

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 119:9-11 "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." (NIV)

■ AWL BREE



Bree is a 6 month old female hound that has been at AWL since 2/13/26. Bree is looking for her best friend! Could that be you? Bree is available for adoption, fostering, or just simply going out for walks. Bree is spayed, dewormed, microchipped, and up to date on her shots. Come say hi! 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!



Did you know that today is National Tell A Story today? Yeah, like Donald Trump needs an excuse to tell another whopper. Go ahead Don, draw another line in the sand!

■ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

The annual Master Gardeners Plant Sale & Garden Show is set for Saturday, May 2 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the 4-H Building on the 4-H Fairgrounds. Plants of all varieties will be available for sale along with vendors of gardening and horticulture items for sale. Nonprofit organizations will also be available. Nucor will be giving away free trees from 8 a.m. until the trees are gone. For more information check the Facebook page - Master Gardeners of Montgomery County (Indiana).

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new."

Albert Einstein

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

How can you tell the weather is getting warmer?

There is a spring in people's steps.

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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They Don't Make 'Em Like They Used To

BY THE NUMBERS

By The Numbers, a look at what's in the news . . . by the numbers. These are just numbers, not suggestions that they mean more or less than what they are. We do not suggest that one number is connected to another. These are simply facts with no extraneous details, bias or slanted reporting. To borrow (and perhaps mangle a bit) a quote from legendary fictional detective Joe Friday, it's just the numbers, ma'am!

Today we celebrate the anniversary of the birth date of Walter Benjamin Lantz. If you are of a certain age and Walt Lantz sounds a little familiar . . . but you just can't quite place it . . . think back to sitting on the floor in front of a small black and white TV screen and watching cartoons. Got it yet? Lantz was an cartoonist and animator and created Woody Woodpecker. So today, 127 years after his birth, we're happy to take a look back at a friendlier time when Woody Woodpecker and his friends ruled our television sets.

204 Believe it or not, there are 204 films featuring Woody. They came out between 1940 and 1972.

2 The very first Woody Woodpecker film in 1940 was called Knock, Knock. The very last one 32 years later was called Bye, Bye Blackboard.

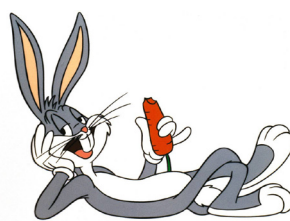


40 What was considered the Golden Age of Cartoons came along over a 40-year period. It began in the 1920s and lasted into the 1960s.



5 It's an arguable point, but most experts would agree that there were five big studios behind most of the bigger cartoons during the Golden Age. Disney produced a bunch, led by Mickey Mouse. Warner Bros. had Bugs Bunny and Donald Duck and others. MGM were led by Tom and Jerry. Fleischer and Paramount had Popeye the Sailor Man (and can you read that without hearing "toot-toot?") and Lantz had Woody.

1,000 If you were a fan of Merrie Melodies and the whole Looney Tunes gang, then you probably are not surprised that there was about a thousand of the animated cartoons.

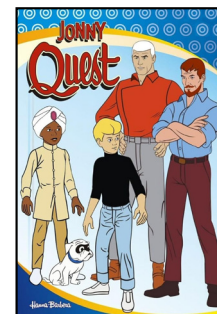


150+ Out of all those, Bugs Bunny was in more than 150.

42 Remember Space Ghost? If you watched television cartoons in the early and mid-1960s we'll bet you do. Space Ghost starred in his own animated series and there were 42 episodes.

249 Another big player was Hannah-Barbera (the folks behind Space Ghost, the Flintstones, Scoopy Doo and others. Altogether the studio was responsible for 249 cartoon series.

26 Remember Jonny Quest from 1964-65? There were only 26 episodes made.



99 OK, it wasn't from back in the day, but Warner Bros. came out with the Animaniacs in 1993 and Baby Boomers ate it up. There were 99 episodes made.

3-22-94 Lantz passed away on March 22, 1994 at the age of 94. He is buried in Hollywood at Forest Lawn Memorial Park with other stars.



■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. It may be a ways off, but it's worth planning for now. On Saturday, June 13 Hachette Book Group in Lebanon is having its annual \$1 book sale. There will literally be thousands upon thousands of brand new, hard-cover, best-sellers on sale for \$1 each. Car-pooling is highly encouraged and you won't believe the bargains there. The sale begins at 9 a.m. and ends promptly at 2 p.m. In addition, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Hachette has its Raising Readers Free Children's Book Giveaway. Hachette is located at 121 Enterprise Blvd. in Lebanon. This sale is worth the drive!

