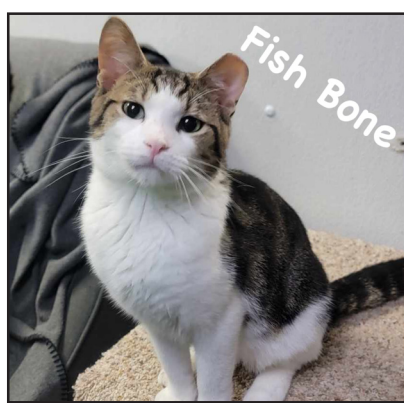


Matthew 25:40

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" (NIV)

■ AWL FISH BONE



Fish Bone is a 1 year old male tabby domestic shorthair available for adoption since 5/8/2025. Fish Bone is friendly with his kitty pals in the community cat room, but he's ready for a place of his own! Fish Bone is playful, friendly, and loves to cuddle. Fish Bone is available to foster and/or adopt. AWL is open Monday-Friday from 12:15-5p and Saturday's from 12-3p. Come snuggle cats in a community cat room, walk dogs, or lend a helping hand!

■ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Most government offices will be closed Tuesday May 5 when the Primary Election takes place. There are occasional exceptions. If in doubt, please check directly with the office or agency in question.



Welcome to the lusty, busy month of May – at least that's what Julie Andrews sang way back in the day.

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving."  
Albert Einstein

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

Remember, there are three kinds of people in this world . . . those who can count and those who can't.



# The Paper

## OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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

## Do I need Social Security For Medicare? Buried in a Stadium? Some Say Yes!

**Dear Rusty:**  
I turn 65 this November 2026. Someone told me I need to set up a Social Security account at least 3 months ahead of time before applying for Medicare for the first time. I do not intend to take any Social Security benefits until, perhaps, age 67 or later. Please advise and thank you.



**ASK RUSTY**  
Social Security Advisor

**Signed: Looking Ahead**

**Dear Looking Ahead:**  
You don't technically need to "set up" an online SSA account to enroll in Medicare, but it would be more efficient to do so. We always recommend creating your online "my Social Security" account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount) well before you are ready to claim your Social Security benefits. That's because

you can monitor your projected Social Security benefits to help you decide when to claim, but it also facilitates other things you might need to do at the Social Security Administration (such as claiming your SS retirement benefits online and enrolling in Medicare online).  
As for Medicare, you can enroll in Medicare up to 3 months before the month you turn 65, and

you can contact the Social Security Administration by phone up to 3 months prior in order to schedule an appointment to enroll over the phone (call 1.800.772.1213 to make the appointment). You can enroll via telephone, even if you don't have your "my Social Security" online account set up. However, an advantage to creating

See Rusty Page 3

## Rokita: Beware Bogus Mortgage Relief

If you get offers for mortgage-relief services from solicitors asking for an upfront fee, you're almost certainly dealing with a scammer.  
"Hoosiers need to be aware that it's illegal for companies to charge you upfront for helping you find ways to pay your mortgage," Attorney General Todd Rokita said. "Don't fall victim to fraudsters trying to take advantage of your concerns about foreclosure or falling behind on payments."  
Indiana has ranked near the top in the nation for foreclosure rates, making the Hoosier State a prime

target for these scammers.  
Scammers often give themselves away with these red flags:  
They tell you to stop communicating with your lender. (You always have the right to contact your lender directly to discuss free payment assistance options that may be available to you.)  
They insist you pay them only by cashier's check, wire transfer or a mobile payment app. (These methods make it much harder to get your money back.)  
They try to convince you to transfer the deed to your home to them or to a "rescue" company.

Important note for government-backed loans:  
If your loan is guaranteed or insured by the government — including Federal Housing Administration, Veterans Affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture/Rural Housing Service, or conventional loans backed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac — your mortgage company is required by federal law to review your loan for free alternatives to foreclosure. These options can include loan modification agreements, repayment plans or forbearance.  
You never need to pay a

