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HOSTED BY DICK WOLFSIE | FEBRUARY 6 - 14, 2026

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Join Dick and the Collette folks on a Zoom call.
It's scheduled for Aug. 13 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Meeting URL: <https://collette.zoom.us/j/89717890584>

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within 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!!



Been watching the meteor showers? I have. Wow!

■ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Got a sunflower, or two, or 12? Then consider taking part in the Crawfordsville District Public Library's Sunflower Competition! There are three categories – tallest, largest flower head and most unique. All you have to do to enter is send a photo of your sunflower (for the tallest and largest head, be sure to have the tape measure showing the height or width (and include the petals) to cvilleseedlibrary@gmail.com by the end of the month! This contest is for young and old alike. Let's see your sunflowers!

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Enthusiasm moves the world."
Arthur Balfour

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

How do you avoid a summer cold?
Catch it in the winter.

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!

You've Come A Looooong Way, Baby!
Remember that commercial? Well, it could easily apply today to women and sports. Today, the 18th day of August is the 102nd anniversary of the 1023 Women's Amateur Athletic Association track and field championships. To show just how far sports – men or women – have progressed in the last century, today's By The Numbers takes a look at the results from that meet compared to what today's top times are. Enjoy!

12.2 seconds 100 yard dash
10.49 seconds 100 meters
64.4 seconds 440 yards

Nora Callebout, a British runner, won the race in 12.2 seconds, beating fellow countrywoman Mary Lines by a foot.

Flor Jo, or Florence Griffith Joyner set the world mark of 10.49 seconds in Indianapolis in 1988. By the way, 100 meters is 109.4 yards, so Griffith approximately ran the race two seconds faster and ran 10 extra yards.

Those of us a certain age will remember high school track races of 220 yards and 440 yards. In the 1923 WAAA championship, Mary Lines, another British athlete, won the 440 in 64.4 seconds, which was a world record at the time. She easily beat the second place runner by 5 yards.

47.60 seconds 400 meters

East Germany's Marita Koch holds the world record in the 400 meters race at 47.60 seconds. This happened last September in Australia. And for those keeping score at home, 400 meters is 437.4 yards. So Koch ran 10 percent farther and did it in 17 less seconds.

1.384 The high jump was won by Sylvia Stone with a leap of 1.384 meters. That is 4.5 feet.



2.10 The world record in the high jump for women now is 2.10 meters, which is 6-foot-10-inches (and three-quarters). That jump came from Ukraine's Yaroslava Mahuchikh in 2024 in Paris.

4.35 880 yard walk
There was no long distance run for women back then. Edith Trickey won the 880-yard walk in 4 minutes and 35 seconds.

1:53.28

The 800 meter race record is held by Jarmila Kratochvilova of 1:53.28.

4.96 meters or 16.28 feet

The womens long jump was won by Mary Lines at the London Olympics in 1923. Lines was a heck of an athlete, also winning the 100, 440 and 120 yard hurdles.

7.52 meters or 24-8.25 feet

That came from Galina Chistyakova from the USSR in 1988.



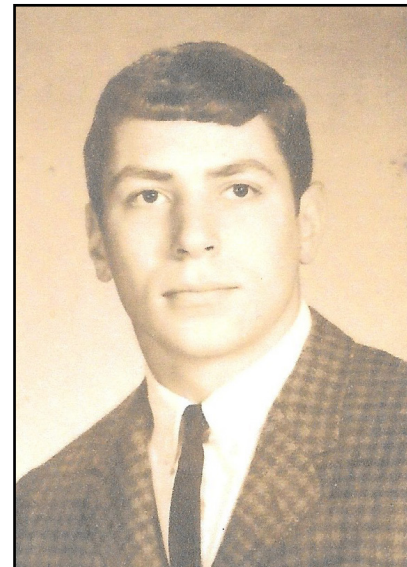
■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. Attorney General Todd Rokita has issued Civil Investigative Demands to the University of Notre Dame and Butler University, seeking information about their DEI practices and potential state law violations after both universities failed to provide materials requested in May letters. "Racial discrimination of any kind in educational settings violates fundamental moral and legal principles that are enshrined in state law," Rokita said. Materials posted on the universities' websites suggest that various aspects of Notre Dame's and Butler's operations may be governed by policies that treat individuals – including students, prospective students, faculty, staff and job applicants – differently based on the individuals' race or ethnicity. In May, DePauw University was also sent a letter concerning its DEI practices.

