

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 119:89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. (KJV)

■ AWL GOOBER



Goober is a 1 year old male Great Dane that has been at AWL since 2/17/26. Goober is super ready to find his forever home! Goober LOVES to play fetch, go for walks, and will gladly sit for treats. Goober is looking for his best friend! Could that be you? Goober is available for adoption, to foster, or just simply going out for walks. AWL is open Monday-Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 12-3p. Come snuggle cats in a community cat room, walk dogs, or lend a helping hand!



Can someone explain to me how we put men on the moon in the 1960s with computers that had less capacity than my cell phone and it's harder to do it today?

■ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

The 5th annual Crawfordsville Mayor's Breakfast for Scouting is Wednesday, March 18 at 8 a.m. at the Crawfordsville District Public Library. Guests will hear brief comments from Mayor Todd Barton and John Cary, Scout Executive and CEO of Crossroads of America Council, Scouting America as well as information about all our wonderful Scouting units in the Crawfordsville area. Scouting in Crawfordsville has enhanced the lives of thousands of youth over the past 70+ years. The scout programs have empowered them to grow their skills and personalities through leadership development programs, team building, organization and interaction with dedicated volunteer leaders.

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Sunshine and spring bring out the best in everyone."

Kenny Chesney

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

What vegetables are a sailor's enemies?

Leeks!

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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Happy St. Patrick's Day (almost) 🍀 🍀 🍀

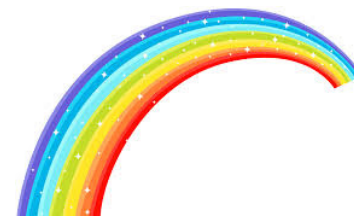
BY THE NUMBERS

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!

OK, so we're still a day away here but (depending on what time you are reading this) it could be St. Patrick's Day already on the other side of the world! So this seemed the perfect time to take a deep dive into St. Paddy's Day (oh, and if you ever wondered why it's St. Paddy's Day and not St. Patty's Day it's because the abbreviation is inked to the original Irish Gaelic spelling of Padraig). See, you're learning stuff already – and who said newspapers aren't educational! Faith and begorrah! Let us quit yammering on and get to St. Patrick's Day – by the numbers!

270

The approximate number of ounces of gold a typical Leprechaun's pot (about 10 inches by 9.75 inches) would hold. As we all know, these pots can be found at the end of the rainbow.



42 Speaking of rainbows, they have an angular radius of 42 degrees, so we see about an 84-degree arc in the sky. (And try hard to figure out where they end . . . but then how do you know if it's the end or the start?)

3 or 1

Legend has it if you catch a leprechaun he will be forced to reveal where he hid his pot of gold or else must grant you three wishes. One big hint though. If you do catch one, don't take your eyes off him! If you look away, not only does he vanish but so long as you keep looking he is bound by the laws of fairies to tell you the truth!

79

That's the percent of Americans who will wear green on the holiday!



\$7,000,000,000

OK, so whether we are talking Christmas, Halloween or St. Patrick's Day it would appear we clearly go overboard on holidays. According to our friends at the National Retail Federation, Americans have spent more than \$7 BILLION on St. Patrick's Day the last two years.

\$5.99

As we all are so painfully aware, the cost of . . . well, everything has gone up. Corned beef is no exception! The signature St. Patrick's Day dish was only \$3.50 a pound at the start of this decade. It's now nearly \$6!

6

According to AI, the biggest St. Paddy's Day celebrations in the U.S. take place in New York, Chicago, Savannah, Boston, Philly and New Orleans. In the Midwest, Cleveland and Kansas City have pretty big to-dos as well.

\$2,199 to \$4,000+

According to our friends at Collette Travel, a trip to Ireland will run a little over \$2,000 to more than \$4,000 per person, depending on the length of time and different itineraries.

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. Former Hoosier Governor Mitch Daniels, the 49th governor of Indiana and the 12th president of Purdue University, will present the keynote address to graduates from Trine University's Angola campus May 2. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. in the Keith E. Busse/Steel Dynamics Inc. Athletics and Recreation Center. "Mitch Daniels provided visionary leadership as governor of the state of Indiana and as president of Purdue University, guiding both the state and that university to new heights and implementing successful innovations that will continue to have positive impact for generations to come," said Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D., Trine University president. The university will present Daniels with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree during the ceremony.