See Rokita Page 2

### ■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. Celebrate the start of the outdoor recreation season with free admission to all Indiana State Parks properties on Sunday, May 3, the second day of Welcome Weekend. Find an Indiana State Parks property and see what's new at [on.IN.gov/stateparks](http://on.IN.gov/stateparks). If you've never visited, [on.IN.gov/dnr-welcome](http://on.IN.gov/dnr-welcome) offers helpful tips. Campgrounds and comfort stations are open and water is on for the season. A 25 percent discount is available for campground stays Sunday-Wednesday through May 13 using the code SPRING26. Some restrictions apply. Many activities are on tap for the weekend, including full moon hikes, scavenger hunts, cloud watching, and more. All Indiana State Parks programs and events during Welcome Weekend and beyond are listed at [calendar.dnr.IN.gov](http://calendar.dnr.IN.gov) and on each property's Facebook page.
2. Indiana State Treasurer Daniel Elliott welcomed Elad Strohmayer, Consul General of Israel to the Midwest this week, to discuss Indiana's continued investments and economic ties to Israel. This is Treasurer Elliott's first meeting with Consul General Strohmayer, who assumed the post last year, replacing Consul General Yinam Cohen. The visit underscores the strong relationship between the State of Indiana and the nation of Israel. Indiana has maintained a commitment to investing in Israel bonds, which have consistently ranked among the state's best-performing assets. Treasurer Elliott also helped lead a delegation of State Treasurers from across the United States to Israel last year as part of his duties as a member of the National Association of State Treasurers, where he currently serves as the Vice President of the national, non-partisan organization. As of April 2026, Indiana has invested \$120 million in Israel bonds as part of an approximately \$16 billion general fund portfolio. Treasurer Elliott oversees over 75 billion dollars of Hoosier funds through his direct management or service on various boards for the State of Indiana. In the nearly 3.5 years since taking office, he has generated over \$1.2 billion in investment returns for Hoosier taxpayers, more than the prior 10 years combined.
3. Governor Mike Braun announced IN AI this week, a new statewide initiative focused on helping businesses grow, create jobs and increase wages through the practical application of human-centered artificial intelligence. The initiative will be executed by the CEOs of Indiana Corporate Partnership and will work directly with employers across the state to accelerate AI adoption in ways that strengthen businesses and expand opportunity for Hoosiers. IN AI is designed to meet businesses where they are, with a focus on practical application rather than theory. The program will provide a single, coordinated entry point for employers to: Identify where AI can improve operations Access tools and technical support Connect with talent to implement solutions The initiative will prioritize main street businesses in all corners of the state, while also supporting large companies seeking to scale AI across their operations.

Sports fandom is often framed as a lifelong commitment, but for some supporters, it's something even more permanent. The kind of loyalty that doesn't just survive bad seasons, relocations, or heartbreak, but quite literally follows them to the grave.  
A new survey of 3,013 sports fans by SportsbookReview.com, a leading sports review site, set out to explore just how deep those allegiances run, asking a surprisingly revealing question:  
If given the choice, which stadium would you want your ashes scattered in?  
The results paint a picture of the venues fans feel most emotionally tied to and how those connections blur the line between tradition, identity, and ritual. The study also digs into how far supporters would actually go to make it happen, including whether they would bend (or quietly ignore) the rules to secure a final resting place on hallowed ground.  
Indiana sports fans' choices were as follows:  
#1. Notre Dame Stadium, South Bend  
Since 1930, Notre Dame Stadium has stood as one of college football's most sacred cathedrals. To be laid to rest here is to remain forever part of a tradition that transcends the sport itself. Touchdown Jesus watches over every game from the library mural beyond the North end zone, and the echoes of legends seem to drift through the autumn air. The Fighting Irish faithful don't just attend games here—they make pilgrimages.  
#2. Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis  
When Lucas Oil Stadium opened in 2008, it gave the Colts a venue worthy of a franchise that has delivered some of the NFL's most memorable moments. Having ashes scattered here honors a connection to a building that Indianapolis embraced as its own from day one. The retractable roof and massive window overlooking downtown create an atmosphere unlike any other in professional football. Big Ten championships and Final Fours have only added to its legacy.  
#3. Hinkle Fieldhouse, Indianapolis  
Standing since 1928, Hinkle Fieldhouse is a living museum of basketball history. Butler basketball has called this arena home for nearly a century, and the movie Hoosiers immortalized its timeless charm. The wooden rafters and classic sightlines transport you to an era when the game was simpler but no less passionate.

See Buried Page 3

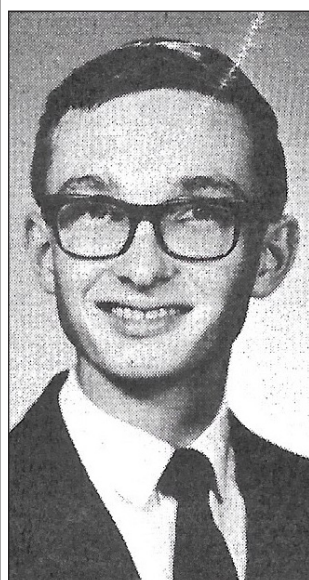
# The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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## RECOGNIZE ME?

