

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

■ AWL ACE



Rocko is a 4 year old male American Pitbull Terrier available for adoption at AWL since 7/29/24 (almost 2 years). Rocko is one of AWL's BIGGEST LOVERS!! Rocko LOVES LOVES LOVES people, getting attention, LOVE, and just wants to be the center of your universe. Rocko loves going out for walks, hiking, snuggles with his BFF, frolicking in a fenced yard, and will gladly sit for treats. Rocko was even first pick and "THE BEST HIKING PARTNER" on the college's 4 mile ruck. Rocko is looking for his best friend. Could that be you? Rocko is available for adoption, to foster, or just simply going out for walks. Come say hi and ask staff to meet Rocko!



Groundhog Day. We do find ways to celebrate silly things, don't we!

■ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

What goes on in the Statehouse as Legislators grapple with budgets and other issues of our state? Find out by asking them in person at the Crawfordsville / Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce State Legislative Breakfast. The next one takes place at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21 at Crawfordsville Middle School. 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 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.

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

Martin Luther King Jr.

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

Anyone know a good groundhog joke?

We keep hearing the same one over and over.

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

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Ground Hog Day

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!

Today is Feb. 2 and if there is a sillier holiday in our country we are not sure what it is (and no, we're not talking about the ones you can find online that no one else has ever heard of. Just the mainstream ones. Although how Groundhog Day became a mainstream holiday is testament to the power of promotion and community. But hey, who are we to question all the folks who happily observe it. So without further ado, here's Groundhog Day . . . By The Numbers.

35

Followers say Punxsutawney Phil is only correct about 35 percent of the time, adding further evidence that this may be the silliest holiday of them all. It would seem that a first-grader flipping a coin would have a better percentage rate.

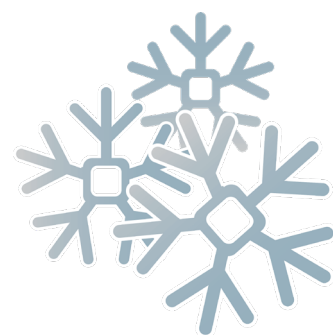


1993

The year the movie Groundhog Day came out, starring Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell. The film was shot in the spring and summer of 1992 and was done almost entirely in Woodstock, Ill., not Punxsutawney, Penn.

0

Comedic genius Harold Ramis directed the movie and despite the success Ramis and Murray had together on Caddyshack, Ghostbusters and Stripes, the pair clashed and never made another movie together again. In fact, they didn't even speak until shortly before Ramis passed away in 2014.



2

That's the number of choices Phil (or any of the other furry prognosticators) have – either predict an early spring, or six more weeks of winter weather. The legend goes that if Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, we're going to have six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't, an early spring is in store. But when you think about it, seeing his shadow means the sun is out . . . so we're not sure of the logic here. Then again, why are we talking about logic and groundhogs predicting the weather?

30,000

About how many people show up in Punxsutawney for the big day. That's pretty amazing when you consider the town has a total population of only 6,000 or so.



1887

That was the first year in Punxsutawney for what has turned into a national celebration. And no, Phil wasn't alive back then . . . although most groundhogs live for less than two decades, Phil's handlers say he is 125 years old thanks to a magical elixir he drinks (wink, wink).

12 to 15

How many pounds most groundhogs weigh.

46

Despite what Phil and all the others say, Mother Nature says the vernal or spring equinox is 46 days away. Spring is officially sprung on March 20 at 9:46 a.m.

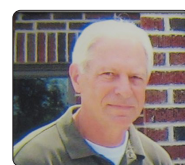
■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1 The public is invited to cut up and remove certain downed trees at Tippecanoe River State Park in Winamac for firewood. Trees eligible for firewood have fallen as a result of natural causes or have been dropped by property staff for safety. They are along roadsides or in public areas such as campsites and picnic areas. Permit sales and cutting begin Feb. 2 and end March 20. The cost of one pickup-truck load is \$10. A load is defined as an 8-foot standard pickup truck bed without any modifications including sideboards. Additional charges will be incurred for a larger truck and trailer load. All proceeds will be used for resource management and restoration efforts at the park, including replacement of trees in campgrounds and other public areas.

2 Attorney General Todd Rokita recently secured the revocation of the medical license of Rensselaer physician, Dr. Patrick Sheets, for facilitating an illegal abortion, having sexual contact with patients and prescribing to addicts. The Office of the Attorney General said it became aware of serious violations of state law, including Dr. Sheets' facilitation of an illegal abortion for a patient with whom he had engaged in a sexual relationship and prescribing controlled substances despite her history of addiction. Following a nearly 8-hour hearing on Thursday before the Medical Licensing Board of Indiana, Rokita's team successfully argued for the revocation of Dr. Sheets' Indiana medical license.

