

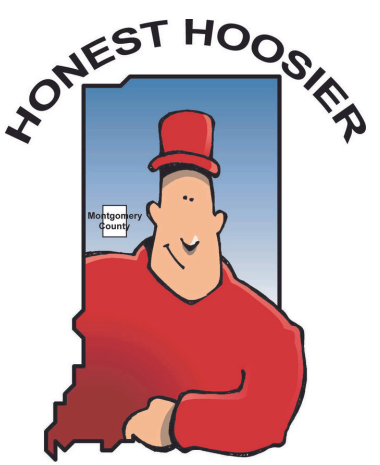
TODAY'S VERSE

Mark 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Meet Baloo



Baloo is an 8 year old (senior) male Black Labrador Retriever available for adoption from AWL since 12/16/23. Baloo is ready to find his furrever home! Baloo enjoys the finer things in life, like treats and nice comfy beds. Baloo will gladly sit for treats. Baloo is looking for his best friend. Could that be you? Baloo is available for adoption, to foster, or just simply going out for walks. AWL is open Monday-Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p. Come snuggle cats in a community cat room, walk dogs, or lend a helping hand!



You know what really puzzles me? Most of us think that the state and federal government is bloated and wasteful – at best. And yet we scream about those who are trying to change it?

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Butch Says Goodbye to the Outhouse!



BUTCH DALE Columnist

I think you fellow "baby-boomers" would agree that the present generation of whippersnappers might be a tad spoiled by the amenities and technology of today. Of course, we always like to tell them how hard we had it when we were growing up. Now think back to those thrilling days of yesteryear, and recall the following...



something else besides reading. Visiting that little shack east of our farmhouse was not something that I looked forward to, especially during the winter months. Thank God, we had an indoor toilet installed in 1954 when I was 6 years old. Got a real bathtub, too ... no more bathing in a metal wash tub! And what happened to the outhouse? It became the new home of two pet rabbits!

coal stoves, one in the living room and one in the kitchen. The coal shed was attached to our back porch, and the coal bucket was kept nearby. Several trips to the shed were made during the winter months. I admit that it kept the downstairs warm, but by winter's end, coal soot was everywhere. Ashes had to be constantly removed, and the stovepipes cleaned out in the spring. We eventually got two fuel oil stoves, which were cleaner, but my brother and I still froze in our upstairs bedroom with no heat. There was quite a bit of coal left over, and for some time Dad used it to cook hamburgers on the outside brick fireplace. Instead of charcoal burgers, we just had plain coal burgers! I likely still have soot lining my intestines.

- (1) The Outhouse... sometimes known as the "mission," since you prayed that no one would interrupt you during nature's calling...or the "library," as there was always a supply of reading materials. The generation ahead of me kept the Sears and Roebuck catalog on hand, but they used it for

- (2) Coal Stove...We had two

- (3) Oak Wall Telephone...Like everyone else, we had the

See BUTCH Page A2

Elected Officials, State & Beyond, Need Priorities



TIM TIMMONS Two Cents

Notes found on the back of a Sheb Wooley autographed picture . . .

I want to ask a favor. (Are you supposed to start a conversation that way? I guess it could lead to a whole lot of folks suddenly remembering they have something important to do, like organize their CD collectionalphabetically)

The eight or nine of you who read these scribbles regularly may recall that I often have a problem with our friends at the Indiana General Assembly. (Well, to be fair I typically have a problem with most elected folks, but I digress.)

As usual, the honorable senators and representatives are once again considering legislation that will eliminate the requirement that local and state

governments have to publish legal notices in Indiana newspapers. Without going into the weeds TOO much, this concerns you because the state wants to create a public notice website that will cost you big bucks (the state press association already has one, by the way, that they don't charge for). By taking away those notices the government is eliminating the checks and

See TIM Page A3

Paper Offering 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@the paper24-7.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

See FREE Page A6

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you're trying to lose weight, keep a food diary and calculate what you're actually eating each day - there are apps for that!



