

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

■ AWL POSEY



Posey is a 5 year old female American Pit Bull Terrier available at The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 3/6/26. Posey is all sorts of perfect and has even won the prestigious award of ULTIMATE CUTIE! Posey will gladly sit for treats, loves going out for walks, and frolicking in a fenced yard. Posey is looking for her best friend. Could that be you? Posey is available for adoption, to foster, or to take for walks. Come say hi! AWL is open Monday-Friday from 12:15 p.m.–5 p.m. and Saturday's from 12 p.m.–3 p.m. Come snuggle cats in a community cat room, walk dogs, or lend a helping hand!



We're a week from Memorial Day. I hope a lot of folks remember the origins of Decoration Day and put some U.S. flags on the graves of our honored veterans.

■ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

In observance of Memorial Day, The Paper won't be published Monday, May 25. We'll be back on Wednesday, May 27. God bless our military and our country! And we thank all our readers!

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all."

Oscar Wilde

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

How can you tell when an Indy-car fan is watching a Formula One race?

When he taps you on the shoulder and asks "Are we watching qualifying?"

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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Memorial Day

BY THE NUMBERS

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

As we approach Memorial Day, the unofficial start to summer, let's take a look at some of the numbers.

5-25

The date we observe Memorial Day – and remember your favorite online edition won't be published that day. Who knows, maybe we'll be traveling!



110

This will be the 110th running of the greatest spectacle in racing, the Indianapolis 500! We still miss Jim Nabors – but what a wonderful day to be both a Hoosier and a racing fan! The green flag is set to drop this Sunday, May 24, 2026.

5-30-1868

The first official Memorial Day. That's when Gen. John Logan began paying tribute to the fallen U.S. soldiers from the Civil War. "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land . . ." Word is that Logan picked May 30 because flowers would be in bloom.

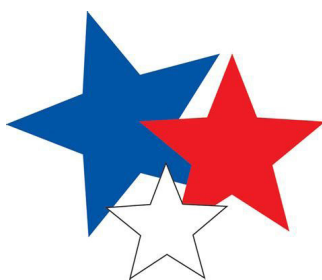


5,000

The approximate number of people who attend the annual ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

1968

The year Congress decided to switch Memorial Day to the last Monday in May. That took effect three years later.



45,000,000

How many American men and women who have served in the military during a time of war.

3 p.m.

A moment of silence should be observed on Memorial Day for the 1,304,447 U.S. soldiers who have lost their lives in military conflicts ranging from the Spanish-American war to the Civil War to the world wars to the war on terrorism.



■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. Indiana Governor Mike Braun joined the Conference of Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and other conservation leaders at a ceremonial tree planting at Summit Lake State Park in Henry County last week. This event was part of the GSGP's regional effort to plant 250 million trees by 2033. So far, 27 million trees have been planted since 2024. So far this year, more than 24,400 trees have been planted on DNR lands. The tree planted at the ceremony is a Shumard oak.

2. Ephraim Owens, a proud Indiana native and "The Voice" competitor, will reprise his performance of "America the Beautiful" during pre-race ceremonies for the 110th Running of the Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge on Sunday, May 24. Owens has become a regular fixture at the Racing Capital of the World. He performed the same song for the 2025 Indy 500 and sang the national anthem for the Brickyard 400 presented by PPG in 2024. Growing up in downtown Indianapolis on Delaware Street, Owens was immersed in a creative family deeply involved in the arts. He developed a profound love for music. This passion for music led Owens to compete on Season 24 of "The Voice." During his blind audition, all four coaches turned their chairs during his performance of Labrinth's "Beneath Your Beautiful." In the end, Owens picked John Legend to be his coach with help from his daughter Evelyn Ann, who is now 6-and-half-years old.