2. Does your child have a curious stuffed animal who loves adventures, new experiences, and making new friends? If so, make plans to send it to Teddy Bear Camp, May 11-22. Hosted by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology, this "camp" will take the stuffed friend on an adventure they'll never forget. They'll travel the Hoosier landscape to learn about Indiana history, architecture, and archaeology and have photos taken that will commemorate their journey. This year, Teddy Bear Camp is driving the National Road. Also known as U.S. 40, it was the nation's first federally funded highway and cuts through the heart of Indiana from Terre Haute to Richmond. As such it has plenty of interesting stops for the stuffed animals to experience. During camp, DHPA staff will take the stuffed animals to a variety of sites along the road, taking plenty of photos at each stop. Some of these photos of the visits will be posted to DHPA's Facebook page (Facebook.com/INdhp) and a digital photo album will be emailed to parents/guardians at the end of the journey along with an Indiana Junior Preservationist certificate. For more information and the registration form, go to on.IN.gov/teddy-bear-camp.

3. Indiana Gov. Mike Braun ceremonially signed SEA 285, legislation establishing a statewide prohibition on unauthorized camping on public land while connecting homeless Hoosiers to shelter, diversion and mental health services. The law prohibits unauthorized camping, sleeping, or long-term shelter on land owned by the state or a political subdivision. Before criminal enforcement moves forward, law enforcement must first determine whether emergency mental health detention is appropriate and, if not, provide a warning and information about available shelter and services. The purpose of the bill is not criminal action, but moving homeless Hoosiers toward social service networks to help them get needed services and stay safe. Before Braun's leadership with SEA285, Indiana's approach to the issue of homelessness had focused on housing-first legislation that has demonstrably not reduced homelessness. Under SEA285, a person may be charged only if at least 48 hours have passed since the warning and the person remains within 300 feet of the warned location. The law provides diversion options and provides defenses when no shelter or treatment bed is available within five miles or when a person has been recently released following an involuntary mental health commitment.



John Smillie

Lunch With LWV Focuses on High Cost of Electricity

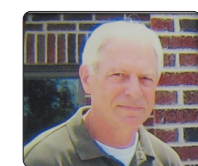
Electricity bills have risen substantially in the past year, and especially in the past few months. Many factors go into electricity costs. But there are several factors that actually have driven the significant rise in the costs over the past year.

Join the League Friday at noon as it hosts John Smillie, Chair of the League of Women Voter's Climate Team. He will talk about the rising costs of electricity, what factors have affected the significant rise and what we can do about it. Smillie will talk about utility scale solar, which has been the subject of recent hearings with the County Plan Commission, comparing the costs and land use. He also plans to bust some myths.

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County leads a number of studies, one of which includes climate change and its effects on our community and on government policy. Smillie has led the climate team for a number

See **LUNCH** Page 5

Butch: Why Men Avoid The Doctor



BUTCH DALE
Columnist

OK ladies, your husband has a health problem, or he has been ill for some time or perhaps he suffered an injury that should be treated . . . "Dear, I think you had better see a doctor."

Now you likely know his usual reply, "Well, I'm not going. I'll be OK. Don't worry about it."

Believe me, my wife and I have had this conversation many, many times. I am not the only man who is too stubborn to see a doctor when I should. According to surveys, three-fourths of all men would rather "tough it out" than head to the doctor's office.

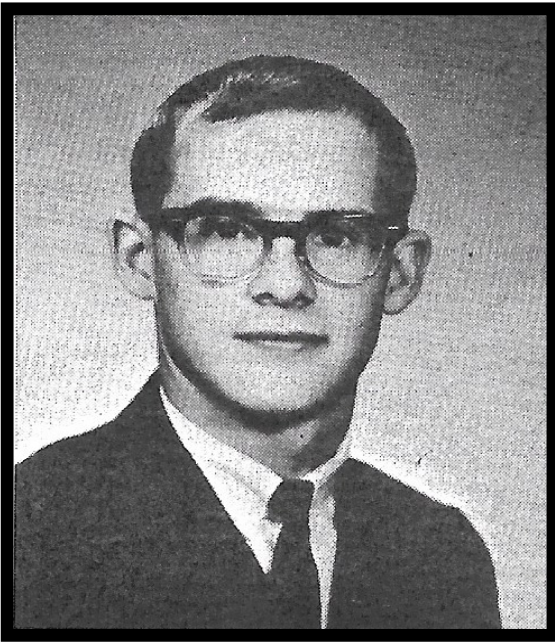
Why do we act this way? My doctor is very personable and