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

TODAY'S QUOTE

"The press is the best instrument for enlightening the mind of man and improving him as a rational, moral and social being." Thomas Jefferson

THREE THINGS You Should Know

- 1 Ahead of International Women's Day this Saturday, Gov. Mike Braun signed an executive order to strengthen paid parental leave for state employees. The executive order also provides paid childbirth leave for women recovering from giving birth, as well as paid leave for those grieving from the tragedy of losing a baby. This means all employed women who give birth are eligible for six weeks paid childbirth recovery leave, and up to eight weeks paid childbirth leave for employees who deliver via C-section. This leave policy also applies to employees who experience the tragedy of losing a baby in utero at 20 weeks or beyond.
2 The DNR continues to detect highly pathogenic avian influenza in wild birds throughout Indiana and has currently detected the H5N1 virus in 30 counties. HPAI is also suspected in an additional 32 counties based on reports involving the deaths of raptors, cranes and waterfowl. Counties where avian influenza has been detected in wild birds currently are Adams, Allen, Bartholomew, Benton, Boone, Clinton, Decatur, Gibson, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Henry, Huntington, Jackson, Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Marion, Newton, Pike, Porter, Randolph, Ripley, Shelby, Starke, Tippecanoe, Union, Vanderburgh and Vermillion. HPAI is a disease caused by an influenza virus that usually spreads among birds. It is common in wild birds, especially waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors.
3 Four-time Indianapolis 500 starter Lee Kunzman, a model of perseverance in motorsports, died Feb. 27. He was 80. Kunzman overcame serious injuries during his career to start at Indy in 1972, 1973, 1977 and 1979. His best finish was seventh, in 1973 and 1977. His best qualifying spot was 11th, for his final start in 1979.

TODAY'S JOKE

Have you heard about the successful florist in town? Business is positively blooming.

MONTGOMERY MINUTE

We have free tickets to the Indiana Flower & Patio Show ready and waiting for YOU! All you have to do is take a selfie with you and our front page (print or online doesn't matter) and email it to news@thepaper24-7.com. If we publish your picture (and we will!), you win two to four free tickets - valued at \$15 each! The Show is one of the oldest flower shows in the U.S. and goes on March 15-23 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Don't pass up the chance for free tickets and a great day! Snap that selfie and email it to us today!

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

LWV Nationally Urges Congress to Stop Trump Overreach



The League of Women Voters, open to men as well as women, is a nonpartisan, multi-issue political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. For information about the Montgomery County LWV, visit: www.lwvmtcon.org or message to LWV, PO Box 101, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

On the 105th anniversary of its founding, the League of Women Voters sent a letter to Congressional leadership regarding the organization's grave concern over the state of our nation. Specifically, the League writes to urge Congress to exercise its authority to protect the rule of law, defend the Constitution, and end the overreach that the Executive Branch has shown in the last few weeks. The attached letter outlines our concerns and is signed by leadership from every state League and DC affiliate in the country.

Dear Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Leader Jeffries:

The League of Women Voters of the United States, along with our state affiliates in 50 states and the District of Columbia, write to express our strong concern about Congress's abdication of its duty and authority under Article I of the U.S. Constitution. We urge you to exercise your authority to protect the rule of law, defend the Constitution, and end the overreach by the executive branch of government, which is surely leading to harm for millions of Americans. We demand that you honor your oaths and protect your constituents.