3. The steel is up. The highest beam is in place, and now The Westin Indianapolis International Airport hotel is ready for the next phase of work that will give it world-class character. Indianapolis Airport Authority officials, along with community, construction, design and hotel partners, gathered today to mark the structural completion of the new hotel with a topping-out ceremony. The event celebrated the highest beam being hoisted into place – a construction milestone that signals the building has reached its full height and kicks off the next phase of work toward full completion and opening day. More than 100 Indiana companies are involved in building the new hotel, with local trade and design team participation exceeding \$150 million. By the time the hotel is complete, more than 1,500 construction professionals have worked on the site, averaging 120 crew members daily. The hotel will also create roughly 140 permanent jobs to help operate it upon opening.

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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Other books that will be read by the Hoosier Authors Book Club this year include: **Rabbit Hutch** by Tess Gunty on June 18; **Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance** by A'Lelia Bundles. September 17; and **When Knighthood was in Flower** by Charles Major on Oct. 15. All discussions are free and open to the public. Meetings are held in the ADA-compliant Carriage House Interpretive Center. For more information about the Hoosier Authors Book Club visit <https://www.ben-hur.com/programs/hoosier-authors-book-club/>.

Hoosier Authors Book Club Discusses Vonnegut

The Hoosier Authors Book Club enters its eleventh year with five planned book discussions.

The second meeting will take place in the Lew Wallace Carriage House at 200 Wallace Ave. Thursday at 7 p.m. The General Lew Wallace Study & Museum's book club will discuss **If This Isn't Nice What Is? The Graduation Speeches and other Words to Live By** by Kurt Vonnegut & Dan Wakefield.

If This Isn't Nice, What Is? is not a novel, but a 2013 collection of Kurt Vonnegut's commencement speeches, selected and introduced by his friend Dan Wakefield. The book gathers Vonnegut's popular and often humorous advice for graduates, reflecting his unique blend of irony, joy, and seriousness, and has been re-released in expanded edition.

Vonnegut was a man of discipline, a champion of literary style, a modern sage, and a poetic shaman of happiness. After the publication of his now-legendary 1969 satirical novel *Slaughterhouse Five*, Vonnegut added another point of excellence to his résumé: He became one of the country's most celebrated and sought-after commencement speakers, and like other masters — he bestowed his gift of wit and wisdom upon throngs of eager young

people entering the so-called "real world." This collection of selected speeches reveals Vonnegut's poignant and heartening remarks to young people.

A limited number of books will be available for check-out at the Carriage House at the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum. If you can't attend the discussion in person, you can attend by Zoom! Register in advance for this meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7811111111>

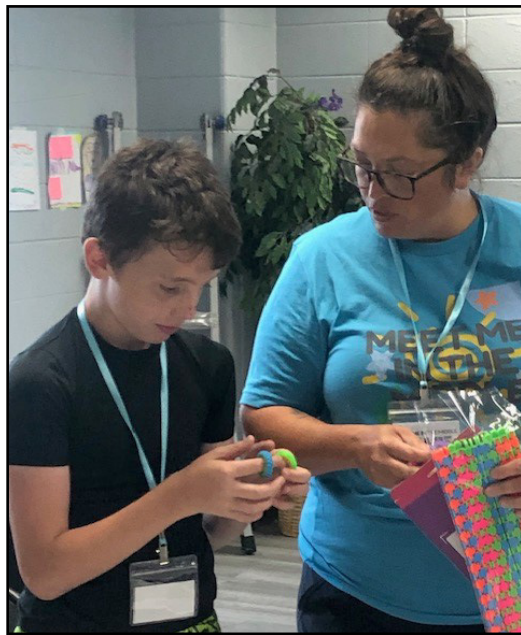
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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Thank you for reading The Paper!

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Jamie Selby and a camper meet a middle school challenge.



Photos courtesy Volunteers for Mental Health

Campers made locker decorations to help them remember calming techniques.

Camp Meet Me in Middle Helps Kids Develop Coping Skills

Questions: Can lightning strike twice in the same place, and who would ever wish for that to happen?

Answers: Yes, and Volunteers for Mental Health!

This type of lightning might be called love-lightning, and that is why it is so desirable.

When Volunteers for Mental Health received their first hit of love-lightning, it was a cold January day that evolved into a hot and happy summer event.

