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TODAY’S VERSE

Jeremiah 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Meet Mallard



MALLARD'S ADOPTION FEE IS WAIVED (SPONSORED BY BEST FRIENDS)! Mallard is a brindle 6 year old male terrier mix that is available for adoption (since 9/7/23). Mallard LOVES going for walks, getting his energy out in a fenced yard, and playing ball/fetch! Mallard is a super snuggler that craves endless love/attention. If Mallard had his way, he'd be covered with a blanket every night and snuggling next to his favorite human . Mallard is looking for his best friend! Could that be you? Mallard is available for adoption, to foster, or just simply going out for walks (with signed waiver, 18 years or older). Mallard is neutered, dewormed, and up to date on all of his shots! 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!!



If the entire world would only say aloud things we’d be comfortable saying in front of our Mom, everything would be a lot better off.

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 – Please Clear Up Confusion about SS Payments?



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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Dear Rusty:
I am thoroughly confused. What do I need to do to continue receiving automatic Social Security deposits to my bank account, and maintain our Medicare and Supplement health insurance? My wife has received her SS deposit regularly on the 3rd Wednesday each month with automatic bank deposit for many years. I have received my SS deposit regularly the 4th Wednesday each month with automatic bank deposit also for many years. Can you please tell me what to do to continue receiving these automatic deposits?

First, I hear that we do not need to do anything. Then I hear that we must show up in person at our local SS office to visually confirm our identity. We live 100 miles away from our only SS office, and apparently, they don't

take walk-ins. Next, I hear that we must contact the SS on the internet and answer their questions in order to continue receiving our checks. I am totally confused and don't know what to do, and we don't want to miss our checks or have our Medicare and supplemental insurance cancelled. Can you please help us?
Signed: Confused in Hawaii

Dear Confused:
I know there have been a lot of news media reports and articles written on the recent changes announced by the Social Security Administration (SSA) with respect to a need to confirm one's identity in-person. Allow me to set you mind at ease because, from what you have described (that you are already receiving Social Security benefits

➡ See RUSTY Page A3



AARP Indiana: Sen. Young, Don't Forget Caregivers

INDIANAPOLIS – As federal spending discussions heat up in Washington, D.C., AARP Indiana is asking U.S. Sen. Todd Young and Congressional leaders to remember working family caregivers by supporting the Credit for Caring Act.

According to a recent poll from AARP, 84% percent of voters support a federal tax

➡ See AARP Page A3

Sleep Scientist Shares 7 Hacks to Help Sleep

Resident sleep expert at Opera Beds, Dr. Carleara Weiss, PhD, MS, RN has warned of the significant impact allergies can have on our sleep and urged allergy sufferers to try some surprising remedies to relieve symptoms at bedtime.

7 unusual remedies to help

➡ See SLEEP Page A3



Rep. Victoria Spartz

Spartz: We Need To Strengthen Medicare, Medicaid

Hoosier Republican Congresswoman Victoria Spartz introduced legislation to put everyday Americans back at the center of health care by stopping Medicare waste and abuse exploited by large oligopolies for far too long.

“Congress needs to grow a backbone for a change and start remembering who we serve,” Spartz said. “Courage and common sense are not typical traits in Washington D.C., but we need them now. We must stop money-laundering in Medicare and Medicaid to save health care and the fiscal future of our nation.”

The SMART Health Care Act (Stopping Medicare Abuses to Restore Trust in Health Care Act) has five parts:

1) Tackles Medicare Advantage overbilling by large insurers. Multiple investigations have found large insurers “game” the system to up-code on patients, making them look sicker than they are and costing American taxpayers billions. Expanding risk-adjustment to two years of data (instead of one) can give us a fuller picture of beneficiary risk. Medicare Advantage abuses of quality bonuses and “double bonus counties” could be some other areas in need of tightening the legislative framework. The Department of Justice recently sued insurers offering Medicare Advantage plans for hundreds of millions of kickbacks.

2) Stops overbilling of Medicare by large hospitals. Dishonest Medicare billing by hospitals is a major contributor to skyrocketing health care prices. In short, hospitals buy up independent physician practices and then charge patients significantly more for the same services at the same locations, dishonestly billing hospital facility fees. One woman saw her bill going up more than 10 times after her doctor’s office was acquired by a hospital. This practice leads

➡ See SPARTZ Page A3

TODAY’S HEALTH TIP

Chronic sinus and nose problems can often be solved by using a salt water nasal irrigator like a neti pot or Sinus Rinse®.

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



THREE THINGS You Should Know

- Want to know what NOT to get Mom? Diet shakes and cleaning supplies top the list according to a poll of Indiana Moms. Our friends at Mixbook (<https://www.mixbook.com/>) surveyed 2,504 moms and their kids, the overwhelming consensus was clear: please stop giving gifts that scream “you should be doing more.” After those two lame gift ideas came "How to Cook" cookbook, self-help books she didn't ask for, gas station flowers, chocolates from another holiday, gift card to your favorite store and a last-minute homemade coupon book. You'll forget this stuff, but She Doesn't!
- Construction sector employment increased by 11,000 positions in April as rising wages enabled the industry to add workers more rapidly than other sectors, according to an analysis of new government data the Associated General Contractors of America. Officials said growing uncertainty about the impacts of new tariffs could undermine future employment growth in the sector. Construction employment in April totaled 8,316,000, seasonally adjusted, an increase of 11,000 from March. Headcount rose by 218,000 jobs or 2.7 percent during the past 12 months, topping the 1.4 percent growth rate in total nonfarm payroll employment.
- Did you know that Indianapolis ranks as the seventh-most unpredictable city for weather in the U.S.? The research, carried out by the tide forecasting platform Tideschart examined the weather patterns across the nation's 50 highest-populated cities through five different weather measurements. The six above Indy are Oklahoma City, Omaha, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Louisville and Tulsa. The West Coast tells an entirely different story, with the study showing significantly more stable and predictable conditions across major cities. Long Beach, Calif. Was rated as the most predictable major U.S. city for weather.

TODAY’S QUOTE

My mother had a great deal of trouble with me, but I think she enjoyed it.
Mark Twain

TODAY’S JOKE

What did the baby lightbulb say to the mommy lightbulb on Mother’s Day?
I love you watts and watts!

MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton has scheduled his monthly Community Forum for Tuesday, May 27 at 8 a.m. in his office in the city building. This will be Barton’s 143rd 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. The city building is located at 300 E. Pike St., just off beautiful downtown Crawfordsville.

The Paper appreciates all our customers. Today, we’d like to personally thank LORETTA VAUGHN for subscribing!

South Tabbed in Rural
Early College Network

Southmont Sr. High School has been selected by the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning at the University of Indianapolis to be a partner school in the Rural Early College Network 2.0 as part of a \$10 million Education Innovation and Research grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Through RECN 2.0, CELL will help 20 rural high schools implement Early College High School programs, providing advanced coursework and increasing the number of students who go on to college.

“We’re excited to be part of the Rural Early College Network as we continue working to improve college-going rates for our students,” said Dr. Stephanie Hofer, Superintendent at Southmont Schools. “Partnering with CELL gives us the tools and support to expand opportunities and help our students succeed beyond high school.”

The RECN project was launched in 2019 through an EIR grant and served 20 schools over six years. RECN 1.0 saw impressive results; for the 2022 cohort of RECN 1.0, 75 percent of Early College High School graduates went to college, compared to a 53 percent state average.

RECN 2.0 will help CELL serve a new cohort of schools and provide support in Early College implementation. Schools will also receive mentorship from another rural high school and collaboration with peer educators to expand advanced coursework and earn Early College endorsement from CELL. RECN 2.0 will

expand on RECN 1.0 with the addition of professional development for dual credit teachers and school counselors.

Early College is a nationally recognized model enabling students to earn college credit while in high school. Early College programs are proven to improve college-going for students who need additional academic support.

In Indiana, CELL endorses—or accredits—high-quality Early College High Schools based on their adherence to meeting eight core principles, such as establishing a college-going culture and providing strong student supports. CELL’s Early College work also enables schools to offer the Indiana College Core - a block of 30 general education credits transferable to any state and many private universities - helping schools meet state requirements and giving students a head start on future plans. More than sixty schools are currently recognized as endorsed Early College High Schools.

