

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 16:8

I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

■ AWL BANDIT



Bandit is a 4 month old male domestic shorthair kitten available at The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL). Bandit is currently being fostered, but is eager to snag a furrrever home before being brought back to the shelter. Bandit's foster family is happy to report he's purrfect!! Bandit is playful, cuddly, vocal, and confident. Bandit would thrive in a home with other pets (cats or dogs). Bandit is also great with kids and he's litterbox trained. What more could you ask for!? Are you interested in adopting Bandit? If so, please call 765-362-8846 or go to mcawl.com/adopt to submit an adoption application. AWL is open Monday-Friday from 12:15 p.m.-5 p.m. and Saturdays from 12 p.m.-3 p.m. Come snuggle cats in a community cat room, walk dogs, or lend a helping hand!

■ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

The Crawfordsville | Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce will hold its Annual Meeting during Connections & Conversations at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, May 6, on the 3rd floor of Fusion 54. The purpose of the meeting is to review the past year and vote to approve the recommended slate of candidates for the Board of Directors. The official meeting notice is included below for your reference. This gathering typically brings together approximately 70 attendees and also provides an opportunity to hear Chamber updates, connect with fellow members, and share a brief update about your organization. Members are encouraged to RSVP in advance to assist with planning.



A lot of us grew up in a country where we were told if we work hard we could one day be president of the United States. Now we live in a country where young people are told if they want, they can be a member of the opposite sex, a cat or a turnip. What a world!

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There is no worse tyranny than to force a man to pay for what he does not want merely because you think it would be good for him."

Robert A. Heinlein

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

Why is the letter A like a flower?
Because a B comes after it!

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEKEND.

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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

'I Lost Money as a Widow by Not Knowing Rules'

Dear Rusty: I just found out, as someone who was collecting widow's benefits on my second husband (a very small amount) for some time, that I was, all along, entitled to divorce benefits from my first husband which are much more. I thought I had to wait until my first husband passed before I could collect anything from him. Now I learned I have the right to collect as a divorcee. All of these years I have been missing out on a bigger benefit because I didn't know this. Please make this clear and stress it for others in my position.

Signed: Lost Benefits

Dear Lost Benefits: I am truly saddened that you lost out on benefits from your first husband for such a long time. Although you could not collect an ex-spouse benefit from Husband #1 while you were married to Husband #2, as soon as your current husband died you again became eligible for ex-spouse benefits from



ASK RUSTY

Social Security Advisor

Husband #1. Basically, the rules say you cannot collect benefits from an ex-spouse if you have remarried and remain married. In other words, you cannot be "currently married" to collect benefits from an ex-spouse. But the death of Husband #2 meant that you were now eligible to collect ex-spouse benefits from your first husband – husband #1. I hope when you later filed for your ex-spouse benefits you asked for six months of retroactive benefits.

In your situation, when your Husband #2 died, you actually had a choice – either collect your surviving spouse benefit from your

recently deceased husband #2, or to collect a regular ex-spouse benefit from your first husband if that is more than your benefit as your second husband's widow. Regular ex-spouse benefits from your first husband are available even though he is still living (and, indeed, even if he remarried) because you are no longer married to husband #2.

This, however, is not always the way things work out for someone who has had multiple marriages. It all depends on the SS benefit each former spouse was entitled to. That's

See Rusty Page 3

'If Only I Had Waited Longer to Claim SS'

By AMAC Foundation Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor

"Hindsight is the best Foresight"

As the old adage goes, "hindsight is the best foresight" and nowhere is that more evident than with some we counsel at the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory Service. We regularly speak with older seniors who say, if only they knew how long they were going to live they would have waited longer to claim Social Security. More of a cliché than an adage, the "hindsight" phrase laments the fact that no one can predict their life expectancy but, if only they had known they would live to a ripe old age, they would have waited longer to get a higher SS benefit. This is sometimes the case with those who have already reached a more advanced age, and who

would very much appreciate (and benefit from) a higher monthly Social Security payment.

A Little Background
For background, Social Security benefits taken at age 62 are reduced by 25% to 30% from that available if claimed at the person's full retirement age. Your full retirement age (your "FRA") is when you get 100% of the Social Security benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working. A person's FRA is determined by their year of birth: for individuals born between 1943 and 1954, FRA is age 66; for individuals born between 1955 and 1959 their FRA increases by two months for each year after 1954; and for those born after 1959, FRA is age 67. Claiming before FRA means a reduced benefit and delaying until after FRA yields a higher benefit. Age 70 is when you can get your

maximum Social Security benefit, about 75% more than a benefit claimed at age 62, and 24% to 32% more than available at the person's FRA. Obviously, for seniors in their 80s who are struggling to make ends meet, the thought of a higher monthly SS check, if only they had waited longer to claim, can be something to fret about.

Claiming Age Distribution
However, fretting about past decisions offers nothing but stress. And you might find solace in the fact that a majority of those applying for Social Security claim benefits before their full retirement age. Indeed, over 60% of SS recipients claim benefits before their FRA, with about 30% claiming as soon as they are eligible (age 62). About 34% claim at their full retirement age, leaving only a small

See Waiting Page 2

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. Two of Indiana's most recognizable summer traditions are teaming up for a grand slam summer. The Indiana State Fair and Indianapolis Indians recently announced a partnership for the 2026 Indiana State Fair, bringing together iconic organizations that have long been part of the Hoosier summer experience. The summer-long partnership will bring an exciting lineup of activations to both Victory Field and the Indiana State Fair. The baseball theme will also serve as a centerpiece for the United States 250th Birthday celebration, bringing Americana to life through two timeless traditions – fairs and baseball – creating a season that is both nostalgic and unmistakably All-American.