The Douglas Family and Central Indiana Rubber Products had conducted a December promotion that resulted in the funding VMHMC needed to run its summer intermediate camp to help fifth- and sixth-graders develop the coping and self-regulation skills to survive the challenges of middle school.

The successful camp was held in July 2025 and directed by local therapist

Jamie Selby of Mesa Waa Gii. The campers have continued to meet regularly during the academic year for dinner, discussion, activities, and reflection.

The camp and follow-up activities have been entirely free thanks to the Douglas Family and Central Indiana Rubber Products.

Could such generosity strike twice? Yes, when the Douglas family and friends, CIRP and the Amanda Douglas Memorial put their hearts and minds to it! This coalition of loving and caring individuals have again offered to sponsor the intermediate camp, plus a variety of other mental health activities in Montgomery County!

Registration for the 2026 Meet Me in the Middle Camp will be open through June 8. The number of campers is limited to a maximum of 18. The free camp will be held again at

CAMP FOR INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS



MEET ME
IN THE
MIDDLE

AND SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATE
YOUR PATH TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

the Montgomery County Boys and Girls Club and will meet for four consecutive afternoons on July 21, 22, 23, and 24. Jamie Selby will again share her extraordinary talents through a series of middle-level experiences and activities over the four afternoons.

In addition, Selby will be joined by master speakers who will bring focused content and activities for the middle-schoolers.

Parents who are hoping to help their current fifth or sixth graders find the answers to middle school can obtain more information and register their students through June 8 by visiting the VMHMC website, www.vmhmc.org.

Information inquiries can also be e-mailed to dbw@vmhmc.org

Annual Tox-Away Day Set for June 20

The annual Tox-Away Day in Montgomery County is scheduled for June 20 this year at Crawfordsville High School. It begins at 8 a.m. and runs until 1 p.m. People bringing items are asked to enter the parking lot from County Road 150 South.

Tox-Away Days are collection events where Montgomery County households can properly dispose of chemicals, fluids, bulbs, batteries, tanks, medical sharps, tires, electronics, appliances and more.

Only residents of Montgomery County are allowed to use the District's Tox Away Day event. Regulations prohibit hazardous wastes from other organizations (businesses, churches, schools, non-profits, etc.) from being accepted. Please contact the Montgomery County Solid Waste Management District if you have questions about your eligibility to participate in Tox-Away Day at (765) 361-2623 or (765) 918-8188, or email mcswwd@montgomerycounty.in.gov

Only cash or check will be accepted for payment. Checks made payable to: Caldwell Environmental**

A complete list of the items and materials accepted is below.

Household Hazardous

Waste:

- Oil-based Paints/Stains/Varnishes
- Pesticides/Herbicides/Fertilizers/Insecticide
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs (tubes and CFL's)
- Automotive Fluids/Fuels/Antifreeze/Oil Filters
- Pool/Spa Chemicals
- Adhesives
- Acids
- Drain Openers
- Cleaners/Solvents
- Mercury-containing Items (Thermometers, Thermostats)
- Fire Extinguishers
- Propane Tanks
- Batteries: Auto & Rechargeable
- Sharps (lancets, syringes, etc.); must be in a rigid puncture-resistant container)

Large Appliances:

- Refrigerators
- Freezers
- Dehumidifiers
- Stoves
- Washers
- Dryers
- Microwaves
- Air Conditioners

**Small, hand-held appliances should be disposed of in your normal trash.

Electronics / Computers:

- Computers
- Monitors
- Printers/Scanners/

Copiers

- DVD Players (Including gaming systems that are able to play DVD's)
- CD Players
- Stereo Equipment
- VCR's
- Cell Phones
- GPS Systems
- Projectors
- Fax Machines
- Digital Photo Frames
- Digital Media Players
- iPods/MP3 Players
- Camcorders/Cameras
- DVR/TiVo Devices (Including cable boxes & satellite boxes)

TELEVISIONS

Regular - \$20; Large- \$25

TIRES

Auto: Maximum of 12 per household First 4 Free

Next 8 - \$2 each

Trucks: Maximum of 6 per household event First 4 Free

Next 2 - \$5 each

Farm Tractor:

Whole - \$75 each

Quartered - \$5 (each - four quartered tires)

Tires on rims will be accepted for an additional fee of \$1 per tire

Latex paint is water based and non-hazardous. Re-



move the lid and dry out latex paint, mixing paint with equal parts of cheap kitty litter, sand, oil dry, or shredded newspaper. The paint should dry to a solid form in a couple days. Set the dried paint out for trash pick-up with the lid removed. Liquid paint is not accepted by most trash haulers.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS SHOULD NOT BE BROUGHT TO TOX AWAY DAY:

Documents to shred (we do not offer shredding services on Tox Away Day)

Heavy trash items (furniture, mattresses, construction material, etc.)

Traditional recyclables (bottles, cans, plastics, paper, cardboard, etc.)

Asbestos, lab chemicals, explosives, ammunition, firearms, radioactive material, or infectious material.

Alkaline Batteries (AA/AAA/C/D/oV/Etc. are Non-Hazardous)

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**2026 LEXUS RX 450H+ PLUG-IN HYBRID CROSSOVER
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Enjoy 38 miles EV driving and hybrid efficiency during journeys to almost anywhere.



CASEY WILLIAMS
Columnist

My mother-in-law has been on quite a journey to find her latest ride. She considered the Toyota Prius, appreciating its sleek style, utility and hybrid fuel economy. But... it was small so she drove the much larger Toyota Crown hybrid. She liked it, but decided she wanted legit luxury, so the redesigned Lexus ES hit the map. Then, she saw the RX 350 crossover and found her vibe. Good choice, but I like the RX 450h+, the plug-in version even better.

She was pretty clear she wanted a modern car, but nothing wildly futuristic. The front greets with a monochromatic swath of Lexus' trademark spindle grille flanked by squinty LED headlamps. The side profile is more crossover coupe planted over 21-inch wheels. A swoosh from the front rocker into the fat rear fenders adds sportiness while the floating rear roof imbues a sense of speed. You can park the original 1998 RX 300 next to this one and know one begat the other.

There's a pretty large cargo hold behind the hands-free hatch, and the split/fold rear seats power up/down to toss in bicycles or surfboards, but the sloping roofline isn't the best for large cargo. If hauling gear is your mission, check out the larger and squarer Lexus TX crossover.

Luxury is confirmed inside. It's absolutely beautiful with contrasting leathers, soft quilting on the doors and wood on the steering wheel. Front seats are heated and ventilated; rear seats and the steering wheel are heated. Ambient lighting seeps from every crevice at night. Mark Levinson audio, long a Lexus hallmark, adds lush

layers of sound. The cabin is kept light and airy via the panoramic glass roof. Details feel like they were curated by Luis Vuitton.

Tap into super intuitive technology. Flatscreen gauges and a 14-inch touchscreen provide infotainment. Devices connect wirelessly through Apple CarPlay and Android Auto and charge wirelessly too. A button in the console automates parallel and perpendicular parking maneuvers should you need a little help. Of course, safety is paramount with automatic emergency braking, blind spot intervention, and rear cross traffic alert. The digital rearview mirror, head-up display and emergency steering assist up the ante.

You may be trying to decide if you want an EV, hybrid, or just a plain gas-powered vehicle. While my mother-in-law chose the regular hybrid, the 450h+ strikes the right balance. After plugging in on my home 240v charger for about four hours, the RX traveled 38 miles without burning a drop of gas. For most people, that's enough to drive to work and back or run errands on the weekends. For daily use, it's an EV. However, there's also a

2.5-liter gas engine that carries on when batteries deplete. Drive anywhere without worries. All in with charging, it's EPA rated 85-MPGe. Running as a regular hybrid away from plugs, expect 35-MPG.

I think owners most appreciate how serenely the RX travels. Tepid acceleration of 0-60 mph in 6.2 seconds won't excite Tesla owners, but it's delightfully smooth and quiet. You slide in at exactly the right height and are greeted by an interior fit for a luxury crossover. Whether your 30 or 80, it fits right. The fact it comes with Toyota quality only means my mother-in-law will have many years to enjoy hers.

