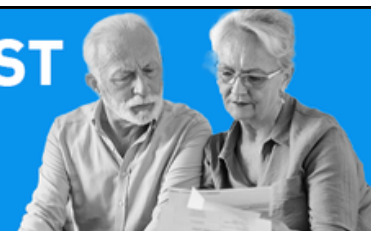


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TODAY'S VERSE

1 Corinthians 15:57-58 "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (NIV)

Meet Lucky



Lucky is a 14 year old American Pit bull Terrier available for adoption from AWL. Lucky is officially one of our oldest dogs at the shelter!! Lucky is a super senior and doesn't believe belong another minute here. He needs a cuddly bed and his SOS! Lucky was transferred to AWL from another shelter. Lucky has had a rough life. He's heart worm positive and would thrive in a home with no pets/kids. Lucky is a super snuggler that takes his favorite blanket with him everywhere and he'll gladly sit for treats! Let's get Lucky a home to retire to (or a temporary foster)! Shelter life is stressful, especially for seniors. Lucky is looking for his best friend! Could that be you?

AWL is open Monday - Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p. Come say hi! Lucky's adoption fee is waived with approved adoption application.



Around this time of year I miss Gene Autry singing about Ol' Pete with his cottontail. (Google it millennials!)

# The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

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CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA


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## Boomer Bits



### Ask Rusty – Ask Rusty – Can Spouses Get Benefits From Each Other?



**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.

**ASK Rusty**  
Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** My wife and I are currently collecting Social Security. We both started receiving SS at 62 years old. That said, we get by on a tight budget. A retired friend told us about an option which allows a spouse to collect half (1/2) of the other spouse's SS monthly income. My question has two parts: 1. Can we both collect on each other's SS? And 2. Are there any pitfalls?

**Signed: Seeking an Increase**

**Dear Seeking:** Well, I'm afraid spousal benefits aren't quite that simple. One spouse may be eligible for additional benefits from the other, but only if that spouse's personal Social Security retirement benefit at their full retirement age (FRA) is less than half (50%) of the other spouse's FRA entitlement. Note that for spousal benefits, FRA

amounts are used regardless of when you actually claim benefits. Full retirement age for both you and your wife is 66, so that means that if you both claimed at 62 your FRA entitlements were higher – about 25% more - than you are both currently receiving.

Since you applied for benefits some time ago at about the same age, one way to estimate if one of you may be entitled to an additional amount as a spouse is to evaluate your current monthly amounts. If either of you are getting a benefit which is less than half of the other's amount, it's possible that the one with the lower benefit may be entitled to more as a spouse. And note, only one spouse is eligible for benefits – you cannot both get spouse benefits from each other.

➔ See RUSTY Page A3

### How to Choose the BEST Surgeon

By Dr. Mathias P. Bostrom

Each year, millions of Americans face a decision that's more consequential than buying a home or car: choosing where to have major surgery. For procedures like spinal fusions and hip and knee replacements -- among the most common operations in medicine -- the choice of hospital can mean the difference between a full recovery and months of avoidable setbacks, pain, and stress.

Yet while a car purchase comes with detailed safety ratings and prospective homebuyers can obtain inspection reports, patients preparing for surgery are left largely in the dark -- even though surgical complications can lead to extended hospital stays, additional procedures, and sometimes permanent disability.

Luckily, there is one telltale indicator of the risk associated with having surgery at a specific hospital - volume, or how many procedures a hospital performs annually. Studies show that high-volume hospitals consistently achieve

➔ See BEST Page A3

### Riding The Storm Out: Scammers Want to Cash In

With severe storms hitting across Indiana recently, Attorney General Todd Rokita is alerting Hoosiers to stay vigilant against storm-related scams. As communities deal with storm damage, scammers are poised to exploit the situation, targeting residents with fraudulent repair offers and deceptive schemes.



**Attorney General Todd Rokita**

"Storms can be unpredictable and devastating, but the aftermath can be even worse, potentially leaving you vulnerable to financial ruin," Rokita added. "Our office stands ready to assist Hoosiers and hold scammers accountable. Together, we can work to prevent fraudsters from derailing recovery efforts."

Unfortunately, storms often bring out unscrupulous individuals who prey on homeowners by promising quick fixes, only to disappear with down payments or deliver inferior work. Rokita is committed to protecting Hoosiers and offers the following tips to avoid falling victim to storm-chasing scammers:

- Be skeptical of anyone offering immediate cleanup or repair services without proper vetting.
- Know the facts: FEMA does not charge application fees. If someone demands payment to help you access FEMA funds, it's likely a scam.
- Research contractors: Check reputations through references, online reviews, or the Better Business Bureau before hiring.
- Verify credentials: Ask for IDs, licenses, and proof that the contractor is bonded and insured.
- Get multiple estimates: Compare offers to ensure fair pricing and scope of work.
- Insist on written agreements: Don't trust verbal promises. Get everything in writing.
- Avoid risky payments: Never pay with wire transfers, gift cards, cryptocurrency, or cash, and never pay the full amount upfront.

