

Psalm 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

■ AWL SHASTA



Shasta is a 3 year old female black domestic shorthair cat available for adoption from AWL (The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County) since 11/21/24. Shasta is friendly, playful, and loves to cuddle!! Shasta is ready for her furrever home! AWL is open Monday - Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p.

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

“A father is someone who holds you when you cry, scolds you when you break the rules and shines with pride when you succeed.”  
— Unknown



Another Friday the 13th. Hey, we’ve survived Joe Biden and now Donald Trump. We’re not going to let some silly superstition slow us down!



Montgomery County’s oldest locally owned independent newspaper [www.thepaper24-7.com](http://www.thepaper24-7.com) | 50¢

The McFall Yard – With a Country Feeling

Marc and Karen McFall always knew that in retirement they wanted to move to Montgomery County where Karen grew up. They did exactly that in the fall of 2021. Their home in Cicero, Ind. had a farm field behind it and they were looking for that same country feeling in Crawfordsville. They found it at 1251 W. Country Club Rd. The front of the house, which faces north, already had beautiful landscaping with large Hostas and Hydrangeas. Marc and Karen added additional plants such as an Oak

Leaf Hydrange and Perennial Geraniums to make a fuller landscape. The real transformation of this yard happened in the back. When the McFalls moved in the backyard was pretty much a blank slate. There were a few nice trees and a small flower bed. Although the backyard had good bones, Marc and Karen knew they needed to focus their attention here to make it their own. The transformation began in the spring of 2022. The first

See Yard Page 3



The transformation began in the spring of 2022 with a fence built around the perimeter. Courtesy Flower Lovers Garden Club

■ BOOMER BITS RETIREMENT

Secure in Social Security?

**Dear Rusty:** My coffee conversations among a group of friends have resulted in several questions about Social Security:

1. What happens to the Social Security account of someone who dies before retirement age. What happens to that money and where does it end up?
2. How does the decreased birth rate of the USA affect future Social Security benefits?
3. Is a person who has never contributed to the Social Security System entitled to any benefits from the Social Security Administration?
4. Is there a central location online that a person can ac-



**ASK RUSTY**  
Social Security Adviser

cess that explains the history and current status of the Social Security System, that explains all of it in simple terms. I would like to be able to give this location to people I talk with about Social Security.

Most of the articles we read are like slogging through mud! I enjoy AMAC articles and am college educated, but the average reading level in the US is less than 6th grade. Thank you for considering these questions.

— Curious Reader

**Dear Curious:** Thank

See Rusty Page 2

■ BOOMER BITS FINANCES

Avoid getting scammed

No matter your age, no one is immune to scams. In the most recent BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report, investment/cryptocurrency scams continued to be one of the riskiest scams for ages 55+. Online purchase scams were the second riskiest for consumers 55-64, along with romance scams for consumers 65+. The third riskiest for both groups were home improvement scams. Regardless of the type of scam, BBB recommends the following precautions to avoid becoming a victim.

What are the tips to spot a potential scam targeting

older adults? Watch out for phone fraud. The Federal Trade Commission reports that fraudulent telemarketers often direct their calls to older adults. Scammers will claim to be with a government agent or pose as a bank employee. They may sound friendly and courteous or aggressive and threatening. They may even have a caller ID to match their claims.

However, caller IDs can be easily spoofed and government agencies DON’T make unsolicited calls.

See Scammed Page 4

■ BOOMER BITS HEALTH

Work to Reduce Impact of Isolation in Rural Areas

Family Features

Throughout history, humans’ ability to rely on one another has been crucial to survival. Despite modern developments that help individuals live with minimal human engagement, the human need to connect remains.

However, in many parts of America, a trend toward

isolation is emerging. Over the past two decades, people are spending more time alone and less time engaging with others in person, according to data from the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General. One segment of Americans at particular risk of social isolation, loneliness and their negative impacts are select populations who live in rural areas.

“There is an urgent need to take action and improve mental health in rural America,” said Jeff Winton, dairy farmer and founder and chairman of Rural Minds, a nonprofit mental health advocacy organization that partnered with Pfizer to raise awareness about the physical and mental risks of social isolation.

“Challenges to mental health

can be inherent in a rural lifestyle, including a belief in self-reliance as a virtue, fear of judgment and difficulty getting an appointment with a limited number of mental health professionals, among others.”

Many Americans are increasingly spending more

See Impact Page 2

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

**1.** It’s Friday the 13th, but where do we get the idea that it’s an unlucky day? We turned to the all-knowing Internet . . . and didn’t learn much. We found out Friday the 13th occurs at least once a year and as many as three times – and in order for it to happen, the month has to begin on a Sunday. But why is it considered unlucky? Some ideas suggest it has to do with a Norse myth, others involve the Last Supper, a French play from the 1800s and even the Knights Templar. Who knows? Apparently no one. What we do know though is it’s Friday, the beginning of a weekend and there are LOTS of great things on the agenda. Unlucky? We think not!