If you check all the options, expect to pay dearly. A base RX starts at \$52,275, but moving up to a plug-in hybrid costs at least \$66,680. Our lush test vehicle came to \$77,595. Competitors include the BMW X3, Cadillac XT5, Genesis GV70, Lincoln Nautilus, Mercedes-Benz GLC, and Volvo XC60.

Storm Forward!

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

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- LIMITED CARGO
- TEPID ACCELERATION
- LUXURY PRICING

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Five-passenger, AWD Crossover
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Wheels f/r: 21"/21" alloy
Brakes f/r: regen disc/disc
0-60 mph: 6.2s Electric range: 38 miles
Fuel economy: 85-MPGe/35-MPG
Assembly: Kyushu, Japan
Base/As-tested price: \$52,275/\$77,595

Things Can Change in a Moment



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

"Carrie!" my husband, Peter, called from the bathroom.

We are still in Mexico, and Peter's abscessed tooth had been extracted earlier that day. The extraction had been difficult. Peter was sore and tired, and he had not eaten since the night before. All this factored into what happened next.

"What's the matter?"

"I'm feeling a little faint. ..."

I ran to the bathroom. "Put your head down!" But it was too late. Peter fell straight forward like a falling tree. He hit the wall with his forehead, shattered the ceramic toilet paper holder and knocked himself out.

I am not great in emergencies, as it turns out.

Peter's fall made a mighty crash, and I yelled something (I have no idea what) and moments later a downstairs neighbor whom we had never met (his name turned out to be Jim) was knocking on the door.

"Is everything OK up there?" Jim asked.

I don't remember what I told him, but he got the idea. Jim was a big, strong guy, and he wrestled Peter into a seated position. Peter had a huge gash in his forehead and was still out cold.

"Peter! Wake up! Can you hear me?" I hollered into Peter's ear.

Peter made sounds that indicated he heard me, but he was clearly not awake.

"You hold this towel on his head. I'll go get Jorge!" Jim ran downstairs to tell Jorge, our landlord, and I followed orders.

While I sat there on the floor with my unconscious husband, our cat, Felix, cautiously crept into the bathroom to see what all the excitement was about. He examined the blood spattered all over and tentatively made his way over to check out Peter's face.

A moment later, Jim was back in the bathroom. Felix bolted.

"Jorge called the Red Cross," Jim reported. Then he added, "Do you have a black-and-white cat?"

"Yes!"

"I think she just ran out the door."

Peter started to come to. His eyes slowly focused on this tall stranger standing in his bathroom.

"We're going to take you to the hospital," Jim informed Peter.

"Oh, no!" Peter said, "I don't think that's necessary. ..."

"You're going to the hospital!" I informed Peter. I was relieved Peter was arguing because now I knew he was fully conscious.

Felix had not gone far. He had run out the front door and made a daring leap to our balcony (three stories above the ground) where he was now waiting, expecting to be let in. Felix dove under the bed just as the men from the Red Cross showed up.

Three men dressed in red carried Peter to the living room, gave him an IV, checked his blood pressure, put a bandage on his head and hauled him out to a waiting ambulance in a matter of minutes. (Felix stayed under the bed while these three terrifying men in red did their work.)

Peter had a CT scan, and everything was normal ("except it showed I have no brain!" Peter noted), and he was sent home with a lot of stitches. The ambulance was free, I discovered, because the Red Cross is a nonprofit organization.


Jim and his wife checked out the next day. "I'm so sorry we didn't get to thank Jim again," I told Peter.

"I wondered what that guy was doing in my bathroom!" Peter said, examining his Frankenstein-style stitches. "Things can change in a moment, can't they?"

They can. They do. And I thought how much worse everything could have been if we had not had caring people all around us.

Till next time,

Carrie



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National Police Week

Story and Photos by Andy Chandler

What began as a proclamation by President Kennedy in 1962 to recognize fallen police officers and celebrate those currently serving their communities has now become National Police Week throughout the nation.