➔ See STORM Page A3

### TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Alcohol has almost twice the calories per unit weight than carbohydrates and almost as much as fat.

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 income tax created more criminals than any other single act of government."  
Barry Goldwater

### TODAY'S JOKE

When will taxes get reduced? Next year is the answer. Next year is always the answer. (And if you don't understand, just ask Cubs fans.)

### MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton has scheduled his monthly Community Forum for Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon in Fusion 54 on the fourth floor. This will be Barton's 142<sup>nd</sup> Community Forum since taking office. Holding a monthly community forum was something Barton pledged to do during his campaign and he has continued to do so every month – except during the COVID pandemic. This event is designed to allow the public to come ask questions, discuss concerns, interact with the mayor and learn more about anything regarding the city. Fusion 54 is located at 101 W. Main St. in beautiful downtown Crawfordsville.

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

### THREE THINGS You Should Know

- 1 April is Financial Literacy Month, a nationwide initiative dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of financial education. The Indiana Securities Division, under Secretary of State Diego Morales, is proud to support this initiative, equipping Hoosiers with essential tools to make informed financial decisions and protect themselves from fraud. The Division invites all Hoosiers to take advantage of Financial Literacy Month by exploring the resources available to them; whether learning to budget effectively, planning for long-term financial goals, or spotting the signs of fraud.
- 2 Looking for Firewood? Spencer not too far a drive? Then you might want to know that McCormick's Creek State Park has extended the period the public can cut up and remove certain downed trees to May 2. Trees eligible for firewood have fallen as a result of natural causes or have been dropped by property staff for safety purposes. The cost of one pickup-truck load is \$10. A load is defined as an 8-foot standard pickup truck bed without any modifications. Firewood cut at McCormick's Creek State Park is for personal use only and cannot be sold.
- 3 Grammy-nominated country group Midland will headline the Firestone Legends Day Concert on Saturday, May 24 at the Everwise Amphitheater at White River State Park in Indianapolis. The celebration of "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" expands into downtown Indianapolis with the concert the night before the 109th Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge. Concert tickets will be available for purchase starting at 10 a.m. ET Friday, March 28, at LiveNation.com.



## OBITUARY

### John Patrick Gillan

February 22, 1968 - April 7, 2025

J. Patrick Gillan, age 57 of Crawfordsville, passed away on Monday, April 7, 2025 at Franciscan Health Lafayette after a serious lung problem. He was born in Lebanon February 22, 1968 to Rebecca Sue (Moffitt) Gillan.



Patrick started going to special schools at age 3 in Lebanon. After moving to Montgomery County, he attended St. Bernard's and Hoover Schools. At age 18, Patrick was in a special class at Wabash Center with a very good teacher. He had lung surgery and was in the hospital for 3 months. Patrick then lived at Hickory Creek Nursing Home.

Patrick always enjoyed Bingo Bob and walking him around. He loved being outside and standing by the fence loving on his horse. Patrick attended horse riding lessons with the Chaps program at Brookston. He also loved music and wanted his favorite on all the time.

Patrick is survived by his mother, Becky; sister, Kristine (Don) Barnes; brother, Matthew Gillan; nieces and nephews, Houston (Emily) Phillips, Hannah Phillips, Hunter (Margaret) Phillips, and Jake Barnes; and uncles, Dick and David (Lisa) Moffitt.

Patrick's family will miss his sweet smile. They are also thankful for Dr. Marri's special care and Christine Klein, who cared for him in special ways.

A graveside service will be held for Patrick on Friday, April 11, 2025 at 3:30 pm at Indian Creek Hill Cemetery with Pastor Mike Whitacre officiating. Sanders Funeral is entrusted with care.

## Midwest Bale Ties Rebrands as Midwest Wire Group

Midwest Bale Ties, a cornerstone of the Crawfordsville community and known for its high-quality baling wire and bale ties, is excited to announce its rebranding to Midwest Wire Group. This change reflects the company's broader vision and expansion into custom wire forming solutions, enhancing its offerings to meet the evolving needs of its clients.

For more than 25 years, Midwest Bale Ties has been a trusted name in the baling wire industry, dedicated to providing products that industry professionals rely on. The rebranding to Midwest Wire Group signifies a natural progression, aiming to broaden the company's market reach and

introduce advanced manufacturing capabilities.

With the introduction of custom wire forming services, Midwest Wire Group is now poised to serve a wider array of industries, including automotive, construction, medical and electronics, alongside its longstanding commitment to the manufacturing, packaging and recycling sectors. "Expanding into wire forming allows us to leverage our deep knowledge in wire manufacturing to provide even more specialized solutions to our clients," said Jason Ramsey, President of Midwest Wire Group.

