

■ TODAY'S VERSE

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 BUNNY



Bunny is a 3 year old female Mastiff available for adoption from The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 5/7/25. Bunny is a LOVER & GOOFBALL!! Bunny hasn't met anyone she doesn't like! Bunny even does an adorable bunny hoop when she gets excited. Bunny has quickly become a staff favorite and would make a great companion for your summer adventures! Bunny loves going out for walks, frolicking in a fenced yard, and spending time with her SOS. Bunny is spayed, dewormed, microchipped, and up to date on all of her shots. Bunny's adoption fee is waived (FREE), sponsored by Best Friends! Bunny is looking for her BEST FRIEND! Could that be you!? Bunny is available to take for walks, foster, or adopt! AWL is open Monday - Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p. Come say hi and be sure to ask to meet Bunny!!



Know what else happened last Friday? It was the anniversary of when Congress created the Indiana Territory, with its capital in Vincennes. Yup, that happened on July 4, 1800!

■ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

The second Saturday of each month is the perfect chance to stock your home library. That's the monthly book sale at the Crawfordsville District Public Library. It takes place every month on the lower level from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hardcover books are 50 cents, paperbacks are a quarter, magazines 10 cents, CDs 50 cents, single DVDs \$1 and deluxe DVD sets \$3 a season. There are some special items that may have individual pricing. If you are downsizing and want to donate some books, the library will take gently used hardcover and paperbacks, DVDs and Blu-Rays, audiobooks and music CDs and complete puzzles and games. They cannot accept items with water or mildew or other damage, broken bindings, missing or items with strong odors like cigarette smoke.

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it."

- Mark Twain

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

Which letter of the alphabet is the coolest?

Iced T

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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BY THE NUMBERS

By The Numbers, a look at what's in the news . . . by the numbers. These are just numbers, not suggestions that they mean more or less than what they are. We do not suggest that one number is connected to another. These are simply facts with no extraneous details, bias or slanted reporting. To borrow (and perhaps mangle a bit) a quote from legendary fictional detective Joe Friday, it's just the numbers, ma'am!

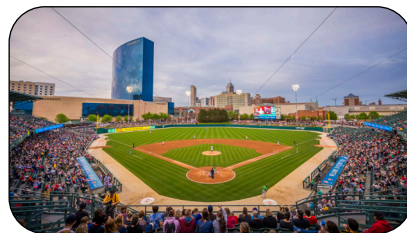
It's summer and once upon a time that meant most of the country turned to our national pastime, baseball. That may or may not still be true, but it gives us an opportunity this week to take a look at baseball . . . by the numbers.

30 There are 30 teams in Major League Baseball. There are 15 in the National League and 15 in the American League.



1 Of those 30 teams, only one is not based in the U.S., the Toronto Blue Jays

206 That's how many official minor league baseball teams there are in the U.S., the Dominican Republic and Canada. However, each Major League Baseball team has four official minor league teams, so there are 120 of those.



12,300

Speaking of the minors, our very own Indianapolis Indians are part of the AAA level – the highest designation in the minors. And fans who want to attend a game at the home base for the Indians -- Victory Field in downtown Indianapolis -- will find 12,300 seats there ready and waiting.

7 That's how many Major League baseball teams have an animal in their name. Can you name them? We'll wait.

14,300

Well, they may not be official "seats," but the outfield lawn is soft and inviting and an additional 2,000 fans can watch the Indians win from there.

3

That's how many Major League baseball teams there are who do not have an official mascot – you know, the big and often silly giant character found in costume, like Blue or Boomer for our Colts and Pacers. Can you name the three? We'll still wait.



0 That's the number of MLB teams currently based in Indianapolis, although some baseball fans will remember a movement not too long after the Hoosier Dome opened to try to create the Indianapolis Arrows. It fell short of the target.



5 That's how many minor league teams are in Indiana. Can you name them? We're still waiting.

For those who want to know the answer to how many Major League baseball teams have an animal in their name: Cubs, Cardinals, Blue Jays, Orioles, Tigers, Marlins and Diamondbacks.

And for those who want to know the three teams without official mascots, they are the New York Yankees, the L.A. Dodgers and the Los Angeles Angels.

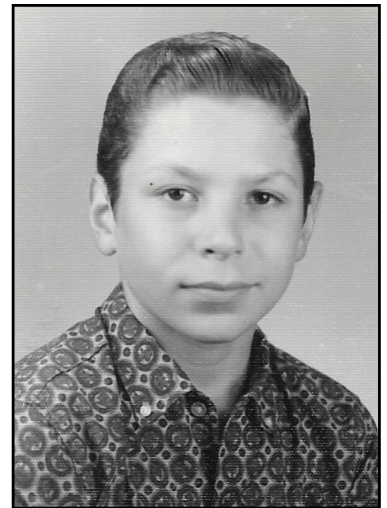
Lastly, the minor leaguers in Indiana are the above-mentioned Indians, the Ft. Wayne TinCaps, South Bend Cubs, Evansville Otters and Gary South Shore RailCats.

