

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Matthew 11:28 – 30

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

■ AWL MAX



Max is ready to BUST OUT of the shelter and into your home! Max is a 1 year old male American Blue Heeler available for adoption from The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 12/29/25. Max loves going out for walks and will gladly sit for treats. Max is looking for his best friend. Could that be you? Max 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!

■ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

The annual Crawfordsville Strawberry Festival will be celebrating its 52nd year and is preparing to return to the Lane Place in downtown Crawfordsville. Organizers are calling on local businesses to contribute, thus ensuring this long-running tradition will continue for generations to come. Scheduled for June 12-14, this weekend-long festival will feature free entertainment, a variety of food vendors, artisanal crafts, a children's area and much more. It is the largest festival to be held in Montgomery County each year. With the annual average cost of the festival a little over \$100,000, organizers are looking for sponsors. Already committed are: CEL&P, Lakeside Book Company, Airy Time, Byron Cox Post American Legion, Benchmark Family Services Therapeutic Foster Care, The Tee Shirt Shoppe and Oremus Accounting. Others interested in sponsoring this year's festival can contact Ethan Grant at ethan.strawberryfestival@gmail.com. To learn more about the festival, visit <https://crawfordsvillestrawberryfest.com/> and to stay up to date on social media, please follow "Crawfordsville Strawberry Festival" on Facebook and "cvillestrawberryfest" on Instagram.



By the time we meet again next week that little varmint in Punxsutawney, Penn. will either have seen his shadow or he won't. If there's a sillier holiday in this country, I've not seen it.

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What if there is no tomorrow? There wasn't one today."
Line from Groundhog Day

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

What does the groundhog see in France?
Its chateau.

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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BOOMER BITS...Tips and Advice from Boomers to Boomers

What About Benefits from an Ex-spouse?



ASK RUSTY
Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am almost 57, divorced after a 14-year marriage. My former spouse is 15 years older than I and made significantly more money than me. I am required to retire from my job at age 60 but expect to keep working in some capacity.

I have a girlfriend of a similar age to me. She did not earn as much as her former husband as she mainly raised their children. She is also divorced from an older spouse who made more money than she did. I am trying

to figure out if we will be penalized if we marry, or if it matters if we wait until after we reach 60 years of age. Can I claim my own benefits when I become eligible at 62, then claim survivor benefits later, whenever my former spouse passes? Is that affected if, or when, I remarry? I do not want to give up my potential survivor benefits from my ex-spouse. Are those affected if I remarry?

If I understand correctly, if I remarry even after 60, we would both forfeit

divorced spousal benefits, is that right? Given that my girlfriend's former spouse probably made more money than I, would she be forfeiting her former spousal benefits if we were to marry, even after age 60?

Lastly, I am considering retiring abroad as an expat. Any suggestions about how that would affect our Social Security benefits?

Signed: Starting Over

Dear Starting Over: With certain exceptions, benefits from a living ex-spouse cannot be collected if you remarry (regardless of your age when you remarry). So, from what you've shared, whenever you remarry both you and your new wife will forfeit eligibility for benefits from your respective ex-spouses while they are living (FYI, there are exceptions for **See Rusty Page 3**

Storms Spark Contractor Fraud Fears Nationwide

As winter storms and other inclement weather sweeps across large parts of the country, a second crisis is unfolding behind the scenes. Homeowners racing to repair roof damage, flooding, burst pipes, and structural issues are increasingly being targeted by contractor scams that leave families financially devastated and homes unfinished. Federal and industry data show this risk is accelerating.

Recent state-level investigations underscore the scale of the problem. In one widely reported case, more than 40 homeowners were defrauded out of nearly \$5 million by contractors who collected large upfront payments and abandoned projects mid-repair. Consumer watchdogs estimate that roughly 1 in 10 Americans will experience some form of contractor fraud, with average losses exceeding \$2,400 and far higher losses tied to storm related repairs. Nationally, earlier reports from the Federal Trade Commission underscore the scope of the problem, citing over 81,900 reports of home improvement fraud with consumer losses exceeding \$150 million nationwide. The average loss was nearly \$1,800 per incident, with many cases far higher following weather disasters.

Consumer protection agencies consistently warn that storms create ideal conditions for fraud because demand spikes, insurance timelines are tight, and homeowners feel pressure to act immediately. According to the Insurance Information Institute, winter storms and freezing events are among the most costly weather disasters in the United States, generating billions in insured losses annually. Frozen pipes, roof collapses from snow load, and water intrusion require urgent repairs, making homeowners especially vulnerable to bad actors posing as licensed contractors.

Experts stress that verification is essential, especially during storm recovery. Homeowners should confirm contractor licenses with state boards, request detailed written estimates, avoid paying in full upfront, and use traceable payment methods. Many states require special protections or escrow arrangements for larger repair projects, yet few consumers are aware of these safeguards. Jon Grishpul, Co CEO of GreatBuildz, is available to provide timely expert **See Fraud Page 3**

A Side Hustle - Without the Scam

Side hustles have become a popular way to make extra money, build a small business or transition into a freelance career. But not all part-time side gigs are what they seem.

Just like with traditional employment scams, con artists use fake opportunities to lure unsuspecting victims into a trap. Their objective? It may be identity theft, a fake check scam or a shipping scheme. Whatever their ploy, scammers hope to get their hands on your money, personal information, or both. Here's how to protect yourself.

