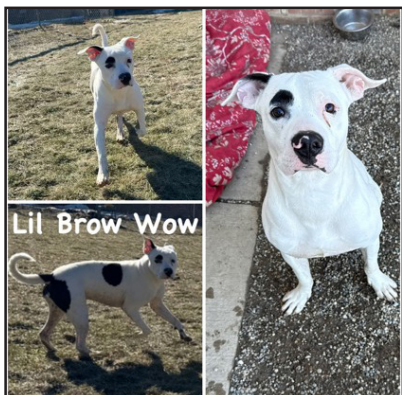


■ TODAY'S VERSE

John 8:32

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

■ AWL LIL BROW WOW



How on earth do we still have this guy!? Lil Brow Wow has his eyes on YOU!! LIL BROW WOW IS AWL'S FIRST EVER AKC S.T.A.R PUPPY!! Lil Brow Wow is a 1 year old male black/white American Pit bull terrier available for adoption since 11/13/24. Lil Brow Wow loves going for walks, frolicking in a fenced yard, and will gladly sit for treats. Lil Brow Wow is looking for his BEST FRIEND! Could that be you? AWL is open Monday - Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 12-3p. Come say hi!

■ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Beginning May 31, the Crawfordsville District Public Library will switch to its summer hours. That means it will be open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. On Fridays and Saturdays the library will open at 10 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. And on Sundays the library will be closed. Patrons can always access digital resources and other information from the library by going to <https://crawfordsvillelibrary.in.gov/>



Wonder if they hadn't renamed it Memorial Day if more folks would head to the cemeteries and put flags on soldiers' graves like a lot of us used to do on Decoration 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.

Thank you for reading The Times! Have a great weekend.

# The Paper OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper [www.thepaper24-7.com](http://www.thepaper24-7.com) | 50¢

## BOOMER BITS... Tips and Advice from Boomers to Boomers Should I Collect Now Or At 70?

**Dear Rusty:** I am 67 and 9 months old, collecting a modest SS survivor benefit with plans to collect my own much larger benefit at age 70. I was confident this plan was a good one; but recent turbulent events make me nervous that cuts could come to Social Security at any time without warning. Would it be prudent to file for my own Social Security as soon as possible so that my benefit might be "grandfathered" in before any sudden and drastic cuts occur? I do not generally panic, but these are unprecedented times. I would be quite comfortable with the benefit listed on my 2024 statement for my current age; I was just hoping to maximize the benefit by waiting.

When I go to the Social Security website to view my 2025 annual statement



### ASK RUSTY

Social Security Advisor

to see the personalized monthly retirement benefit estimates for ages 68, 69, and 70, that section no longer shows. This omission makes me uncomfortable. Can I find out what my current benefit estimate would be for ages 68, 69, and 70? Or should I just rely on the 2024 statement?

Signed: Nervous in Portland

See Rusty Page 3

## Experts: How to Protect Yourself in Tick Season

Ticks are making their return fast and furiously, emphasizing the need for prevention to protect Americans, their families and pets this season. During Tick Awareness Week, the National Pest Management Association is reminding Americans

about the potential health threats ticks pose and the best ways to keep these parasitic pests away while enjoying the great outdoors.

Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and alpha-gal syndrome are a few of the many diseases that ticks can put humans and animals at risk for. According to recent data from the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), weekly visits to the

exactly why awareness matters. If you've had a run-in with a tick, don't

wait. Prompt removal before they have a chance to transmit diseases is one of the most important steps you can take to protect your health."

Ticks thrive in areas with dense vegetation, including tall grass, shrubs and even tree branches. To reduce chances of unwanted encounters with ticks:

- Use EPA-approved insect repellent with at least 20% DEET on clothing and exposed skin.
- Wear light-colored, long-sleeved clothing and closed-toe shoes when

See Protection Page 2

### About the National Pest Management Association

The National Pest Management Association (NPMA), a non-profit organization with more than 4,000 members, was established in 1933 to support the pest management industry's commitment to the protection of public health, food and property from the diseases and dangers of pests. For more information, visit [PestWorld.org](http://PestWorld.org) or follow @PestWorld on Facebook, Pinterest, TikTok and YouTube and @PestWorldOfficial on Instagram.

### ■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

**1.** The Indianapolis International Airport is welcoming JetBlue to the city starting Nov. 2, with a once-daily nonstop flight to Fort Lauderdale via Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. This new nonstop will also give travelers multiple connections to Caribbean destinations as well. While the new nonstop flight will give Central Indiana travelers added direct access to Fort Lauderdale's beaches, cruise port and the broader South Florida region, it will also connect them to 10 Caribbean markets across Aruba, the Bahamas, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Mexico and Puerto Rico. JetBlue anticipates it will operate nearly 130 daily departures from Fort Lauderdale this summer to its various destination cities.

**2.** The NTT INDYCAR SERIES and Indianapolis Motor Speedway recently announced a sponsorship with Sam's Club, a leading membership retail club, that will see the company become the Official Sponsor and Official and Exclusive Warehouse Club Retail Store of the NTT INDYCAR SERIES, Indianapolis Motor Speedway and the Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge. Sam's Club also will be the entitlement sponsor of the Indy 500 Fan Midway. The Sam's Club Fan Midway will feature a premium retail environment with interactive elements and giveaways for fans. Andretti Global recently announced Sam's Club will serve as the primary sponsor for the No. 27 Sam's Club Honda piloted by Kyle Kirkwood for the Month of May and beyond.