Flashback Trivia with Butch Dale



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

**HINT:**  
He went on to become a college professor.

Answer on Page 4

## FOR THE RECORD

### Reader Figures It Out

Dear Editor,  
The events of the last few days made me wonder precisely when patriotism started being frowned upon by so many U.S. citizens, when American exceptionalism became taboo, when pride in our country vanished and when respect for our flag took a knee. It was about the same time

that hate speech started relentlessly being hurled at conservative, caucasian Christians on TV, on social media and in the press. After much reflection, it hit me. It all started on Jan. 20, 2009. You do the math.

Ron Carmony  
formerly of  
Crawfordsville

## ROKITA

Continued from Page 1

third party for these services. Contact your lender or a free HUD-approved housing counselor directly.

If you believe you have been a victim of a mortgage relief scam, you

should report it to the Attorney General's Office at <https://www.indianaconsumer.com> or to the Federal Trade Commission at <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov>.

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## Mayor's Community Forum May 11

Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton has scheduled his monthly Community Forum for Monday, May 11 from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Mayor's Office in the City Building.

This will be Barton's 155th Community Forum since taking office.

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



Photo courtesy Andy Chandler

Mayor Todd Barton has done 154 Community Forums since taking office. This will be his 155th.

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

## North Teach Takes Part in Cyber Madness

Many know about March Madness, the college basketball tournament that pits 68 teams against one another for hoops supremacy over the course of 18 days.

At Purdue University a different madness is taking root: Cyber Madness.

The competition challenges high school students in a capture-the-flag game on computers, and the importance extends beyond a physical pastime and introduces skills used in real-world cybersecurity work.

"Capture-the-flag events demonstrate to Indiana high school students that the skills they learn and improve upon, by participating in competitions like Cyber Madness, will help them prepare for a future in cybersecurity whether in industry, military, government or academia," said Shawn

Huddy, director of strategic partnerships at Purdue University's Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security.

Along with Purdue University's CERIAS, the Indiana National Guard co-hosted the event at the West Lafayette campus and brought five teams from across the Hoosier state together.

"This event is important to the National Guard because it allows us to identify the highest achievers across Indiana high schoolers in order to offer those students cybersecurity education and career opportunities that will increase their capabilities while maximizing Hoosier cybersecurity," said Maj. Christopher Myers, the director of cybersecurity for the Indiana Air National Guard.

This capture-the-

flag challenge took place over the course of weeks with the first two rounds played remotely and the final round in-person and on campus. The teams varied from a solo individual to the largest with six players. A total of 16 students competed, with Carmel High School winning the challenge followed closely by Munster High School.

"It was nice to visit Purdue and participate in-person with the Guard and University. CTFs [capture-the-flags] are a good way to gain familiarity with a variety of different computer science and cybersecurity topics," said Jacob Mazza, a Carmel High School student.

Teachers and parents chaperoned the students to the event, and they also saw the importance of the cyber challenge for future

online security and information technology infrastructure.

"This event is important to our school because it provides real-world IT applications to our students. We're excited to have local recognition of our skills, and to see about cybersecurity opportunities," said Angie Rhoads, a South Newton High School teacher.

Another teacher echoed that sentiment that the capture-the-flag events provide.

"It allows them to gain meaningful experience by solving real life problems," said Bailey Carpenter, a North Montgomery High School teacher.

As demand for cybersecurity professionals continues to grow, organizers say events like Cyber Madness are designed to give students an early foothold in a field critical to national and economic security.

## Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale & Show Tomorrow

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 land-

scape 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 Pro-Green 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](mailto:montcoinemg@gmail.com)

## Franciscan Social Impact Program Applications Open

Franciscan Health's Social Impact Partnership Program is opening applications for funding to support healthcare-related programs for non-profit health and human service organizations in at-risk communities.

SIPP funding applications will be accepted from May 1-29. Partner agencies will be announced in mid-July. Organizations may apply for up to \$10,000

in monetary support. Organizations may complete an application online starting May 1.

Serving populations most in need and in accordance with Franciscan's mission should be the focus of supported activities. These include people who have endured systemic racism; refugees and immigrants; the chronically low-resourced; at-risk youth

and others impacted by poor societal supports. Priority health needs as defined by Franciscan Health include chronic disease prevention and management, healthy relationships and mental wellness.