The company has invested significantly in

## Safely Dispose of Prescription Drugs at Drug Take Back Day

On Saturday, April 26, the Harm Reduction Committee of the Montgomery County Drug Free Coalition will host the biannual Prescription Drug Take Back event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot of First Christian Church at 211 S. Walnut St. in Crawfordsville.

This free event provides the opportunity to carefully dispose of expired, unused or unneeded prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications.

What can happen if you keep old prescriptions and other medications around the house? Expired medications can be less effective or risky from a change in the chemical composition or a decrease in strength. Certain expired medications are at risk of bacterial growth and sub-potent antibiotics can fail to treat infections, leading to more serious illnesses and antibiotic resistance.

According to the DEA, many people don't know how to properly clean out their

medicine cabinets and failing to dispose of old medications, especially opioids, can often lead to dangerous drugs ending up in the wrong hands. Reducing the misuse of these expired medications can play a key role in combating the substance abuse issue often serving as a gateway to using more harmful substances.

Can't attend this event? Don't worry! Prescription drug disposal is also available year-round at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and the Crawfordsville Police Department.

The Harm Reduction Committee would also like to highlight the importance of proper disposal for not only medication, but for sharps / needles. Sharps can be safely disposed of at the Montgomery County Health Department, located at 1580 Constitution Row, Suite G and at the Crawfordsville Police Department lobby, located at 311 N. Green St.

For more information, visit [www.drugfree.moco.org](http://www.drugfree.moco.org).

### About Midwest Wire Group

Midwest Wire Group, formerly known as Midwest Bale Ties, is a leading provider of baling wire products and custom wire forming solutions. Based in Crawfordsville, Midwest Wire Group is dedicated to delivering high-quality, innovative products designed to meet the diverse needs of its clients across various industries.

the latest wire forming technologies, housed at its Crawfordsville facility. This investment not only boosts local employment but also contributes to the community's economic development. "We're proud to continue our commitment to Crawfordsville, supporting the community that has been instrumental in our success," Ramsey added.

As Midwest Wire

Group, the company will continue to uphold the standards of excellence and reliability that clients have come to expect, now with even greater capabilities. The rebranding and expansion efforts reflect Midwest Wire Group's commitment to innovation and customer satisfaction.

For more information about Midwest Wire Group visit <https://www.MidwestWireGroup.com>.

## Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do You Recognize This 1982 North Montgomery Grad?

HINT: To find her today, you can visit the Servicemaster business of Wabash Avenue!

Answer on Page A3

**NEED EXTRA CASH?**

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**Home of Greg & Linda Vice**  
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**Looking for a part-time job that does not involve the words:**  
**Would You Like Fries With That?**

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

**Basic data entry skills are required. Experience with QuickBooks is a bonus.**

**E-mail [jobs@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:jobs@thepaper24-7.com)**

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# 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.*

## NOTICE

### COMMITTEE MEETING

Re: Public Defender's Office  
Monday, April 14, 2025  
8:30 a.m.  
Montgomery County Government Center  
1580 Constitution Row – Suite E – Commissioners Conference Room  
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

## BOARD OF WORKS

City of Crawfordsville  
Wednesday, April 9, 2025  
I. Approval of the minutes from April 2, 2025  
II. Approval of the claims for the week of April 7, 2025  
III. Old Business  
IV. New Business  
A. Price Excavating requesting to close Water Street on Tuesday, April 15th all day at Ben Hur  
B. Street Department - requesting to surplus a 1994 GMC Topkick Trash Truck (vin#1GDP7HJ4RJ502027)  
C. CEL&P - Approval for Diamond Ridge streetlights  
D. CEL&P - Approval for phase 1 of streetlights at Hawkview/Arbor Homes  
V. Miscellaneous  
VI. Department Heads  
VII. Adjournment

## CRAWFORDSVILLE DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board of Trustees Meeting Notice and Agenda  
April 10, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.  
Conference Room  
 Call to order  
 Administration Suite – Open and Read Bids  
 Public Comments  
 Minutes – action  
 Claims – action  
 Appointment/Committee Reports: Main Street, Park Board, Friends of CMMC, Finance Committee  
 Old Business  
 Director's Report  
 Financial Reports  
 New Business  
Annual Review of Employee Handbook – information  
 Adjournment  
Upcoming board meetings  
May 8, 2025  
June 12, 2025  
July 10, 2025

