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TODAY’S VERSE

Ecclesiastes 3:1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

Meet Ace



Ace is ready to BUST OUT of the shelter and into your home! Ace is a 5 year old male American Blue Heeler (know the breed Herding Group - Loyal / Intelligent / Hard Working) available for adoption from The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 4/22/25. ALL ADULT DOG ADOPTIONS FEE WAIVED (sponsored by Best Friends)! Ace loves going out for walks, frolicking in a fenced yard, rolling in grass, and will gladly sit for treats. Ace is looking for his best friend. Could that be you? Ace is available for adoption, to foster, or just simply going out for walks. Come say hi!! AWL is open Monday-Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p.



Big day in history! It’s the nickel’s 159th birthday. And on this date in 1868, the Senate failed to convict Andrew Johnson by one single vote. You know, back before impeachments became more commonplace!



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Boomer Bits

Ask Rusty – When should I enroll in Medicare?



ASK Rusty
Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

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Dear Rusty:
I am writing to ask for your advice on when I should sign up or enroll in a Medicare Plan. I have submitted an early retirement application to request benefits to begin 30 days after my 62nd birthday, in April 2025. I am a single lady with no dependents and currently rent my residence. Please advise.
Signed: Approaching Senior Citizenship

Dear Approaching:
I assume that when you say you have submitted “an early retirement application to request benefits to begin 30 days after my 62nd birthday” you mean you have applied for your Social Security retirement benefits to start in April 2025, and that you will be 62 in March. To be sure you are clear, you must be 62 for an entire month to start your Social Security

retirement benefits.

Even though you are starting your Social Security retirement benefits at age 62, you will not be eligible to enroll in Medicare until you are 65 years old. Since you will be already receiving Social Security when you turn 65, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) and Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient services), effective with the month you turn 65, and you will get a “Welcome to Medicare” packet about 3 months before your 65th birthday. Your Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) will be free, but there will be a monthly premium (\$185 for 2025) associated with your Medicare Part B

➡ See RUSTY Page A3



Know Stroke Signs; Save Lives in American Stroke Month

Every year, approximately 800,000 people in the U.S. have a stroke, however, as many as 80 percent may be preventable with healthy lifestyle changes and screening for risk factors[2]. During May, American Stroke Month, the American Stroke Association, a division of the American Heart Association, is raising awareness nationwide that stroke is largely preventable, treatable and beatable.

➡ See STROKE Page A3

What's Fair Price For Drug

By John Stanford

This month, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will begin meeting with patients who use the 15 drugs it selected for the second round of Medicare price "negotiations" -- including weight-loss treatment Wegovy.

CMS will use these

➡ See DRUG Page A3

Writer Walks Where Pope Once Walked



ANDY CHANDLER
Guest Columnist

EDITOR’S NOTE: Andy Chandler has worked with Sagamore News Media on a few occasions. His talent in photography and writing speak for themselves. After an American was named the head of the Catholic Church for the first time in history, Andy went on a pilgrimage. The following is what he shared.

Why I do it. 2025.05.08 Riverdale, Illinois.

Sometimes you can get an idea of someone by walking the same sidewalks they walked, seeing the light through the same windows they looked out of. During my time as a presidential history explorer, sometimes learning about their environment gives an insight into what they will be like.

Dolton and Riverdale neighborhoods are nestled deep on the southside of Chicago. If you ask a resident in their community where they are from, they will tell you they are from Dolton/Riverdale. If they are traveling out of state, the same person may tell you that they are from Chicago.

➡ See ANDY Page A4

TODAY’S HEALTH TIP

If you’re inactive and overweight, get tested for diabetes.

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

- Robot lawn mowers may be the future of lawn care, but it turns out many U.S. homeowners currently think buying one of these smart mowers is a dumb idea. To assess the adoption of robot lawn mowers – why people have or don’t have them – and the pluses and minuses of these gadgets, Lawn Love surveyed more than 700 homeowners with a lawn. They found that the majority of them do not own a robot mower. The top three reasons respondents say they haven’t purchased a robot mower are that they’re too expensive (49.84%), have no need to upgrade equipment (17.37%), and their lawn is too bumpy or uneven (11.04%). Almost a quarter of respondents who own a robot mower still hire a local crew to help with lawn care and landscaping and more than half with smart mowers report spending \$2,000 or less on their grass-chomping robot.
- MarketBeat ran a nationwide quiz to determine where Americans are most clued up on tariffs and it turns out Hoosiers are pretty up to snuff. MarketBeat.com, a financial media company, tested 3,750 people across the U.S., giving them a 5-question quiz. Iowa topped the leaderboard, with residents scoring an average of 90 percent. Indiana came in second at 88 percent and was followed by Wyoming (86%), South Dakota (86%) and Idaho (86%). At the other end of the scale was Louisiana with an average score of just 42 percent.
- New research has revealed the fastest states to sell your home, with Rhode Island coming out on top. The study by mortgage broker experts Eden Emerald Mortgages analyzed 2025 Zillow data on the average time it takes for an offer to be accepted. Rhode Island is the state where it’s fastest to sell your home. It takes just 69.69 days on average to sell a home completely from listing a property, the least of any state. Ohio, Michigan, Maine and Connecticut rounded out the top five. Hoosiers wanting to sell got good news. Indiana was seventh at about 73 days to sell.

TODAY’S QUOTE

“The Voice of America stands upon this above all: The truth shall be the guide. Truth may help us. It may hurt us. But helping us or hurting us we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that man can know us for what we are and can at least believe what we say.”
Edward R. Murrow

➡ TODAY’S JOKE
How come the sun never went to college?
It already has, like a million degrees!

➡ MONTGOMERY MINUTE
A Pioneer Plant History Hike, brought to you by the good folks at the Crawfordsville District Public Library, is scheduled for Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Brickyard Nature Park (759 Concord Rd.). This is a Library Naturalist Event. Please be sure to arrive 15 minutes early in order to sign the participation waiver. See you there!

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

Age Categories:
The Baby Contest will feature five age groups:
0-12 months
1-2 year olds
3-4 year olds
5 year olds

The entry fee for the Baby Contest is \$7 per child and is non-refundable. Pre-registration for the Baby Contest is required. You can request paperwork by emailing sfstbbabycontest@gmail.com Registration must be postmarked by May 26, so be sure to request paperwork early! On-site registration will NOT be available.