How to avoid side hustle scams

Screen potential clients. If you are approached by an individual instead of a company to do freelance work, like photography or pet-sitting, get to know

them before you agree to do any work. Ask lots of questions, look up their social media accounts and press for a meeting via video chat. Most scammers will avoid meeting you and won't answer specific questions.

Keep your work on freelance job sites where it belongs. Upwork reports that one common scam on freelancer job sites involves circumvention. In this con, a supposed employer first approaches you on the website. Then, they ask you to do work and accept payment outside of the site. These scammers may try to convince you to accept payment through PayPal or another outside payment method, claiming they want to help you avoid any fees the freelancer website charges. Chances are, once you turn in your work, you won't

receive any payment, and your client will disappear for good.

Watch out for too-good-to-be-true job postings. Any job that offers extremely good pay rates for an easy job that requires no special skills is likely a scam. Car wrap scams are a good example of this tactic.

Research side gigs before applying. No matter how good a job seems, do your research before applying. Go directly to the company's website to verify the job posting. Does the company have a professional website and legitimate contact information? Also, do an online search for the job title and company name. If you find the exact same post popping up in multiple cities or people reporting the job is a scam, don't engage with the **See Scams Page 5**

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. Special Olympics Indiana's 2026 Polar Plunge season runs through the end of this month through early March. All over Indiana people with big hearts and questionable judgment will Be Bold and Get Cold for a great cause. Now in its 27th year, the Polar Plunge is a bucket-list fundraising event that challenges individuals and teams to brave icy waters in support of more than 20,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities across Indiana. Last year, more than 3,000 Plungers raised \$1 million to support Special Olympics Indiana programs. As Special Olympics Indiana's signature fundraising series, participants must raise a minimum of \$125 to plunge. Those who meet the minimum earn a commemorative Polar Plunge T-shirt, while higher fundraising levels unlock additional incentive prizes. Visit PolarPlungeIN.org to learn more about the 2026 Polar Plunge events, register and donate to participants.

2. For those of us looking to lose some weight this year, our friends at Hormone health clinic, Feel30, don't have great news. According to an analysis of CDC data they did, Indiana has the seventh highest obesity rates in the U.S. According to the data, more than a third of Hoosiers (37.8) percent are obese. That ties us with Iowa. Hey, at least we're not first – that "honor" goes to West Virginia – take me home, country . . . fried steak?.

3. On the other hand, Indiana ranked 16th nationally for college graduation rates! At least that's what a study from SEO agency Hennessey Digital finds. The study looked at the graduation rates across all colleges in each state according to the latest available data from US National Center For Education Statistics and found Indiana at a shade above 64 percent – more than 3 points above the national average. In case you were wondering, Massachusetts was first at 75.4 percent (Alaska was last at 32.9 percent).

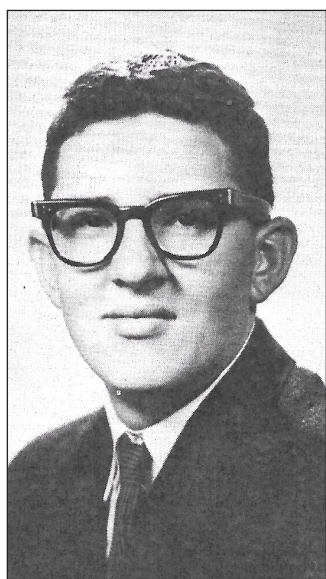
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OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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RECOGNIZE ME?

Flashback Trivia with Butch Dale



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

HINT:
He loved being on the FFA judging team and participating in 4-H.

Answer on Page 4

State Legislators to Appear at Chamber Breakfast

If you want to ask your state representative or state senator about something, the Crawfordsville / Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce State Legislative Breakfast gives you that chance.

The next one takes place in about three weeks, at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21 at Crawfordsville Middle School. It is sponsored by Valero Renewables.

Invited to participate will be state senators and state house members who represent Montgomery County. That group consists of State Senators Brian Buchanan (District 7) and Spencer Deery (District 23) along with State Representatives, Jeff Thompson (District 28), Matt Commons (District 13), Mark Genda (District 41) and Beau Baird (District 44).

The State Legis-

lative Breakfast will include breakfast catered by Smitty D's Hot Dog Stand.

The event is open to the public for a fee, regardless of age. The cost is \$10 for Crawfordsville / Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce members and \$15 for non-members.

Registration is required. Sign up on the Chamber calendar of events at Crawfordsvillechamber.com or call (765) 362-6800.

Crawfordsville Middle School is located at 705 Wallace Ave. The breakfast will take place in the large group instructional room.

For more information regarding the breakfast or the chamber, please contact Chamber Executive Director Stacy Sommer at ssommer@crawfordsvillechamber.com.

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OBITUARY

Ethel Oaks

d. January 22, 2026

Ethel Oaks age 95, a resident of Crawfordsville, Indiana, passed away Thursday, January 22, 2026. She was a graduate of Eubank High School in 1949. A lifelong member of the Baptist faith, Ethel's talents were many, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother.

She enjoyed camping when younger and still enjoyed a campfire well into her nineties. Ethel was born near Eubank, Kentucky as the youngest child of Caleb and Viola Hargis. She grew up in a large family of 11 children and rejoiced in stories of her youth on the farm. Her early life was a simple one around the old log cabin farmhouse. Most recently she recalled a story of planting the family garden with her father. She spoke of walking long distances to church on Sundays and the summer days

of Kentucky during her early years.

The planting and harvesting of tobacco and gathering of coal from a small local shallow mine near her home. It was a simple hard life, but one she cherished. After graduation she followed her older sisters to Crawfordsville, Indiana for work.