“We are thrilled to partner alongside these fifteen schools through RECN 2.0 to positively impact schools, educators, students and families,” said Janet Boyle, director of the Rural Early College Network at CELL. “In partnership with our mentor schools, CELL is poised to guide these schools in their Early College program implementation to increase postsecondary options for students.”

To learn more about RECN, visit <https://cell.uindy.edu/r ecn>.



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us online:
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Sen. Deery Shares Update



SPENCER DEERY
Guest Columnist

has started signing bills into law.

Nearly 20% of the 1,229 bills introduced by Indiana's 150 lawmakers made it that far. Of the 243 bills that passed, more than 90% received bipartisan support, and nearly 50% received unanimous support in the Senate. As in past years, the controversial bills garner the headlines, but they are the exception and not the norm.

The most important bill we passed was a balanced budget to keep Indiana's government running for the next two years. As with all budgets, there are parts I love and parts I would craft differently if it were entirely up to me, but the reality is that crafting a budget is a complicated process involving senior negotiators from the House, the Senate, and the governor's office.

Each year, those parties come to negotiations with different priorities, making the final product a compromise that is no one's first choice. That was especially true this year because the budget uses economic forecasts to estimate future tax revenues, and those forecasts showed that the state is now expected to bring in \$2 billion less than previously thought.

This led to some tough decisions, such as cutting the budgets of most state agencies by at least 5% in order to maintain or expand funding in key areas, including K-12 education, the Indiana State Police, Department of Child Services, and Mental Health. Specific to education, the budget increased the K-12 tuition support formula by \$640 million over the next two years compared to the current fiscal year and increased funding for the Secured School Safety Grant to \$27.1 million over the next two years.

Another budget area that is growing is Medicaid, and that is a major concern because it is consuming the funding available for the rest of state government, especially K-12 education. I supported Senate Enrolled Act 2 because it aims to ensure Medicaid funding is directed to those who truly need it, and it also seeks new agreements with the federal government that would slow the growth of future Medicaid spending.

Though this session has

ended, I will continue working for you in the months ahead as the General Assembly begins preparing for the next legislative session. I encourage you to Contact Me if I can be of assistance or if you have ideas you want me to work on for the next legislative session.

TREES FOR WEST
Lafayette Tree Friends

Many of the trees in West Lafayette are planted and maintained by West Lafayette Tree Friends. I was proud to work with them to donate 100 tree saplings to support the organization's Arbor Day celebration on April 25.

These trees, which were distributed to preschool children, were labeled with tree species and planting instructions to help these young Hoosiers feel inspired to protect and grow native trees.

I am grateful for this group's dedication to West Lafayette and hope to continue our work together.

THE WEIGHT OF
History

160 years ago this week, the Lincoln funeral train arrived at the Indiana Statehouse, where the President's body lay in state throughout the day. Torrential rains prevented some of the planned pageantry, but thousands of mourners still came to pay their respects.

Though the building where I work today wouldn't open for another 23 years, it stands on the same land. It's impossible to walk into the Statehouse without feeling a deep sense of awe, reverence, and gratitude to work in a building that has held such profound significance for generations of Hoosiers.

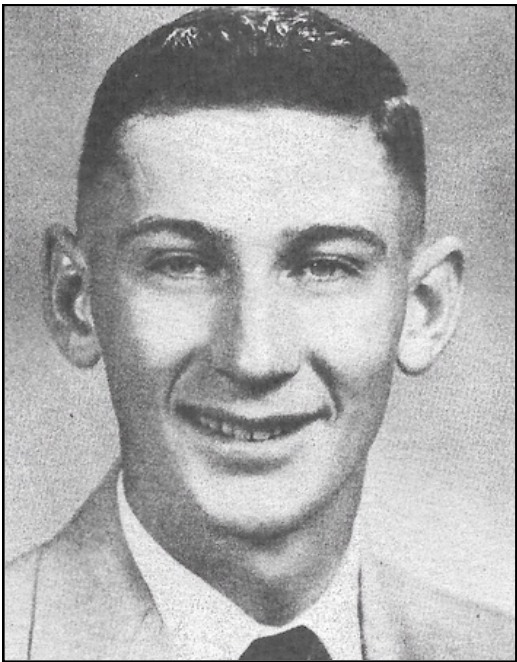
Each time I arrive at the Statehouse, I feel the weight of history and a strong desire to lead in a way that honors our state and the millions of Hoosiers who have built it. If you have never visited the Statehouse, I hope you will consider it.

2025 FREE FISHING
Days

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources will host its Free Fishing Days on June 7-8 and Sept. 27. These days allow Hoosiers to fish in public waters without a license or trout/salmon stamp.

State Sen. Spencer Deery (R-West Lafayette) represents Senate District 23, which includes Fountain, Parke, Vermillion and Warren counties, and portions of Montgomery and Tippecanoe counties.

Butch Dale's
Flashback
Trivia



Do You Recognize this
1956 New Ross H.S.
Graduate?

HINT: He led the
basketball team to an
undefeated season
during his senior year
and went on to play for
Tony Hinkle at Butler.

Answer on
Page A3



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RUSTY

From Page A1

and Medicare insurance), you do not need to do anything to have your Social Security benefits, and your Medicare insurance continue without interruption (and that includes your wife as well).

That which has been reported in the media is sometimes misleading or misinformed, but here at the AMA Foundation’s Social Security Advisory Service we are watching these events very closely and can assure you that your regular benefits will continue uninterrupted. The only people who may be affected by the SSA’s new processes are those who are applying for Social Security for the first time, or those who need to change where their monthly benefit is deposited. In those cases, the SSA is being very careful that no fraud is being attempted and, thus, the reason for a possible in-person SSA office visit (but only in those specific unique circumstances). But for you and your wife, it will continue to be “business as usual” and

you will see no interruption in either your monthly Social Security benefit nor in your usual Medicare coverage and supplement. You don’t need to do anything to have all your benefits continue.

So, please relax and do not worry. And rest assured that here at the AMAC Foundation we are watching all events occurring in Washington, D.C., especially those related to Social Security and Medicare, and will promptly inform our members of anything which affects them.

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.

➡

SPARTZ

From Page A1

to further provider consolidation, decreased clinician independence, greater physician burnout, and higher prices for the same or lower quality. As a result, a majority of physicians are now employed by hospitals. Ironically, under obscure Obamacare prohibition, physicians cannot even own hospitals themselves. The issue of overbilling was partially dealt with by Congress in 2015 by equalizing billing for new outpatient off-campus locations. However, it led to hospitals bringing new outpatient services on campus and significantly reducing access to care, especially in rural areas. This bill addresses this loophole by equalizing all outpatient payments for non-rural hospitals and saving Medicare billions.

While nonprofit, tax-exempt hospital CEOs are making millions of dollars as a reward for growing their “empires” through health care consolidation and the institutions they run pay no taxes, millions of Americans are in collections for medical debt. According to a recent study, 80% of nonprofit hospitals are spending less on community benefits like financial assistance than what they are estimated to receive in tax breaks.

Earlier this month, the Congresswoman also introduced a legislative package to combat hospital monopolies, including the Holding

Nonprofit Hospitals Accountable Act to bring more transparency to the community benefit standard for tax-exempt hospitals.

3) Improves access to care For Medicare patients in rural areas. This bill lifts the Obamacare prohibition for the physician-owned hospitals to provide medical care to Medicare and Medicaid patients in rural communities, which is badly needed to improve access to high-quality care.

4) Requires 340B providers not to upcharge patients for prescription drugs. The 340B program began in 1992 to help providers serving patients who struggled to afford their prescription drugs. The program has grown significantly since its inception with limited program oversight and significant lack of transparency. Providers, like large hospitals, now use the program as a “cash cow” rather than help the most vulnerable. This bill also directs the HHS Secretary to post data and adjust properly Medicare reimbursements for drugs to these stakeholders.

5) Improves quality of care at the skilled nursing facilities (SNFs). This bill increases the floor from 2% to up to 5% in Medicare payment reductions for *poorly managed* skilled nursing facilities.

➡

AARP

From Page A1

credit for working family caregivers. Employed caregivers often leave the workforce or reduce their hours due to caregiving, resulting in a loss of income, retirement savings, benefits, and career mobility.