In mid-July, organizations will be selected to receive funding and are required to attend a welcome session on July 30. SIPP partners are also required to attend check-in meetings

and submit progress reports at six-month and one-year intervals. Participation in the reporting process is required for consideration for all future funding and assistance.

For additional information or application support, please contact Franciscan Health Community Health Improvement Director Danielle Crowder at [Danielle.Crowder@franciscanalliance.org](mailto:Danielle.Crowder@franciscanalliance.org).



## Yearlong Reading Journey

Miriam Fowler, age 11, has completed the Crawfordsville District Public Library program the “Yearlong Reading Journey.” She is the daughter of Josh and Robin Fowler. On this journey, Miriam was challenged to read 12 chapter books and 12 picture books. She read 3,874 pages during the year. She also practiced library skills and learned about a different author each month. Her favorite book is *The Rise and Fall of Mount Majestic* by Jennifer Trafton. Miriam said, “I love reading!” The Crawfordsville District Public library congratulates Miriam on her yearlong reading journey and celebrates her dedication to reading and lifelong learning!

## BURIED

Continued from Page 1

While placing ashes on the hardwood itself isn’t realistically feasible, the hypothetical speaks to something deeper — for those who grew up revering the game in Indiana, choosing this as a symbolic final resting place feels like coming home.

#4. Mackey Arena, West Lafayette

Since 1967, Mackey Arena has been the fortress where Purdue basketball comes to life. The steep upper deck creates a wall of sound that crashes down onto opponents, and the Paint Crew student section has earned a reputation as one of the most intimidating in the country. Boiler-maker faithful know this building demands everything you’ve got. Even though scattering ashes across the court wouldn’t be possible in reality, imagining it captures the devotion fans feel — a symbolic way to remain tied to a program that has produced legends and heartbreakers in equal measure.

#5. Gainbridge Fieldhouse, Indianapolis

Home to the Pacers since 1999, Gainbridge Fieldhouse anchors the sports scene in downtown Indianapolis. The arena has hosted Final Fours, All-Star games, and countless nights where the hometown crowd refused to let their team lose quietly, all wrapped in a warmth that reflects the Midwestern hospitality surrounding it. Although impractical in reality, the sentiment behind it is symbolic — honoring a lasting

connection to the court. To rest here is to remain connected to a franchise that helped put Indiana’s love of basketball on the professional map.

#6. Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall, Bloomington

On the Indiana University campus since 1971, Assembly Hall has witnessed some of college basketball’s most glorious chapters. Five national championship banners hang overhead as proof of greatness achieved, while the candy-striped warm-up pants, the passionate student section, and the echoes of Bob Knight’s dynasty all live within these walls. Although scattering ashes on the court itself isn’t realistically possible, the hypothetical reflects the depth of connection fans feel. For Hoosier supporters who spent decades in these seats, the idea symbolizes becoming part of a venue where there’s truly no place quite like it.

Why a Stadium?

When asked what drives this kind of attachment, the answers were telling and deeply human:

Emotional memories (family, friends, childhood) — 26%

Lifelong support for a team — 25%

It would be meaningful for loved ones — 19%

It feels like a “second home” — 17%

Symbol of identity / who I am — 13%

Together, they paint a picture of fandom that goes far beyond entertainment. These aren’t just places people visit—they are places people return

to, again and again, across decades.

Would Fans Bend the Rules?

The survey also explored how far supporters would go to make this final wish a reality: 23% said they would still consider scattering ashes even if it wasn’t allowed.

Where Would They Choose?

If given the choice of location within a stadium:

64% would choose the field or court.

32% would prefer outside the stadium

4% would opt for the stands

How Would Loved Ones Feel?

Being asked to carry out such a request brings its own emotional weight:

30% would feel honored

49% would feel comfortable, but unsure how to go about it

21% would feel uncomfortable

Should Stadiums Allow It?

Opinion is split, but leans slightly in favor: 54% believe ash-scattering should be allowed in controlled circumstances.

“Sports stadiums are some of the few places left where multiple generations share the exact same emotional experience,” says James Bisson, the Editor-in-Chief of *SportsbookReview.com*.

“What we’re seeing here isn’t just about fandom - it’s about memory, identity, and belonging. For many people, these venues represent a constant in their lives, so it’s not surprising that some would want to remain connected to them in a lasting, symbolic way.”



Photo courtesy Harmony Theater

From left: (standing) Jaelyn Raiford, Kyle Holcomb, M. Elena Maddy, Lillian Leslie, (seated) Austin Michael Russell.

