

## ■ TODAY'S VERSE

**Romans 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

## ■ AWL GUNNAR



**GUNNAR, YOU'RE PERFECT!** Gunnar is the perfect example of why what you see inside a shelter is NOT always what you see inside a home. Gunnar is ready for a forever home!!

## WAIVED ADOPTION FEES ALL WEEK LONG

Shelter environments can cause extreme stress, overstimulation, and fear, often masking a dog's true personality. We have several long-term dogs who sadly struggle with this unfortunate reality — sometimes for years — before finding that special someone willing to take a chance on them. Some have yet to even get that chance.

Once in a calm home environment, their stress begins to melt away.

Gunnar's transformation perfectly illustrates the saying: "What you see in the shelter is not always what you see at home." Gunnar is a 5-year-old mixed breed who has been at AWL for over 1.5 years, and sadly, staff could tell shelter life was starting to wear on him. But after spending just a few short days outside the shelter with a short term foster, his entire demeanor changed — literally within hours of leaving.

Gunnar is basically one big cuddly teddy bear who just wants to be your sidekick. He LOVES attention and will happily stay attached to your hip all day if you let him. He's wonderful on walks with great leash manners, is housebroken, and makes virtually no mess.

Dogs like Gunnar just need someone willing to see beyond the shelter and give them the chance they deserve. Gunnar is great with kids, dog selective, and has not yet been introduced to cats. Are you interested in meeting Gunnar? If so, please submit an adoption application:

ADOPT <https://mcawl.com/adopt>

FOSTER <https://mcawl.com/foster>

DONATE <https://mcawl.com/donate>

VOLUNTEER <https://mcawl.com/volunteer>

1104 Big 4 Arch Rd  
Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
765-362-8846



Carb day! Huge horsepower, rock'n'roll, alcohol and thousands of sunburned fans. What could go wrong?

## ■ 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

"Rise above the storm, and you will find the sunshine."

Mario Fernandez

## ■ JOKE OF THE DAY

Two rules of racing: Interchangeable parts won't and unbreakable parts will.

# 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

## Ask Rusty – Still Working; Why Didn't I Get More?



### ASK RUSTY

Social Security Advisor

#### Dear Rusty:

I began collecting benefits at age 72 and am now 78. Since that time, I have continued to work and have contributed over \$40,000 to Social Security over the last six years. At the time of my retirement, I was informed that the Social Security Administration (SSA) would review my contributions annually and replace lower-earning years from my 35-year record with my current higher-earning

years.

Despite my current annual income exceeding \$100,000, I have not seen an increase in my benefit amount over the past six years. I recently met with an SSA representative who confirmed that my benefits are being reviewed annually but did not provide specific details or evidence of these adjustments. Could you please advise me on how to formally verify that

my benefits are being accurately reviewed and updated to reflect my continued contributions?

**Signed: Collecting and Still Working**

#### Dear Collecting:

For information, your contributions (from FICA payroll taxes) to Social Security over the last 6 years are not what determines if you get an increase to your monthly SS benefit. Although you contributed to SS since you started receiving SS benefits, those contributions do not affect your monthly SS benefit. Your monthly SS benefit is based only the highest inflation-adjusted 35 years of earnings over your lifetime. And for your

See **RUSTY Page 3**

The following information has been provided as a courtesy to our paper from the Goldberg Law Group. Click [here](#) to View the full report.

## How Americans Interact With Contracts

Most people would never sign a blank check. Yet, every day, millions of Americans put their signature on contracts they haven't read, agreeing to terms they don't understand. This could potentially cost them hundreds or thousands of dollars if something goes wrong. The fine print isn't hiding, it's right there on the page: the problem is that too many people aren't reading it.

To understand the scope of this issue, we surveyed more than 1,000 Americans about their contract reading habits, their understanding of common legal terms, and the real-world consequences of signing without fully knowing what they agreed to. What we found is clear: contracts are a routine part of American life, but few understand what's inside them.

Only 1 in 6 Americans Read Every Word of a Contract

Contracts are a near-constant presence in American life. 84% of respondents sign some kind of legal agreement multiple times a year, with 22% signing them weekly. Only 16% sign once a year or less.