2. The Indy Arts Council, central Indiana's leading arts advocacy and services agency, recently announced the 2025 ARTI Award winners. Since 1987, Start with Art has kicked off the fall arts season in Indianapolis and celebrated the artists and arts organizations whose creative talents shape our world-class city. The 2025 winners include:

- Cultural Entrepreneur: Indy Dance Council
- Neighborhood Impact: Mike Graves of BRIDGE Collective and The Murphy Arts Center
- Artist / Activist: Danicia Monét Malone of Rokh
- Corporate Leadership: Herbert Simon Family Foundation
- Community Partnerships: IF Theatre and Flanner House | Flanner Fringe Lab
- Christel DeHaan Lifetime Achievement: Iris Rosa

3. Attorney General Todd Rokita is leading a 25-state coalition asking a federal appeals court to reverse prior decisions that undermine schools' ability to maintain sex-specific bathrooms and locker rooms. In an amicus brief, Rokita argues that school policies requiring students to use facilities consistent with their biological sex are constitutional, reasonable, and necessary for protecting student privacy and safety. In the Martinsville case, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit ruled that the school district had to allow a student born female to use the boys' restroom because the student had begun identifying as male. The brief emphasizes that Title IX – passed in 1972 – was never intended to require schools to grant access to boys' or girls' facilities based on their gender identity. Rather, the law clearly permits schools to separate facilities on the basis of biological sex. some branching out into other cryptocurrencies.



Butch Dale's Senior Picture

Butch Travels Back in Time to Fall of 1965



John 'Butch' Dale
Columnist

It's hard to believe, but, yes, it's true...I started my senior year at good old Darlington High School 60 years ago ... in the fall of 1965. Looking

through my school yearbook brought back many memories and recollections of the way things were back then. For instance, I had forgotten that girls were not allowed to wear jeans, slacks or shorts to school or to basketball games. They had to wear a dress or a skirt. Boys were required to wear belts, and they could not wear jeans or slacks at a low level. Shirts had to be tucked in, with the front buttoned. "Madrads shirts," with the "fruit loop" behind the back collar, was the "in thing." The most popular footwear for both boys and girls were "penny loafers," with a penny inserted into the front "slot." As seniors we wore our "senior cords," which were corduroy pants and skirts decorated with pictures, names, club emblems, etc. The teachers also had unwritten dress codes, with the women wearing dresses, and the men sport coats and ties.

There were eight class periods throughout the day, with the first class starting at 8:15 a.m. and the last class over at 3:15 p.m. ...and we were given a 35-minute lunch break. After school let out, many boys had athletic practice from 4:30 to 6:30. There were only three sports for boys...basketball during the winter, track in the spring, and baseball during the summer. There was no mandatory weight training, conditioning or practice out of season ... thank goodness! And what about the girls? Yep, you guessed it ... there were NO organized sports for girls, although that year they did have intramural basketball.

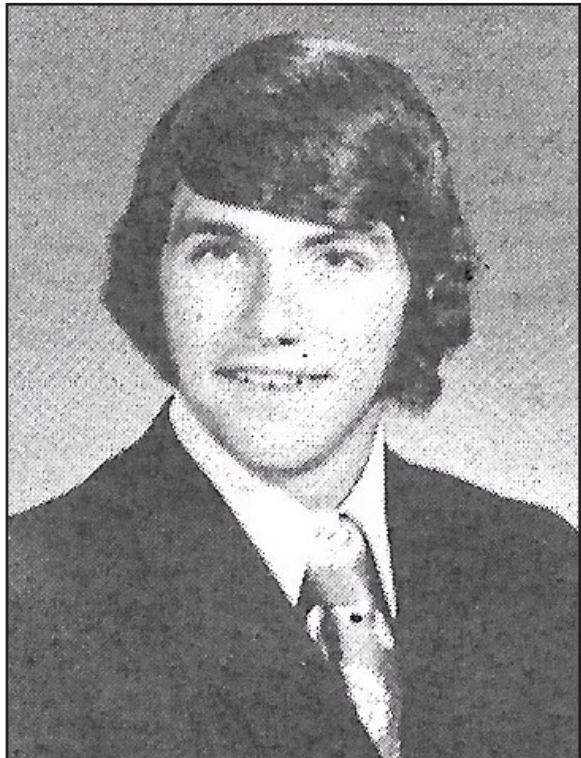
Students who were lucky enough to have a car had to obtain permission from the principal to

See BUTCH Page 4

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■ BUTCH'S FLASHBACK TRIVIA



Do You Recognize This 1973 Southmont Graduate?