**3.** The Indiana Bond Bank closed its second pooled bond sale under the Community Funding Resource Program, a \$28.835 million issuance that brings affordable, long-term capital to Hoosier communities. The CFR Program bundles loans from multiple local units of government into a single pooled bond issue. Pooling spreads fixed transaction costs across borrowers, simplifies the process for participating units, and keeps the program sustainable as more communities take part. The model has worked well in other states and in Indiana's own State Revolving Fund program. The Bond Bank adapted it to fit the needs of Hoosier communities, particularly smaller and rural units that issue infrequently.

## Indiana Fares Better Than Most With Scams

New research has revealed Indiana among the states least at risk of scams; however, experts have warned residents to remain vigilant, as those who do fall victim lose over \$400 on average.

The research, conducted by experts at product comparison platform WhatAreTheBest.com, analyzed data from the Federal Trade Commission on the number of fraud reports in each state during each quarter over a three-year period. They compared these figures to population data to find the average number of quarterly fraud reports per 100,000 residents, revealing the states most at risk of being scammed.

The average number of quarterly fraud reports per 100,000 residents across the US is 141.85.

### Indiana findings

Indiana recorded an average of 125.91 quarterly fraud reports per 100,000 residents. This figure is 11% lower than the national average. Over the three-year period analyzed, there were 102,009 fraud reports in the state in total.

Among Indiana residents who did fall victim to scams, the average reported loss to each victim was \$418.22.

While Indiana ranks low among states experiencing the highest rates of fraud, residents should not become complacent. More than 100,000 reports over three years show that scams remain a persistent issue affecting thousands of households across the state, and anybody is at risk of financial loss if they let their guard down.

"Scams are one of the most costly crimes to Americans, with people reporting losses of hundreds of dollars in single reports," Albert Richer, founder of whatarethebest.com, said. "The huge number of reports in each state also goes to show how common this crime is, and how easy it can be to fall victim. Fake retail websites, counterfeit ads on social media, and phishing emails or scam calls disguised as shipping or payment notifications are just a few of the tactics criminals use to target online shoppers, so you must remain cautious," he added.

"It is important to only shop on trusted websites, avoid clicking on suspicious ads or links that seem too good to be true, and only use secure payment methods that offer fraud protection. Criminals may also use bank impersonation scams, phone call scams, text message 'smishing,' tech support-

See Scams Page 3

# The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

127 E. Main St. 103  
P.O. Box 272  
Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933  
Main 765-361-0100  
www.thepaper24-7.com

## Seth Carlson Hired Before Graduation by Prisma Health

Seth Carlson, a senior pursuing a Bachelors degree in Nursing & Ministry and Leadership from Bob Jones University, was hired before graduation as a nurse resident at Prisma Health in Easley, South Carolina.

Carlson is a resident of Linden.

Founded in 1927, Bob Jones University is a Christian liberal arts university located in Greenville, South Carolina. BJU offers a well-rounded education that com-

bines strong academics with a biblical worldview, preparing students to succeed in their future careers while deepening their faith. With a student body representing 48 states, 40 countries and 5 territories, the University offers a dynamic campus environment where each student is encouraged to pursue a higher calling-anched in truth, mentored in wisdom and strengthened in faith.

## Ladoga's Hannah Summers Earns Honor

In recognition of academic performance, the Office of Academic Affairs at University of the Cumberland has named Hannah Summers of Ladoga, to the President's List for the spring 2026 semester.

To be eligible for the President's List, students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours (a full course load), maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 4.0 for the semester, receive an "A" grade in UC Engage, and be in good academic standing. (Note: All students who are named to the President's List au-

tomatically make the Dean's List, since the Dean's List requires a minimum semester GPA of 3.5; however, Cumberlands only lists students on either the Dean's List or the President's List, to avoid overlap.)

University of the Cumberland is one of the largest and most affordable private universities in Kentucky. Located in Williamsburg, Kentucky, Cumberlands is an institution of regional distinction offering quality undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and online degree programs. Learn more at [ucumberland.edu](http://ucumberland.edu).

## PROTECTION

*Continued from Page 1*

outdoors in areas where ticks may be present.

- Trim grass and maintain other vegetation in yard.
- Avoid overgrown areas when participating in outdoor activities like gardening or hiking.
- Thoroughly check yourself, family, pets and clothing for ticks before going indoors.

"As we move into the warmest part of the year, tick activity will only intensify," said Dr. Jim Fredericks, senior vice president

of public affairs at NPMA. "Knowing where ticks lurk, ways to prevent exposure and how to reduce the number of ticks on your property can make all the difference in staying safe and healthy this season."

For information on pests and to find a licensed pest control professional near you, visit [www.PestWorld.org](http://www.PestWorld.org) and for more tick educational resources, head to [www.TickTalk.org](http://www.TickTalk.org).

