

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Philippians 4:6 -7 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

■ AWL ACE



Ace is ready to BUST OUT of the shelter and into your home! Ace is a 5 year old male American Blue Heeler available for adoption from The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 4/22/25. Ace loves going out for walks, PLAYING FRISBEE, rolling in grass, and will gladly sit for treats. Ace is looking for his best friend. Could that be you? Ace is available for adoption, to foster, or just simply going out for walks. AWL is open Monday - Friday from 2p-5p and Saturday's from 12-3p. Come say hi!



A week away from Groundhog Day. Do you care?

■ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Falls are a leading cause of injury among older adults, often resulting in a loss of confidence and reduced physical activity. To help individuals regain strength, improve balance, and move with greater confidence, Purdue Extension and Crawfordsville Mobile Integrated Health is offering A Matter of Balance, a fall prevention program.

This eight-session program will be held on Tuesdays from Feb. 24 through April 21 (no class March 24), from 10 a.m. to noon, at Wellbrooke of Crawfordsville, 517 Concord Road. Participation is open to anyone who is concerned about falling, has experienced a fall in the past or has limited activities due to fear of falling. Pre-registration is required by Feb. 17. To register, visit <https://event.me/gBkG99>. For more information, contact Purdue Extension Montgomery County at (765) 364-6363 or e-mail monicanagele@purdue.edu

■ 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

Where do forest creatures put their money right now?

In a snow bank!

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Greenland 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!

We don't know about you, but until all this talk about military invasions, the U.S. taking over another country's territory, arctic national security issues and the like . . . Greenland wasn't what one might call a top of mind item. And now that the threat of military force seems to have passed (thankfully), it appears that the U.S. might be getting more involved in the world's largest island. That means this is a good time to check out Greenland . . . by the numbers.

835,000 to 840,000

The number of square miles that makes up Greenland. As noted above, Greenland is also the world's largest (non-continental) island. That's about three times the size of Texas. (By the way, the second biggest island in the world is West Papua and New Guinea. Borneo is third.)



55,000

The approximate size of the population of Greenland. That would make it about the size of Anderson or Terre Haute.

4 Greenland is four hours ahead of us Hoosiers.

5 We have all heard the president talk about Greenland's strategic value with rare earth minerals. That boils down to five key groups: Neodymium and Praseodymium (used for electric vehicle magnets and everyone's favorite – wind turbines); Dysprosium and Terbium (big with magnets); Yttrium and Scandium (used with things of high temperature); Niobium and Gallium (these strengthen steel for use in all sorts of things from jets to nuclear industries); and Lithium (the batteries that seem to power everything now). And just for the record . . . no, we have no idea how to pronounce most of those. We're just hoping we got the spelling correct!

150

That's how many U.S. service members are at Pituffik Space Base, which used to be called Thule Air Base – a U.S. military installation located in Greenland. However, that number used to be between 6,000 and 10,000 back during an era a lot of us remember as the Cold War. And considering where that base is located, it was cold indeed!

-4 Winter temps in January and February can easily fall below zero. In the summer, temps are still cool, but range from around 50 inland to the upper 60s on the coast.

1,400 About how many islands the country of Denmark has – including Greenland. However, Greenland is an autonomous territory. Autonomous or not, the Kingdom of Denmark didn't take too kindly to threats that the U.S. might invade the island.

20,000

The capital city is Nuuk (and no, we don't know how to pronounce that either) and has a population of just over 20,000 – making it one of the smallest capital cities in the world.

2/3 This is one of the key points – about two-thirds of Greenland falls within the Arctic Circle. Why is that important? Because as the sea ice in the Arctic continues to decline by more than 10 percent annually, that will make Greenland's natural resources (which also include offshore deposits of oil and gas) more accessible. Plus, Pituffik Space Base provides early missile warning and defense. The U.S. occupied Greenland during WW II to prevent the Nazis from going there and to protect the North Atlantic shipping lanes. The Nazis reportedly had plans to take Greenland, Labrador and Newfoundland if Britain had fallen during the war. Greenland was a Danish colony so there was a large German presence.

8 Although it's not exact, there were at least eight countries opposed to the idea of the U.S. invading Greenland. Those included Great Britain, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Canada.

1951 After WW II it became official that the U.S. could continue to have a strong presence in Greenland when the 1951 Defense of Greenland agreement was signed.

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. Indiana Humanities is offering a new grant program for tax-exempt organizations that will support programs in the areas of history, literature, archaeology, ethics, philosophy, world cultures and other subjects. Projects supported by Indiana Humanities Mini-Grants can come in a variety of formats – workshops, presentations, reading / discussion programs, exhibitions, podcasts, film documentaries, and more – as long as they're open to the public and utilize the humanities as a tool for engagement. After Indiana Humanities' federal funding was terminated in April 2025, the organization made the difficult decision to limit its grant program to only its Historic Preservation Education Grant, which it distributes in partnership with Indiana Landmarks. The Mini-Grant is the first grant opportunity to be added into the organization's offerings since then, funded through private donations from generous Hoosiers. For more information, email grants@indianahumanities.org.