Despite that frequency, the attention given to those agreements tells a very different story. Only 1 in 6 (16%) Americans say they read every word before signing. The majority, 3 in 5 (68%), skim for key terms like price, dates, and basic obligations. Another 12% search only for specific sections, 3% usually just sign, and 1% hand it off to someone else entirely.

Time spent reviewing shows the same pattern. Over 1 in 3 (35%) spend only one to five minutes reviewing a contract, while 31% spend five min-

See **CONTRACTS Page 6**

## It's Scam Season, Even After Taxes Done

Tax season and beyond have always been high-traffic periods for scammers, but in 2026, the stakes have evolved. While you are focused on filing accurately, bad actors are leveraging advanced technology to bypass traditional red flags. According to the Kaplan Collection Agency, tax-related scams have surged by over 300% since 2020.

The cyber-security team at Verizon, acts as helpful guides to ensure your personal data remains under your control. Staying safe requires more than just caution; it requires a proactive "digital armor" built on the latest cybersecurity insights.

### The evolution of the scam: From robotic voices to AI personas

The era of "obvious" scams marked by robotic voices and glaring typos, is largely over. Today's scammers use

Generative AI to craft perfect, personalized communications.

Data from AARP reveals a troubling trend: Black and Latino communities are often targeted nearly twice as often as others. This isn't just a technical issue; it's a human one. Scammers are now using "voice cloning" technology to mimic the speech patterns and emotional urgency of loved ones in distress.

### The digital home strategy: Securing your account

Beyond fraudulent calls and texts, it is important to understand the value of your mobile number itself. One sophisticated tactic scammers use is SIM Swapping, where they attempt to transfer your phone number to a device they control to gain access to your accounts.

To stay ahead, we suggest

treating your digital identity with the same care you give your physical home. As Vandana Venkatesh, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer for Verizon, recently shared with AARP regarding account security:

### How to lock your digital doors at Verizon:

- **Activate Number Lock:** Use the My Verizon app to lock your mobile number, preventing it from being transferred without your explicit authorization.
- **Audit Your Windows:** Ensure your Verizon account is protected by a unique, complex PIN that isn't reused on other sites.
- **Set the Alarm:** Enable real-time alerts so you are notified immediately of any changes to your account settings.

See **SCAM Page 3**

## ■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

**1.** The Indiana Aviation Hall of Fame is seeking nominations for individuals who have made a significant and enduring contribution to Indiana aviation or aerospace history through leadership, innovation, accomplishment, achievement, or entrepreneurship. Help us honor the pioneers, visionaries, and trailblazers whose impact continues to shape the future of aviation in Indiana. Submit your nomination today and ensure their legacy is recognized for generations to come. <https://inahof.org/nominations/>

**2.** Gov. Mike Braun and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security recognized Emergency Medical Service professionals across the state during National EMS Week, taking place May 17-23. This year's theme, "Improving Outcomes, Together," emphasizes the essential coordination and collaboration required to improve patient outcomes. In recognition of these dedicated professionals, Gov. Braun has formally proclaimed May 17-23 as EMS Week in Indiana. "EMS is the front line of our health care system," Braun said. "Our EMS professionals stand proudly at the intersection of healthcare, public health and public safety, filling the gaps to provide lifesaving, out-of-hospital care. With more than 3,000 runs each day, Indiana is blessed to have dedicated professionals who go above and beyond to care for Hoosiers." Indiana has more than 25,000 certified emergency medical responders, emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, paramedics, dispatchers and support staff.