2. First Lady Maureen Braun hosted her second annual Indiana First Lady's Breakfast recently. This year's event, held at Gainbridge Fieldhouse, supported the First Lady's fundraising initiative for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Indiana, bringing together community leaders, sponsors and supporters committed to expanding early childhood literacy opportunities for Hoosier children. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Indiana provides free, high-quality books each month to children from birth to age five, helping families build strong reading habits early in life. During her keynote address, the First Lady thanked supporters for their commitment to improving literacy and announced that the fundraising effort launched in 2025 is now 90% of the way to its goal for funding cycle running from July 2025 through June 2027.

3. The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana held the City of Loogootee in contempt recently for failing to comply with a prior court order barring enforcement of unconstitutional provisions in the city's special events ordinance. The challenged ordinance was part of the city's effort to prevent Loogootee PrideFest from taking place in the city's Public Square area. In August 2025, the Court ruled that several provisions of Loogootee's special events ordinance violated the Constitution and permanently enjoined the city from enforcing them. But in December 2025, the city enacted a new ordinance that included those same enjoined provisions. A January 2026 amendment to that ordinance removed only one of those unconstitutional provisions, leaving another in place. The Court has now given Loogootee 15 days to repeal or replace the ordinance, and it will be fined \$500 for each day it remains out of compliance. The city was also ordered to pay the attorneys' fees and costs the ACLU of Indiana incurred in seeking the contempt finding.

Butch Lists Guidelines for Men Over 70



BUTCH DALE
Columnist

Several of my friends and a few former classmates now head to Florida during the winter months. I'm assuming the main reason is to escape the cold weather. I would certainly hope that these 70-something baby boomers are not laying out on the beach . . . the men strutting along in their gigantic 1950s swim trunks, and the women sunning themselves in their string bikinis. Seeing that could cause symptoms comparable to getting Influenza B.

You know, come to think of it, there are certain guidelines that persons over 70 should keep in mind. Let's start with the men...

1. White loafers and white belts are out, and never wear white socks with dress shoes...or worst scenario--black socks with sandals (unless you are a professor of English literature). Only wear shoes with Velcro fasteners as last resort, as that is the main sign that your days are about over.

2. If they are playing "Volare" by Dean Martin on an elevator, do not sing along. Hum? Maybe. Sing? Absolutely not!

3. Do not start every conversation with "Well, back in my day . . ." or "It wasn't like that when I was . . ."

4. Do not wear your glasses around your neck on a string. Wearing reading glasses at the end of your nose is preferable, but, unfortunately, you'll look like Chuck Schumer. You don't want that, do you?

5. If you drive 20 mph down the middle of the road, while cruising around the countryside (looking at crops or gawking at women sunbathing), please turn on your flashers. Also keep in mind that when people have to drive in the ditch to finally get around you, they will likely wave with one of their fingers. (Hint: It's not their thumb.)

6. Never discuss politics with a fanatical nutcase (liberal or conservative) unless you are carrying pepper spray. If the idiot is suffering from Trump Derangement Syndrome, you'll need a Smith & Wesson .357 magnum to defend yourself. Sorry, but that's the way it is nowadays.

7. It is not cool to hang a pair of fuzzy dice on your golf cart mirror, and do not challenge others to a golf cart drag race on a back road. It's a golf cart, not a '69 Chevelle . . . OK?

8. You can discuss your aches and pains with people your age. They will also tell you about all of

See BUTCH Page 4



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Photos courtesy Andy Chandler

Tommy Lincoln's first grave marker, carved by Thomas Lincoln.

Tommy Lincoln's marker from 1959, Redmon Cemetery.

Abraham Lincoln's Younger Brother



ANDY CHANDLER
Columnist



Dennis Hanks was Abraham Lincoln's first cousin and bunkmate at the Indiana Cabin.

In 2012, NPR did a survey on Abraham Lincoln. How many books were written about him? The estimate came out to around 15,000. To read a few is to presume to know the man. His is an American story: ancestors moving from the east coast after the Revolutionary war to settle in the Midwest. Going from rags to riches, and going from multiple political election defeats to winning the highest office in the land. One theme that seems to stalk Abraham Lincoln is untimely death.

Lincoln for \$1.46 dated February 1812.

Today, a visitor to the Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site visitor center can find the original grave marker. A simple stone with the initials "TL" carved into them. After Tommy's death he was buried in nearby Redmon Cemetery about a quarter mile from the Lincoln's Knob Creek Cabin. Time pretty much erased the cemetery until 1933 when workers from the Works Progress Administration found the cemetery and the marker. In 1959, Scouts from Troop 15, Des Moines, IA., placed the current marker.