She worked at the local shirt factory as a seamstress and lived with Myrtle Hargis, her oldest sister.

She met Gaffer L. Oaks and married in May of 1955. A first child, Larence, was born two years later while living near Ladoga, Indiana. The following year they moved to a home in New Ross, Indiana and she was a homemaker. A second child, Cheryl, was born four years later.

The family moved in and around Montgomery County during the

children's early childhood. When the children were of school age, she rejoined the workforce as a nurse's aide and worked in that field the rest of her life. She enjoyed traveling and visiting with family in her later years, especially with her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was an avid University of Kentucky basketball fan and as the years went by also followed the Indiana Pacers. She relished visits with her sister Mae and her family in Kentucky. Her hobbies included puzzles, coloring and listening to audio books.

She is survived by her children, Larence (Susan) Oaks and Cheryl (Ed) Collins; grandchildren Ashley (James) Clary, Christopher (Melissa) Oaks, and Krystal (Derrick) Brown; great grandchildren, Christian and Emma Brown, So-



phie Clary, and Henry Oaks. She is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

The family would like to express our thanks for the wonderful help and care given by Tampa General Hospital.

Visitation will be held on Friday January 30, 2026 at Sanders Funeral Care, 315 S Washington Street in Crawfordsville, IN from 1pm until the time of the service at 2pm. Burial will follow at Stoner Cemetery in Ladoga. Share memories and condolences at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

Teen Ag Leader Conference Deadline Tomorrow

The deadline to sign up for Purdue EDGE in Ag Emerging Ag Leaders Conference on Feb. 18 at the Monroe Convention Center in Bloomington is Saturday. Designed for high school students (grades 8-12) and college attendees exploring careers in agriculture, this event offers a dynamic blend of professional networking, career exploration, and leadership development.

The one-day conference will run from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Participation is limited to individuals in grades 8-12 and college, with registration priced at \$35 per person, including lunch. Attendees are encouraged to register by Jan. 31, and to dress in FFA official dress or business professional attire.

"We're thrilled to create an environment where young

Registration Details:
What: Emerging Ag Leaders Conference

Who: Grades 8-12 & college students interested in agriculture careers

When: Feb. 18 | 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Where: Monroe Convention Center, Bloomington

Cost: \$35 (includes lunch)

Dress: FFA Official Dress or Business Professional

Register by: Jan. 31

For registration and more information, visit <https://ag.purdue.edu/department/extension/wia/emerging-ag-leaders.html>

agricultural enthusiasts can connect with industry professionals and discover

the wide array of career paths available," said Michele Jones, Purdue Extension Educator. "Our goal is to bridge the gap between student interest and real-world opportunity in agriculture."

Participants can expect engaging sessions led by accomplished professionals, opportunities to network with peers and mentors, and hands-on learning activities. Specific session details will be announced in the coming months.

The Emerging Ag Leaders Conference is an excellent lead-in to the Ag Engage Conference happening Feb. 19. Attendees are encouraged, but not required, to participate in both events.

Hoosier Farmers Can Reduce Insurance Costs

For many farm families in Indiana, the farm represents both legacy and livelihood. Protecting valuable assets through insurance is essential, but high input costs and low commodity prices are adding strain to already tight farm budgets.

As Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance's farm training specialist, I'm often in conversation with farmers about the state of the farm economy. In those situations, I do my best to help farmers understand how farm insurance rates work and give them strategies that can help reduce premiums.

Understand how farm insurance rates are determined

Each farm is different and so is each farm policy. That said, there are several key factors that may impact premium costs. A few of those factors include:

Claims history: This includes both the frequency and dollar amount of previous claims.

Property condition: This includes the dwelling (physical structure of the house), farm structures and properties.

Coverage type: Replacement cost versus actual cash value policy decisions affect rates.

Deductible amounts:

Higher deductibles typically lower premiums.

Realize you may be better off bundling

Some farmers spread their insurance needs across multiple carriers, and that may result in them paying more than necessary. Most insurance companies offer a variety of discounts for bundling policies. It's worth contacting your agent and finding out if consolidating your policies will help your bottom line.

Beyond bundling, make sure you explore discounts offered by your insurance company and take advantage of them. Discounts might be available for folks who opt for paperless billing or for those who pay their premium annually instead of monthly. Taking advantage of some of these discounts can impact the final premium cost. It's worth noting that Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance is the only insurance company that offers a discount for livestock producers who complete the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's Certified Livestock Producer Program.

Don't doubt the value of yearly reviews

A farm policy is not something you can set and forget. Things

change constantly, and you don't want to find yourself over-insured or under-insured.

Typical farm business actions like purchasing new equipment or additional acres and making structural improvements all impact insurance needs. Reviewing your policies each year with your agent will help you stay on top of all the changes you've made. These reviews might also help you identify new discount opportunities.

Manage risks, manage costs

One of the most effective ways to control insurance costs over time is to reduce the number of claims you're filing. With active risk management practices, you may have better luck avoiding claim-worthy moments.

Conduct regular building inspections to identify and address issues.

When maintaining equipment, ensure all safety components are working properly.

John Nagle

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance



Implement safety training for family members and employees.

Develop and document farm safety and disaster preparedness plans.

Unlike most other insurance products, age and experience are typically not factors considered for farm insurance. So, reducing the number of claims is a strategy every farm should embrace.

Take action
If you have time before you head back into the field this spring, use it to review your insurance coverage. Regular conversations with your agent can help you pinpoint opportunities to save as planting season approaches.