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. The \$2 per pack cigarette tax increase passed by the legislature took effect July 1. The American Cancer Society released a statement saying it hopes this increase will help prevent tobacco use and help those already addicted quit. The organization said that increasing tobacco taxes is one of the most effective ways to reduce tobacco use, especially among kids. This \$2 per pack increase is estimated to help 32,400 adults quit and keep 7,000 youth from becoming adults who smoke. As many Hoosiers consider quitting, Quit Now Indiana, available at 1-800-QUIT-NOW, is an excellent resource for individuals ready to quit.

2. The Indiana Department of Workforce Development Work-Based Learning and Apprenticeship team announced it has been awarded \$6,251,973 in federal grants to grow Registered Apprenticeships Programs across the state. These awards come as part of the U.S. Department of Labor's nearly \$84 million investment in 50 states and territories to expand apprenticeship capacity nationwide.

3. For many ambitious graduates, the pinnacle of career success is the coveted role of CEO. Our friends at YourFreeCareerTest, a career test platform, surveyed 3,064 graduates, posing a single, thought-provoking question: "If you could be the CEO of any company, which one would you choose?" In Indiana, grads chose CEOs of Cummins, Subaru-Indiana Automotive, Steel Dynamics, 1st Source Bank and Eli Lilly as the most envied roles. Nationally, Google, JP Morgan Chase and Procter & Gamble were the top three.



Butch Remembers Those Teenage Summer Days of Work



John 'Butch' Dale
Columnist

When I was a teenager back in the 1960s, during the summer months I played baseball and helped on the farm. I don't recall my Dad ever paying me for the jobs...cleaning out the hog barns, chopping weeds, painting the barns, working the fields, etc. It was considered my family duty to help out and "earn my keep," although he usually gave me pocket change to spend when he drove to Darlington four or five times a week. I usually headed to the drug store for an ice cream cone, a Green River or Red River phosphate, and a pack of Topps baseball cards.

To earn money, I mowed seven yards in town with a push mower. Each one took about an hour, and the owners paid me a dollar. One elderly lady only paid me 85 cents, but another lady paid me \$1.25...if I swept her sidewalk and went inside after I was done to have iced tea and cookies with her. I think she was lonely and just wanted someone to talk to. Like many teenage boys, I also helped bale hay and straw for nearby farmers. That job paid \$1.00 an hour, but a few farmers paid 2 cents per bale. Since most farmers did not own a baler, they hired David "Barney" Caldwell to do their baling. I rode on the wagon, with a hay hook in hand, grabbed the bales as they came out the back of the baling machine, and stacked these five, six, or seven layers high. There was no such thing as "weight training" for sports in those days. Baling hay did the job and built up the muscle!

When I was 13 years old, I also began detasseling corn for DeKalb seed corn company, which was located on Darlington Avenue. It was hot and dirty work for sure. A bus took us to the fields, and we walked down the rows of corn, pulling the tassels from the top of the corn stalks one by one. We did this all day long...from early morning until late in the afternoon, with an hour break for lunch, which we brought from home. The detasseling had to be done in a few weeks, so we usually worked ten hours each day, six days a week. Bugs, corn leaf cuts, bee stings, unbearable heat, thorny briars, and sometimes muddy fields... we suffered through it all to earn some big money...60 cents an hour times 60 came to \$36 gross weekly income before taxes and social security took it's cut. I was rich! I did this for two years, and

See BUTCH Page 4

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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■ BUTCH'S FLASHBACK TRIVIA



Do You Recognize This 1961 Darlington Graduate?

HINT: One of her daughters works for the Montgomery County Community Foundation.

Answer on Page 4

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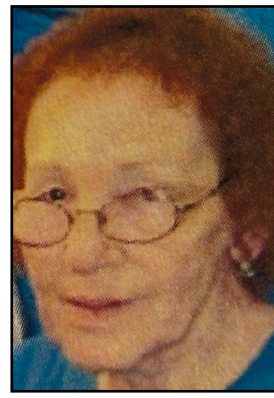
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► OBITUARIES

Carolyn S. Cronk

October 2, 1945 - June 30, 2025

Carolyn Sue (Runion) Cronk, age 79 of Waynetown, passed away peacefully on June 30, 2025 at home, surrounded by her loving family. She was born on October 2, 1945 to the late Raymond and Edna (Stout) Runion.



Carolyn attended Crawfordsville High School, worked at Hi-Tech (Acuity) and retired from there. She married Theron Cronk on August 21, 1971. She was a loving mother and grandmother.

Carolyn enjoyed being with friends and family, doing crossword puzzles, sitting outside and listening to music. She really just enjoyed her simple life.

She is survived by her 3 children, Melissa (David) Vance of Crawfordsville, Dennis Mikels of Crawfordsville and Mark Cronk of Clinton; 3 brothers, David Runion of Florida, Larry Runion of Lafayette and Paul (April) Runion of Crawfordsville; one sister, Bonnie (Joe) Clemens of Crawfordsville. She had 2 grandchildren, Brittany (Justin) Hardy of Crawfordsville and Perry Penter, Jr. of Crawfordsville; 3 great grandchildren, Bryleigh Penter, Olivia Hardy and Ethan Hardy. She will be missed by several nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family.

She was preceded by her parents; husband, Theron; daughter, Kim Starnes; son, Shawn Cronk; and brother, Ronnie Runion.

Cremation was chosen with a private family burial at Waynetown Masonic Cemetery at a later date. Share memories and condolences, please visit www.SanderFuneralCare.com.

