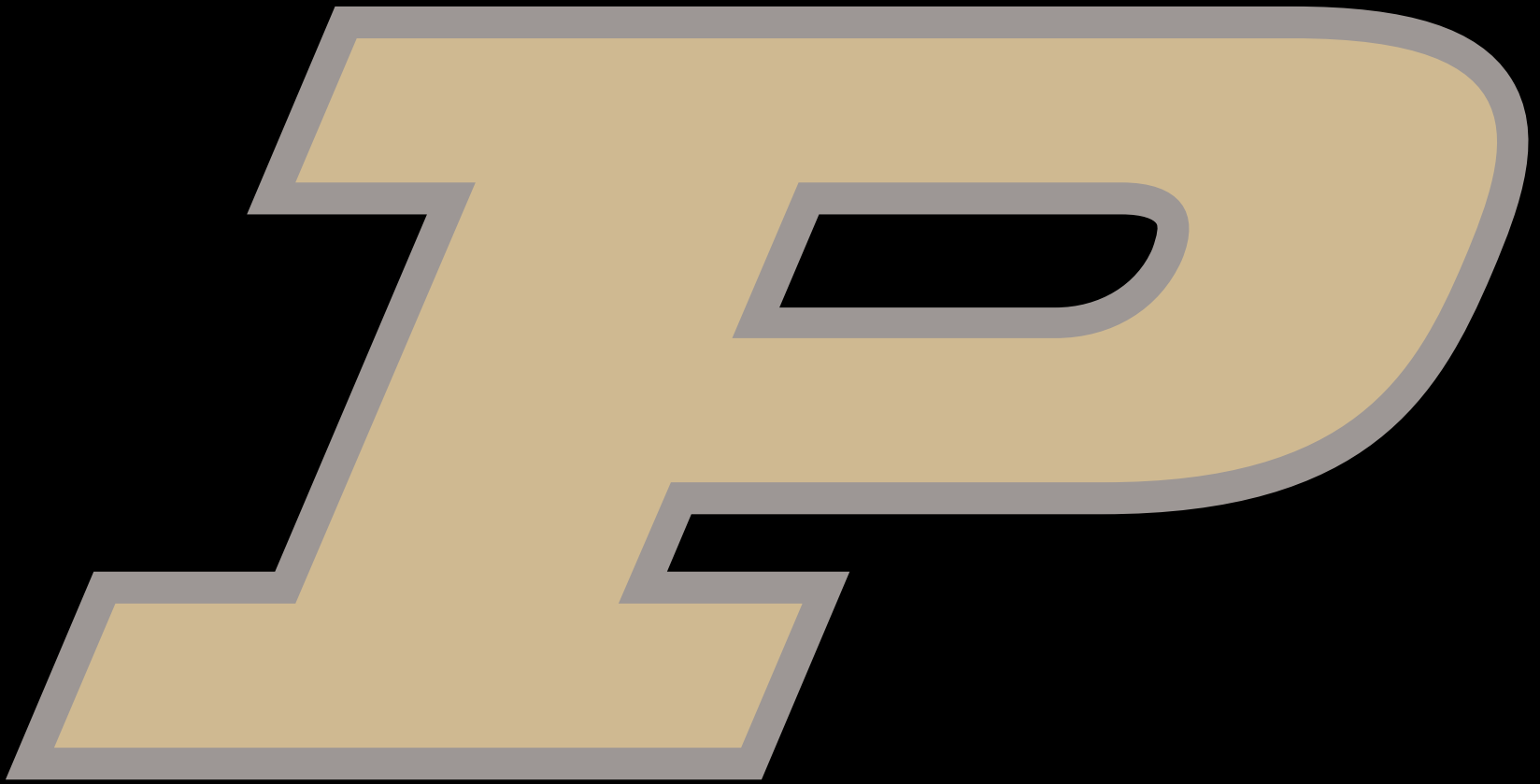
With decades of experience as an award-winning sports writer and sports editor – most of it covering Purdue athletics – Kenny Thompson has a perspective and inside knowledge that few others have. Whether it's putting what's going on in the Big Ten in historical perspective or shooting straight from the hip on what's happening today, no one has a better take on Purdue and sports than Kenny!

**Catch Kenny every Friday in
The Paper!**

MSR: montgomerySPORTSreport

The Paper of Montgomery County

February 2025



IU Only Has to Look North for Identity it Used to Have



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

Like his five predecessors as Indiana basketball head coach, Mike Woodson was asked to do the impossible: be the second coming of

Bob Knight for a fan base that cannot let go of the past.

Like Mike Davis, Tom Crean and Archie Miller, Woodson was pressured to step down last week during the midst of a disappointing fourth season. Already, dreams of Brad Stevens, Billy Donovan, Bruce Pearl and Dusty May are dancing through the heads of that fan base.

If athletic director Scott Dolson and Board of Trustees chairman Quinn Buckner have learned anything from the success of football coach Curt Cignetti, it's time to move on from the Knight family tree.

Being a star player for Knight during a glorious era of Hoosier basketball was Woodson's lone qualification for the job. Do you think any other school in the nation would hire a sixtysomething coach with no college experience and a losing resume in the NBA?

Woodson's downfall was being unable to duplicate Knight's ability to build a successful team. With the aid of well-heeled boosters such as Mark Cuban, Ken Nunn and the Cook / Simon families, it almost seemed that Woodson ran his finger down a list of five-star high school recruits / top-ranked transfers and chose the biggest names that their money could buy.

It is almost impossible to believe that a program that won national championships with the likes of Steve Alford, Scott May and Woodson himself has been unable or unwilling to bring in consistent 3-point shooters.