**3.** And lastly, Gov. Braun also ceremonially signed House Enrolled Act 1343 and House Enrolled Act 1268, two new laws that strengthen Indiana's public safety readiness, support the Indiana National Guard, and position Indiana to grow its role in America's defense economy. HEA 1343, authored by State Rep. Steve Bartels, strengthens public safety by ensuring the Indiana National Guard will be ready to assist Indiana police when called upon in a crisis to protect Hoosiers. HEA 1343 ensures that National Guard members called upon to assist Indiana police in times of emergency are trained military police who can assist in police duties like arrest procedures, traffic and crowd control, and the collection of evidence. Guardsmen may exercise police powers only when called to state active duty and only after completing Army or Air military police occupational training and Indiana-specific law enforcement instruction prescribed by the Adjutant General. HEA 1343 also supports veterans and military families by updating the Military Family Relief Fund, improving reporting and eligibility standards, and removing the eight-year limit for use of the National Guard tuition supplement grant. The law also establishes the Indiana Civilian Cyber Corps, allowing trained civilian cybersecurity volunteers to assist the state during cybersecurity incidents.

# 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



## Carol Ellis Celebrates 15 Years With Allen Truck Sales

Allen Truck Sales is proud to celebrate Administrative Assistant Carol Ellis on her 15-year work anniversary with the company.

Since joining Allen Truck Sales in 2011, Carol has become an essential part of the daily operations and culture of the company. Known for her incredible attention to detail, strong work ethic, and caring personality, Carol has played a major role in helping the business continue to grow and serve customers throughout the region.

“Carol has been a huge part of Allen Truck Sales for the last 15 years,” said Mitch Allen, owner of Allen Truck Sales. “She’s dependable, hardworking, organized and genuinely cares about everyone around her. Carol helps keep this place running every day, and we are incredibly thankful for everything she has done for our company and our team over the years.”

Over the years, Carol has become much more than a coworker to the Allen Truck Sales team. She is known as the “motherly figure” of the office, always willing to help others, keep things organized, and make sure every detail is handled correctly. Whether she’s bringing in homemade baked goods, keeping the office on track, or sharing stories about her daughters and grandchildren, Carol has helped create the family atmosphere that Allen Truck Sales is known for.

Carol has also watched many employees and their families grow up throughout her time with the company, building lasting relationships that extend far beyond the workplace.

“Fifteen years is an incredible milestone, and Carol’s loyalty and dedication deserve to be celebrated,” Allen added. “We are proud to have her as part of the Allen Truck Sales family.”

**LANE CLOSURES TO IMPACT U.S. 231 IN CRAWFORDSVILLE**

- BEGINNING ON/AFTER TUESDAY MAY 26
- INDOT MAINTENANCE CREWS WILL BE CRACK SEALING THROUGH TOWN
- WORK IS ANTICIPATED TO LAST UP TO TWO WEEKS, WEATHER-PERMITTING

## Cone Zone Impacting U.S. 231 in Crawfordsville

The Indiana Department of Transportation announces single-lane closures that will impact U.S. 231 through Crawfordsville.

Beginning on or after Tuesday, May 26, INDOT maintenance crews will begin a mobile operation

through the city of Crawfordsville on U.S. 231, stretching between Sugar Creek and Purple Heart Parkway. The purpose of the lane closures is to crack seal the pavement through town, which prevents water damage and extends the life of the roadway.

Work will not take place throughout the entire stretch of roadway at one time and will move between multiple locations. Crews will utilize flashing arrow boards to signal lane closures ahead and will be working in both northbound and southbound directions simultaneously.

Maintenance is anticipated to last for up to two weeks but is weather-dependent and subject to change. INDOT encourages drivers to use extra caution while traveling in and around work zones and to avoid distracted driving.



William J. Kaiser



Michael J. Rapier



Matthew "Kip" Chase



Joseph R. Impicciche

## Wabash College Elects Four New Trustees

Crawfordsville, IN-The Wabash College Board of Trustees will welcome four new members to its ranks for the 2026-27 academic year, while two-long serving Trustees will leave the Board.

Trustees elected Joseph R. Impicciche '80 and Michael J. Rapier '87 to serve four-year terms beginning July 1. The National Association of Wabash Men elected Matthew "Kip" Chase '03 and William J. Kaiser '87 to serve four-year terms as Alumni Trustees, also starting in July.

“We are excited to welcome these new trustees to our Board,” said Wabash President Scott E. Feller. “They bring experience that is both broad and deep, including executive leadership, company ownership, human resources, and the law. All four have led distinguished careers and have been engaged with the College throughout their lives.”