See **BUTCH** Page 4



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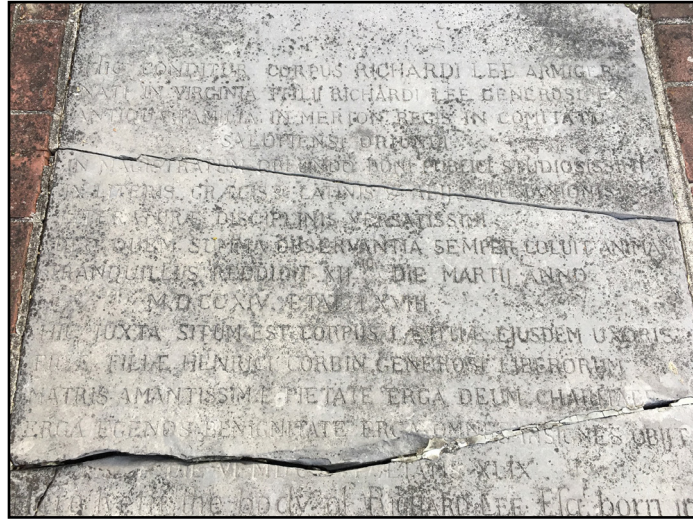
Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do You Recognize This 1966 Ladoga H.S. Graduate?

HINT: He was a student manager in all sports during all four years of high school.

Answer on Page 5



The inscription is barely readable.



Photos courtesy Andy Chandler

A bronze plaque makes the site much more official.

An Architect of This Country Almost Forgotten in Corn Field



ANDY CHANDLER
Columnist

“Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.

That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances.

That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation.”

Lee Resolution

What if I told you that the Declaration of Independence was simply that, a declaration, and not a legislative document? While most people are familiar with the line, “we hold these truths,” spoken on July 4, 1776, it was the Lee Resolution voted on two days before that was the real article of independence. There’s a reason John Adams proposed that Independence Day be celebrated on July 2. If Jefferson was the voice of Independence, Lee was it’s architect.

Now what if I told you the man who proposed independence was Richard Henry Lee, and that he is buried in a corn field?

Richard Henry Lee was born in 1732 in Westmoreland Co., Virginia. He was part of the famous Lee family whose members include Light Horse Harry

Lee and Robert E. Lee. At 16, he was sent abroad to study at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Wakefield, England.

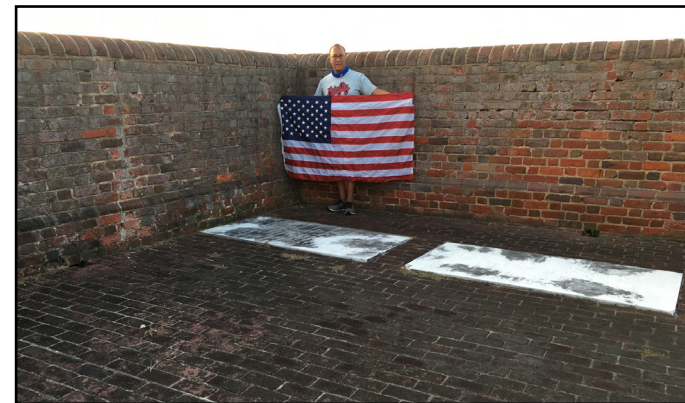
Returning to the colonies in 1753, Lee pursued a career in politics. Lee was very much about what we today term self-determination. In fact, he drafted the Westmoreland Resolution of 1766, a grievance against the King’s taxation, a full 10 years before the Declaration.

In 1774, he was elected to the Continental Congress where he signed the Articles of Association, the Declaration, and later, the Articles of Confederation. The only person to have signed more of the founding documents was Roger Sherman, who signed all four.

On June 7, 1776, Lee proposed the Lee Resolution, which was the legal motion by the Congress to seek Independence. During the month-long debate, a concurrent group, known as the Committee of Five, were meeting. They were Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Philip Livingston, and Roger Sherman.

So, the Resolution and Declaration existed concurrently: one, a legal document, the other, a proclamation. The Resolution was voted on July 2, and the Declaration was announced on the 4.

Lee returned home. Because of bouts of epilepsy, he couldn’t fight. Eventually, he was elected back to the Congress and became President of the



Andy took the time to hold up an American flag, the ultimate reward for Lee’s efforts.



As Andy points out, how ironic that this sits in the middle of a corn field.

Congress from 1784-85. During his time there, the Land Ordinance Act of 1785 was passed, opening the Northwest Territory to settlement.

Eventually, under the US Constitution, in 1792 Lee became the president pro tempore of the Senate during the 2nd Congress. He eventually retired due to illness later the same year and would pass two years later and was buried at the family estate.