## Library, Art League, Schools Honor Students

The Mary Bishop Memorial Gallery at the Crawfordsville District Public Library would like to invite the public to view the work of the Art League of Montgomery County's 2026 Art Awardees. This premier exhibit highlights some of the top students from Montgomery County who are choosing to pursue creative endeavors. This exhibit is currently open and will be on display during the month of May. The public is welcome to visit the gallery during CDPL's regular hours of operation. A limited amount of art is for sale (cash only) during the exhibition through our Circulation department.

The Art League has been recognizing high school students for their artistic creativity and accomplishments for more than 50 years. Each year they ask the three county high schools' art teachers to select the senior that they wish to honor for their artistic achievements. On behalf of the Art League of Montgomery County, congratulations are offered to each student, as well as, this exhibit opportunity and a check for \$600 to encourage their pursuit of the arts. This year's awardees are Cama Hall, Bristol Presley, and Cloe Blankenship.

North Montgomery High School awardee, Cama Hall is the daughter of Sarah Kessinger. She is a participant in several extracurricular activities including Track, Tech Crew, and Crochet Club. She is dedicated to the performing arts. Cama is deeply involved in Theater and Choir at school, but she is also a singer in the band "Rumor's End." She plans to attend the Cosmetology School of Indianapolis. She spends her free time creating art and her favorite medium is watercolor.

Crawfordsville High School awardee, Bristol Presley is the daughter of Brad Presley. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Art

Honor Society. Bristol is also very dedicated to performing in Band and Color Guard. Currently, Bristol sells her handmade Jewelry online and plans to continue working as an artist after graduation. Her favorite creative outlet is painting.

Southmont High School awardee, Cloe Blankenship is the daughter of Claire Coffin and Christopher Blankenship. She is an active member of the Bring Change to Mind Club (BC2M), a student-led, evidence-based group that empowers teens to end the stigma surrounding mental illness. She organizes peer activities that support her classmates' mental health needs. Cloe is also on the Soccer team. She currently works at the Goodwill Store of Crawfordsville and plans to begin a career at the United States Postal Service after high school. She enjoys painting with acrylics and exploring the world through a photographic lens.

The Art League of Montgomery County has undergone quite a few changes in its 120 plus years, but respect and appreciation for artists and art in its many forms, continues to be an essential characteristic of the organization. The Art league is always welcoming new members, artists and connoisseurs alike. If you are interested in learning more about the Art League of Montgomery County, visit them on Facebook, or pick-up one of their brochures in the lobby or in Adult Services on the second floor of the library.

The gallery would like to also recognize the dedication of Mary Lou Dewald. As a volunteer, her commit to the students, this community, the ALMC, and the arts is appreciated and will leave a lasting impact. Thank you Mary Lou!

For more information about upcoming events at CDPL, please visit our website's calendar at [crawfordsvillelibrary.in.gov](http://crawfordsvillelibrary.in.gov). If you are an artist or



Cama Hall



Bristol Presley



Cloe Blankenship

a member of an artists' group and are interested in displaying your work at the Mary Bishop Memorial Gallery, please contact the Gallery Coordinator at (765) 362-2242 for more details.

## State Helping Small Businesses

Governor Mike Braun launched Keep IN, an initiative to provide small business owners with resources and support as they plan their futures. The initiative is spearheaded by the Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, a new state agency created by Gov. Mike Braun to help small businesses and entrepreneurs thrive in Indiana.

Keep IN aims to preserve local jobs and locally rooted businesses by reducing preventable business closures and supporting smoother business ownership transitions.

"Supporting Hoosier businesses has been a cornerstone of my administration from day one – and part of that support must include helping the transition to the next generation of Hoosier entrepreneurs," Braun said. "As a business owner myself who acquired and grew a business here, and then prepared it for transition, I know firsthand the importance of succession planning for business owners and communities. Thousands of businesses in Indiana face ownership transitions in the coming years. We want to help keep those businesses thriving in the Hoosier State."

The Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation worked with the Indiana Business Research Center to gain insight to localized data on the need for business owner support – and the results clearly show the need to invest to ensure a key part of Indiana's economic foundation remains strong:

- Nearly 60 percent of total business revenue in Indiana is generated by businesses owned by people aged 55 or older.
- At least half of the business revenue in 88 out of 92 counties is associated with 55+ owners.
- National data reveals that 92% of small business exits involve closure, rather than sale or transfer of ownership.

"Keep IN is about helping Indiana business owners plan ahead and make informed decisions about the future," said Brian Schutt, Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Director. "By starting earlier and increasing access to information, we can help support stronger outcomes for business owners, employees and local communities."

As part of the Keep IN initiative, Gov. Braun is launching a

pilot with SMB.co, a platform that helps small business owners understand their business value and provides educational tools and resources to support early planning and informed decision-making.

Through the pilot, business owners in three economic development regions – Northwest Indiana, South Central Indiana and Southwest Indiana – can access SMB.co tools free of charge, including business valuations, transition readiness assessments and exit planning.

The SMB.co pilot program is a state-led effort implemented at the regional level, ensuring business owners receive support that reflects the realities of their local communities and the industries they serve.

"This initiative is about preparation, legacy and putting the future of Indiana's small businesses back in the hands of the owners who have served their communities for decades," said Schutt.