Family caregivers are the backbone of the U.S. care system. Here in Indiana, an estimated 790,000 Hoosiers are unpaid family caregivers providing 740 million hours of care each year. The value of this unpaid care is \$10.8 billion.

“Family caregivers consistently put family first. They take responsibility to help their parents, spouses, and loved ones stay at home—where they want to be,” said AARP Indiana State Director Sarah Waddle. “These Hoosiers continue to step up for their loved ones and we need Congress to do the same for them.”

On average, family caregivers spend \$7,200 out-of-pocket annually on care-related expenses, about 25% of their income, making it difficult for them to afford groceries and pay their bills.

- Eligible family caregivers assisting loved ones of all ages could receive the credit if the care recipient meets certain functional or cognitive limitations or other requirements certified by a licensed healthcare practitioner.
- Caregivers would need to be working and document qualified expenses.
- The credit amount would be 30% of the qualified expenses paid or incurred by the caregiver above \$2,000, up to a maximum amount of \$5,000. The tax credit is non-refundable.
- Unlike the existing child and dependent care credit, the bill would help family caregivers who care for non-dependents or who do not live with the person they are assisting.
- Individuals with higher incomes would be ineligible for the tax credit and the bill includes protections to prevent double-dipping with existing federal tax provisions.

As part of the effort to highlight the importance of supporting family caregivers, AARP Indiana also released a video of AARP volunteers speaking about their own caregiving experiences.

For more information on AARP Indiana and its support for caregivers visit aarp.org/IN.

How the Credit for Caring Act Would Help

- The Credit for Caring Act would help working family caregivers offset the cost of caregiving expenses such as home care aides, adult day services, home modifications, assistive technology, respite care, transportation, and other supports.

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia

Answer: Dick Haffner

Thank You For Reading The Paper



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➡

SLEEP

From Page A1

relieve allergy symptoms and improve sleep this allergy season:

1. Avoid alcohol before bed

Alcohol increases histamine levels, which can worsen hayfever symptoms. Red wine, beer, and champagne are the worst offenders, as they contain high histamine and sulfite levels.

2. Drink turmeric or ginger tea at bedtime

Both have anti-inflammatory properties that can help soothe irritated airways and reduce nasal congestion. Add honey for extra benefits—it’s a natural antihistamine.

3. Swap the sweet treats for fruit

Whilst it may be tempting to enjoy a biscuit or sweet before bed, pineapple and kiwi contain an enzyme called bromelain, which helps to break down mucus, ease congestion and sinusitis symptoms. Other fruits like apples and berries contain a natural antihistamine called quercetin, which can reduce allergy symptoms.

4. Apply Vaseline around your nostrils

Extending your nighttime skin routine to include this one step could help deter pollen from entering your nose while you sleep. A thin layer of Vaseline will trap any airborne pollen particles and reduce allergy symptoms overnight. Keep in mind that Vaseline and other petroleum jelly products do not contain water and should not be used on irritated skin.

5. Freeze your non-washable items

Pop your non-washable items in a sealed bag and place them in the freezer for 24 hours before bedtime. This freezes and kills dust mites that may irritate your allergies and provides a cooling effect that can help reduce nasal inflammation and soothe irritated eyes.

6. Dab peppermint oil on your feet

Peppermint oil is an excellent decongestant and can help unclog the sinuses and provide relief for scratchy throats. Rubbing a little diluted peppermint oil on your pulse points and the soles of your feet before bed can help open up airways and reduce nasal congestion. Your feet have large pores which will absorb the oil faster.

7. Keep your bedroom 60-65° F

Warmer temperatures increase histamine release, making allergy symptoms worse. Cooling your room with a fan or air conditioning can help reduce nasal inflammation and improve sleep quality but aim to keep your bedroom temperature between 60 and 65. A room colder than 60 may increase upper airway and lung irritation, making breathing difficult and impacting sleep. “Don’t wait for allergy season to arrive to start taking your antihistamine or trying these remedies, Weiss said. “You can make simple changes around the home to keep allergies at bay. Keeping windows and doors shut will reduce the levels of pollen entering your home, and washing bedding more often, ideally weekly at 130°F, will remove pollen and dust mites that accumulate in your sheets. If possible, tumble dry clothes instead of air drying, as drying laundry outside lets pollen stick to fabrics, which you then bring into your home. Sleeping on your back with your head elevated by an extra pillow is the position to help keep allergy symptoms at bay during the night. Elevating your head promotes better sinus drainage, reduces nasal congestion, and prevents mucus buildup. By acting now and complementing your antihistamine with these tips, you can avoid the impact of the high pollen count and ensure that allergies don’t disrupt your sleep.”

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CRAWFORDSVILLE DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY

- Board of Trustees Meeting Notice and Agenda
- May 8, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.
- Conference Room
- Call to order
- Public Comments
- Minutes – action
- Claims – action
- Appointment/Committee Reports: Main Street, Park Board, Friends of CMMC, Finance Committee
- Old Business
- Administrative Office Suite and Stairwell Closet Renovation Projects – action
- Legislative Update – information
- Director’s Report
- Financial Reports
- New Business
- Temporary loans from LIRF to General and Lease/Rental funds – action
- Safety issues – information/action
- Adjournment
- Upcoming board meetings
- June 12, 2025
- July 10, 2025
- August 14, 2025

SOUTHMONT SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

- Corporation Board Room
- Monday, May 12, 2025
- Executive Session - 5 p.m.
- Public Meeting – 6 p.m.
- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- High School Senior students will lead the pledge
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Welcome and Recognition of Visitors. – Mr. Brian Turner – Dual Credit Instructor of Year – Lafayette Campus
- We will be recognizing student / staff of month
- V. Revisions to the Agenda
- VI. Public Comments
- VII. Consent Agenda: (minutes, monthly claims, field trips/facilities usage, contributions/gifts and personnel)
- Minutes from previous meetings
- Claims/Payrolls
- Personnel:
- Approve resignation of Jessica Wilson, District Instructional Coach & Principal Intern - effective June 30, 2025. -Approve retirement of Wendy Black, Math Teacher - Jr. High - effective May 23, 2025. -Approve move of Lisa Chadd, 2nd grade teacher to Title One position - New Market. -Approve resignation of Erin Blaydes - Jr. High Athletic Director/Dean of Students - moving to Elementary PE - Ladoga/Walnut Elementaries. -Approve Mia Myers moving from Elementary Art - Ladoga/Walnut to 4th grade teacher - Ladoga. -Approve Nicole Hazlett to Title One Teacher - Ladoga Elementary. -Amanda Pryor - 2nd grade Teacher - New Market. -Addison Charles - English Teacher - Southmont High School. -Taylor Minick - English Teacher - Southmont High School. -Mckenna Guernsey - Preschool Teacher - Ladoga Elementary School. -Essence Ditmer - 2nd grade Teacher - Walnut Elementary. -Bethany Myers - Elementary Music Teacher - Ladoga/Walnut. -Kela Johnson - Elementary Position. -Kenzie Knepp - Elementary Art Teacher - Ladoga/Walnut Elementaries. -Olivia Bobenmoyer - 3rd grade Teacher - Ladoga Elementary. -Marley Plant - Special Education Teacher - Ladoga Elementary. -Approve resignation of Madison Karrfalt, Math Teacher - Jr. High - effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. - Approve resignation of Leah Sinnett, Part Time Nurse - Ladoga/Walnut - effective May 21, 2025. -Approve resignation of Chelsea Cagle, Walnut Elementary - effective April 10, 2025. -Sarah Rhoads - Part-Time Nurse - Ladoga/Walnut Elementaries. -Approve resignation of Bryce Adams, Athletic Administrative Assistant - effective not known at this time. - Approve resignation of Shelley Allen, Varsity Cross Country and Track Coach - effective June 7, 2025. -Donations made to Southmont High School in the amount of \$772.
- VIII. Items for Action:
- 1. Hold Hearing on Lease.
- 2. Adopt Resolution Authorizing Execution of Lease.
- 3. Adopt Resolution Assigning Contracts and Bids to Building Corporation, once received.
- 4. Adopt Resolution Approving Sixth Supplement Master Continuing Disclosure Undertaking.
- IX. Report from Superintendent:
- 1. Approve RECN Grant
- X. Items for Discussion by the Board
- 1. NEOLA Board Policies Updates – 1st reading
- XI. Adjournment

AGENDA MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

- MONDAY, MAY 12, 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 \$1,177,945.95 & 5/2 Payroll \$513,903.55
- Minutes: April 28, 2025
- INDOT Unofficial Detour Reimbursement Contract -\$8,695.65
- NEW BUSINESS
- Recommendation on Housing Rehab Bids
- 2024 Annual Highway Department Operational Report
- Housing Program Presentation -Thrive West Central
- ORDINANCES
- 2nd Reading Ordinance 2025-13 Creating the 2025 READI 2.0 Grant Fund -\$1,500,000
- RESOLUTION
- OTHER BUSINESS
- ADJOURNMENT
- *Next Commissioner Meeting -Tuesday, May 27, 2025 @ 8:00 am*

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Back in the Day with Butch Dale



Back in the day, most small towns had a hardware store. Darlington had Warren Hardware, owned by Alva Warren and his son Damon “Mutt” Warren. They sold a little bit of everything and Damon was the appliance repair man.