3 When winter weather hits, many drivers quietly change their routes – not because certain roads are officially unsafe, but because they feel more stressed, exposed, or unpredictable in cold, dark, or icy conditions. To explore how winter affects everyday driving behavior, RVWindshieldReplacement.com, a national network of RV auto glass experts, surveyed 3,004 drivers to identify the major roads Americans are most likely to avoid during winter weather. They found the two most avoided roads in Indiana are: Interstate 80 and I-90 (the Northern Indiana Toll Road) This stretch is notorious once winter weather sets in. Heavy truck traffic, lake-effect snow, and frequent whiteouts mean conditions can deteriorate fast. Locals know that even a light snow forecast can turn this corridor into a slow, tense drive. Second was U.S. Route 30 (also in northern Indiana). Nationally, the most avoided road is the Seward Highway in Alaska.

Butch Asks, Who Do You Trust?



BUTCH DALE
Columnist

OK, I want you to go back in time. Back to the days when the normal thing to do was to trust others. I remember those days. I trusted people to tell the truth. I trusted them to do what is right. I trusted them to follow the Golden Rule. Treat others the way you would like to be treated. People believed that lying was a bad thing. Parents, teachers and Sunday school teachers drilled that into our heads. "Honesty is the best policy." We developed a conscience. The vast majority of people, adults and children alike, were not suspicious of others.

I don't recall my folks ever locking the door to our house. And when they drove to town to shop, they never locked the car doors . . . and usually left the key in the ignition! With five kids, there were times my parents might run short of money for food, medical care and other necessities. But the local businessmen knew that my folks would pay the bill some day. When Dad quit farming in 1966, the local banker loaned him the money to buy a house in town . . . even though Dad had no collateral and couldn't even make a down payment. Try doing that today.

If an item was lost, or a valuable was accidentally left somewhere, people knew there was a good chance that someone would return it to the rightful owner. Back then people didn't feel the need to hire a lawyer for certain business transactions. A handshake and your word sealed the deal. People knew that if they broke their word, the trust that others had in them would be difficult, if not impossible, to restore. If a person screwed up or made a bad decision at work, he didn't try to blame it on others. No finger pointing. No crazy excuses. He admitted his mistake, took the sole blame . . . and moved on, learning from his error, and vowing to do better in the future.

Now let's take a look at today. When you leave home, do your lock your house? When shopping, do you lock your car? If you need something and have no money, will the businessman or banker tell you that you can just pay later? If you lose a valuable item, are you confident that the finder will return it to you? Do you consult an attorney each time that you are considering a business transaction? If you are registered to vote as a Democrat or Republican, do you trust the opposing party? Do you trust our government and the elected officials? Are you suspicious of everyone you don't know? Are you suspicious of E-mails, texts and phone calls? And on and on and on . . . I already know your answers.

See BUTCH Page 4

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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Lunch with the League will take place in Whitlock Hall at St. John's Episcopal Church from noon to 1 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church is located at 212 S. Green St. in Crawfordsville. Plan to bring a sack lunch or a lunch from any of the offerings in town and hear Ms. Jones talk about the Adult Guardianship Program and how you can participate as a volunteer or let others know about the volunteer opportunities this program offers to help adults in need.

Lunch With League Friday

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County will host its next Lunch with the League Friday at noon. The program will feature Wabash Center's Montgomery Adult Guardianship Services and its Volunteer Advocates for Seniors and Incapacitated Adults Program.

The presenter will be Marcelle Jones, Program Coordinator for the Montgomery Adult Guardianship Services. This program partners with Montgomery County Superior Court 2 and Judge Daniel Petrie to provide trained, supervised volunteers who serve as court-appointed advocates and care partners for elderly and incapacitated adults.

Now in its 10th year, the program works with local aging and disability providers to support vulnerable adults across Montgomery County.