Fundamental to the work of Keep IN is collaboration with organizations around the state that help provide resources and support to Indiana businesses. As part of that, Gov. Braun is

excited to announce that the Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation has partnered with the Indiana Chamber of Commerce to offer a series of free workshops for Hoosier business owners who are considering selling their businesses or beginning the process of succession planning.

"As the organization representing more small businesses than any other in the state, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce is pleased to expand business transition resources that help employers continue supporting their communities, workforce and the broader economy," said Vanessa Green Sinders, Indiana Chamber President and CEO. "Efforts like this underscore why the Indiana Chamber championed the creation of OEI to help Main Street businesses succeed."

The workshops will cover topics such as determining a business's value, identifying resources for legal guidance and developing a succession plan. Business owners interested in learning more and to sign up to be notified when registration is available can visit <http://www.indianachamber.com/smallbizsuccession>

## The Paper

of Montgomery County  
An Independent Newspaper  
founded in 2004

Vol. 22 | Issue 52

Sen. Phil Boots, President  
USPS Publication Number: O22-679  
**Annual Print Subscription: \$89**  
**Annual Online Subscription: \$42**  
**To subscribe:**  
[circulation@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:circulation@thepaper24-7.com)  
**To contact news:**  
[news@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:news@thepaper24-7.com)  
**To submit legal notices:**  
[Legals@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:Legals@thepaper24-7.com)  
**For billing:**  
[business@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:business@thepaper24-7.com)

## Public Notices Deadline:

11:00 a.m. 2 Business Days Prior to Publication:[legals@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:legals@thepaper24-7.com)  
Private Party Notices Submitted After Deadline May Be Subject To \$25.00 Fee In Addition To The Cost Of The Advertisement

# Congressman Jim Baird Thankful After Win



File Photo

Baird thanked his supporters, family and Donald Trump for his victory.

Congressman Jim Baird thanked his family, supporters and voters across the district for their trust and continued support from him after his victory in the Republican primary for Indiana's Fourth Congressional District.

"(The) victory belongs to the people of Indiana's Fourth District," said Baird. "I'm incredibly grateful to my family and to the dedicated supporters and volunteers who stood with us every step of the way. I also want to thank President Trump for his leadership and unwavering commitment to

putting America first." Baird also reflected on the recent passing of his wife, Danise, whose support was a constant throughout his life and career.

"In the midst of this campaign, I've carried with me the strength and love of my late wife, Danise," Baird said. "Her faith, encouragement, and belief in service continue to guide me every day."

Baird said the campaign was built on a simple but enduring principle: service.

"Public service means showing up, doing the work, and delivering results, no matter the circum-

stances," Baird said. "That commitment never wavers. I'm proud to continue fighting for the conservative values that matter to Hoosiers: securing our border, restoring energy independence, reining in spending, and ensuring government works for the people, not against them."

"I'm honored by the trust voters have placed in me tonight, and I look forward to continuing our work to strengthen Indiana and our country," Baird added. "Tonight, we celebrate, but tomorrow, we get back to work."

## RUSTY

Continued from Page 1

issue long before the current administration took office.

The Trustees of Social Security have been warning Congress for decades that Social Security's finances require Congressional attention. The fact is that Social Security revenue (as predicted decades ago) became insufficient to pay all benefit obligations in about 2021. Since that time, money from Social Security's reserved funds (Trust Funds) has been used to pay full benefits to all. In 2020, there was nearly \$3 trillion in SS reserved funds, but that has now dwindled to about \$2.5 trillion as reserves are used to supplement SS payments. And that problem continues. The Trustees of SS now predict that the reserves will be fully depleted in about 2032, at which time – lacking program reform by Congress – Social Security will be forced to pay out only what it receives in revenue. And that would mean an estimated cut of about 23% to everyone's monthly SS benefit. In the unlikely event that happens, wouldn't a 23% reduction to your larger age 70 benefit be better than a 23% cut to your lower age 68 benefit?

No one wants those cuts to happen – least of all politicians – because it would amount to political suicide (seniors are, after all, a very large voting bloc). Thus, we believe that Congress will act to

reform Social Security to prevent any general benefit cuts from happening. It will, however, require Congressional bipartisanship because the reforms needed for Social Security are likely unsavory to some. Those reforms may include SS tax increases and changes to the basic structure of the SS program to align it with today's demographic reality. The program needs reform, which Congress has, unfortunately, neglected to provide for many years. And this neglect will likely also continue, at least through the forthcoming mid-term elections. It seems the nature of Congress is to wait until the last possible moment to offer corrective legislation.

Here's what to keep in mind: Congress already knows how to reform Social Security to avoid any future benefit cuts – they just lack the bipartisanship to accomplish that reform. For our part, the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC) has offered to Congress a common-sense reform plan via its "Social Security Guarantee (SSG)." AMAC's proposal has received a positive reception in Congressional circles, and we are optimistic that the proposal will provide financial stability to the program for generations. AMAC continues to advocate for SS reform in Washington, D.C. on a regular basis, even more intensely

as the depletion of the SS Trust Funds grows closer.

We do not suggest changing your strategy for claiming Social Security benefits based upon fear the program will cut benefits. That's because it's unlikely that all benefits will be cut because we believe Congress will eventually enact reform. And even in the unlikely event that Congress neglects to reform the program by 2032, the percentage of reduction to a higher monthly SS benefit amount would be better than a similar reduction to a lower benefit amount. In other words, your original plan is still a prudent one.

