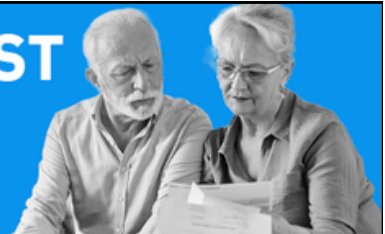


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TODAY'S VERSE

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Meet Daisy



DISCOUNT ADOPTIONS ALL ADULT FIXED DOGS \$80 AWL has a new member of the WELCOME COMMITTEE!! Right when you enter AWL, be sure to say hello to the absolutely adorable bulldog, Daisy!!

Daisy is a 3 year old female Bulldog that has been at AWL since 3/4/25. Daisy enjoys the finer things in life like relaxing in a comfy bed and spending time with her favorite person. Daisy is looking for her best friend. Could that be you? Daisy is available for adoption, to foster, or just simply going out for walks. Daisy is spayed, dewormed, microchipped, and up to date on her shots. Daisy's adoption fee is currently discounted to \$80 with approved adoption application (link below). Come say hi Monday - Friday from 12:15p-5p or Saturday's from 9:30-3p! Come say hi Monday - Friday from 12:15p-5p or Saturdays from 9:30-3p!



Speaking of Happy Birthday wishes, here's a special one to another great Hoosier, Luke Kenley! Hope it's a great one, Senator!

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Boomer Bits

Ask Rusty – Can I Avoid Paying the Medicare Premium?



ASK Rusty
Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters
This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Dear Rusty:
Is there any way I can get out of paying the \$185 I am told will be taken out of my Social Security for Medicare Part B when I turn 65? We pay for Medicare all our working lives, and now I have to pay a monthly premium for insurance that only covers 80%.

Signed: Disheartened Senior

Dear Disheartened:
For clarification, the money you paid into Medicare while working during your lifetime was for Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage). The Medicare taxes paid while working entitled you to FREE Medicare coverage for Part A inpatient hospitalization coverage, but they do not entitle you to Medicare coverage for outpatient services (coverage for doctors, medical tests, etc.). For that coverage from

Medicare, you must enroll in Medicare Part B, for which there is a monthly premium (\$185/month for 2025). If you wish to have Medicare Part B coverage, you must enroll in Medicare Part B at age 65 - unless you have other "creditable" healthcare coverage from an employer.

The Medicare Part B premium will be automatically deducted from your Social Security payment when you enroll in Medicare, and there is no way to avoid it if you wish to have Medicare healthcare coverage for outpatient medical services. But, if you currently have "creditable" healthcare coverage from an employer, you can delay enrolling in Medicare Part B (thus avoiding the premium) until your employer coverage ends.

➔ See RUSTY Page A3

You Prepared for Unpredictable Spring Weather?

Weather is more unpredictable than ever before, and homeowners should take stock of the outdoor power equipment they have in their garages and sheds to handle ensuing damage left behind. Preparation is key—before a storm and unseasonable weather hits a community.

"Today it's not enough to just prepare for each season. We're seeing

➔ See SPRING Page A3

BBB Says Financial Scammers Getting Worse

Investment scams, including those involving cryptocurrency, remained the riskiest scam type in 2024, according to a new report from the Better Business Bureau. Romance/friendship scams climbed to No. 3 riskiest for the first time since BBB began publishing the report.

Both types of scams involve financial grooming, where the scammer builds a relationship with the victim before perpetrating the scam.

Financial grooming scams

➔ See SCAM Page A3

Media Isn't Giving You Whole Story



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

A recent story in the media reported the Indiana Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith wants to double his office's budget. This, during a time when Gov. Mike Braun is asking for state agencies and departments to tighten their belt.

Doesn't sound like very responsible government, does it?

Remember Paul Harvey? Miss him? Yeah, me too. So let's think back fondly of him while we dive into the rest of the story.

Beckwith did not come into the lieutenant governor's office the traditional way. Instead of smoke-filled back rooms, political skullduggery, overt and covert favors and so on - Beckwith went after the job the old-fashioned way. He rolled up his shirt sleeves and hit the bricks. I don't know how many miles he traveled, but if he wore Weejuns like some journalists I know, he likely wore a few pairs out.

Beckwith didn't go to the power brokers - well, OK, he probably did. But more than anything, he went to see Hoosiers. And see them. And see them. He talked to them in their homes, in their coffee shops, in halls and lodges and on street corners.

He made the case that we need better.

Better effort from those we elect. Better results from our government.

It worked. By the time the Republican convention rolled around, he had the grassroots support to all but secure the job of lieutenant governor - even if there wasn't much support from the upper echelons of the party.