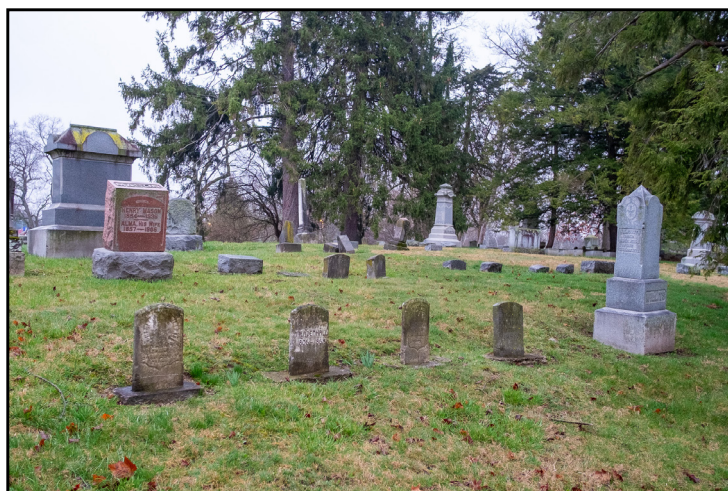
"We really try to promote the dignity of human life," said Sharon White, Program Man-

ager. "They are often scared and confused, and then their volunteer advocate walks in. They see that smile and hear, 'I'm here to speak up for you, to make sure they take care of you. Is that OK?' In time, their fears soften, trust grows. And that is what advocating for them truly means."

The Montgomery Adult Guardianship Services program is funded through a grant supervised by the State Adult Guardianship Office, Montgomery County Courts, Montgomery County Community Foundation and Wabash Center, Inc.

To learn more or become a volunteer, attend the Lunch with the League Friday or contact Marcelle Jones at mjohnnes@wabash-center.com.

Lunch with the League is a free program offered in the public interest sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County.



Ever wonder where Milhous came from in Nixon's name? Here's the grave of his grandmother, Hannah Milhous Hough.



Photos courtesy Andy Chandler

The column author next to the plaque that Richard Nixon dedicated in 1971.

Richard Nixon, Hoosier President?



ANDY CHANDLER
Columnist

When I ask about US Presidents who have ties to the Hoosier state, the obvious come to mind: Harrison 9, Harrison 23, Lincoln and Nixon.

Tricky Dick Nixon?

No, that was not a typo. Nixon.

A few years ago, I was catching up with a friend, a park ranger at the Herbert Hoover National Historic site in West Branch, Iowa. He made a reference to Nixon's family coming through Indiana. That made me curious, and after returning from that trip, I got online and started to look at Nixon's background in the Hoosier State.

My friend was correct. The Milhous family did settle in Jennings County in the 1850s. Hannah Milhous Nixon, who is President Richard Nixon's mother, was born just outside of the southern Indiana community Butlerville. The 1884 census has a pretty substantial plot deeded to JV Milhous, who is presumably Joshua Vickers Milhous, Hanna Milhous Nixon's grandfather. That plot is now a farm east of and next to Big Oaks National Wild-

life Refuge, and is private property

Armed with that information, I drove to Jennings County where my first stop was a marker off US 50 and North County Road 550. It was here in June of 1971, then President Nixon came from DC to dedicate this marker. It is unknown whether he visited the cemetery where quite a few of his ancestors were buried nearby. Anyone buried in Indiana passed away before the post-1890 Society of Friend's exodus to Whittier, Calif., of which the Milhous family would have been a part.

About a mile and a half southeast of the marker is Hopewell Cemetery, a rural cemetery out in the country at a crossroads with cornfields flanking it. Here lies many members of the Milhous family. In the center of the cemetery is the patriarch of the family, Joshua V. Milhous. His son Franklin was the father of Hannah Milhous Nixon.

As a side-note: Joshua Milhous' sister Hannah Milhous-Hough, is the namesake for Hannah Milhous Nixon. Her grave is at the entrance of Earl-

ham College Cemetery in Richmond.

Anyone researching the Society of Friends, often called Quakers, will find that they are very insular communities that keep thorough records, which is not much different in terms of structure than today's Amish. Hannah Milhous Nixon's mother, Franklin's mother-in-law Jane, is buried about three miles east of Hopewell Cemetery, at Grove Burials Grounds. It's on private property, so after checking in with the farmer, I hiked about 300 yards up the hill through thicket and briars to get to a clearing. At the back of the cemetery, near the drop off, is a fallen marker to Jane Malmsbury Hemingway Burd. Her daughter Almira married Franklin Milhous and that's where the family trees merge.

Side-note: If the Hemingway in Jane's name sounds

familiar it's because Richard Nixon and Ernest Hemingway are eighth cousins once removed. Jane's mother Hope married into the Hemingways.

One of the quotes that stuck out when I started this series was President Coolidge's quote that we're drawing our presidents from the people. In that we see Richard Nixon. Far from being just "Tricky Dick" who's scandals inspired a new phrase: -gate. His lineage is an American story of hard-working people who settled in Indiana and eventually crossed a continent. Without Indiana, we wouldn't have Richard Nixon.