## Leader of Pack Takes Stage in Hillsboro

“Leader of the Pack: The Ellie Greenwich Musical” takes The Harmony Theater stage running May 1 through May 16 in Hillsboro, Indiana. This high energy jukebox musical is directed by Noah Johnson, with choreography by Associate Director Kate Mobley and music direction by John Phillips.

This hit Broadway musical retrospective celebrates the life and times of Ellie Greenwich, whose doo-wop sounds skyrocketed to the top of the ‘60s

charts. The story of Ellie’s rise to fame and fortune is punctuated with the virtual hit parade of her music: “Chapel of Love,” “Da Doo Ron Ron,” “Be My Baby,” “Hanky Panky,” “Do Wah Diddy Diddy,” “And Then He Kissed Me” and, of course, the title song, “Leader of the Pack.”

Starring in this production are M. Elena Maddy as Ellie Greenwich and Jaelyn Raiford as Darlene Love, along with Harmony alumni Austin Michael Russell as Jeff Barry,

Lillian Leslie as Annie Golden and Kyle Holcomb as Gus Sharkey. Ensemble members include William Belvin, Ben Brickner, Matthew Adam Hawkins, Kody Horrocks, Jack Paul Jones, CeCe Lampa, Milan Loreal, Kate Mobley and Rachel Winter.

More information on “Leader of the Pack: The Ellie Greenwich Musical” including the food menu, showtimes and how to purchase tickets can be found at [theharmonytheater.com](http://theharmonytheater.com).

## RUSTY

Continued from Page 1

your personal online Social Security account. Is that you could then enroll in Medicare online as described at this link: [www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up](http://www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up). And you can, as you wish to do, enroll only in Medicare without also taking your Social Security benefits at this time.

I want to also make you aware that if you are still working and have “creditable” healthcare coverage from your employer (“creditable” is an employer group plan with at least 20 participants), then you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your employer coverage ends (thus saving the

usual Medicare Part B monthly premium). When your employer’s healthcare coverage ends, you will enter a Special Enrollment Period during which you can enroll in Medicare without incurring a Late Enrollment Penalty.

Finally, please be aware that whenever you claim your Social Security benefits, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) and Part B (coverage for outpatient medical services). Since there is a monthly premium associated with Medicare Part B (but not with Part A), you can choose to decline Part

B if you are still working and covered by your employer’s creditable healthcare plan, until your employer’s healthcare coverage ends.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).*

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# Examining the 'What Ifs' Throughout Purdue Basketball History



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

Books, movies and TV shows have been devoted to stories about changing the course of history, from preventing Abraham Lincoln's assassination to would John F. Kennedy have pulled the United States out of Vietnam had he lived?

While not on the scale of either of those scenarios, I've always wondered what if the right decisions had been made to place Purdue's athletic fortunes on the trajectory of being a nationally recognized university.

Today begins a series on the moments that altered the course of Boilermaker basketball history.

Purdue passes on 1940 NCAA tournament

Purdue athletics historically has had many "What If?" stories. This might be the biggest.

The Boilermakers claimed their sixth outright Big Ten Conference title and the 11th overall under Ward "Piggy" Lambert on the final day of the 1939-40 college basketball regular season. Purdue rallied from a 29-19 deficit with nine minutes to go at Illinois to pull out a 34-31 victory.

The victory denied Indiana a share of the Big Ten title. But thanks to the first of many high moral ground stances that have crippled Purdue athletics for decades, the Hoosiers accepted the Big Ten's berth in the second NCAA Tournament.

Lafayette Journal and Courier sports editor Gordon Graham explained to fans in a column on March 7, 1940, why Purdue (16-4, 10-2 Big Ten) chose to reject the NCAA bid.

"Some Purdue fans are asking why the Boilermakers, champs of the Big Ten, are not representing the Midwest. The answer is that coach Lambert, athletic director (Noble) Kizer, President (Edward) Elliott and faculty members felt that a 20-game schedule was enough.

"This has been Purdue policy in the past, and the NCAA asked Boilermaker officials about their stand before selecting Indiana. Lambert and Kizer even went so far as to recommend Indiana as the choice, if (Branch) McCracken and the powers that be at Bloomington felt they wanted to enter the competition. ... Indiana knows that Purdue was asked officially."

This "we're morally superior" stance opened the door for McCracken to build a dynasty at Indiana. The Hoosiers walloped Springfield and Duquesne at what is now Hinkle Fieldhouse on the campus of Butler University to reach the national title game against Kansas.

The Jayhawks were no match for the Hoosiers despite a semi-home court advantage in Kansas City. Indiana cruised to its first national title 60-42 to finish 20-3 overall. Those three extra games seemed to inflict no permanent health or academic harm on McCracken's players.