**2.** It’s also Father’s Day weekend and our friends at Mixbook surveyed 3,019 fathers and asked if they could pick any local brewery to celebrate with family, where would they want to go? They found that there are three places in the great Hoosier state that made the list, Upland Brewing Co. in Bloomington, Guggman Haus Brewing Co. in Indianapolis and Sun King Brewery – Carmel. But wherever you go and whatever you do Sunday, just be sure to celebrate Dad!

**3.** This summer, Indiana students age 18 and younger will have access to free, nutritious meals and snacks at more than 1,000 locations statewide through the 2025 Summer Food Service Program. Households can find in-

formation about the meal types served and days of the week when meals are offered by using the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Summer Meals Site Finder. The Summer Meals Site Finder will continue to be updated throughout the summer. Families can also call the USDA’s National Hunger Hotline at 1-866-3-HUNGRY (1-866-348-6479) or 1-877-8-HAMBRE (1-877-842-6273), or text “Summer Meals” or “Verano” to 914-342-7744 to find sites near them. Site locations and meal service times vary throughout the state based on local area sponsors. Congregate meal locations range from parks and community centers to schools, churches and mobile feeding sites. In qualified rural locations, meals may be available for pick up.

Montgomery Minute

It’s finally here – the 51st Strawberry Festival just off beautiful downtown Crawfordsville at historic Lane Place. There’ll be plenty of top-notch entertainment, family friendly events, food – with of course, Strawberries! Come out tonight and hear the Kentucky Headhunters at 8. Tomorrow, Big Rosco and the Hammers take the big stage at 8 and Amy Jo and the Bad Decisions will be live Sunday at 2:30. Grab some sunscreen, maybe a lawn chair or two and take part in one of the great things that make Crawfordsville and Montgomery County a great place to be!

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

In honor of Father’s Day this weekend, we share some “dad jokes.” Why did the bicycle fall over? It was two-tired.





# The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

127 E. Main St. 103  
P.O. Box 272  
Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933  
Main 765-361-0100  
www.thepaper24-7.com

■ BUTCH’S FLASHBACK TRIVIA



**Do You Recognize This 1965 Alamo H.S. Graduate?**  
**HINT:** He was a top athlete, was in several school clubs and was elected Homecoming King. *Answer on Page 5*

■ BUTCH’S BACK IN THE DAY



Back in the 1930s, tiny Bowers school had around 50 students in grades 1 through 12, with a total of 28 students in the elementary grades. One year there were five sets of twins, and teacher Gladys Smith posed with them for the newspaper.

## Mayor’s Community Forum Next Wednesday

Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton has scheduled his monthly Community Forum for Wednesday, June 18 at 5 p.m. at Pike Place. This will be Barton’s 144th Community Forum since taking office. Holding a monthly community forum was something Barton pledged to do during his campaign and he has continued to do so every month – except during the COVID pandemic. This event is designed to allow the public to come ask questions, discuss concerns, interact with the mayor and learn more about anything regarding the city.



Todd Barton

# The Paper

of Montgomery County  
*An Independent Newspaper  
founded in 2004*

Vol. 21 | Issue 67

Sen. Phil Boots, President  
USPS Publication Number: 022-679  
**Annual Print Subscription: \$89**  
**Annual Online Subscription: \$42**  
**To subscribe:** circulation@thepaper24-7.com  
**To contact news:** news@thepaper24-7.com  
**To submit legal notices:** Legals@thepaper24-7.com  
**For billing:** business@thepaper24-7.com

### Rusty

*Continued from Page 1*

you for your readership, and I’ll be happy to tackle your “over coffee” questions about Social Security:

**1.** Social Security is a “pay as you go” program, where all money collected from workers is used to pay benefits for all those who are currently receiving Social Security. In other words, all money contributed is used to pay benefits to others already receiving benefits. It is not put into a separate account for each person, and that is a good thing. Most people get more from Social Security than they ever contributed, but benefits are paid for life, regardless of how long one lives. The specific answer to your question is that if someone dies before retirement age, the money contributed has already been used to pay benefits to others. Keep in mind though, that a surviv-

ing spouse or minor or disabled adult child may also collect benefits on a deceased person’s Social Security record.

**2.** The decreasing birth rate in the US hurts Social Security. That’s because fewer babies mean fewer future workers contributing to the Social Security program. FYI, in 1950 there were about 15 workers contributing to SS for every one person collecting benefits, but today there are less than 3 workers for each SS beneficiary. That problem is exacerbated by the steadily increasing U.S. life expectancy. Beneficiaries are now often collecting SS benefits for decades from a program designed to pay benefits for only a few years.

**3.** Only those who have worked and contributed to Social Security through payroll taxes for about 10 years (40 quarters of SS credit) are eligible to collect SS Retirement benefits. However, some dependent

spouses and/or dependent minor or dependent disabled children who have never worked might also be eligible for benefits from the worker’s Social Security record. Along with each U.S. state, the SSA also administers another program, known as Supplement Security Income (SSI), on behalf of the federal government. However, federal “SSI” benefits are not paid with Social Security funds. “SSI” is a separate government benefit program, with federal benefits paid from the general U.S. Treasury.