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



Hopewell Cemetery in Jennings County is directly tied to President Richard Nixon.

Linden Project 497 Aims to Help Caboose

The Linden Depot Museum, a 501(c)(3) non-profit 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 repaint-

ing, 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.

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.

► 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.

CITY OF CRAWFORDSVILLE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Historic Preservation Commission February meeting date has changed. The HPC will meet at 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 18, 2026. The Commission will NOT meet on February 25, 2026 as originally scheduled.

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THE PAPER



2026 JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA IS NOT FOR NORMAL PEOPLE, BUT DOES NORMAL THINGS BETTER THAN EVER

Four doors and a removable roof make for family adventures whether hitting trails or highways and byways



CASEY WILLIAMS
Columnist

Jeep has been a part of our landscape for over eighty years. And while our 2026 Wrangler Sahara is clearly descended from the original, it has space, pace, and comforts unimaginable when GIs were using them to bang across Europe, route Commies from Korea, or employing them as farm tools back home. Jeeps have become icons as commonplace in urban centers as mountain trails. Jeeps are not for normal people, but they do normal things better than ever.

One thing for sure; it's not going out of style. Park an original WWII government-issue next to the current one and they clearly share pedigree. Jeep primarily offers the Wrangler in base Sport, luxury Sahara and all-capable Rubicon trims. Our Sahara is distinguished by 18-inch wheels, body color removable three-piece hardtop and painted fender extensions. There's more silver too. Two panels over the front passengers can be clicked out for an open-air targa effect. Remove the doors and rest of the top for complete freedom in summer weather. I could do without the cumbersome step bars, but they look handsome.

Once you heave yourself inside, it's surprisingly plush and technolicious. Leather thrones with orange stitching are heated up front. So is the steering wheel. The updated horizontal touchscreen provides super intuitive access to audio, navigation, and climate controls, but Jeep being part of Chrysler, designers included redundant physical controls below. Proper volume and tuning knobs always make me happy.

Devices connect wirelessly, but you'll have to power your phone with an array of USBs in the front and rear consoles. There's

a lot of wind noise – no surprise given the Wrangler's passing respect for aerodynamics – but no worries as the sound bar over the seats provides thumping tunes top on or off. Adaptive cruise, automatic emergency braking, rear cross path detection and blind spot warning are part of the safety suite. Putting the spare tire on the rear gate frees a cavern for luggage, or with seats deployed, virtually anything you want to toss in.

You can get the Wrangler with a 3.6-liter V6 and a 6.4-liter V8, but I think my favorite is our vehicle's 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine dishing 270 horsepower and 295 lb.-ft. of torque. Compared to the V6, the turbo-four produces more and smoother torque for off-roading...and hot-hoofing it through the mountains. The 8-speed automatic seems unnecessarily busy, so I wish the turbo-four had an optional manual transmission as with the V6. Fuel economy is about what you expect for an all-capable brick: 20/22-MPG city/highway.

For a truck with solid axles front and rear, and skid plates for banging boulders, the long-wheel-base Wrangler is surprisingly refined on the

highway and during daily commutes. I've driven Wranglers in Arizona over trails so high and brutal that I needed a long lunch to mentally recover, but it's peaceful on pavement and even rough backroads. Driving it several hours to visit relatives was nice.

I promise I could scare the devil out of you if you sat in the right seat. On a trail in Arizona, replete with spotters, I was instructed to put the Wrangler in reverse on top of a mountain. My passenger said, "Don't look at the rearview camera." Nothing but sky behind and rocks ahead. It was a Jeep doing very Jeep things. Yet, the same tight turning radius that negotiates trails allows the Wrangler to drive small when parallel parking or slipping through tight downtown garages.

While you can get a base Wrangler 4-Door for \$38,100, our loaded Sahara came to a more elevated \$60,860. Competitors include the Chevy Tahoe, Ford Bronco, and Toyota 4-Runner.

Storm Forward!

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

<p>LIKES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLASSIC STYLING COMFY CRUISING ALL-ROAD COMPETENCE 	<p>DISLIKES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WINDY NOISES BUSY TRANSMISSION NO PHONE CHARGER
<p>2026 Jeep Wrangler Sahara Five-passenger, 4WD SUV Powertrain: 2.0-liter T4, 8-spd Output: 270hp/295 lb.-ft. torque Suspension f/r: Solid axles Wheels f/r: 18"/18" alloy Brakes f/r: disc/disc Towing: 3,500 lbs. Fuel economy: 20/22 mpg city/hwy Assembly: Toledo, OH Base/As-tested price: \$38,100/60,860</p>	

BUTCH DALE'S BACK IN THE DAY

Hot Cars From Back In The Day



Do you recognize this classic car from 1983?