Interestingly, the 1792 Presidential Succession Act placed the President Pro Tempore of the Senate behind the vice president in succession making him third in line to the presidency.

U.S. Presidents, have it good after death. Grant’s Tomb, Garfield’s Tomb and JFK on the hillside in Arlington to name a few. However, Signers’ graves are in some bizarre places. George Clymer is buried under a parking lot in Trenton, N.J. Richard Stockton’s gravestone is unidentified in Princeton.

George Walton and Lyman Hall are buried under a street in Augusta, Ga.

Lee would be buried in the old family cemetery just north of what is now Hague, Va. Land sales and the passage of time mean the property is now farmland and a cornfield.

One evening, after nearly getting arrested at Sherwood Forest (see my article on John Tyler), my wife and I drove out to the farm. The farmer didn’t even bother to ask what we were doing and waved us through.

In the fading light, I got out an American flag and had a photo taken. How profound, the architect of our independence, who opened our territories to settlement, is now in a corn field.

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

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City, AWL Address Cat Problem

The City of Crawfordsville is increasing its efforts to humanely address the community’s feral and stray cat population through an expanded Shelter-Neuter-Release program in partnership with the Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County.

As part of this initiative, the City has committed an additional \$25,000 in dedicated funding to support the SNR program in 2026. This investment reflects the City’s focus on proactive, long-term solutions for managing free-roaming cat populations.

Mayor Todd Barton em-

phasized that community participation is essential to the program’s success.

“We are excited to partner with the Animal Welfare League to move this program forward and are optimistic it will result in a positive impact for Crawfordsville residents by addressing the growing population of cats in a humane and caring manner,” Barton said.

AWL Shelter Manager Abbie Horn agreed.

“The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County and the City of Crawfordsville are work-

ing together in taking a compassionate, proactive step towards improving the lives of community cats while reducing the growing population and creating a healthier and happier future for both the animals and people in our community,” she said.

The SNR program is a widely recognized approach that involves live-trapping stray and feral cats, having them spayed or neutered, and returning them to their original location. This process helps stabilize populations over time, reduces nuisance behaviors such as fighting and spraying and

improves overall animal health.

Through this program, the AWL will:

- Respond to community concerns regarding stray and feral cats
- Assess situations and recommend appropriate solutions
- Implement SNR efforts in targeted areas where they are most needed
- Provide guidance to residents on addressing community cat issues

See CAT Page 5

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2026 NISSAN MURANO PLATINUM BOASTS CONCEPT CAR STYLE AND GENERATIONS OF GOOD FAVOR

It may not be the most powerful luxury-ish crossover, but it is still pretty lush.



CASEY WILLIAMS
Columnist

I'm a fan of the Nissan Murano, a luxurious mid-size crossover with artsy-fartsy turntable style. It swoops and sweeps over a beautiful interior layered with lush. It's also expensive; the Platinum edition we just tested was over \$57,000. If you're perhaps a little younger and less financially flush than the typical Murano buyer, but still like all it represents, you might consider the 2026 Nissan Kicks SR AWD.

The Kicks, redesigned for 2025, had tough acts to follow. The Nissan Juke is one of my all-time favorites and the last-generation Kicks was very popular. None of those equaled all the Kicks SR offers.

It definitely has a younger look with horizontal strakes across its face, narrow LED headlamps, and stacks of driving lamps embedded between. Our SR edition adds 19" wheels and two-tone paint with a floating black roof. It's especially fetching in bright Arctic Ice Blue Metallic paint. Designers deftly disguised tall bodysides with aggressive sills that extend high into the doors. I like the futuristic rear taillamps that arch across the hatch.

As with owners of the larger Murano, having all of the latest style, comforts and technology matter. Like many new cars, the Kicks has a glassy 12.3-inch twin-screen arrangement with crisp digital gauges and touch-screen combined. Devices connect wirelessly via Apple CarPlay and Android Auto plus charge wirelessly in the console below. Automatic climate control, heated front seats, and a heated steering wheel add luxuries – as do a twin-panel panoramic glass roof and 10-speaker Bose audio system with speakers in the headrests.

Whether indulging in Laufey, Anka or Elvis, it sounded concerto fantas-

tico.

Tap around to realize how posh the Kicks really is. There's some hard plastic if you tap your fingers, but most surfaces are soft-touch including the gray-and-red stitched panels on the doors, carbon fiber texture on the dash, and French-stitched coverings above. Check the gradient red checks on the seats. Very cool – and comfortable. SR editions add a red-stitched flat-bottom steering wheel, piano black accents, and red around the gear selector.