**4.** There are lots of places to get information about Social Security, but I suggest you start at our AMAC Foundation Social Security information website, which can be found at [www.socialsecurityreport.org](http://www.socialsecurityreport.org). Here you will find numerous articles about Social Security, retirement, Medicare, etc., as well as all the Ask Rusty articles I have

published weekly over the last 8 years. You can also find excellent Social Security information on our AMAC Foundation main website, [www.amacfoundation.org](http://www.amacfoundation.org). And, of course, you can always ask any questions you have via email to [ssadvisors@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisors@amacfoundation.org). Or, if you prefer, you can just call us on 1.888.750.2622 if you have questions about Social Security or about Medicare enrollment.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisors@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisors@amacfoundation.org).*



Freepik.com

### Impact

*Continued from Page 1*

time alone according to the American Time Use Survey. They are increasingly more likely to take meetings, shop, eat and enjoy entertainment at home, making it easier for them to stay within their own four walls and avoid social interactions. Authentic human connection is a basic but often unacknowledged necessity for health, “as essential to survival as food, water and shelter,” according to the U.S. Surgeon General’s Advisory on the Health Effects of Social Connection and Community.

**Understanding Social Isolation**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about one-third of U.S. adults reported feeling lonely and about one-fourth said they don’t have social and emotional support (the basis of social isolation). The concepts of social isolation and loneliness can go hand-in-hand, but the two are actually quite different. Social isolation is defined by an absence of relationships or contact with others. Someone experiencing loneliness may or may not have social connections, but lacks feelings of closeness, support or belonging. Despite the distinction, both can have a negative impact on a person’s mental and even physical health. Several factors can influence a person’s risk for social isolation and loneliness.

“Social connection is a dynamic that changes over time,” said Nikki Shaffer, senior director, occupational health and wellness, Pfizer. “Transient feelings of loneliness or solitude may be beneficial because they can serve as motivation to reconnect. However, chronic loneliness (even if someone is not isolated) and isolation (even if someone is not lonely) can represent significant health concerns.”

**Isolation in Rural America**

Compared to people who live in urban areas, many rural Americans experience higher rates of depression and suicide but are less likely to access mental health care services, according to the “Health Disparities in Rural America: Current Challenges and Future Solutions” study published in “Clinical Advisor.” What’s more, CDC data shows suicide rates among people living in rural areas can be 64-68% higher than those in large urban areas. Rural areas have 20% fewer primary care providers compared to urban areas, according to a report in JAMA, and the Health Resources and Services Administration reports more than 25 million rural Americans, more than half of rural residents, live in mental health professional shortage areas. Among rural counties, 65% lack a psychiatrist. Nearly 30% of rural Americans don’t have internet access in their homes, which complicates the option for telehealth. These figures from Rural Minds

exemplify the challenges facing rural America. “Some people in rural communities still don’t understand or accept that mental illness is a disease,” said Winton, who grew up on a rural farm. “Rather, a mental illness can often be viewed as a personal weakness or character flaw. A lot of the stigma around mental illness results in unwarranted shame, which adds to the burden for someone already suffering from mental illness.”

**Health Impacts of Social Isolation**

Loneliness is far more than just a bad feeling; it harms both individual and societal health. In fact, loneliness and social isolation can increase the risk for premature death by 26% and 29%, respectively. Lacking social connection can increase the risk for premature death as much as smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day or drinking six alcoholic drinks daily. In addition, poor or insufficient social connection is associated with increased risk of disease, including a 29% increased risk of heart disease and a 32% increased risk of stroke. Social isolation is also associated with increased risk for anxiety, depression and dementia. Additionally, a lack of social connection may increase susceptibility to viruses and respiratory illness. Learn more about the impact of social isolation, especially on residents of rural areas, and the steps you can take to reduce isolation and loneliness by visiting [ruralminds.org](http://ruralminds.org).

**Boost Your Social Connections**

Take a proactive approach to combatting social isolation and loneliness with these everyday actions that can promote stronger social ties. Invest time in nurturing your relationships through consistent, frequent and high-quality engagement with others. Take time each day to reach out to a friend or family member. Minimize distractions during conversation to increase the quality of the time you spend with others. For instance, don’t check your phone during meals with friends, important conversations and family time. Seek out opportunities to serve and support others, either by helping your family, co-workers, friends or people in your community or by participating in community service. Be responsive, supportive and practice gratitude. As you practice these behaviors, others are more likely to reciprocate, strengthening social bonds, improving relationship satisfaction and building social capital. Participate in social and community groups such as religious, hobby, fitness, professional and community service organizations to help foster a sense of belonging, meaning and purpose. Seek help during times of struggle with loneliness or isolation by reaching out to a family member, friend, counselor, health care provider or the 988 crisis line.