Regarding your question about your estimated benefits, I expect your most recent SS statement didn't include future benefits because you are already collecting SS survivor benefits. You can contact SSA at 1.800.772.1213 to obtain the future SS retirement estimates you seek.

*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.*

## SCAMS

Continued from Page 1

fraud scams, and even government impersonation

schemes to trick victims into giving away money or personal information. These scams often create a sense of urgency, threaten consequences, or ask for sensitive information such as passwords, PINs, or one-time security codes. To avoid falling victim, never share personal or financial information with unsolicited callers or messages, hang up

and contact the organization directly using

fy before responding." Richer said vigilance is key.

• **Indiana sees an average of 125.91 average quarterly fraud reports per 100,000 residents.**

• **This is below the national average, highlighting Indiana as a less risky state for fraud.**

• **Experts warn that letting your guard down could be a costly mistake, with Indiana residents who do fall victim to scams losing an average of \$418.22.**

"It is crucial to take steps to protect yourself from fraud, no matter which state you are in, and if you think that you may have fallen victim to a scam, contact your bank

a verified number, be cautious of requests for payment through gift cards or wire transfers, and take time to pause and veri-

immediately, report it to the Federal Trade Commission, and change any passwords that may have been compromised."

**WE ARE HIRING!**

**FULL TIME**

**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER/  
KENNEL ATTENDANT**



*Requirements*

- Must be comfortable handling all domesticated animals of all sizes and temperaments
- Must be 21+ with a valid drivers license and clean driving record
- Excellent customer service
- Experience handling animals is a plus

On-the-job training is provided.

Please come by the shelter to fill out a paper application.  
1104 Big Four Arch Rd.  
Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
(765) 362-8846



*"The Tire Professionals"*

**\$15 OFF**

**OIL CHANGE SPECIAL**

Complete visual inspection & air pressure check. No other discounts apply. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 12/31/26

**114 N. Water St. • Crawfordsville**  
**(765) 364-0584**  
**Weekdays 7:30 am - 5pm**  
**Saturday 8 am - Noon**  
**pompstire.com**

**Have**

**a great**

**weekend!**


**WANTING TO BUY**


**ALL FIREARMS:  
RIFLES, SHOTGUNS,  
AND HANDGUNS  
THAT ARE 50 YEARS OLD  
OR OLDER  
IN DECENT CONDITION**




**I WILL PAY CASH  
ON THE SPOT!**

**Call John "Butch" Dale**  
**Licensed FFL**  
**765-404-1354**





**I WANT TO BE YOUR  
GO-TO AGENT!**

I'm the KEY to your new home!  
If you are ready to find yours or know someone who is, give me a call. I can't wait to hear from you!

**CLARK DALE**

www.exprealty.com

**PHONE: 765.918.1773**

# Rick Mount, Joe Barry Carroll chose Purdue; Rest is History



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

There likely would have been no Big Ten Conference title and a berth in the 1969 NCAA men's basketball tournament championship game for Purdue if Rick Mount had decided to follow through on his original commitment in the spring of 1966.

That probably would have meant a 39-year gap between conference titles for a program that prides itself on being the winningest Big Ten school. And that's assuming Lee Rose and Joe Barry Carroll remained in Purdue's timeline to make the 1979 co-Big Ten title possible.

Miami, Florida was becoming a national program under coach Bruce Hale, who was riding the momentum created by his future son-in-law Rick Barry. The Hurricanes averaged 98 points a game, before the 3-point shot, in 1965 with Barry leading the nation at 37.4 points a game.

So it was no wonder that Miami was appealing to Mount, the greatest college shooter I've seen and that includes Stephen Curry.

On May 18, 1966, the headline in the Kokomo Morning Times stated "Miami signs Rick Mount." Accompanying the story was a photo of Hale and Mount inside Lebanon High School's library. The caption quoted Hale as saying: "This is the greatest day of my life. Rick is the best I've ever seen – and I've seen quite a few great players."

Mount was asked why not Purdue or Indiana. Standing with his hands in his back pockets, Mount said "Well, they have just a little bit more to offer."

But Mount also offered a throwaway line that ended up being the difference in his recruitment just a

few months later: "I made a decision not to attend UCLA about two weeks ago. It's just too far away."

UCLA, which was coming off consecutive national championships under Purdue legend John Wooden, is located 1,792 miles from Lebanon. Miami, Florida is 1,052 miles away.

Hale understood Mount's decision wasn't a popular one in town. "I've noticed there aren't too many happy people here today. But I think people should be happy with Rick's decision. This seems more like a morgue than a library."

But Purdue didn't give up hope. Head coach George King had three key advantages.

The first was alluded to in the newspaper story. Mount likely felt pressure from the citizens of Lebanon, who wanted to drive a short distance to see one of their own play college basketball. It also didn't hurt that the mayor was an uncle of Purdue assistant coach Bob King. Nor the fact that Mount's future wife, Donna, was his high school sweetheart.

"There was no way that Rick was ever going to leave the state of Indiana to play basketball," Bob King told GoldandBlack.com publisher Alan Karpick in 2011. "The people of Lebanon wouldn't stand for it."