Less than a month into his second term, President Trump has issued a series of executive orders and directed actions that violate the law and encroach upon the authority of Congress as representatives of the American people. Of note, the Trump administration has, through wide-ranging executive actions, attempted to:

- 1. End birthright citizenship for all persons born in the United States;
2. Pause the distribution of federal funds already allocated to programs by Congress;
3. Dismantle federal agencies such as the U.S. Agency for International Development ("USAID") and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau ("CFPB"), which require notice to and the input of Congress before such actions can be taken;
4. Allow private citizens, who have neither been elected nor complied with the advice and consent requirement of the Senate, to access sensitive government systems; and

See LWV Page A5

Devised Play Hits the Stage at Wabash Tonight



Photo courtesy Isha Patel

New York City-Based Group performs axes, herbs and satchels tonight at Wabash

The Anthropologists, a New York City-based, female-led, investigative theater company, will present its devised play, "axes, herbs and satchels," at Wabash College Fine Arts Center tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Ball Theater.

The Anthropologists' Artistic Director Melissa Moschitto and co-director Sandie Luna helm the ensemble of Black women and non-binary artists who shine a light on the suppressed history of Black midwives, doulas, and birthing bodies. "axes, herbs and satchels" travels across generations with storytelling, movement, southern spirituals, and ritual. The play is an act of reparative history, offering audiences a space for learning, reckoning, and healing.

"axes, herbs and satchels" was developed through

extensive ethnographic research, primary sources and personal accounts to create a new investigative theater piece which celebrates the traditional knowledge held in the Black birth worker community and examines maternal mortality.

The research and development of this play was supported in part by a partnership with the American Anthropological Association, who established the first anthropologist-in-residence with the company.

Tickets are available at https://www.wabash.edu/boxoffice/event.cfm?eventd_id=215

This performance is free and open to the public. Guidance Suggested: This event may involve material that may not be appropriate for young children.

Baird: USDA Scholars Program Now Accepting Applications

Congressman Jim Baird (R-IN-04) announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for the USDA's 1890 Scholars Program through March 15, 2025. This scholarship program provides recipients with full tuition, fees, books, and room and board for students pursuing degrees in agriculture, food, or natural resource sciences at one of the 1890 land grant institutions, which are comprised of 19 historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

"I'm pleased to announce that the USDA has reopened its 1890 National Scholars Program," Baird said. "This program provides vital educational scholarships to students in Indiana and across the country who wish to attend an HBCU and pursue a valuable degree that will equip them to tackle the agricultural challenges of our time, develop innovative farming practices, better manage crops, enhance management practices for our farm animals, fight food

insecurity, and so much more. I encourage qualifying students to apply and wish them the best of luck in their educational pursuits."

The 1890 universities are:

Alabama A&M University, Alcorn State University, Mississippi, Central State University, Ohio, Delaware State University, Florida A&M University, Fort Valley State University, Georgia, Kentucky State University, Langston University, Oklahoma, Lincoln University, Missouri, North Carolina A&T State University, Prairie View A&M University, Texas, South Carolina State University, Southern University, Louisiana, Tennessee State University, Tuskegee University, Alabama, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Virginia State University and West Virginia State University

USDA 1890 National Scholars are required

➔ See USDA Page A3

↓ BUTCH From Page A1

old wall-mounted ringer telephone. It was located near the front door, between the kitchen and living room. We had to ring the operator so she could connect us to the receiving party. There were seven other families on this "party line," and we were two and half rings. Other people could listen to our conversations, and of course, we listened to them. My little brother wanted to call his best friend one time, but a neighbor lady kept talking for almost an hour...so my brother got on the phone and yelled into it, "Hang up the phone, you old bag!" Dial phones came along in 1958 ... our own private line ... Wow! ... but we couldn't listen in on the neighbors' conversations ... Phooie!

(4) Television ... Dad purchased a television in 1952 when I was 4 years old ... two years before we got an indoor toilet. Not quite sure what his priorities were! Anyway, before that TV came along, we listened to our radio, a tall wooden cabinet which also included a 78 RPM record player. I can still recall listening to Jack Benny, the Lone Ranger, Fibber McGee and Molly and The Shadow. In my mind I could "see" the action just by listening to the words. Our TV could only pick up two channels out of Indy, and the screen was often snowy, but I enjoyed watching The Howdy Doody Show, The Lone Ranger, Hopalong Cassidy, Superman, Texaco Star Theater with Milton Berle and Ding Dong School.