LETTER TO EDITOR

As Floodwaters Rise, So Do the Risks of Coal Ash Contamination

Dear Editor,

Indiana has experienced record-setting rains in these first few weeks of spring, causing disastrous flooding in some areas of the state.

Our state also has historically relied on coal as an energy source.

You might be asking: What does coal have to do with all that rain falling from the skies into our water supply? It turns out quite a bit. As we burn coal, we generate coal ash, which has serious implications for our water. It needs to be part of Indiana’s current discussion of water resources.

Coal ash contains toxic heavy metals, like arsenic, which contaminate water whenever the ash gets wet. Most of Indiana’s coal ash sites have contaminated the underlying groundwater, making it unusable for drinking water.

Indiana’s coal ash is also a spill risk because most of it is currently stored in the floodplains of the Ohio, Wabash and White Rivers and Lake Michigan. When flooding happens, it could damage the disposal sites causing release of the ash. The recent high-water events are a stark reminder that the

floodplain is one of the worst locations for coal ash disposal.

The current groundwater contamination and spill risk are from the many millions of tons of coal ash left over from past decades of burning coal. Unfortunately, Indiana still has coal-burning power plants that continue to produce about five million tons of coal ash each year, putting more of our water at risk.

Our state needs less toxic coal ash, not more. Coal generation itself and the byproduct of coal ash it produces pollutes our air and water. Spills and leaks in other states have validated the dangers of coal ash.

In 2014, a drainage pipe burst at a retired Duke Energy facility in North Carolina, releasing approximately 39,000 tons of coal ash and 27 million gallons of contaminated water into a nearby river.

This spill, one of the largest in U.S. history, contaminated about 70 miles of the river with toxic substances including arsenic, selenium and lead, posing significant risks to aquatic ecosystems and communities relying on the river for drinking water and recreation. The incident exposed regulatory failures and led to federal investigations into

Duke Energy's practices and its relationship with state regulators.

In 2022, the Hoosier Environmental Council estimated that Duke Energy Indiana was burning enough coal to generate more than 1.4 million tons of coal ash per year, adding to the hundreds of thousands of tons already being stored across the state.

The good news is that lawmakers and Gov. Mike Braun have prioritized water planning in the coming years, both via recently passed legislation and a new executive order.

The bad news is that those same policymakers seem infatuated with keeping coal as an energy source for decades to come despite overwhelming economic and health reasons to move away from coal toward cleaner, more efficient energy sources.

Burning coal is bad for our state. Storing coal ash in floodplains that could overflow in a heavy rain creates yet another unfair burden and health threat to local communities. To protect our water resources, we need to stop burning coal and adopt a responsible approach to coal ash disposal as soon as possible.

Indra Frank
Coal Ash Advisor
Hoosier Environmental Council

Wabash. Administrative Assistant

Wabash College seeks candidates for its open position of Administrative Assistant in the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. This is a full-time position with benefits.

Founded in 1995 and supported by Lilly Endowment Inc., the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion is dedicated to improving the teaching of religion and theological studies in higher education. As a part of Wabash College, the Center fulfills its mission by offering educational programs and events, awarding grants for faculty and institutional projects, and developing innovative teaching resources for faculty and administrators.

For more details about the position and how to apply, visit the College’s employment website at www.wabash.edu/employment.

Wabash College, a liberal arts college for men, seeks faculty and staff who are committed to providing quality engagement with students, high levels of academic challenge and support, and meaningful experiences that prepare students for life and leadership among diverse populations around the globe. Wabash is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from persons of all backgrounds.

Purdue Football Rebuilding; Question is: How Good Will They Be?



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

Not since the years after the Civil War has there been a bigger reconstruction project than the one facing Barry Odom in his first few months as Purdue football head coach.

To sum it up, that’s 54 departures to just 24 players remaining from Walters’ recruiting efforts. Add starting running back Devin Mockobee, a holdover from the Jeff Brohm era, and Odom has had a long shopping list to fill up to 105 roster spots.

defensive back Maxwell Barbee, who signed with the Boilermakers in February.

That’s 63 new players who, depending on their enrollment date, will have from eight months to weeks to learn Odom’s system and form a bond. Welcome to the new reality of college football.

A frequently asked question by Purdue fans this fall will be, “who’s he?” I suggest printing out the official roster from purduesports.com before the season opener Aug. 30 against Ball State.

Another honor for Smith
Point guard Braden Smith on Wednesday was selected the Ricks Family Male Athlete of the Year at Purdue. Volleyball standout Raven Colvin, the daughter of former Purdue and NFL star Roosevelt Colvin, earned the Female Athlete award.

“Braden established himself as the premier point guard in all of men’s college basketball,” Purdue athletic director Mike Bobinski said of the junior who earned consensus first-team All-America honors. He also was named Big Ten Player of the Year as well as the Bob Cousy Award winner as the nation’s best point guard. “Raven capped off a remarkable volleyball career ... etching her name throughout our record books and standing out as one of the Big Ten’s most dominant defensive players.”

Smith averaged 15.8 points, 8.7 assists and 4.5 rebounds per game. He broke the 47-year-old school record for career assists during the 2024-25 season.

Colvin earned second-team All-America honors in 2024, leading the Big Ten and ranking third nationally with 1.56 blocks per set.

Going for five
The Purdue men’s basketball team will seek to add the Baha Mar Championship to its string of four consecutive multi-team event titles the week before Thanksgiving.

The Baha Mar is part of what is expected to be a challenging non-conference schedule that will feature preseason No. 13 Iowa State, No. 15 Auburn in Indianapolis, a trip to No. 21 Alabama and a home game with traditional power Marquette. Purdue also has scheduled an exhibition game at No. 10 Kentucky.

GoldandBlack.com and other media reports have indicated the Baha Mar field will include Memphis and Wake Forest. Former Boilermaker guard Myles Colvin

transferred to Wake Forest after the 2024-25 season.

Since 2021, Purdue has brought home first-place trophies from the Hall of Fame Tip-Off Tournament in Uncasville, Conn., the Phil Knight Legacy in Portland, the Maui Invitational and last season’s Rady Children’s Invitational in San Diego.

Regarded as one of the national championship favorites in 2026, Purdue officially opens the season Nov. 4 vs. Evansville. The non-conference slate also includes NCAA Tournament teams Oakland (Nov. 7 at home) and Akron (Nov. 16 at home).

Oakland (2024 NCAA Tournament second round), Akron (2025 MAC regular-season and Tournament champion) and Kent State (NIT Quarterfinalist). NIT quarterfinalist Kent State comes to Mackey Arena on Dec. 29.

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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Baird Introduces NOPE Act

Congressman Jim Baird (IN-04) introduced the *No Official Palestine Entry (NOPE) Act* to expand existing funding prohibitions to include organizations in the United Nations (UN) that afford status, rights, or privileges to the Palestinian Authority (PA) or Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) beyond observer status. Sen. Jim Risch (R-ID), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, introduced the companion bill in the U.S. Senate.