Go for a drive, however, and you'll find the Kicks is really just a tall sub-compact car.

On paper, a 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine producing 141 horsepower and 140 lb.-ft. of torque should give it some, well, kick, but it took a firm foot to convince the continuously variable transmission to whirl power through our vehicle's optional all-wheel-drive system. Drive modes flick between Normal, Eco, Sport or Snow. There's nothing sporty about any of the modes, but at least it gets a frugal 27/34-MPG city/highway.

The bumpy suspension will remind you this is a value-priced compact and not a luxury ride, but it's not as bad as it could be.

Base models come with a torsion beam rear suspension, which is fine for a small car, but our SR steps

up with a fully independent arrangement. It's still pretty harsh over rough city streets, but does a much better job of settling on the highway and provides a more engaging driving experience should you find yourself with curves ahead. As I found on a two-hour drive to see my sister, road noise definitely gets through. Yet, the Kicks is otherwise an acceptable appliance for carrying friends, family, or just your camping gear. Just look for smooth asphalt.

And, it does so safely adaptive cruise with lane centering, blind spot warning, lane keep assist, automatic emergency braking, and rear cross path detection with auto brake. You can't go hands-off, but Nissan's ProPilot Assist system features lane-centering for the next best thing.

Is the Kicks a Murano? Nope, but it is pretty cool with its flashy styling, four doors, all-wheel-drive, flip-down rear seats for luggage, and a cabin that feels very upscale. And, the price is considerably nicer starting at just \$22,430, rising to \$35,515 all-in. Competitors include the Chevy Trax, Honda HR-V, Hyundai Kona, and Subaru Crosstrek.

Storm Forward!

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

LIKES	DISLIKES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BRASH STYLE LOADED INTERIOR ALL-WHEEL-DRIVE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLEEPY TRANSMISSION HIGHWAY NOISE BUMPY SUSPENSION
<p>2026 Nissan Kicks SR Five-passenger, AWD Crossover Powertrain: 2.0-liter I4, CVT Output: 141hp/140 lb.-ft. torque Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind Wheels f/r: 19"/19" alloy Brakes f/r: disc/disc Fuel economy: 27/34 mpg city/hwy Assembly: Aguas, Mexico Base/As-tested price: \$22,430/\$35,515</p>	

Having Ice Cream Tonight



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

I had a really good ice-cream cone this week.

I suppose this does not qualify as news, but I try not to eat too much ice cream, and I don't usually keep ice cream in my freezer because I have a tendency to eat it all right away.

I love ice cream. I have always loved ice cream. But I have noticed my tendency to eat it until my face goes numb and have avoided it. When I'm in Mexico, I walk by an ice-cream shop every night, where I have bought ice cream before. It is good. So almost every night, when I get to the ice-cream shop, I pause, and I ask myself, "Should I get ice cream tonight?"

Almost always, my wiser self says, "You don't really need ice cream tonight. Maybe tomorrow." And I don't buy ice cream.

But last night, after I had passed my usual ice-cream shop, I came to a gelato shop that I had ignored until now. I thought it looked a little fancy. I couldn't imagine gelato could be as good as the ice cream at the shop I had just passed. But this place was always busy, and tonight, for a change, there was no one in there but two employees stand-

ing behind the counter. I wandered in.

I looked for the smallest cone they had, and I said I would like one.

"What flavors?"

"What do you recommend?"

She suggested several and told me I could have up to four.

"On one little cone?"

"Yes!"

This seemed unusual. It was not a large cone. But I went ahead and ordered two kinds of chocolate, one with nuts and one without, and strawberry and mint. While one of the women took my money, the other one started scooping ice cream.

I had no idea it would be such a process.

Tiny slivers of gelato were scooped out in petal shapes and put in that cone, one by one, going around in a circle until the whole thing looked like a rose. It was too beautiful to eat. I had them take a picture of me with the cone first. But I had to eat it eventually because the petals were

hanging over the edges of the cone like the fully opened rose it resembled, and it would not be an exaggeration to say it was the best ice-cream cone I have ever had.

And now I wonder why I waited so long.

I try to eat good things. My reasoning is that nothing I possess is more important than my body, and I want to keep it in working order. So I generally eat well and that is usually pretty easy because I love vegetables more than anything.

But life requires more than vegetables. That's what I was thinking while eating my exquisite little ice-cream cone.


I vowed that from now on, I will eat ice cream that is worth eating. And I realized that this was no different from reading books that were worth reading, wearing clothes I loved to wear, and spending time with people who lit me up instead of pulling me down.