Answer on Page A4

Mama Can Find the Warm Spots



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

In our household, my husband, Peter, and I have acquired nicknames which we imagine our cat, Felix, calls us by. To Felix, I am Mama and Peter is Mouse.

We came by these names because I spend more time cuddling with Felix—although he is not much of a cuddler. On the rare occasions when he decides he'd like to make biscuits (or whatever term you use for that endearing activity where a cat treats you like a loaf of bread and kneads you with his two front paws), I am the one he selects. But other than that, Mama has few redeeming qualities because it is Mouse who plays all the games, and Felix loves games.

Peter and Felix have string games and chase games and games in a box. They have surprise one another around the corner games and throw towels over Felix's head games. They have so many games in so many varieties that I do not try to keep track. Occasionally, I hear something fall to the ground (usually something that used to live on my nightstand) but, other than

that, I don't pay much attention to the many games that Felix and Mouse play.

Mouse is also the one who dispenses the treats. This is because, according to Felix, Mouse knows where the treats are kept and he knows how to open a tuna can. There is no indication that Mama knows either of these things. Mama also does other things, things that Felix really does not like. Mama yells when Felix is on the table (Mouse pretends he does not see him). And—worst of all—Mama gets out the nail clippers and cuts Felix's beautiful curving claws. This is just plain awful and only barely compensated for when he then gets a special treat once the torture is complete. So Mama, it must be said, is rather useless when she is not outright annoying.

But lately, since the weather turned cold in San Miguel, Mama has demonstrated a new, unexpected skill that has come in quite handy. Mama can find the warm spots.

In reality, I have two electric back heaters that I plug

in and use to keep warm since the apartment has no heating. I keep one under my desk, under a towel, and the other on my side of the bed, under the sheets. I only turn them on when I plan to use them, and these mysterious warm spots are very appealing to Felix. But he's never sure where they are and when they will be warm.

This has given Mama a little unexpected clout as she locates the warm spots in the apartment, and Felix follows her around to see if she is hogging one of them so he can move in.

If she is sleeping on one of them, he slowly works his way over until he is under Mama's armpit. If there is one under her desk, she inconsiderately puts her feet on top of it, so Felix has to stretch himself right over the top of her feet to suck up the available warmth. Then she'll get up to fetch more coffee and return, only to shove her feet under him again. It is very bothersome.

But once Mama has a fresh cup of coffee and Felix is securely on top of her wool socks, life is pretty good. Mouse goes out for his hike. Mama stays put at her desk making "tappa-tappa-tapping" noises on the computer above, and Felix decides Mama is not entirely bad after all.

Till next time,

Carrie

As a former sergeant in the U.S. Army and Iraq War veteran, I would like to start giving back to all who have served in the armed forces. On Veterans Day, I began offering a reduced commission in honor of your service to this great nation. Contact me for details today!

765-918-1773 - william.dale@exp Realty.com

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THANK YOU FOR READING THE PAPER!

Tales of a Hack(ed) Writer



DICK WOLFSIE
Columnist

I should have been more careful before I clicked and opened the invitation on my computer. It was from my friend Adrienne, inviting me to a Thanksgiving party. I received the invitation on January 5, which meant my email service was really, really slow, or my friend Adrienne was very far ahead in planning for 2026.

Mary Ellen briefly looked at the email and told me it originated in Africa. "Do you know anyone in Nigeria?" Mary Ellen asked me.

"I don't even know anyone in Kentucky."

At first, I had some trouble opening the email, but I apparently ended up sending a similar message to everyone in my address book. I panicked. Now I needed to warn everyone to avoid making the same mistake I did. By the way, the hack also prevented me from receiving any emails. More about that later.

Here's what I posted on Facebook, along with a note to everyone on my personal list of column receivers. You might have received something like this:

DO NOT RESPOND TO OR OPEN ANY PARTY INVITATION FROM ME.

YOU ARE NOT INVITED TO A PARTY. NO ONE IS. I AM NOT HAVING A PARTY.

I did get some interesting responses:

Joe: Don't worry, Dick. No problem. I never open your emails anyway because they are usually your columns, and I don't think they're funny.

Steve: Hey, Dick. We haven't spoken in 20 years, and the first contact I get is NOT inviting me to your party. I look forward to not coming.