Ted E. Tague

July 13, 1951 - June 28, 2025

Ted E. Tague, age 73 of New Market, passed away on Saturday, June 28, 2025 at home. He was born on July 13, 1951 to the late Harvey and Grace (Layman) Tague in Crawfordsville. Ted married Jacquelyn Bell, of New Market, in 1974, later divorcing in 1996. On October 9, 1999, Ted married Robin Fulwider at New Hope Christian Church.



He was a graduate of New Market High School, Class of 1969. Ted was a jailer for the Crawfordsville Police Department. He then worked for Random House as a hoist driver for many years. Ted was a longtime member and Sunday School teacher at Browns Valley Christian Church. He enjoyed shooting guns and was previously a member of multiple local gun ranges. Ted loved spending time outdoors, mushroom hunting, hiking, and most importantly, fishing. Ted and Robin were avid travelers, especially to Florida and Nashville, IN. They enjoyed their daily walks and eating ice cream together. Family was everything to Ted and he will be greatly missed by his children and grandchildren.

Ted is survived by his loving wife, Robin; 6 children, Trista (Rorrie) Tague-Spengler of North Carolina, Tedra (Rob Hesketh) Tague of Manchester, England, Kaleigh Tague of Indianapolis, Christopher (Megan) Powell of Hillsboro, Kiaya (Matthew) Martin of Rome City, Cody (Sherrie) Powell of Covington; and 5 grandchildren, Wyatt, Garrett, Hannah, Emmett, Everett.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, July 5, 2025 at Browns Valley Christian Church, 9011 S State Road 47, south of Crawfordsville, from 10am until the time of the service at 12 noon. Burial will follow at Indian Creek Hill Cemetery. Share memories and condolences at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

Losing Common Scents



Dick Wolfsie
Columnist

This is a very provocative way to start a column, but I must admit something: I can't keep my pants on. I try very hard, especially at parties, but inevitably they're almost off by the end of the evening.

So, what's the problem? I have lost my hips. Where did they go? Who has them? Is there any way to get them back? Is there a cost involved?

Mary Ellen tells me that as men get older, their hips often disappear. I remember now that my father, when he was about my age, started wearing suspenders. I thought that made him look very old, and not very hip. But "hip" is the key word here. I recall my mother telling my grandmother that "Arnie keeps losing his pants." I wasn't surprised. Forgetfulness runs in my family.

This is not the first thing I have lost as I have aged. My hair has thinned, but at least I know where it went: in the sink.

My hearing has worsened over the years, so my wife, thinking I needed hearing aids, insisted I check in at Costco. I thought she said to get a chicken at Costco. I bought about 10 of them that first week, but my hearing never improved.

I have also lost my sense of smell. I can't smell food, perfume, or even a skunk. One friend told me I might have a brain tumor. If I have one, I've had it for 25 years. Medical advice from friends usually stinks. Not that I would know when something stinks.

I checked the internet, and it looks like I may have a disorder called

anosmia, which one expert claims is sometimes caused by intranasal drug abuse. I could be losing my memory, too, because I have no recollection of ever putting anything in my nose except occasionally a carrot, just so I can say to the little kids I tutor, "My doctor says I'm not eating right."

I am coping with all these aging problems. For my hair, I have created a comb-over that rivals our president, and my new hearing aids are great. When people ask, "What kind is it?" I get to say, "about 6:30." Old joke, but still funny.

The smell issue is more challenging. Amazon doesn't sell a single gadget I can attach to my proboscis to help me compete with noses half my age. One website suggested that you might want to employ a person you trust to tell you whether you have foul-smelling breath or a piece of clothing that requires washing. I pleaded with my wife to take the job. I told her that if she were my odor-buddy, I'd take her on vacation anywhere she wanted. I don't think she trusted me.

"This whole idea smells fishy to me," said Mary Ellen.

That's all I needed to hear. She had the job.

Now, it probably sounds to you that I am an aging old man. But I must tell you that when I look in the mirror, I think I am quite handsome.

Of course, I am also losing my vision.

Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in The Paper of Montgomery County. E-mail Dick at Wolfsie@aol.com.

AAA Presents Viking Cruise Night on July 16th

AAA Hoosier Motor Club has a preview for an exciting trip coming up in Crawfordsville.

Join in on July 16 at 6 p.m. at the Masonic Cornerstone Grand Hall and Event Center when travel experts will present Viking Cruise Night with Viking's own

Tresa Reed. Viking offers destination-focused itineraries on the great rivers and oceans of the world. Enjoy exciting cities, culturally enriching experiences, regional cuisine and spacious accommodations aboard elegant, state-of-the-art ships.

KENNY THOMPSON



With decades of experience as an award-winning sports writer and sports editor – most of it covering Purdue athletics – Kenny Thompson has a perspective and inside knowledge that few others have. Whether it's putting what's going on in the Big Ten in historical perspective or shooting straight from the hip on what's happening today, no one has a better take on Purdue and sports than Kenny!

Catch Kenny every Friday in The Paper!



What Do You Think Of A Three-Cylinder Compact Crossover That Costs Nearly \$50k? The 2025 Nissan Rogue Platinum May Rock Your Mind!