HINT: He became a Crawfordsville police officer.

Answer on Page 4

ISO Heralds New Season with Dolly Parton's *Threads*

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra ushers in the 2025-26 season with a ground-breaking new program dedicated to one of the most beloved musical icons of all time: Dolly Parton. The Printing Partners *Pops Series* concerts (Sept. 19 – 20, 2025, Hilbert Circle Theatre, Indianapolis), feature Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly leading the ISO and guest vocalists selected by the country-pop superstar and living legend herself, who just this week was named a Guinness Worlds Record ICON for her remarkable musical and cultural achievements during her career spanning more than six decades. **Dolly Parton appears on screen only for these events.**

This innovative and visually stunning multimedia symphonic experience will feature dynamic interpretations of Dolly's beloved hits—including "Jolene," "Coat of Many Colors," and "I Will Always Love You"—inviting audiences on a journey through Dolly's music and life as she shares personal stories and guides the evening on screen. Fueled by the symphonic energy of the ISO, the performance includes powerhouse vocalists who will bring Dolly's newly orchestrated songs to life: Katelyn Drye, Hollie Hammel, and Julie Williams.

"The threads of my life are woven together through my songs," said Parton in a statement. "That's why this project . . . is so special to me. It's all about sharing my music and my musical journey with audiences in a new way."

"The ISO is excited to celebrate Dolly Parton's astounding musical legacy with this unique symphonic experience. We invite everyone to join us at the Hilbert Circle Theatre as three great singers chosen by Dolly herself take us on her personal journey through her great song hits from one of the greatest artists of our time," said Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly.

Dolly Parton's *Threads: My Songs in Symphony* is produced by Dolly Parton together with Schirmer Theatrical and Sony Music Publishing. Concert bookings by Wasserman Music.

Dolly Parton is the most honored and revered multi-hyphenate of all time and was recently inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Her current album *Rockstar* made history by scoring the biggest album debut sales week of her seven-decade career and earning her six #1s on the Billboard charts - Top Rock Albums, Top Rock & Alternative Albums, Top Country Albums, Top Album Sales, Top Current Album Sales, and Independent Albums. The landmark album also claimed the #3 spot on the Billboard 200 chart, her highest position ever. Achieving 27 RIAA-certified gold, platinum, and multi-platinum awards, she has had 26 songs reach #1 on the Billboard country charts, a record for a female artist. Parton is the first artist to have topped Billboard's Adult Contemporary, Christian

**Dolly Parton's *Threads: My Songs in Symphony*
11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Sept. 19
7:30 p.m. Sept. 20
Hilbert Circle Theatre, Indianapolis**

AC Songs, Hot Country Songs, Christian Airplay, Rock Digital Songs, Country Airplay and Dance/Mix Show Airplay radio charts. Parton became the first country artist honored as Grammy MusiCares Person of the Year given out by NARAS. She has 49 career Top 10 country albums, a record for any artist, and 120 career-charted singles over the past 50+ years. On October 17, 2023, she released her second New York Times Best Seller coffee table book in a trilogy called *Behind The Seams: My Life in Rhinestones*. The first of the series was the bestselling coffee table book *Songteller: My Life in Lyrics*.

In 2014, the RIAA recognized her impact on recorded music with a plaque commemorating more than 100 million units sold worldwide. She has amassed eleven Grammy Awards and 54 nominations, including Entertainer of the Year; five Academy of Country Music Awards, also including a nod for Entertainer of the Year; four People's Choice Awards; and three American Music Awards. In 1999, Parton was inducted as a member of the coveted Country Music Hall of Fame.

Dolly has the largest fan base of all measured music

artists in the YouGov database at #1 with 198 million. She has the #1 Q Score of all performers, solo and group. Dolly is one of only 25 celebrities in the E-poll database to have an E-score of 100 and has maintained that perfect rating for 8 years. She recently won Best Brand Award, Celebrity, Influencer and Fashion at the 2023 Licensing International Excellence Awards.