But most importantly, under NCAA rules at the time there was no national letter of intent. The only binding document was a conference letter. Mount signed a Big Ten letter of intent with Purdue in late May, cutting off Indiana's pursuit.

That signature allowed Purdue to contact Mount as frequently as George King and his



Rick Mount in the 1967 dedication game of Mackey Arena. The UCLA player is Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, then known

staff desired.

Mount told The Associated Press on May 27 that he signed the conference letter of intent with Purdue "to protect myself in case I should decide to play Big Ten ball.

"But it would be a pretty long shot that I would go to Purdue."

That long shot cashed in on Aug. 4, when Mount announced he would stay close to home. The Indianapolis Star report stated that Mount changed his mind after competing against several former Big Ten players in summer outdoor tournaments and still scored 30 to 40 points a game without "undue trouble."

The rest of the story everyone knows. Mount would leave Purdue as an All-American and held the school's career scoring record of 2,323 points for 54 years.

Purdue discovers Joe Barry Carroll

It was late in Fred Schaus' tenure as head coach in 1976, and the Boilermakers needed a big man to eventually replace Tom Scheffler.

An introspective 7-foot center named Joe Barry Carroll was

beginning to make a name for himself at Denver East High School. But Purdue assistants Roger Blalock and George weren't in Denver to see Carroll.

In his autobiography "Growing Up in Words and Images," Carroll tells the story.

"They would never admit it publicly, but Lavon Williams, who was the higher valued recruiting choice of theirs, was not really interested in Purdue. So while they were in town recruiting him, they approached me. Lavon was truly a star basketball player and worthy of all the attention he received that year. He was the LeBron James of my time. Being their second choice meant nothing to me; what mattered to me was I had been offered a world-class education by a world-class institution."

Carroll arrived in West Lafayette with a cheap Woolworth's trunk, a few belongings "and a whole lot of ambition in my heart."

His shot blocking skills quickly made Carroll a fan favorite, with some clamoring for Carroll to replace

Scheffler in the starting lineup.

When Carroll did win the starting center job as a sophomore in 1977, he quickly served notice that he was an All-American in the making. In an 80-78 victory at Arizona on Dec. 10, 1977, Carroll posted the only triple-double in Purdue men's basketball history. His 16 points, 16 rebounds and a single-game record 11 blocked shots led a reporter to call the performance "one of the greatest individual games ever against the Wildcats."

"Failure was not an option," Carroll wrote. "At a minimum, I was going to have to graduate with a diploma, and though I could not see much beyond that, it was clear I had to move forward because there was no place to retreat. It never occurred to me that if things did not work at Purdue, I could return to my mother's home at 2449 Vine Street. That didn't happen in my mother's house ... There was room for only one adult in my mother's house."

Carroll received his diploma in economics

just after leading Purdue to the Final Four in 1980. His career totals included 2,175 points, 1,148 rebounds and 349 blocked shots.

Carroll was the No. 1 overall pick in the 1980 NBA Draft by Golden State, which traded Robert Parish and a draft pick that became Kevin McHale to the Boston Celtics. That trade for two future Hall of Famers did not help Carroll's popularity throughout his NBA career, as if he was the person who orchestrated that swap.

As for Lavon Williams? He played collegiately at Kentucky and was drafted in 1980 too – 100 picks after Carroll in the fifth round by the Cleveland Cavaliers. Williams never played a regular season NBA game.

Next time: What if Matt Painter had signed with his childhood favorite team, Indiana?

*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.*

## Not ALL Processed Foods Are Problematic

Ultra-processed foods are having a moment and not in a good way. Scroll through social media or glance at recent headlines, and you'll see them blamed for everything from weight gain to chronic disease. But before we cancel every convenience food in our pantry, it's worth asking: are all ultra-processed foods really created equal?

Food processing exists on a spectrum. On one end are minimally processed foods like fresh fruits, vegetables, and plain meats. On the other are ultra-processed foods; products made with multiple ingredients, including additives that enhance flavor, texture, or shelf life. This includes chips, soda, and candy, but also foods that might surprise you: packaged whole grain bread, flavored yogurt, protein bars, plant-based meats, and some breakfast cereals. In other words, "ultra-pro-

cessed" doesn't automatically mean "junk food."

Research shows diets high in ultra-processed foods are associated with higher risk of chronic disease. But these studies show patterns not direct cause and effect. People who eat more ultra-processed foods also tend to consume more calories and fewer fruits, vegetables, and fiber.

So, is it the processing itself? Or the overall quality of the diet? Many ultra-processed foods are higher in added sugars, sodium, and saturated fats, while offering fewer beneficial nutrients. That combination can make it easier to overeat and harder to meet nutrition needs. But that doesn't mean every food in this category is nutritionally empty.

Here's what often gets left out: some ultra-processed foods can be nutrient-dense and play a helpful role in

a balanced diet. Foods like fortified whole grain cereals, yogurt with added vitamin D and protein, canned beans, and some protein bars or shakes can provide fiber, protein, vitamins, and minerals often in a convenient, affordable way.