Tony: I'm just curious: if you were really throwing a party, would you invite me? I want to know because I might also not host one, and I need to decide whether I should invite you or not.

Susan: Dick, thank you for not inviting me to your party. I can't not attend, anyway. I'm not busy enough.

Seth: Dick, this Thanksgiving party in January is going to confuse a lot of turkeys who thought they got through November in one piece.

Cathy: Let me understand this. You are not having a party, and I am not invited. As your proofreader, I must tell you that this means you

are having a party.

As I mentioned, the hacker also blocked my emails. My friend Kevin owns a company called Nerds on Call, and he's my go-to guy for computer issues. When I asked for help troubleshooting the problem myself, he said he was happy to offer advice free of charge. He sent me this:

Dick, to remove a computer virus, you need to start a multi-layered remediation process by disconnecting the system from all network sources to stop recursive payload spread. Then, deploy a trusted heuristic-based anti-malware program to run deep scans across both volatile and non-volatile memory areas. After the diagnostic engine finds suspicious executables, it runs a controlled quarantine process. Good luck. I'm here if you want to spring for a few bucks.

I called him immediately. Kevin then took over my computer remotely and resolved the email issue in five minutes. He said he could have done it even quicker, but he was laughing so hard it slowed him down a bit.

Everything is fixed now. But the whole experience has put me in a party-giving mood. I'm thinking now of having an Easter party, but I haven't decided when not to have it. And you are invited.

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

Drug Free Montgomery County Shares 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 corn dogs, 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

documentary 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@mcsyb.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.

Always Fighting



Photo courtesy Andy Chandler

The saying goes, Wabash Always Fights. The Little Giants are fresh off a hard-fought 74-70 victory over arch-rival DePauw and are heading to Denison Wednesday for an NCAC battle. Freshman Deric Cannady, above, is a freshman who has started nine games this season and is averaging 7 points a game and leads the team in steals with 22. Wabash is enjoying a solid 13-5 overall record (7-3 in conference play). Fans only have three more chances to see the Little Giants at home in the regular season – Saturday when Wooster comes calling, one week later against Kenyon and finally Feb. 18 with Wittenberg. Let's go Wabash!

BUTCH

Continued from Page 1

A few years ago, I was driving through my hometown, and I noticed a small wooden box laying in the middle of one of the main streets. I pulled over and picked it up, and proceeded to work. When I arrived, I opened it, and inside was a very nice men's watch. Not just a plain watch, but a very fancy Rolex. I know very little about those watches . . . whether it was real or an imitation, but it certainly appeared to be the real thing to me . . . and likely worth quite a bit of money. I inquired at the post office if anyone had mentioned losing a watch. No luck. I then proceeded to the town hall and spoke with the clerk. She acted very sur-

prised. A lady had reported losing the watch just about a half hour before.

I went back to work and called the woman, who immediately came to my workplace. She had been moving a few items, had placed the wooden box on the top of her car trunk, and drove off . . . later realizing what she had done. When she saw the Rolex, she started crying. It had been her father's watch . . . worth several thousand dollars . . . and more importantly a dear keepsake. She gave me a big hug, and thanked me for being honest and reporting my find to someone. That afternoon, I wondered what

might have occurred if a dishonest person had found that little wooden box?

Now I'm not saying that you should trust everyone in today's world. We all know better than that. But wouldn't it be nice if we all could go back in time . . . yes, the good old days . . . when trust and the Golden Rule was the natural way of life?

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.



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Not yet a Member of the Circle of 1875? Now is the time to join!

To learn more about the Circle of 1875 or become a member in Lafayette, Crawfordsville or Rensselaer, please contact Julie Smith at (765) 423-6812 or julie.smith@franciscanalliance.org. Together, we can make a profound difference for patients, families, and communities across Western Indiana.

Circle of 1875 Sets Community Meetings

Franciscan Alliance's Circle of 1875 Women's Giving Circle brings together women who want to make a meaningful difference in their community through Franciscan Health. Each year, members pool their gifts and then come together to choose which projects they will fund — turning collective generosity into lasting impact.

This spring, members are

invited to participate in two different meetings:

- Crawfordsville – Tuesday, March 10 | attendees will hear about the impact of Circle-funded initiatives while enjoying conversation and light refreshments.
- Lafayette – Wednesday, March 4 | updates will be shared on projects previous-

ly funded by the Circle, along with time to mingle and enjoy a high-tea luncheon.

Current Circle members are encouraged to bring a guest to the meetings. Guests may not vote on the project to be funded, but will enjoy the fellowship, hear directly about the Circle's impact and learn more about becoming a member.