2. A new study from Hormone health clinic Feel30 has analyzed data from the CDC to determine which states have the highest rates of obesity among adults – and it's not good news for us Hoosiers. Indiana ranked seventh nationally with the highest rate of obesity. West Virginia finished first with 41.2 percent of adults being described as obese. We Hoosiers came in at 37.8 percent. Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and Alabama rounded out the top five.

3. Borrow sugar from a neighbor, or order it online? For 70 percent of Americans, delivery wins, according to a new survey from American Home Shield. In fact, 1 in 3 Americans confess to actively avoiding neighbors: 51 percent blame social anxiety (55 percent hate small talk); 21 percent confess to feuding with neighbors; 32 percent (including 49 percent of Gen Zers) wouldn't feel comfortable knocking on a neighbor's door; 59 percent of parents wouldn't let their children play with neighborhood kids; and nearly 3 in 4 (74 percent) don't feel a strong sense of community, and 19% even feel lonely in their own neighborhoods.

Reasons Why Older Adults Should Focus on Eye Health

StatePoint

As you age, it's important to keep an eye on your vision. While some vision changes can be expected over time, others may signal something more serious, such as cataracts, glaucoma or age-related macular degeneration (AMD), which can result in vision loss, blurred vision and glare.

According to one study, one-third of all cases of cataracts, open-angle glaucoma and early AMD occur in those 80 years old or older.

"Older adults with diabetes are especially at risk of developing eye-related issues over time, including cataracts and glaucoma, as well as diabetic retinopathy," said Dr. Grant Tarbox, senior executive medical director with HealthSpring, which offers Medicare plans across the country.

In fact, more than half of people with diabetes eventually develop diabetic retinopathy, according to the National Eye Institute. This is a serious condition that can cause blindness if left untreated.

Vision screening recommendations for older adults vary by organization based on health status and medical history. Nevertheless, if you have a vision benefit in your insurance plan, it's a good idea to take advantage of it in 2026.

While Original Medicare doesn't cover a routine annual vision exam, most Medicare Advantage (MA) plans, such as those offered by HealthSpring, do provide additional vision benefits, including annual screenings. These plans may even provide you with an incentive for getting an annual vision exam. To avoid surprise payments, always visit an optometrist or ophthalmologist in your network.

Many eye diseases don't present symptoms in the early stages, making screenings important. When conditions are caught and treated early, disease progression can be slowed. Both Original Medicare and MA plans generally cover treatment for various eye diseases. Beneficiaries may have to pay coinsurance or copays, depending on their coverage. Additionally, a Medicare Part D plan, which is often included in an MA plan, generally covers eye drops and other vision-related prescriptions.

"You should always ask your eye doctor to share information about your vision health with your primary care physician, including any prescriptions ordered, to better coordinate care," said Tarbox.

See Eyes Page 3

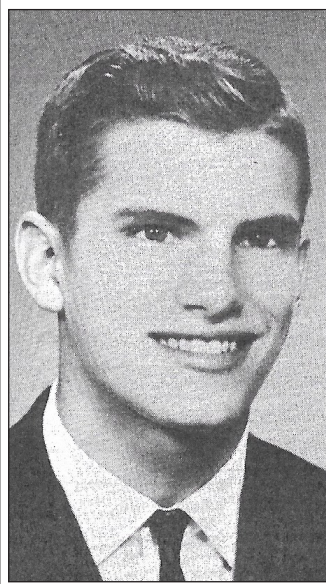
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OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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RECOGNIZE ME?

Flashback Trivia with Butch Dale



Do You Recognize This 1966 Coal Creek H.S. Graduate?

HINT:

He belonged to several school clubs, and participated in all of the sports . . . and he has been a basketball referee for many years.

Answer on Page 4

County VSO Officer Shares March Report



Nick Kashon

Veteran's Service Officer
Montgomery County

March was an especially busy month for the Veterans Service Office. We received 105 phone calls, welcomed 51 visitors, and provided transportation to medical appointments for 20 veterans using our DAV-sponsored vans.

I attended monthly meetings with the American Legion, VFW, and DAV, keeping veterans up to date on important news and upcoming changes. We also hosted our second Veterans Roundtable of the year, where leaders from different veterans' organizations shared ideas and resources to better support our local veteran community.

Park benches featuring a suicide hotline QR code have been distributed to several communities and will be installed as the weather improves. Wabash College has also received a few of these benches for placement around campus.

Looking ahead, new

property tax laws for disabled veterans' primary residences will take effect in 2027. More details will be available soon.

Having a copy of your discharge papers (Form DD-214) is necessary for most VA benefits. Adding this form to your end of life portfolio greatly helps your family obtain the death benefits you have earned. Call and make an appointment if you need assistance in obtaining a new copy of your papers.

If you need assistance, please call (765) 361-4133 or email nick.kashon@montgomerycounty.in.gov to schedule an appointment. Our office is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.

Nick Kashon is the Veterans Service Officer for Montgomery County. You can reach him at Nick.Kashon@montgomerycounty.in.gov or (765) 361-4133. His office is located at 1580 Constitution Row Crawfordsville.