2. A new nationwide analysis of crash data reveals that state highways – not interstates – account for the largest proportion of deadly road crashes in the United States. The study by iSelect examined 129,825 fatal crashes across all 50 states and Washington, D.C., breaking them down by road type: interstates, U.S. highways, state highways, and local streets. The findings show that 42% of fatal crashes nationwide occur on state highways, compared with 23% on U.S. highways, 18% on interstates, and 17% on local streets. In Indiana, Interstate 65 was the most deadly with 93 crashes over a five year period. That was followed by I-80 (62), US 31 (56), I-69 (48), I-70 (48), US 41 (48), US 20 (43) SR 37 (41), I-465 (37) and SR 67 (33).

3. Indiana Gov. Mike Braun recently highlighted the surge in Indiana's life sciences sector, with three major industry expansions that will create more than 1,300 new high-wage Hoosier jobs. These expansions further cement Indiana's position as a national leader in advanced manufacturing, medical device production, and biopharmaceutical innovation. INCOG BioPharma Services will be doubling its current Indiana workforce to nearly 1,000 employees by 2030. West Pharmaceutical Services Inc. is expanding into Indiana with a new manufacturing operation in Greenfield, creating up to 300 high-wage jobs that pay an average wage 125% above the county average. Autocam Medical is expanding its operations in Warsaw, creating 300 new high-wage jobs, with average wages 138% above the county average.



Butch's Cures for Colds and Sickness Back in the Day



BUTCH DALE
Columnist

Well, unfortunately the cold and flu season has arrived. Many of you received your flu shot, but still managed to catch the bug anyway. I have never had a flu shot, but for some unknown reason, and even though I am around people every day at work, I never seem to get the flu. I turned 77 years old last year, and during my life there were very few times that I was sick. However, like almost every kid back in the day, I did have chicken pox, mumps, and an occasional cold. My parents never took me to the doctor because my Mom, along with the other mothers back then, had their own special treatments and "cures" for their children.

If a child was sick and had a fever, a cold wet cloth was placed on their forehead, and they were given 7-Up (or ginger ale), Jello, and of course . . . chicken noodle soup. Mothers also fed them such things as poached eggs, oatmeal, white rice, cream of tomato soup, buttered toast, hot tea or hot chocolate, grilled cheese sandwiches, soda crackers, and ice cream. My neighbor, who owned several beehives, always suggested toast with lots of honey, and I loved that! If I had a cold, Mom grabbed a jar of Vicks Vapo-Rub, which was rubbed on my chest and stuck up my nose...and then she placed some on my tongue and told me to let it melt down my throat! When I was older, my folks purchased a small vaporizer and made my siblings and me inhale the medicated steam.

I sat on the sofa, covered up with Grandma Dale's quilt, placed a pillow behind my back, and used a little food tray for eating. To occupy my time, I read books from the library, drew cartoons, worked on my scrapbook, sorted through my baseball card collection, put puzzles together, made balsa wood airplanes, and played a fun game called Bas-Ket, which had little metal flippers that shot a ping pong ball into the tiny baskets. In the evenings I watched TV westerns and family type shows, and there were many of those in the 1950s.

During my 4th grade year in 1958, I missed ten days of school with the chicken pox. I couldn't

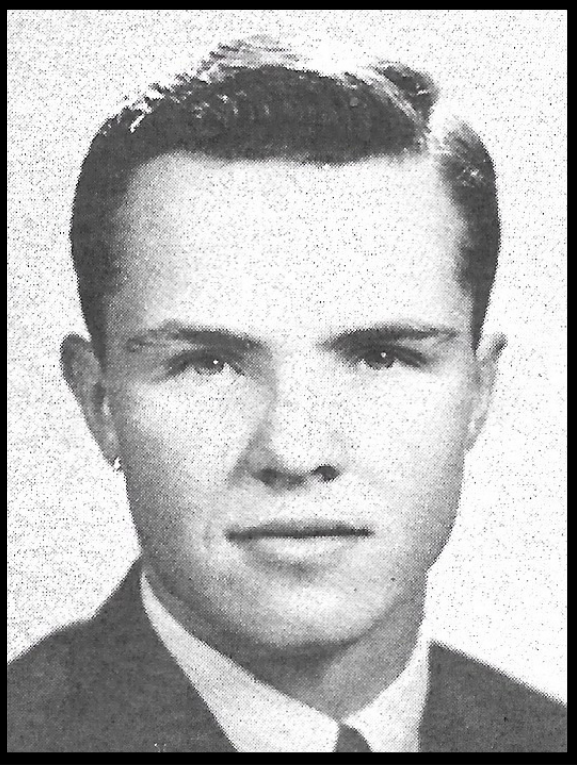
See BUTCH Page 4

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■ BUTCH'S FLASHBACK TRIVIA



Do You Recognize This 1961 New Ross H.S. Graduate?

HINT: He was a good athlete and Valedictorian and went on to become a doctor.

Answer on Page 4

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The serene final resting place of President Jimmy Carter and his wife – the front yard.



Photos courtesy Andy Chandler

Downtown Plains shopping mall.

Series Starts With Trip to Plains, Ga. and Carter's Final Resting Place



ANDY CHANDLER
Columnist

"The People choose their president from among themselves and to the people that person will return." Calvin Coolidge.

It seems unusual to start a column on U.S. History with one of its most recent events. I feel it appropriate since it was only a year ago that flags were at half-staff for a president who served before most of us were even born. He was born during the administration of Calvin Coolidge and lived long enough to see the administration of President Obama, the youngest of the living U.S. Presidents, current or former.