Last week, law enforcement officers from across Montgomery County assembled at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office in Crawfordsville for a procession to honor the fallen. Departing from the sheriff's office, the procession of around 30 police vehicles made two stops at graves in Oak Hill Cemetery on the north side of the city to place a wreath and salute the fallen. The officers honored at Oak Hill Cemetery were Lesley Dale Oaks (End of Watch 5/3/1982), and Russell Max Baldwin (EOW 9/27/1974).

From there the procession headed to New Richmond and paid their respects at the grave of Richard M. Clapp (EOW 12/5/2003).

Returning to the Sheriff's Office, there was a memorial service held in front of a monument to fallen officers. Part of the service involved a bagpiper playing Amazing Grace, a 21-gun salute, and a proclamation by Mayor Todd Barton.

The ceremonies were attended by about 60 members of the community and law enforcement from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Crawfordsville Police Department, town constables from multiple areas in the county and the Indiana State Police.



The Seat of Power



DICK WOLFSIE
Columnist

On our recent vacation, the weather was so bad one night that we decided to see a movie. Our selection had received great reviews. But just to be sure, I lingered outside the entrance to overhear what people were saying as they left the theater.

Sometimes, at restaurants, I also like to gauge public opinion. I'll tell my wife I need to go to the men's room. But it's just an excuse to walk around and look at people's food. I am very discreet, although I occasionally do ask for a taste.

But, back to the theater. Here's what I heard people saying as they left...

"That was awesome."

"Best time I have had in a theater."

"What a night. A movie never felt that good."

To hear such universal raves is uncommon, so I decided to question one of the patrons. "Was the film really that good?" I asked.

"No, it was just mediocre, but those new seats? Wow! Never had such a great evening," said one lady.

"The most fun I have had sitting," said another

patron.

My wife and I were eager to see what all the talk was about. We walked inside and there they were: The Regal King-Size Recliners. Yes, movie theater seats with a La-Z-Boy feel. "This is awesome," I said. "It looks like the chair Captain Kirk sat in when he was negotiating with a Klingon or preparing to enter a black hole."

Now, most movie theaters have ergonomic, adjustable seats, but this theater went the extra mile. The manager told me that people sitting in these seats actually enjoyed watching a rerun of Halle Berry in Catwoman.

The seats were huge—nice and leathery with a remote button that lets you adjust the chair waaaay down, making your back almost parallel to the floor, assuming you want to look at the ceiling. You can also bend your knees and then raise the lower part of your body. I was so excited I didn't know where to put myself. Literally.

We watched the movie. The name of it was...? It was about...? The lead actor was...? Actually, I remember nothing about the movie. My wife, by the way, liked the new seats,

but there was a problem.

"Well. That's the last time we go to that theater," she said.

"Why? Name one thing you didn't like."

"Your snoring."

"Look, Mary Ellen, you can't put a guy like me in a reclining position and expect me to stay awake."

"Don't remind me of our honeymoon. By the way, you also fiddled with that remote every 20 seconds, trying every position imaginable. I was a little embarrassed when the guy behind you asked if you could spread your knees apart so he could see the screen."

"Is that it?"

"Let's see. If you said 'Beam me up, Scotty,' one more time I was going to scream."

When the movie ended, there was chatter in the lobby about the new chairs. People were posting photos online. There was talk of a hashtag: #awesomemovieSeats. The chairs even had their own Facebook page.

Oh, and by the way, the cup holders are huge. They can even hold a small bag of popcorn or a hot dog, which is great. I don't like going to sleep on an empty stomach.

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



Cone Zone: Expect Nightly I-74 Lane Closures

The Indiana Department of Transportation is alerting motorists that nightly lane closures are planned across several counties in west-central Indiana.

Beginning on or after Thursday, May 21, INDOT contractors will close one lane at a time in both directions of I-74 between the Indiana/Illinois State line and just east of State Road 39 (Exit 58 in Liz-

ton). Vermillion, Fountain, Montgomery, Boone, and Hendricks Counties will all be impacted.

The purpose of the lane closures is to refurbish pavement markings along the interstate. Work will be limited to 3 miles and one travel lane in each direction, with no work scheduled over Memorial Day Weekend starting at noon on Friday until 8

a.m. on Tuesday. Work hours for this project will be between 7 p.m. and 9 a.m.