(5) Washer and Dryer ... My mother had a Maytag ringer washer for many years. It actually did a good job, but was much more time-consuming than washers of today. We had no electric dryer, so all of the clothes were hung out on the clothesline to dry in the sun and wind. In winter, the clothes could freeze, so they were hung to dry on wooden racks near the stoves. The washers and dryers of today are great, but too complicated for me to figure out ... too many electronics. A few years ago, after 50 years of marriage, I had never "done" a load of

clothes. My wife had to leave one afternoon, so I decided to try my hand at it and surprise her. I eventually figured everything out ... washed the clothes, dried them, and even folded everything and placed them on the kitchen table. She was very happy ... until she found out that I had forgot to put in the soap!

(6) A "Normal" Car ... Dad always purchased cheapest car he could afford. And the cars back then had only the basics ... a motor that an average guy could actually work on, 3-speed shifter on the column, manual roll-down windows, bench seats, a spare tire and jack that were simple to remove, easy-to-read dash, no seat belts or warning lights and no computer or electronic components. Can't work on a motor today, and it takes twice as long to change a tire. There are buttons with symbols all over the interior. Last week I accidentally pushed a button on my Toyota's steering wheel, and it changed the readout on my dashboard screen. It took me 20 minutes to figure out how to change it back!

Calculators had not been invented when I was young, so like everyone else I learned how to add and subtract with pencil and paper, and in my head. Some kids today can't even figure change for a dollar in their head! No computers back then either. To look up facts, I used the World Book encyclopedia. Kids today just Google the information, without checking whether the info is correct or not.

Despite all of the "wonderful" technology that we have today, I am glad I experienced life in the late 1940s and early 1950s era ... a much simpler time. I wouldn't trade it for anything! Well, that's not quite correct. I would trade that outhouse for an indoor toilet anytime!

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.

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do You Recognize This 1951 Crawfordsville Grad?

HINT:
 Her husband was a long-time teacher and coach at Crawfordsville High School.

Answer on Page A5

Free Intermediate Computer Program Classes at Library

If you know the basics in Word, Excel and PowerPoint but want to learn more, the Crawfordsville District Public Library and the Montgomery County Community Foundation have some upcoming classes that may be of interest to you.

Four classes designed for those with intermediate skills are scheduled, Intermediate Word, Intermediate PowerPoint, Intermediate Excel and a class on how to Build a Simple Expense Tracker are on the calendar at the Library. The class on Excel is set for March 9. Those in attendance will be shown how to work with functions, create graphs and use simple pivot

tables in Microsoft Excel. On March 16, the Intermediate Word class will focus on how to work with breaks and columns, create headers and footers and more. On March 23, the Intermediate PowerPoint class will teach participants how to work with images and shapes and objects in your presentation. And the March 30 class will focus on how to create a simple but effective expense tracker in Excel.

The laptops that are used in these classes were paid for by a grant from the Foundation. All the classes are free and begin at 1:30 p.m. in Meeting Room E at the Library. To register, just go to cdpl.lib.in.us

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TIM From Page A1

balances that a free press provides. And third, name me something – c'mon ANYTHING – that the government does better and more efficiently than private business.

To be clear, the government does pay us newspaper folks for the legal notices – but trust me, it's not expensive. The government mandates the rate. What they let us charge them is either at or very near the bottom of anything we offer.

And to be even more clear, I get the idea that they think our industry is dying. But the fact that thousands of you are reading this on a tablet or a phone or a computer of some sort is evidence that we are not. Evolving? You bet. However, the last thing anything in transition needs is another negative. We may be evolving, but what's the old saying about perception and reality?