Baby Contest Debuts At Strawberry Festival

A stork isn’t bringing it, but this year’s Strawberry Festival has a delightful new addition – a baby . . . or rather, lots of them. Welcome to the first Strawberry Festival Baby Contest!

➡ See BABY Page A3

➡ **OBITUARY**

Gabriella ‘Gabby’ Blankenship
August 13, 2002 - May 7, 2025

Gabriella “Gabby” Blankenship, age 22, of West Lafayette, Indiana, passed away on May 7, 2025, at IU Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. In her generous spirit, Gabby’s final act of kindness was to give the gift of life through organ and tissue donation, a decision that will touch many lives for years to come.



Born on August 13, 2002, in Crawfordsville, Gabby was the beloved daughter of Bryan Blankenship and Misty Allen. She graduated from North Montgomery High School in 2021 and was set to celebrate her graduation from Purdue University with a Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality on May 18, 2025. Gabby had exciting plans to begin her career as the food and beverage manager at Mauna Lani - Auberge Resorts in Hawaii.

Gabby’s vibrant personality characterized her life; she was an active member of the 4-H club for ten years, where she showed swine. Her enthusiasm extended to athletics as she played volleyball in high school and later embraced her role as an student manager at The John Purdue Room while pursuing her studies. Gabby was known for her infectious laughter, love of food, and a keen sense of humor, always ready with a joke. She was known to be very thrifty, always pinching her pennies and was never without her favorite cup of coffee.

She is survived by her loving parents, Bryan (Samantha) Blankenship of Covington and Misty Allen (fiancé Shane Mundell) of West Lafayette; her cherished siblings Katelyn, Remington, Alexis, Nora, and Bryanna; and her love and rock, Zach Waldon. Gabby also leaves behind her maternal grandparents, Larry and Karen Allen; aunts and uncles, Jason (Tiffany) Blankenship, Morgan (Chad) Lincicum, and Jeremy (Erin) Allen; along with many cousins and friends who will forever hold her memory close.

Gabby was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, Dale Blankenship and Debbie Crawford.

Visitation will be held on Monday, May 19, 2025, from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Innovation Church, 2502 Mondavi Blvd, in Lafayette. A Celebration of Life service will take place on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 1:00 PM at the church, with Pastor Billy Holden officiating. Cremation will follow the service. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial donations be made to the Gabby Blankenship Scholarship Fund.

Sanders Funeral Care is entrusted with the arrangements. We invite all who knew and loved Gabby to share memories and condolences online at www.SandersFuneralCare.com. Let us come together to celebrate her life and the light she brought into our lives.

Linden Student Named to the Dean's List

Seth Carlson, a Senior Nursing major from Linden, was among approximately 660 Bob Jones University students named to the Spring 2025 Dean's List.

The Dean's List recognizes students who earn a 3.00 - 3.74 grade point average during the semester.

Located in Greenville, South Carolina, Bob Jones University provides an outstanding regionally accredited Christian liberal arts education purposely designed to inspire a lifelong pursuit of learning, loving and leading.

Dates: June 17-18

Time: Drop off and pick up at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. both days

Location: General Lew Wallace Study & Museum
Registration: Contact Thomas Meeks at (765) 362-5769 or tmeeks@ben-hur.com. Registration forms and additional information are available at www.ben-hur.com/programs/archicamp/



Photo courtesy General Lew Wallace Study & Museum

Scheduled for June 17-18, ArchiCamp opens the worlds of local history and architecture to young explorers aged 8-12.

ArchiCamp Coming in June

The General Lew Wallace Study & Museum proudly announces the return of ArchiCamp in collaboration with Indiana Landmarks. ArchiCamp is a two-day architecture-themed camp to engage and inspire children with the rich history of Crawfordsville to instill a sense of stewardship for cultural heritage.



Scheduled for June 17 and 18, ArchiCamp invites young explorers aged 8-12 to embark on an immersive journey through local history, architecture and creativity. Campers will delve into the distinctive architectural styles of downtown Crawfordsville and the Lew Wallace Study through enlightening walking tours. Campers will participate in a variety of hands-on activities tailored to spark their imagination and curiosity. Past years activities have included crafting popsicle stick bridges, designing blueprints and constructing cityscapes using recycled material.

ArchiCamp offers an array of experiences that blend education with fun.

Limited spots are available for ArchiCamp, and scholarships are accessible to ensure inclusivity. Parents and guardians are encouraged to register their young architects promptly to secure a place for this enriching experience.

Don’t miss out on this unique opportunity for children to explore the wonders of architecture and history at ArchiCamp. Join us in nurturing the next generation of stewards for our cultural heritage.

➡ **LETTER TO EDITOR**

PETA Kudo Has Indiana Connection

Dear Editor,

SHEIN, one of the world’s largest global e-commerce platforms, which has a distribution center in Indiana, recently took a big step toward kindness for all living beings — banning animal skins like fur and feathers and eliminating the sale of cruel glue and steel-jaw traps.

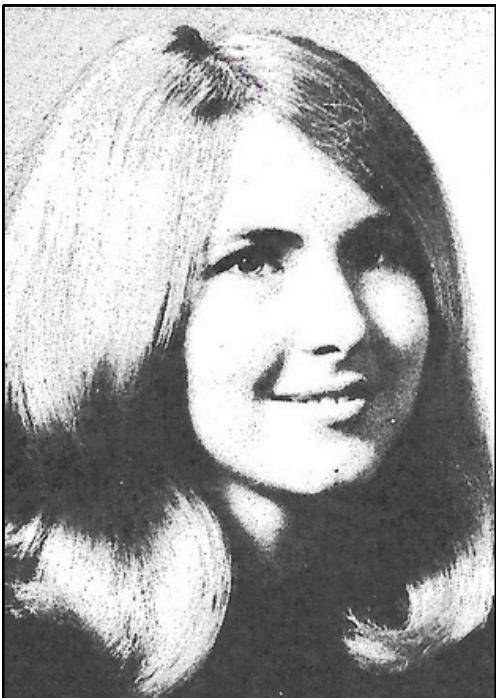
Like you and I, animals are capable of love, joy, and fear—and they hurt just like us. On fur farms, animals spend their entire lives confined to cramped, filthy wire cages before being killed by the cheapest and cruelest methods available. Feather accessories

usually come from terrified ostriches, peacocks, and other birds killed for their flesh. Animals caught in glue traps panic and struggle, which causes them to become even more helplessly stuck as the glue tears off their fur, feathers, or skin. Steel-jaw traps inflict excruciating pain, leaving animals to suffer — sometimes for days — before dying.