John Fox '64 and Bob Grand '78 stepped down as active members of the Board and were elected to

four-year terms as Emeritus Trustees. Fox served on the Board for 40 years and brought strategic leadership acumen and decades of experience as a consultant. Grand served for 20 years and most recently was chair of the Committee on Trusteeship.

“It’s hard to imagine the Wabash Board without John and Bob,” said Feller. “John was a true mentor to me when I first came to Wabash in 1998 and was always a guiding hand over the course of my career. Bob led the transition team when I became President, and he has provided wise counsel to me over the last six years. Both will be missed - and we hope they continue to contribute as Emeritus members going forward.”

Impicciche recently retired as CEO of Ascension Health. A Crawfordsville native, he was a Lilly Award-winner at Wabash who later received a law degree from Indiana University. He joined Ascension in its legal services division in 2004, rising to Executive Vice President and General Counsel,

President and COO, and eventually President and CEO. He has served on a variety of nonprofit boards, including Catholic University and Marian University. He and his wife, Tammy, reside in Santa Rosa, Florida.

Rapier recently retired as President of Domtar POS in Chandler, Arizona. He served as president of Liberty Paper for 24 years before selling his company to Iconex in 2022 and stayed on during its acquisition by Domtar. Rapier majored in psychology at Wabash and was a member of the football team and Sigma Chi fraternity. He and his wife, Cindy, reside in Chandler, Arizona, and Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

Chase is Senior Vice President of Human Resources for Eli Lilly and Company’s International Business Unit. Throughout his 22-year career with Lilly, he has held roles in sales and marketing and gained experience in multiple human resource positions supporting Lilly China, Lilly USA, and Lilly’s global commercial business units. He holds an MBA from

Indiana University and a Master’s of Global Management from Thunderbird. He is past president of the National Association of Wabash Men. He and his wife, Nicole, reside in Indianapolis.

Kaiser was an economics and German major at Wabash and earned his law degree from Indiana University-McKinney in 1990. He was an All-American football player and member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity while at Wabash. He is a member of the Wabash Athletics Hall of Fame and was awarded the Fredrick J. Urbaska Civic Service Award. He is a partner at Dentons, the largest law firm in the world and is Co-Chair of the National Corporate Practice Group. He and his wife, Allison, live in Jasper, Indiana.

The Wabash Board of Trustees is the governing body of the College and meets on campus three times each year. William J. Wheeler '83 serves as Chair of the Board.

**Thank you for reading The Paper!**

**The Paper**  
of Montgomery County  
*An Independent Newspaper*  
founded in 2004

Vol. 22 | Issue 58

Sen. Phil Boots, President  
USPS Publication Number: 022-679  
**Annual Print Subscription: \$89**  
**Annual Online Subscription: \$42**  
**To subscribe:**  
circulation@thepaper24-7.com  
**To contact news:**  
news@thepaper24-7.com  
**To submit legal notices:**  
Legals@thepaper24-7.com  
**For billing:**  
business@thepaper24-7.com

**The Paper** Visit us online:  
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
**thepaper24-7.com**

**SCAM**

*Continued from Page 1*

**Four ways to build your digital armor**

While no tool offers 100% protection, these strategic steps create layers of defense that AI-driven scams find difficult to beat.

**1. Implement a family secret word**

Think of this as your personal human-centric passcode. Because AI can now clone a relative's voice from just a few seconds of audio found on social media, you cannot always trust your ears. If you receive a suspicious emergency call, ask for the secret word. If the caller doesn't know it, hang up immediately.

**2. Prioritize encrypted data over public Wi-Fi**

Public Wi-Fi is often an invitation for hackers to intercept sensitive tax documents. Your Verizon connection is private and encrypted. When filing taxes or banking, for example, turn off public Wi-Fi and use your cellular data to keep your information behind a digital lock and key. A Virtual Private Network (VPN) can also be used to add an extra layer of encryption while using your device.

**3. Use the silent treatment for unknown callers**

Modern scammers use automated systems that

only trigger a human connection once they hear a voice. If you don't recognize a number, let it go to voicemail. If you do answer, wait a full second before speaking. If it's a bot, it will typically disconnect.