So we are going to have an old-fashioned rally at the Indiana Statehouse to let lawmakers know we do not want them to pass any of this proposed legislation – and we are hoping to have a lot of people show up! Thus, the favor. We'd love for you to join us. The more the merrier . . . and the better our chances of convincing those aforementioned elected types that they should reconsider.

If you are willing, the rally is scheduled for March 19 at 11 a.m. We're going to meet on the third floor, just outside the Senate chambers. If you would like to go, on behalf of newspapers all over Indiana – a sincere thank you! And if you want to go please do let me know. You can reach me at ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com. I'd love to hear from you – and we're working on maybe getting t-shirts we can share.

Here's the thing – we've all seen the horror stories coming out of D.C. about waste and fraud in government spending. I'm not saying we have that here, but it's time we let those we elect know that we expect them to do better. Keeping a check and balance is just one way to do that. Thanks for your consideration!

AS LONG as I'm on the folks in the Statehouse, let's talk about the ongoing saga of property taxes AND the ridiculous strategy being employed by schools, cities, counties and towns all over the state.

If you've been out of the country and missed it, here's the gist. Gov. Braun comes into office and has a very public plan to fix exploding property

taxes. He wants to start by taking property taxes back to levels from a few years ago.

That triggered a tsunami of opposition. What? Taxpayers were upset? Nope. The government was. You see if we all pay less in property taxes, the government gets less of our money – heavy emphasis on OURS. So, all those folks from two paragraphs above are suddenly screaming how they can't do with less. They NEED that money . . . and the Indiana Senate responded by saying they would limit the increase in property taxes.

Yes, you read that right -- limit the INCREASE.

Mark Franke, an adjunct scholar of the Indiana Policy Review and formerly an associate vice-chancellor at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, summed it up best.

“Other than Governor Braun, I don't think anyone in Indianapolis gets it,” he wrote. “The Senate Republicans are patting themselves on the back for “cutting” the proposed *increase* in property tax bills but only a governmental type could call it that with a straight face.”

Don't know if you can join us for our newspaper rally on March 19, but if you do you might want to add your voice to the property tax battle.

Here's the thing, if Indiana Republicans pass both (and to be very clear, that's who would be responsible), then we all need to remember that the next few times we go to the polls. The party that used to be about limited government and fiscal responsibility has an opportunity here to prove it still is. We'll be watching.

I HAVE great respect for the League of Women Voters – and here in Montgomery County appreciate the column they write each week that goes in our Paper. That started 20 or so years ago with the great Gail Pebworth and continues today with Marie Reynold-Weir. However, this week's column that appears today wasn't written by Marie. Instead, it's a letter from the national LWV and is signed by the top execs and representatives from all 50 states (and the District of Columbia). In short, the letter urges Congress to stop what it calls the overreach from Donald Trump and Elon Musk.

What's the new hot saying now, read the room?

I can't always say I agree with the League.

It tends to lean a bit too far left for my taste. But I certainly respect their opinion. It has long been said in this space and others that a difference of opinion is what made and makes this country great. It'd be a sad state of affairs if everyone thinks like I do. But the idea of stopping the administration from cutting back on government spending is kind of like telling smoke jumpers to stop battling the out-of-control forest fire.

The League even mentions they don't want USAID dismantled – that organization that spent \$50 million for condoms in Gaza, \$70,000 to produce a DEI musical in Ireland, \$1.5 million to promote DEI . . . in SERBIA!

To be fair, there are certainly some roadblocks Trump and his team are hitting. However, the ridiculous bureaucracy and corruption that is our federal government today did not happen overnight. It is deeply entrenched and it is not going to be easy – or simple – to take it apart.

What is hard for me to fathom though is the amount of pushback. I mean the League – and most of the mainstream media – are acting like the fraud, the corruption, the wasteful spending . . . the mountain of things we should be aghast with – are the victims and the executive branch are the bad guys. Seriously. They are. You can't make this stuff up.