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025  
8 AM  
1580 Constitution Row -Room E109  
Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
AGENDA  
CALL TO ORDER Board President Dan Guard  
PLEDGE ALLIGENCE and PRAYER  
CONSENT AGENDA  
Approval of Claims: AP -\$ & 4/4 Payroll -\$  
Minutes: March 24, 2025  
PUBLIC HEARING: Re-Establish Cum Bridge Tax Rate for 2025  
Ordinance 2025-12 Re-Establishing the Cumulative Bridge Fund  
NEW BUSINESS  
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program  
Inspection Services Contracts: Todd Randsom & Khanrad Wilson; Radon Testing Contracts: Rick Louderback & Khanrad Wilson  
Petition for Annexation into the City of Crawfordsville -East side of the intersection SR47 South & Purple Heart Parkway  
Emergency/Transitional Housing Collaboration Project between Probation Department & Family Crisis Shelter  
Highway Department  
Accept & Award CCCMG Bids -Sign Contract & Issue Notice to Proceed  
Official Detour for US41 Project -CR750W between SR47 & SR 234  
Vialytics Road Management System -3-year Contract \$32,020 per year -\$500 startup fee  
Facility Encroachment Agreement with CSX  
Request to Provide Guidance on Loss of Earnings Calculations for Elected Officials in Hoosier Start Retirement Program  
ORDINANCES  
Second Reading Ordinance 2025-10 Creating the 2024-2025 Montgomery County Health Department Immunization Grant Fund -\$27,014.78  
Second Reading Ordinance 2025-11 Creating the 2024-2025 Health Department Tire Amnesty Grant Fund -\$10,000

## RESOLUTION

Resolution 2025-11 Authorizing the City of Crawfordsville, Sunshine Vans and Program Director Belinda Young to Submit Application for INDOT Public Transportation Funding  
OTHER BUSINESS  
2025 Arbor Day Proclamation  
ADJOURNMENT  
\*Next Commissioner Meeting -Monday, April 28, 2025 @ 8:00 am\*

## CRAWFORDSVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

Board of Education - Regular Meeting  
Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 5:30 P.M.  
Crawfordsville High School  
One Athenian Dr.  
AGENDA  
I. Roll Call  
II. Pledge of Allegiance  
III. Building Principal Report - Jay Strickland - CHS Principal  
IV. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes, Construction Accounts Payable Claims Vouchers, Register of Accounts Payable Vouchers, and Surplus Items  
V. Old Business  
VI. New Business a. Consider Approval for Student International Travel Opportunity - Chloe Carter  
b. Consider CHS Student Handbook for 2025-2026 - Susan Albrecht  
c. Consider CMS Student Handbook for 2025-2026 - Kent Minnette  
d. Consider AVA Student Handbook for 2025-2026 - Monte Thompson  
e. Consider MCCF Unrestricted Grant Application - Spring Cycle  
f. Consider Approval for Technology Advance from the Common School Fund  
g. Consider Policy 4420 Law Enforcement Relations - First Reading  
h. Consider AVA School Amendment  
VII. Personnel a. Consider Ashley Fisher Resignation - CHS Teacher Assistant  
b. Consider Ember Neal Resignation - Hose Teacher Assistant  
c. Consider Brian Bartlett Resignation - CMS Part-Time Band Director  
d. Consider Michelle Pichardo Resignation - Hoover Teacher Assistant  
e. Recommend Sidney Veatch - Hose Elementary Teacher  
VIII. Business Manager Report  
IX. Assistant Superintendent Report  
X. Superintendent Report  
XI. Other  
XII. Board Member Communication  
XIII. Patron Comments  
XIV. Adjournment  
Patron's Comments are limited to 3 minutes per spokesperson for a total of 30 minutes.

## NORTH MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

School Board Executive Session  
480 W 580 N, Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
Friday, April 11 – 7:30 a.m.  
1. Call Meeting to Order  
Pledge of Allegiance  
1. Executive Session  
Where authorized by federal or state statute. IC 5-14-1.5-6 (b) (1)  
To discuss a job performance evaluation of individual employees. This subdivision does not apply to a discussion of the salary, compensation, or benefits of employees during a budget process. IC 5-14-1.5-6 (b) (9)  
1. Adjournment

## ↓ RUSTY From Page A1

Another way to explore this is for the spouse with the lowest monthly Social Security benefit to contact Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 to ask if spouse benefits are available. Noting that contacting SS these days can be a time-consuming process, yet another way is for you to provide us (the AMAC Foundation's SS Advisory Service) with both of your current monthly SS benefit amounts (before any deductions) and the exact ages when each of you claimed. Using that information, we can do the math to see if either of you might be entitled to more as a spouse. But, in the end, only the spouse with

the lower benefit may be eligible, and then, only if their FRA entitlement (not their actual current amount) is less than 50% of the other spouse's FRA entitlement.

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

## ↓ BEST From Page A1

better outcomes across multiple types of surgery.

This makes the current approach to choosing surgical care deeply concerning. Research shows that most patients select hospitals based on data-free factors like word-of-mouth recommendations or doctor referrals. These recommendations and referrals aren't always completely objective, especially as health systems increasingly pressure physicians to refer patients within their own systems.