Every animal is someone. May more companies “shine” a light on compassion and respect for all earthlings.

Scott Miller
The PETA Foundation

Butch Dale’s Flashback Trivia



Do You Recognize this 1970 New Market Grad?

HINT: She was one of the most popular girls in school and married a star athlete from Darlington.

Answer on Page A3



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Stonecrest Neighborhood Garage Sale

Saturday May 17, 2025 8am - 3pm
(Rain date will be Sunday the 18th)

Multi-family garage sale
Baby/children's clothing, toys, furniture, tools,
electronics, home decor, kitchen items,
books... and much more!

4 Local Students Honored at SNHU

Three Crawfordsville students earned inclusion for the Spring 2025 President's List at Southern New Hampshire University, Jordan French, Kirsten Soglin and Helena Collins.

Crystal Phillips of Ladoga earned Spring 2025 Dean's List honors.

The spring terms run from January to May. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

↓ RUSTY From Page A1

(coverage for outpatient services), which will be deducted from your Social Security payment.

Note that Medicare does not cover all healthcare expenses so, when the time comes, you may wish to explore other private healthcare coverage (either a Medicare Supplement plan, or a Medicare Advantage plan). Also, Medicare Part A or Part B do not include coverage for prescription drugs, so you may wish to obtain such coverage separately. One way to explore all of this is by, shortly before you are 65, contacting AMAC’s Medicare department at 1.800.334.9330 or www.amac.us/medicare. And until you are eligible to enroll in Medicare at 65, you may wish to seek regular healthcare insurance for those under 65 years of age.

Please understand that we are here to answer all your questions about Social Security and Medicare enrollment. However, at the AMAC Foundation, we are not insurance specialists, which is why I suggest contacting an insurance specialist as described above.

I hope this is helpful, but please don’t hesitate to contact us again at any time.

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.

↓ BABY From Page A1

The contest, set to debut at the 51st annual Strawberry Festival, is sure to bring smiles and laughter to families in the community this year. This fun, family friendly event will showcase adorable boys and girls in several age categories, with prizes awarded in each one.

The inaugural contest is scheduled to be held Saturday, June 14 at noon. It will take place on stage at the festival grounds.

Age Categories:

- 12 months & under
- 1-2 year olds
- 3-4 year olds
- 5 year olds

The entry fee for the Baby Contest is \$7 per child and is non-refundable.

Pre-registration for the Baby Contest is required. You can request paperwork by emailing sfestbabycontest@gmail.com Registration must be postmarked by May 26, so be sure to request paperwork early! On-site registration will NOT be available.

Organizers said they want to give special thanks to event sponsor Dr. Scott Frey Crawfordsville Family Dentistry for making this event possible.

Butch Dale’s Flashback Trivia Answer: Donna Oswalt Douglas

↓ STROKE From Page A1

A stroke can happen to anyone, even young people. Know the stroke signs, risk factors and how to protect yourself:

1. **Spot a stroke F.A.S.T.** If you see Face drooping, Arm weakness or Speech difficulty, it’s Time to call 911. Explore what the warning signs may look, feel or sound like in the interactive F.A.S.T. Experience.
2. **Understand your risk factors** and ask a doctor how you can prevent a stroke. High blood pressure is a leading cause and controllable risk factor for stroke.
3. **Stroke recovery is within reach.** Track your health, medication and more with the Heart & Stroke Helper™ app for stroke survivors and caregivers.

A stroke happens when normal blood flow in the brain is interrupted. When parts of the brain don’t get the oxygen-rich blood they need, those cells die. Quick identification and treatment of stroke improves the chances of survival and recovery.

Learn the warning signs Stroke is an emergency. If someone is having a stroke, they must get medical attention right away.

Use the acronym F.A.S.T. to identify the most common signs of stroke:

- Face Drooping - Does one side of the face droop or is it numb? Ask the person to smile. Is the person's smile uneven?
- Arm Weakness - Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?
- Speech Difficulty - Is speech slurred or hard to understand? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence, like "The sky is blue."
- Time to Call 911 - If you notice any of these symptoms, even if they go away, call 911 and get to a hospital immediately. Quick action can save a life.

Take steps to prevent stroke Black and Hispanic adults in the U.S. face disproportionately higher stroke risk, driven in part by higher rates of high blood pressure, obesity and diabetes[3], as well as socioeconomic factors that impact access to care and prevention[4].

A large majority of strokes can be prevented:

- Manage your blood pressure – Lowering your blood pressure reduces your risk of stroke. According to the 2025 American Heart Association Statistical Update, nearly half of adults in the U.S. have high blood pressure, and many don’t even know it.

- Live a healthy lifestyle – Eating well, staying active, quitting smoking and managing stress can all help lower your stroke risk[5]. The Association’s Life’s Essential 8 provides key steps for improving and maintaining cardiovascular and brain health.
- Monitor health conditions – Conditions like atrial fibrillation (AFib), diabetes and high cholesterol increase stroke risk. Work with your health care provider to manage them.
- Reduce risk for a second stroke - Nearly 1 in 4 survivors will have another stroke[6], in some instances because they don’t know what caused the first stroke. Testing to identify cause and additional risk factors can help you and your health care team develop a plan to prevent another one.

Stroke recovery Those who have had a stroke often must work against physical, emotional and cognitive changes to move forward. Stroke survivors and caregivers can track their health journey, medications and receive trusted information about stroke with the Heart & Stroke Helper app.

This American Stroke Month, take action and inspire change by learning the signs of a stroke and talking to your health care team to manage your risk factors.