Ours is still a young country.

One day I left work, and drove 12 hours from Dana, Ind. to Plains, Ga. At one point I slept in my car in a hospital parking lot for a couple hours.

The next day at 9 a.m.,

very tired, and hungry, I arrived in Plains. If anyone has wondered if American democracy can work, they should come to Plains. It's a town with just over 500 people. It has one shopping strip and a Dollar General.

On the outskirts of town near Marantha Baptist Church, where Carter taught Sunday School, stands a peculiar roadside attraction: a 13th foot tall Carter Peanut. A campaign prop, gifted to him from the people of Evansville, where he made a stop during his 1976 campaign.

Plains is the essence of southern hospitality, a town where one doffs their hat at a passerby and says, "yes ma'am," or "no sir," when addressing their elders. A quaint shopping mall with the large banner with "Jimmy Carter" in the center leaves nothing to the imagination regarding who their favorite son is.



Philip Kurkland. Owner of Plains Trading Post and friend to the late President Carter.

I stopped into the Plains Trading Post and met and spoke with the owner, Philip Kurkland. Phil and President "Jimmy" Carter were friends, and when asked what he was like Phil said, "he would want you to have all your information before you voiced your opinion."

"So, he was like an engineer, a nuclear engineer on a submarine."

"Yes, very much so. And if you didn't, he'd get upset with you."

A brief march down a couple of stores revealed a favorite of the Carters' – homemade peanut ice cream.

It was about that time I knew the gravesite would be opening. I drove over there, through the gates that once were a secret service checkpoint, parked my car and walked up to Rosalyn's garden.

The Carters are a first to be buried in the front yard of their property. Recently, presidents, excluding Kennedy, have chosen to be buried at their libraries. However, Jimmy and Rosalyn chose to be buried in their front yard. While one can think that this vast and lavish front yard is not in line with their frugal and humble nature, one has to remember that with lifetime Secret Service protection, their movements were more limited. Even the bike rides into town were scripted events

President Carter took inspiration from his predecessor and decided to be buried with the same style of marker as Richard and Pat Nixon. The Carters rest side by side overlooking a beautiful pond. On that hill there used to be a tree that they use for shade during their walks, and here



The famous roadside Carter Peanut. A gift from the citizens of Evansville during a 1976 election rally.



Don't forget to stop and enjoy a scoop of peanut butter ice cream from Plains Peanuts and General Store

they'll spend eternity.

As I drove out of town, past his childhood home in the next town of Archery, Ga. and the graves of his parents in a nearby cemetery, President Coolidge's words came to mind: they really are from us.

Andy Chandler is a presidential historian and a museum archivist at Candles Holocaust Museum in Terre Haute and the Ernie Pyle WWII Museum in Dana Ind.

WHO: State Sen. Spencer Deery (R-West Lafayette)

WHAT: Deery will testify in favor of Senate Bill 7, a bill that would ensure local county commissioners get to sign off on any carbon sequestration projects that bring in carbon from outside the county.

WHEN: Monday, Jan. 26, at 10 a.m.

WHERE: Room 431 of the Indiana Statehouse, 200 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204

Deery Testifying on Carbon Bill

State Sen. Spencer Deery (R-West Lafayette) will testify in favor of Senate Bill 7, a bill he's authored, during a hearing of the Senate Committee on Environmental Affairs today. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. SB 7 would ensure local county commissioners get to sign off on any carbon sequestration projects that bring in carbon from outside the county.

The committee hearing can be livestreamed online

at iga.IN.gov.

"Hoosiers have strong feelings about carbon sequestration, but current law often gives more say to out-of-state landowners than the people of Vermillion County or any other county," Deery said. "Sen. Niemeier and I have been working for years to give county commissioners a voice into whether a company should be allowed to store carbon under their county, and this hearing will be the first time the

bill has received a hearing. I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues on Senate Bill 7 and testifying in support of the legislation on Monday."

Deery represents Senate District 23, which includes Fountain, Parke, Vermillion and Warren counties and portions of Montgomery and Tippecanoe counties.



Photo courtesy Andy Chandler

Spencer Deery is in support of Senate Bill 7.



2026 SUBARU FORESTER GOES MORE CONFIDENTLY INTO THE WILDERNESS WITH SURPRISING COMFORT AND UTILITY

Over city potholes, winter snow or rough trails, this compact crossover craves adventure



CASEY WILLIAMS
Columnist

Subaru knows its customers are not content to sit in suburbia, casually drinking mocha lattes. Even while slogging through daily traffic, they yearn to take their baby peeps and puppies to parks and trails for hiking, biking, and camping. It's for these people Subaru created more confident Wilderness models, whether talking about the Outback, Crosstrek, or recently redesigned Forester.

It's actually the second generation of the Forster Wilderness. I drove the first one near Bend, Oregon on trails so rough the vehicle was often balancing on three wheels and beat me so thoroughly as to need two bourbons after. But it took every rock, log and rut in stride.

It definitely looks ready with its black grille, hexagon foglamps and 17-inch black alloy wheels shod in all-road tires. Additional black plastic protects wheelwells and lower sills. Ride height was increased about a half-inch to 9.3-inches to clear trail obstacles and deep snow. All of those copper accents conceal attachment points for tow hooks and roof rack accessories. Skid plates protect delicate under-bits.