New Market Elementary Third Quarter Honor Roll

3rd Grade High Honor Roll

Kane Barsotti, Mason Brown, Owen Buck, Kendrix Cope, Hayden Davis, Calli Dittmer, Theo Hartman, Partick Heimbach, Weston Hoskins, Everett Kaur, Gemma King, Hudson Landaverde, David Livengood, Kordelia Maddock, Tinsley McCloud, Emerson Miles Asher Newlin, Briar Osborn, Liam Page, Teagen Priebe, McCartney Pullen, Cole Ramsey, Averi Schick, Emerie Stoner, and Audrey Stringfield.

Honor Roll

Amelia Allen, Mason Brant, Jovie Bray, Mackenzie Brown, Jep Carrell, Orion Collins, Westyn Cornelius, Jaxon Cummins, Brantley Eskra, Parker Gentry, Holly Hedge, Gavin High, Javan Hoenshell, Colton Hopkins, Emma Kelsey, Oliver

Lacy, Jeremiaha Lyon, Jackson Olinger, Maddux Perez, Michalia Peterson, Silas Porter, Alex Reed, Willow Schaaf, Nashlyn Starcher, Lydia Stull, Everlee Surber

4th Grade High Honor Roll

Cole Boyd, Elizabeth Emberton, Braden Ford, Benson Jones, Harrison Melton, Michael Mobley, Paige Simpson, Isaac Steiner, Brecken Thomas

Honor Roll

Maddison Bacchus, Alexander Badertscher, Enzo Carr, Hadley Cornelius, Leo Cox, Noah Fruits, Elijah Hester, Hudson Hockersmith, Ainsley Kight, Jason McNair, Serafina Nowak, Aunysa Pyle, Maverick Roach, LauraBelle Surber, Riley Ward, James Wurtsbaugh

5th Grade High Honor Roll

Tyberius Anglin, Vera Carrell, Ace Charles, Audri Cohee, Sutton Cohee, Oliver Cook, Peyton Doss, Lucille Fisher, Nicholas Heimbach, Lux Highland, Beckett Jones, Briley Malone, Mackenzie Peterson, Zane Turner

Honor Roll

Sylis Barnett, Isla Beach, Alden Bray, Elijah Brown, Sawyer Cohee, Elle Collins, Cale Cunningham, Maverick Dorsy, Madeline Hawkins, Reyna Hernandez, Liam Howard, Wyatt Kingery, Calvin McCandless, Hudson McCandless, Hunter McGaughey, Mallory Morphew-High, Levi Rhodes, Eva Rice, Tristan Stafford, Kaison Steiner, Mason Stroud, Charlotte Stull, Henley Surface, Gabriel Turner, Gage Van Dorn, Derrick Ward, Colton Watson

Busy Months Ahead at the General's Place

Spring has finally arrived, and the 2026 season at the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum is well under way. The Carriage House Interpretive Center exhibit, Wallace Family: A Legacy of Service, is open and available for the public to enjoy free of charge. In commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, this year's exhibit explores the enduring tradition of public service within the Wallace family – from military service and elected office to civic leadership and activism.

By sharing these stories of service, sacrifice and stewardship, the hope is to inspire visitors to reflect on their own role in civic life and to renew their engagement in strengthening both our nation and our local community.

Numerous programming events are scheduled to complement the 2026 exhibit. On June 6 – 7, there will be the first Civil War Encampment on the grounds in more than a decade. The 10th Illinois Cavalry group will set up camp. They strive to re-enact the citizen soldier from Illinois. It was formed to provide enjoyable opportunities for individuals and families to experience, learn, and in return, teach others about all aspects of life in the mid-19th century. The American Civil War is one of the most fascinating and defining moments in our collective history. Everything from the military conflicts and tactics to civilian life with its social expectations and customs, are experiences that the living historians of the 10th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Regiment attempt to re-create.

The Dr. Howard Miller Lecture Series also returns for 2026. The next lecture will feature Museum favorite Gail Stephens. Gail is a retired U.S. Department of Defense employee who served as a volunteer at Monocacy National Battlefield. Her experience at Monocacy led to an interest in the life of General Lew Wallace and her publishing of Shadow of Shiloh: Major General Lew Wallace in the Civil War. She has lectured across the country, led battlefield tours, appeared on podcasts and radio, and has aided our museum with exhibit design. Gail will join us to discuss General Wallace's Civil War military career on June 11 at 7 p.m. in the Carriage House Interpretive Center.

ArchiCamp is an architecture-themed camp designed for

children ages 8–12, offered through the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum. Using historic local buildings and engaging, hands-on activities, the program introduces campers to the rich history of Montgomery County while sparking their creativity and curiosity. At its core, ArchiCamp aims to foster a sense of stewardship and responsibility, encouraging young participants to appreciate and help preserve our shared cultural heritage.

Registration is opens and the Camp is set for June 16-17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Limited spots are available so register early. Activities for the 2026 camp include walking tours of historic downtown Crawfordsville, building and painting birdhouses and creating stained glass windows, and more.

WAITING

Continued from Page 1

remaining group who seek a larger SS benefit by earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) after FRA. Thus, if you claimed benefits before your full retirement age, you are in the majority and in good company. And if you waited and claimed at or after your FRA, you might be considered exceptionally smart. But maybe not.