John Nagle is the farm training specialist at Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, an insurance company headquartered in Indianapolis with offices in all 92 counties. Nagle is an experienced professional with 12 years' experience working directly with farmers.

Franciscan Suicide Prevention Training at Wabash Feb. 11

Franciscan Health is hosting a QPR – Question, Persuade and Refer – suicide prevention training in Crawfordsville in February.

The training is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Wabash College in the Counseling / Wellness Center Kendall House Education Room.

QPR is an entry-level suicide prevention course that teaches how to identify suicidal ideation and how to persuade someone to seek help. QPR is a widely taught gatekeeper training course. Like CPR,

QPR is an emergency system that can help someone in a crisis save lives.

Those who become QPR-trained gatekeepers will gain the ability to recognize signs of suicidal thoughts, provide hope and support and guide someone to life-saving assistance.

To register, please email Betsy Coffing at Betsy.Coffing@Franciscanalliance.org or call (765) 423-6909.

The Wabash College Counseling / Wellness Center Kendall House Education Room is located at 503 Milligan St.

FRAUD

Continued from Page 1

commentary on:

Why winter storms trigger a predictable spike in contractor fraud

The most common bid traps homeowners overlook during urgent repairs

How incomplete estimates lead to massive cost overruns mid project

Practical steps families can take right now to protect themselves

How free bid comparison tools can expose missing scope before contracts are signs

Warning signs often following a predictable pattern:

Contractors offering unusually low bids or demanding cash only

Pressure to sign immediately due to weather urgency

Requests for large upfront payments before work begins

Incomplete or vague bids that omit critical

scope items

Refusal to verify license, insurance, or bond status

This is a timely consumer protection story with immediate relevance to families facing winter damage (or damage from rain, tornadoes, smoke/fire or other elements and weather conditions) and rising repair costs across the country.

Data Sources
 Federal Trade Commission Home Improvement Scams <https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/data-visualizations/data-spotlight/2024/home-improvement-scams>
 Insurance Information Institute Winter Storm Loss Data <https://www.iii.org/fact-statistic/facts-statistics-winter-storms>
 Better Business Bureau Contractor Scam Alerts <https://www.bbb.org/all/scamstudies/home-improvement>

Linden Railroad Museum Launches Fundraiser

The Linden Depot Museum, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit railroad museum located along U.S. 231, has launched a \$30,000 GoFundMe fundraiser to support Project 497, a cosmetic restoration of its historic Nickel Plate Road bay window caboose No. 497.

Donated by the Norfolk & Western Railway, caboose 497 has been displayed outdoors for several years and has suffered significant weather-related deterioration. Project 497 aims to restore the caboose's exterior appearance, returning it to a condition worthy of public display and long-term preservation.

With the scope of work and the museum's limited volunteer resources, funds raised will be used to hire professional restoration services. The project includes surface preparation

and repainting, with work expected to begin in the spring and conclude by the end of 2026.

Any funds raised beyond the project's needs will be applied toward future preservation efforts, including repairs to the historic depot building and stabilization of other outdoor exhibits.

The Linden Depot Museum thanks all supporters for helping preserve this important piece of railroad history for future generations.

For more information or to donate, please visit the Linden Depot Museum's GoFundMe page: <https://gofund.me/41580a477>, or contact museum president, Gary Vierk at (765) 427-3630. Donations may also be mailed directly to Linden Depot Museum, Project 497, P.O. Box 154, Linden, IN 47955.



Photo courtesy Indiana National Guard

Answering Snowy Call

During the recent winter storm, the Indiana National Guard was activated and worked all over the state to help keep Hoosiers safe. Spc. Natalie Campos was helping Indiana State Police translate Spanish during a crash off Interstate 74. Nearly 300 Indiana National Guard soldiers and airmen were activated to assist their fellow Hoosiers, working alongside the Indiana State Police, Indiana Department of Transportation and Indiana Department of Homeland Security to support public safety efforts throughout the event.

Extension Office Offers Program to Help Avoid Risk of Falls

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.

A key focus of "A Matter of Balance" is guided exercise designed specifically for older adults. Participants will take part in gentle, low-impact exercises that help improve strength, balance, flexibility, and coordination, all essential for reducing fall risk. Exercises are done at a comfortable pace and can be modified to meet individual ability levels, making the program accessible for beginners and

those who may not have exercised regularly.

In addition to physical activity, participants will learn how to view falls as preventable, set realistic goals for staying active, and make simple changes at home to reduce fall hazards. Together, these strategies help participants feel more confident moving through their daily routines.

This program is ideal for anyone who has fallen in the past, worries about falling, or has limited activities due to balance concerns, but still wants to remain active and



independent in a safe, supportive environment.

Pre-registration is required by Feb. 17. To register, visit <https://cvent.me/gBkG99>.

For more information, contact Purdue Extension Montgomery County at (765) 364-6363 or e-mail monicanagele@purdue.edu

RUSTY

Continued from Page 1

those who are disabled).

However, the rules are different for a surviving ex-spouse: if you remarry before age 60, you will forfeit your surviving ex-spouse benefit. But if you remarry after age 60, you retain eligibility to collect survivor benefits from a deceased former spouse. So, if you and your girlfriend remarry after you are both age 60, you will both still be able to claim survivor benefits based on your former spouses' records.