Subaru added other appreciated features. That roof rack will hold 800 lbs. of static weigh, perfect for roof-top tent camping. There's a LED light in the hatch for loading gear after dark. The Forester Wilderness gets a full-size spare tire so there's never a doubt about getting home. Flip two latches in the cargo area to fold down rear seats for easy loading of bicycles, strollers, or IKEA haul.

Fun continues inside with copper stitching, steering wheel accent and star pattern on the dash. All flash, but I really like the comfy seats upholstered in StarTex vegan

leather that can be washed and scrubbed of dirt and baby muck. Front seats are also heated with power lumbar on the driver's side. Comfy, but heated rear seats would also be nice.

Subaru's tablet touchscreen was quick and crisp with intuitive access for navigation, audio and dual-zone automatic climate control. There are redundant knobs for volume/tuning and buttons for temperature and defrosters. Wireless phone connections and console charging add convenience. Base stereos are terrible, but the Harman Kardon system in our vehicle sounded great. I'm also a big fan of the panoramic sunroof with manually-sliding cover. Simple works best.

I've spent thousands of miles in the Outback Wilderness and love its turbo engine when hauling through hills and mountains, but the Forester packs much weaker non-turbo 2.5-liter "boxer" four-cylinder engine that produces 180 horsepower and 178 lb.-ft. of torque. That's enough for a crossover this size, but the continuously variable transmission is more revvy without the turbo's torque. A plus, fuel economy rated 24/28-MPG city highway –good considering the Forester's capability.

Subaru did not engi-

near Wilderness models to bang skid plates on boulders, but it goes almost anywhere. Beyond added ground clearance, engineers specified an upgraded transmission cooler, active torque vectoring and shorter final drive ratio. It's noticeably quieter and more refined than the previous generation. Subaru's Dual-Mode X-Mode system employs hill descent control but also a Mud/Deep Snow mode for trails and snowy streets. Even on challenging park roads, power shifts seamlessly to keep the vehicle moving.

I've driven all of the Subaru Wilderness models on trails that would scare most drivers, through dense urban traffic, and for days on wide-open Interstate. The same fat tires and increased suspension travel that eat nature's rough eat potholes and highway expansion joints. Drive with confidence.

Prices are rising, but Foresters are relatively affordable. Base models start at \$29,995 while Wilderness editions rise from \$38,385 to our vehicle's loftier \$42,035. That compares favorably to the Ford Bronco Sport, Jeep Compass, and Kia Sportage X-Pro Prestige.

Storm Forward!

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| LIKES | DISLIKES |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOUGH STYLING • VERSATILE INTERIOR • ALL-ROAD COMPETENCE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHEATED REAR SEATS • REVVY CVT • LOFTIER PRICE |

2026 Subaru Forester Wilderness
Five-passenger, AWD Crossover
Powertrain: 2.5-liter H4, CVT
Output: 180hp/178 lb.-ft. torque
Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind
Wheels f/r: 17"/17" alloy
Brakes f/r: disc/disc
Towing: 3,500 lbs.
Fuel economy: 24/28 mpg city/hwy
Assembly: Lafayette, IN
Base/As-tested price: \$29,995/42,035
Assembly: Spring Hill, TN
Base/As-tested price: \$78,595/87,210

BUTCH DALE'S BACK IN THE DAY

Hot Cars From Back In The Day



Do you recognize this classic car from 1970?

Answer on Page A4

Capris Are Totally Out of Date



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

I was weeding through my closet, as I need to do much more often than I do. I bring my used clothing to my parent's house, up north, because they have a very nice thrift store that employs the developmentally disabled people. It appears my old clothes find new owners quickly, so I don't feel as bad about dumping my ill-considered clothing choices.

I brought the latest batch up north right before leaving for Mexico when I realized I owned about six more pairs of capris than I would ever wear. I had them in sizes that didn't fit and colors that didn't match, so I piled them all into a duffel, along with a blue sweater that I thought my sister might like. I thought I'd wear the sweater while writing, but it has big, bell-shaped sleeves, and I discovered trying to type with giant sleeves was not practical.

So my mother kept the duffel until the next time my sister and my niece, Isabelle, came up to visit. This was Isabelle's last visit before she went to Argentina for the year. My mother dutifully had my sister try on the blue sweater with

the large sleeves, and my sister said that, while it was a nice sweater, it made her look exactly like Paddington Bear, so she passed on the sweater. My mother kept one pair of capris.

"Don't you want to try on some of these capris?" my sister asked Isabelle.

Isabelle just graduated from college. She is, and has always been, a very fashionable person, and I could have told you that she was not going to be excited about her aunt's hand-me-down capris, but I was still surprised when my sister reported to me what she said.

"I have never worn capris," Isabelle announced, "and I'm not about to start now!"

I had absolutely no idea that capris were old women's clothes until this was pointed out to me.

I went to New York just a week or so later, and I scanned the crowds. Coming from the Midwest, I am at a disadvantage when it comes to knowing what is or is not in fashion, but I knew New Yorkers would be a reliable source

of information. I was there for three days, and I walked from Midtown to Soho, surveying the legwear of the women I saw, and I am here to report that Isabelle was right. No capris!

This is the thing about getting old. You don't realize you are doing it until it's too late.