All of it was a choice about how to spend my time and attention, and all of it started with believing that life was too short to eat bad ice cream, and certainly too short not to eat ice cream at all.

I'm having vegetables again today, and I'll have vegetables tomorrow. But there is also a chance that I will have ice cream tonight.

Till next time,

Carrie




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Rokita: Court Victory Stops Sex Ed Problem

The 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals today sided with Attorney General Todd Rokita's arguments and upheld an Indiana law that prohibits public schools from providing instruction on human sexuality to students in pre-kindergarten through third grade — delivering a strong victory for parental authority, childhood innocence and commonsense education priorities.

"This decision is a huge win for Hoosier parents and common sense," said Attorney General Rokita. "Human sexuality should not be taught in public schools, period. These are sensitive topics best left to parents and families, not government employees in the classroom."

In 2023 — the same year the law was enacted — a first-year teacher from Indianapolis Public Schools

sued the state. She claimed the law violated her First Amendment rights and was unconstitutionally vague. Just as a federal district court did previously, the federal appeals court rejected both those contentions.

"Our law is clear that primary teachers in public schools have only limited speech rights just like other public employees," the court stated in its ruling.

"Even more, their in-classroom instruction does not enjoy First Amendment protection."

In other words, the people of Indiana — through their elected representatives — have the right and authority to make laws regulating the content of public school curricula.

Attorney General Rokita thanked Solicitor General James Barta and his team

for their work on this case.

Tuesday's decision represents the second time this week that the 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals has ruled in Indiana's favor. On Monday, it granted the state's emergency motion to stay a preliminary injunction against Indiana's commonsense law clarifying that college- and university-issued IDs cannot be used to vote. Only secure, government-issued

IDs like Indiana driver's licenses are accepted at the polls — a needed provision to close loopholes, prevent potential fraud by out-of-state or ineligible voters, ensure every ballot belongs to a verified Hoosier, and preserve public confidence in fair, honest, and transparent elections.

BUTCH

Continued from Page 1

caring. Most doctors are like that, so that's not the reason. I was brought up in a family that very seldom went to the doctor. Like most families back then, we had no health insurance. I'm not sure if health insurance even existed at that time. A doctor's visit was \$2, and that often included free prescriptions. It usually had to be an emergency situation that could not be treated at home. Men were also raised to be stoic . . . to suffer through a condition and not complain about any pain or illness . . . you know . . . the "men are not supposed to cry" belief.

At one time I went to the doctor's office every so often for a check-up. Same procedure . . . (1) Check in at the window, (2) Scan the

waiting room, (3) Don't sit too close to anyone because they might be contagious, (4) Grab a magazine, (5) Casually glance around at the other people and try to guess what's wrong with them, (6) After a half hour or so the nurse finally calls your name, (7) She checks your weight and blood pressure, (8) Then you go to an examination room and wait another half hour, (9) You look around at the equipment, pick up a brochure, and stare out the window, (10) Finally the doctor comes through the door, greets you, and begins the questioning, "How's the family?" . . . "Great!" . . . "Have you had any health problems since the last visit?" . . . "No" (I always answer No even if I have.) . . . "Your

blood pressure is slightly elevated." . . . "Well, I'm not worried about it." . . . "Your weight is still 170, that's good" . . . "I exercise a lot, Doc" . . . Do you want me to do a prostate exam?" . . . "No, I'll pass on that." . . . "At your age you should schedule a colonoscopy." . . . "No, I'm good." . . . "Have you had your flu shot?" . . . "No, I don't get those anymore. The one time I received one, I got the flu." . . . "Any other concerns?" . . . "Nope." . . . "OK, see you in six months."

Like other stubborn men, I tend to believe I am invincible and naturally healthy without any medical intervention. If I do have a health problem, I would rather not know about it. If I injure myself, I

have "homemade" first aid procedures, many of which I learned while growing up in a nutty family. New products since that time also come in handy. For instance, a few years ago, I suffered a large gash across my thumb joint. I poured rubbing alcohol and hydrogen peroxide on it until the bleeding stopped. Instead of going to the doctor to receive stitches, I squeezed the cut together, put Superglue on it and wrapped it with gauze. Problem solved! A few years ago a fellow I know who lives in Glasgow, Kentucky sent me a bottle of "Kentucky Crystal Wonder," labeled as a "persistent binary liquid antiseptic and analgesic." He said it was a folk medicine that is effective for small cuts, skin irritations,

etc. I have used it with great success many times. If I catch a cold, which is rare for me, I drink LOTS of water, get more rest, and suffer through it . . . gone in two days top.