Casey Williams
Columnist

Ford seemingly builds trucks of every size, capability, and comfort from its compact Maverick through the mid-size Ranger, iconic full-size F-150, and super capable Super Duty pickups. Commercial buyers can even step up to the F-650 and beyond. Our subject here is on the smaller size, definitely luxurious and surprisingly capable. It's the 2025 Ford Ranger Lariat.

It takes F-150 design cues like stacked LED headlamps, wide grille, and high bed sides, but it also reveals luxury leanings with chrome bling across its face, 18-inch wheels, mirror caps, and window surrounds. Keeping style clean, there are no step bars to clutter its looks or off-road capability. Around back, spray-in bedliner, power plugs in the bed sides, pre-wiring for trailers, and a built-in hitch signal a dedication to hard work.

Luxury continues inside with heated front seats, heated steering wheel, and dual-zone automatic climate control. Crank up 660 watts of B&O audio for an aural delight. Bringing in tech are flatscreen gauges, tablet-style infotainment screen, and wireless phone connections for Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, and console charging. If you tap-tap around the cabin you'll find some hard plastic, but most key surfaces are plush stitched simulations of leather for a very upscale air.

Earning demerits are the gear selector with release button at the top of your fingertips and manual shift buttons where a

release button should be. Odd. And I appreciate redundant buttons and knobs for climate control and volume, but wish we also got a tuning knob. You might also expect a head-up display, but the Ranger doesn't have one. It has automatic emergency braking, adaptive cruise, blind spot warning, and cross path detection, but no hands-off Blue Cruise.

We've covered size and luxury, but this truck is also quite capable for its size. Behind its flashy grille is a 2.7-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine connected to a 10-speed automatic transmission. If you're not impressed by a four-cylinder pickup, you might better appreciate its 315 horsepower and 400 lb.-ft. of torque — enough to pull 7,500 lbs. Getting onto the freeway, or clicking through morning traffic, is no problem. Unloaded, it achieves 19/23-MPG city highway.

It drives pretty nice too. For a 4x4 pickup with solid rear axle, it rumbles over rough pavement without drama, feeling more like an SUV or crossover than a four-door pickup. It's on-road refinement belies the fact it can tackle some pretty tough trails with four-

wheel-drive, including 4Lo, and a locking rear differential. Being just a little bit smaller pays off in both off-road maneuvering and tight downtown side streets. It definitely fits better in my urban driveway and local parking garage than it's more famous full-size sibling.

For some, even the Ranger may be too capable. To tow and haul, it rides on a full frame with which there are slight compromises in on-road comfort. If you just want a little dirty space for mulch or camping gear, also check out the smaller Maverick that's available as a hybrid...with a starting price \$9,000 below the Ranger's!

And, what about the Ranger's sticker? A base price near \$33,000 is \$4k less than a base F-150, but our luxury-oriented Lariat trim came to a stout \$53,070. You may also consider the Chevy Colorado, GMC Canyon, Nissan Frontier, Toyota Tacoma, and Honda Ridgeline.

Storm Forward!

Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey.

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DISLIKES

- Unwarranted impressions
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Base/as-tested price: \$28,590/\$48,330

▶ LETTER TO EDITOR

Dear Editor,

It never ceases to amaze me that the League of Women Voters is still trying to tie gender, race, age and income to the availability of a voter ID. Nothing could be further from the truth. The LWV's inaccurate mantra that poor, elderly, black women have no access to an identification card is getting old and tiresome. ID cards are provided free to senior citizens in most of the 50 states,

including Indiana and California, the most expensive state in the country.

Furthermore, IDs are required at a doctor's office; to buy prescription drugs; to purchase alcohol; to open a bank account; to sign a lease or to apply for various government services, such as Social Security, Medicare, food stamps and welfare.

So, why is the LWV

continuing to whine that identification should not be required to vote because IDs are difficult or inaccessible to poor folks or women or minorities or the elderly? The facts don't support their position in this matter. They should be ashamed for their incessant rabble-rousing.

Ron Carmony
Indianapolis
(formerly from Crawfordsville)

■ BUTCH'S BACK IN THE DAY



Just about every library sponsors a summer reading program for children. Shown above is the summer reading club of the Crawfordsville library in 1947. A total of 147 children joined the program that summer.

What I'm Waiting For



Carrie Classon
The Postscript

It's hard to know what I'm waiting for, but I'm waiting for something.

Spring is late. I would have known this even if I wasn't getting daily reminders in my email of the beautiful pictures I took exactly a year ago. One year ago, all the trees were in full bloom. The tulips were hitting their prime. The peonies were threatening to bud out. This year, there are a handful of daffodils that somehow ended up in an extra warm spot and a sprinkling of tiny tulips. The trees remain stubbornly budded out without a flower in sight. I am getting exasperated.

Instead of flowering trees, we are getting hysterical weather prognostications. Severe storm warnings dominate the news. "They preempted 'Jeopardy!'" my mother told me. "For nothing!"

I don't watch "Jeopardy!" unless I'm with my parents. A quarter of the questions are ridiculously easy, and half of them are terribly hard, and the remaining quarter couldn't possibly be known by anyone but the people who play "Jeopardy!"

But my mother loves "Jeopardy!" and apparently, the weather predictions were so dire the decision was made to spend an extra half hour predicting tornadoes

and severe storms and torrential rainfall and all sorts of meteorological mischief—none of which materialized.