And here's another point. A little online research will tell you that the League gets donations from, wait for it . . . politicians. Hmm, they didn't mention that in their letter. They also didn't mention that they have a handful of administrative types (CEO, COO, CDO, Chief of Staff, Chief Counsel, Chief of Culture and Chief Communications Officer) who all earn between \$90,000 and \$158,000.

What would a cut in government spending do to that?

ONCE MORE, The Paper is offering free tickets to the Indiana Flower & Patio Show. Just take a selfie with our Paper (electronic OR print) and send it to us. You can send it directly to me and I'll take care of it for you, or send it to news@thepaper24-7.com. If we print it (and we will!), you can win two or more tickets! (Honestly, tell me how many you want and if it's not dozens, we're pretty easy!) But hurry. The show begins March 15 and ends March 23.

BY NOW most of you are aware that The Paper is doing trips and inviting you guys along. Debbie Schavietello just hosted a trip to Ireland and England and from all reports everyone had a great time.

We're meeting soon to figure out our next trip – but here's a quick question. If my wife and I led a contingent to Israel, would you like to come along? Let me know if you do and we'll start looking at details!

LAST NOTE: Did you see the report that China and Russia are starting to target fired federal employees with security clearances? The idea is that they'll be so ticked off at Trump and Musk that they'll get cozy with the bad guys.

Anyone remember a

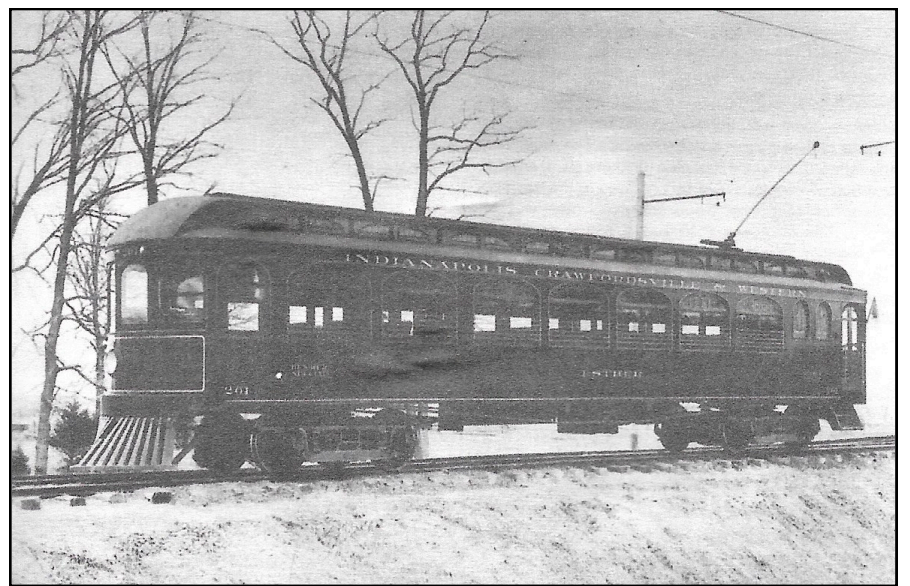
world we used to live in where patriotism and love of country topped all the petty B.S.? Anyone remember a world where a foreign leader who has been given billions and billions of U.S. dollars thought better of biting the hand that feeds it. Don't know about you, and I've made it clear I think Trump can be an ass much of the time, but I like the idea he wants rare earth materials from the Ukraine and that he's cutting off corrupt spending and waste. I hope he goes farther.

I'LL BET A lot of you remember Sheb Wooley. He came to mind recently when we heard the sad news of Gene Hackman's passing. Sheb played the wise principal of Hickory High School and the assistant coach for the Huskers in the classic, Hoosiers.

Of course, the multi-talented star also played in a lot of westerns, including High Noon and The Outlaw Josey Wales. He was the trail boss in the TV show Rawhide. AND, he had Top 40 hits in both rock and roll (The Purple People Eater) and country (Almost Persuaded No. 2). Back when Sheb was in Indiana for the filming of Hoosiers, he was the only name that my Grandpa thought was a big deal. Sadly, he passed away in 2003. Rest in Peace, Principal Cletus Summers!