So the Braun-Beckwith team hit the general election trail and rolled easily past their Democratic challengers. Was it a match made in heaven. Ironically - Beckwith is a pastor - no. But it's worked so far and anyone who thinks Beckwith isn't a political force to be reckoned with isn't paying attention.

Did I mention he's a pastor?

And a conservative?

➔ See TIM Page A6

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Make a grocery list and only buy what's on it.

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

"Any fool can make a rule, and any fool will mind it."
Henry David Thoreau

TODAY'S JOKE

Why do omelettes love April Fools' Day?
They enjoy practical yolks.

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 TERRI GRANT for subscribing!

THREE THINGS You Should Know

- Where are the best Mom and Pop Hotels? Not too far away, as it turns out. A recent survey of 3,014 frequent road-trippers about their favorite family run hotels found that the Treetop Retreat in Nashville was voted Indiana's Top 'Mom-and-Pop' Hotel. The Oliver Inn Bed & Breakfast (South Bend) emerged in #2, and Songbird Prairie Bed & Breakfast (Valparaiso) in #3. Thanks to our friends at Gunther Volkswagen in Fort Lauderdale for the survey!
- Looking for a place for an icy polar plunge into frigid water? Why? We don't understand, but if you are - West Beach at the Indiana Dunes National Park ranks high on the list. Our friends at AMFM <https://amfmtreatment.com/> surveyed 3,105 cold-water enthusiasts about their favorite destinations. Brighton Beach in Brooklyn and Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park finished top in the nation. But our own Indiana Dunes came in 66th.
- With the tech world exploding, many say the U.S. is losing out. A new report diving into the state of the tech workforce found that 46% of U.S. tech workers say the U.S. is falling behind the rest of the world and 51% say that the U.S. education system failed to prepare them for their jobs. More than a quarter (27%) fear their jobs will be outsourced and fear that H-1B programs are to blame. In some cases, H1B coworkers are paid less than U.S. citizens and more than half of H1B visa holders state their immigration status has been threatened in the workplace.

➔ OBITUARY

Sondra Thompson

June 22, 1960 - March 23, 2025

Sondra Kay Thompson, age 64 of Indianapolis and formerly of Crawfordsville, passed away on Sunday, March 23, 2025 after a brief illness, at Franciscan Health Indianapolis. She was born on June 22, 1960 to Alvin "Dale" and Carolyn (Bruton) Rentchler in Crawfordsville.



Sondra graduated from Crawfordsville High School, Class of 1978. She was previously married to Steven Thompson, Sr. Sondra worked at Hose Elementary Kitchen, Walmart Optical and most recently at Banjo. Sondra was a loving caregiver for her mother. She was a kind and loving person, moved by stories of hardships and donated to causes that touch her heart. She deeply cared for people and supported local humanitarian causes. Sondra enjoyed knitting, watching animal shows and caring for her birdfeeders. She loved playing cards and games with family and friends. Her smile and laugh were infectious to those around her. Family was the most important part of Sondra's life.

Sondra will be missed by her son, Steve Thompson, Jr.; brother, Alvin "Dale" Rentchler, Jr.; sisters, Linda Marshall and Janet (Alan) Clifton; nieces, Jessica, and Jo Lynne; nephew, Ryan; and extended family.

Graveside services will be held on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 11:00 am at Indian Creek Hill Cemetery, State Road 47 South outside of New Market. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Sondra's memory to your local animal shelter. Share memories and condolences at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

Linden Depot Opens for Season April 5



The Linden Depot Museum is excited to announce that it will reopen for the season on April 5! We will be welcoming visitors every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Our team has been working diligently to prepare for an exciting season ahead.

This year, we've expanded our collection with the addition of two remarkable railroad pocket watches. The first is a Hamilton, crafted in 1951, and the second is an Elgin, dating back to 1899.

Mark your calendars for Aug. 9, as we host our 5th Annual Midwest Railroad Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.! This year, we're enhancing the experience with the construction of a second coach for our train and an additional 60 feet of track. We'll be running five trips on the 1837 replica Norris

4-2-0 Lafayette steam engine. Limited tickets are available now, so don't miss out!

We're also thrilled to announce the addition of a circus and carnival to this year's fair. Highlights will include a high-wire act, sword swallower, magician, balloon artist, face painter, and clowns, offering fun for all ages. Don't forget to check out our outstanding HO model railroad and our unique museum exhibits - there's something for everyone to enjoy!

We look forward to seeing you this season! Admission is only \$6 for adults, \$1 for children 12 and under, and a \$30 family membership is available, valid for two years. For more information or questions, please call (765) 427-3630. The museum complex is located at 520 N. Main St. in Linden.

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do You Recognize These two 1995 Southmont Grads?

HINT: The senior class voted these two as having the "Best Personality."

Answer on Page A3

Happy 30th Allen Monument!

Allen Monument turned 30 in style recently.