At the top of a small knoll is a fenced-in area and among that tall grass are the grave-stones.

We know of the loss of his mother and sister in Indiana, but very little is known or has been written about losing his baby brother in Kentucky.

It's on private land, and I reached out to the owner of the property and asked him if we could visit the grave. He suggested we try in the summer and so my wife and I reached out again a few months later and we agreed to meet.

It was nearly dusk by the time we got there. I asked if we could just walk from the house to the cemetery. He looked at me like I was insane. "Son, there are heifers still nursing their calves, snakes and there is most likely a black bear in the woods."

We hopped onto his ATV and plowed through the knee-high grass. At the top of a small knoll was a fenced-in area and among that tall grass, were slightly taller stones. The farmer knew we were coming, so he and his grandson had courteously mowed a swath between the entrance and Tommy Lincoln's marker.

I stood there for a moment, just taking it all in. I'd done something that few Lincoln enthusiasts had done which was to visit the gravesite of Abraham Lincoln's brother. It's

hard to think that for that little 3-year-old boy who stood at that gravesite, this would be the start of immense heartbreak that would see him lose his mom, sister, the love of his life Ann Rutledge and his sons. Sadly, an untimely death would follow him as well.

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.



Photo courtesy Andy Chandler

Ryan Cole spoke to a crowd at the Lew Wallace Study and Museum last week to kick off the 2026 Dr. Howard Miller Series.

Series Opener Draws Good Crowd to Carriage House

The 2026 Dr. Howard Miller Series, hosted by the General Lew Wallace Study and Museum resumed last Thursday evening in the Carriage House on the museum grounds. Ryan L. Cole spoke to a good-sized crowd about his book "The Last Adieu: Lafayette's Triumphant Return, the Echoes of the Revolution,

and the Gratitude of the Republic."

Cole recounted the 1824 tour of the United States that the Marquis de Lafayette took in honor of its 50th. He recounted the countless parties, parades and moments of reunions with veterans. He also recounted how it affect-

ed the polarized political climate and helped bring about a unity and dialogue between political factions. Cole's assessment that we have much to learn today from that tour and how those times parallel the nation's current 250th anniversary in terms of how the memory of virtue in times past can serve to

unify a country now.

This event is one of many for 2026 and the events leading up to the 250th anniversary celebration, so those interested are encouraged to check the museum's website - <https://www.ben-hur.com/> -- for further details.



Photo courtesy Andy Chandler

The forum on March 23 will be Mayor Todd Barton's 153rd such gathering since taking office.

Mayor's Community Forum March 23

Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton has scheduled his monthly Community Forum for Monday, March 23 from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Mayor's Office in the City Building.

and he has continued to do so every month - except during the COVID pandemic.

This event is designed to allow the public to come ask questions, discuss concerns, interact with the mayor and learn more about anything regarding the city.

This will be Barton's 153rd Community Forum since taking office.

The City Building is located at 300 E. Pike St., just off beautiful downtown Crawfordsville.

Holding a monthly community forum was something Barton pledged to do during his first campaign for mayor

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2026 GMC ACADIA DENALI ELEVATES THREE-ROW STEALTH LUXURY WITH NEW ULTIMATE STYLE

One drive proves nobody needs ostentation for grace or pace with the entire family aboard



CASEY WILLIAMS
Columnist

GMC's Denali sub-brand has been described as "stealth luxury", vehicles for people who want comfort and style without ostentation. These upscale drivers can often afford the chrome badges of luxury makes, but prefer to stay below the radar of wealth. Flying ever so higher for 2026 is the three-row GMC Acadia Denali...Ultimate.

Putting numbers to it, Denali represents over 30-percent of GMC sales, skewing closer to 60-percent for models like the full-size Yukon. And, people are willing to spend as top models can reach over \$100,000. One should expect more than chrome and badges for premium pricing and the Acadia mostly delivers.

Much of its underpinnings are shared with the Chevrolet Traverse and Buick Enclave, but it's uniquely styled with dark "Vader chrome" grille and angled driving lamps with animated lighting sequence to welcome you. Crisp lines break up tall bodysides under aluminum roof rails. Check the dark 22-inch wheels. Around back, quad exhaust outlets and wide valance with DENALI spelled across add intrigue.