The project is anticipated to be complete in a 2-week timeframe but is weather-dependent and subject to change. INDOT encourages drivers to use extra caution and avoid distractions while traveling in and around work zones.



Photo courtesy Indiana DNR

School of jumping silver carp.

Purdue Extension, Waveland Library Has Educational Series on Invasive Species



TRICIA HERR
Guest Columnist

When: June 4, 11, and 18
Time: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Where: Waveland Fire Department, 108 W Howard St, Waveland, IN 47989

Registration and Cost

Participants may choose to attend the entire series or select individual sessions. The cost is \$5 for individual classes. Or individuals can pre-register and pre-pay in person at the Waveland Public Library or the Montgomery County Purdue Extension Office for a discounted price of \$10 for all three classes.

Accommodations

Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access University. To request accommodations, please contact Tricia Herr at 765-364-6363 or tricia-herr@purdue.edu

Tricia Herr is the Extension Educator for Agriculture & Natural Resources

Program Overview

The series is designed to help community members learn more about invasive species that are affecting natural environments. Each week will focus on a specific category of invasive organisms:

- June 4: Introduction to Invasive Species
- June 11: Invasive Fish & Aquatic Invertebrates
- June 18: Invasive Aquatic Plants

Event Details

Purdue Extension Montgomery County, in partnership with the Waveland Library, is pleased to announce a three-part educational series dedicated to invasive species impacting Indiana's natural environments. The classes will be held on consecutive Thursdays in June at the Waveland Fire Department.

Purdue Extension is one of several groups indirectly involved with the control of invasive species and is uniquely positioned to serve as the invasive species education provider to managers of public and private lands. The Invasive Species Signature Program will equip communities with interdisciplinary education and programming,

providing landowners and industry specialists with the knowledge to track, report, remove, and avoid invasive species across Indiana.

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The monuments sit just off the road.



Photos courtesy Andy Chandler

An up-close look at the monument

Point of Beginning – Where It All Began



ANDY CHANDLER
Columnist

Mention western expansion, and that normally conjures images of canvased wagons lumbering across the prairie or images of fur trappers in the Rockies.

Few stop to think about one simple question: how were they going to survey and parcel that land? Property boundaries and land claims are still a big deal today, and there's a reason why all four of the men on Mount Rushmore were trained surveyors.

Before American Independence, most of the boundaries were made by someone thousands of miles away pointing

to latitude on a map and saying, "there." In fact, the original 17th century maps had Virginia's boundaries extending to the Mississippi River. After Independence, the United States under the Articles of Confederation, came across a land windfall when they were given the Northwest Territory in the 1783 Treaty of Paris. This doubled the size of the United States. With financial debts from the Revolutionary War, and a population just itching to expand west, the slogan of expansion wasn't, "go west young man," as it was, "sell, baby, sell."

The Land Ordinance of

1785 was passed on May 20th, 1785. Revolutionary War Veteran Thomas Hutchins was assigned as the country's first surveyor. Later that year on October 11th, Hutchins hammered a stake on the western shore of the Ohio River at a point where Virginia (now West Virginia), Pennsylvania and the Northwest Territory all met. This began the Public Land Survey System (PLSS).

Often the most significant things are presented in the most insignificant packages. Several years ago, my wife and I found ourselves in the greater Pittsburgh area for a friend's wedding. I suggested we go see the marker. It can easily be mistaken for a mileage marker or a "welcome to Ohio" sign. It's as tall as me. The original stake has now eroded into the middle of the Ohio River. The marker that it represents was placed in



The quiet and serene churchyard.

1881. It sits on the west side of the river at the point where Pennsylvania and Ohio meet. Someone visiting can see where the roads change as each state's point of maintenance merges in front of the marker.

Unfortunately, Hutchins

didn't live much longer and he died in 1789. He's buried in an unmarked grave in First Presbyterian Church graveyard in downtown Pittsburgh, PA. I took a moment to head over there. Walking along the stones, I smiled. If only Thomas Hutchins could see what he

started.