Deciding When to Claim
People make their claiming decisions based upon several factors, some valid and some not. For example, many people just claim Social Security blindly, simply because "it's there" and available, without fully understanding the ramifications of that decision. And some claim early because they think SS is going bankrupt (it's not). But from a strictly logical standpoint, when to claim SS should consider these factors: the person's financial need, their plans for working (if claiming early), their marital status, and their estimated longevity.

In reality, claiming early makes perfect sense if you do not expect to live a reasonably long life. In that case, claiming early is the most logical choice to get as much SS as possible before you die. But even in that case, you must still consider whether you plan to work after claiming early benefits. That's because Social Security limits how much you can earn when collecting benefits prior to your FRA.

Conversely, waiting longer for a higher monthly amount is a prudent choice if you can afford to do so, and if you have at least average life expectancy (about 84 for a man; 87 for a woman of

SS age). In today's world, many choose to continue working after age 62, which can provide them with the income needed to delay SS in favor of a higher monthly benefit. And that higher benefit will be very much appreciated as they age. Spouse benefits, and the timing thereof, are also a consideration, and the picture changes yet again if there are minor or disabled adult children in the mix.

What if I've Already Claimed?

But suppose you have already claimed your Social Security benefits and now regret that decision. What can you do?

Well, if you applied for Social Security benefits less than 12 months ago, you could withdraw your application and, thus, allow your monthly amount to grow, thus providing a higher benefit at a later age. But that would require you to repay all SS benefits already paid, which may not be a financially feasible option.

If you have already reached your full retirement age (FRA) and are not yet 70, you might consider suspending receipt of your monthly benefits to get a higher amount when you restart your monthly payments at a later age. Done this way, you do not need to repay all previous SS benefits, but you will need to adjust your lifestyle to temporarily do without your Social Security income. That might work if you have other income or savings to replace your suspended SS benefits. But it is a choice available to earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs)[1] and get a higher SS benefit later.

However, if it has been more than 1 year since you applied for SS benefits, or if you are already 70 years of age or more, you are, unfortunately out of options to increase your SS benefit amount. You will, of course, still receive any annual Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) awarded to provide at least some measure of higher benefit as you continue to age.

In the end, we all make consequential decisions over our lifetime, and when to claim Social Security is often an irrevocable choice. So, as tempting as it may be to speculate how much easier life would be if your SS benefit was larger, it is much better to simply be comfortable with your claiming choice, especially if you can't change it using one of the options described above. Above all, lamenting your previous choice isn't worth the emotional stress it induces.

What if I'm Only Now Thinking About Claiming?

And if you are now only considering applying for SS benefits, it would be very prudent to discuss your claiming options with the AMAC Foundation's accredited and certified Social Security Advisory staff. Social Security is a complex topic and the AMAC Foundation's SS Advisors can help you understand your best options for claiming after evaluating your specific personal circumstances. Call us at 1.888.750.2622 or send us an email to SSadvisor@amacfoundation.org. We're here to help - and there is never a fee for our SS Advisory services.

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HAPPY EASTER!!

Commons Wants Pork Ownership in U.S.

State Rep. Matt Commons (R-WilliamSPORT) recently sent a letter to the White House urging President Donald Trump and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins to facilitate pathways that would return majority control of agricultural giants, such as Smithfield Foods, to American ownership.

Smithfield Foods, which is majority owned by a China-based corporation, controls over 20 percent of the U.S. pork industry. As one of the leading pork-producing states and home to a Smithfield Foods processing plant in Peru, Commons said Indiana has a strong interest in safeguarding America's food security and ensuring farmers are properly compensated.

"The pork industry contributes more than \$3 billion annually to our state's economy," Commons said. "American ownership in this area impacts not only our food supply, but also our economy and national security."

In the letter, Commons urged the Trump Administration to engage with private sector stockholders, investors and domestic agricultural partners to explore acquisition strategies that would return majority control of Smithfield Foods to American ownership.

Commons said Indiana has already taken efforts to combat foreign influence and food insecurity by eliminating adversarial ownership of agricultural land and other sensitive proper-



Matt Commons

ties in Senate Enrolled Act 256. This letter continues those efforts and urges support for enhanced national security, a strong and independent agricultural economy and long-term stability for farmers.

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



Photo courtesy Franciscan Health

This year's event features a brand-new course for the 5K Run/Walk.

Suit Up For 11th Annual Race for Kids 5K/10K

The 11th Annual Race for Kids 5K/10K will be back at Franciscan Health - East in Lafayette on Saturday, June 6. And this year, Franciscan Health is calling on all superheroes to join in!

This year's event features a brand-new course for the 5K Run/Walk, along with the addition of a 10K option for those ready to go the extra mile (or three)! The Healthy Family Fun Fair will return with many of your favorite vendors, plus some ex-

citing new additions the whole family will enjoy!

In true superhero fashion, the tiniest fighters and the champions who support them will be honored with a special blessing for our NICU families followed by the NICU Reunion, which serves as a powerful reminder that everyone needs a superhero!

Cape or no cape, we invite you to be a hero for a day to support our Level III NICU and Pediatric Therapy programs. Last year's Race for Kids raised over \$24,000 and

allowed us to provide essential supplies for families in our NICU as well as cutting edge equipment for our Pediatric Therapy rooms.

Please reach out to Jennifer Strange at Jennifer.strange@franciscanalliance.org with any questions about the event.

Together, we can turn miles into milestones and make sure our smallest community members have the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive.

Folkloric Dance Company at Wabash Saturday

On Saturday, the Mexican Folkloric Dance Company will perform in Salter Hall of the Wabash College Fine Arts Center at 7:30 p.m.