The local company and the Crawfordsville | Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce had a Popper Ceremony celebrating Allen Monument's 30 years of service.

The company was founded in 1995 by Randy Allen and has remained family owned and operated since first opening its doors. Allen's has grown into one of Indiana's largest monument manufacturers, serving the entire state of Indiana with an ongoing dedication to excellent customer service.

Every memorial is unique ranging from single, companion and family traditional memorials to bench memorials, cremation



Photo courtesy Crawfordsville | Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

Allen Monument and Crawfordsville | Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce folks came together to pop off about 30 years!

memorials, and so much more. Allen's can create civic memorials in honor of those who have served our country. Other products and services include urns, pet markers, rock engraving business

signs and granite specialties. Visit their website to learn more.

Allen Monument Company has four locations: 212 Hamilton St. in Crawfordsville; 2653 Teal Rd. in Lafayette; 1011 N. Main St. in Monticello, and

5234 Madison Ave. in Indianapolis. For additional information regarding the chamber, visit the website at crawfordsvillechamber.com or email Stacy Sommer at ssommer@crawfordsvillechamber.com.

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 Sen. Phil Boots, President
 USPS Publication Number: 022-679
 Annual Print Subscription: \$89

Issue 35
 Tim Timmons, Publisher
 Report address changes to circulation@thepaper24-7.com
 Annual Online Subscription: \$42

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↓ RUSTY From Page A1

If you don't enroll in Medicare Part B during your initial enrollment period (at 65), or in a Special Enrollment Period following the end of your creditable employer healthcare coverage, then you will incur a penalty for enrolling in Medicare Part B outside of the prescribed enrollment periods. That penalty is a permanent increase in your Medicare Part B premium. FYI, "creditable" is an employer group plan with at least 20 participants.

We do not advise going without outpatient healthcare coverage, so you should carefully consider enrolling in Medicare Part B when you turn 65. If you are already collecting Social Security benefits, you will be automatically enrolled, but you can opt out of Part B if you wish – it's just not advisable, unless you have current creditable healthcare coverage from an employer.

So, to recap: the Medicare taxes you paid while working only entitled you to free Medicare Part A

inpatient hospitalization coverage. You must enroll in Medicare Part B (for which there is a monthly premium) to have Medicare healthcare coverage for outpatient healthcare services. Both Medicare Part A and Part B have deductibles and copayments, for which you may wish to consider getting either a supplemental insurance plan or a Medicare Advantage plan. But, in either case, you must still have both Medicare Part A and Part B to obtain such additional healthcare coverage.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. Russell Gloor is the, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/p/rograms/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

FOR THE RECORD

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

MEETING CANCELLATION

- The City of Crawfordsville Historic Preservation Commission did not meet as scheduled on Wednesday due to unforeseen circumstances. This was the agenda Common Council Chambers
- I. Call to Order
 - II. Roll Call
 - III. Approval of Agenda
 - IV. Approval of Minutes
 - A. February 26, 2025
 - V. Consideration of Financial Reports
 - VI. Old Business
 - A. 2025 Work Plan
 - VII. Certificate of Appropriateness Review
 - VIII. New Business
 - A. Review and consider loan document updates
 - IX. Miscellaneous
 - A. Next regularly scheduled meeting: April 23, 2025 at 5:00 PM
 - X. Public Comment
 - XI. Adjournment



Please visit us online: thepaper24-7.com

↓ SPRING From Page A1

powerful storms in places that normally don't get them—and too often leaving behind crippling damage," says Kris Kiser, President and CEO of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI). "Being equipped with the right outdoor power equipment is critical for when hurricane-force weather events bring water and wind, ice and snow put you at a standstill, and power goes out."

To help people prepare, OPEI encourages homeowners to educate themselves by visiting WeatherItBetter.com, which includes tips on having the right outdoor power equipment, severe weather and emergency cleanup, and safety measures, such as:

Have the right equipment on hand—before you need it. Acquire equipment based on weather, seasons and individual preferences before an emergency arises.

Know all equipment is not the same. Understand your equipment and its unique safety and usage requirements before using it. Review your owner's manual and follow all instructions.

Inspect equipment before use. Check the air filter, oil level, gasoline tank or batteries. Stored equipment should be put away without fuel in the tank. Watch for missing or damaged parts. Tighten chainsaw chains. Replace damaged parts or take equipment to a qualified service representative.

Walk through your yard

and work areas. Seek and remove objects, sticks, dog toys, and other items that could create a hazard. Always keep children and pets away from running equipment. Hire a professional if a job is beyond your abilities.

Never alter or disable equipment's safety protection. Stay safe and follow the manufacturer's safety measures at all times.

Use fuel and batteries designed for the equipment. Use E10 or less in gasoline-powered equipment unless it's designed otherwise. Only use batteries or chargers that are manufacturer-specified.