I am now in San Miguel de Allende. No one comes to SMA, as folks call it, for spring break. It takes too long to get to, and it is too far from an ocean. This means that the people who are here have plenty of time to come and go and are not particularly interested in beaches. In other words, they are old.

One of the nicest things about SMA for me is that here, I am pretty young for an old person. Most of the old people are older than I am, which makes me feel youngish. Yesterday I was walking around town a little earlier than usual, and there were lots of women on the streets. It was a beautiful sunny day, and I noticed—I could not help but notice—that every single woman in my line of sight was wearing capris. Every single one.

Of course, Isabelle is right. Capris are totally out of date. The good thing is, here in San Miguel, so are we.

Till next time,

Carrie

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Dick Writes About the Height of Insult



DICK WOLFSIE
Columnist

Wolfsie. Please grab one of the blue gowns off that hook on the door...if you can reach it."

That night when I got home, I asked my wife how tall she thought I was. "Well, let's see, when I'm in heels, I'm taller than you, and I'm 5' 7", so I guess I'd say you are 5' 8". And you're just about as adorable as can be."

"But when we got married, I told you I was 5' 10". You should have said something,"

"I figured you just rounded it up from 5' 7." You did the same thing with your math SATs. By the way, I also didn't believe that 170 number you threw at me—not by a long shot."

"You think I lied about my weight?"

"Oh, I thought that was the IQ you were bragging about. I figure you rounded up again. This time from 100"

The bottom line is I have to admit that either I'm a pathological liar who needs some expensive counseling, or I am—and this is tough to admit—shrinking. It depends on which one is covered by Medicare.

Dick Wolfsie is a retired TV personality, author, speaker, teacher and all-around good guy. His award-winning column appears here weekly.

It's called a Posture Corrector. That used to be my grandmother's nickname. "Sit up in your chair" was her favorite expression. "Don't slouch" was a close second.

This device guarantees that from the moment you strap it on, you will be two inches taller. If you are a guy, this contraption and a pair of high heels will be a hit at your 50th reunion.

Most people stop growing in their late teens or early 20s. I remember reading many years ago that at Barack Obama's physical, he had apparently grown by over an inch since taking office. His doctor said there was no explanation for this. The Democrats said it was Obamacare.

Of course, seniors do not usually get taller. Just the opposite. One of my favorite New Yorker cartoons is an elderly woman tracking her husband's height with pencil marks on the inside of a closet door, just like our parents did when we were kids. Sadly, the lines on the door suggest the man had slowly been getting shorter.

Recently, I had my annual physical. While I was there, I was also weighed and measured for my height. My father was six feet tall, and my mother was barely five feet, so I always assumed I was right in the middle at 5' 10". (You can see now why I didn't do well in math.) For almost 60 years, I listed myself as 5' 10" on my driver's license, passport, and all medical questionnaires. It not only made me feel taller, but also made me seem trim on the weight chart. If I gained a few pounds, I just told myself I grew. I found this easier than cutting back on pie.

The nurse reviewed the stats:

"Blood pressure: 123 over 80; height: 5'8"; weight: 170."

"Whoa! How tall did you say I was?"

"That would be 5 feet, 8 inches—in your socks, which adds a little, of course."

"Look, first of all, I'm 5' 10". Okay, maybe 5' 9 1/2."

"Whatever you say, Mr.

BUTCH

Continued from Page 1

wait to get back and see my friends and my favorite teacher of all time, Mrs. Audrey Cox. Many of the kids today are not that eager to return to school after an illness. And I would bet that when they are at home, the majority of them are either playing a video game or are on their cell phones! I don't

think today's children are as creative as we baby boomers were.

I honestly don't know if all of the "sick day" foods and drinks ended my cold or sickness any sooner, but it was certainly nice to have Mom treat me special and be pampered for a few days.

How about you?

John "Butch" Dale is a retired teacher and County Sheriff. He has also been the librarian at Darlington the past 37 years, and is a well-known artist and author of local history.

Baird Authors Bill to Protect Indiana Tracks

State Rep. Beau Baird (R-Greencastle) recently authored legislation to add protections for Indiana racetracks when it comes to nuisance actions or noise complaints.

Baird said House Bill 1415 would protect existing racetracks from complaints and legal action brought by those who move to the area after the track was already established.

"Indiana has a long and proud racing heritage and this legislation helps ensure the tracks that helped build that legacy can continue operating without being penalized for doing exactly what they're designed to do," Baird said. "I'm proud of Indiana's storied racing traditions, from the Indy 500 to the Brickyard, it's a part of who we are. I look forward to this legislation moving forward."

According to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, IMS contributes \$1 billion to the Indiana economy annually. As "The Racing Capital of the World," the racing industry in Indiana is not only a staple of Hoosier culture and identity, but also a major hub for economic development and innovation that supports central Indiana and the whole state.

Additionally, Indiana is home to many small and local tracks as well. From the Anderson Speedway,



State Rep. Beau Baird

Brown County Dragway and Whiteland Raceway Park, to the Putnam Park Road Course Track, Salem Speedway and Lincoln Park Speedway, these integral parts of communities deserve protection as well. Nuisance complaints and legal actions take time and money away from day-to-day operations.