Indiana would go on to win the 1953 NCAA title under McCracken, then three more under Bob Knight.

Purdue is still seeking its first NCAA title. The Boilermakers went 29 years without a Big Ten title until 1969 with Rick Mount and Billy Keller leading the way to a national title game loss to UCLA.

The 1940 Boilermakers were Lambert's last good team. Purdue finished no higher than fourth in the Big Ten during Lambert's final six years at the helm. Three losing seasons and health problems led to his retirement during the 1945-46 season.

Typical for Purdue, instead of conducting a national search for Lambert's replacement, athletic director Red Mackey and new president Frederick Hovde chose Lambert's assistant and former Boilermaker

player Mel Taube to take the reins.

That decision leads us to our next turning point in Purdue basketball history.

John Wooden turns down Purdue offer

It became painfully obvious to Mackey and Hovde by 1949 that Taube was a mistake. With a 21-33 Big Ten record and 45-46 overall, Taube was no Piggy Lambert.

Three thousand miles away, Lambert's best player at Purdue was coming off 22-7 and 24-7 records in his first two seasons at UCLA. John Wooden had been a collegiate head coach just four seasons after returning from duty in World War II. At Indiana State, Wooden was 44-15 in two seasons, including an NAIA national runner-up squad in 1948.

Wooden, though, wasn't happy at UCLA. He wrote about this in his 1972 autobiography "They Call Me Coach."

"Despite the fact that the first two seasons had been fairly successful, I was not totally enthralled with UCLA. And it was about this time that various representatives from Purdue were talking to me about going back to West Lafayette. They made a tremendous offer, a lot better financially than the \$6,000 I got to come to UCLA."

In 2026 dollars, Wooden's salary was \$80,000. Apparently, Purdue wasn't always thrifty with a dollar.

"In addition, I was to have a perpetual five-year contract with built-in increases I could renegotiate annually," Wooden wrote. "There were also a number of other amenities, including a family membership in country clubs, a new car every year, a very nice home on campus with nominal rent, a large insurance policy and several other so-called fringe benefits."

"I agreed to accept the Purdue offer if I could gracefully get out of the final year of my three-year contract at UCLA."

Wooden wrote that he expected no opposition from athletic director Wilbur Johns and Bill Ackerman, the director of Associated Students.

"They surprised me," Wooden wrote. "They pointed out I was the one who had insisted on a three-year contract and felt that I should honor it. They