Witham Announces February Programs

Witham Health Services will host the following support groups and community education classes in February. The support groups are free unless indicated. For more information on Witham's support groups and classes, visit www.witham.org/classes-and-support-groups.

- The Breastfeeding Support Group meets weekly on Mondays (except holidays) from 10-11 a.m. in the VIP Dining Room (2605 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon) and gives mothers the opportunity to meet and discuss their breastfeeding needs in a group setting with other mothers. Meetings are facilitated by a board-certified lactation consultant. Individual breastfeeding support is available with a lactation consultant. To schedule an appointment and for pricing, call 765-485-8411.
- The Alzheimer's Support Group for those who care for Alzheimer's patients will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 6 p.m. in the VIP Dining Room (2605 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon).
- The Cancer Support Cooking for Wellness class will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 1 p.m. at the Boone County Cancer Society (1208 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon). Participants will receive recipes that are focused on using fresh, nutritionally dense ingredients and samples of every delicious dish. Please call the Boone County Cancer Society at 765-482-2043 to RSVP.
- The Cancer Support Group is for patients living with cancer and for those supporting a loved one with cancer. The

group will meet on Monday, Feb. 23, at 6 p.m. at the Boone County Cancer Society (1208 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon). Please call the Boone County Cancer Society at 765-482-2043 for more information.

- Witham's Diabetes Self-Management Class is designed for people with pre-diabetes, diabetes or gestational diabetes. Call the Diabetes Education Department at 765-485-8256 for individualized classes, scheduling and pricing.

The Witham Wellness Center will host the following wellness classes in February. Classes are held in the Witham Wellness Center in the South Pavilion on the Witham Main Campus at 2505 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon. Payment can be made in person at the start of class or by check. Call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 or visit Witham.org/our-services/wellness for more information.

- BeMoved Dance is a dance fitness program for people of all ages and abilities. It's held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7 p.m. Cost is \$10 per class.
- Flow Yoga is a great way to center your day with movement and mindful breathing. It's held weekly on Wednesdays from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 per class.
- The free indoor cycling and stretching program is designed to reduce the risk of any chronic disease you may be facing or help manage your weight. It's held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-10:45 a.m.
- Restorative Yoga is a gentle and slow style of yoga that encourages physical,

mental and emotional relaxation. It's held weekly on Mondays from 6-7 p.m. Cost is \$15 per class.

- Rock Steady Boxing 1 & 2 is a non-contact boxing program for people with Parkinson's Disease. It's held weekly from 9-10:15 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and is \$30 per month for unlimited sessions.
- Rock Steady Boxing 3 & 4 is a non-contact boxing program for people with Parkinson's Disease. It's held weekly from 10-11 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and is \$30 per month for unlimited sessions.
- SilverSneakers Classic, a free class designed for those 65 or older, uses a chair for seated support while listening to music, moving and having fun. It's held weekly from 11:15 a.m.-12 p.m. on Mondays.
- SilverSneakers Chair Yoga, a free class designed for those 65 or older, calms the mind and body with seated meditation and gentle stretching. It's held weekly from 11:15 a.m.-12 p.m. on Wednesdays.
- SilverSneakers Cardio Circuit, a free class designed for those 65 or older, increases cardiovascular and muscular endurance with a seated/standing circuit workout. It's held weekly from 11:15 a.m.-12 p.m. on Thursdays.
- Tai Chi for Health (Beginners and Advanced) improves flexibility, muscular strength, fitness and balance. It's held weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-10 a.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Cost is \$5 per class.

Hoosier Writers to Speak Around State

A total of 40 organizations will host Indiana authors in 2026 as part of a statewide Speaker Program and Writing Workshop Program offered through the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Awards.



THE EUGENE & MARILYN GLICK Indiana Authors Awards

Category winners and shortlisted authors from the 2024 awards will visit communities virtually and in-person for the speaker program events to provide readings and discussions. Interactive writing workshops led by Hoosier writers will also be hosted throughout the year by 10 nonprofit organizations.

Indiana Humanities, which powers the Indiana Authors Awards, selected the hosts and provides support for award-winning Indiana authors to travel the state to speak to public audiences. The programs, open to public libraries, schools, churches, museums, community centers, and other nonprofit organizations, are funded through the support of Glick Philanthropies.

"Providing communities with access to these talented authors is an important part of the work we do with the Indiana Authors Awards," said Bronwen Carlisle, programs and special projects manager at Indiana Humanities. "Because of the generous support from Glick Philanthropies, we're able to reach more parts of the state with this opportunity for Hoosiers to engage with the written word and become inspired by the literary landscape of our state."