"They skipped the whole show!" my mother repeated, in case I had not taken in the gravity of the situation.

"We didn't even get any rain," I told her.

"Oh, we got some nice rain," she said, "but no storm."

I told my friend Andrew about my mother missing "Jeopardy!" because of nonexistent weather. "I think those forecasters get paid for how much rain they predict," I told him, "not for the accuracy of their predictions!" I don't actually believe this, but Andrew knows me well enough to know that.

"Weather can't happen everywhere," Andrew noted philosophically. He had obviously not missed "Jeopardy!"

A big storm would have been nice, but it's really the lack of color that is getting me down. March is nothing but mud and surprise snowstorms and then more mud. April is nothing but cold wind and gray skies. So I expect big things from May. And, this year, May is dragging its heels. Whatever it is I'm waiting for, it doesn't seem to be showing up.

Today I was studying some buds on a plum

tree that were a brilliant pink last year at this time. They were always some of the first to bloom and this year there was not a single bloom in sight. I scowled at the disappointing plum tree and was tempted to give it a poor performance review. "Where is spring?" I demanded.

I attracted the attention of a woman photographing an early blooming rhododendron bush with a tiny purple flower. (I was not going to bother to take a photo of those scrawny bushes.) "Even the tulips are late," she said. "It's a very late spring."

"It is," I said.

I walked down the sidewalk, and I noticed the tiny leaves coming out. I picked one. It was shiny and soft. I realized this leaf had not been here two days earlier.

"Don't you get it?" the young leaf asked. "This whole season is going to be over before you know it." And, of course, the little leaf was right.

I don't know what I'm waiting for, but I want something to happen rather than nothing at all. What I forget is that nothing at all is something. The storm passed us by. Spring will arrive in its own time. Nothing at all is actually something very nice.

Till next time,

Carrie

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BUTCH

Continued from Page 1

then rode on a detasseling machine the third year. No, I didn't have to walk, but had to bend over and pull the tassels as the machine went slowly down the rows of corn. Oh, my aching back!

I saved my money, never buying much at all, until State Fair time rolled around, during which I usually lost a bit trying to win prizes at the carnival booths on the midway. After a summer of playing

baseball and working, I was ready to begin the new school year...looking forward to seeing my classmates again, meeting my new teachers...and of course...eager for basketball season to start.

John "Butch" Dale is a retired teacher and County Sheriff. He has also been the librarian at Darlington the past 36 years, and is a well-known artist and author of local history.

Participate in the Second Lady's Summer Reading Challenge

Rep. Genda
Guest
Columnist

The White House recently announced the Second Lady's Summer Reading Challenge, encouraging students in K-8th grades to continue learning this summer.

To participate, a student will need to read 12 books between June 1 and Sept. 5, complete the submission form and reading log and share a brief reflection of their favorite book they read. A parent or guardian's permission is required, and they will need to submit the completed forms to read@mail.whitehouse.gov by the Sept. 5, 2025, deadline.

All participants will receive a personalized

certificate from The White House and will be entered into a drawing for a chance to visit the nation's capital with a chaperone.

Did you know students who read over summer break have higher reading proficiencies? According to The Brookings Institution, students can lose one to two months of reading progress over break if not engaging in educational activities.

This challenge is a great way to promote reading growth and minimize learning loss, with an opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. I encourage Hoosier students to participate and have fun reading this summer!

More information and program materials are available at whitehouse.gov/read.

Chamber Unveils New Awards

It's an exciting time as the Crawfordsville | Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce prepares for the Chamber Award Banquet to recognize outstanding business excellence, community impact, innovation, leadership and rising talent working together as a community to advance a vibrant business community.

The chamber is thrilled to announce new award categories with updated descriptions for this year's Chamber Awards Banquet – scheduled for Sept. 11 at Stone Creek Lodge. The new categories for open nominations are Nonprofit Excellence, Agricultural Excellence, Five Star, Trailblazer, You Rock! First Responder, Inspirational Educator (chosen by a committee) and Chamber Award of Distinction (chosen by

our Board of Directors). Descriptions of the awards are on the nomination forms.

"I'm excited to refresh the award categories to reflect the many industries that help shape our community – from agriculture to first responders – and to celebrate the unique contributions of local businesses and individuals in new and meaningful ways," Executive Director Stacy Sommer said.

The recipients will be announced and presented at the Sept. 11 banquet.

Sommer said the chamber appreciates and thanks sponsors who make it all possible. They are: Venue Sponsor, Stone Creek Lodge; Sponsor of the Spotlight Speaker, Morgan's Glass & Paint; Stage Sponsor, Hoosier

Heartland State Bank; and Award Sponsors, Acuity, Duke Energy, Lakeside Book Company, Nucor and Leslie Pyle from Keller Williams. Sommer said there are only three award opportunities left. Chamber members can refer to the newsletter or website for more information.

This event is for members of the Crawfordsville | Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce. If you are interested in learning information about becoming a member of the chamber to take advantage of promoting your organization, making connections, and contributing to advancing a vibrant business community, contact Sommer at ssummer@crawfordsville-chamber.com.

Nominations can be



Executive Director Stacy Sommer made by the community. Nominees must be a current member in good standing with the Crawfordsville | Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce. To make nominations, visit crawfordsville-chamber.com and click on Award Banquet under the Membership tab. Deadline for nominations is Friday, Aug. 13.