Store fuel and batteries safely. Use containers designed for fuel and label them with the purchase date and ethanol content. Use up fuel before it's thirty days old and run equipment dry of fuel before storage.

Keep battery packs away from other metal objects, like paper clips, coins, keys, nails, or screws, that can make a connection from one terminal to another. Keep batteries stored away from one another.

Clean equipment before storing. Remove dirt, oil or grass before using and storing equipment. Store it in a dry place, avoiding damp or wet environments.

Plan ahead for safe placement of generators. NEVER place a generator in a home, garage, carport, or near an open window or door. Have on hand and use outdoor-rated power cords long enough to keep it a safe distance from the house.

↓ SCAM From Page A1

are often complex and devastating for victims. It can take weeks or months for the scammers to build trust with their targets. Once that happens, the scammer encourages the person to try investing, often in cryptocurrency. It always starts small, as trust builds over time. While the investment "grows," the scammer encourages them to invest even more money. But then the person realizes too late, once they've invested a significant amount, that the platform is fake, and they can't get their money back.

More than 80 percent of people who were targeted by investment/cryptocurrency scams, No. 1 riskiest, reported losing money to BBB Scam TrackerSM. It also had the second highest median dollar loss at \$5,000. Investment scams take many forms, including pressure to purchase, trade, or store digital assets (cryptocurrency) with fraudulent exchanges.

Employment scam reports remained the No. 2 scam type in 2024, making up about 14% of all reported scams. Employment scams had a \$1,500 median dollar loss.

Romance/friendship scams rose to No. 3 riskiest, with the highest median dollar loss of all scam types (\$6,099).

Online purchase (shopping) scams dropped further down the list this year, landing at No. 4 riskiest. This year, 30.3% of scams submitted to BBB Scam Tracker were online purchase scams, and 87.5% reported losing money.

"Scammers are spending more time building relationships with their targets, and the result is significant losses," said Melissa Lanning, executive director of the BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust, which produced the 2024 BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report. "If somebody you met online is offering to help you invest your money, it's a huge red flag, and probably a scam."

Key findings of the report include:

- Overall reported median dollar loss rose 30% from 2023 to 2024. Overall reported susceptibility (the percentage of reports with a monetary loss) fell 14.6%.

- People ages 65+ reported the highest median dollar loss of all age groups (\$160), followed by ages 18-24 (\$150).
- Employment scams were No. 1 riskiest for ages 18-34. According to survey research, the flexibility to work from home was the top motivational factor for engaging with the scammer.
- People reported being more likely to lose money when engaging via social media. According to survey research, almost 50% of scams via social media began when the person responded to a social media advertisement or post. About 15% began when the scammer sent them a direct message.
- Credit cards remained the most reported payment method with a monetary loss, followed by bank account debit and online payment system (digital payment app). Reports of people paying scammers with cryptocurrency rose from 3.0% in 2023 to 4.8% in 2024.
- According to our survey research, 29.6% said their mental health was impacted by the scam incident. The top emotions people felt following the scam were anger (60.3%), loss of trust (54.0%), and anxiety/stress/trauma (53.5%).
- Those who engaged with the scammer for more than one day were more likely to report losing money.

The five most impersonated organizations reported to BBB Scam Tracker in 2024:

- Publishers Clearing House
- U.S. Postal Service
- PayPal
- Amazon
- Spectrum

RESOURCES
For more highlights from the 2024 BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report, visit BBBMarketplaceTrust.org/RiskReport.

Go to BBB.org/ScamTracker to report a scam, learn more about other risky scams on BBB.org/ScamTips and visit our news feed. Scam victims can get resources and advice at BBB.org/ScamSurvivalKit.

CASEY WILLIAMS

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

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Thank you for reading The Paper!

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia

Answer:
 Megan Roberts and Matt Walters

Despite Track Record, Purdue Gets Little Respect from Prognosticators



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist
Purdue's NCAA Tournament run.

Here are some interesting numbers from Purdue's NCAA Tournament run.

Only Virginia and UCLA have had three consecutive winners in the Naismith Trophy's 56-year history. But in each case, it was a single player honored (Ralph Sampson in 1981-83 and Bill Walton in 1972-74).

The Naismith Award will be presented April 2.

Sweet and low
Not surprisingly, the national media continues to have low expectations for Purdue in the Sweet 16. This is the same bunch who openly suggested the Boilermakers were going to lose to High Point and then McNeese State.

Myron Medcalf of ESPN.com has the Boilermakers 15th in his rankings, just ahead of Arkansas.

"In the tournament so far, Matt Painter's squad has demonstrated some of the defensive chops that led to early season wins over fellow Sweet 16 teams Alabama and Maryland," Medcalf writes, omitting that Purdue also has victories against Mississippi and Michigan this season.