Yes, it is possible for you to initially claim your own SS retirement benefit at 62 and claim your surviving ex-spouse benefit later (after your former spouse dies). Provided you remarry after age 60 you do not lose that option, but if you were to claim a surviving ex-spouse benefit before reaching your full retirement age (FRA), the monthly payment amount would be reduced (all SS benefits taken before FRA are reduced).

Note too, that if you plan to continue working after you are first eligible for SS benefits, Social Security has an "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn from working

while collecting early benefits. The limit changes yearly (for 2025 it is \$23,400) and if exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. And, as you likely know, claiming at age 62 will also mean a benefit payment of about 30% less than available at your FRA of 67. So, if you plan to work after age 62 and plan to claim early SS, you should take the "earnings test" into consideration. FYI, the

earning test no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

Now, regarding retiring overseas, be aware that Social Security has limits on where you can collect U.S. Social Security benefits. I suggest you use Social Security's Payments Abroad Screening Tool to find out if benefits are payable wherever you plan to retire abroad. That SSA tool can be found here:

<https://www.ssa.gov/international/>

payments_outsideUS.html

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. Russell Gloor is the, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org.

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Continuing Honor Rolls to Rushmore . . . A Bundle of Memories



SPORTS, SPORTS, & MORE SPORTS

with Ken Thompson

Let's continue the exercise we began last week by looking at Purdue basketball's all-decade teams going back to the days of Piggy Lambert.

1970s

Joe Barry Carroll – The 7-1 center became a fan favorite right from the start with his shot blocking skills in a backup role behind Tom Schefler. On Dec. 10, 1977, Carroll recorded the only triple-double in Purdue history with 16 points, 16 rebounds and a school record 11 blocked shots in an 80-78 victory at Arizona.

By the time Lee Rose arrived as head coach for the 1978-79 season, Carroll was ready to break out. He averaged 22.8 points, led the Big Ten in scoring and grabbed a school record 352 rebounds while earning first-team All-Big Ten honors.

Carroll was nearly unstoppable his senior season, leading Purdue to the Final Four and earning first-team All-American and Big Ten honors in the process. He finished with 2,175 points – second at the time to Rick Mount – and left Purdue as the career record-holder for rebounds (1,148) and blocks (349).

Carroll was selected by the Golden State Warriors with the first overall pick of the 1980 NBA draft. He was inducted into the second class of the Purdue Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame in 1995.

Bruce Parkinson – Few played point guard at Purdue better than Bruce Parkinson, whose career spanned from an NIT championship in 1974 to an NCAA tournament berth in 1977.

The Boilermakers went 73-37 in the four years Parkinson started for Fred Schaus' Boilermakers, a tenure that was interrupted by a broken wrist in 1976. He left Purdue as the record holder for career assists (690) and assists per game (6.2).

Parkinson was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 2004 and the Leroy Keyes Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame in 2020.

Jerry Sichting – Martinsville's second-best export to Purdue, ranking behind the legendary John Wooden, Sichting left Purdue as its all-time leading free throw shooter at 86.7 percent (273 of 315), which helped the 6-1 guard score 1,161 career points.

Sichting was co-captain of the 1979 Boilermakers who shared the Big Ten Conference championship in Lee Rose's first season as head coach. Later, he was a member of

the 1986 NBA champion Boston Celtics.

Sichting was a 2002 inductee into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame and a member of the 2012 Purdue Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame class.

Walter Jordan – The 6-8 Jordan came to Purdue after leading Fort Wayne Northrup to the 1974 state championship. He immediately stepped into a starting forward role with the Boilermakers and averaged 14 points a game.

By his sophomore year, Jordan was the team's leading scorer (16.9) and rebounder (9.2).

He would go on to lead Purdue in scoring as a junior (18.6) and a senior (17.0) to finish with 1,813 points.

Jordan also was a first-team All-Big Ten selection in 1977 and 1978, the same seasons that saw him selected Purdue's John Wooden Most Valuable Player.

He would go on to play in 1980 with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Jordan was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 2003 and the Leroy Keyes Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame in 2022.

Eugene Parker – Also a native of Fort Wayne, Parker started all four seasons at Purdue under coach Fred Schaus from 1975 to 1978.

As good as Parker was on the basketball court, he was even better in his post-graduate career as an agent for prominent NFL players, including Deion Sanders and former Purdue great Rod Woodson.

He was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 2001. Parker died on March 31, 2016.

1960s
Rick Mount – He was the first high school athlete on the cover of Sports Illustrated in 1966, the same year he would win Indiana Mr. Basketball honors out of Lebanon High School.

Recruited by Purdue assistant coach Bob King, Mount's Purdue debut was one of the most anticipated in school history. It also happened to be opening night of Mackey Arena against defending national champion UCLA. Mount out-scored Lew Alcindor 28-19 but UCLA won 73-71 on a last-second shot.

Mount would lead the Big Ten in scoring all three of his varsity seasons and earned first-team All-Big Ten honors three times. His junior season, Purdue went 23-5 and won the Big Ten championship for the first time since 1940. His game-winning shot against Marquette sent Purdue to the Final Four.

Mount left Purdue

holding 20 records, including the career scoring mark of 2,323 points in just three seasons and a 32.3 career scoring average.

Mount joined his father, Pete, in the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1992. Two years later he was part of the inaugural Purdue Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame class and in 2017, he was elected to the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame.

Terry Dischinger – From 1959-62, Dischinger averaged 28.3 points per game – the third-highest average in program history – along with a school-record 13.7 rebounds per game. He also holds the Purdue record for free throws made with 713.