It's Christmas in July at B&G Club

It's the most wonderful time of the summer! Join the Boys & Girls Club of Montgomery County for an unforgettable evening of holiday fun at our inaugural Christmas in July celebration. Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 19, from 6–9 p.m. at the Club's location at 1001 Whitlock Ave. in Crawfordsville. This fun-filled, festive evening is your chance to bring the spirit of Christmas while supporting local youth programs – all in the heart of summer.

Dress in your favorite Christmas attire (or your most festive summer gear), enter the Ugly Christmas T-Shirt contest, meet with Santa, play Reindeer Games like the Wine Pull or Secret Santa Ring Toss, and join us for an unforgettable night of merriment & memories.

Wabash College Football Head Coach Jake Gilbert will join us to deliver a powerful message about community, mentorship, and making a difference in the lives of young people.

Silent and Live auctions will provide a chance to jump on your Christmas shopping or simply spoil someone with an early gift.

Tickets are \$40 per person and include holiday-themed small plates & desserts, music by local favorite Adam Moody, and holiday cheer you won't want to miss. A cash bar will be offered.

This unforgettable night is presented by C&F Fabricating, and every

dollar raised will support the Boys & Girls Club's mission to enable young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential. Don't miss your chance to celebrate the holidays early, beat the heat with cheer, and make a meaningful impact!

Tickets can be purchased at www.bgcmoco.org or by calling the Boys & Girls Club at (765) 362-3912.

Extension Office Teaching Freeze Drying

Have you ever wondered how freeze-dried foods are made, or how you could use freeze drying in your own home? Whether you're prepping for emergencies, planning for allergy-friendly food storage, or just curious about the process, join Purdue Extension's Monica Nagele for a workshop on July 22 and get all your questions answered!

Join us on Monday, July 22 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Exhibit Hall at the Montgomery County 4-H Fairgrounds for a hands-on introduction to freeze drying. This free educational event will cover

the science behind freeze drying, how it compares to other food preservation methods, and practical ways families are using freeze-dried foods for everything from healthy snacks to pet food and outdoor adventures.

Participants will get to see a freeze dryer, sample freeze-dried foods and take-home resources to help them decide if home freeze drying is right for them.

Space is limited, so be sure to RSVP by July 15 by calling (765) 364-6363 or e-mailing monicanagele@purdue.edu.

■ BUTCH'S FLASHBACK TRIVIA

ANSWER: Linda (Groves)

Carpenter, mother of Kelly Taylor

Franciscan Alliance Makes Appointments

Dr. Joseph Schnecker

Franciscan Alliance is pleased to welcome several new leaders to key roles in its healthcare ministry following recent retirements.

The Mishawaka-based nonprofit Catholic healthcare ministry appointed the following four experienced healthcare professionals to senior vice president, vice president and chief medical officer positions:

- Dr. Gerald Maloney, DO, chief medical officer
- Michael Englehart, senior vice president for Franciscan Physician Network/Specialty Physicians of Illinois LLC and Franciscan Post-Acute Services
- Dr. Joseph Schnecker, MD, chief medical information officer
- Tim Murphy, vice president of strategy

Dr. Maloney is taking on the Franciscan CMO position following decades at Geisinger Health in Danville, Penn., where he spent the last 19 years as a physician executive and his last eight as chief medical



Michael Englehart

officer. In that role, he had responsibility for nine hospital campuses, including Level 1 and 2 trauma centers and a children's hospital.

Dr. Maloney also served as the associate dean for clinical affairs at Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine.

Dr. Maloney assumes the role of Franciscan CMO following the death of Dr. Al Tomchaney in late 2024, who held the position for 16 years.

Englehart assumes the senior vice president for Franciscan Physician Network/Specialty Physicians of Illinois LLC and Franciscan Post-Acute Services role after more than two decades in healthcare, including serving as CEO of Presence Health, where he orchestrated a \$210 million financial turnaround. Most recently, he served as cardiovascular service line president at St. Louis-based Mercy Health. In that role, he led strategic planning, driving 15% new patient growth across the service line. He also served as CEO of Englehart Enterprises, a boutique



Tim Murphy

healthcare consulting firm specializing in change management, financial turnarounds and interim leadership support to healthcare clients.

Englehart is taking on the role previously held by Murphy.

Dr. Schnecker is taking on the position of Franciscan's CMIO from his current role as Franciscan's medical director of information services, which he has held since 2019. He first joined Franciscan in 2001 during his family medicine residency in Beech Grove, Ind., and returned in 2010 as associate director of the residency program before helping to establish the physician advisor program. He went on to earn a master's degree in medical management and helped guide Epic physician responsibilities before joining the information services team.

Dr. Schnecker replaces Dr. Dick Roskman, who recently retired as Franciscan's CMIO.

Murphy is assuming the role of vice president of strategy following his role



Dr. Gerald Maloney

as Franciscan's COO/CFO for Franciscan Physician Network, Specialty Physicians of Illinois LLC and Franciscan Post-Acute Services. Murphy came to Franciscan from Deloitte Consulting in Nashville, Tenn., where he served as co-leader of the physician enterprise and ambulatory services practice and senior director of finance/operations at The Advisory Board, also in Nashville.