Restrained exterior styling gives way to an exuberant cabin. Designers specified wide-stitched Woodland Mahogany leather seats with embossed topographical maps on their backs. Layers of stitched dash materials, real walnut veneers, and unique floor-mats should be relished. Slide under the dual-panel sunroof, crank up the 16-speaker Bose audio system, and caress the suede headliner. Don't forget to select heated, ventilated, and massaging front seats. Grip the heated steering wheel.

There's a den of technology including 11-inch flatscreen gauges and 15-inch infotainment screen.

Look over the hood at the reconfigurable head-up display. Devices connect wirelessly with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto – charge wirelessly too. The screen is intuitive, and you can swipe through radio channels, but I'd prefer redundant knobs. I'd also prefer to adjust headlamps without clicking a menu. Though, once set, they stay.

Moving rearward, middle row captain's chairs receive their own heaters, climate zone, USBs and power outlet. Seats slide forward for easier third-row entry, but it's mostly a kid zone back there. Space is tight under the power hatch with all three rows occupied, but rear rows power deploy for a cavern of space. A deep plastic underfloor well is perfect for storing dirty gear.

Hitting the road, tap the 2.5-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine connected to the all-wheel-drive system through an 8-speed automatic transmission. It wouldn't seem enough engine for a large three-row crossover, but moves quickly enough given 328 horsepower and 326 lb.-ft. of torque. That's also enough to tow 5,000 lbs. of weekend toys. Fuel economy is decent at 20/23-MPG city/highway.

I'd love an optional twin-turbo V6, but the turbo-four gets kids to school, parents to work,

and performs light off-roading to a campsite. It just wish it didn't sound so whiny when stomped. Six selectable drive modes configure the powertrain for varying conditions. For a crossover this size, it handles respectably on its sport-tuned suspension. Managing the large wheels over rough pavement can get a little clunky, but it remains composed.

Enduring any long trip, drivers will crave GM's Super Cruise. On approved roads - Interstates and highways - turn on cruise control, wait for a green arc on the steering wheel, confirm in the head-up display and lift hands off. After a few miles, the system feels safe and natural. Acadia comes with every imaginable crash avoidance system, but my favorite is the safety alert seat that vibrates in the direction of danger.

Even stealth luxury comes at a price. While the Acadia starts at a reasonable \$43,800, our primo mambo came to a healthier \$67,890. Still, compare that to an Acura MDX, Lexus TX, Lincoln Nautilus or Volvo XC90 and it'll wear very comfortably.

Storm Forward!

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

<p>LIKES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STEALTH LUXURY • EFFICIENT POWERTRAIN • SUPER CRUISE 	<p>DISLIKES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TIGHT THIRD-ROW • RADIO CONTROLS • HEADLIGHT MENU
<p>2026 GMC Acadia Denali Ultimate Seven-passenger, AWD Crossover Powertrain: 2.5-liter T4, 8-spd Output: 328hp/326 lb.-ft. torque Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind Wheels f/r: 22"/22" alloy Brakes f/r: disc/disc Towing: 5,000 lbs. Fuel economy: 20/23 mpg city/hwy Assembly: Lansing, MI Base/As-tested price: \$43,800/67,890</p>	

BUTCH DALE'S BACK IN THE DAY

Hot Cars From Back In The Day



Do you recognize this car from 2011?

Answer on Page A4

We Will Seek the Good



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

It said a few other things, but that phrase, "seek the good," stuck with me because, for the first time in several days, I felt as if maybe there was something I could do.

I could seek the good—in every person I encounter, in every interaction I have, within the hearts and minds of the folks I might not agree with. I can seek the good.

It doesn't sound like a lot. It seems like a pretty simple thing, actually, not a serious job assignment. It doesn't sound entirely sensible, and it certainly doesn't sound pragmatic. But I'm going to seek the good because this morning, it suddenly seemed to me that making a practice of seeking the good is a lot harder than it seems. And possibly, it's more important than it sounds.

It is so easy to lose hope. It is so easy to become deeply cynical. It's easy to explain what is wrong with others and what is wrong with ourselves, and there are a lot of people who do that well.

But right now, when there is no shortage of anger or fear or cynicism, I'm going to try to seek the good instead—the good I know is all around me—sometimes in plain sight, sometimes in places I forget to look.

Till next time,

Carrie

There's a reason I don't write about current events.

The news flies at me faster than I can absorb. I cannot make sense of it all, and it feels as if I should always be doing something more, knowing more, helping more than I am.