Together, we can change the future of health and transform lives. Learn more at Stroke.org/StrokeMonth.

The HCA Healthcare Foundation is a national sponsor of the American Stroke Association’s Together to End Stroke® initiative and American Stroke Month.

[2]<https://newsroom.heart.org/news/new-guideline-preventing-a-first-stroke-may-be-possible-with-screening-lifestyle-changes> [3] <https://www.stroke.org/en/help-and-support/resource-library/lets-talk-about-stroke/hispanic-and-latino-americans#:~:text=Although%20stroke%20is%20the%20fifth,3%20for%20women> [4] E Reshetnyak; et al Impact of Multiple Social Determinants of Health on Incident of Stroke. Stroke. 2020;51:2445–2453 DOI:10.1161/STROKEAHA.120.028530 [5] C Bushnell; et al 2024 Guideline for the Primary Prevention of Stroke: A Guideline From the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. Stroke 2024;55:e344–e424. DOI: 10.1161/STR.0000000000000475 [6] S S Martin; et al Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics—2025 Update: A Report of US and Global Data From the American Heart Association Circulation. 2025;151:e1–e620. DOI: 10.1161/CIR.0000000000001303

↓ DRUG From Page A1

discussions to inform the lower prices it'll set for the medicines. What CMS won't address is the growing list of drugs that'll never be developed as a result of government price-setting.

It's been less than three years since the Inflation Reduction Act authorized the price negotiation program. Already, several companies have cited the law as a reason for pulling the plug on research programs and treatments for cancer, psychiatric disorders, and other serious conditions. Nearly 50 research programs and 24 drugs have been discontinued since the law was enacted.

Thankfully, President Trump just signed an executive order calling on Congress to roll back the Inflation Reduction Act's most damaging provisions. Without reform, the number of discontinued treatments will grow -- and so will the number of people whose lives could have been saved by those foregone medicines.

One provision stands out: the law's "pill penalty."

The IRA doesn't treat all medicines equally. "Small molecule" medicines, typically pills or tablets, face price-setting just 9 years after FDA approval.

By contrast, biologic drugs, which are typically administered via injection or infusion at hospitals or doctor's offices, don't face price-setting until they've been on the market for 13 years.

As a result of this disparity, companies and investors are turning away from small molecule research.

The CEO of Novartis warned that companies are deprioritizing small molecule therapies for the elderly. Pfizer announced that it'll steer its oncology portfolio away from small molecules due to the IRA.

Investments in small molecule treatments

have dropped 70%. Bristol Myers Squibb -- the maker of blood thinner Eliquis, one of the first drugs selected for Medicare price negotiations -- plans to trim spending by \$3.5 billion over the next two years. The effort will lay off at least 2,000 employees and has already led to cuts at cancer research facilities.

These losses track with what my organization is hearing. 87% of life science investors now have less interest in funding small molecule research and development.

That's a looming disaster for patients and taxpayers. Small molecule drugs account for the majority of all medicines. They're easier for patients to take and more cost-effective than biologics.

Yet because of the IRA, fewer small molecule drugs will secure the financing they need to make it out of the lab and into local pharmacies.

Lawmakers can restore the balance. The Ensuring Pathways to Innovative Cures Act would give small molecule drugs the same 13-year reprieve from price-setting that biologics receive -- encouraging companies to make research investments based on scientific promise, rather than molecular weight.

The lawmakers who created the Medicare drug price negotiation program had good intentions. But in their quest for lower drug prices, they're ensuring that many experimental treatments are never developed.

Unless policymakers reverse course, the cost will be measured in human lives.

John Stanford is the executive director of Incubate, a Washington-based coalition of life sciences venture capitalists. This column originally appeared at DCJournal.com.

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

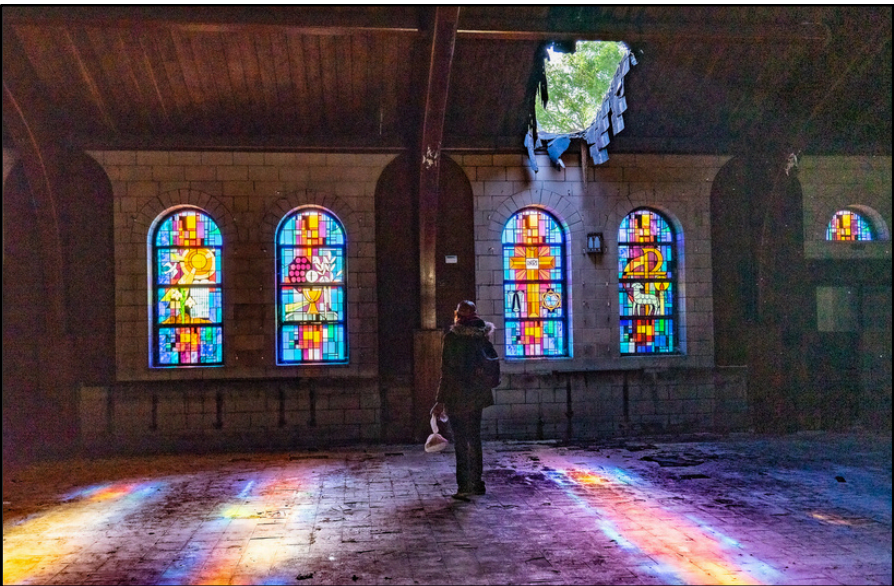
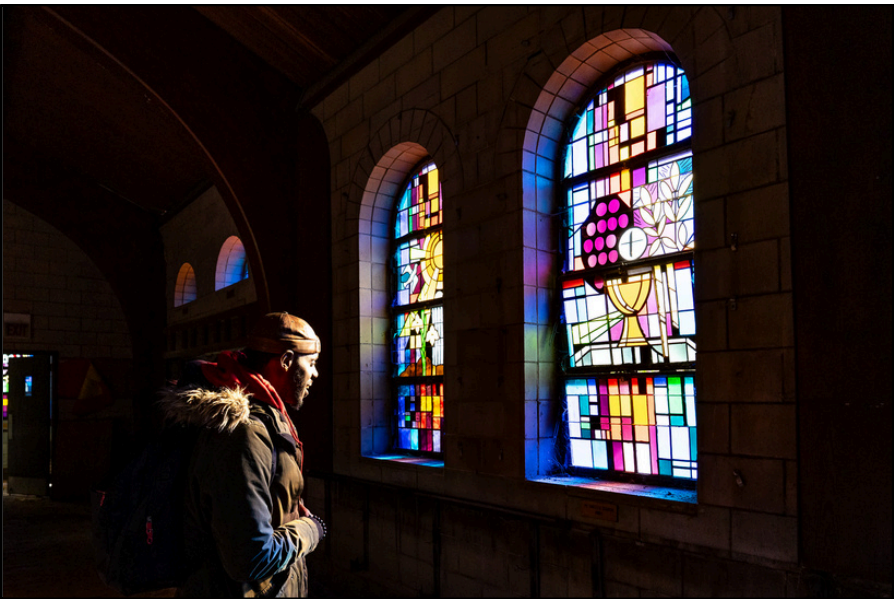
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↓ ANDY