# Trump Administration Appoints Steve Brown to Indiana Post

The Trump Administration recently appointed Steve Brown as the new State Executive Director (SED) for the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Indiana. Brown joined the Indiana FSA team on May 5, 2025.

“When America’s farming communities prosper, the entire nation thrives. This new group of USDA appointees will ensure President Trump’s America First agenda is a reality in rural areas across the country. I am grateful for the leadership of these new state directors and look forward to their work reorienting the agency to put Farmers First again,” said Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins.

“FSA State Executive Directors serve in a critical role carrying out USDA’s mission at the state level — ensuring that our focus is on meeting the needs of local agricultural producers by putting farmers and

ranchers first,” said FSA Administrator Bill Beam. “Rural communities need our support now more than ever. Our newly appointed state leaders bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to their position as SED and they will play an integral role in shaping the future of agriculture in their state.”

Brown returns to FSA where he previously served as the FSA State Executive Director for Indiana during President

Trump’s first term. He has been actively involved in his family farming operation for over 40 years. Brown is a former USDA employee with 32 years of experience working in Porter and Carroll counties as well as the Indiana State FSA Office. He was inducted into the Carroll County Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2023.

As SED, Brown is responsible for overseeing the delivery of FSA programs to agricultural

producers in Indiana. These commodity, conservation, credit, and disaster assistance programs ensure a safe, affordable, abundant and nutritious food, fiber, and fuel supply for all Americans. See USDA news release for full list of recent FSA and Rural Development appointees.

FSA helps America’s farmers, ranchers and forest landowners invest in, improve, protect and expand their agricultural

operations through the delivery of agricultural programs for all Americans. FSA implements agricultural policy, administers credit and loan programs, and manages conservation, commodity, disaster recovery and marketing programs through a national network of state and county offices and locally elected county committees. For more information, visit [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).



**Clockwise from top:** Marc built a deck with a swing in the shady area and provided Karen with her favorite place to enjoy the whole yard. The 17th annual tour is set for Sunday, June 29 – rain or shine. Get your tickets now. Details are in today’s edition. The McFalls found what they were looking for at 1251 W. Country Club Rd. Photos courtesy Flower Lovers Garden Club

**Yard**  
*Continued from Page 1*

step was to have a fence built around the perimeter and two decks built. One deck on the house and one on the garage. Once this was done Karen could see her vision for the backyard. She wanted flower beds all around the fencing and several places to sit and enjoy the yard. There was a challenge though. Their previous yard in Cicero had a lot of mature trees so it was very shady. The new house had a very sunny yard. This required a whole new way of thinking when planning what to plant and where to plant it.

Karen brought many starts from their previous yard. Mostly shade loving Hostas. One tree in the

**Join the club**  
**Who:** Flower Lovers Garden Club  
**What:** 17th Annual Garden & Arts Tour  
**When:** Sunday June 29 11-5 (Rain or Shine)  
**Where:** There are 8 different gardens on the tour and the addresses are listed on the tickets along with a map  
**Cost:** This is a ticketed event and tickets are \$12, 12 and under free – tickets available NOW at following locations and would be a great Mother’s Day gift.

- ProGreen Garden Center
- Davidson’s Greenhouse
- Ryan’s Flowers
- Country Hearts & Flowers
- Just Because
- Milligan’s Flowers
- Crawfordsville Library

**Tickets** will also be available the day of the tour at Pike Place from 11-2

new yard provided the shade needed to create a small Hosta garden. It wasn’t long before Karen realized she needed a deck with a swing in the shady area. Marc built

that deck and provided Karen with her favorite place to sit to enjoy the whole yard. This year Marc added onto this deck to provide a play space for their grand-

daughter, Tinsley.

Karen has always loved Day Lilies. The west side of the yard provided the perfect place for a Day Lily garden. When the Day Lilies are in bloom it is a beautiful sea of color. Each year the McFalls plant more perennials. Marc likes the economics of more perennials and less annuals. Karen loves to see the flowers return each spring after a long winter nap. Impatiens are Karen’s favorite annual flower. In every bit of shade, in this primarily sunny yard, you will find red, orange, pink and white Impatiens.

Just south of the house you will find an area for birds with feeders and bird baths. The McFalls have frequent visits from a variety of birds such as

woodpeckers and songbirds.

In the back part of the yard, you can enjoy a fire pit with swings all built by Marc. The back corner of the yard is devoted to Karen’s farming upbringing with a shed barn and windmill. The windmill brings back memories of long ago to the farm that Karen’s grandparents had near Crawfordsville.

Over the years Marc and Karen have enjoyed recycling old materials such as wooden fence boards and using them to create flower bed borders. They also have used items in a different way then intended such as using mailboxes to store gardening tools. Basically, they enjoy using whatever material they find interesting to

create a yard with different textures for example, using wood, brick, and rock to create decks and paths. The flower beds display decorative items that have been found at antique stores and flea markets. They love to fill the yard with things that make them happy!