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

CPD Investigating Incident at CHS

Crawfordsville Police are looking into an incident at Crawfordsville High School following a report of a student allegedly in possession of an explosive device.

Last week CPD Officers and school officials evacuated the school and took everyone to Crawfordsville Middle. The student identified in the complaint was

located and removed from the premises. Searches of the school were completed by responding officers, along with K-9 sweeps conducted by the Tippecanoe County Bomb Squad. No dangerous items were found.

CPD would like to thank the Crawfordsville Fire Department, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office,

Indiana State Police, the Tippecanoe County Bomb Squad, and the Crawfordsville Community School Corporation for their assistance and cooperation during the incident.

Anyone with information related to this investigation is encouraged to contact Det. Sgt. Geoff Payne at (765) 367-1126.

Nephrology, Hypertension Specialist joins Franciscan

Sudha Rani, MD, has joined the team at Franciscan Physician Network Nephrology & Hypertension Lafayette and is now accepting appointments new patients.

Dr. Rani received her medical degree from Gulbarga University in India. She completed both residency training in internal medicine and fellowship training in nephrology at Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dr. Rani specializes in treating glomerulonephri-

tis, kidney stone disease, hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, hypertension and chronic kidney disease.

In addition, Dr. Rani is fluent in English, Telugu, Kanada and Hindi.

Franciscan Health Nephrology & Hypertension Lafayette offers care for the prevention and treatment of kidney diseases. The practice also treats high blood pressure (hypertension), which causes 30% of all cases of end-stage kidney disease.



Dr. Sudha Rani

Franciscan Physician Network Nephrology & Hypertension Lafayette is located at 3920 St. Francis Way, Suite 220 in Lafayette.

the nation's top five evangelical universities in The Wall Street Journal's 2026 Best Colleges in the U.S. Cedarville is also known for its vibrant Christian community, challenging academics and high graduation and retention rates. Learn more at cedarville.edu.

University, an evangelical Christian institution in southwest Ohio, offers undergraduate and graduate residential and online programs across arts, sciences and professional fields. With 7,265 students, it is among Ohio's largest private universities and is ranked among

Area Students Make Dean's List at Cedarville

Two area students have been named to the Dean's List at Cedarville University for the Spring 2026 semester. Zoe Albertson of Russellville and Luke Patten of Hillsboro each earned at least a 3.50 GPA for the semester and carried a minimum of 12 credit hours. Cedarville

Rep. Baird Visits Crawfordsville Students at Statehouse



Rep. Beau Baird (R-Greencastle) joins Crawfordsville-area elementary students last week in the House Chamber at the Statehouse in Indianapolis. The group toured the Statehouse, learned about how a bill becomes law and asked Baird questions about his role as a state representative. To learn more about student opportunities at the Statehouse, visit IndianaHouseRepublicans.com/student-opportunities. Baird represents House District 44 which includes all of Putnam County and a portion of Montgomery County.

Area Student Named to Trine President's List

Makenzie Amich of Thorntown, a Trine University student, was named to the President's List for the Spring 2026 semester. Amich is majoring in Forensic Science.

To earn President's List honors, Trine University students must complete a minimum of 12 hours and have a grade point average of 3.750-4.000.

Trine University, an internationally recognized, private, co-educational, residential institution, offers associate's, bach-

elor's, master's and doctoral degrees in the Allen School of Engineering & Computing, Ketter School of Business, College of Graduate and Professional Studies, Brooks College of Health Professions, Franks School of Education, Jannet School of Arts & Sciences and Rinker-Ross School of Health Sciences. Trine is a member of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association and offers 37 intercollegiate sports, 27 of which compete in NCAA Division III. Its golf program includes the

university-owned 18-hole championship Zollner Golf Course. Founded in 1884 and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (www.ncahigherlearning-commission.org), Trine operates a 450-acre campus in Angola, Indiana, and the College of Health Professions in Fort Wayne, with education centers in Detroit, Michigan, Phoenix, Arizona, and Reston, Virginia, and programs available worldwide through TrineOnline.