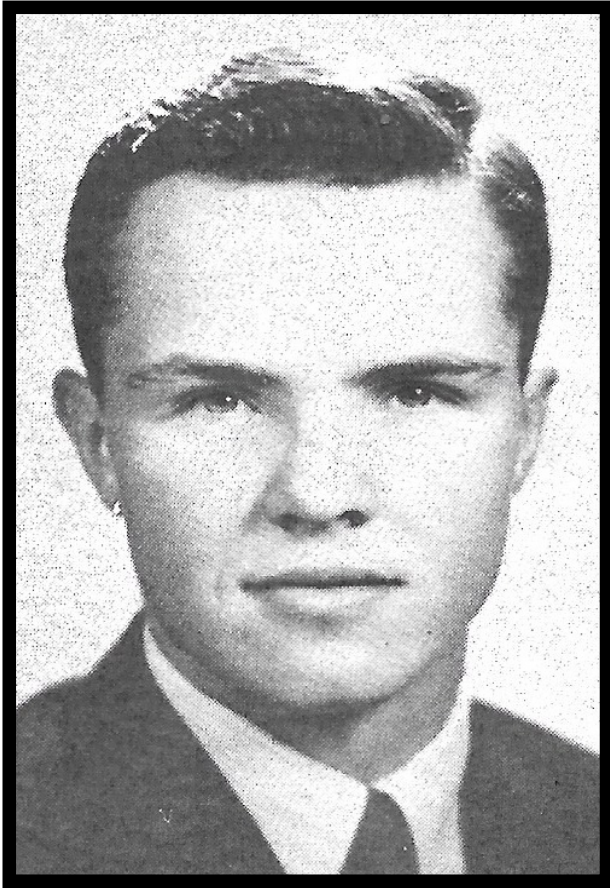
House Bill 1415 was referred to the House Local Government Committee.

If passed, it would move to the full House of Representatives for consideration.

To learn more about this bill and others this session, visit iga.in.gov.

Baird represents House District 44, which includes all of Putnam County and a portion of Montgomery County.

BUTCH'S FLASHBACK TRIVIA



ANSWER: Bill Evans

BUTCH DALE'S BACK IN THE DAY

ANSWER:
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Dick Writes About the Height of Insult



DICK WOLFSIE
Columnist

It's called a Posture Corrector. That used to be my grandmother's nickname. "Sit up in your chair" was her favorite expression. "Don't slouch" was a close second.

This device guarantees that from the moment you strap it on, you will be two inches taller. If you are a guy, this contraption and a pair of high heels will be a hit at your 50th reunion.

Most people stop growing in their late teens or early 20s. I remember reading many years ago that at Barack Obama's physical, he had apparently grown by over an inch since taking office. His doctor said there was no explanation for this. The Democrats said it was Obamacare.

Of course, seniors do not usually get taller. Just the opposite. One of my favorite New Yorker cartoons is an elderly woman tracking her husband's height with pencil marks on the inside of a closet door, just like our parents did when we were kids. Sadly, the lines on the door suggest the man had slowly been getting shorter.

Recently, I had my annual physical. While I was there, I was also weighed and measured for my height. My father was six feet tall, and my mother was barely five feet, so I always assumed I was right in the middle at 5' 10". (You can see now why I didn't do well in math.) For almost 60 years, I listed myself as 5' 10" on my driver's license, passport, and all medical questionnaires. It not only made me feel taller, but also made me seem trim on the weight chart. If I gained a few pounds, I just told myself I grew. I found this easier than cutting back on pie.

The nurse reviewed the stats:

"Blood pressure: 123 over 80; height: 5'8"; weight: 170."

"Whoa! How tall did you say I was?"

"That would be 5 feet, 8 inches—in your socks, which adds a little, of course."

"Look, first of all, I'm 5' 10". Okay, maybe 5' 9 1/2."

"Whatever you say, Mr.

Wolfsie. Please grab one of the blue gowns off that hook on the door...if you can reach it."

That night when I got home, I asked my wife how tall she thought I was. "Well, let's see, when I'm in heels, I'm taller than you, and I'm 5' 7", so I guess I'd say you are 5' 8". And you're just about as adorable as can be."

"But when we got married, I told you I was 5' 10". You should have said something,"

"I figured you just rounded it up from 5' 7." You did the same thing with your math SATs. By the way, I also didn't believe that 170 number you threw at me—not by a long shot."

"You think I lied about my weight?"

"Oh, I thought that was the IQ you were bragging about. I figure you rounded up again. This time from 100"

The bottom line is I have to admit that either I'm a pathological liar who needs some expensive counseling, or I am—and this is tough to admit—shrinking. It depends on which one is covered by Medicare.

Dick Wolfsie is a retired TV personality, author, speaker, teacher and all-around good guy. His award-winning column appears here weekly.

Commons' Bill Protecting Work-Based Learning Getting Vote

The House Insurance Committee passed State Rep. Matt Commons' (R-Williamsport) legislation clarifying responsibilities in work-based learning opportunities and extending protections for participating students.

"Work-based learning is one of the best ways for students to kickstart their careers and gain new skills," Commons said. "This legislation ensures intermediaries and employers have clearly defined agreements in offering these opportunities, and students have similar protections as full time employees."

In 2023, the Indiana General Assembly passed new Indiana high school

diploma requirements, providing students with the opportunity to complete work-based learning hours as an option for graduation. House Bill 1098 would continue the goal of experiential learning by requiring formal agreements for participating entities to define their duties when offering work-based learning and ensuring students are entitled to workers' compensation. Commons' bill would also prohibit insurers from using a student's age for rating decisions and require they be based on objective criteria that's uniformly applied.