By now you can see that the McFall yard is a collaboration between Marc and Karen. They hope visitors will enjoy a stroll through their yard and realize one thing is for sure, you can never have too many swings or flowers to make a yard feel like home.

In addition to touring this lovely yard transformation; there will be a Master Gardener available to answer gardening questions you might be pondering about your own space.



# Current Run Reminiscent of Pacers’ ABA Glory Days

The Indiana Pacers may be playing for the organization’s first NBA championship this month but there are those of us old enough to remember when Indianapolis was title town in the early 1970s.

Roger Brown, Mel Daniels, Freddie Lewis and former Purdue star Billy Keller played on three ABA championship teams back in the days of the red, white and blue basketball and the 3-point shot.

Playing their home games at the Indiana State Fairgrounds until Market Square Arena opened in 1974, the Pacers were the Boston Celtics of the ABA. In addition to the three championships, Indiana won six Eastern Conference titles during the league’s nine-year existence.

Those Pacers were so talented, three players and coach Bobby Leonard are members of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. Daniels was the first Pacer in the Hall of Fame in 2012. Brown was elected posthumously in 2013, and Leonard was inducted in 2014. George McGinnis, who starred on the 1972 and 1973 title teams, entered the Hall of Fame in 2017.

Keller’s style of play was perfect for the ABA, which had the 3-point rule years before it was adopted by the staid NBA. Keller’s 506 career 3-pointers ranked second in ABA history. Keller also won free throw percentage titles in 1973 and 1976.

But as he did at Pur-

due, surrounded by Rick Mount and Herman Gilliam, Keller was a pass-first guard for the Pacers. During the 1970 title run, Keller handed out 437 assists.

Most of those passes went to Daniels, a 6-9 center who averaged 21 points and 18 rebounds a game on his way to winning his second ABA Most Valuable Player award. Brown led the Pacers at 23 points a game and was named the Most Valuable Player of the ABA playoffs.

Brown scored 45 points to lead Indiana past the Los Angeles Stars 111-107 in the decisive Game 6 of the championship series. Nearly 5,000 fans welcomed home the team on Monument Circle.

Two years later, Lewis was named Most Valuable Player of the ABA playoffs after the Pacers topped the Rick Barry-led New York Nets in six games. Daniels was again dominant, averaging 19.2 points and 16.4 rebounds.

These Pacers were a juggernaut offensively. Brown put up 18.5 points a game. McGinnis averaged 16.9 on his way to winning ABA Rookie of the Year. Lewis was fourth with a 15.4 average, just ahead of forward Bob Netolicky’s 15.1 average. Purdue legend Rick Mount started 50 games that season and averaged 14.3 points. Keller just missed giving Indiana seven double-figure scorers, averaging 9.7 points while leading the

team with a 33.3 percent shooting percentage from behind the 3-point line.

The Pacers outlasted their bitter rivals, the Kentucky Colonels, to win the 1973 title 4-3. Playoff MVP McGinnis scored 13 of his 27 points in the third quarter of Game 7, helping the Pacers expand a one-point halftime lead to 66-52. Indiana held on for an 88-81 victory at Freedom Hall in Louisville.

The 1973 squad was the most talented of the three championship teams. Gus Johnson, who was voted into the Naismith Hall of Fame in 2010, was playing his final season. The 6-6 Johnson only averaged six points a game, but he’ll be remembered by Pacers fans for guarding Kentucky 7-2 center Artis Gilmore in Game 7 when Daniels was in foul trouble.

Darnell Hillman, whose Afro hairstyle made him look taller than 6-9, was a spectacular leaper whose slam dunks were SportsCenter highlights before ESPN existed.

Donnie Freeman was obtained from the Dallas Chaparrals after the Pacers traded Mount to Kentucky. Freeman started 71 games and averaged 14.3 points.

Backup point guard Don Buse was beginning a 13-year pro basketball career after leading the University of Evansville to the 1971 NCAA Division II title.

To learn more about the early days of the Indiana Pacers, I suggest reading Mark Monteith’s book “Reborn: The Pacers and the Return of Pro Basket-

ball to Indianapolis.” I also recommend the documentary “Undefeated: The Roger Brown Story” by filmmaker Ted Green, a former sports copy editor for The Indianapolis Star.

Big Ten football gossip Granted anonymity by Athlon Sports for its 2025 College Football Preview, Big Ten football coaches offered their opinions on Purdue and Indiana. As you might have guessed, their peers don’t expect much from the Boilermakers.

“This is a really tough rebuild, and it’s not going to be an add-NIL, instant-win situation like Indiana was.”

Barry (Odom) is going to be a steadier hand than Ryan (Walters); he brings a lot of experience in and knows how to sustain a program.”

“If you’re looking for something to build on this season, it’s line play on both sides. [Josh] Henson is a good offensive mind and a good OL coach, too.”