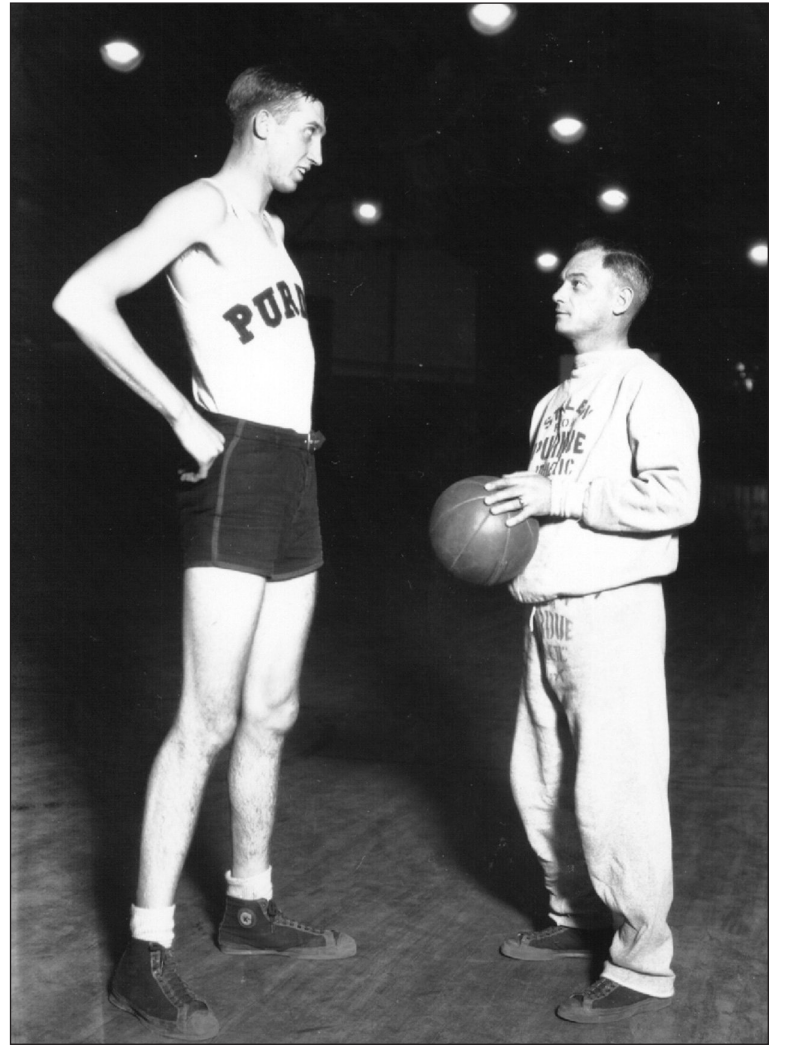


Photo courtesy Purdue Athletics

Ward "Piggy" Lambert with Charles "Stretch" Murphy, circa 1930.

made me feel like a heel for even considering leaving. I was irritated to say the least."

Wooden refused Johns' offer of a raise and a contract extension but agreed to fulfil the final year of his contract.

"I was peeved and a bit stubborn," Wooden wrote. UCLA officials were sure Wooden would leave when he was contractually free.

But his wife, Nell, and his children had fallen in love with California and did not want to go back to Indiana. So Wooden stayed and won 10 national championships from 1964 to 1975, when he retired at age 65.

What did Purdue do? You guessed it: Mackey hired another Purdue alumnus.

Ray Eddy was a teammate of Wooden's on the 1932 national championship team. Eddy had just led Madison High School to the Indiana state championship in 1950.

"He's a winner," Journal and Courier sports editor Gordon Graham declared in a front page story announcing Eddy's hire.

No, he wasn't. Eddy resigned following the 1964-65 season, having gone 12-12 with a roster that included Big Ten scoring champion Dave Schellhase. Amazingly, Eddy was

given 15 years to return the Boilermakers to the glory days of Lambert. Even more amazingly, Purdue kept him employed for 13 more years as an associate athletic director.

Eddy had just seven winning seasons and was 30 games under .500 in Big Ten play. In three of those, Purdue claimed a share of second place in the Big Ten while Indiana and Ohio State established their basketball dominance.

Shortly after Wooden led UCLA to its second consecutive national championship, Mackey finally found the right man to lead Purdue back to the top of the Big Ten. Former NBA guard George King had led West Virginia to three Southern Conference championships and three NCAA tournament berths. He was 36 at the time and had a reputation of being an excellent recruiter.

Which leads us to next week's installment: How George King and assistant coach Bob King swayed Rick Mount from choosing Miami, Fla.

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

## Popular ArchiCamp June 16-17

Calling all young explorers! It's time for the popular Gen. Lew Wallace Study & Museum ArchiCamp again!

The Study & Museum is pleased to bring back ArchiCamp, a two-day architecture-themed camp presented in collaboration with Indiana Landmarks. Designed to engage and inspire, ArchiCamp introduces children to the rich architectural history of Crawfordsville while

encouraging an appreciation for preserving cultural heritage.

Scheduled for June 16-17, ArchiCamp invites young explorers ages 8-12 to take part in an immersive experience

blending history, design and creativity. Campers will explore the unique architectural styles of downtown

dynamic mix of education and fun that sparks imagination and curiosity. Activities from past camps have included

### ArchiCamp Details:

Dates: June 16-17  
Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
(drop-off and pick-up each day)  
Location: General Lew Wallace Study & Museum, Crawfordsville  
Registration: forms and additional information are available at [www.ben-hur.com/programs/archicamp/](http://www.ben-hur.com/programs/archicamp/)

Contact: Thomas Meeks at 765-362-5769 or [tmeeks@ben-hur.com](mailto:tmeeks@ben-hur.com)

Crawfordsville and the Lew Wallace Study through guided walking tours, while also participating in hands-on activities that bring architecture to life.

ArchiCamp offers a

building popsicle stick bridges, designing blueprints and constructing miniature cityscapes from recycled materials.

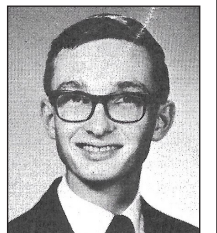
Space is limited, and scholarships are available to ensure all interested participants have the opportunity to attend. Early registration is encouraged.

Don't miss this opportunity for young learners to discover the world of architecture and local history. Join in on inspiring the next generation to value and preserve our shared heritage.

## RECOGNIZE ME?

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ANSWER:  
David Blix



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# Witham Health Has Busy May Schedule

May, Witham Health Services will host support groups and community education classes, as well as a sale in its retail shops and fundraisers led by its volunteer organization.