Murphy is taking on his new role following the retirement of Jay Brehm.

"As we celebrate the remarkable careers of our retiring leaders, we also look to the future with great confidence," Franciscan Alliance President and CEO Kevin Leahy said. "The new appointments to our leadership team reflect our commitment to continuity, innovation and excellence. These individuals bring a wealth of experience and fresh perspectives that will help guide our ministry through its next chapter of growth and transformation."

■ MONTGOMERY MURDER MYSTERIES

Molly's Manifesto: Continued



EDITOR'S NOTE: Karen Zach, a 50-year local history writer,

presents her Montgomery Murder Mysteries – historical fiction, based on fact – of the first 13 or so murders in our county. Karen has written a weekly column for The Paper of Montgomery County and was the editor of Montgomery Memories, a monthly publication from The Paper for many years. Now that she is retired, she is sharing these stories and The Paper is very pleased to continue working with Karen and her talented writings.

Chapter 30 - Reign of Terror

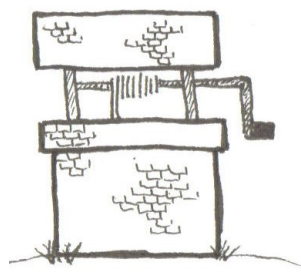
Alfred came home late yesterday evening from seeing Dr. Wendall just as spry as a newborn lamb. Sitting down to a meal I fixed for him after the boys went to bed early, tired from a day of work without their father's guidance, Alfred told me all about it. He told me that Dr. Wendall felt he was getting better and that if he worked on keeping a positive attitude, that he'd be fine. Dr. Wendall suggested that we work on our relationship, too and gave several suggestions to help. Having some time together away from the boys was one suggestion and talking to a minister (I strongly suggested Rev. Lew not Pastor Paul and Alfred agreed) were two ideas. We talked for some time,

then I asked him if he would please to take over a strawberry pie to Ida and Bill. I had wanted to get rid of last year's berries and I thought that would be something Bill might enjoy. Alfred had the strangest look on his face, refused to go and said, "Now, Molly, why'd you go and ask me that?" How strange.

This morning, Cal Jones sent one of his boys over to tell us that it is berry time. "We got some yesterday and they are ripening very fast," little Cal told us. Alfred told the boys to go over and get to picking because he was wanting some strawberries and cream for after supper tonight. They went willingly, although I told Alfred I thought little Will was too small to help much. He said, "Well, he can play then!" Alfred went over a few minutes later. Have to admit it's a nice change from the constant worry of four rambunctious boys. I sat on the back step and cleaned lettuce.

Alfred was so thoughtful when he moved the well right off the back of the house. It's so easy to clean-up anything from the garden and close to get water for cooking and dishes. Only four steps and I'm there. Our old well is 100 yards away. Always worried me that Alfred hadn't covered it up but the boys know not to go near there as it's so dangerous.

Contemplating the hard work cleaning, fixing and canning those strawberries, I decided to take a nap. Pleasant, but what I awoke to, was a Reign of Terror. The



first thing I heard was screams and panic-filled cries. At first I thought I was having a bad dream, then I realized those screams were coming from my boys. Rushing out and frantically looking around, I saw them at the old well. My first thought was, they know better than to go there, but then the realness of the situation grabbed me like a black snake coiling my body. My husband was throwing his children in the well. "Oh, Lord, don't let it be!" My mind raced. If I go to the well, he'll throw me in too and I can't help the boys. Join the boys in their screaming was my thought. I scream and run toward Alfred Barker's home. Alfred was running my way. "What?" he called.

"Over there, over there, run, Alfred is killing my boys!"

Alfred came quickly. I was still screaming, trying to get anyone's attention. There are several homes near ours and I wanted to alert anyone to help my little men. Yet, my eyes averted back to the scene.

I squint in the sun and see Harry crawl up out of the well, and think, "Thank you Lord!" But, then Alfred throws him back in again. Now, he's throwing rocks. I faint!

Annie Cosby is here

now. Mose Riley has just brought Harry to me. He has a bad gash on the back of his head and is somewhat frenzied but he's all right. I won't let him go and he tries to squirm away. Annie takes him from me. "Molly, let me clean his cuts and bruises and he'll be fine. They're trying to find Alfred now, and everything will be okay."

As my eyes scan to the scene, I see Mose returning with Roy in his arms. Roy is not moving, oh, please let him be alive. I cry his name. He jumps out of Mose's arms and runs into mine. He's never felt so good to me. We hold each other for dear life. "Mother," he said. He's never called me that before. It's always been Molly Momma, his special name for me.

"Yes, dear one?"

"Mother, it was awful. Father threw me down the well with the boys. I got out once and he shoved me back in, then came down with us and was beating our heads against the wall. I fought him, Mother, and tried to save the others. I fear Will is gone, Mother." Will gone? My favorite son, the one I wanted to stay home with me today. Gone? I look at Annie who has just come out on the porch. She shakes her head.

"Where is Lee, then?" Annie's face is immediately filled with tears.

"Oh, Molly, it's a terrible thing."