“They’re still pulling guys in from the portal and auditioning at spots right now. They don’t have a quarterback settled, and they don’t really have a receiving corps.”

“It’s going to be rough for a while, but they’re banking on the more experienced head coach being able to compete long-term in the league.”

“How do they respond to what Indiana’s doing with NIL? That’s the bigger question than anything on the field.”

Indiana’s Big Ten peers don’t think the 2024 season that ended with a

College Football Playoff berth was a fluke.

“Maybe the biggest culture change at a program in the history of the sport. IU is a case study for putting your money where your mouth is. They invested heavily in NIL and support. Cig (Curt Cignetti) is a fantastic coach, obviously, but he wouldn’t come without that commitment.”

“Everyone is asking who the next Indiana is, but there’s no real reason why it isn’t Indiana again. Will they win as many games? Probably not, but they’re going to be in the hunt for a playoff spot again.”

While not as bullish on the Hoosiers as some Big Ten coaches, CBSSports.com writer Tom Fornelli’s preseason Big Ten rankings place IU sixth behind Ohio State, Penn State, Oregon, Michigan and Illinois.

“I couldn’t justify putting the Hoosiers lower than this, even if I’m skeptical they’ll have the same kind of lightning-in-a-bottle season they had last year,” Fornelli writes. “Even if the Hoosiers don’t hit a home run on every transfer this year, they have returning talent and should hit enough singles and doubles to stick around that eight-win mark. For context, if Indiana wins eight games in 2025, the 19 wins between 2024 and 2025 would be the most in a two-year span in the program’s history.”

Fornelli expects “a lot of losing” from Purdue, picked once again to finish last in the 18-team Big Ten. He also

acknowledges that he picked Indiana to finish last a year ago.

“A new coaching staff always brings optimism because anything is possible. But there probably isn’t much possible in 2025,” Fornelli writes.

Noteworthy Jaraan Cornell, a stand-out guard in the late 1990s for Purdue, was found dead in his South Bend apartment on June 6. He was 48.

Cornell led South Bend Clay to the 1994 Indiana state championship before coming to Purdue. His 3-point shooting helped the Boilermakers reach the NCAA Sweet 16 in 1998 and 1999, and advance to the Elite Eight in 2000.

He scored 1,595 career points and left Purdue with a record 242 3-pointers. ...

Zach Edey could miss the start of his second NBA season with the Memphis Grizzlies after it was determined he would need surgery to stabilize his left ankle.

The two-time National Player of the Year at Purdue was working out when he once again sprained his left ankle. Edey missed 12 games during his rookie season due to injuring that ankle.

Edey earned first-team NBA All-Rookie honors after averaging 9.2 points and 8.3 rebounds.

*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.*

## Scammed

Continued from Page 1

It is vital to cultivate a healthy distrust for unsolicited callers and avoid sharing personal information. Never feel pressured to act. When in doubt, hang up the phone and call the official source to verify unexpected or unusual claims. You can also reduce the number of unsolicited calls by registering your phone number with the National Do-Not-Call registry at 1-888-382-1222 or Donotcall.gov.

Know the red flags. Most scammers use common tactics to get your money or personal information. Keep an eye out for the following too-good-to-be-true claims:

“Free,” “low cost,” or “buy one, get one” deal

Request for unusual payment types (i.e. prepaid debit cards or wired funds)

Claims that you only pay postage or administrative fees

Pressure to act now and/or aggressive tones

Deals that must be secured with a credit card or bank account information

Sure-fire investment opportunities

Charities that send 100% of your donation directly to the victims

Only hire trustworthy, licensed contractors. Older adults often need extra help around the house and may hire someone to complete a renovation project and landscape work. However, never hire someone who just shows up at the door and don’t let

## ABOUT BBB SERVING CENTRAL INDIANA

The Better Business Bureau has empowered people to find businesses, brands, and charities they can trust for more than 110 years. In 2024, people turned to BBB more than 220 million times for BBB Business Profiles on more than 5.3 million businesses, and 80,000 times for BBB charity reports on

them in or around your home for an inspection. Instead, if you need repair work, use BBB.org to search for accredited businesses and ask friends and family for recommendations. Then, research the companies, keeping a close eye on past reviews or complaints. Always make sure the contractor or company is properly licensed and never pay in full upfront. Read BBB’s tips on hiring a contractor.