House Bill 1098 now moves to the House floor for consideration. To learn more and follow session, visit iga.in.gov.



Matt Commons

Commons represents House District 13, which includes all of Benton and Warren counties, and portions of Fountain, Jasper, Montgomery, Newton, Tippecanoe and White counties.



Photos courtesy Andy Chandler

From left, City of Crawfordsville's Sarah Sommer and Fusion 54 Director Kelly Price.

Elected Officials United in Opposing HB 1022

Indiana Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith, Secretary of State Diego Morales, State Comptroller Elise Nieshalla, State Treasurer Daniel Elliot and Attorney General Todd Rokita did something not often seen in today's political climate. They banded together in opposition to some of their own party members.

The issue is proposed legislation that would change the convention process – and virtually eliminate the practices used currently. It would take power away from state delegates to the convention.

This is the joint statement Beckwith, Rokita, Nieshalla, Morales and Elliot made:

"As Indiana's statewide elected officials, we stand united in our strong support for the convention process and in opposition to House Bill 1022. This bill would fundamentally alter how the Lieutenant Governor is nominated by

eliminating the longstanding role of party delegates - even as Indiana's political tradition is rooted in grassroots participation.

For generations, convention delegates have played a meaningful role in shaping strong, representative state leadership by contributing their different perspectives, grounded in their party's platform, from communities across Indiana. This process helps ensure that nominees reflect the will of roughly 1800 elected Hoosiers, rather than a top-down approach that diminishes broader accountability.

Delegates to the State Convention have our deepest respect for their decisions, even as we represent amongst ourselves those who have both won and lost through that nomination process. Delegates invest great effort in running for this office, along with time, personal funds and candidate research to be able to serve their party

in this critical role.

By abolishing the convention vote for Lieutenant Governor, HB 1022 would disenfranchise the very individuals who build and sustain our political parties, diminishing participation and weakening the foundation of party organization in our state.

This legislation also sets a concerning precedent. Once the role of delegates is reduced in one context, it becomes easier to justify similar changes for others and potentially opening the door to the removal of additional statewide elected offices from the honored convention process.

We call on the General Assembly to reject House Bill 1022, or any similar language, and to preserve the integrity of Indiana's established nomination system. Indiana's strength lies in an engaged citizenry and a robust, participatory political process."



From left, Wabash Senior Eugene Enchill, Chamber Executive Director Stacy Sommer and Wabash College Community Partnership Coordinator Leanne Parrish.

Stop and Serve Drop-In Volunteer Day

Visitors to Fusion 54 and Everwise Bank would find a certain change in the look of the first floor lobby. Coming off the heads of last September's Day of Volunteering, last week's event is the result of collaboration between the City of Crawfordsville, Wabash College, Crawfordsville - Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce and the Montgomery County Leadership Academy.

Today's activities were binding together strips of clothing from T-shirts from prior events to be made into chew toys for the Animal Welfare League of Montgomery

Co. as well as another table for making Valentine's Day cards for residents in senior living homes in the community.

The Leadership Academy and aforementioned partners took the lead from a similar program that came out of ISU. Speaking with Sarah Sommer, Director of Communication for the City of Crawfordsville, she sees the goal of setting up projects like this to make it quick and easy and hopefully isn't seen as daunting as a day of volunteering.

Community members and Wabash students alike can come in, do

an activity for as long as they'd like and leave knowing what they did was invested in the community.

The goal for the future, according to Wabash College Community Partnership Coordinator Leanne Parrish, is to host the program quarterly with different organizations or businesses in the community.

Businesses interested in partnering or hosting a similar event at their location are encourage to contact the City, Chamber or the college.



'Moments Become Memories' Exhibit on Display at Wabash



Olaniyi R. Akindiya Akirash

Wabash College Artist-in-Residence Olaniyi R. Akindiya Akirash's work will be on display in the Eric Dean Gallery of the Fine Arts Center from now through April 10. As the Restoring Hope, Restoring Trust Artist-in-Residence for 2026, Akirash will be in residence at Wabash College until May 2 to engage the Montgomery County community through his creative work.

ASIKO DI IRANTI—"moments become memories"—explores how individual and collective identities are shaped through lived experience. Identity is structured by the moments we encounter, those we endure, those we survive, and those we celebrate. These moments accumulate, becoming memories that define who we are.

Akirash is an internationally recognized artist whose work spans

public art, sculpture, installation, and community-based projects. Through his art practice, he explores the dynamics of rural and urban life, as well as themes of community, identity, history, justice and healing. He was born in Lagos, Nigeria, and he now lives and work in Pflugerville, Texas, with his wife and children.

School groups and community organizations are able to schedule visits with Akirash by reaching out to Professor Annie Strader at stradera@wabash.edu. There are limited spots so please reach out soon to ensure your group can visit. Akirash will also be holding two public workshops at the Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County during his residency. Follow <https://www.instagram.com/wabashartgallery/> for updates.

The Eric Dean Gallery is in the Fine Arts Center at 504 S Grant St. The Gallery is open to the public, M-F 9-5, and Saturday 2-6pm, and is closed on Wabash College breaks. All events are free and open to the public.