Which leads to a better question: it's not just are you eating ultra-processed foods? It's which ones are you choosing most often? Nearly half of packaged foods (48%) and more than a third of beverages (38%) purchased in the U.S. are ultra-processed and most come from soft drinks, sweets, snacks, and ready-to-eat meals, not the more nutrient-dense options. Ultra-processed foods didn't become popular by accident. They save time, are often budget-friendly, and make meals possible on busy days. Labeling them as "bad" or off-limits isn't realistic and can create unnecessary

guilt.

Instead of focusing on elimination, a more helpful approach is to look at overall patterns. Add more foods we know support health; fruits, vegetables, whole grains, beans, nuts, and lean proteins. When choosing packaged foods, look for options with fiber, protein, or key nutrients. And yes, there's still room for foods that are simply there for enjoyment. Because the reality is, a handful of chips or an occasional dessert isn't what makes or breaks a diet. It's the consistent, everyday

choices that matter most.

Ultra-processed foods aren't going anywhere. Rather than fearing them, we can make more informed choices and focus on building a diet that is balanced, satisfying, and realistic to maintain. In the end, it's not about perfection—or even processing. It's about patterns. And those small, consistent choices matter far more than whether a food comes from a package.

*Monica Nagele MS/RD is the Montgomery County Extension Director Health and Human Science Educator.*

**Monica Nagele  
MS/RD**

*Purdue Extension  
Montgomery County  
Extension Director*



# Senior Achievers Honored at Southmont

Southmont High School held its Scholarship Night last week. Here is the list of those honored.

Luc Rabeyrin was named the Valedictorian for the Class of 2026. Jameson Keough was named the Salutatorian.

Others honored were:

**Top 20 Seniors**

- Luc Rabeyrin
- Jameson Keough
- Darby Cottrell
- Karley Fisher
- Kadee Plank
- Jolie Hoenshell
- Mallory Liffick
- Avery Stokes
- Natalie Nelson
- Haylee Hall
- Ian Snook
- Mackenzie Douglas
- Jaysa Crull
- Brooklynn Bensen
- Parker Church
- Carson Powell
- Kendall Priebe
- Owen McCutchan
- Collin Hall
- Myah Knox

**Lilly Endowment Scholarship**

- Luc Rabeyrin
- FFA Awards**
- Sophia Shannon
- Ethan Smith
- Tyler Walls
- Kale Vaught
- Avery Stadler

**Military Recognition**

- Landon Pickett
- Amber Power**

**Sparks Scholarship**

- Avery Stokes

**American Legion Auxiliary Academic Award**

- Savannah Chesser

**American Legion Gronert Award**

- Jameson Keough

**Art League of Montgomery County**

- Cloe Blankenship

**Baldwin Memorial Lodge Scholarship**

- Heath Tolliver
- Darby Cottrell

**Bob and Margaret Buser Scholarship**

- Darby Cottrell

**Bob J. Tandy Scholarship**

- Avery Stokes

**Crossway Covenant Church**

- Savannah Chesser

**Cole Petty Scholarship**

- Sophia Shannon
- Dave Winningham
- McKenna Skelton
- Kale Vaught

**Delta Kappa Gamma**

- Kolie Murphy
- Distinguished**

**Young Women**

- Jolie Hoenshell
- Dollars for Scholars**

- Cale Chadd
- Brooklynn Bensen
- Darby Cottrell
- Savannah Chesser

**Dr. Smullen Scholarship**

- Brooklynn Bensen

**Edith Botts Nursing Scholarship**

- Mackenzie Douglas
- Parker Church

**Jolie Hoenshell Kendall Priebe Edith Strickler Scholarship**

- Brooklynn Bensen

**Edmond and Martha Lauer Scholarship**

- Brooklynn Bensen

**Florence and Lee Servies Scholarship**

- Kolie Murphy

**Frances E. Gray Scholarship**

- Carson Powell
- Darby Cottrell
- Fred and Ina Clark
- Jaysa Crull
- Jolie Hoenshell
- Natalie Nelson
- Parker Church

**Sybil & T. Herman Davis Tuition & Merit Scholarships**

- Jaysa Crull
- Karley Fisher
- Darby Cottrell
- Avery Stokes
- Cale Chadd
- Jameson Keough

**Hoosier Heartland State Bank Scholarship**

- Cale Chadd

**Indiana Farm Bureau Scholarship**

- Sophia Shannon
- Heath Tolliver

**Indiana College Core**

- Kate Myers
- Mallory Liffick
- Natalie Nelson
- Brooklynn Bensen
- Sophia Shannon