Patients can become their own best advocates -- by examining the data in five critical areas.

First, look at success rates -- how well patients actually recover. The best hospitals track and share their patients' improvements in quality of life, pain levels, and function after surgery.

Second, examine patient experience scores. They contain a wealth of information about how well a hospital communicates, coordinates care, and supports patients through their journey.

Third, dig into complication rates. Find out how often things go wrong and how well the hospital handles the challenges that arise.

The fourth factor, readmission rates, is particularly telling. How often do patients end up back in the hospital unexpectedly? Low rates of readmission signal that a hospital excels at preventing complications and managing the overall process of recovery.

Fifth, consider procedure volume -- how many of the specified surgeries the

hospital performs. Experience matters, and high-volume centers tend to deliver better results.

Together, these five measures paint a clear picture of hospital quality -- and should be readily available to any patient considering surgery. Yet all too often this information is difficult or impossible to find.

Currently, there are few resources available to patients interested in comparison shopping. While the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services provides some hospital comparison tools, they're clunky and incomplete. Private insurers have detailed data on their providers' outcomes, but many choose not to share it.

Easier access to comparisons would be game-changing both for patients and the healthcare system as a whole. Just as vehicle safety ratings spurred car makers to compete on crash protection, surgical outcome transparency could drive providers to improve their results. Research suggests that simply publishing complication rates motivates hospitals to enhance their safety practices.

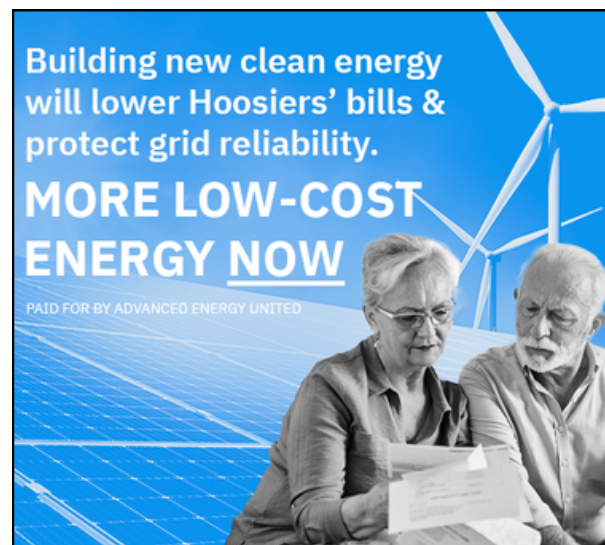
Patients scheduling surgery shouldn't settle for less information than they'd want when buying a car -- and our healthcare system shouldn't make finding it any harder than reading a window sticker.

Mathias P. Bostrom, MD, is Associate Surgeon-in-Chief & Director, Quality & Safety at the Hospital for Special Surgery. This was originally published by The Well News: <https://www.thewellnews.com/opinions/patients-should-know-about-the-surgery-quality-blind-spot/>.

## ↓ STORM From Page A1

If you suspect a scam, Rokita encourages you to file a complaint at [indianaconsumer.com](http://indianaconsumer.com) or call his office at 1-800-382-5516. The

Consumer Protection Division is dedicated to safeguarding Hoosiers from fraudulent schemes year-round.



**Butch Dale's  
Flashback Trivia**

**Answer:  
Nancy (Leach) Brady**

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## LETTERS TO EDITOR

### Orthodox Church Invites Community to Holy Week Services

Dear Editor,

Something extraordinary is going to happen on Easter Sunday April 20. All Christians all over the world will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the same day!

This usually does not happen because the two largest Christian communions, Roman Catholic and Orthodox, use a different method for computing the date of Easter and typically the Orthodox date is later than the Roman Catholic and Protestant date.

This year the two dates providentially coincide along with the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea where the statement of faith for all Christians, the Nicene Creed, was first formulated.

Even with Easter being on the same date, Christian's still have options on how and when the resurrection of Christ is celebrated.

Many communities have sunrise services and other unique events to mark this special day.

The Orthodox celebration takes place late on Saturday night and extends into the early hours of Sunday in honor of the fact that the resurrection took place in the dark of night.

The service concludes with a huge feast featuring the meats and dairy products that have been given up during the seven weeks leading up to the Resurrection.

We invite anyone who doesn't already have plans to join us for this celebration of the greatest moment in history. The service at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church 4636 Fall Creek Rd. in Crawfordsville begins Saturday April 19 at 10 p.m.

For more information or for a full schedule of Holy Week services please contact me at [fatheralexmillergmail.com](mailto:fatheralexmillergmail.com) or call me at (765) 307-0515.

*Fr. Alexis Miller  
Pastor, Holy  
Transfiguration  
Orthodox Church*

### Writer Questions Protest Group

Dear Editor,

A sure sign of insanity is to stand around in the rain protesting an administration that is cutting wasteful spending, eliminating fraud and deporting illegal criminals. Who in their right mind would be against that?