From Page A1



Jamal Melvin of Riverdale looking at the stain glass window of St. Mary of the Assumption. Opened in 1886 it was the home church for the Prevost family. Robert Prevost sang in the choir served at the altar and attended school here . Because of the dwindling number of Catholics in the neighborhood, it was officially shuttered in 2011 when the congregation merged with nearby St. Mary Queen of the Apostles. The building and adjacent school is now abandoned and in disrepair.



The gravesite of the new pope’s parents.

I took a walk from the house Robert Prevost, now Pope Leo XIV, grew up in to his childhood church that was the his azimuth to Rome. I was trying to stretch my legs after my two and a half hour drive, and trying to make sense out of this new Pontiff who is now the spiritual father of 1.2 billion people around the world.

I'll admit I was dubious about the election of a Pontiff from the United States. Perhaps this is too much power concentrated in a country that has established itself politically, philosophically and religiously on the basis of diametrically opposed tension? A leader born and raised in a culture where harmony is found through tragedy or dominance?

I turned onto Indiana Avenue, past the rows of houses that all looked the same. This was, in fact, a community established by mostly blue collar factory assembly workers. Immigrants either first or second generation from Europe. Pope Leo's parents Louis and Mildred moved here shortly after the war.

I walked the dusty sidewalk as the sun started to cast a shadow, and was about five minutes from the house when I heard the unmistakable "cling cling cling" south of a crossing arm at a railway crossing. A loud oncoming horn warning

those nearby to be clear. "Everybody move" it seemed to blare. I wonder if a young Robert Prevost had once stood where I now was, counting the train cars as they left the many factories and plants that dotted the landscape.

I kept walking. I looked around and paused. Ah, the two twin constants of the American dream: to my right, a shipping and assembly center, to my left, suburban housing. Sadly, many of those jobs have gone. It reminded me much of Anderson, when the vehicle plant left. Urban desolation

Cross the second set of tracks, turn right. Past a row of houses and an assembly plant. The mixing of houses and assembly plants along a row, from above and on the ground reminded me of the lines and dashes of a Morse Code message, "we were once the thriving center STOP".

I found myself at the front of the old St. Mary of the Assumption. The hum/whish of passing cars was only interrupted by the ratcheting clack of a bicycle chain. Now this was a lot that was slightly overgrow. Across from it is a funeral home, and public housing.

The owner of the now abandoned property walked out and ushered me and some reporters inside and

once inside, I stood. So unassuming, If I was going to write the story of a Pope, this would hardly be the setting for it to begin. However, where he stood, I now stand.

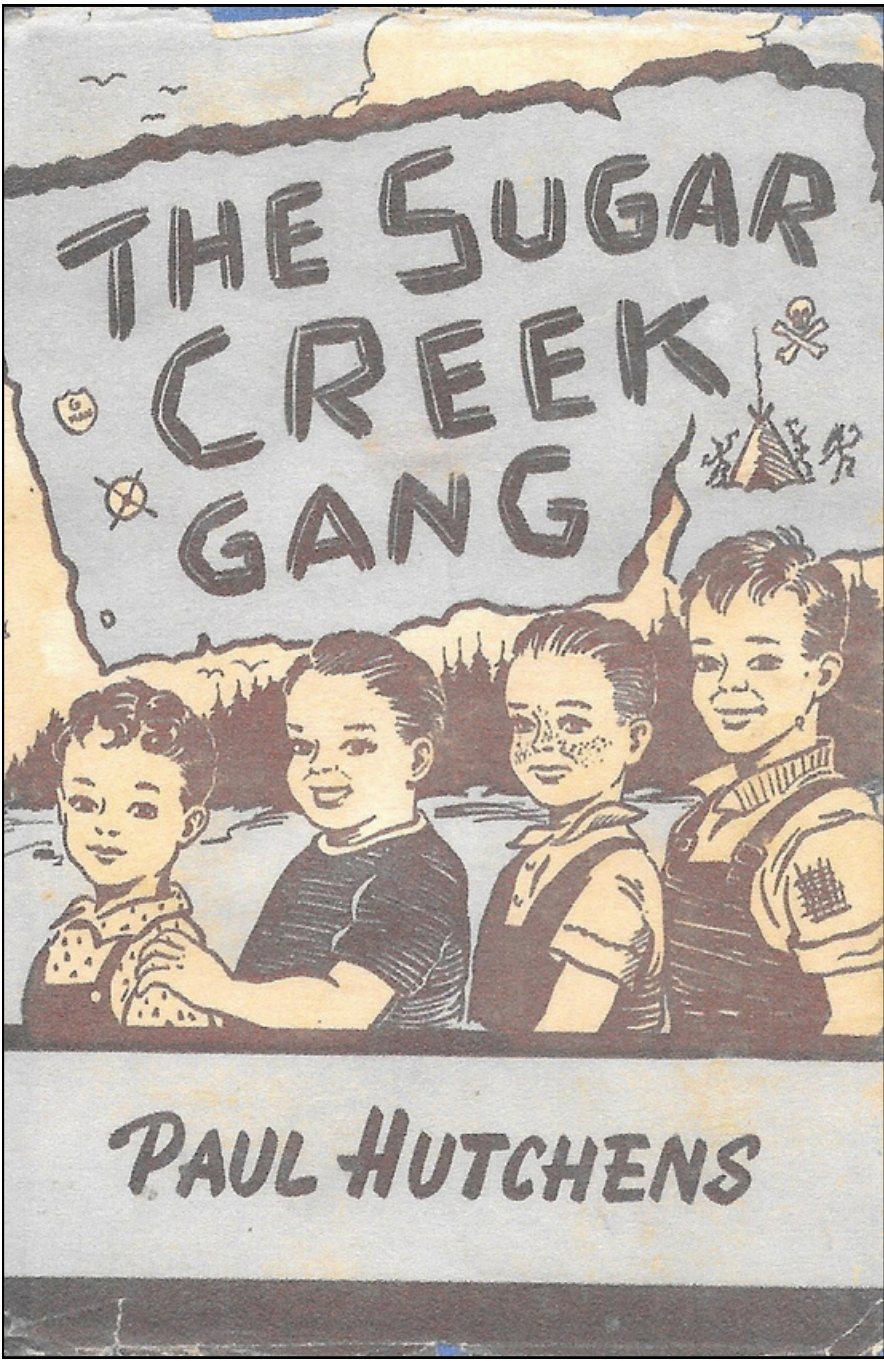
Yes, it's been nearly 60 years since that young man we now know as Pope Leo XIV took this same route to get to school and to church.