During Miller's four-year coaching tenure in Assembly Hall, the Hoosiers ranged

between 31.2 and 32.4 percent 3-point shooting on an average of six attempts per game. Davonte Green in 2018-19 (41 percent) and Armaan Franklin in 2020-21 (42.4) were Miller's lone high-volume 3-point shooters.

Other than the 23-12 season in 2022-23, when Indiana shot 36.8 percent on low-volume 3-point shooting (5.7 per game average), Woodson's teams have shot 33.3 percent (5.9 attempts), 32.4 percent (5.0 attempts) and through 24 games this season, 32.2 percent (6.3 attempts).

Miller Kopp (44.4 percent) in 2022-23 and Luke Goode (41.1) this season, as predicted here, are the only high volume 3-point shooters Woodson has brought in. Both were transfers. Somehow, Goode has only started nine games this season while so-called transfer portal gems Myles Rice and Kanaan Carlyle have combined to shoot just below 27 percent from 3-point range.

This should have come as no surprise since Rice shot 27.5 percent as a redshirt freshman at Washington State, and Carlyle made 32 percent as a freshman at Stanford. A larger bank account does not guarantee improved shooting.

For the reported \$1.2 million paid to secure center Oumar Ballo from Arizona, plus whatever cash Indiana's boosters paid out to Rice, Carlyle and Goode, the return on investment has been 15 wins, a 6-8 Big Ten record and embarrassing losses to Louisville, Iowa and Illinois.

Now travel 115 miles northwest of Bloomington to West Lafayette. Purdue

twice has finished second nationally in 3-point shooting percentage during the Miller / Woodson era. That includes last season's 40.4 percent effort during Purdue's run to the national championship game. In five of the eight seasons, the Boilermakers have shot at least 37.4 percent from beyond the arc.

In 2017-18, when Purdue went 30-7, it started three 40-plus percent 3-point shooters in Carsen Edwards, Dakota Mathias and P.J. Thompson. Vincent Edwards was one made 3-pointer shy of giving the Boilermakers four 40-percent shooters from 3-point range.

Purdue's Elite Eight squad in 2018-19 fielded Carmel's Ryan Cline at 41.7 percent, Grady Eifert at 43.8 percent and Sasha Stefanovic at 41 percent. Stefanovic was a 40-percent shooter from 3 in 2020-21.

The Boilermakers posted a 29-8 mark in 2021-22 with Mason Gillis (41.4), Eric Hunter Jr. (43.6) and Isaiah Thompson (42.4). In lower volume that season, sophomores Caleb Furst (42.3) and Ethan Morton (44.1) were effective behind the 3-point line.

With Zach Edey carrying much of the offense in 2022-23, Braden Smith was Purdue's most effective 3-point shooter at 37.6 percent for the Big Ten champs. Fletcher Loyer improved from 32 percent as a freshman to 44.4 percent a year ago for the national runners-up. Smith (43.1), Gillis (46.8) and Myles Colvin (41.4) also were key reasons why Purdue finished second nationally in 3-point shooting.

Loyer has been even better

this season at 45.8 percent, which would lead the Big Ten if he had the minimum attempts required. Freshman guard C.J. Cox has made 42.1 percent from 3-point range.

Notice many of the names I've just listed. Mathias. Vincent Edwards. P.J. and Isaiah Thompson. Cline. Stefanovic. Gills. Hunter. Smith. Loyer. Going back further in the 21st century, there's Robbie Hummel, E'Twaun Moore, JaJuan Johnson, Rapheal Davis and Caleb Swanigan.

That mix of Indiana and Ohio high school stars used to be prime recruiting territory for the Hoosiers.

Fifth-year seniors Anthony Leal and Galloway are the only native-born Hoosiers to spend their entire collegiate careers in Bloomington. Instead of being the dream destination of every teen-age player from Fort Wayne to Evansville, IU basketball has lost its identity.

Purdue has an identity. Toughness, talented big men and game-changing guards who have spurred an offensive renaissance. Naismith Hall of Fame coach Gene Keady laid the foundation over his 25 years in West Lafayette. His protégé, Matt Painter, has built a luxury high rise on that foundation in his 20 seasons.

Michigan State is another example of stability equaling success. The Spartans have prospered under Jud Heathcote and Tom Izzo for nearly 50 years with 13 combined Big Ten and two national championships.

Since Knight was fired by Indiana president Myles Brand in 2000, the Hoosiers have had Davis, Kelvin Sampson, Dan Dakich, Crean, Miller and Woodson

heading the program.

Davis was pushed out in 2006, unable to build off a run to the national title game in 2002 with some of Knight's players. Impermissible phone calls, compounded by a history of rule-breaking at Oklahoma led to Sampson's dismissal. To the chagrin of the Indiana faithful, Sampson has transformed the University of Houston into a Big 12 and national contender. Dakich restored discipline during his brief interim tenure, but Indiana officials brought in Tom Crean from Marquette to basically start over. After three miserable seasons, Crean brought Indiana back to No. 1 in the polls. The honeymoon ended with the top-seeded Hoosiers losing in the Sweet 16 to Syracuse in 2013. Crean was fired in 2017 after a 10th-place finish in the Big Ten.

Miller was never a good fit despite his success at Dayton. Miller's defense-first mindset lacked the offensive skill players to be a consistent winner.

Like the Purdue football program, which will be paying off a \$9 million contract to Ryan Walters over the next three years, Indiana must get this hire right and not just for competitive reasons.

The new coach will almost certainly be forced to restock the roster from the transfer portal with only one high school recruit signed for 2025-26. That will require serious cash on top of the \$8 million deposited into Woodson's retirement account, the discounted buyout of \$15.5 million to former football coach Tom Allen spread over two years and the \$20.5 million annual revenue sharing agreement that begins with the 2025-26 academic year.

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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