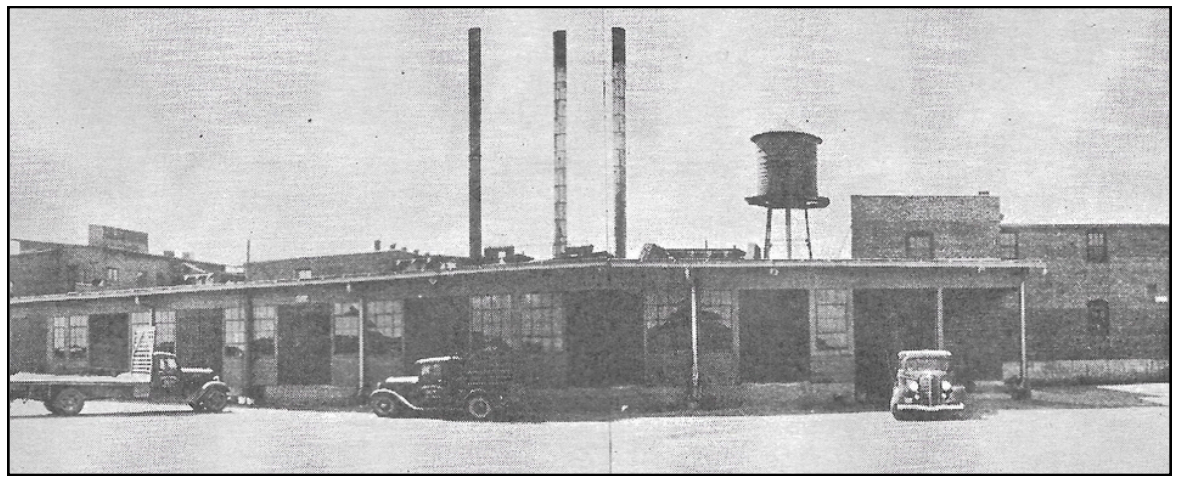
The signs the group held were hysterical and made no sense at all. How in God's Holy name does that wayward group think getting rid of wasteful spending, fraud and illegals would

somehow be detrimental to Democracy and our children?

As for the size of the group that the Dems claim was around 150, a friend of mine actually drove by the demonstration and saw 15 people, not 150. The picture on the front page of The Paper had only eight people in it.

*Ron Carmony  
Indianapolis  
Formerly from  
Crawfordsville*

## Back in the Day with Butch Dale



I always wondered how Ladoga High School came up with the name "Canners" for their athletic teams. The Ladoga Canning Company started up in 1903, and through the years employed many people. At one time, they were doing \$2 to \$3 million worth of business annually.

### Witham Blood Drive Thursday

Witham Health Services will host a blood drive on Thursday on the Lebanon campus. Witham has a long history of support for the Versiti Blood Center of Indiana and participates in quarterly corporate blood drives allowing Witham employees to give back to the community in the convenience of their workplace. The blood drives are also open to the public.

Every day more than 10,000 patients rely on blood donors to survive. Do you know that:

- Every TWO SECONDS someone needs blood in the United States.

- Indiana needs to see 550 donors PER DAY to keep up with the demand of our local hospitals.

- Your ONE donation will help up to THREE Indiana patients in need.

### Witham Hosts Rise and Roll Amish Goods Fundraiser!

The Witham Volunteer Organization is hosting the Rise and Roll Amish Goods Sale on Thursday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., (while supplies last). Offering a wide assortment of baked goods, pies, jams and jarred goods, cheeses, noodles, butter and more! Just in time for your Easter meal planning! (Debit card, credit card and cash are all accepted).

The event location is the main entrance of Witham Health Services at 2605 North Lebanon

Potential donors must be at least 17 years old (16 years old with parental consent form signed), weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good general health. Donors must also present a picture I.D., such as a driver's license. Donations are welcome from all community members, not just Witham employees. The blood drive location is at the hospital's main campus. Enter the building at the North Pavilion, 2705 N. Lebanon Street, Entrance A and follow directions to the North Pavilion Conference Rooms. Interested donors are encouraged to go online to schedule [https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/1600886](https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/1600886)

Walk-ins are also welcome. For additional information please call 485-8120.

St. in Lebanon.

All proceeds from the fundraiser benefit the Witham Volunteer Organization Scholarship Program and various fund the need initiatives for Witham Hospital.

For more information about this event or to learn about volunteer opportunities at Witham, contact Amy Mitchell, Director of Volunteer Services at: (765) 485-8175, or by email at: [amitchell@witham.org](mailto:amitchell@witham.org)

### Water Supply Legislation Passes House

The Indiana House recently passed legislation to safeguard Hoosiers' water supply and improve oversight on how it's regulated, according to area lawmakers.