The parable in the Bible that made the biggest impact on me as a child was the story Jesus told of how, when the master went away, he gave his servants talents to safeguard. Of course, in the literal sense, a talent was a large amount of money, but as a child, I took it to mean exactly as the parable implied—some kind of ability I might have.

I didn't want to be that servant who stuck his talents in the ground and did nothing with them. Those talents didn't do any good. They didn't grow. They didn't help anyone. I promised myself (at eight or nine years old) I wouldn't make the mistake of that foolish servant. I'd make use of whatever I'd been given.

In the years since I was eight or nine, I've come to

realize this is not as easy as it sounds. Every single person has more talents than they know what to do with. The trick is deciding what to do with whatever we have and using it wisely in whatever time we are given.

Every day, I see a multitude of people who seem to be doing a lot more than I do. And this morning, again, I wondered if I was doing enough to make the world more livable, more kind, more loving. This morning, I had the very strong impression that I was not.

So I went to church. It was cold and gray, and I was grumpy. But I figured those were good reasons to go to church rather than stay at home. Once I got there, I was surrounded by folks who seemed busy doing the things they felt they needed to do—using their talents to the best of their abilities. I genuinely felt lost. I wondered if I was the only one who felt so confused. We got all the way to the benediction before I felt any clarity at all.

"We will seek the good," the benediction said.

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!

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We Had a Plane to Catch



DICK WOLFSIE
Columnist

When we returned from our vacation in Costa Rica, the travel company asked us to rate our guide who accompanied us during the week-long tour. Mary Ellen and I agreed he was “for the birds.” Guillermo knew everything about birds. He knew each bird’s phylum, order, genus, and species, and he could explain these details in four languages. As we walked through rainforests or cloud forests, he would point out a bird in a tree and give us full details about its lifestyle, diet, and mating habits. He was truly a bird-brain, although he’d probably prefer to be called an avian biologist. I never had that choice.

Another notable quality of Guillermo was that, given the United States’ partisan climate, he was careful to avoid any references to controversial issues. When he discussed certain birds making their yearly trip to a new climate, he always used the phrase “making their annual sojourn.” The word migration was avoided. But, with birds anyway, he was definitely an advocate.

Our bus driver’s name was Manuel. He was excellent at the wheel, handling every turn and maneuvering through tight spots. I asked Guillermo if he thought there would ever be a driverless coach.

“No,” said Guillermo. “We prefer manual driving.” Manuel didn’t get the joke because he didn’t speak much English. Just as well. I didn’t want Guillermo to have the best one-liner on the trip.

We also saw a magnificent squadron of pelicans, a term I learned from Guillermo. By the way, I love pelicans. And because of that, my favorite (clean) limerick is about pelicans, which is totally off topic, but I’ve been waiting 25 years to have an excuse to insert this into a column.

A wonderful bird is the pelican

His beak can hold more than his belican

He can take in his beak

Enough for a week

But I’m dammed if I know how the helican

(Allegedly written by Edward Lear, but authorship is disputed.)

But now, let’s return to our travels. We also took a catamaran into crocodile-infested waters. There was one sighting where we were within six feet of a 1,600-pound croc the locals called Captain Hook, a clear reference to J.M. Barrie’s story Peter Pan, where the crocodile

bites off Captain Hook’s hand and develops a taste for him. The creature is named The Tick-Tock Croc because it also swallowed a ticking clock that warns Hook of its presence. Could the monster we faced swallow a clock? Yes, even a grandfather clock. Although this giant did not actually swallow a clock, we knew exactly what time it was when he moved closer to us and opened his jaws. Time to get out of there.

On our last day, Guillermo accompanied us to the airport. I asked him how far we were from the U.S. coast. He said about 1500 miles, “as the crow flies.” Then he added, “Also 1500 miles for the Keel-billed Toucan, the Collared Aracari, the Scarlet Macaw, the Red-lored Parrot, the Crimson-fronted Parakeet, the Violet Sabrewing, the Golden-hooded Tanager, the Three-wattled Bellbird, the Emerald Toucanet, the Slaty-Throated Redstart, the Ruddy Triune...

Guillermo never ran out of birds, but we ran out of time because we had a plane to catch.

We headed for the airport. I’m sure Guillermo watched us take off. He seldom misses anything in flight.

Thanks, Guillermo and Manuel, you were the best guides we’ve ever had.

I can’t wait to tweet about it.

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

BUTCH

Continued from Page 1

their aches and pains. This could go on for hours, so it is best to use the restroom before starting the conversation. And remember that children do not want to hear about your hemorrhoid surgery and the benefits of eating prunes.