The Mexican Folkloric Dance Company's performances reflect Mexico's rich history, which shapes its traditional arts, culture, and values. The historical periods revealed in the dances include pre-Columbian indigenous times,

the Spanish colonial period, the struggle for independence and the 1910 Mexican Revolution.

As Chicago's oldest Mexican dance institution, MFDC has received countless recognitions and awards, performed for three presidents and represented Mexico in the 1994 USA World Cup opening ceremony, as well as numerous national television performanc-

es, most recently at the 2009 Latin Grammy Awards.

For tickets, visit https://www.wabash.edu/boxoffice/event.cfm?eventid_id=231. Admission is free to all events and open to the public. All events are general admission. Free tickets are required for Theater Productions and Visiting Artist Series events. This event is suitable for all ages.

RUSTY

Continued from Page 1

because your survivor benefit as your 2nd husband's widow is based on the full (100%) amount he was receiving from Social Security when he died. In contrast, your benefit as your first husband's ex-spouse while he is still living will be based upon half (50%) of his full retirement age SS entitlement. And often, 100% of a deceased person's SS benefit is more than 50% of another living person's amount. But not always.

It's important to also know that if you claim any SS benefit before reaching your personal full retirement age (FRA), the monthly amount will be reduced. Benefits as a

spouse (or a surviving spouse) do not reach maximum until the spouse reaches FRA, which is somewhere between age 66 and 67 depending on the spouse's year of birth. It's also important to know that if a surviving spouse is working, any SS benefit received will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET), which limits how much can be earned before SS benefits are affected. For 2026, the earnings limit for those collecting early SS benefits is \$24,480 and, if that limit is exceeded, Social Security will take away some of your benefits. Note that the earnings test goes away when you

reach your full retirement age.

Finally, be aware that if your first husband also predeceases you, you will then become eligible for a surviving ex-spouse benefit from him, even if he has remarried.

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

They'll Be Singin' in the Rain at Beef & Boards

Both fresh and familiar faces will take the Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre stage starting Thursday for the iconic Singin' in the Rain.

Joseph Rafael Davila declared it's literally his "dream come true" to make his Beef & Boards debut as Don Lockwood in Singin' in the Rain. The role was originated in the MGM film by Gene Kelly - who Davila calls his "idol growing up."

"I wanted nothing more in this world than to be just like him," Davila, a native of Clifton Park, NY, said. "It has been my life and career goal and aspiration to step into the characters he originated. It is not an exaggeration when I say this is a dream come true!"

At his side as Kathy Selden will be Kimberly Doreen Burns, who is reprising the role. She's also been seen at Beef & Boards as

Eliza Doolittle in My Fair Lady. Burns will play the role through April 26, after which it will be played by Sarah Daniels. This is Daniels' first production of Singin' in the Rain, but Beef & Boards audiences will recognize her for her roles as Ariel in Disney's The Little Mermaid, Lauren in Kinky Boots, Katherine in Newsies, Amber Von Tussle in Hairspray, and Sandy in Grease.

Returning to the Beef & Boards stage after appearing as Dewey Phillips in Heartbreak Hotel last season is James Garrett Hill, who plays Don's friend and fellow performer, Cosmo Brown. Reprising her role as Lina Lamont is Sarah Hund, who is also known for her roles in the Smoke on the Mountain series, Grumpy Old Men, Footloose, The Addams Family, Into the Woods, and

Les Misérables, among others.

Eddie Curry, who directs the show, reprises the role of Roscoe Dexter, and Jeff Stockberger reprises the role of R.F. Simpson. Rounding out the cast are Lillian Baxter as Dora Bailey, Kenny Shepard as the Diction Teacher, Ian Black as the Production Tenor, and Sally Mitchell as Zelda Zanders. The Ensemble includes Logan Hill, Jennifer Ladner, James Patton, Jonny Rouse, and Deb Wims. Swings are Reagan Cole Minnette, and newcomer Evan Michael Vaughan.

Singin' in the Rain is choreographed by Doug King.

Tickets are currently on sale exclusively through Beef & Boards Dinner Theatre at beefandboards.com or by calling the box office at (317) 872-9664.

EYES

Continued from Page 1

In addition to screenings, you can support healthy eyes with lifestyle tweaks. Tarbox added that the same habits that benefit your overall health are also good for your eye health. This includes eating well, maintaining a healthy weight, washing your hands, not smoking, and taking medications as prescribed. Additionally, be-

cause of the heightened risk of diabetic retinopathy, people with diabetes should undergo comprehensive annual eye exams and keep their A1C (a measurement of blood sugar), blood pressure and cholesterol levels under control.

For information on HealthSpring's Medicare plans, visit www.healthspring.com.

"Although we can take our eyes for granted, having good vision is a critical part of maintaining our independence as we age," Tarbox said. "Good vision can help prevent a number of adverse events, including falls or car accidents, allows us to manage our health and home, and even helps us connect with others."

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@exprealty.com

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Big Man U Has Proud History With Purdue Basketball



**SPORTS,
SPORTS, &
MORE SPORTS**
with Ken Thompson



Zach Edey

During Matt Painter's 21-year tenure leading the Purdue men's basketball program, the Boilermakers have become known as "Big Man U."

In an era when history is regarded by some as yesterday, Purdue has been the home of exceptional center play going back to before the 55-year-old Painter entered grade school.