Strange phone call? Might be an emergency scam: Older adults can be susceptible to emergency scams and other ploys because they aren’t familiar with the information about themselves and their families available online. This trick begins with a phone call from someone posing as a grandchild, niece or nephew, or other young family member. Scammers research victims using social media and often know family names, travel plans, and other details. The phony grandchild will claim to be out of town and in an emergency situation – anything from a car accident to wrongful

arrest. The scam artist will urge you to send money ASAP and not tell Mom or Dad. Read more about emergency scams. Watch out for Medicare fraud: Here is one scam typically directed towards older Americans: free medical equipment. Medicare fraud has cost the American public more than \$6 billion, and a large part of that is fraud around “durable medical equipment,” such as knee braces or walkers. By making repeated calls, scammers badger Medicare recipients into taking “free” medical equipment. Then, they bill Medicare for it. By law, no one is allowed to make unsolicited calls to consumers about durable medical equipment. If you get such a call, just hang up. Beware of government impostors: Similar to Medicare fraud, older adults are susceptible to bad actors pretending to be from various government agencies, such as the IRS, the Social Security Administration, and even Veterans Affairs. They typically claim the victim owes money or is in danger of losing ben-

efits unless they provide sensitive information or make immediate payments, often through suspicious methods like gift cards or wire transfers. Read more about government impostor scams.

Do your research before making an investment: Investment cons often target older adults because of their greater financial resources. They frequently prey on longstanding group connections – such as through a religious organization or an ethnic group – where members trust each other. Even if you are a savvy investor, you can still fall victim to this scam. Con artists are masters of persuasion, and they often learn the weaknesses of their targets and tailor their pitches accordingly. Read more about investment cons.

Think before you click. Older adult may be less comfortable with technology making them more vulnerable to phishing schemes, fake tech support and hacking. Links found in unsolicited emails or messages on social media can be especially dangerous. They may look like they lead to an official website, but they will download malware onto your computer that gives scammers access to your sensitive information. Protect yourself by only clicking on links that come from people you know and trust and by keeping your antivirus software up to date. Read more about tech support scams.

Be on guard for “sweetheart” swindles.

Older adults who are widowed or divorced are frequent targets of romance scams. If you meet someone online who shows romantic interest in you, don’t be too quick to trust them. These scams can often take months to develop to the point where money changes hands. Con artists create compelling backstories, and full-fledged identities, then trick you into falling for someone who doesn’t even exist. A common romance scam involves charming the victim and then asking for money for medical expenses, family concerns, or other reasons that pull at the heartstrings. Once the con artist receives the funds, they disappear for good. Read more about romance scams.

Reach out to someone you trust. Scammers want victims to feel isolated. Don’t hesitate to contact a friend, family member, or organization you trust for advice. A second opinion can greatly reduce your risk. Read more about phishing scams.

Take time to research your purchases. Scammers often make unsolicited offers to older adults for medical supplies, anti-aging products, and vitamins and supplements. They might contact you over the phone, as a door-to-door salesperson, or via online messages. They make incredible offers with the goal of getting their hands on your personal information or money. Before you agree to purchase the next miracle product that

comes your way, take a few minutes to research the company to make sure its products and offers are legitimate. Read about free trial offer scams.

Guard your personal information carefully. Never share your personal information with a stranger on the phone, in an email, on a social media network, or otherwise. Keep careful records of your transactions by reviewing your bank and credit card statements regularly. Check them for accuracy and then shred any documents that include personal information before throwing them away. Read more about data privacy.

For more information To learn more about how to avoid common scams, visit BBB.org/AvoidScams. Read more about fake Medicare calls and medical equipment fraud.

If you or a loved one has been the victim of a scam that targets older adults, report it at BBB.org/ScamTracker.

For more BBB news, scam alerts, and tips, visit BBB.org/news.



TIRE SERVICE, INC.

*"The Tire Professionals"*

**\$15 OFF**

**OIL CHANGE SPECIAL**

Complete tire rotation & lubrication only. Excludes brake jobs. Good only on 1st oil change. Limit 1 per vehicle.

114 N. Water St. • Crawfordsville  
(765) 364-0584  
Weekdays 7:30 am - 5pm  
Saturday 8 am - Noon  
pomps tire.com



# Book Club Opens 10th Year With C’ville Connection

The Hoosier Authors Book Club enters its 10th year with five planned book discussions — several with strong Crawfordsville ties. The next meeting will take place in the Lew Wallace Carriage House at 200 Wallace Ave. on June 26 at 7 p.m. The General Lew Wallace Study & Museum’s book club will discuss *The Port of Missing Men* by Meredith Nicholson, a Crawfordsville native and friend of Lew and Su-

san Wallace. The book is available on-line at Amazon. <https://www.amazon.com/Port-Missing-Men-Meredith-Nicholson/dp/1530110327/> \$5.99 paperback or bookshop.org

Meredith Nicholson was a Crawfordsville native who became one of the best-selling authors of the early 20th century, a politician and a diplomat. He was a key author in the Golden Age of Indi-

ana Authors. This book followed his very popular *House of a Thousand Candles* (1906) and preceded his equally popular *A Hoosier Chronicle* (1912).

Published in 1907, this story is set in the early 1900s and follows the life of a wealthy young man named John Keith, who embarks on a sea voyage to the Philippines in search of adventure and romance. Things take a dark turn when Keith’s

ship is wrecked on a deserted island and he becomes stranded with a group of other survivors. As they struggle to survive on the island, Keith begins to uncover a sinister plot involving a group of missing men who were last seen in the same area.