This exhibit, titled

► FOR THE RECORD

For The Record is a public service and regular feature in The Paper of Montgomery County. It is designed to tell you what is scheduled to happen and what actually does happen in meetings paid for with your tax dollars. The Paper encourages all citizens to take an active role in being involved in local government.

NORTH MONTGOMERY SCHOOL BOARD

Jan. 26
 Work Session / Reorganization Meeting 5 p.m.
 Regular Board Meeting 6 p.m.
 480 W 580 N, Crawfordsville
 Work Session
 Year-end budget review
 Reorganization
 Approve Board President, Vice President and Secretary
 Approve Legislative Liaison
 Approve Corporation Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer
 Approve Corporation Attorney
 Approve Board Meetings, Advertisements, Committees and Board Compensation
 Adjournment
 Annual Board of Finance Meeting
 Nominate and Approve President and Secretary of the Board of Finance
 Review Interest Earned Report
 Review the Distressed Unit Appeals
 Board Fiscal Indicators
 Adjournment
 Call to Order
 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance
 Public comment
 Consent agenda
 Minutes
 Monthly claims
 Personnel, extra-curricular, field trips, facilities usage, contributions, gifts, superintendent stipends
 Other
 Consent vote
 Artwork Recognition
 Action items

Approve 2026-27 High School Course Guide
 Approve ELA Rates for 2026-27
 Approve KLIC (K12's Leading Indiana Coop) for SY 2026-27
 Other
 Adjournment

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026
 8 AM
 1580 Constitution Row -Room E109
 Crawfordsville, IN 47933

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UeviivmieYY>

AGENDA
 CALL TO ORDER Board President Dan Guard
 PLEDGE ALLIGENCE and PRAYER
 CONSENT AGENDA
 Approval of Claims: AP & Payroll Minutes: January 12, 2026
 ANNOUNCE 2025 MONTGOMERY COUNTY EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
 NEW BUSINESS
 Appointment to Darlington Library Board -Linda Swyers
 Approve Addendum to Agreements Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Services & Agreement for Construction Services for H&M Plumbing
 ORDINANCE
 Introduction Ordinance 2026-2 Amending Internal Controls Policy
 Introduction Ordinance 2026-3 Re-Establishment of Cumulative Bridge Rate
 Introduction Ordinance 2026-4 Creating the HMEP 2026 Hazmat Grant Fund
 RESOLUTION
 Resolution 2026-4 Resolution of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners Regarding Amendment of Allocation Areas
 OTHER BUSINESS
 ADJOURNMENT

Museum Invites Artists to Share Works of Freedom

The Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County will host a regional art exhibit celebrating America 250, titled *America @ 250: Expressions of Freedom*. This exhibit will invite artists of all ages and levels of experience to submit works that reflect what freedom means to them. It invites artists, students, families, and visitors to participate in a meaningful civic celebration highlighting perspectives, histories, and creative expressions unique to our region.

MUSEUM: The Carnegie Museum is a department of the Crawfordsville District Public Library. The museum uses history, art, science, and culture to inspire curiosity, exploration, and community connection. The museum is a family friendly community hub.

ELIGIBILITY: This juried exhibition is open to artists of all ages in Indiana and the Midwest. All mediums except video will be considered. Work must be original and completed within the last three years. Artists must accurately represent all work with JPEG images. Submissions not meeting these criteria will not be exhibited.

JUROR: Akirash is a Lagos-born Austin-based interdisciplinary artist whose work spans sculpture, installation, mixed media, video, and performance. Originally trained in biochemistry before

studying fine and applied arts in Lagos, he brings a cross-disciplinary lens to themes of migration, identity, social justice, urbanization, and collective healing. His projects often invite public participation and aim to spark dialogue, comfort, and reflection. Akirash has exhibited and held residencies internationally, and received major awards including support from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation.

PRESENTATION: Professional presentation of each piece is required. 2D artwork must be ready to hang.

Sculptures should be fully assembled and structurally sound and must include detailed installation instructions, if necessary.

ENTRY: All entries or related questions should be emailed to Janna Bennett at jbennett@carnegiemuseum.in.gov with the subject line "Freedom." Please fill out and include the attached entry form along with JPEG images of your artwork. Do not submit more than five (5) pieces for consideration. The museum reserves the right to reproduce images of qualifying work for the purposes of promoting and documenting the exhibition.

DELIVERY & PICKUP: Delivery and pickup of artwork is the responsibility of the artist on the dates listed below. If other

arrangements need to be made, please contact Janna Bennett at jbennett@carnegiemuseum.in.gov. Delivery and pickup are at the museum - 222 S. Washington Street, Crawfordsville, IN 47933. To ship work, artists must include a pre-paid return shipping label. The museum does not cover the cost of shipping artwork for exhibitions. Ship work in reusable packaging to:

Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County

ATTN: Janna Bennett
 205 S. Washington Street,
 Crawfordsville, IN 47933

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Entry deadline: March 7, 2026 (at midnight)

- Notifications to artist on or before: March 14, 2026

- Artwork delivery: March 30-31, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Exhibition dates: April 4 – July 18, 2026

- Exhibition reception: April 4, 2026 2-4 p.m.

- Artwork pickup: July 21-22, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(All shipped work will be mailed back no later than July 25.)

EXHIBIT INFO:

HOURS: Wednesday - Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

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