9. Please don’t request that everyone do the “bunny hop” at parties or weddings. The “funky chicken,” the “twist,” and the “monkey” are also no-no’s.

10. Do not tell anyone that you think Joan Collins is still “hot.”

11. If a sliver of steak gets stuck in your teeth while eating at Texas Roadhouse, please do not remove your false teeth and pry the meat out with your fork.

12. Do not use your pacemaker to make the garage door go up and down. This might cause a short in the electronics and can cause a lot of unnecessary wear and tear to the door.

13. If you wear the “Life Alert,” and you “fall down and can’t get up,” press the emergency button. If a beautiful woman first responder shows up, act like you are unconscious so she will administer mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

14. The “Gene Keady comb-over” is to be used only by Gene Keady.

15. Don’t drink wine after a meal. It will make you sleepy and you might miss a rerun of “The Lawrence Welk Show.” Instead, have an 8 oz. glass of orange Metamucil. You must remember that one of the main goals in your life is to experience regular bowel movements.

16. If your wife refers to your waterbed as “the Dead Sea,” it may be time for your doctor to prescribe that “little blue pill.”

17. Don’t fall asleep in your recliner . . . with your head back and your mouth

open. People are apt to call the coroner.

18. If you have more hair in your ears than on your head, consult a hair transplant business . . . you know the ones on TV . . . “I got my hair back, and so can you!”

19. If you enjoy watching the weather report on TV, never tell your wife that you think Angela Buchman is ugly. Your wife knows that you are lying.

20. You can finally go ahead now and change the setting on the thermostat anytime you want. You have reached the magic age. Your parents aren’t around anymore. You are in charge.

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.

Registration Open for Boys & Girls Club Spring Break Camp

The Boys & Girls Club of Montgomery County will run 2026 Spring Break Camp, offering local youth a fun, safe, and engaging place to spend their school break. Registration is open and spots are filling up.

Spring Break Camp will take place March 23–27 at the Boys & Girls Club and is open to youth in grades K-5. Camp is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. with breakfast, lunch and a snack provided. Throughout the week, campers will enjoy a variety of hands-on activities, including a mix of games

and gym activities, arts and crafts, STEM projects, group challenges and field trips. Camp provides opportunities for kids to learn new skills, explore their creativity, and build friendships in a positive environment.

The program is made possible through the generous sponsorship of Lakeside Book Company, whose partnership helps make the camp accessible to families in the community.

“We are grateful to Lakeside Book Company for helping make this pro-

gram possible,” said Gina Haile, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Montgomery County. “Spring break can be a challenge for working families. Our goal is to provide a safe, supervised environment where kids can stay active, learn new things, and have a lot of fun.”

The cost for the full week of Spring Break Camp is \$65 per child. Space is limited.

Families can register by contacting the Club at (765) 362-8912 or by visiting www.bgcmoco.org.

Secretary of State, Turning Point USA Launch Statewide Voter Registration Partnership

Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales recently launched a statewide voter registration and poll worker recruitment initiative with Club America powered by Turning Point USA 501(c)(3). The effort is aimed at increasing voter registration and strengthening poll worker recruitment efforts across the state.

The Secretary of State’s Office will collaborate with Club America to host voter registration drives on high school campuses and provide students with accurate, up-to-date election information. Both will work to assist with on-site voter registration. The initiative will also highlight the “Hoosier Hall Pass” program, which allows eligible students to serve as poll workers. Since 2023 the Secretary of State has facilitated hundreds of non-partisan voter registration events at schools and colleges, fairs, festi-

vals, sporting events, and public gatherings.

“As Indiana’s Chief Election Officer, my priority is ensuring every eligible Hoosier has the opportunity to register to vote and participate in our elections. I’m excited to partner with Club America on this initiative allowing us to meet young voters where they are and empower them with the tools and resources they need to engage in the civic process. Young Hoosiers are the future of our state. By engaging students early and providing hands-on opportunities to participate and serve, we are building the next generation of informed voters and leaders,” said Diego Morales, Indiana Secretary of State.

“We believe the next generation of leaders are sitting in America’s classrooms. Through our Club America chapters and partnership

with Secretary Morales, we’re making it easier for Indiana students to register to vote, serve their communities, and use their voice. Engaging young Americans early ensures they understand both their rights and their responsibility to defend freedom—just like Charlie Kirk,” said Nick Cocca, Club America Enterprise Director.