With the help of a beautiful young woman named Hope, Keith sets out to unravel the mystery and uncover the truth behind the missing men.

The novel is a thrilling

adventure story that explores themes of love, betrayal, and redemption.

It also delves into the complexities of human nature and the lengths that people will go to in order to achieve their goals.

The *Port of Missing Men* is a classic tale of survival and intrigue that will keep readers on the edge of their seats until the very end.

Other books that will be read by the Hoosier Au-

thors Book Club this year include: *Some Memories of a Long Life*—Malvina Shanklin Harlan, with a Foreword by Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Sept. 18; and *The Witchery of Archery* by Maurice Thompson on Oct. 23.

All discussions are free and open to the public. For more information about the Hoosier Authors Book Club visit <https://www.ben-hur.com/programs/hoosier-authors-book-club/>.

## ■ BUTCH’S FLASHBACK TRIVIA



ANSWER: Jim Blue

## Indiana Youth Advisory Board Marks 10 Years of Impact

The Indiana Youth Advisory Board is proud to celebrate a decade of empowering teens and young adults in foster care when it held its 10th Annual Youth Conference earlier this week in Indianapolis. This milestone year included a look ahead.

This year’s theme, “Facing the Future Together,” honored 10 years of youth leadership, community, and transformation. The conference, designed by and for young people ages 14-22 with lived experience in Indiana’s foster care system, provided

tools, education, and inspiration for life beyond foster care.

The event featured a keynote address from Indiana State Senator Andrea Hunley (D-Indianapolis), a former foster youth who went on to become a teacher, principal

and elected official.

More than 200 teens, young adults, and foster care professionals were expected to attend the day-long conference, which includes breakout sessions, a resource fair, awards, and a lively lunchtime celebration.

## Local Students Shine at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods

More than 400 students, including eight local students, were recognized for their outstanding academic performance over the spring 2025 semester at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College by being named to the Dean’s List.

Congratulations to these distinguished scholars on earning this academic achievement.

- Bailey Barker of Ladoga has achieved Dean’s List High Honors
- Joseph Gerold of Crawfordsville has achieved Dean’s List High Honors
- Olivia Bobenmoyer of Ladoga has achieved Dean’s List Highest Honors
- Bailey Mittal of Crawfordsville has achieved Dean’s List Highest Honors

- Callee Riggall of Roachdale has achieved Dean’s List Highest Honors
- Macie Shirk of Crawfordsville has achieved Dean’s List Highest Honors
- Ariaiah Turner of Crawfordsville has achieved Dean’s List Highest Honors
- Tara Wear of Crawfordsville has achieved Dean’s List Highest Honors

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College is Indiana’s oldest Catholic college, established in 1840. SMWC is listed among the Best Regional Universities in the Midwest and Best Value Schools in the Midwest by U.S. News & World Report. SMWC was the second institution in the nation to add distance education programming in 1973.

Crawfordsville District  
Public Library

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
26  Blood Drive on June 30 from 10a-2p	27	28	29	30	31 SIGN-UP TODAY!
2 Drop-in Resume Help: 5:30-7p	3 Baby Story Time: 9:30a Elementary Time: 4p Color Our World Kick-Off: 3p-6p For All Visitors	4 Toddler Story Time: 10a	5 Preschool Story Time 10a Lego Club: 4p Drop-in Tech Help: 6-8p	6 Activity at the Pavilion: 10a	7 SMASH Day Art at CMMC: 1-3p
9 Yarn Works: 6p Drop-in Resume Help: 5:30-7p	10 Baby Story Time: 9:30a Elementary Time: 4p Genealogy Club: 7p	11 Toddler Story Time: 10a Full Moon	12 Preschool Story Time 10a Dragon Bingo: 4p CDPL Board Meeting: 4p Drop-in Tech Help: 6-8p	13 Activity at the Pavilion: 10a	14 Book Sale 10a-4p How to Train Your Dragon Movie: 2p Park After Dark Night Hike: 9p
16 Drop-in Resume Help: 5:30-7p	17 Baby Story Time: 9:30a Elementary Time: 4p Dungeons & Dragons for Beginners: 5p	18 Toddler Story Time: 10a Wyrd Words Book Club: 6p	19 Preschool Story Time 10a Yarn Works: 10a Craft Collective: 5:30p Drop-in Tech Help: 6-8p JUNE TEENTH	20 Activity at the Pavilion: 10a hello Summer	21 SMASH Day Space at CMMC: 1-3p
23 Drop-in Tech Help: 6-8p	24 Baby Story Time: 9:30a Elementary Time: 4p Genealogy Basics: 6p	25 Toddler Story Time: 10a Mystery of History Club: 6p New Moon	26 Preschool Story Time 10a Drop-in Tech Help: 6-8p	27 Activity in the Pavilion: 10a	28 SMASH Day Science at CMMC: 1-3p
					29

JUNE 2025

Adults  
All ages

Teens  
Children