To date, Parton has donated over 265 million books to children around the world with her Imagination Library. Her children's book, *Coat of Many Colors*, was dedicated to the Library of Congress to honor the Imagination Library's 100 millionth book donation. In March of 2022, Parton released the book *Run Rose Run* which she co-authored with James Patterson which sat at # 1 on the *New York Times* Best Sellers List for five weeks, a record for this decade. She also released an accompanying album of the same name with original songs inspired by the book which reached #1 on three charts simultaneously --- Country, Americana/Folk and Bluegrass Albums. From her "Coat of Many Colors" while working "9 to 5," no dream is too big and no mountain too high for the country girl who turned the world into her stage.

Chamber Awards Coming Sept. 11; Deadline Friday

The Crawfordsville / Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce will be announcing the recipients of the Chamber Awards at the Award Banquet on Thursday, Sept. 11. The event will be held at Stone Creek Lodge at 2865 South State Road 47. The Award Banquet begins with a meet and greet at 5 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 before the presentations begin.

The Spotlight Speaker is John Morgan, a Montgomery County native that built an impressive career spanning global leadership and community service. After serving in the U.S. Army and Indiana National Guard, he studied at Purdue, Indiana University, Harvard and

Dartmouth, focusing on engineering, business, and strategic brand management. He was the Chairman, CEO, and President of Zep Inc., and previously served as CEO of Acuity Brands Lighting.

In retirement, Morgan has pursued entrepreneurial ventures in real estate, and golf course operations, while serving on corporate, nonprofit and university boards. Deeply committed to giving back, he has founded and supported numerous charitable initiatives benefiting children and families. He and his wife Robyn split their time living between Georgia and Indiana.

The Chamber is thrilled to celebrate the positive

impact and achievements in our community with new award categories including Nonprofit Excellence, Agricultural Excellence, Five Star, Trailblazer, You Rock!, First Responder, Inspirational Educator and the Chamber Award of Distinction.

The Chamber appreciates the support of the sponsors for the event. The Venue Sponsor is Stone Creek Lodge, the sponsor for the Spotlight Speaker is Morgan's Glass & Paint. Award Sponsors are Acuity Brands, Lakeside Book Company, Nucor, Leslie Pyle, Morrison Realty / Keller Williams, Farm Credit Mid America and Duke Energy. The Stage Sponsor is Hoosier Heartland State Bank.



Registration deadline is Friday for reserving a table or individual seats. This event is for members of the Crawfordsville | Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce although the members can invite guests to sit at their table. To register for our event, visit crawfordsvillechamber.com. Use the Events & News Tab and click Chamber Calendar or use the link in the Chamber Informant Newsletter. You can also call (765) 362-6800 or email Executive Director Stacy Sommer at ssommer@crawfordsvillechamber.com.

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2025 Volvo XC90 Plug-In is a Sensible Car for The Casual Jet-Set

Massage seats, crystal gear selector, and concert audio are all on the menu



Casey Williams
Columnist

Volvos were sensible cars for sensible people. Your uncle or quirky engineer down the

street may have driven one. Those safe cars were incredibly well built as evidenced by so many of the boxy old 240s still on the road. Today Volvos, however, seems more like sensible vehicles for the jet set – vehicles like the 2025 Volvo XC90 plug-in hybrid.

You'd be hard pressed to tell the XC90 was last redesigned ten years ago given fresh aero forms, "Thor's Hammer" headlamps, and accentuated shoulders that recall older Volvos. It now displays a chrome-strewn grille with extra slats and blingy 21" wheels. C-shaped tail-lamps that extend into the roof pillars connect it with the original XC90. It looks expensive.

Interiors are equally luxurious, but in a Scandinavian mid-century modern kind of way. Every detail is exquisitely considered, but you feel like you can hop in wearing a nice t-shirt, jeans, and casual shoes without feeling underdressed.

You first smell the waft of Nappa leather that upholsters the supportive-yet-plush seats. Then, you notice the dashboard graced with light woodgrain, stitched coverings, and beige canvas. Soon, your backside is heated, ventilated, or massaged – all while drenched in your favorite live musical performance on the Bowers & Wilkins audio system. An Orrefors crystal gear selector is a joy to caress. It somehow makes a Bentley seem underdressed.

Updates in technology keep the XC90 current. Drivers face flatscreen gauges and a head-up display while the center touchscreen has been

enlarged to 12.3" with brighter colors and more intuitive menus. It's really just a plug-in over the old one, but works better. Phones connect with Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, and wireless charging.