Finishing my walk, I smiled: I think the Cardinals elected someone who wasn't enamored by the fame of the position. Who wouldn't be swayed by today's currents that toss individuals to and fro.

They elected a humble man, the son of a principal and librarian who lived between the tracks.

Andy Chandler is a presidential historian and a museum archivist at Candles Holocaust Museum in Terre Haute and the Ernie Pyle Museum in Dana Indiana. Raised in Taiwan and Haiti as the son of missionaries, Andy graduated from Ball State University with a Masters in classical languages. He now resides in Parke County where he enjoys archery, travel and photography. In March, he became the first person to visit all forty presidential gravesites when he got as close as the public was allowed to Jimmy Carter's grave in Plains, GA.

Back in the Day with Butch Dale



Back in the day, my sixth grade teacher read from the Sugar Creek Gang books each morning. There was an entire series of these books, which were written by Paul Hutchens of Thorntown.

Rep. Genda Shares Update



MARK GENDA
Guest Columnist

At the start of the 2025 legislative session, Indiana House Republicans set out to tackle several priorities aimed at protecting taxpayers, empowering Hoosiers and making government more efficient.

As the session concludes, these priority efforts made it across the finish line to improve the lives of Hoosiers and keep our state moving forward.

A key achievement this session was delivering tax relief to hardworking Hoosiers by cutting income taxes over the next two years and advancing property tax relief and reform. Together, these two tax cuts will save Hoosiers \$1.3 billion in taxes over the next two years.

Additionally, the following House Republican priority bills advanced through the House and Senate:

- House Enrolled Act 1001: Enacting an honestly balanced, two-year state budget that reduces

government spending, strengthens our commitment to education and public safety, and protects taxpayers.

- House Enrolled Act 1002: Reducing regulations on K-12 schools to increase flexibility and give local communities more control over education decisions.
- House Enrolled Act 1003: Lowering health care costs for Hoosiers by improving transparency and predictability in pricing and billing and giving patients more control over their treatment options.
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- House Enrolled Act 1007: Meeting the needs of today's energy economy while reducing costs for Hoosiers.
- House Enrolled Act 1008: Welcoming Illinois counties that have voted to secede from their state to join us in Indiana.

As your state representative, it has been a privilege to serve you this session, and I look forward to continuing to work on your behalf to strengthen our community and state.

Rep. Mark Genda represents House District 41 which includes portions of Montgomery, Clinton, Boone and Tippecanoe counties.

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It’s All About Purdue Boilermakers, By The Numbers, This Week

While playing for Maccabi Tel Aviv in Europe’s top professional basketball league, Omer Mayer wore No. 10.

That number was unofficially off limits to Mayer when the 6-4 guard signed to play the 2025-26 season with Purdue. Only five Boilermakers since the 1950s have worn No. 10 but it will always be associated with Rick Mount.

Mount’s No. 10 is on equal footing at Purdue with No. 13, worn most notably by Glenn Robinson and John Wooden, and Zach Edey’s No. 15.

The greatest shooter in Purdue basketball history, Mount was just the second Boilermaker to don No. 10. That number, according to the 2024-25 Purdue basketball media guide, was worn for the first time by Steve Cunningham from 1963-66.

Much like his scoring records, Mount takes great pride in No. 10. Purdue Hall of Fame coach Gene Keady and former Indiana Mr. Basketball Woody Austin found out just how much so in 1989, when Austin sought to wear his Richmond High School jersey number.

Official Purdue policy is not to retire uniform numbers in any sport. That didn’t matter to Mount, who wore No. 10 for the last time at Purdue in 1970.

“They took my number out of circulation for, what, 19 years?” Mount told the Chicago Tribune in 2000. “I don’t care if Woody Austin wears No. 10 or if Joe Blow wears No. 10, but give me the respect of calling me. It would have been OK if Keady would have called me and said, ‘Hey, Rick, I know it’s been out of circulation, but Woody Austin wants this number. Can he wear it?’ But he didn’t. I don’t think the guy respects me.”

In 2002, Keady had freshman guard Brandon McKnight call Mount to seek permission to wear No. 10.

“I said, ‘Son, wear it with pride,’ “ Mount told the Los Angeles Times in 2003. Not coincidentally, Mount ended his self-imposed exile from Purdue’s campus that same year.

Mayer will be the first Boilermaker to wear No. 47, a decision made possible a couple of years ago when the NCAA lifted a longstanding rule prohibiting players from wearing numbers that include 6, 7, 8 or 9. Today, numbers 0 to 99 are legal to wear, following the example set by the NBA.

Walk-ons Aaron Fine (6) and Sam King (7) also deviated from the

traditional jersey numbers.