"Indiana continues to see increasing demand for water through new economic development and agricultural and residential needs," said State Rep. Mark Genda (R-Frankfort). "This legislation is a step in the right direction to make sure we're balancing those needs while protecting the water supply for our communities."

State Rep. Matt Commons (R-Williamsport) said the legislation is in part a response to water concerns associated with the Indiana Department of Economic Development's LEAP Lebanon Innovation District. Tenants at the industrial park expect to need more water than is locally available. An initial proposal to build a 50-mile pipeline from Tippecanoe County capable of transferring 100 million gallons a day was shelved so the Indiana Finance Authority could study its feasibility. Citizens Energy Group has since committed to utilizing their 10 water treatment plants and other resources to supply the LEAP District with the water they need without a pipeline.

"Water pipelines may be necessary for some new developments, but we want to make sure we aren't jeopardizing our local water supplies," Commons said. "This legislation will proactively address growing concerns on water resources and act as a guide for future water policy."

Senate Enrolled Act 4 would strengthen oversight of water infrastructure projects by requiring utilities to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the Indiana Utility

Regulatory Commission before any pipeline construction begins.

In addition, the legislation would prohibit individuals from transferring substantial amounts of water out of a basin or restricted use area without first obtaining a transfer permit from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. This would address concerns of unrestricted water transfers negatively impacting water sources for local industries, agriculture and residents.

To further protect Indiana water, Senate Enrolled Act 28 provides a way for owners and operators of Significant Groundwater Withdrawal Facilities (SWWFs), such as household wells, whose water supply is not at its normal level or potable, to file a complaint with the director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The director will investigate the complaint within three business day. SWWF owners found responsible for the failure or substantial impairment of wells must provide timely and reasonable compensation to the well's owner.

Senate Enrolled Act 4 and Senate Enrolled Act 28 now go to the governor for consideration as new laws. Learn about legislation and follow session at [iga.in.gov](http://iga.in.gov).

State Rep. Matt Commons (R-Williamsport) represents House District 13, which includes all of Benton and Warren counties, and portions of Fountain, Jasper, Montgomery, Newton, Tippecanoe and White counties. State Rep. Mark Genda (R-Frankfort) represents House District 41, which includes portions of Boone, Clinton, Montgomery and Tippecanoe counties.

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# Despite ESPN Blunder, Purdue's Braden Smith Getting Deserved Attention



**KENNY THOMPSON**  
Columnist

Today, the Bob Cousy Award. Tomorrow? Maybe the Wooden Award.

It's heady times for former Indiana Mr. Basketball Braden Smith, who took home the award as the nation's best point guard during Final Four Week in San Antonio.

Presuming Smith returns to Purdue for his senior season, some national media members think he could join former teammate Zach Edey as the national player of the year in 2025-26. More on that later.

Winning the Cousy Award marks the third player recruited by Matt Painter to win one of the five position awards. Carsen Edwards took home the Jerry West Award as the nation's top shooting guard in 2018. Edey won two consecutive Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Awards given to the nation's top center.

Purdue also should have had a Karl Malone Award winner in power forward Caleb Swanigan in 2017. Voters instead gave the honor to Baylor junior Johnathan Motley, even though Swanigan had better statistics. Swanigan averaged 18.5 points and 12.5 rebounds during his Big Ten Player of the Year season. Motley put up 17.3 points and 9.9 rebounds.

Maybe Trey Kaufman-Renn makes up for that slight in 2025-26.

Smith puts Purdue with Gonzaga, Duke and Kentucky as the only schools to have three different players win their respective positional trophy.

"To be included among the elite players that have won this award is very humbling and I am grateful to be selected to join that prestigious group," Smith said.

Smith will enter his senior season needing just 125 points and 242 assists to become the first player in NCAA history with 1,500 points, 1,000 assists and 500 rebounds for his career. Bobby Hurley's career assists record of 1,076 is within Smith's reach as well. Smith needs 318 assists, five more than his school record total this season.

Unfortunately for Smith and Purdue fans, ESPN managed to screw up the Cousy Award announcement.

The supposed "Worldwide Leader in Sports" ran a video package of Creighton center Ryan Kalkbrenner, who at 7-1 will never be mistaken for a point guard, instead of Smith's highlights.

Anchor Rece Davis immediately corrected the error. Later on social media, Davis said "a wrong tape rolled." The correct tape never aired, though. Not a surprise coming from a network that ignores

leagues whose rights it doesn't own.

**Great expectations**  
Now that the college basketball nation outside of ESPN believes in Braden Smith, Purdue is a national championship favorite in 2025-26.

The most confident forecast comes from The Athletic, where writer C.J. Moore picks the Boilermakers No. 1 in his way-too-early Top 25.