“Last year, the United Nation General Assembly (UNGA) voted to enhance the PA’s rights and privileges, despite the fact that the PA has not made any substantial reforms and continues to implement pay-for-slay,” Baird said. “We have a responsibility to ensure Americans’ tax dollars are not funneled to entities like the PA as they continue to promote human rights violations and incite acts of terrorism. I thank Senator Risch for introducing this legislation in the U.S. Senate and for his leadership on this important issue.”

“DOGE and the Trump Administration have already highlighted horrific ways in which U.S. tax dollars have been used to promote individuals, entities, or ideas that are at odds with American values and national security priorities,” said Carrie Filipetti, Executive

Director of the

Vandenberg Coalition. “Closing glaring loopholes by banning funds from going to any UN agency that offers more than observer status to the PA is essential. The time for wasting the American taxpayer dollar and funding our adversaries is over.”

Current U.S. law prohibits U.S. funding to organizations, such as the UN, which give the PLO full membership or standing as a member state. *The NOPE Act* updates the existing funding prohibition to organizations that offer the Palestinian Authority or the Palestine Liberation Organization “any status, rights, or privileges beyond observer status.”

Baird and Risch were joined by Senators Tom Cotton (R-AR), Mike Lee (R-UT), James Lankford (R-OK), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Ted Cruz (R-TX), Mike Crapo (R-ID), Dave McCormick (R-PA), Joni Ernst (R-IA), Katie Britt (R-AL), Bill Hagerty (R-TN), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), John Barrasso (R-WY), Pete Ricketts (R-NE), John Hoeven (R-ND), John Cornyn (R-TX), Rick Scott (R-FL), Deb Fischer (R-NE), and Tim Scott (R-SC) as well as Representatives Michael McCaul (R-TX), Randy Weber (R-TX), Claudia Tenney (R-NY), Mike Lawler (R-NY), Maria Salazar (R-FL), Barry Moore (R-AL), Rudy Yakym (R-IN), and Marlin Stutzman (R-IN) in introducing this legislation.

State Shares April Recalls

Attorney General Todd Rokita is alerting Hoosiers about pressing consumer protection concerns for products recalled in April. The office is encouraging consumers to take advantage of opportunities available to them – which may include returning, fixing, disposing or replacing a purchased recalled item that could be harmful to themselves or their families.

“Safety blooms when we act swiftly to protect our homes,” Rokita said. “If you purchased an item that you see has been recalled on our list, then immediately stop using the product and see what forms of reimbursement the company that sold or manufactured that product is offering.”

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the following consumer products were recalled in April:

- Huffy Recalls Children’s Ride-On Tonka Dump Trucks Due to Fire and Burn Hazards
- Window Roll Up Shades Recalled Due to Strangulation and Entanglement Hazards and Risk of Serious Injury or Death; Violation of Federal Regulations for Window Coverings; Sold Exclusively on Amazon.com by BTAMREE
- AliExpress Recalls LED Strip Lights Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Ingestion Hazard; Violations of Reese’s Law Federal Safety Regulations for Consumer Products with Coin Batteries; Sold on AliExpress.com
- Huffy Recalls Torex UTV Ride-On Toys Due to Fire Hazard; Sold Exclusively at Walmart

- Kawasaki Motors USA Recalls Model Year 2025 Competition and Cross-Country Motorcycles Due to Crash Hazard
- Deals Oasis Recalls Shape Sorter Car Toys Due to Choking Hazard; Violation of Small Parts Requirements; Risk of Serious Injury or Death
- Sondiko Butane Torches Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Burn and Fire Hazards; Violation of Federal Regulations for Multipurpose Lighters; Sold on Amazon by Sondikodirt
- American Bolt and Screw Recalls Tip-Over Restraint Kits Distributed with Clothing Storage Units Manufactured by Canyon Furniture Due to Tip-Over and Entrapment Hazards and Risk of Serious Injury or Death; Sold Exclusively at Rooms To Go
- Joydeco Roller Window Shades Recalled Due to Strangulation and Entanglement Hazards and Risk of Serious Injury or Death; Violation of Federal Regulations for Window Coverings; Sold on Amazon.com by Shanghai Chushuo Electronic Commerce Co.
- Casely Recalls Wireless Portable Power Banks Due to Fire and Burn Hazards
- Leetous Recalls Glow Sticks and Glasses Party Pack Toys Due to Serious Injury or Death from Ingestion Hazard; Violation of Federal Regulations for Battery-Operated Toys; Sold Exclusively on Amazon.com
- The North Face Recalls Women’s Shellista V Mid Waterproof Boots Due to Fall Hazard
- COMEONROA Infant Swings Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Suffocation Hazard; Violation of the Inclined Sleeper Ban; Sold on Walmart.com by Eonroacoo
- Kramer Laboratories Recalls Safetussin Max Strength Multi-Symptom Cough, Cold and Flu Blister Packs Due to Risk of Child Poisoning; Violation of Federal Regulation for Child Resistant Packaging

- Lil Pick Up Recalls Youth All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) Due to Injury Hazards; Risk of Serious Injury or Death; Violation of Federal Regulations for ATVs
- Costway Recalls Babyjoy Convertible High Chair Activity Centers Due to Entrapment and Serious Injury Hazards; Violation of Federal Regulations for High Chairs and Stationary Activity Centers
- Multifunctional Puzzle Crab Toys Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Ingestion Hazard; Violation of Federal Regulations for Toy Magnets; Sold Exclusively on Walmart.com by JinJiang Baimei
- Modus Furniture International Recalls Kentfield Dressers Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death from Tip-Over and Entrapment Hazards; Violations of Federal Regulation for Clothing Storage Units
- Baby Bath Seats Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death to Babies from Drowning Hazard; Violation of Federal Regulation for Infant Bath Seats; Sold on Amazon.com by DualOranges Store
- Five Below Recalls Room2Room LED Iridescent Bear Lights Due to Fire and Burn Hazards
- AliExpress Recalls Mini Travel Hair Dryers Due to Electrocutation and Shock Hazards; Sold on AliExpress.com
- Enerco Recalls DEWALT 70,000 BTU Outdoor Portable Cordless Forced Air Propane Heaters Due to Fire and Burn Hazards; Sold Exclusively at Lowe’s
- AliExpress Recalls Foldable Travel Hair Dryers Due to Electrocutation and Shock Hazards; Sold on AliExpress.com
- Jonas C Recalls Long-Haul Portable ATV Fuel Containers Due to Risk of Injury and Death from Burn, Fire and Poisoning Hazards; Violation of Federal Regulation for Child Resistance of Portable Fuel Containers; Sold on Amazon.com
- Sakar Recalls Vivitar Blender Bottles Due to Laceration Hazard; Sold Exclusively at Target
- AmesburyTruth Recalls Ashland Casement Window Hinge Tracks Due to Impact Injury Hazard

- Polaris Industries Recalls RZR Pro R and Pro R 4 Recreational Off-Road Vehicles (ROVs) Due to Injury Hazard
- Honda Recalls Accessory Heaters for Side-by-Side Vehicles Due to Fire and Burn Hazards
- HONEYJOY Recalls Multiple Convertible and Foldable High Chairs Due to Risk of Suffocation; Violation of Federal Regulation for Infant Sleep Products and Inclined Sleepers Ban; Sold Exclusively on Amazon.com
- AliExpress Recalls LVOE Hair Dryers Due to Electrocutation and Shock Hazards; Sold on AliExpress.com
- Superb Sports Baby Bath Seats Recalled Due to Risk of Serious Injury or Death to Babies from Drowning Hazard; Violation of Federal Regulation for Infant Bath Seats; Sold on Amazon.com by DualOranges Store
- Five Below Recalls Room2Room LED Iridescent Bear Lights Due to Fire and Burn Hazards
- AliExpress Recalls Mini Travel Hair Dryers Due to Electrocutation and Shock Hazards; Sold on AliExpress.com
- Enerco Recalls DEWALT 70,000 BTU Outdoor Portable Cordless Forced Air Propane Heaters Due to Fire and Burn Hazards; Sold Exclusively at Lowe’s
- AliExpress Recalls Foldable Travel Hair Dryers Due to Electrocutation and Shock Hazards; Sold on AliExpress.com

Again, if you believe you recently purchased a recalled product, stop using it and check its recall notice (linked above for all products). Then follow the notice’s instructions, including where to return the product, how to get the product fixed, how to dispose of the product, how to receive a refund for the product or what steps must be taken to receive a replacement product.