Dischinger earned All-Big Ten accolades in each of his three varsity seasons and was a second-team All-American as a sophomore and consensus first-team All-American as a junior and senior. Dischinger was a member of the 1960 gold medal USA Basketball team and went on to win the NBA Rookie of the Year award in 1963. He made three NBA All-Star Teams.

Dischinger is Purdue's all-time leader in double-doubles (54), seventh in career points (1,979) and third in rebounds (958). He was a member of the first Leroy Keyes Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame in 1994.

Dischinger died on Oct. 9, 2023.

Dave Schellhase – The Evansville native led the nation in scoring at 32.5 points a game during his senior season in 1965-66. He was selected a Consensus All-American that year and received his third consecutive first-team All-Big Ten honor.

He was the first Boilermaker to reach 2,000 points, finishing with 2,074. That total included a then-school record 57 points on February 19, 1966, against Michigan.

To learn more about Schellhase's playing and coaching days as well as his battle with alcoholism, I recommend reading "The Schellhase Story: Rise, Fall, Redemption The Story of Purdue Legend Dave Schellhase" by Schellhase and Tom Speaker.

Billy Keller – He was the point guard on Purdue's first Big Ten

championship team since 1940 which went on to finish national runner-up behind UCLA.

Keller also won the first Frances Pomeroy Naismith Award as the nation's outstanding college player under 6 feet. Later, Keller was a part of three ABA championships with the Indiana Pacers as one of the league's top 3-point shooters.

He was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1992 and the Leroy Keyes Purdue Hall of Fame in 2007.

Herm Gilliam – The Winston-Salem, N.C. native was ahead of his time as an athletic small forward.

"When they talk about players today, they talk about how athletic they are," Billy Keller said in 2005 after Gilliam died of a heart attack at age 58. "Herm had that athleticism and the heart to go with it. He was the ultimate team player."

Gilliam earned All-Big Ten honors in 1969 and was a first-round draft choice of the NBA's Cincinnati Royals. He later played on Portland's 1977 NBA championship team.

He was inducted into Leroy Keyes Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006.

1950s

Joe Sexson – Purdue's first Indiana Mr. Basketball winner, Sexson was a three-year starting guard.

Sexson left Purdue as the school's career scoring leader with 1,095 points. He was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1986, and the Leroy Keyes Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame in 2000.

Sexson died on April 30, 2011.

Carl McNulty – A 6-3 center as a Boilermaker, McNulty still holds the single-game rebounding record with 27 set on Feb. 19, 1951.

As a senior he averaged 18 points a game to break his own single-season scoring record.

McNulty was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1990 and the Leroy Keyes Purdue Hall of Fame in 2010. He died on Jan. 14, 2020.

Willie Merriweather – A teammate of Oscar Robertson at Crispus Attucks High School, the 6-5 forward/guard averaged 20.8 points a game as a senior to

earn All-Big Ten and All-America honors.

Merriweather was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1989 and the Leroy Keyes Purdue Hall of Fame in 2013.

Dennis Blind – The first 1,000-point scorer in Purdue history (1,011), the former Lafayette Jeff standout was Purdue's Most Valuable Player in 1954.

He was a two-time "small" All-American, standing at 5-10 during his playing days.

Blind was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1992 and the Leroy Keyes Purdue Hall of Fame in 2009. He died on Oct. 29, 2020.

Wilson Eison – The 1955 Indiana Mr. Basketball from Gary Roosevelt was among the Big Ten scoring leaders as a senior in 1959 at 18.7 points a game. He posted a career double-double of 14.7 points and 10.6 rebounds a game.

He was elected to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1990. Eison died on Jan. 26, 2015.

1920s-1940s

John Wooden – The first man to be inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame as a player and a coach. Wooden led Purdue to the 1932 Helms Athletic Foundation national championship.

A 5-10 guard, Wooden was a first-team All-American three times and National Player of the Year in 1932. He earned the nickname "The Indiana Rubber Man" for his frequent dives for loose balls.

Wooden was part of the inaugural Leroy Keyes Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame in 1994. He died on June 4, 2010.

Charles "Stretch" Murphy – Purdue's first three-time All-American led the Boilermakers to Big Ten titles in 1928 and 1930.

In 1929 he set Big Ten single-season (143) single-game (26) scoring records. This was during a time when a jump ball took place after made baskets.

He earned his nickname thanks to his 6-7 height, unusual for the times. Murphy joined Wooden and their coach, Piggy Lambert, in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1960. Murphy was elected to

the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1963 and the Leroy Keyes Purdue Hall of Fame in 1995.

Murphy died on Aug. 19, 1992.

Paul Hoffman – A four-year starter at Purdue thanks to relaxed eligibility rules during World War II, Hoffman earned first-team All-Big Ten honors every year.

Hoffman was the NBA's first rookie of the year in 1948 as a member of the Baltimore Bullets. He was elected to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1977 and Leroy Keyes Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame in 1999. Hoffman died on Nov. 12, 1998.

Jewell Young – The former Lafayette Jeff star twice led the Big Ten in scoring, setting a single-season conference record as a senior in 1938.

The 6-foot Young was selected an All-American in 1937 and 1938. He was named to Purdue's Centennial all-time team in 1997. Young also played five years of professional basketball in the National Basketball League and was twice named to the all-league team.

He was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1964, the Leroy Keyes Purdue Hall of Fame in 1998 and the Lafayette Jeff Hall of Fame in 2000. Young died on April 16, 2003.