If there would happen to be something terribly wrong that I could not treat on my own, then I would eventually make my way to an urgent care facility . . . no appointment needed. They usually have a doctor intern or a nurse practitioner. I do receive a weekly check-up . . . via the self-service kiosks located near the prescription department at Wal-Mart . . . no charge!

I know that avoiding going to the doctor is irrational and foolish at times.

Some people actually enjoy going to their doctor, especially the hypochondriacs who come up with all kinds of imaginary ailments. The epitaph on their tombstone will say, "See I told you I didn't feel good." At 77, I seem to be in excellent health, but who knows? I could keel over deader than a mackerel tomorrow. My epitaph will read, "Should have listened to his wife."

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

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Mugged on My Birthday!



DICK WOLFSIE
Columnist

Last month, I celebrated my 79th birthday. My wife and son tried to find me the perfect gift. But I am a very difficult person to shop for. I know this because my mother started telling me this when I was three years old.

To help them, I Googled "Gifts for men in their 80s." I still have a year to go, but I wanted to give my family a good start on the next decade.

Here was the first recommendation:

"The gift should convey to the celebrant that he is still loved, respected and appreciated.

I don't want to be a celebrant. It's bad enough that many consider me an irritant.

Another suggestion: "Why not a collage of stamps from that person's birth year. Can you think of a better present?" Yes. How about a gift certificate for my next colonoscopy? By the way, a postage stamp in 1947 was three cents, which was expensive in those days. That's why my father didn't want to send out my birth announcements.

Then there were also several ideas for personalized coffee mugs:

"What about an eye-catching cup with a list of all the famous people born on their birthday?" I thought that sounded like a good idea, so I did a little research about March 5 on AI. Amazing how many notables share my birth date.

Tang Gonghong (Chinese weightlifter)

Jef Eygel (Belgian basketball player)

Olusegun Obasanjo (former President of Nigeria)

But how long will that priceless gift last before someone swipes it?

Here's another hint: "A coffee mug decorated with the names of famous people who died on your birth date". I'm surprised Starbucks never thought of this. It seems tasteless, but it's nothing compared to their scones.

I Googled a list for those who said their final good-byes on March 5.

Jay Silverheels (Tonto on the Lone Ranger)

Lone Ranger)

Patsy Cline (Country singer)

William Powell (Movie star)

I'd suggest they add dictator Joseph Stalin, who also died on March 5. Anything to brighten up that mug.

Just before my birthday, Mary Ellen and I went to Cracker Barrel for dinner. I saw her eyeing one of those little books on the gift rack that features statistics from the year you were born. The stand starts with 2005 at the top, and the years work their way down the rack. By the time she reached 1947, she was on her knees. This is a marketing mistake. When you are a senior, everything you want to buy should be at eye level. If CVS stocked Depends on the lower shelf, they'd never sell a single package.

Mary Ellen ended up giving me a coffee mug:

TO MY FAVORITE SEPTUAGENARIAN

I don't like being in my '70s. It certainly doesn't sound as much fun as being a sexagenarian.

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

Health Department, Purdue Offering Local Lead Testing

The Montgomery County Health Department and the Purdue University Center for Rural and Migrant Health have collaborated to encourage Montgomery County parents to get their children tested for lead poisoning.

Lead is a naturally occurring metal that, when children are exposed through their environment, can cause developmental delays, difficulty learning, and behavioral issues that can be permanent and disabling. (CDC.gov) Testing children and identifying areas of concern, i.e., chipping or peeling paint in homes or buildings built before 1978, water from lead pipes, contaminated soil, or imported items, can provide a plan

of action for prevention of further exposure.

Purdue's Center for Community Health Empowerment and Learning has provided funding for a team of faculty, students, and staff to conduct research on best practices for communicating health calls to action with the public. Surveys have been conducted and images have been designed by students. Billboards are installed all around Montgomery County, and social media posts will help spread the message. Follow up surveys will follow to measure the messaging success.

Montgomery County Health Officer, Dr. Scott Douglas said, "We are

pleased to partner with Purdue University Center for Rural and Migrant Health to increase recommended lead screening of our children in Montgomery County. We hope to increase awareness of lead exposure and decrease the risk to our children."

Parents and/or caregivers are encouraged to talk to their child's physician about testing or contact the Health Department to schedule a rapid diagnostic test. The MCHD staff are there to help make the process as painless and helpful as possible. You can schedule an appointment by calling the Health Department clinic at (765) 364-7255.

LUNCH

Continued from Page 1

of years. He lives in Crawfordsville with his wife and son and brings 17 years of corporate finance experience as well as seven years of study and climate advocacy. He also volunteers as a congressional liaison for

Citizen's Climate Lobby.