SI.com, the online home to the once-esteemed Sports Illustrated, ranks Purdue 14th out of the remaining 16 teams. "You have to wonder, even playing down the road from campus, if this is where the run ends though, especially if Houston can clamp down on

Trey Kaufman-Renn and Braden Smith to force the rest of the squad to step their games up," writes Bryan Fischer, who has Purdue rated ahead of Arizona and Arkansas.

Chip Patterson of cbssports.com also has Purdue 14th, with Mississippi and Arkansas bringing up the rear.

"While most of the teams made it through to the second weekend with at least one tough challenge, either in terms of quality of opponent or the way a game played out, Purdue plowed through High Point and McNeese en route to the eighth Sweet 16 of the Matt Painter era," Patterson writes.

Purdue ranks 13th, ahead of BYU, Mississippi and Arkansas, in The Athletic's rankings.

"Houston is extremely physical and frequently doubles the post," The Athletic's Jim Root writes. "The Boilermakers' shooters will need to be at their best to pull off the upset."

Coaching carousel
Darren DeVries may be the latest savior of Indiana University basketball but the better fit might be somewhere else in the Big Ten.

Ben McCollum's coaching resume reminds me of Curt Cignetti's before he took over the Indiana football program.

This season at Drake,

he guided the Bulldogs to a school record 31 victories in his first Division I season. Before that, he won four national championships at NCAA Division II Northwest Missouri State. Amazingly, McCollum is just 43.

But instead of going to Bloomington, McCollum is moving just two hours from Drake to Iowa. This is going to be the best of the three Big Ten hires this offseason.

His chances of winning early increased Tuesday when guard Bennett Sturtz, the Missouri Valley Conference Player of the Year at Drake, announced he would follow McCollum to Iowa.

For far too long, Iowa has settled for mediocrity. The Hawkeyes have not won a Big Ten title since 1979 (shared with Purdue and Michigan State) and have been absent from the Final Four since 1980.

Ever since Lute Olson left Iowa for Arizona in 1983 with a 167-91 record, the Hawkeyes have been searching for a coach who could stand alongside legends like Bob Knight, Gene Keady and Matt Painter at Purdue, Jud Heathcote and Tom Izzo at Michigan State and Lou Henson at Illinois.

George Raveling lasted three seasons, never getting past the NCAA Tournament's first round. Dr. Tom Davis

brought the Hawkeyes their first No. 1 ranking, but his full court pressure defensive teams only reached the Elite Eight once before his firing in 1999.

The Pierre Pierce sexual abuse scandal eroded goodwill toward Steve Alford in Iowa City, and the former Indiana great left for New Mexico after the 2006-07 season. Todd Lickliter couldn't bring his Butler success to Iowa and was gone after three losing seasons.

Fran McCaffery's teams were never boring and neither was his temperamental demeanor. But after 15 seasons and the lowest average attendance in 60 years (9,161) in 2024-25, the winningest coach in school history (297-207) was let go.

If Indiana's well-heeled boosters let the 49-year-old DeVries choose his players, there's a chance he can be the school's most successful coach since Kelvin Sampson was forced out in 2008. It is concerning, though, that DeVries never won an NCAA tournament game in six seasons at Drake and has just one season of major conference experience at West Virginia.

DeVries' son, Tucker, was the two-time Missouri Valley

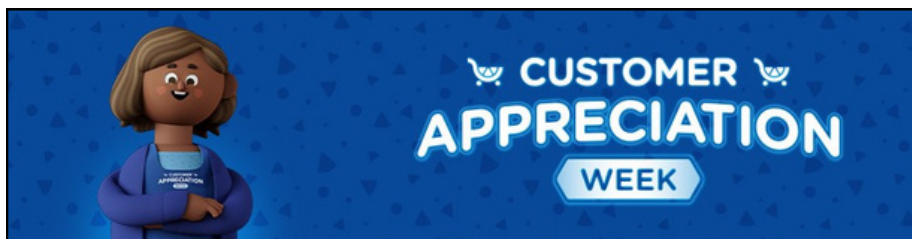
Conference Player of the Year at Drake and took a medical redshirt at West Virginia to preserve his final season of eligibility. That's a good start to rebuild a roster that won't have Trey Galloway, Anthony Leal and Oumar Ballo next season. Malik Reneau, Mackenzie Mgbako, Myles Rice, Kanaan Carlyle, Jakai Newton and Gabe Cupps are in the transfer portal.

Luke Goode is appealing to the NCAA for a fifth season of eligibility but the 10 games he played as a sophomore at Illinois may be an obstacle. The recruiting class consists of just former Indiana high school standout Trent Sisley after Bosnian forward Harun Zrno decommitted following Mike Woodson's dismissal.