Anyone just planning on riding in the back on the way to their plane will find ample comfort. Our XC90 came with heated rear captain's chairs and two more zones of climate control. There's room for kids in the third row or for adults on a quick ride to the hotel. The panoramic sunroof adds bright cheer.

If our jet-setter just needs to get to the jet, it's no problem since the XC90 can go 32 miles all-electric. And if the plane is grounded, then just keep driving because there's also a 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine, connected to an 8-speed automatic transmission and all-wheel-drive. Expect a super frugal 58-MPGe including fossil free miles or 27-MPG as a proper hybrid.

It's pretty zippy too. Total system output is 455 horsepower and 523 lb.-ft. of torque – enough to propel the big three-row crossover 0-60 mph in just 5 seconds. On a drive with my family

from Indianapolis to Nashville, Indiana and back, I tapped the silently smooth electric system in town, then pressed "hold" to save it while on the Interstate. Nicely throttled, the big wagon tracked like Sweden's high-speed trains with a smooth ride via air suspension.

Safety, a Volvo hallmark, is enhanced by automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, and driver alert monitoring. It has adaptive cruise, but it's time to upgrade to a hands-off system.

There's a cool photo of an old Volvo 245 Turbo wagon fronting Harold's in London. Like the XC90, it echoed its shipping container, but packed performance, technology, and comfort that were as apt crossing rural countryside as indulging in retail therapy. Just don't expect bargain basement pricing. While the XC90 starts at \$59,745, ours rang \$88,695. Competitors include the BMW X5 xDrive50e, Mercedes-Benz GLE 450e, Jeep Grand Cherokee 4xe and Lexus TX Plug-in Hybrid.

Storm Forward!

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

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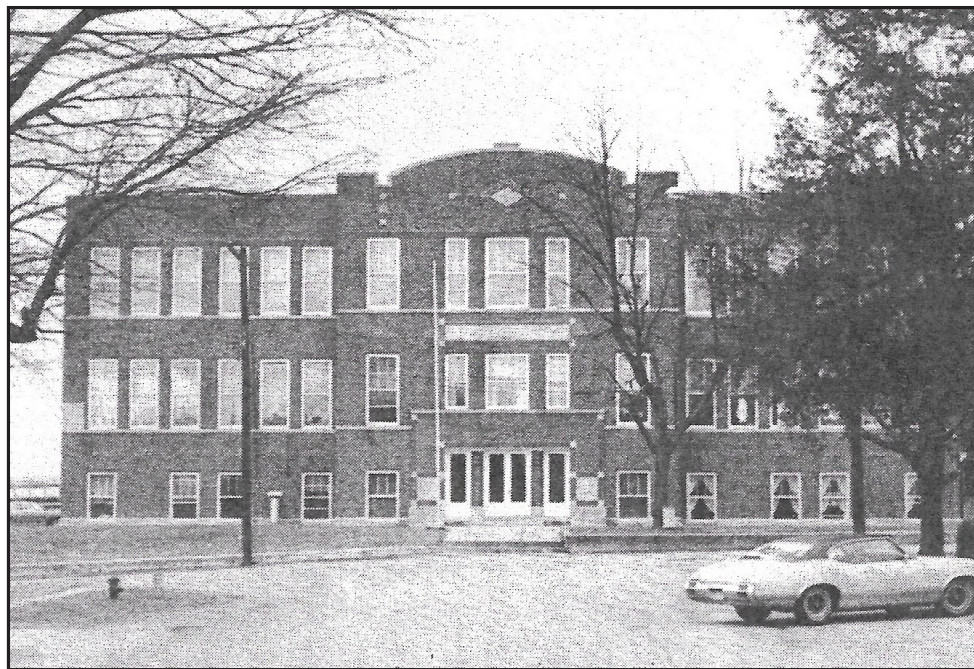
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- NO HANDS-OFF CRUISING
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Six-passenger, AWD Crossover
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Brakes f/r: regen disc/disc
0-60 mph: 5s
Driving range (EV): 32 miles
Economy PHEV/Hybrid: 58-MPGe/27-MPG
Assembly: Torslanda, Sweden
Base/As-tested price: \$59,745/\$88,695

■ BUTCH DALE'S SCHOOL FROM BACK IN THE DAY



Do You Recognize This School Building?