**4. Deploy real-time security tools**

You shouldn't have to be a tech expert to stay safe. Tools like the Verizon Digital Secure app function as a digital bodyguard, scanning for malicious links in real-time. For those who need recovery help, Identity Secure provides 24/7 access to experts who can help remediate identity theft.

**Raising Red Flag on Human Trafficking at Indy 500**

As the 110th running of the Indianapolis 500 approaches this weekend, Attorney General Todd Rokita is calling on Hoosiers and visitors to stay alert for signs of human trafficking during race weekend.

"Big events like the Indy 500 create opportunities that human traffickers actively exploit," Rokita said. "We're asking everyone to keep their eyes and ears open and speak up immediately if something doesn't look right. It could save someone's life."

Large events drawing hundreds of thousands of spectators often increase demand for trafficked individuals forced into commercial sex acts or labor.

**Common signs that someone may be a victim of human traf-**

**ficking include:**

- Living with their employer or in employer-provided housing
- Staying in overcrowded or substandard conditions
- Being prevented from speaking to others alone or freely
- Giving scripted, rehearsed, or inconsistent answers to questions
- Having their ID, passport, or other documents held by someone else
- Showing signs of physical abuse such as bruises or injuries
- Appearing fearful, submissive, anxious, or overly compliant
- Working extremely long hours with little or no pay
- Being under 18 and

involved in commercial sex

**If you suspect trafficking, act quickly:**

Contact local law enforcement right away or call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888.

"The Indianapolis 500 is one of Indiana's most treasured traditions," Rokita said. "We all have a role in keeping it safe and protecting everyone who comes to enjoy it."

Rokita's office continues its strong efforts to fight human trafficking through programs like the Address Confidentiality Program, which helps shield victims — including trafficking survivors — by keeping their home addresses hidden from the public and their abusers.

**RUSTY**

*Continued from Page 1*

monthly benefit to change, your current earnings each year would need to replace at least one of those 35 historical, inflation-adjusted year earnings.

We regularly hear from those who do benefit from SSA's regular review of work earnings after they start receiving monthly SS benefits, and our Advisory staff includes two individuals with a combined 70 years of service with the Social Security Administration. Thus, we are comfortable saying that SSA does, in fact, review your earnings annually to see if your monthly SS payment should be higher. From a process standpoint, SSA receives your annual earnings information from the IRS (i.e., directly from your annual tax return) by mid-year annually, after which SSA evaluates your recent earnings to see if an increase in your monthly SS benefit is warranted. If so, that increase is automatically applied (usually around October each year), and you are paid the extra amount retroactively to the beginning of the year.