Finally, Colorado State coach Niko Medved, 51, is moving to Minnesota after guiding the Rams to three NCAA Tournament berths in the past four seasons. It'll be a challenge to win with the Gophers having just one NCAA Tournament victory since 2013. Financial support for the program is lacking, and Williams Arena is approaching its 100th birthday.

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.

Kroger Saying Thank You to Customers



The Kroger Co. is in the middle of the return of Customer Appreciation Week, the retailer's mega-sales event honoring customers with its hottest deals and digital coupons. It is going on now through April 1.

"We know our customers are faced with many choices when it comes feeding their families and as America's grocer, we are proud every time they chose Kroger," said Mary Ellen Adcock, Kroger Senior Vice President and Chief Merchant and Market Officer. "We are thrilled to bring back our customer appreciation event with even more deals and discounts to express thanks to our customers for giving Kroger a seat at their table."

During the event,

customers can get even more great deals on Kroger's Our Brands favorites and national brands across the store. They're invited to visit Kroger.com/appreciation to save big and learn more.

Customers can look forward to Kroger's hottest deals and digital coupons to stock up their pantries, load up on essentials to watch college hoops, prepare for the Easter Bunny and more.

Boost by Kroger Plus members can enjoy even more exclusive savings during customer appreciation week and may redeem Boost exclusive offers up to five times. Boost expands on savings available to customers through Kroger's free loyalty program.

Members can save customers up to \$1,100 per year on fuel, exclusive savings, streaming options and grocery delivery.

For even more fresh products and everyday savings, visit Kroger.com or the Kroger app, offering more than \$600 in savings available weekly in digital coupons. With more than 30,000 mouthwatering possibilities, customers are a swipe away from inspiration to reality. Kroger is worth it every time.

Customers can shop these items and more in-store or through Kroger Pickup and Delivery, offering the same products at the same low prices no matter how they shop.

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Picture: Daughter, Ava Dale Barrel Racing

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Deery's Ed Bills Progress Through General Assembly

Two education bills supported by State Sen. Spencer Deery (R-West Lafayette) progressed through the Indiana General Assembly this week.



State Sen. Spencer Deery

accountability system that maintains high academic standards while also considering the knowledge, skills and experience that lead to student success.

"Parents have a right to know how schools are performing in preparing students for the future," Deery said. "This bill will give parents the ability to see how their child's school is performing and compare that with neighboring schools."

The bill ensures continued transparency in school performance by requiring the state to continue issuing school report cards while the new accountability system is developed.

Because the bills were amended, they now move back to their original chamber for further consideration.

Deery encourages residents of Senate District 23 to contact him with any questions or comments they may have. Deery can be reached by filling out a "Contact Me" form online at www.IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Deery or by phone at 800-382-9467.

Deery represents Senate District 23, which includes Fountain, Parke, Vermillion and Warren counties and portions of Montgomery and Tippecanoe counties.

Senate Bill 249, which was authored by Deery, would provide meaningful salary increases for top teachers in high-need subject areas. The bill passed out of the House of Representatives today by a vote of 65-29.