Organizations hosting author talks are:

- Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne (Author: George Kalamaras)
- Arts Illiana, Terre Haute (Author: George Kalamaras)
- Bartholomew County Public Library, Columbus (Author: Jeff Darren Muse)
- Batesville Memorial Public Library, Batesville (Author: Helen Frost)
- Brown County Public Library, Nashville (Author: Gabrielle Balkan)
- Calumet College of St. Joseph, Whiting (Author: Curtis Crisler)
- Crown Point Community Library, Crown Point

- (Author: Kenneth Kraegel)
- Edgewood Primary School, Ellettsville (Author: Dori Graham)
- Eminence Jr/Sr High School, Eminence (Author: Donna Griffin)
- Flora Public Library, Flora (Author: Edward Fujawa)
- Franklin County Public Library District, Brookville (Author: Janna Matthies)
- Fulton County Public Library, Rochester Branch, Rochester (Author: Agata Izabela Brewer)
- Hanover College, Hanover (Author: Angela Jackson-Brown)
- Harrison County Public Library, Corydon (Author: Janna Matthies)
- Impact Academy, Indianapolis (Author: Katherine Higgs-Coulthard)
- Indiana University South Bend, South Bend (Author: Tess Gunty)
- Irvington Preparatory Academy, Indianapolis (Author: Jennifer Blackmer)
- Jackson County Public Library, Seymour (Author: Curtis Crisler)
- Jefferson County Public Library, Madison (Author: Lori Rader-Day)
- Johnson County Public Library, Whiteland (Author: Rebecca Mullin)
- Lawrenceburg Public Library District, Lawrenceburg (Author: Janis Thornton)
- Lebanon Public Library, Lebanon (Author: Dori Graham)
- Marian University, Indianapolis (Author: Brittany Means)
- Marion Public Library, Marion (Author: Janis Thornton)
- Pike County Public Library, Petersburg (Author: Troy Cummings)
- Purdue University, West Lafayette (Author: Rebecca McKanna)
- School Town of Munster, Munster

- (Author: Helen Frost)
- Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame (Author: Sarah Layden)
- Thomas A. Edison Jr/Sr High, Lake Station (Author: Maurice Broaddus)
- Women Writing for (a) Change Bloomington, Bloomington (Author: Marabai Rose)

Groups hosting writing workshops are:

- Aurora Public Library District, Aurora (Workshop Leader: Samuel Love)
- Chautauqua in the Dunes, Valparaiso (Workshop Leader: David Griffith)
- Clinton Public Library, Clinton (Workshop Leader: Kaitlynn McShea)
- Franklin Central High School Creative Writing Club, Indianapolis (Workshop Leader: John F. Allen)
- Greensburg Public Library, Greensburg (Workshop Leader: Larry Sweazy)
- Huntington University, Huntington (Workshop Leader: Shari Wagner)
- KIPP Indy Unite, Indianapolis (Workshop Leader: Chantel Massey)
- Kokomo-Howard County Public Library, Kokomo (Workshop Leader: Kenneth Woods)
- Starke County Public Library, Knox (Workshop Leader: Alicia Rasley)
- St. Joe County Public Library, South Bend (Workshop Leader: Rosaleen Crowley)

In addition to paying the speaker fees, Indiana Humanities will provide participating organizations with resources such as a communications toolkit, press release template, and graphics for social media promotion.

Dates, times, and other details for the author talks and writing workshops will be announced later. Watch for more information at indianaauthorsawards.org.

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- 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.

Exhibit Honoring America's 250th Coming to Museum

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 and received major awards including support from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation.

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

Worry About Falling? Program May Help

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://event.me/gBkG99>.

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

KENNY THOMPSON



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

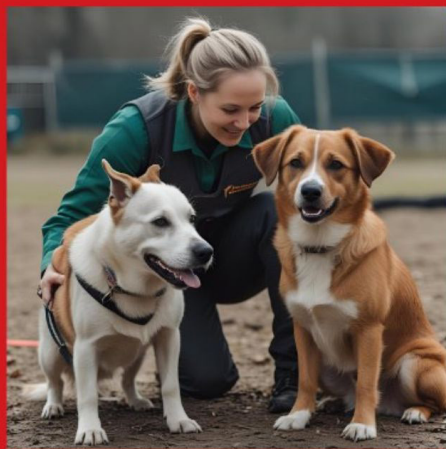
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