In addition to voter registration, the efforts will promote poll worker recruitment opportunities, encouraging students to serve their communities on Election Day.

Indiana schools and Turning Point USA chapters interested in hosting a voter registration drive or learning more about poll worker opportunities are encouraged to contact the Indiana Secretary of State’s Office.

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About the Indiana Library Federation

The Indiana Library Federation represents public, school, academic and special libraries throughout Indiana and advocates for policies that ensure all Hoosiers have access to library services.

Library Foundation Raises Concern Over New Legislation

The Indiana Library Federation is deeply disappointed with the final legislative action taken during the 2026 session that will significantly affect Indiana's public libraries.

Language affecting public libraries, which originated in Senate Bill 8 and Senate Bill 4, was ultimately added to House Bill 1406 through the conference committee process on the final day of the legislative session.

While library leaders engaged in advocacy and discussions with legislators throughout the session, no opportunity for public testimony was allowed during the second half of the legislative session. Additionally, key provisions included in the final bill were never introduced or publicly debated prior to the conference committee report.

"We appreciate the legislators who took time to meet with library leaders and consider our concerns throughout the session," Vanessa Martin, ILF Advocacy Co-Chair stated "However, we are deeply dismayed that the final language affecting libraries was adopted without a full public process."

ILF is concerned about the Maximum Levy Growth Quotient provision included in the final legislation. First introduced in Senate Bill 4 during an amend-and-vote-only committee action, the provision

effectively limits library budget growth to less than 50 percent of the growth permitted for other local governmental units. It also adds administrative deadlines and penalties that apply only to public libraries, creating new requirements that they must meet or face significant consequences. Public libraries that exceed the growth threshold or fail to meet these requirements risk being placed under binding review, which may force them to cut services and reduce hours, even when community needs justify additional resources.

"At a time when many Hoosiers are struggling with affordability, public libraries provide critical access to education, technology, and community resources that should not be artificially limited by punitive budget restrictions," said Julie Wendorf, ILF Advocacy Co-Chair.

New provisions added in conference committee apply exclusively to public libraries and reduce their allowable budget growth by requiring libraries that seek 50 percent or more of the Maximum Levy Growth Quotient to submit proposed budgets and property tax levies to their fiscal bodies before September 2 each year, a requirement that does not apply to any other local governmental units. If a library under binding review fails to meet that deadline, its property tax levy would

be calculated using 49 percent of the previous year's levy, rather than the 80 percent calculation currently used for other local government units. The legislation unfairly singles out public libraries for punitive measures, even though other public entities with appointed boards are not subject to the same restrictions.

Indiana libraries serve millions of residents annually by providing access to early childhood literacy activities, workforce development resources, high speed and reliable internet and wi-fi, lifelong learning opportunities, meeting spaces, and connections to community services. According to the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance, in 2024, Indiana public libraries represented 3.99 percent of the total levy of all local units and only 2.08 percent of the overall debt service levies. Indiana's public libraries provide an enormous return on investment for the tax dollars entrusted to them.

ILF remains committed to working with policymakers to ensure fiscal accountability while protecting the ability of libraries to meet community needs. "We remain committed to constructive dialogue with state leaders. Our goal continues to be ensuring that Indiana's libraries remain strong, sustainable institutions serving communities across the state," stated Vanessa Martin, ILF Advocacy Co-Chair.

Wabash Junior Earns International STEM Internship

**By Richard Paige
Wabash College**

Wabash College student Prasun Panthi '27 has earned a DAAD RISE summer STEM research internship in Germany.

Panthi earned his scholarship to study in Kaiserslautern, Germany, for this international experience. It marks the second consecutive year in which a Wabash student has earned this research opportunity.

Given by the German Academic Exchange Service, the DAAD RISE summer internships are awarded in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to undergraduate students from North America, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. Students are carefully matched with doctoral students and researchers from universities of applied sciences, whom they assist and who serve as their mentors.

"Earning this internship is a validation of my potential as a researcher, not just within Wabash, but through a respected international lens," said Panthi, a native of Kathmandu, Nepal. "Being selected to lead original theoretical work in a field that genuinely excites me is an incredible opportunity for growth. Ever since arriving at Wabash, my short-term goal has been to earn a place in a strong physics Ph.D. program in the United States. I believe this experience will strengthen that path."