**Ivy Tech Chancellor's Opportunity Scholarship**

- Kendall Priebe

**Jeff McClaskey Scholarship**

- Darby Cottrell

**Jerry and Dorothy Servies Vaughn Scholarship**

- Parker Church

**John and Ruth Isaacs Family Scholarship**

- Darby Cottrell

**Keystone Cooperative**

- Caroline Cox
- Knights of Pythias
- Savannah Chesser

**Ladoga Tri Kappa Scholarship**

- Savannah Chesser

**Lakeside Book**

**Company**

- Kendall Priebe
- Madonna Everhart and Betty Howard Nursing Scholarship**

- Mackenzie Douglas
- Parker Church

**MCCF Community Scholarship**

- Darby Cottrell

**MIBOR Scholarship**

- Savannah Chesser
- Parker Church

**Mt. Zion United Methodist Church Scholarship**

- Savannah Chesser

**Myron and Patsy Pattison**

- Kelsey Thompson

**Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship**

- Avery Stokes
- Owen McCutchan

**Nucor Foundation Scholarship**

- Samuel Crum
- Sophia Shannon
- Avery Stadler
- Avery Stokes

**Nucor Engineering Scholarship**

- Ian Snook

**Nucor Technical Academy**

- Tyler Walls
- Gunnar Shirk

**Parke County REMC**

- Parker Church
- Pauline Conover
- Darby Cottrell

**Payton Kobel Scholarship**

- Darby Cottrell

**Rhoads Family Memorial Scholarship**

- Sophia Shannon
- Ripley Township
- Savannah Chesser

**Rotary Club Scholarship**

- Karley Fisher
- Steel Dynamics
- Elijah Cornett

**Southmont Education Association**

- Avery Stokes
- Kolie Murphy

**Thelma Biddle Nolte Scholarship**

- Savannah Chesser
- Heath Tolliver
- Parker Church
- Natalie Nelson
- Darby Cottrell
- Owen McCutchan

**Van Johnson Scholarship**

- Heath Tolliver

**Walnut Township Community Scholarship**

- Kendall Priebe
- Natalie Nelson
- William H. Earley
- Darby Cottrell

**William and Louise Allen**

- Darby Cottrell

## 2026 Spring Property Tax Reminder

Property owners in Montgomery County, don't forget that the spring due date is Monday, May 11th, 2026

Montgomery County's tax statements are mailed by mid-April each year, complying with the Indiana state guidelines. Statements include payment coupons for both the spring and fall payments and dog tax forms. The payments are due every May 10 and Nov. 10. If those dates fall on a weekend or holiday, the deadline is extended to the next business day.

To check balances and other property details, taxpayers are directed to research their parcel and current balances at the county's GIS website, <https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/>.

For taxpayer convenience and safety, the Treasurer provides several payment options.

**Pay in the Office.** The office is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is located at 1580 Constitution Row, Suite B. The Treasurer's office will only accept cash and checks. To pay by credit card, please go to the county website [www.montgomery-county.in.gov](http://www.montgomery-county.in.gov).

**Use the Drop Box.** A secure drop box is located under the front door awning of the County Government Center and is checked multiple times daily. We discourage the use of cash in this box. When using the drop box, please put payments in an envelope and mark them clearly with information to identify the taxpayer,

the address, and the parcel. Your canceled check will serve as a receipt or you can include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a returned receipt. Confirmation of payment history is available to view online for your parcel at <https://beacon.schneidercorp.com/>.

**Mail Payments.** Please mail payments to the Treasurer at 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, IN 47933. If a receipt is desired, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The postmark date is accepted as an on-time payment, but it is not encouraged to wait until the final day to ensure that the mail is truly processed and postmarked on the due date.

**Pay at Local Banks.** All Montgomery County First Financial, Hoosier Heartland, and Tri-County banks offer a great service to our county residents by accepting payment for three weeks before each due date. The taxpayer must submit the payment coupon and pay the exact amount listed to pay at the banks.

**Pay Online or by Phone.** To pay online, go to the home page of the county website, select Online Bill Pay. Next choose the Property Tax, Dog Taxes & Tax Payments option. Search by parcel number OR name OR address. To pay by phone, call (855) 276-8051 and have your parcel number ready. Please be aware that using any type of online system charges a service fee. Paying with an ACH e-check

(your bank routing numbers) has a lower fee than using a card.

Though the county does not have formal payment plans, full and partial payments are accepted anytime throughout the year. Appropriate penalties will apply if installments are not paid in full by the due date.

Our County Commissioners enacted the Dog Tax in 2007. All dog owners are legally bound to pay \$5 for each dog over 6 months of age, with the maximum of \$30 per family. Kennel owners pay \$30 for 1-6 dogs and \$50 for 7 dogs or more. Those payments can be made at the same time property taxes are being paid. The dog tax funds go toward the Montgomery County Animal Welfare League, animal control, claim reimbursements, and canine research and education.

To lower future property tax bills, many are eligible for deductions including the Homestead, Over 65, Blind and Disabled, Disabled Veteran, or Geothermal. To check deductions and eligibilities, contact the Auditor's Office.

If you have any questions, please contact the appropriate office:

- Tax Payments, Treasurer at 364-6410
- Deductions, Auditor at 364-6400
- Mailing Address Changes, Mapping at 361-4123
- Assessed Values, Assessor at 364-6420
- Ditch Reconstruction Fees, Surveyor at 361-3235

Visit us online:  
**thepaper24-7.com**



**SAGAMORE NEWS MEDIA**

# WE'RE HIRING



Looking for a flexible position?  
Interested in learning more about the newspaper industry?  
Ready to learn something new or challenge yourself to improve your current skills?

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:**

- Sales** Get to know local businesses and find advertising options to fit their needs
- Pagination** Flex your creative muscle as you lay out news stories using InDesign
- Clerical** Assist our business department with account and subscription management

Training available for motivated individuals!

Join our team today!

Send your resume to [jobs@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:jobs@thepaper24-7.com)

**WWW.THEPAPER24-7.COM**