In fact, the depth of outstanding centers at Purdue is such that a future NBA All-Star and two Big Ten Players of the Year didn't even crack the top three of this list.

1. Zach Edey

The most decorated player in Purdue basketball history was a Plan C recruit for Painter after losing out on Hunter Dickenson (Michigan) and Ryan Kalkbrenner (Creighton).

Ranked No. 436 in the class of 2020, the 7-4 Edey would go on to become the first player in more than 50 years to win unanimous National Player of the Year honors in consecutive seasons. The last to do it was Bill Walton at UCLA in 1972 and 1973.

As a senior, Edey led Purdue to a 34-5 record and a spot in the national championship game for the first time in 55 years. He averaged 25.2 points and 12.2 rebounds.

Edey would break two of the longest-standing Purdue basketball records, scoring 2,516 points in four seasons to top Rick Mount's three-year total of 2,323 set in 1970. Edey pulled down 1,321 rebounds to easily surpass the record set by the next center on this list.

2. Joe Barry Carroll

It's approaching 50 years since Carroll recorded the only triple-double in Purdue history with 16 points, 16 rebounds and a school-record 11 blocks at Arizona on Dec. 10, 1977.

That was a foreshadowing of the impact the 7-1 Carroll would have at Purdue, one that would not have happened had assistant coach George Faerber not been in Denver a year earlier scouting another high school player.

Carroll's 1,148 rebounds at the time were second-most in Big Ten history and stood as a school record for 44 years. His 2,175 points and 55 dou-

ble-doubles at the time were second in Purdue history. Carroll blocked 349 shots, which was a school record and fourth-best in Big Ten history.

Blossoming under the guidance of coach Lee Rose, Carroll averaged 22.3 points, 9.4 rebounds and 2.8 blocks as a senior. Those totals earned Carroll consensus first-team All-America honors and helped Purdue reach the NCAA Final Four in 1980.

Carroll entered the Leroy Keyes Purdue Athletics Hall of Fame in 1995.

3. JaJuan Johnson

Purdue basketball history is full of transformation stories, a few of which we'll detail later in this column. Johnson is one of them literally.

Weighing 195 pounds as a 6-10 senior at Franklin Central High School, Johnson still was ranked 42nd in the class of 2007 by Rivals.com.

As he began to put on weight and add strength, Johnson became one of the Big Ten's best players of the 21st century's first decade. He earned first-team All-Big Ten honors as a sophomore. By his senior season, Johnson was chosen Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year and Purdue's first consensus All-American since Glenn Robinson.

Johnson also was the first Boilermaker to win the Pete Newell Big Man Award, launching Purdue and Painter's reputation as developers of big men. Johnson was a first-round NBA Draft pick after leaving Purdue with 1,919 points.

4. Brad Miller

Miller could do it all during his time at Purdue from 1995 to 1998, becoming the first Boilermaker with at least 1,500 points, 800 rebounds and 250 assists. In 1997, he became the first center to lead Purdue in assists.

Miller averaged 17.2 points and 8.8 rebounds as a senior, leading Purdue to a 28-8 record and gaining attention of NBA scouts. The 7-foot Miller would go on to play 14 seasons in the NBA and was an All-Star in 2003 and 2004.

5. Russell Cross

The first McDonald's All-American recruited by Gene Keady, the 6-10 Cross made an immediate impact.

He set the Purdue freshman scoring record, which still stands, of 540 points. Cross won Big Ten Freshman of the Year while helping Purdue go 21-11 and earn a third-place finish in the NIT.

After averaging nearly 15 points a game as a sophomore, Cross earned first-team All-Big Ten honors as a junior for leading Purdue to the NCAA tournament for the first time under Keady. Not long after an NCAA loss to Arkansas, Cross became Purdue's first early entry into the NBA Draft.

A knee injury first suffered in high school, though, derailed Cross' career after he was taken sixth overall by the Golden State Warriors in 1983. Cross played just one season, averaging 3.7 points in 45 games.

6. Jim Rowinski

I dare anyone to find a more startling physical transformation than the one that began during Rowinski's junior season in high school.

Cut from the Syosset (N.Y.) varsity as a 5-10, 170-pound forward, Rowinski grew to 6-3 and 185 pounds and made all-conference as a senior. Because his father and sister were Purdue graduates, Rowinski decided to walk on for then-head coach Lee Rose.

In a short time, Rowinski went from "Renegade," the name given by Rose to his practice squad, to a scholarship player for Gene Keady. Rowinski also developed from a 6-4 freshman to a muscular 6-8, 243-pound center.

Rowinski made his first start as a junior when Russell Cross was sidelined with an injury before the Sugar Bowl Classic. A season-ending injury shortly thereafter turned out to be the biggest break for Rowinski and Purdue.

Picked to finish ninth in the then-10-team Big Ten, the Boilermakers shocked the nation by winning a share of the title with Rowinski winning Big Ten Most Valuable Player honors.

Rowinski was drafted by the Utah Jazz in 1984 and would play for the Detroit



Photos courtesy Purdue Athletics

JaJuan Johnson was Purdue's first consensus All-American since Glenn Robinson.

Pistons, Philadelphia 76ers and Miami Heat. He passed away at age 63 on Feb. 1, 2024.

7. Stephen Scheffler

Few Boilermakers in the late 20th century could make Rowinski look small. One of them was the 6-9, 250-pound Scheffler, who was recruited to play football by Notre Dame.