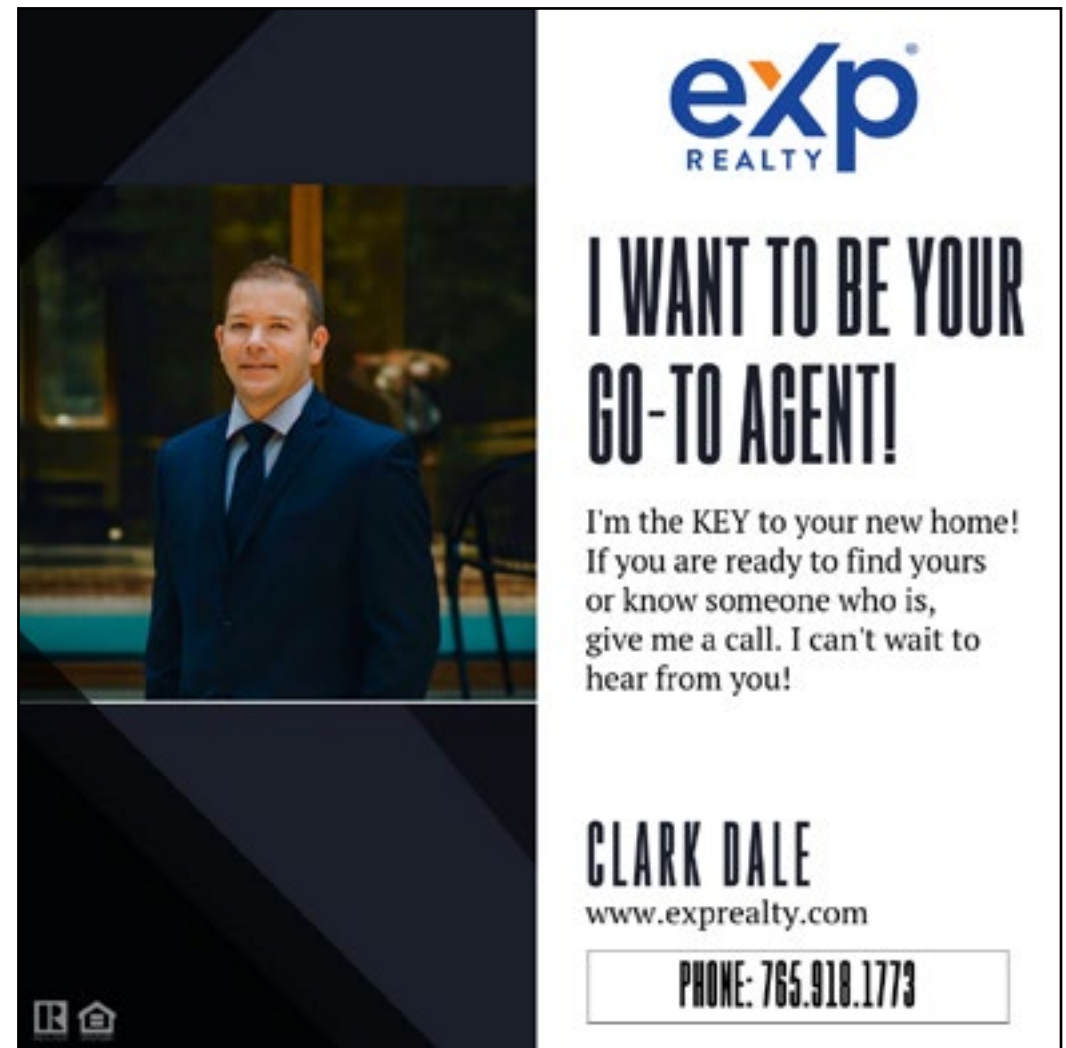
What you may not realize is that your lifetime earnings (your historical earnings) are adjusted for inflation. This is a good thing, because that means your

current monthly SS benefit is calculated using today's dollar values for your past earnings, rather than the actual money amounts you originally earned and received. For example, \$50,000 of 1990 earnings would be worth about \$125,000 today. Which also means that those 1990 earnings would only yield a higher current Social Security benefit if your recent earnings were more than \$125,000. And this is true for all 35 years of lifetime earnings used to calculate your current monthly Social Security benefit.

The best way for you to ensure that you are getting the right monthly benefit amount is to first obtain your lifetime earnings history from Social Security. This is most easily obtained through your online "my Social Security" account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). If you don't have an online account set up, you can also request an "Earnings Statement" by calling Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 (or call your local SS field office to request it). Next, I suggest you use Social Security's "Online Benefits Calculator" explained and available at this link: <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/AnyApplet.html>

If, after this, you believe you should be getting a higher monthly SS benefit because of your recent earnings, you can again contact SSA and tell them you believe they did not properly adjust your current SS benefit for your most recent earnings. Following that, you can submit a "Request for Reconsideration" (form SSA-561) which will result in a full separate review of your case by an independent SSA person, followed (some months later) by a formal written determination on your assertion. If you received a letter from SSA because of your previous meeting with them, include a copy of that letter with your "Request for Reconsideration."

*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 [ssadviser@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadviser@amacfoundation.org).*



**exp REALTY**

**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

**ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

**WAIVED ADOPTION FEES**  
**till end of this week**  
**WITH APPROVED APPLICATION**



**THANKS to Best Friends Animal Society**



**Best Friends Save Them All**

**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**

**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**

**Thank you for reading The Paper!**

# Sen Deery Shares Update



**SEN. SPENCER DEERY**  
*Guest Columnist*

## SUPPORTING our First Responders

First responders, like police officers and firefighters, are essential to the safety and prosperity of our communities.