Panthi's research focus this summer will be in developing a theoretical framework for the Bose-Einstein Condensate

to Bardeen-Cooper-Schrieffer (BCS) crossover in curved space, a new problem that sits at the intersection of condensed matter physics and non-Euclidean geometry. Although the program officially begins May 19, Panthi and his research mentor have decided to get started early to maximize the chances of producing publishable results.

"Based on conversations with my research mentor, this is a new idea, and I will be leading the theoretical derivations and calculations," Panthi said. "This work aligns closely with what I hope to pursue in graduate school."

A physics major with a minor in mathematics, Panthi serves as a physics tutor at the Quantitative Skills Center, sings tenor in the glee club, and is a member of the International Student Association, the Indoor Soccer Club, and the Society of Physics Students. Previously, he has traveled abroad on a Wabash immersion learning experience to Liverpool, England, with a History of the Beatles course.

RISE Germany offers approximately 300 summer research internships in Germany and Interns receive a monthly stipend to cover everyday costs. RISE Germany is supported by the Federal Foreign Office and by many partners. The program's objective is to promote student exchange to Germany in the fields of natural science, engineering, and life sciences, and to motivate undergraduate students to learn more about Germany's research landscape and study op-



**Wabash Junior
Prasun Panthi**

portunities.

"Prasun impressed me with his level of engagement with the RISE application process," said Susan Albrecht, Wabash College Fellowship Advisor. "The program setup isn't particularly easy to navigate, yet Prasun arrived in my office having already earmarked suitable internship opportunities and with solid letters of motivation already drafted. He struck me as a go-getter who has a substantial skillset to offer. I anticipate a highly successful summer for Prasun in Germany."

Panthi joins the list of Wabash men who have earned highly competitive fellowships since 2014, including the Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Obama Voyager, Yenching, Goldwater, and Point Foundation Flagship Scholarships. Additionally, Wabash students have earned the Center for the Study of Presidency and Congress' Presidential Fellowship, U.K. Fulbright Summer Institute placement, Critical Language Scholarship, and NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships, to go with 34 Fulbrights and 34 Gilman Scholarships.

Midwest Wire Group Announces New Operations Manager

Midwest Wire Group is pleased to announce the hiring of Nate Hunt as Operations Manager.

Nate joins Midwest Wire Group with more than 20 years of experience in manufacturing and production leadership. He previously worked in operations at Acuity Brands, where he gained extensive experience in operations management, manufacturing engineering, supervision and production floor leadership.

In his new role, Nate will oversee day-to-day operations at Midwest Wire Group's Crawfordsville facility. He will work closely with production teams to strengthen operational efficiency, support continuous improvement initiatives, and help ensure the company continues delivering the quality and reliability customers expect.

"We are excited to wel-

come Nate to the Midwest Wire Group team," said Jason Ramsey, President of Midwest Wire Group. "His background in manufacturing operations and leadership will be a great asset as we continue to grow and strengthen our operations."

Nate is a Crawfordsville native and attended Indiana State University. He and wife Dana live in Crawfordsville with their two daughters, Autumn and Ruth.

Midwest Wire Group has been serving customers throughout the Midwest and beyond since 1999. The family-owned manufacturing and wire solutions company, based in Crawfordsville, is known for dependable service, quality products and flexible solutions tailored to customers' needs. With more than 150 years of combined experience in the wire industry, the team is committed to con-



Nate Hunt

sistent quality, responsive communication, and reliable service.

The company manufactures a wide range of wire products including single-loop bale ties, baling wire, stem wire, stump wire, and other custom wire solutions used in recycling, agricultural, and industrial applications. Midwest Wire Group offers both standard and custom wire products and prides itself on flexibility, dependable lead times, and strong customer partnerships.

Yearlong Reading Journey



Photos courtesy Crawfordsville District Public Library

Caroline Nichols (left), age 10, and Julia Nichols (right), age 7, have completed the Crawfordsville District Public Library program the "Yearlong Reading Journey." Caroline and Julia are the daughters of Tyler and Mindy Nichols. On this journey, both girls were challenged to read 12 chapter books and 12 picture books. Caroline read 1,885 pages during the year. She practiced library skills and learned about a different author each month. Her favorite book is The Swiss Family Robinson by Johann David Wyss. Caroline said, "I love reading and to learn new things and how they are written." Julia read 1,684 pages during the year. She also practiced library skills and learned about a different author each month. Her favorite book is The Swiss Family Robinson by Johann David Wyss. Julia said, "I enjoyed reading a variety of new books." The Crawfordsville District Public Library congratulates Julia and applauds her dedication to reading and lifelong learning!



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