Bring a lunch and join the League at noon on Friday. Lunch with the League is held at St. John's Episcopal Church, 212 S. Green St. in beautiful downtown Craw-

fordsville.

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

CAT

Continued from Page 2

To support community involvement, AWL will also loan live traps and carriers to residents for use in safely capturing stray or feral cats. A fully refundable \$50 deposit is required for this equipment. To participate in this program, please make

an appointment with the AWL prior to bringing a cat in.

Residents who experience concerns with feral or stray cats are encouraged to contact the Animal Welfare League. Reporting issues and working

collaboratively with AWL helps ensure resources are directed where they are needed most.

For more information or to report concerns about stray or feral cats, please contact the AWL at (765) 362-8846.

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Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale & Show Saturday

By Sheri Bethard, President

Master Gardeners of Montgomery County

Plants, plants and more plants! This is what you will see when you visit the Montgomery County Master Gardeners' Plant Sale & Show, held this year in the 4-H Building on the 4-H Fairgrounds at 400 Parke, Crawfordsville, Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (extended time), rain or shine. You will not be disappointed. There will be hundreds of plants to choose from to beautify your landscape, patio and home – all which have been locally grown by the Master Gardeners and local wholesale nursery suppliers.

Indiana grown sweet strawberries, a large variety of tomatoes, peppers and lettuce mixes will be available. We will also have a large selection of 23 herbs for your culinary needs.,

For your landscape and flower beds, Native, perennial, and annual plants which grow best in our area will be for sale. With such a large assortment of plants for inside and outside, sun or shade, wet or dry areas with too many to list, you will have to come see for yourself.

The plant sale is the main and sometimes only fundraiser the Master Gardeners of Montgomery County has each year. With monies raised, it helps fund projects and educational opportunities for all of Montgomery County in the horticultural area such as the Nicholson Elementary School Garden for second and third graders. In addition, we award a scholarship yearly to a high school senior who will be seeking a degree in agriculture, horticulture, environmental science or plant-related fields of study along with a Floral Culture award at the 4-H annual fair. We are currently working on the Montgomery County Pollinator Garden and planting native trees on the 4-H Fairgrounds. With funds raised we are supporting the Seed Library located in Crawfordsville District Public Library. Throughout the year, we will be presenting programs for the public to attend in the gardening / horticulture arena, such as our recent leaf cutting propagation and the winter seed sowing workshops and the gardening programs at the library last month.

Our Master Gardeners will be on premise to answer your gardening questions and make suggestions to best suit your

landscape project/needs. This year nine vendors will be on premise to accentuate your plant buying, such as house plants, tropicals, specialty plants, landscape information, garden décor, birdhouses, plant stands, homemade jams / jelly & honey products, yard maintenance. The vendors scheduled this year will be ProGreen Gardening Center, Yund Outdoor / Davidson's Greenhouse, Walnut Fork Crafts, Sugar Creek Lawn & Hardscape, Gilley's Metal yard art, The Plant Pub, Stadler Laser Wood Crafts, and Denhart's along with five of the non-profit organizations serving Montgomery County and a Wildfire348 with biscuits and gravy, pizza's and drinks So, come prepared to spend time browsing all our plants and vendors. Nucor will be giving away free Eastern White Pine, American Arborvitae, Northern Red Oak and Hybrid Poplars in the 4-H Barn. So, come early and make a day of it.

To learn more about Montgomery County Master Gardeners please visit our Facebook Page - Master Gardeners of Montgomery County (Indiana) at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1084061839634585> or email montcoinemg@gmail.com.

Foundation Annual Meeting Set for May

The Montgomery County Community Foundation will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, May 21, at 4:30 p.m. at the Hoosier Heartland State Bank Success Center at 1623 South US-231 in Crawfordsville.

This year marks another major milestone for us as MCCF celebrates 35 years in Montgomery County. The Foundation will also be celebrating its achievements, welcoming new board members and conducting necessary business. The Volunteer

of the Year Award and the Peggy Herzog Youth Volunteer of the Year Award will be presented and the recipients honored at the meeting.

The meeting is open to all residents of Montgomery County.

KENNY THOMPSON



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

Catch Kenny every Friday in The Paper of Montgomery County!



Music on Grant Awards



Photo courtesy Music on Grant

31 students from Music on Grant participated in the Indiana Arts Festival at the United Methodist Church in Avon recently. Students were awarded ribbons and trophies for participating in each event. Events included Solos, Duets, Music Theory, Patriotic, Showtunes, Folk, Sacred, Jazz and Art.

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