## Support Groups and Education

Witham will host the following support groups and community education classes in May. The support groups are free unless indicated. For more information, visit [www.witham.org/classes-and-support-groups](http://www.witham.org/classes-and-support-groups).

**The Breastfeeding Support Group** meets weekly on Mondays (except holidays) from 10-11 a.m. in the VIP Dining Room (2605 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon) and gives mothers the opportunity to meet and discuss their breastfeeding needs in a group setting with other mothers. Meetings are facilitated by a board-certified lactation consultant. Individual breastfeeding support is available with a lactation consultant is also available. For individual pricing and to schedule an appointment, call 765-485-8411.

**The Alzheimer's Support Group** for those who care for Alzheimer's patients will meet on Tuesday, May 19, at 6 p.m. in the VIP Dining Room (2605 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon).

**The Cancer Support Cooking for Wellness** class will be held on Tuesday, May 19, at 1 p.m. at

the Boone County Cancer Society (1208 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon). Participants will receive recipes focused on using fresh, nutritionally dense ingredients and samples of every delicious dish. Please call the Boone County Cancer Society at 765-482-2043 to RSVP.

**The Cancer Support Group** is for patients living with cancer and for those supporting a loved one with cancer. The group will meet on Monday, May 18, at 6 p.m. at the Boone County Cancer Society (1208 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon). Please call the Boone County Cancer Society at 765-482-2043 for more information.

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

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

**BeMoved Dance** is a dance fitness program for people of all ages and abilities. It's held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7 p.m. Cost is \$10 per class.

**Flow Yoga** is a great way to center your day with movement and mindful breathing. It's held weekly on Wednesdays from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 per class.

**The free indoor cycling and stretching program** is designed to reduce the risk of chronic disease or help manage weight. It's held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-10:45 a.m.

**Restorative Yoga** is a gentle and slow style of yoga that encourages physical, mental and emotional relaxation. It's held weekly on Mondays from 6-7 p.m. Cost is \$15 per class.

**Rock Steady Boxing 1 & 2** is a non-contact boxing program for people with Parkinson's Disease. It's held weekly from 9-10:15 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and is \$30 per month for unlimited sessions.

**Rock Steady Boxing 3 & 4** is a non-contact boxing program for people with Parkinson's Disease. It's held weekly from 10-11 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays and is \$30 per month for unlimited sessions.

**SilverSneakers Classic**, a free class designed for those 65 or older, uses a chair for seated support

while listening to music, moving and having fun. It's held weekly from 11:15 a.m.-12 p.m. on Mondays.

**SilverSneakers Chair Yoga**, a free class designed for those 65 or older, calms the mind and body with seated meditation and gentle stretching. It's held weekly from 11:15 a.m.-12 p.m. on Wednesdays.

**SilverSneakers Cardio Circuit**, a free class designed for those 65 or older, increases cardiovascular and muscular endurance with a seated/standing circuit workout. It's held weekly from 11:15 a.m.-12 p.m. on Thursdays.

**Tai Chi for Health** (Beginners and Advanced) improves flexibility, muscular strength, fitness and balance. It's held weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-10 a.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Cost is \$5 per class.

## Mother's Day Basket Raffle

Visit the Waterfall's Edge Gift Shop and Pavilion Boutique on the Lebanon campus and enter to win a Mother's Day basket with items donated by local businesses. The basket is valued at over \$300. Tickets are \$1 each or six tickets for \$5. The drawing will be held on Friday, May 8.

## Race in for Savings Sale

Visit the Waterfall's Edge Gift Shop and Pavilion Boutique on the Lebanon

campus between May 18-22 for 25% off all merchandise in the store. Customers who find the checkered flag will receive an additional 10% off their purchase (exclusions apply) and customers who spend \$50 will receive a gift certificate for 25% off their next purchase.

## Athletic Annex Fundraiser

The Witham Volunteer Organization will also host a fundraiser with the Athletic Annex on Thursday, May 21, from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Witham main entrance at 2605 North Lebanon Street in Lebanon. Athletic Annex will offer professional shoe fittings and thermal arch scans in addition to a wide assortment of footwear, arch supports and other name-brand accessories.

Customers will receive 10% off their purchase and 10% of all sales will be donated to the Witham Volunteer Organization. With any purchase customers will be entered to win a \$100 Athletic Annex gift card. All proceeds benefit the Witham Volunteer Organization Scholarship Program and various fund the need initiatives for Witham Health Services.