Answer on Page 4

All of My Unworn Dresses



Carrie Classon
The Postscript

I am finally moving my clothes back into my closet.

The back of my closet was the epicenter

of the giant water leak of 2025, where the sprinkler pipe broke and flooded our condo. The leak was directly behind my sizable collection of dresses, and so all of those dresses—along with every other piece of clothing I own—have been stashed in odd places around the house.

But now that I am finally able to move all my clothing back to its rightful spot, I am faced with the unavoidable question: Do I really need all these clothes?

To be fair (to myself), nearly all my clothes were purchased from a consignment shop, and I didn't spend a lot on them. But the fact remains that I own more clothes than I need. So, I took out a duffel bag for the charity clothing store and I took a long and hard look at the clothes I have never worn.

There are some things I keep purely for sentiment: the jacket my aunt sewed for herself as a young career woman, the woolen robe that made my sister-in-law's eyes look so blue when she wore it during her final days, the green

velvet dress my mother wore as a bridesmaid at her sister's wedding. None of these clothes will likely ever be worn. But surely, in a large closet, there is a little room for impractical things with strong memories.

Then there are the "Seriously, what was I thinking?" clothes. For about 15 minutes one day, I thought I would look good in a sparkly leopard skin print dress—if no one saw me. Bye-bye!

Then there are more practical dresses that are simply not flattering. I keep trying them on, hoping something has changed. Today was a good day to admit, "This dress will always make me look like a 50-pound sack of beans," and put it in the donation duffel.

I packed them all up—the practical dresses that didn't look good on me, the crazy dresses I should never have bought. And I still have a lot of dresses.

There are dresses that have only been worn one Christmas Eve or to a single theater performance. It is not reasonable to think I would wear any of them often. But I will wear them again. I treasure these fancy dresses and tuck them away, next to my sentimental clothes.

But there are still more dresses: dresses I have

never worn.

I have heard the term "motivational buying," where people buy clothes in a smaller size to inspire them to lose weight. I don't think this sounds like a good idea. But I don't dismiss the idea of a little aspirational buying.

Because the unworn dresses in my closet feel like promises to myself, waiting to be fulfilled. Someday, I will be asked to go somewhere in that sparkly dress. I will enjoy having something made of velvet on a cold winter day. I will feel confident saying a few words in public wearing that bright pink dress.

I have no idea what these occasions might be, or if they will ever exist. But the thought of having clothes in my closet to wear to my imaginary event makes that event feel more possible, more imminent. And so, my closet still holds unworn dresses.

I would love to say that—having packed up all the discarded dresses—I will enjoy my extra closet space. But the truth is, I know I'll soon be buying more dresses. And that makes me very happy.

Till next time,

Carrie

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BUTCH

Continued from Page 1

be able to drive to school. Most of the seniors who lived in the country were like me and rode the bus all 12 years, with the town students walking to school. Parents had to notify the principal if their child was going to be absent...and we had to bring in a signed excuse the next day. Getting into trouble at school demanded "corrective action," which led to a visit in the principal's office for a lecture and reprimand. Serious offenses resulted in a paddling...the worse the errant behavior, the more whacks one received. Of course, this also often meant another paddling at home by parents, who backed the principal and teachers 100 percent. Very few kids got into trouble, although I was aware that a couple of boys in my class had consumed alcoholic beverages, and two or three had tried smoking cigarettes...but had not been caught. There were absolutely no drugs back then, and I had never even heard of marijuana.

Just about every student in school, from first grade to seniors, along with their parents, attended the basketball games on Friday and Saturday nights and showed their support for the Darlington Indians. In fact, a fan sometimes had to arrive very early to get a seat, especially if we were playing against Linden or New Ross! Every student in my class, which numbered 34 total, belonged to several school clubs or organizations, and 11 classmates were in band. Just about all of the girls belonged to the Sunshine Society. I participated in Science club, Latin club, Honor Society, Student Council, the year-book staff, the senior play, Boys State and all three sports. Our class also sold magazine subscriptions and did odd jobs to earn money for our senior trip. We had class parties and sock hops, watched movies at the Strand and Ben-Hur drive-in, and spent many hours on the weekends at

the Country Diner, Zach's and the Dog 'N Suds. I was too busy having fun to get into trouble!