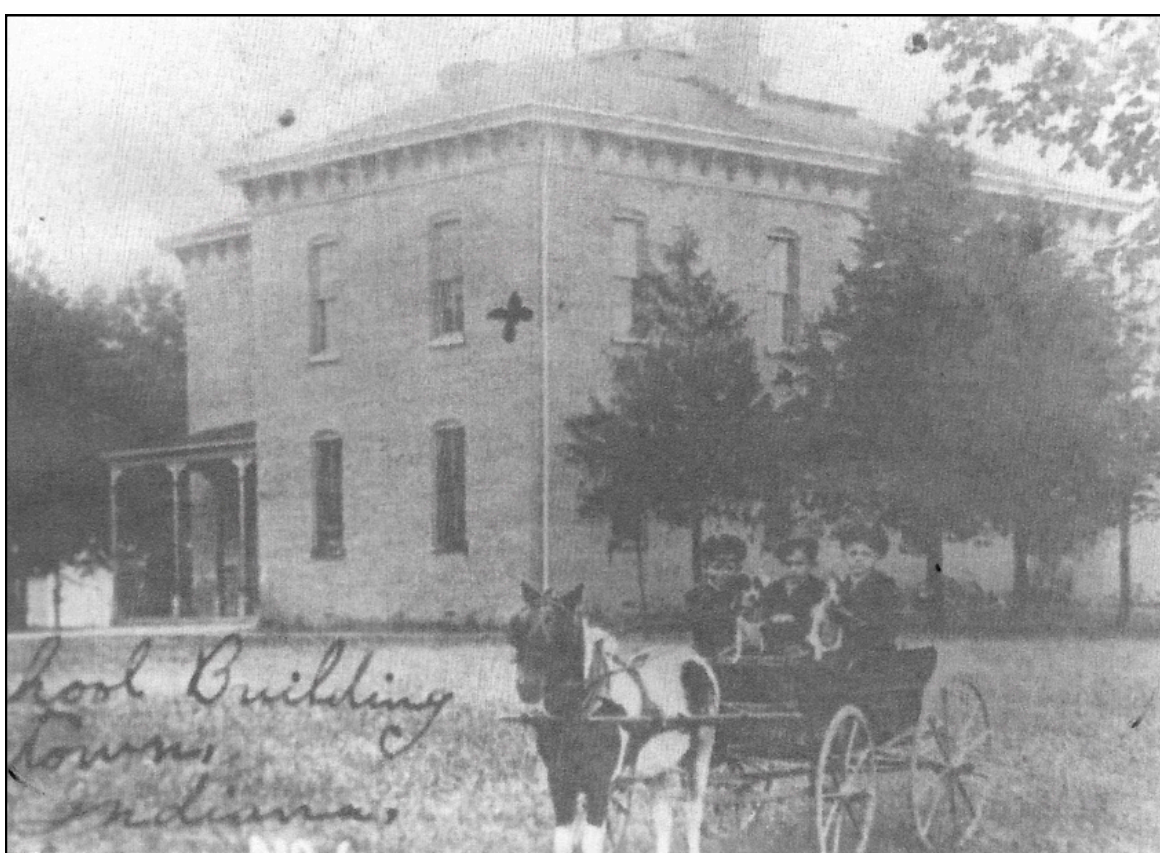
In 2019, Indiana's governor appointed 13 Hoosiers to lead the Next Level Teacher Compensation Commission, which was tasked with recommending ways to achieve more competitive teacher pay in the state. SB 249 was written based on one of the recommendations from the commission.

"Local school leaders need every tool we can give them to recruit and retain high-quality teachers, especially in persistently hard-to-fill areas such as STEM and special education," Deery said. "This bill gives school boards, superintendents, and principals greater local flexibility to pay some teachers more if market forces demand it."

House Bill 1498, which was sponsored by Deery, would require the State Board of Education to create a new system for annually determining the performance of schools across Indiana. The bill passed out of the Senate today with bipartisan support of 43-4.

Under the bill, the board would have the flexibility to create and implement a new A-F

Back in the Day with Butch Dale



Many people remember the Waynetown school, which served the community until 1988. But how many recall the first high school from the early 1900s? The three children in the pony cart are posing for a photo in front of the school with their pet dogs.

Lew Wallace Museum Opening in April

You can tell it's spring. The weather is improving (slowly), some buds are popping up and the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum is getting ready to unveil a set of new programs!

With the completion of the Carriage House Interpretive Center restoration project, the museum is ready to reopen to the public in April. We have an exciting lineup of programs planned for 2025, including a fantastic selection of Hoosier Author books for our book club, a captivating new exhibit celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 1925 *Ben-Hur* silent film, and several engaging lectures to complement the exhibit. It's shaping up to be a remarkable year.

This building that houses the Carriage House Interpretive Center was saved from demolition by the City of Crawfordsville and dedicated volunteers more than 20 years ago.

It was restored in 2005 as the Museum welcome center, exhibit display space, office space and gift shop. In the years since, the building has hosted over 100,000 visitors and was in need of some structural renovations. Thanks to a grant from the Montgomery County Community Foundation, numerous private donors and income from the Taste of Montgomery County and the Holiday Tea, the money was raised and the work completed. You can see the finished product next month.

In addition, the museum annually presents a new exhibit to explore the life and legacy of Lew Wallace. This year they are excited to announce the opening of *Building a Blockbuster: The 1925 Ben-Hur*, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the iconic silent film's release. *Building a*

Blockbuster will be on display through December. More information on the exhibit can be found at <https://www.ben-hur.com/>

Another big feature each year is the Hoosier Authors Book Club. It returns for 2025 with Mary Hannah Krout's book *Hawaii and a Revolution*.

Krout, a Crawfordsville native, was an American journalist, author, and advocate for women's suffrage. For 10 years, Krout served on the staff of the Chicago *Inter-Ocean* as its staff correspondent in Hawaii during the revolution in 1893 and furnished special data for the United States Department of State.

This experience inspired her to write her first book, *Hawaii and a Revolution* about the events she reported on.

The Club will meet on April 17 at 7 p.m. in the Carriage House to review.

And the return of the Dr. Howard Miller Lecture Series is on the calendar. This popular series will feature two insightful spring talks this season.

It kicks off on Thursday, May 8, with Dr. Bela Sandor, Professor Emeritus of Engineering Physics, who will explore the physics behind ancient chariot racing as depicted in Lew Wallace's epic novel *Ben-Hur* and its film adaptations. Then, on Thursday, May 20, Dr. Thomas J. Slater from Indiana University of Pennsylvania will delve into the life of June Mathis, the pioneering silent film screenwriter behind the 1925 *Ben-Hur* movie.