Like Rowinski, Scheffler would win Big Ten Player of the Year honors as a senior in 1990. Arguably the most polite player to wear a Purdue uniform – Scheffler would always say thank you to the referee who handed him the basketball before a free throw attempt – his lack of confidence nearly ended his Purdue career before he developed into the NCAA's most accurate field goal shooter at 68.5 percent.

Described by the Chicago Tribune as "intelligent, outgoing, aware and articulate," Scheffler also had to overcome dyslexia to earn a 4.9 average on Purdue's then-6.0 grade-point scale. Scheffler had a good role model to follow. His elder brother Tom also overcame difficulties associated with dyslexia to play at Purdue from 1974-77 and later with the Portland Trail Blazers.

Stephen Scheffler was drafted in the second round of the 1990 NBA Draft by the Charlotte Hornets and spent seven seasons in the league, mostly with the Seattle SuperSonics.

8. Melvin McCants

Gene Keady once called McCants "one of the nicest kids" he's ever coached.

Despite being a four-year starter, the 6-10 McCants was soft spoken and frequently overshadowed by

outgoing teammates Troy Lewis, Todd Mitchell and Everette Stephens.

McCants was an important part of the back-to-back Big Ten championship teams in 1987 and 1988 because he gave Purdue a fourth scoring option. McCants never averaged less than 10 points a game over his career and finished with 1,554 points. He played one season in the NBA with the Los Angeles Lakers.

9. A.J. Hammons

Purdue's streak of having at least one 7-footer on its roster began in 2012 with the man who former teammate Rapheal Davis and others consider the most talented center to wear the gold and black.

Hammons was dominant as a senior, averaging 15 points and 8.2 rebounds per game. He was named the 2016 Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year as well as first-team All-Big Ten. Hammons also was one of the five finalists for the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Award.

The Dallas Mavericks chose Hammons in the second round of the 2016 NBA Draft but he played just one professional season.

10. John Garrett

Did you know that the 6-11 Garrett graduated from Purdue in 1975 as the school's fourth-leading scorer (1,620 points) behind Rick Mount, Dave Schellhase and Terry Dischinger?

As a senior, he averaged 19.8 points and 10 rebounds per game. Garrett was twice selected to the Citizens Savings (formerly Helms) All-American team. He helped Purdue capture the 1974 National Invitation Tournament title.

Gen. Lew Wallace: Calling All Volunteers

Calling all volunteers!

Each year, thousands of history enthusiasts, community-minded citizens, families, Boy and Girl Scouts, ROTC units and more come together in an effort to help keep our nation's heritage not only preserved, but pristine. Activities are chosen by each participating site and can include building trails, raking leaves, painting signs, putting up fences and contributing to site interpretation. In addition to the satisfaction that volunteer work

brings, participants receive official Park Day swag and may have the chance to hear a local historian describe people and events of the past at their site. Park Day can also be used to fulfill the service requirements associated with scout groups, student organizations, training corps programs, many school systems, and more.

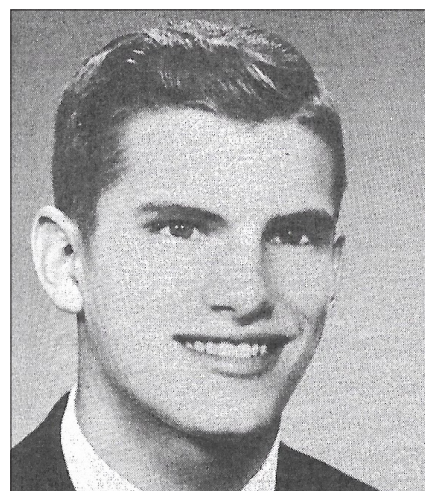
Officials at the Gen. Lew Wallace Study & Museum are hoping that volunteers will remember one of Crawfordsville's gems that day and volunteer. Park Day 2026 will be

on April 25 and begins at 9 a.m. For more information, visit www.ben-hur.com or email study@ben-hur.com

Park Day allows the American Battlefield Trust to cast a spotlight on beloved American landscapes nationwide. Projects will keep historic sites and battlefields clean, open and accessible for the enjoyment of all — this year, Park Day projects included painting signs, garden maintenance, trash and leaf removal, marker clean-up, trail and fence building and more!

RECOGNIZE ME?

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Butch Dale*



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Sugar Creek Quilters' Work on Display

The Mary Bishop Memorial Gallery at the Crawfordsville District Public Library would like to invite the public to view the annual exhibit of Sugar Creek Quilters' Guild. Their colorful textiles will be on display now through the end of April during CDPL's hours of operation. The Guild has shared its work with the community since the group was created and they have exhibited their quilts at CDPL almost every year since 1995. A limited amount of quilted works will be for sale during the exhibition through our Circulation department.

This year, the Sugar Creek Quilters' Guild members have been working hard to create unique quilts to share with the community during their annual spring show. There are over 35 textiles of various sizes and shapes on display. The techniques used include machine-sewn, hand-sewn, and machine embroidered. Some of the items are quilted by hand, some by machine, and some on a long-arm sewing machine.

This year has two exciting themes. First, the Guild Challenge this year was "Your Take on Log Cabin Quilts." Members were asked to create a small piece that uses any variation of a traditional log cabin quilt block. Second, some of the guild members joined a Round Robin Rebellion. This is a fun process where a quilt is started by the owner and then passed to another member each month who then adds their own unique fabrics and design choices. These quilts were passed three or four times before being returned to their



Photos courtesy Crawfordsville District Public Library
These beautiful quilts will be on display at the Library through the end of April.