We never took much interest in what was going on in our country with regards to politics and the Vietnam War. Few of us watched the nightly news. But I do recall when NASA landed Surveyor I on the moon, and its camera showed a picture of Earth ... amazing! I could not imagine that three years later astronaut Neil Armstrong would set foot on the moon. Something else was amazing in 1966 ... the "mini-skirt" made its debut ... Holy Cow! We did tune in for The Beverly Hillbillies, The Andy Griffith Show, Bonanza, Star Trek, Gomer Pyle USMC and Batman. We listened to the Beatles, the Beach Boys, the Rolling Stones, Paul Revere and the Raiders, Simon and Garfunkel and other popular groups of the day. The Monkees even had their own TV show that year.

In the last 60 years there have been many changes... some for the better and some not so good. Kids experience a lot more stress nowadays. They have technological entrapments...the Internet, Facebook, video games and cell phones...to name a few...that interrupt and complicate their lives. They are tempted to try drugs and become sexually active at an early age, and sadly very few attend Sunday school or church today. My life in 1965 and 1966 was simple and uncomplicated. There were plenty of wholesome activities to enjoy. There were rules, and I was expected to follow them...or else. But I sure had a great time my senior year!

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.

Energy, Safety Tips for Back-to-School Season

As students return to school and daytime energy use shifts, CenterPoint Energy encourages customers to take simple steps to reduce usage.

can help automate the adjustment. Eligible customers can explore options at CenterPointEnergy.com/Shop.

Eligible customers can visit CenterPointEnergy.com/Shop for instant rebates.

Never climb trees or play near power lines or pad-mounted transformers.

"This time of year is a natural reset," said Tony Gardner, CenterPoint's Senior Vice President and Chief Customer Officer. "With new schedules and changing routines, it's a great time to start a few energy-saving habits that can help manage costs and your pocket book."

- **Unplug unused devices.**

Electronics like gaming systems, chargers and printers continue to draw power even when idle. Use a smart power strip to turn them off all at once.

- **Use natural light when possible.**

For homework or reading, open blinds and rely on daylight. Swap out bulbs for LEDs to save even more. Eligible customers can visit CenterPointEnergy.com/Shop for instant rebates.

- **Keep cool air in.**

Seal small leaks around doors and windows with weatherstripping or caulk. Close blinds during the hottest part of the day.

Back-to-school tips

Customers can take the following steps to make their homes more energy efficient:

- **Raise the thermostat when the house is empty.**

A three- to four-degree increase during school and work hours can reduce cooling costs. A programmable or smart thermostat

- **Do full laundry loads in cold water.**

Save energy and protect fabrics by using cold water and waiting until you have a full load.

- **Use smaller appliances.**

For quick meals or lunch prep, use a toaster oven or microwave. Limit refrigerator openings to keep cooling efficient.

- **Make it a routine.**

Challenge your household to find one new way to save each week.

Back-to-school safety tips

- Keep kites, drones and metallic balloons well away from overhead power lines.

- Carry ladders, sports equipment or other tall items horizontally and check above for power lines before raising them.

- In dorms and classrooms, use only UL-listed power strips with over-current protection, do not overload outlets and never run cords under rugs, doors or windows.

- Remind your household or classroom about all signs of a possible gas leak, including the smell of rotten eggs, a hissing or roaring sound, or bubbling water, blowing dirt or dead vegetation.

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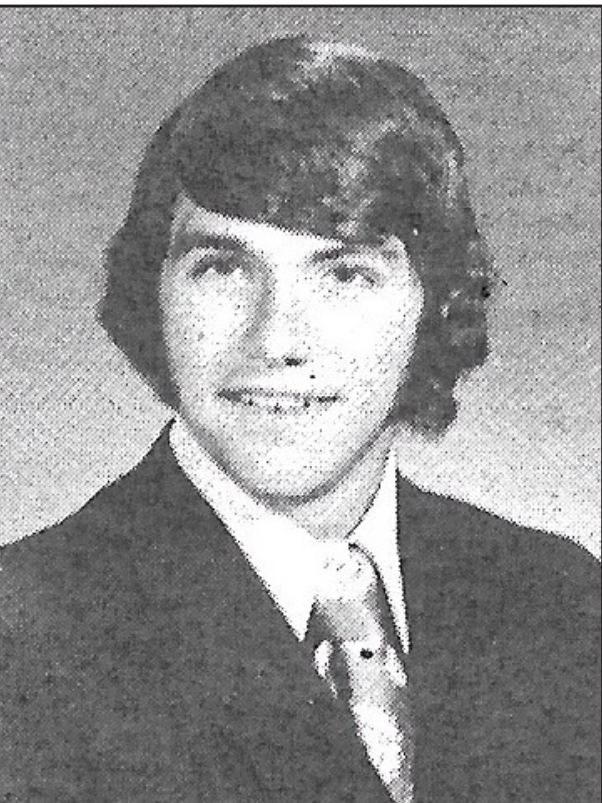
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Reenactors got a chance to watch a movie about Ernie Pyle inside the Museum.