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

Back in the Day with Butch Dale



Back in the day, before modern cars and the interstate highways, many people traveled to Indy on the electric interurban. That might be a good idea today!

USDA From Page A2

to study one of the following disciplines:

Agriculture, Agriculture Business/Management, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Engineering/Mechanics, Agricultural Production and Technology, Agronomy or Crop Science,

Animal Sciences, Botany, Food Sciences/Technology, Forestry and Related Sciences, Home Economics/Nutrition, Horticulture, Natural Resources Management, Soil Conservation/Soil Science, Farm and Range Management and other related disciplines (e.g. non-

medical biological sciences, pre-veterinary medicine, computer science)

For eligibility, additional scholarship information, or questions about the program, please visit the USDA 1890 National Scholars Program webpage.

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LWV From Page A1

5. Attempt to reduce the federal workforce through unorthodox means that deny them due process.

These actions negatively affect American families and communities across the country.

The League is a 105-year-old nonpartisan, nonprofit membership organization whose mission is to ensure that everyone is represented in our democracy. We are a grassroots organization comprised of over one million members and supporters in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, with more than 700 local and state Leagues. The League uses advocacy, education, litigation, and organizing to achieve our mission to empower voters and defend democracy. We base our work on our policy positions developed out of multi-year studies and derived through consensus by League membership to ensure our advocacy reflects best practices and a nationwide perspective.

So far, the League has seen limited action or response from members of Congress to assert its constitutional authority under Article I to protect our system of checks and balances, the rights of Americans, or democracy itself. Congress must do its part to ensure that our great democracy is preserved and safeguarded. The outcry by Americans who are speaking out against the impact of the Executive Orders, including those who voted for President Trump, should be all that is needed for Congress to stand in its authority, legislate on behalf of the American people, and restore stability to the country.

Executive Overreach through Executive Actions
Presidents commonly use executive orders, but they must be issued lawfully within constitutional checks and balances. EOs direct executive branch agencies and staff to take or stop specific actions. To be lawful and enforceable, an executive order must be rooted in either the president's powers granted in the Constitution or a law passed by Congress. Further, the authority of an EO is not final; federal courts can review an order to determine whether it is a valid exercise of the president's power or violates the Constitution, federal law, or the fundamental rights of Americans.

Without question, Article I of the U.S. Constitution vests all legislative powers in Congress. Specifically, Article I, Section 9 grants Congress the power of the purse to

approve spending in the federal budget in the Appropriations Clause, which reads in relevant part, "[n]o Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law." The Constitution delegates the task of spending funds approved by Congress to the president, which requires the chief executive to "take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed." Congress may allow the president discretion regarding how to implement the programs for which it appropriates money, but a president cannot decide whether to implement them. In other words, once Congress decides to spend money, the president cannot unilaterally substitute his judgment for that of Congress.

President Trump has issued numerous EOs that are not rooted in any presidential power granted by Congress and violate both the U.S. Constitution and federal law. These EOs directly threaten our democracy. They include, but are by no means limited to these:

"Protecting the Meaning & Value of American Citizenship" This Executive Order attempts to end birthright citizenship for certain groups of children born in the United States. It would prohibit federal agencies from issuing documents recognizing the U.S. citizenship of children who fall within certain categories. Yet birthright citizenship is a fundamental guarantee of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which ensures that anyone born in the United States is a citizen of this country and is guaranteed equal rights and protection of the law.

"Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity" This EO withdraws the longstanding Executive Order 11246 issued after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibited employment discrimination by federal contractors and subcontractors. This revocation has been interpreted as undermining the protections of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It is essential that all members of Congress use their bully pulpit to inform the public that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 – and its protections against discrimination – remain in full effect.