"Talent plus roster continuity is a winning formula, and no team has a better combination of that at this moment than Purdue," Moore writes. "This will be the only team returning a first-team AP All-American in Braden Smith, not to mention an honorable mention in forward Trey Kaufman-Renn. When Houston prepped for Purdue in the Sweet 16, the Cougars' coaches took to calling Smith, Kaufman-Renn and Fletcher Loyer "Stockton, Malone and Hornacek."

John Stockton and Karl Malone of the Utah Jazz were members of the first Olympic Dream Team in 1992 and have been enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Jeff Hornacek was an NBA All-Star guard for Phoenix, Philadelphia and Utah and a two-time winner of the NBA Three-Point Contest. All three had their numbers retired by the

Jazz.

Smith heads a projected starting lineup of fellow seniors Trey Kaufman-Renn and Fletcher Loyer, transfer center Oscar Cluff and sophomore C.J. Cox.

Cluff, a 6-11 center from Sunshine Coast, Australia, signed with Purdue last week. Cluff was ranked the No. 1 transfer in the nation by On3.com. Cluff averaged 17.6 points, 12.3 rebounds (second place nationally) and 2.8 assists for South Dakota State. Notably, Cluff shot 63.4 percent from the field and 77.8 percent at the free throw line.

One of Cluff's best games last season saw him put up 21 points and 15 rebounds in a loss at Alabama. "Coach Matt Painter added a veteran big who is an elite rebounder in South Dakota State transfer Oscar Cluff," Moore writes. "Daniel Jacobsen could emerge as the next star Purdue big and could provide the rim protection this season's group missed without Zach Edey. It's also possible Purdue could add one perimeter player or more, which would strengthen the Boilers' preseason No. 1 case." Florida, Houston, Louisville and Michigan round out Moore's top five. Big Ten teams ranked by Moore are Michigan State (7<sup>th</sup>), UCLA (20<sup>th</sup>), Illinois (21<sup>st</sup>) and Ohio State (24<sup>th</sup>).

Jeff Borzello of ESPN.com has Houston ahead of Purdue based heavily on three freshmen rated in the top 20 by its recruiting rankings.

"There's a chance Purdue has the preseason Wooden Award favorite and two All-Americans on its roster next season," Borzello writes. "Braden Smith will be the best guard in the country after taking the next step in his development this past season, and Trey Kaufman-Renn is a dominant paint force. The addition of South Dakota State transfer Oscar Cluff should help inside, and a healthy Daniel Jacobsen could be poised for a breakout season."

Borzello's top five features Louisville at No. 3, followed by Connecticut and Michigan. Other Big Ten schools in the ESPN rankings are UCLA (10<sup>th</sup>), Wisconsin (14<sup>th</sup>), Michigan State (18<sup>th</sup>) and Ohio State (23<sup>rd</sup>).

Kevin Sweeney of SI.com also has Purdue second behind Houston.

"Purdue can essentially start on third base this offseason if it can retain its strong nucleus from 2024-25. Point guard Braden Smith and forward Trey Kaufman-Renn profile as likely All-Americans as seniors, while third option Fletcher Loyer is on track to score over 1,500 points as a Boilermaker. And while the Boilermakers have traditionally not been active in the portal, coach Matt Painter has already made one dynamite addition with double-double machine Oscar Cluff to help solidify a weak frontcourt. They could add another piece or two to boost their athleticism and size on the wings."

Duke, Connecticut and Louisville complete Sweeney's top five. Big Ten teams in Sweeney's Top 25 are UCLA (9<sup>th</sup>), Michigan (12<sup>th</sup>), Wisconsin (13<sup>th</sup>), Michigan State (15<sup>th</sup>) and Oregon (18<sup>th</sup>).

John Fanta of Fox Sports concurred with his ESPN and Sports



**Braden Smith**

Illustrated peers, noting Purdue "should have as much returning experience and perimeter firepower as anybody in the sport next season." Fanta has UCLA ranked ninth, Michigan 15<sup>th</sup>, Michigan State 18<sup>th</sup> and Iowa 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Did you know?**  
Since Memphis Grizzlies coach Taylor Jenkins was fired March 28, Purdue great Zach Edey has seen his playing time, and production, increase.

In a 124-100 victory against the Charlotte Hornets on Tuesday, Edey recorded his 12<sup>th</sup> double-double with 17 points and 19 rebounds in 31 minutes.

The previous game, a 109-103 victory against Detroit, saw Edey set the franchise rookie record with 21 rebounds. Edey is the first rookie since Shaquille O'Neal in 1993 to total 40 or more rebounds in a two-game span.

Over the last four games, during which Memphis went 3-1, Edey has averaged 10.3 points and 15.7 rebounds in 30 minutes a game.

This recent surge has increased Edey's scoring average to 9.3 and his team-leading rebounding average to 8.2. As of Wednesday, Memphis was in a four-way tie for fourth place in the Western Conference at 47-32.

*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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