While the Purdue media guide doesn’t list jersey numbers prior to the 1950s, banners hanging in Mackey Arena indicate that Boilermaker All-Americans Norman Cottom (7) and Charles “Stretch” Murphy (27) wore non-traditional numbers in the late 1920s and 1930s.

Cottom was the 1934 Big Ten scoring champion and a consensus All-American the same season. Murphy, a giant in his day at 6-7, led Purdue to an undefeated Big Ten championship in 1930. The Marion native also set the Big Ten single-season scoring record in 1929 and was a two-time consensus All-American. He was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in 1960 alongside teammate John Wooden and his Purdue coach, Piggy Lambert.

A sign that Purdue basketball under Painter is enjoying one of its greatest eras? Look no further than a 2020 article by Dustin Dopirak for The Athletic, ranking the best Boilermaker by number since 1952.

If that story was updated five years later, there would be several changes made. Obviously, Edey would take No. 15 away from Jim Bullock, a solid forward in the 1980s for Keady but nowhere near Player of the Year talented.

Caleb Furst would likely get the edge over Anthony Johnson for No. 1.

While some may disagree, Braden Smith’s record-setting career gives him the nod over Carsen Edwards for wearing No. 3 the best. Both have won national awards (Bob Cousy for Smith and Jerry West for Edwards) but setting the Purdue career assists mark in three seasons is the tipping point for Smith.

An argument could be made a year from now that Fletcher Loyer was the better No. 2 than David Teague, especially if Loyer stays on pace for a top 10 career scoring finish. Trey Kaufman-Renn has a tougher battle to unseat Robbie Hummel as Purdue’s best to wear No. 4.

While we’re on the subject of numbers, here’s a few provided by Purdue associate strategic communications director (men’s basketball and men’s golf) Chris Forman for the 2024-25 season.

4 Purdue is one of four men’s basketball teams to finish ranked in the top 15 according to The Associated Press. The others are Houston, Duke and Arizona.

6 A number that will perhaps surprise some national media, it’s the number of Sweet 16 appearances by Purdue in the past eight tournaments. Only Gonzaga has more with seven.

8 Only Michigan State’s Tom Izzo (16) and Indiana legend Bob Knight (14) have had more NCAA Sweet 16 appearances than Matt Painter’s eight in Big Ten history.

10 The Boilermakers’ string of NCAA Tournament appearances, surprisingly the fourth-longest active streak in the nation and the fourth-longest streak in Big Ten history.

14 Purdue’s ranking in the final Associated Press Top 25 poll. It’s the fifth consecutive year Purdue was ranked in the final AP poll (20th - 2021; 10th - 2022; 3rd - 2023; 2nd – 2024).

39.3 Over the last two seasons, Purdue leads the country in 3-point percentage, making 615-of-1,566 from long range. Kentucky is second at 39.1 percent.

141 Caleb Furst’s career games at Purdue, sharing the school record set by Dakota Mathias in 2018.

292 Trey Kaufman-Renn’s field goals made in 2024-25, tops in the country.

758 Braden Smith’s Purdue career record assist total. He also holds the Big Ten single-season assist record (313).

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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Sen. Deery Shares Update

**SPENCER DEERY**
Guest Columnist

Hoosiers deserve a state government that operates with integrity, efficiency and accountability.

That's why I co-authored Senate Enrolled Act 5. Signed by the governor this week, the law ensures that large government contracts may only be awarded through a competitive and transparent process, with clearly defined success metrics and penalties for failure.

The law also:

- Requires preemptive reviews before the state accepts new federal funds to confirm doing so will not also increase state spending; and
- Encourages the state to be more efficient in staffing by demonstrating that a position that has been vacant for 90 days is truly needed.

Taxpayers deserve nothing less than a government that treats their tax dollars with respect. I am grateful for the many messages I receive with advice on how to prioritize government transparency and efficiency.

CELEBRATING
National Teacher Appreciation Week

As we celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week, it's a great time to highlight the remarkable work our teachers are doing throughout the state.

Hoosier students recently demonstrated impressive improvements in the most recent National Assessment of Education Progress – including moving up 13 spots in 4th grade reading from 19th to sixth in the nation and 11 spots in 8th grade reading from 17th in the country to sixth.

These gains are thanks in large part to outstanding teachers, who have gone above and beyond to help students rebound from the effects of the pandemic shutdown.

Our state will never reach our potential without the ability to recruit and retain high-quality educators. That's why I authored Senate Enrolled Act 249 and co-authored Senate Enrolled Act 146. These laws will increase teacher pay across Indiana and give local school leaders new tools to recognize and reward our state's top educators.

STATE DISASTER RELIEF
Fund Applications

The Indiana Department of

Homeland Security has opened applications for the State Disaster Relief Fund to help Hoosiers who incurred damage to their property from recent storms.

Eligible Hoosiers can receive up to \$2,000 initially for immediate needs, however, some homeowners could receive additional assistance.

NATIONAL MILITARY
Appreciation Month

For more than 25 years, our nation has recognized May as National Military Appreciation Month.

This month allows Americans to honor the sacrifice of the men and women of our armed forces as well as our nation's veterans.

Here in Indiana, all 92 counties have a Veteran Service Officer who can help veterans and their families receive the benefits they have earned.

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.

PAW & ORDER



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DATE May 17, 2025

TIME 9am - 4pm

LOCATION Kroger Parking Lot
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PAWLICE



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Baird represents House District 44, which includes all of Putnam County and a portion of Montgomery County. Genda represents House District 41, which includes portions of Boone, Clinton, Montgomery and Tippecanoe counties. Commons represents House District 13, which includes all of Benton and Warren counties, and portions of Fountain, Jasper, Montgomery, Newton, Tippecanoe and White counties. And Thompson represents House District 28, which includes portions of Boone, Hendricks and Montgomery counties.



County Lawmakers Tout Legislative Session

The 2025 legislative session ended with passage of the state's next two-year budget as well as tax relief and other key priorities for Hoosiers, according to Montgomery County lawmakers.

"Our state's new budget keeps Indiana on a strong financial path while supporting our agriculture industry and rural communities," said State Rep. Beau Baird (R-Greencastle). "I'm proud we delivered tax relief, promoted energy innovation and increased health care access."