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↓ TIM From Page A1



Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith

And that he is well acquainted with Charlie Kirk's Turning Point USA?

To be fair, there's a slippery slope there. The Founding Fathers separated church and state for a reason. But still, can anyone really argue that we're winning the war on drugs? Or that downtown Indianapolis is a safe haven for an evening out with family and friends?

Maybe that's an argument for another day. But the story for today is how much Beckwith is spending – and that's where the rest of the story got left out. Critics focused on one specific area. However, Beckwith is responsible for not just his office, but four other agencies – the state Department of Agriculture, OCRA (Office of Community and Rural Affairs), the Destination Development Corp. and the Housing and Community Development Authority.

Before Beckwith took office, the budget for all that was around \$43 million. Beckwith and his staff proposed a budget of \$31.5 million. My math skills aren't great but that's a cut of more than a quarter – or around 26 percent. It begs the question: what's more important – the cost of programs, or the overall amount spent?

None of the stories I read shared that.

It never ceases to amaze that our political climate continues to worsen – that substance matters less and style and source matter more. It's well past time we stop caring about who and start caring about what.

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.

Think all that drives liberals nuts? Heck, it drives some of the old guard GOP nuts.

Good. Just one worn-out reporter's opinion, but we need something different in politics. I don't care even a little if you are a conservative, liberal, Democrat, Republican, RINO or on the finance committee of the bridge club . . . how can anyone not see the tremendous waste in government spending. It's astounding that people are more focused on who shares the news instead of what the news is. I could care less if Elon Musk or Barack Obama says it – when someone tells us that the USDA spent \$20 million to advance fertilizer use in Pakistan, Vietnam, Cambodia and Brazil . . . well, I smell something funny . . . pun intended.

C'mon, aren't we all tired of politicians – who make \$174,000 (which in itself is an outrage) – and end up with a net worth in the multi-millions? Wow! They must all be investment geniuses, huh! And if you believe that, I have some smelly land I'd like to sell you.

So Beckwith comes along and has the audacity to say we the people deserve better. For that, and for who he is and who he represents, he's under attack. False report after false report surfaces – sadly for me to say – often from the media.

Which gets us to the rest of that story. Beckwith told the House Ways and Means Committee that he wants more money to work on the mental health side of crime, homelessness and such. He said that faith has a role to play.

Witham Health Has Wide Range of Programs Available

Witham Health Services has shared the following programs are available.

- Diabetes Self-Management Class – Call the Diabetes Education Department at 765-485-8120 for individualized class, scheduling and pricing.
- Restorative Yoga – is held weekly on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Cost is \$15 per class. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information.
- Rock Steady Boxing 1 & 2 - held weekly at 9:00 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- Rock Steady Boxing 3 & 4 - held weekly at 10:00 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- SilverSneakers – held weekly at 11:15 a.m. on Mondays for those 65 or older at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- SilverSneakers Cardio - held weekly at 11:15 a.m. on Wednesdays for those 65 or older at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- SilverSneakers Chair Yoga - held weekly at 11:15 a.m. on Thursdays for those 65 or older at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- BeMoved Dance will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:00 pm at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Cost is \$10.00 per class. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information.
- Tai Chi for Health (Beginners and Advanced) – Will be held weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Cost is \$5.00 per class. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information.
- Indoor Cycling – This FREE indoor cycling and stretching program is designed to reduce the risk of any chronic disease you may be facing or help manage your weight. Held weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursday's at 10:00 a.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information.
- Flow Yoga – held weekly on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Cost is \$10 per class. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information.
- Breastfeeding Support Group – is held weekly on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in the VIP Dining Room.
- Individualized Breastfeeding Support is available with a Lactation Consultant. To schedule an appointment and for pricing, call 765-485-8411.
- Alzheimer's Support Group – Tuesday, April 15th at 6:00 p.m. in the VIP Dining Room.
- Cancer Support Cooking for Wellness – Tuesday, April 15th at 1:00 p.m. at the Boone County Cancer Society, 1208 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon, Indiana.
- Cancer Support Group – Monday, April 28th at 6:00 p.m. at Boone Co. Cancer Society, 1208 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon, Indiana

Witham Health Services is proud to be part of the growth and vitality throughout Boone County and the surrounding communities. Its mission is to improve health through excellence and personalized care. Every day, the experienced and compassionate staff, combined with state-of-the-art technology, bring exceptional health resources to patients and their families – all close to home.

Witham Health Services has offices in Crawfordsville, Frankfort, Jamestown, Lebanon, Thorntown, Whitestown at Anson and Zionsville

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