Whether they're responding to a crime scene, a vehicle crash or a house fire, these men and women take time away from their families to ensure we get help during our greatest times of need.

With that in mind, this year I supported new laws that:

- Ensure police officers and firefighters hurt in the line of duty can still receive health coverage;
- Raise the clothing and vehicle allowance for volunteer firefighters;
- Provide extra retirement benefits for state police officers; and
- Increase the death benefit for retired police officers.

These new laws build on work Senate Republicans

have completed in recent years to increase the pay for Indiana State Police, support the mental health of first responders and recognize first responders who go above the call of duty.

I will always unequivocally stand with our first responders who keep our families, properties and communities safe. After all, that's the first and most basic responsibility of government.

## \*\*\* INVESTING in Cayuga

This week, I spoke at the ceremonial groundbreaking for the Cayuga Energy Project and attended a luncheon where several Vermillion County nonprofit organizations received grant funding from Duke Energy.

This project will give our state the capacity to power more than a million homes, but it also will benefit the Wabash River. Currently, during the summer months, the plant is not always able to operate at full capacity because doing



so would raise the river's temperature to ecologically unsafe levels. That will change with this project.

But most importantly, this investment ensures that the Cayuga plant will continue to provide jobs and a strong tax base for the people of Vermillion County for decades to come.

## \*\*\* INDIANA Celebrates America's 250th Anniversary with State-wide Events

As America prepares to celebrate our 250th anniversary, communities across Indiana are bringing history to life through special events and reenactments.

From the 1779 Battle of Fort Sackville reenactment in Vincennes, to public readings of the Declaration of Independence in Corydon and commemorative events in Indianapolis, Hoosiers can experience the stories that shaped our nation.

I encourage you to take part in these events and reflect on the legacy of those who helped secure our freedoms.

*State Sen. Spencer Deery (R-West Lafayette) represents Senate District 23, which includes Fountain, Parke, Vermillion and Warren counties, and portions of Montgomery and Tippecanoe counties.*

# Local Students Earn Dean's List at Wabash

Wabash College congratulates more than 400 students who were named to the Spring 2026 Dean's List. Students make the Dean's List by maintaining a 3.5 grade point average or better on a 4.0-point scale.

Joshua A. Angulo of Crawfordsville

Noah D. Barnhart of Crawfordsville

Leon M. Brumett of Crawfordsville

Brennden M. Busenbark of Crawfordsville

Rowen S. Durbin of Thorntown

Brecken C. Hardy of Linden

Chayce J. Howell of Crawfordsville

Jacob A. Hughes of Crawfordsville

Gerald W. Hutson of Crawfordsville

Nicholas E. Kvachkoff of Crawfordsville

Brady C. Largent of Crawfordsville

Derek J. McDonald of Colfax

Tyler J. Petroski of Crawfordsville

Lucas J. Ranard of Crawfordsville

Gabrien J. Smith of Crawfordsville

Landon C. Timmons of Crawfordsville

Joshua A. Troutman of Crawfordsville

Jonathon A. Young of Crawfordsville

# Witham Recognizes Team Member for Exceptional Care

Witham Health Services is proud to recognize Ashley Crum, a Certified Surgical Technologist in the Endocrinology department, as a recent recipient of the organization's Sunflower Award.

Given twice annually, the Sunflower Award recognizes non-nursing team members who personify Witham's remarkable patient experience through expertise, empathy, and compassionate care. Honorees are recognized as outstanding role models within the Witham community.

Ashley was nominated and selected for her extraordinary compassion and commitment to patient care after going above and beyond to help a young surgical patient return

home comfortably. Upon learning the child needed clean clothes following surgery, Ashley coordinated with her husband and son to purchase clothing and personally deliver it to the hospital.

"Ashley's actions are an example of the compassion and empathy we strive to provide every patient and family who walks through our doors," said Director of Patient Experience Rebecca Bradley. "She saw a need, took initiative, and made a lasting impact on a young patient during a vulnerable moment. Ashley truly embodies the heart behind the Sunflower Award."