Robert Kessler – The Anderson native was a two-time All-American in 1935 and 1936 as well as a two-time first-team All-Big Ten forward. He led the Big Ten in scoring in 1936 with 160 points in 12 games.

His Pro Basketball Encyclopedia entry states he was nicknamed "Charley" because of the charley horses incurred from his double-jointed, unorthodox style of play. He once was traded for John Wooden while both were in the National Basketball League.

He was elected to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1968 and Leroy Keyes Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame in 2007. He died on Sept. 5, 2001.

Kenny Thompson is the former sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier and an award-winning journalist. He has covered Purdue athletics for many years.

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Entries Celebrating America's 250th Open at Carnegie

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.

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.

The judge is Akirash, 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

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.

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 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 at 222 S. Washington St. in Crawfordsville. 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.

SCAMS

Continued from Page 1

company.

Watch out for work-from-home scams. While these gigs are perfect for students or stay-at-home moms, they are also more likely to be scams. Be very wary of applying for jobs like "warehouse redistribution coordinator" that involve reshipping (often stolen) packages. Scammers impersonate well-known retailers like Amazon and Walmart and post the jobs on major employment platforms.

Be cautious of fake checks. Many scammers offer to hire you for a position, only to tell you they will send you a check for supplies you need before you start work. Typically, the scammers "overpay" and ask you to send back some of the funds via a wire transfer or prepaid gift cards. After you send the money, you'll get a notification from your bank that the check you deposited was a fake. You'll

have lost any money you "returned" to the

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scammer. Learn more about scams involving fake checks and other payment types.

Never pay to work. You should never have to pay a fee to apply for a job or to get a position. Also, a legitimate company won't pay you anything before you've done any work.

Get all details in writing. Put together a basic contract that details the services provided, timeline,

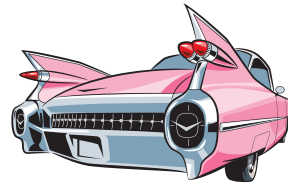
and the amount paid. Scammers tend to avoid providing specific information, so this is a good way to discourage them. It will also help you avoid disagreements with legitimate employers.

Guard your personal information. Be cautious of any job that asks you to share personal information right off the bat. If a company insists they need a copy of your driver's license or bank account information, be sure you're dealing with a legitimate business before you hand over that sensitive information.

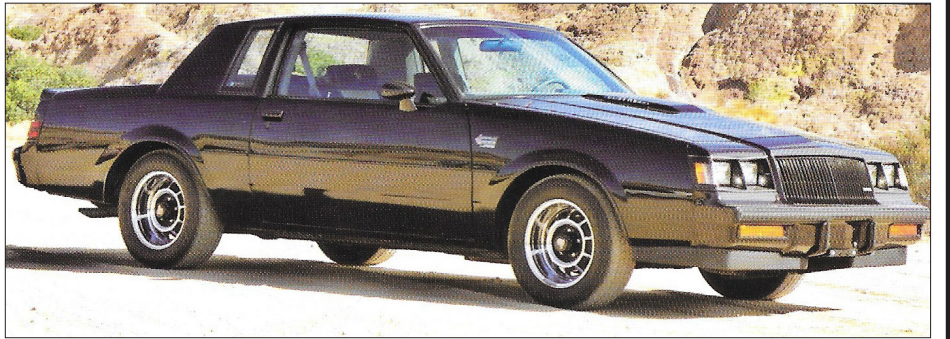
For more information Read more ways to protect yourself by visiting our article on job scams and BBB.org/ScamTips.

If you are targeted by a job scam or know someone who has been, report the experience to BBB.org/ScamTracker to help boost consumer awareness and hinder scammers' efforts.

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Addiction Crisis Explored in New Documentary

On Thursday, March 5, the Drug Free Montgomery County Leadership Team, in collaboration with Glory Girl Productions, will present a screening of the award-winning documentary, *The Addict's Wake*, at Crawfordsville High School from 5 p.m. This event is free and is open to adults, 18 years or older - no childcare available. To register, please visit <https://theaddictswakemoco.eventbrite.com>.

Following the screening, there will be a panel of local stakeholders and guest speakers that will last until 8:30 p.m. It will be able to answer questions as well as speak on initiatives, programs and services offered in the Montgomery County Community.

This event will be catered by Sunoco Midwest and will feature food items such as corndogs, soft pretzels with cheese, mini tenderloin sliders, chicken tenders, popcorn, dessert and drinks!

In the wake of the opioid crisis and the emergence of deadly fentanyl pouring into the United States, the impact of drug addiction rages on, destroying communities and families. This docu-

mentary film – *The Addict's Wake* – focuses on the people of one small town of Indiana who, like those in so many communities across the nation, have felt the ripple effect of the addiction crisis in every corner of their county.

This documentary seeks to link communities to take action and find a pathway to hope and recovery.

"This film is a clarion call for community stakeholders to unite resources and ideologies to fight back against substance-use disorder at a grass roots level," said film producer, Lisa Hall, presidents of Glory Girl Productions. "It takes you alongside a community searching for hope and solutions of the long journey from addiction to recovery."

"While this film is set in the small community of Brown County, Indiana, it's the story of almost every county – small, rural, large, urban and inner city – in the United States," said Hall. "And this crisis hits every aspect of our society."

This documentary shares interviews and perspectives not only from individuals and families impacted, but

teachers, law enforcement, courts, neuroscience professionals and faith-based programs.