Professor Peter "Jack Redd" Fitzpatrick explained the workings of a large format camera used by the 166 Signal Photography Company in WW II.



The 10 a.m. raising of the flag was a ceremony performed by, from left, Robert Blecke, Wayne McCulley and John Sauter.



Photos courtesy Andy Chandler and Ernie Pyle Museum

A large crowd of Hoosiers came to tiny Dana, Ind. to listen to help celebrate the life and works of Ernie Pyle.

Ernie Pyle's 125th Birthday Celebrated in Style

By Andy Chandler
archives@erniepyle.org

Ernie Pyle, is perhaps one of the most renowned columnists of the 20th century. From the likes of Joe Galloway, Dicky Chappelle to Catherine Leroy, his front line columns inspired subsequent generations of conflict reporters and photojournalists. His advocating for combat pay led to Congressional approval in June of 1944, and while it's unlikely Pyle would recognize combat pay in its current form, to grant him the title of Father of Combat Pay is appropriate.

Every year, the Hoosier town of Dana opens its arms to locals and out-of-towners alike in celebration of its favorite son. Under normal circum-

stances, it's a two-day festival held by the Helt Township Fire Department in collaboration with the Ernie Pyle WWII Museum. This hometown festival is celebrated like the Fourth of July with parades, car shows and food.

This year, because of the significance of Pyle's 125th birthday, which coincides with the lead-up to the 250th birthday of the United States 11 months from now, events were planned for the entire week leading up to it the Festival. Most of the events happened on the back lawn of the Ernie Pyle Birthplace and WWII Museum.

It began Saturday evening, Aug. 4, with an outdoor showing of the

1945 movie *The Story of GI Joe*, starring Burgess Meredith. Sunday saw a birthday party complete with cake, ice cream and a singing of "Happy Birthday." Throughout the week, there had been activities planned leading up to the Festival. Bring Your Dog Day celebrated Pyle's two dogs. Taco Tuesday celebrated Ernie's and wife Jerry's travels throughout South America. Every day had a theme and activity.

Friday saw the arrival of WW II reenactors who bivouacked on the museum grounds throughout the weekend. What they brought with them was decades of accumulated gear and expertise. In the case of Peter Fitzpatrick, a professor of visual arts at Columbia College

in Chicago, he brought time period cameras that were still functional and demonstrated the photography experience of the United States military press photographers.

Despite temperatures hovering around 100 degrees, the heat did not keep people away. With Dana's main street closed, there were vendors and a concert stage with shows, and the annual Ernie Pyle Fireman's parade hosted by the Helt Township Fire and Rescue. Afterward, the stage opened up to a performance by the Stampede Band from Terre Haute.

It was an eventful week, and despite the ever increasing temperatures, the crowds were big.

So why did they come? Some stated they came to attend a festival they'd read about in the Indiana Festival Brochure. Some said they saw a large crowd and were simply curious. However, it is the view of this writer that they came for something more basic, yet significant.

Herbert Hoover once stated that the reason he chose his final resting place to be within sight of his birth cottage in West Branch, Iowa, was to remind Americans that even from simple and humble beginnings, anyone in America can become great.

I think that's a big reason why we celebrate Pyle's hometown on his birthday. We're remind-

ed that even from this small tenant farmhouse in the blue collar farming community of Dana, Indiana, was born and raised someone who would become the voice of the changing America of the 1930s and the voice of the common soldier on the frontlines of World War II in the 1940s. His reporting style, humanist and existential, served as the inspiration for future reporters to come. Myself included.

Andy Chandler is the current archivist at the Ernie Pyle Birthplace and WWII Museum in Dana, Indiana. He can be reached at archives@erniepyle.org.

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