Some of the quilts on display are done by hand, some by machine and some on a long-arm sewing machine.

owners to finish.

Guild members Lisa Costin and Heather Vanderkleed expressed gratitude, "We hope you enjoy seeing all of our different styles and personalities coming through our quilts." They are continually accepting new members, advanced and beginners, all are welcome including guests. The Sugar Creek Quilters' Guild meets on the 3rd Monday night of the

month at 6:30pm at CDPL. Textile-based programs and Show & Tell featuring their members are major focal points of these meetings. Email sugarcreekquilters@gmail.com to inquire about membership. Be sure to follow them on Facebook to ensure the most up-to-date schedules and organizational details.

For more information about CDPL's hours of operation or



There are over 35 textiles of various sizes and shapes that used techniques like machine-sewn, hand-sewn and machine embroidered.



The Sugar Creek Quilters' Guild meets on the third Monday night of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the library.

to view our calendar, please visit our website at crawfordsvillelibrary.in.gov. If you are an artist or a member

of an artists' group and are interested in displaying your work at the Mary Bishop Memorial Gallery in

2027-8, please contact Toni the Gallery Coordinator at (765) 362-2242 for more details.

Carnegie Museum Reception to be held Saturday

The Carnegie Museum opens America @250: Expressions of Freedom, Moments That Made Us, and Montgomery County Then & Now: Centennial Farms & Heritage Barns, with an opening reception on Saturday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

America @250: Expressions of Freedom is a regional juried art show featuring artists of all ages and levels of experience who have submitted works that reflect what freedom means to them. The show is an opportunity for visitors to participate in a meaningful civic celebration highlighting perspectives, histories and creative expressions unique to our region. The show features 20 works of art by 18 artists, including Hannah Allen, Gabriella Boros, Liam Bernhardt III, Will Bernhardt, Sandy Condon, Abigail Corman, Sonja Curcic, Sarah Enz, Jazerick Garman, Buddy Goree, Kyle Morgan, Karen A. Patton, Victoria J. Ridgeway, Rhonda Seward, Kathy Steele, Michael R. Stevenson, Tom Vice and Carol Willard. The exhibit is open through Saturday, July 18.

Also featured is a history display titled Moments That Made Us, which highlights central themes contained within the Declaration of Independence, along with moments in U. S. History that demonstrate these

ideas. Developed from an exhibition of the same name created by History Colorado, Moments That Made Us provides a meaningful way to spark conversation, inspiration and connection as our nation reflects on the last 250 years.

Expressions of Freedom is one of several local events commemorating 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, allowing us to reflect on our nation's past and look ahead toward the future. The Semiquincentennial of the United States is an opportunity to explore the nation's history, celebrate the diverse cultures that shape our communities and create lasting memories.

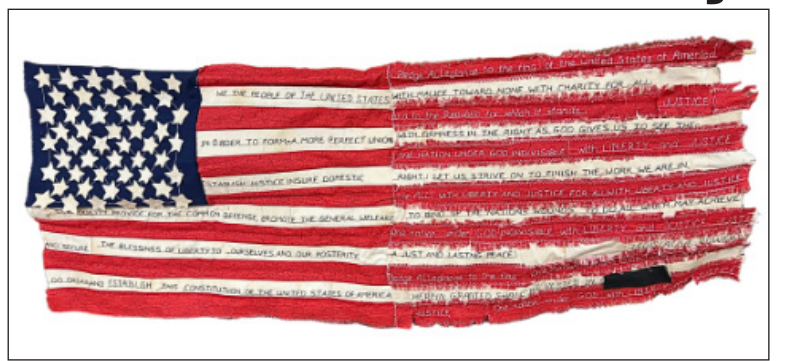
As a companion to the exhibit, Wabash College Artist-in-Residence Akirash will host an Expressions of Freedom adult art workshop at the Museum on Sunday, April 19, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Akirash is a Lagos-born, Austin-based interdisciplinary artist whose work spans sculpture, installation, mixed media, video and performance. Adults and teens are invited to meet the artist and work on a special art project inspired by his art.

Also opening Saturday is a new local history exhibit, Montgomery County Then & Now: Centennial Farms &

Heritage Barns, which features the agricultural history of Montgomery County since its founding in 1822 through today. From agriculturalists like the Runyan family whose farms celebrated centennial and bicentennial milestones, to historic barns around the county, to hundreds of local families participating in FFA and 4-H, Montgomery County has a rich and dynamic connection to the farming community.

Two talks will be held at the Museum in conjunction with the Centennial Farms & Heritage Barns exhibit. First, Randy Miles, barn assessor and Indiana Barn Foundation board member will speak Saturday at 2 p.m. His presentation is titled, Heritage Barns of Montgomery County and West Central Indiana: Cultural History and Role of the Indiana Barn Foundation. Then on Thursday, Sept. 10, at 7 p.m., Tommy Kleckner, Indiana Landmarks will present his talk, Historic Barns: Icons of Agricultural and Cultural Heritage.

The Carnegie Museum is located at 222 S. Washington St. in beautiful downtown Crawfordsville. Admission is free, and the museum is wheelchair and stroller accessible. The Carnegie Museum is open Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Photos courtesy Carnegie Museum
These are two of the wonderful works of art on display for two