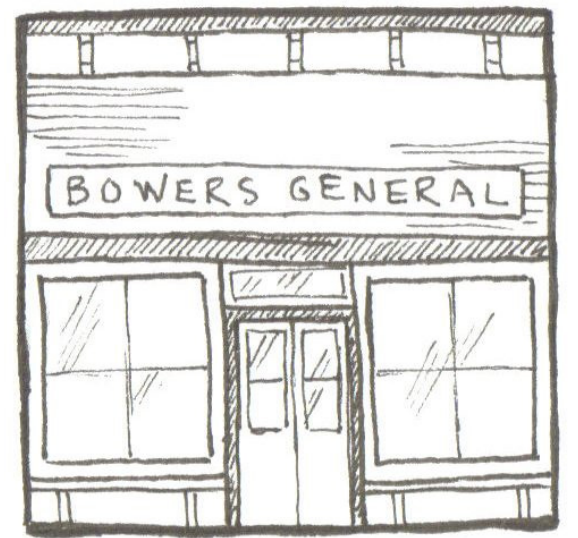
Chapter 31 – The Aftermath

Several neighbors came to help me dress my two boys for their wake. Taking Harry, brother George went over near Colfax and picked out clothes for the occasion. They went to the other Bowers' Store. Dear sweet George purchased my dead boys' things and those of my two living. Oh, how I love my brother!

Minutes. It took minutes to have only two sons versus four. Alfred, why? Why, why, why? I guess Alfred has always been a good actor. No one could live with him and not know there were troubles in his mind, but never would I dream he'd throw his sons down a well. Roy is resting with some medicine Dr. J.B. mixed-up. Annie, Cal's wife and a couple of

on little Will how many times he'd been hit with rocks, and bless Mose Riley, he had tried to push Will's brains back into his little head. Oh, my little Will who plants people in the ground. Now, my sweet Angel, we will do the same for you. Lee, my darling you had no bruises as you had fought your father's game, first trying to help your little brother, then when he was gone, you stayed under the water, figuring you'd be safer and the rocks wouldn't wing you as badly. You poor child, you stayed under too long. Why, Alfred, why? Why would you brutally kill your own precious children?

Last night when they brought Alfred here after the young Guntle boy had finally captured



church women are here, too. I thought Ida would be over, but who knows how Bill is doing? I wonder if the shock of this will do Bill in, as well. Ida and I may both be burying our loved ones within days.

It pained me so that my boys' bodies were so badly bruised. You could see

him down in the creek, his eyes were wild. I couldn't look at him. I wanted to spit in his face, but I married the man for better or worse, in sickness and health. His sickness is too much for me. I only wish I'd have seen it before.

To be continued...

Flower Club's 17th Garden & Arts Tour a Success

The Flower Lovers Garden Club's 17th Garden & Arts tour on Sunday, June 29 was a success; the weather cooperated, the eight gardens were lush and beautiful and the attendance was great. The club thanks all who purchased tickets and visited each garden.

This year, the featured gardens ranged from a cottage setting to historical grounds to extensive landscaped areas. Several gardens featured distinctive and whimsical ornaments, each presenting unique concepts for flower beds suitable for both sun and shade. Thank you to all who made this successful and memorable event.

The Club is especially grateful to the homeowners who offered to showcase their beautiful gardens for the community to see and enjoy. Thank you to Steve and Melanie Galegor, Wabash college for the Elston Homestead, Dr. Bill and Cheryl Leech, Janella Nunan, Marc and Karen McFall, Tim

and Diane Fairfield, Stone Creek Lodge, and Wayne and Becky Nelson.

Many individuals from our wonderful Crawfordsville community helped support the tour. Thank you to the participating artists whose added attractions were featured and admired in the gardens: painting by Ellie Jeffries, music by Kenn Clark and Monte Keller, clay garden art and more by Mary Lou Dawald, glass and metal garden décor by Margie Colgan and the Master Gardeners for providing additional garden support.

Other added features included a raffle of vintage glass garden art created by Lana Presslor, a ceramic bird feeder, a plant sale and painted ladybug rocks. Thank you to all who purchased raffle tickets and plants and gave a donation for the painted rocks.

Congratulations to Connie Motz, winner of the vintage glass art and to Teresa Huxhold, winner of the ceramic bird

feeder.

Engraved stepping stones were presented to each garden owner for their participation in the event. Thank you to Scott Young of Ladoga for designing and creating these keepsakes.

The Club greatly appreciates the businesses who sold tickets for us: ProGreen Garden Center, Davidson Greenhouse & Nursery, Ryan's Flowers, Milligan's Flowers & Gifts, Country Hearts & Flowers, Just Because...Flowers, Gifts and More, and Crawfordsville District Public Library.

In addition the Club would like also like to thank Kroger's for their generous donation of bottled waters made available at each garden venue.

Thank you to the Journal Review and The Paper of Montgomery County for publishing weekly articles featuring information about the event and the featured gardens.

Finally, thanks to the

Flower Lovers Garden Club members for organizing the event and helping homeowners showcase their gardens.

The Flower Lovers Garden Club appreciates the support of our wonderful community in making the 2025 Garden & Arts Tour a fun and memorable event.

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Clark Dale
765-918-1773

M.S., B.S., Army Veteran
email: william.dale@exprealty.com
web: williamdale@exprealty.com

Clark Dale
765-918-1773

M.S., B.S., Army Veteran
email: william.dale@exprealty.com
web: williamdale@exprealty.com