The budget accounts for lowering Indiana's state income tax each of the next two years, which will save taxpayers over \$200 million per year. The legislature also advanced major property tax relief and reform legislation this session. Together, these two tax cuts will save Hoosiers \$1.3 billion in taxes over the next two years. Key investments were also made in K-12 education and public safety.

"Our new state budget once again focuses on government efficiency and maintaining sensible reserves while funding critical services," said State Rep. Jeff Thompson (R-Lizton), chair of the House Ways and Means Committee. "We were also able to provide much-needed property tax relief and long-term reforms. I look forward to continuing work on these priorities."

All eight of the House Republican priority items advanced to the Governor's desk by the adjournment of session, including:

- House Enrolled Act 1001: Enacting an honestly balanced, two-year state budget that makes government more efficient, strengthens our commitment to education and public safety, and protects taxpayers.
- House Enrolled Act 1002: Reducing regulations on K-12 schools to increase flexibility and give local communities more control over education decisions.
- House Enrolled Act 1003: Lowering health care costs for Hoosiers by improving transparency and predictability in pricing and billing and giving patients more control over their treatment options.
- House Enrolled Act 1004: Ensuring nonprofit hospitals act as nonprofit entities focused on delivering health care.
- House Enrolled Act 1005: Improving access to housing by expanding the Residential Housing Infrastructure Assistance Program (RIF) and streamlining the regulatory process for housing development.

- House Enrolled Act 1006: Strengthening public safety by creating a review board to investigate prosecutors who refuse to enforce our laws.
- House Enrolled Act 1007: Meeting the needs of today's energy economy while reducing costs for Hoosiers.
- House Enrolled Act 1008: Welcoming Illinois counties that have voted to secede from their state to join us in Indiana.

"This session we successfully passed a new balanced budget, reduced costs and expanded housing access that puts Hoosiers first," said State Rep. Matt Commons (R-Williamsport). "I'm excited to see the positive change these new laws will bring and look forward to hearing from my district."

"We tightened our belts this session and made tough but necessary cuts to save Hoosiers more of their hard-earned money," said State Rep. Mark Genda (R-Frankfort). "Lawmakers will continue to seek ways to make our government work more efficiently to further save tax dollars."

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The success of the annual event comes from event sponsors and the presenters.



Photos courtesy Tricia Herr

A total of 419 students worked their way around the Fairgrounds on May 8-9.



The Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board supports the event not only financially but by providing and packing goody bags for all the students to receive.



It is a really fun day for the students who get to move around at stations while learning about many different topics in agriculture.

4th Grade Ag Days Another Success!

By Tricia Herr

Last week, all the fourth graders in Montgomery County came to the fairgrounds to learn more about agriculture. A total of 419 students worked their way around the fairgrounds on May 8-9 to learn from different presenters. The success of the two-day annual event is largely due to the support from the event sponsors, Montgomery County Farm Bureau, Tri-County Bank and Trust, Pace Dairy, and the amazing forty-four presenters.

The Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board supports the event not only financially but by providing and packing goody bags for all the students to receive, to take what they learned that day home with them. Tri-County Bank and Trust continues to support the event by sponsoring the meals for the presenters

each day.

Tricia Herr, the Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator, coordinates the event each year to schedule the field trip for the schools and book all the presenters. “It is a really fun day for the students who get to move around at stations while learning about many different topics in Agriculture. Where else do kids get to run around to learn the size of an acre, pet sheep and cows, see a UAV demonstration, then see ethanol processing, then climb in a tractor, and play with an electrical circuit all in one day? I’m really proud of the great slate of presenters who provide all this for the fourth-graders.”

This annual event has benefited from the consistent support of Pace Dairy, who this year donated cheese cubes for all the

students to obtain another serving of dairy at the Nutrition Station. Purdue Extension Health and Human Sciences educator, Monica Nagele, RD, teaches the Nutrition Station. This year, Nagele worked through the dietary recommendations of MyPlate, then had the students participate in a relay race activity to compare how different foods make it to our stores and our tables. Students had fun racing against each other, whilst learning that some foods take longer to grow, or others have to be shipped long distances to make it to our stores.

Southmont FFF and North Montgomery County FFA each host their own stations as well. Southmont FFA students bring their own livestock from home each day to teach the fourth graders about livestock, and

what products come from our livestock, and more about FFA and 4-H. North Montgomery FFA students work through a series of everyday products and items and show the students how they are connected to agriculture. From citrus flavored can, a box of breakfast cereal, a bike tire or a hanging flower basket of Boston Ferns, they are made up of something that came from a farm. Both FFA programs lead their stations themselves, and do an excellent presenting their subjects to the 4th graders as students themselves.

Valero hosts a station that is often a favorite of the students, because they have an active hot plate and mimic a much smaller example of their plant in Linden. The speakers produce ethanol right there in front of the students to watch the entire process from kernel to ethanol. But to talk about favorite

stations, we cannot forget the UAV station where Benton and Warren Ag and Natural Resources Educator, Jon Charlesworth, shows videos of UAV flights and how we use drones for agriculture and ending his station with flying his UAV to demonstrate a flight, and show how high 400 feet is in the air (the highest allowable height to fly a drone legally by the FAA). Another favorite is of course the tractors, representatives from Bane-Welker come and present about the uses of a tractor and how to be safe around them. At the end, the students get to climb up into the seat of the tractor!

Lea Hickle and Sam Lovold from Montgomery County Soil and Water District present about conservation and often talk about “acres,” so then Lea and Sam lead the students out to the grassy lawn to show

the students how big an acre really is. The students can follow a pre-cut rope around the diameter of one half acre. Abby Morgan, the 4-H Educator, teaches students about Indiana Agriculture and highlights all the crops and livestock that make Indiana one of the top-producing state in terms of agriculture. The Extension Master Gardeners teach students about the anatomy of plants, show them recently germinated seeds, and go over the parts of a flower.

The fourth graders then get to try to create a parallel electric circuit with battery circuit boards. Students learn that not only to electric cars need electricity, all of our cars, tractors and ATVs need electricity.

Overall, we had another successful 4th Grade Ag Days. Thank you to all the sponsors and presenters who made the days go smoothly.



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