To view recalls issued prior to April, visit the Consumer Protection Safety Commission website.

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

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BBB Tip: How to ID AI in Photos, Video

Gone are the days when one could confidently say, “Seeing is believing.” New artificial intelligence (AI) technology is becoming more sophisticated and more accessible, making it possible for just about anyone to create realistic-looking images and videos.

Unfortunately, this also means scammers can now use AI images and videos to lend credibility to their tricks. AI videos and images can make a phony celebrity endorsement look real or convince family members of a fake emergency.

What can you do to spot synthetic, AI-generated content?

Tips for recognizing AI-generated text

If you’re reading something and are wondering whether it was written by a human or generated by AI, consider these tips:

Look for typos. Normally, typos are red flags for scams. But, if you’re trying to decipher between human-written or AI-generated content, the MIT Technology Review mentions that typos are a great indicator that a human wrote the content.

Watch for incorrect or outdated information. Many AI bots are trained on limited data sets and, therefore, may write with out-of-date information.

See any repetitive words and phrases? When discussing a single topic, AI may use the same keywords and phrases that it learned during training repeatedly. This can make the writing sound unnatural.

Pay attention to the

tone of voice. AI writing may have a more robotic and emotionless tone, whereas humans may write more informally and causally with slang.

When in doubt, seek out another source. If you’re not confident that what you’re reading is coming from a credible source, seek out the information from another source.

Tips for recognizing AI-generated images

Look at the context for red flags. Because generative AI capabilities are advancing at an incredible rate, it is becoming very hard to spot fakes. The most reliable cause for suspicion may be the context in which you see a potentially faked image or hear a voice.

Ask yourself these kinds of questions: is the image or voice being used with pressure to take an urgent action, one that seems questionable, such as sending money to a stranger, or through an unexpected or odd payment mechanism? Is the context political, and does it seem like someone is trying to make you feel angry or emotional? If the image or voice is one of a friend or loved one, don't respond to any requests that come with it before you contact that person offline to see if it's a genuine message.

Find a high-resolution image and zoom in. If you see a surprising photo of a politician or celebrity, look closer before you believe what’s in the picture. Search the image in the highest-possible resolution and then zoom in. You’ll likely find a few giveaways if you’re looking at an AI-generated image. Take an image of the Pope

that recently went viral, for example. A closer look reveals glasses that seem to melt into the Pope’s face, fingers that don’t quite close around the coffee cup hanging from thin air, and a crucifix held up with half a chain. Divine intervention? Definitely not. These are all *inconsistencies generated by AI*.

Consider asymmetry and other physical inconsistencies - but be careful. Less sophisticated versions of AI can have a hard time with physical traits. Asymmetry in human faces, teeth, and hands are common issue with poor quality AI images. You might notice hands with extra (or not enough) fingers too. Another telltale sign is unnatural body proportions, such as ears, fingers, or feet, that are disproportionately large or small. However, AI technology is already advancing, and these mistakes will show up less and less often. Recent reports have indicated that physical inconsistencies are no longer a reliable marker for spotting higher-quality AI-generated images, especially with faces.

Strange textures or a glossy effect. AI images often have textured backgrounds or an airbrushed look that real photos don’t share. You might also notice strange-looking backgrounds or sharp images with random blurry spots. An “airbrushed” appearance is noticeable in the AI-generated image above.

How to identify AI-generated videos

Look out for strange shadows, blurs, or light flickers. In some AI-generated videos, shadows or light may

appear to flicker only on the face of the person speaking or possibly only in the background. This is especially true of low-quality deep fake videos like *this video of Ukrainian President Zelensky*, left, appearing to surrender the fight against Russia, which was quickly debunked.

Unnatural body language. This is another AI giveaway. As with photos, AI can have a hard time replicating actual humans. If the body language feels off, it’s time to question the veracity of the video you’re watching. Take this deep fake video of Vladimir Putin speaking about democracy, for example. You might not notice at first glance, but he doesn’t blink throughout the entire video.

Take a closer listen. Synthetic audio might sound a little strange too. Choppy sentences, confusing inflection or background sounds that don’t match the speaker’s location are all dead giveaways.

How to verify that a photo or video is authentic

Check the source. This can be hard to do when a video or photo goes viral on social media, but it’s essential if you want to know if you’re looking at a fake. Try to trace the photo back to the original post to see who shared the image or video and why they shared it. If it shows shocking political events or messages, ask yourself if the news is on social media or mainstream media. Why might mainstream media be hesitant to pick up the story? It’s probably fake news corroborated by AI-generated images and videos.

Do a reverse image search. If you’re having trouble figuring out where an image came from, try a reverse image search. This can bring up all the websites where the image has been shared, which can help you understand the context of the image and its origins.

Be prepared for change. AI technology will continue to evolve and improve, so that these tips will change,

too. The best thing you can do is be aware that fake videos and images exist and always fact-check what you see before you believe it

For more information Read these BBB tips on how to spot a deepfake, phony celebrity endorsements, and how con artists may use ChatGPT in their scams. Also, learn more about social media scams to recognize and avoid them quickly.

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Montgomery Memories

Established December 2010

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Against the Odds

The Askins Family

On April 27, 1853, two little girls stood before Andrew P. Lynn, Montgomery County Circuit Court Clerk. The girls, Elizabeth and Mary Ann, were accompanied by their parents, James (b. ca. 1800) and Rachael (b. March 1817). The family came to the courthouse that day to prove they should be allowed to stay in Indiana.

In 1851, a change to the constitution made it illegal for free persons of color to enter the state (Indiana Archives and Records Administration). Although slavery was outlawed in the Northwest Territory/Indiana in 1787 (constitutioncenter.org) enslaved persons were still brought into Indiana under the pretense of being indentured servants (ibid).

The constitutional change required free persons to come before the Clerk and prove they were in Indiana before 1851. In Montgomery County, this included 143 people with the surnames Askins, Fry, Higgins, Johnson, Jones, Kern, Ketchum, and Smith (indianahistory.org).

James, Rachael, Elizabeth, and Mary Ann were the “Askins” from this list (<http://www.ingenweb.org/inmontgomery>). They were each successful in proving they had been in Indiana since before 1851. Francis Fry, a prominent tradesman, testified on their behalf. See *Passage* for Francis’ story.

The first record I found of James and Rachael (née Whitlock) was of their marriage, which took place in Crawfordsville on January 19, 1837 (Indiana, U.S., Compiled Marriages, 1802-1892). Their four children were born in Crawfordsville - Elizabeth (b. ca. 1840), Mary Ann (b. ca. 1844), Susan (b. ca. 1855), and Harriet (b. ca. 1857).

In 1850, Rachael’s mother, Sarah Patterson (b. ca. 1790 in Maryland) lived with the Askins family. The census for that year reported that James worked as a barber. We learn that he was born in Kentucky, while Rachael was

in Indiana. Sometime before 1860, Sarah passed away. I discovered Rachael’s father was Henry Patterson, but I found no records detailing his life - other that he too was born in Maryland.

Elizabeth married George Thompson on October 19, 1858 in Crawfordsville. They lived as neighbors of Rachael and James. James did well as a barber. The 1860 census reported his worth, in personal and real estate value, as \$2,700 - over \$100,000 in modern day value (CPI Inflation Calculator). Although I couldn’t locate a record confirming that he passed away, James was no longer with the family after the 1860 census.

Mary Ann married Thorton Alexander Pelkey in Crawfordsville on March 25, 1862. Thorton was born in Richmond, Indiana and his family also lived in Lafayette (ibid). Mary Ann and Thorton started their married life in Crawfordsville, where they had two daughters. By 1869, they were in Winona, Minnesota where they had seven more children - all girls! Mary Ann died in May 1882 at age 38, soon after the birth of her youngest child.

Thorton Pelkey
 and Mary Ann Askins,
 ca. 1862
*Courtesy of
 Patrice Wilson*



Continued on page 6.