The Addict's Wake has recently been selected to air on more than 300 public broadcasting stations throughout the country. It has earned acclaim with the Audience Choice Award at the Heartland International Film Festival, in addition to winning the Sedona International Film Festival's Independent Spirit Award. The film has also spurred grant investment to create a shorter film that can be used in classrooms to help educate students and teachers about the impact of Substance Use Disorder, or SUD.

As always, many resources can be found on the Drug Free Montgomery County's website at drugfreemoco.org. For further questions, reach out to Diamond Justus at diamond@mcysb.org. Drug Free Montgomery County is a program of the Youth Service Bureau. The YSB is a United Way in Montgomery County partner agency and is also supported by the Montgomery County Community Foundation.

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.

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 2026-4 Resolution of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners Regarding Amendment of Allocation Areas

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT
Next Commissioner Meeting – Monday, February 9, 2026 @ 8:00 am

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS JANUARY 30, 2026

8 AM
1580 Constitution Row - Room E109
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

YouTube Link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOf-8v1DsAms>

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Appointment to Darlington Library Board - Linda Swyers

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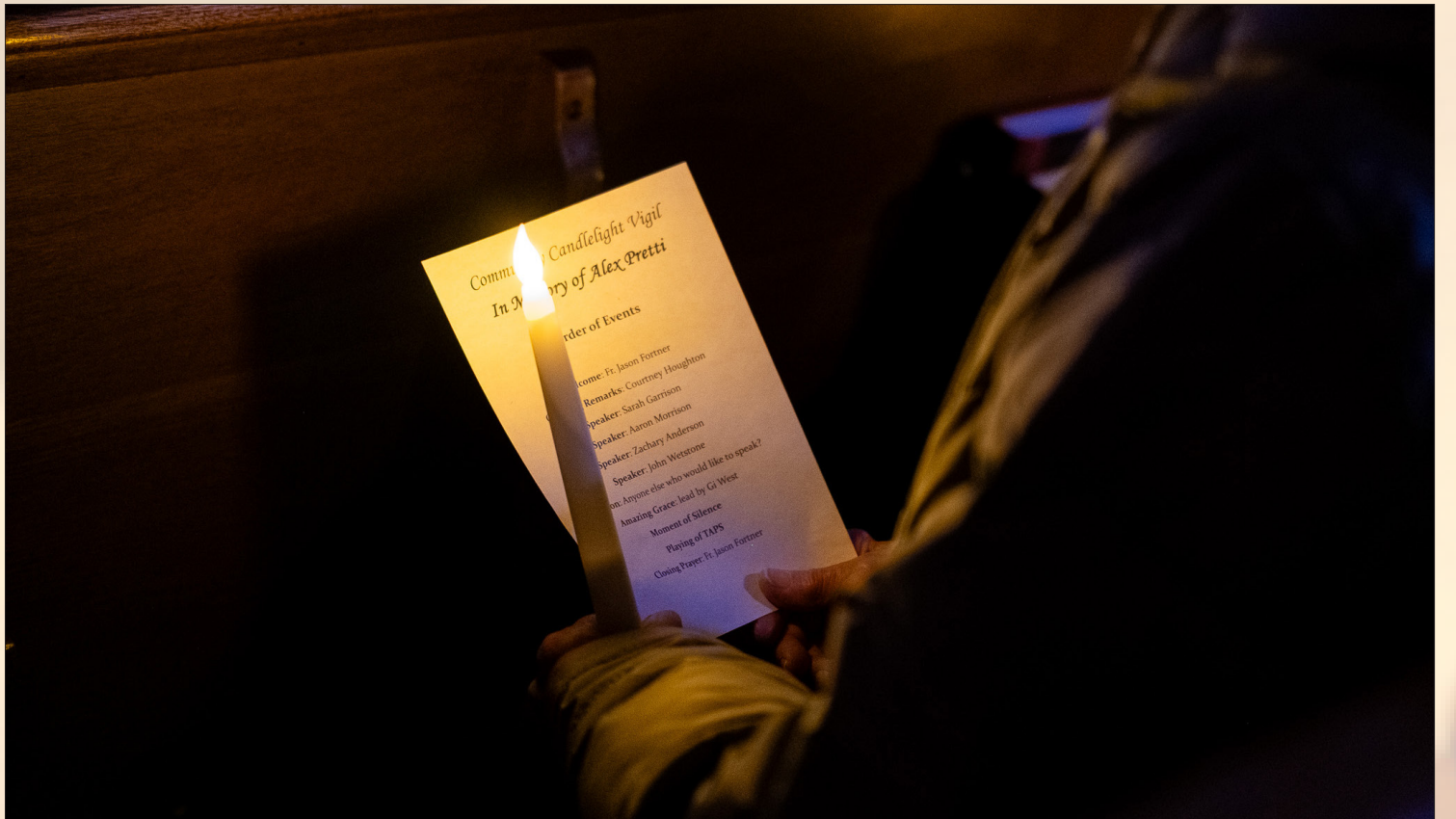
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CONCERNED & Caring

Members of the Crawfordsville community came together earlier this week at St. John's Episcopal Church to hold a vigil for Alex Pretti, the 37-year-old intensive care nurse for the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. Pretti was shot and killed by U.S. Customs and Border enforcement officers during a protest in Minneapolis. Although controversy continues over the facts of the shooting, Republicans and Democrats alike have called for better answers. The vigil was led by Pastor Jason Fortner.



LEAH EWING OF CRAWFORDSVILLE SPOKE AT THE VIGIL.



NICK HEDRICK OF CRAWFORDSVILLE HOLDS A CANDLE.

Photos Courtesy Andy Chandler