1. "Reevaluating & Realigning United States Foreign Aid"
2. "Unleashing American Energy"
3. "Protecting the American People Against Invasion"
4. "Withdrawing the United States from the World Health Organization"

5. "Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements"

As outlined above, our system of constitutional checks and balances gives Congress the power of the purse, not the executive. The president has no authority to withhold funds through EOs without following the lawful process of communicating with Congress. Congress serves as a required check on the president's overreach. The above EOs all pause, freeze, block, or restrict federal funds in some way, blatantly disregarding both congressional authority and constitutional requirements.

Challenge Actions of "Department of Government Efficiency"

In addition to unlawful, unsupported EOs, the Trump Administration has also deployed employees of the Department of Government Efficiency, an unofficial government department, to several federal agencies in an attempt to access secure systems and data, including Treasury Department data. Unvetted DOGE employees who lack the proper security clearances can now enter the Treasury payment systems, which contain sensitive citizen and business data, prevent federal workers from entering their offices, and manipulate and stop payments to federal agencies like USAID, the CFPB, the U.S. Department of Education, and others.

Improper Removal of Independent Inspectors General

Further, on Jan. 25, the Trump administration summarily fired 17 inspectors general at government agencies without giving Congress the 30-day notice required by federal law. The role of the inspectors general is to be an independent check against mismanagement and abuse of power while ensuring that programs and agencies are operating efficiently and effectively. With no inspectors general, there are no internal checks regarding the actions of DOGE in federal agencies or other attempts to institute abuses to the current systems.

Congress has the power and obligation to provide oversight of federal government actions, particularly when those actions ignore the due process required for federal workers and give unelected, unvetted third parties with significant conflicts of interest access to citizens' sensitive, private information. Congress's constitutional duty is to provide a check on the administration's weaponization of

government against its own citizens. All of Congress, regardless of political affiliation, needs to stand in its authority.

Advocates and individuals who are directly harmed by the Trump administration's actions will and are already stepping forward to file lawsuits and seek redress from the judiciary branch. Indeed, more than 68 cases have been filed in the administration's first 26 days. But Congress must exercise its duty to check the executive's serious overreach. This appropriate exercise of congressional authority will reinforce the separation of powers doctrine and set the tone for the necessary executive and legislative negotiation that is required in a democratic nation.

While federal courts have enjoined the EOs on birthright citizenship, the firing of federal workers without due process, the freezing of federal funds, and DOGE's access to critical and sensitive Treasury Department data, action from Congress is critically missing. In its order against the Administration's granting of access to DOGE, the court noted that granting DOGE access to Treasury payment systems exceeds the statutory authority of the Treasury Department and violates both the Take Care Clause of the U.S. Constitution and the separation of powers doctrine. Yet shortly after this ruling, representatives of the Trump Administration are signaling that they may refuse to comply with court orders. Congress has the power of oversight but has yet to utilize its powers of checks and balances given to it by the U.S. Constitution. This is unacceptable. Congress must step in.

As the representatives of every League affiliate in every U.S. state and the District of Columbia and the League of Women Voters of the United States, the undersigned presidents of the League of Women Voters ask you to stand up for the American people. One of the founding principles of the League of Women Voters is the belief that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial. We strongly urge you to use your authority to uphold the rule of law, defend the Constitution, and put an end to the executive branch's overreach, which is undoubtedly causing harm to millions of Americans. The time to act in defense of your constituents is now.

We are happy to meet

or talk to further discuss our position. Please do not hesitate to contact our staff via Jessica Jones Capparell, Director of Government Affairs, at JJones@lwv.org, or Kristen Kern, Federal Policy and Advocacy Manager, at KKern@lwv.org.

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Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia

Answer:
Shirley Hawkins,
who married Tom Thompson

FREE From Page A1

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!

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!

Blooming Sale!

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.!

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Picture: Daughter, Ava Dale Barrel Racing



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