Montgomery Memories

Passage

Francis Henry Fry

ca. 1812 to 1860

Who was Francis Fry, the man who testified on behalf of the Askins family? Born in Mercer County, Kentucky, Francis was one Thomas Walker Fry and Elizabeth Julia Speed Smith 13 children. The Fry family migrated to Montgomery County in the 1830s. This is where Francis married Caroline Amelia Seymour on September 11, 1838. (Indiana, U.S., Marriage Index, 1806-1861).

Of note, three of Francis' brothers served with distinction during the Civil War. Speed Smith Fry, a graduate of Wabash, became a Brigadier General for the Union Army during (American Civil War Generals). Thomas Walker Fry (Jr.) was a surgeon for the Indiana 11th Infantry (U.S., Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, 1861-1865) and went on to be the chief surgeon at the United States Hospital at Louisville and New Albany. The ingenweb site has detailed information about Thomas (thank you Karen Zach). John James Fry also served. He died of disease while in combat and was buried in the National Cemetery in Nashville, Tennessee

Francis was a successful trader and merchant, and became quite wealthy. His reported worth in 1850 in present day value was in excess of \$670,000 (<https://www.officialdata.org/us/inflation>). The couple were founding members leading parishioners of St. John's Episcopal Church. (Crawfordsville Sunday Star, November 14, 1898).

Census data for 1850 lists those who lived with and worked for the Fry family - Thomas Gates (age 24, Black, born in Kentucky) and Parthena Camby (age 23, Black, born in Kentucky). In addition, Mary White (age 14, Mulatto, born in Indiana) lived with the family, as did John Fox (age 18, a college student). It may be assumed that Thomas, Parthena, and Mary were the Fry family servants. John Fox's reason for being with the family is likely that locals hosted students who attended Wabash. I noted in the census that other families had college students in their homes.

Francis and Amelia had four children who lived to adulthood. Their son William became a dry goods merchant in Crawfordsville. Daughter Frances married William Boudinot, a lawyer, and moved to Terre Haute. Sarah married Clayton Hildebrand. They lived in Indianapolis. Lucy never married and lived her life in Crawfordsville.

Francis died in his late 40s. He was interred in the Oak Hill Cemetery. Amelia, a wealthy widow, lived the remainder of her life in Crawfordsville. She passed at the age of 76 in 1898. She was laid to rest next to Francis. When Lucy died in 1923, she was buried close to her parents.



Courtesy of R & S Fine, via findagrave.com



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Montgomery Memories

Notables

May 30, 1783

First U.S. daily newspaper published in Philadelphia (onthisday.org).

May 15, 1862

The U.S. Department of Agriculture was established (onthisday.org)

May 25, 1896

People in Montgomery County had their first opportunity to see a "horseless carriage." The vehicle, built by the Meuller Company in Decatur, Illinois, was being driven from Decatur to Indianapolis, with a stop in Crawfordsville. (The Crawfordsville Weekly Journal, May 22, 1896)

Old News

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT PROBLEM

New Richmond Record

May 1, 1913

Discussion of the electric light and power problem for New Richmond has created an almost universal interest among the residents of New Richmond, and it is hoped that plans now on foot may materialize into the reality of a good lighting system. Trips of inspection have been made to many neighboring towns and cities to get accurate facts on the question several caucasses among our most enthusiastic business men have been had, a mass meeting of our citizens being held at the Corn Exchange State Bank rooms Monday to publicly discuss the proposition.

Courtesy of Hoosier State Chronicle

Weather Report

May 9, 1920

Record cold morning temperatures in central Indiana.

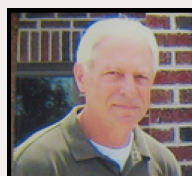
May 31, 1941

Driest spring on record in central Indiana.

May 1, 2012

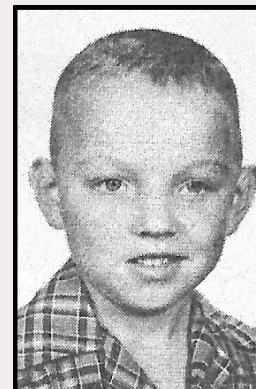
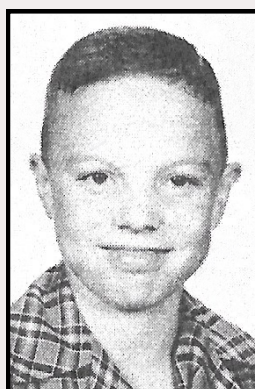
An F1 tornado struck Linnsburg.

Source: *National Weather Service
Indianapolis Central Indiana Weather
History May*



Butch Dale's FLASH BACK TRIVIA

Do you recognize these two fellows?



HINT: These two brothers were Ladoga farm boys in 1957.

Answer on Page 7.

Montgomery Memories

Memories

Montgomery County Mothers

LUCY ANNA VAN CLEAVE



Lucy was one of Ralph and Catherine Van Cleave's nine children. She was born on March 14, 1867 in Union Township, Montgomery County, Indiana. Ralph was a farm laborer while Catherine cared for the home and family. Lucy married Amos Stillman Goff on March 2, 1891. They couple made their home in Coal Creek Township where Amos farmed. They had four children. Amos (b. 1892) died at three years old. Homer C. (b. 1893) farmed in Coal Creek Township throughout his life and lived to be 97. He and his wife Barbara had two girls, Barbara Kathryn and Alice Rosalind. Verna (b. 1894) lived with her parents and didn't marry until she was 49 years of age. She made her home with her husband John Miller, a farmer, and passed at the age of 82. Leverett (b. 1897) farmed in Coal Creek Township. He and his wife Twila raised three children. For a time, the family lived in Arapahoe County, Colorado before returning to Coal Creek Township. Leverett died at 65.

Lucy passed on May 6, 1950 at the age of 83. Amos had died three weeks earlier, also aged 83. They were buried next to one another at Crawfordsville's Oak Hill Cemetery.

EMMA BESSIE CLARK

Emma was born on March 5, 1867. She was the daughter of Gardner and Ann (Stewart) Clark. She married Bert Orlando Daily on May 18, 1905. Emma was nine years his senior. The couple had two children. Raymond was born on January 6, 1900. Frederick was born on January 2, 1909. The family lived in Crawfordsville, where Bert worked as a painter. Emma died, at 46 years of age, on December 9, 1914 from uterine cancer. She was laid to rest in New Market's Indian Creek Hill Cemetery. Bert died young too, at 49. He had remarried and was buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery.



ELIZABETH CATHERINE MOORE

Elizabeth was born in Bath County, Kentucky on May 17, 1840. Her parents, Henry and Eliza (Wren) Moore were the parents of 10 children. Eliza died before 1850 and Henry remarried. The family came to the Hoosier state, first to Hendricks County where we find them in 1860, and then to Montgomery County. On October 1, 1862, Elizabeth married William Neff, a Hendricks County native. Soon after they married, William served in the Civil War, achieving the rank of Captain. During their early marriage, the couple lived in Boone County where William farmed. By 1880 they were in Clark Township, Montgomery County. The 1870 Census also lists Henry as living in Clark Township. Elizabeth and William had four daughters, Stella (b. 1865), Fanny (b. 1868), Olivia (b. 1875), and Lela (b. 1878), William worked as a brick maker. Elizabeth died, at the age of 82, on February 3, 1923. She was buried in the Ladoga Cemetery. William, who lived to be 95, was interred next to Elizabeth.



Burkhart Funeral Home

Charles, Carl & Craig Burkhart
201 W. Wabash Ave., Crawfordsville
765-362-5510
www.BurkhartFH.com



Montgomery Memories

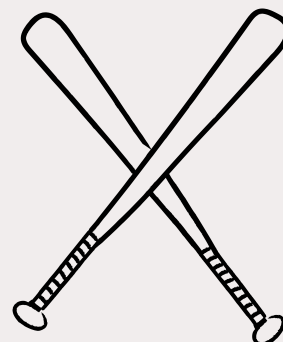
Sports Story

On Sunday, April 2, 1944, Richmond, Indiana's Palladium-Item reported that there would be no track or baseball at Wabash. The reason was the rationing of gasoline, instituted in support the war effort. The article concluded that intramural sports, including softball and volleyball, would continue. After the war, baseball at Wabash resumed (The Indianapolis Star, Thursday, March 21, 1946). World War II also impacted baseball's major and minor leagues, which were discontinued. A meeting was held in Chicago in January 1944 to discuss how the leagues would be reestablished at the war's conclusion (Anderson Herald, January 4, 1944, page 7).

Baseball was a Wabash sport beginning in 1866. That year, the Little Giants beat Asbury College (now DePauw University) (sports.wabash.edu). In 1911, the baseball team earned the distinction of being the best in the state (The South Bend Tribune, June 7, 1911, page 12). The South Bend article concluded that "The scarlet team this year is the equal of any that has ever been turned out at Wabash." The 1918 season included games against DePauw, Rose Poly, Purdue, Franklin, and Notre Dame (Hammond Indiana's "The Times," March 8, 1918).

A surprising incident occurred at a Wabash game in April of 1924. As described by The Star Press, when Don Burdette caught a long fly ball, a 70 year old spectator, Robert Gray, died of a heart attack due to the excitement of the catch. You would think that would bring an end to the game, but no! It was called on account of rain.

Wabash ended its 1936 season by beating Butler with a score of 10-1. They scored six runs in the first inning! (The Indianapolis News, June 8, 1936). On April 13, 1940, the Wabash game against Franklin was called off due snow covering the field (The Franklin Evening Star, April 12, 1940).



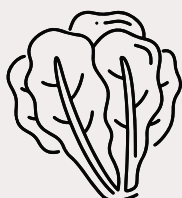
Recipe

Wilted Lettuce

I remember the tangy flavor of wilted lettuce, made by my mom in a large iron skillet in her farm kitchen. It's a spring treat, when lettuce is about the only thing growing in the garden.

INGREDIENTS

- 5 c. lettuce leaves
- 5 slices of bacon
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 1/4 c. vinegar



INSTRUCTIONS

Tear lettuce leaves into bite-size pieces and place them in a large bowl. Fry bacon in heavy skillet, remove to a paper towel, leaving bacon grease in the skillet. Add sugar to skillet and stir until sugar is dissolved. Turn off the heat and add the vinegar (be careful of the steam). Pour mixture over lettuce. Crumble bacon and put on top. Enjoy!

WORD SEARCH

May Days

Z R J Q R N S T B O D N T L
L J B Q R E L L B Y P P T
K I T M C Z D N W W Q A Z K
D Z N R L K J N A O X R M Z
T D O D M Q Y R T R C W D Y
X F R L I O S M N T M N G N
D R R A M A T Y P D X E I T
K Z N I Y X N H N D D C D C
M Y B R R K T A E Q A M D R
M Q D O N M C C P R Y M Y D
Y A M M T X A I D O S T A R
T J V E Y R V N R R L G L L
L P N M V Y Z Z N B T I B R
T K L R N J P D B Q Y Z S N

Mothers
Day
Card
May
Memorial
Cinco
Mayo

Armed
Forces
Indianapolis
Race
Brickyard
Star
Wars

Solution on Page 7.

Montgomery Memories

Against the Odds, continued from page 1

In 1870, Rachael and her girls Susan and Harriet were living in Covington, Indiana with Elizabeth and her husband George Thompson. George worked as a barber.

By 1880, Rachael, as head of household, was living in Covington with 10 members of her extended family. Elizabeth, who was widowed, worked as a "washerwoman," while her sons William (age 20) and George (age 15) were barbers. Her youngest son Charley was eight. Harriet (married name Grant) was widowed and working as a hotel cook. Harriet's daughter, Rena, was three years old. Susan's husband, George Johnson, was a barber. Susan and George's two children were Walter and Clifford. Sadly, Susan died at age 28 in 1883.

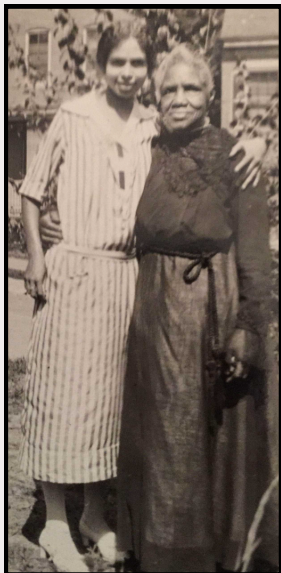
There is record of Elizabeth marrying at least two more times. She wed a Mr. Stafford, and then, on April 14, 1886, she married John Bell. Elizabeth passed on October 22, 1922 at the age of 82. I could not find where she was interred.

Rachael, Harriet, and Rena lived together for the coming twenty years. They were in Covington in 1900. The census for that year provides no details of the women's employment. The census does tell us that although Rachael could not read or write, Harriet and Rena could. They lived in an all-white middle class neighborhood.

Rena died on November 23, 1900 at the age of 24 from tuberculosis, which was complicated by typhoid fever. Rachael died on July 26, 1901, age 84, from the effects of old age. Those two losses, so close together, must have been heart

wrenching for Harriet. I could find no place of internment for Rena or Rachael, although their death certificates indicated they were buried in Covington.

Harriet spent the remainder of her working years as a house servant and cook for families in Covington. The 1930 census tells us that at age 73 she was retired and owned her own home. When she passed in 1935, she was buried in Covington's Oak Wood Cemetery (Indiana, U.S., Death Certificates, 1899-2017).



Harriet Askins Grant (R)
ca. 1930

Courtesy of Patrice Wilson

Poetry

Home

Home is more than a place
of pickles and pie,
the mother must take time
to answer questions of where and why
and take time for good training
so her children don't lie.
Someone must set the mouse traps
and fight the pesky old fly,
but it's a good place to be
from birth until you die.
For there is someone to love you,
someone to care
and a mother who listens
for your step on the stair.
There's someone who knows
what you like to eat,
and when your dressed up
they will say you look sweet.
There is someone to worry,
someone to fret
for fear you'll be careless
and get your feet wet.
Someone to pet,
someone to scold,
no wonder we love them
when they are old.
Some climb high mountains,
some cross the deep sea.
But I think that home
is a good place to be.

Mae Mason Thomas
Written ca. 1935



Montgomery Memories

Extras

**Butch Dale's
FLASH BACK TRIVIA**

**Answer:
Tom and Dave Rhoads**

WORD SEARCH Solution

Z	R	J	Q	R	N	S	T	B	O	D	N	T	L
L	J	B	Q	R	E	L	L	B	Y	P	P	T	
K	I	T	M	C	Z	D	N	W	Q	A	Z	K	
D	Z	N	R	L	K	J	N	A	O	X	R	M	Z
T	D	O	D	M	Q	Y	T	R	C	W	D	Y	
X	E	R	L	I	O	S	M	N	T	M	N	G	N
D	R	R	A	M	A	T	Y	P	D	X	E	I	T
K	Z	N	I	Y	X	N	H	N	D	D	C	D	C
M	Y	B	R	R	K	T	A	E	Q	A	M	D	R
M	Q	D	O	N	M	C	C	P	R	Y	M	Y	D
Y	A	M	M	T	X	A	I	D	O	S	T	A	R
T	J	V	E	Y	B	V	N	R	R	L	G	L	L
L	P	N	M	V	Y	Z	Z	N	B	T	I	B	R
T	K	L	R	N	J	P	D	B	Q	Y	Z	S	N



Ads from the Past

Eltzroth, Harding & Co.,
DEALERS IN
STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS,
Clothing, Hats, Caps, Boots,
SHOES, NOTIONS, GROCERIES,
AND
QUEENSWARE;
IN
"WASHINGTON HALL" BUILDING,
Crawfordsville, Ind.

Crawfordsville Review,
May 2, 1857

DR. C. A. ROARK
WAYNETOWN, IND.
OFFICE IN REDMEN'S BLDG.
HOURS
8 to 10 a. m.
2 to 4 p. m.
7 to 8 p. m.
Sundays, 1 to 3 p. m.
Phones Office 172
Res. Wayne Hotel 199
All Calls Promptly Answered
Day or Night.

The Waynetown Despatch
May 26, 1919



Montgomery Memories

A close-up photograph of a smiling man wearing a green hard hat with "NUCOR-TEEL" and a headlamp, and safety glasses. He is wearing a green jacket with the "NUCOR" logo on the sleeve.

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A BETTER TEAM.**

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POWERFUL RESULTS.**

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