To learn more about the award or to submit a nomination, visit [www.witham.org/thankyou](http://www.witham.org/thankyou).



Photo courtesy Witham Health

**When Ashley Crum found a child needed clean clothes following surgery, she, her husband and son bought clothes and delivered it to the hospital.**

# TASTE of Tippecanoe Entertainment Announced

The TASTE of Tippecanoe, scheduled for Saturday, June 20 from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m., will feature three stages filled with musicians. The Entertainment Committee for the TASTE of Tippecanoe has put together an incredible group of performers represent-

ing all different genres of music. The Arts Federation is proud to announce your 2026 musical entertainment for this year's TASTE.

On the Depot Stage for one hour each, Dream Slice is at 5 and followed by Hickey-Shanafelt collec-

tive, Levi Riggs and the Michael Kelsey Band. On the Market Stage for an hour each, Victor Lee & the Fluffy Biscuits begin at 5:15, followed by Tonio Darnell, Jason Wells Band and Jennie DeVoe. At Digby's Pub & Patio, Joe Deckard goes on at 5. Kylie

Bellinger follows at 6 and Briton Weise is at 7. And on the Taste After Dark Stage is DJ Los and DJ MMJ from 8 to 11.

Tickets for Taste of Tippecanoe are on sale now at [www.TASTEofTippecanoe.org](http://www.TASTEofTippecanoe.org)

**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**

*Don't forget to renew your subscription!*



**OUR FAMILY CARING FOR YOURS.**

315 S Washington St, Crawfordsville, IN (765) 362-6849  
 202 Bratton Rd, Waynetown, IN 765-234-2224  
 203 S. 1st Street Kingman, IN 765-397-3499

[WWW.SANDERSFUNERALCARE.COM](http://WWW.SANDERSFUNERALCARE.COM)



*"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](http://pompstire.com)

THE PAPER OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

**WE'RE HIRING**

**OPEN POSITIONS**

SALES  
 PAGINATION  
 DELIVERY DRIVER  
 CLERICAL

EMAIL RESUME TO: [JOBS@THEPAPER24-7.COM](mailto:JOBS@THEPAPER24-7.COM)

# Playing the ‘What If’ Game With Boiler Basketball



**KENNY THOMPSON**  
*Columnist*

The 2007 Indiana All-Star boys basketball team was one of the finest ever assembled by The Indianapolis Star.

Five of the 14 players would go on to play in the NBA. Three of those five – E'Twaun Moore, JaJuan Johnson and Robbie Hummel – would form the nucleus of a Big Ten championship team at Purdue.

One of the biggest what ifs in Purdue athletics history surrounds the two ACL injuries to Hummel's knee. The first may have prevented the Boilermakers from reaching No. 1 in The Associated Press poll in 2010 and ending a Final Four drought that had reached 30 years.

But what if coach Matt Painter had a more than adequate replacement for Hummel? The opportunity was there in the summer of 2006.

Within a 21-day span in June and July, Painter received verbal commitments from Johnson, Moore and Hummel. All

three were Top 100 players in Rivals.com rankings. They headed a class that would include junior college transfers Nemanja Calasan and Chris Reid.

Painter had an available scholarship for one more player.

The final spot came down to Matt Howard, a 6-8 forward from Connersville, and Hummel's Valparaiso teammate, 6-8 Scott Martin. Moore and Hummel were trying to get Martin to commit according to a story by Steve Hanlon of the Times of Northwest Indiana.

Jeff Washburn, the Lafayette Journal and Courier's Purdue basketball beat writer, wrote that Howard "reminds me of a young Brian Cardinal but with lots more hair."

Howard liked Painter, noting his 25-win season at Southern Illinois before coming home to Purdue.

"Look what he did at Southern Illinois," Howard told Washburn. "Imagine what he could do

with Big Ten-like talent."

Martin committed to Purdue over Michigan on July 21, 2006, wrapping up a class that was ranked fifth nationally by Rivals and first in the Big Ten. After his freshman season, though, Martin transferred to Notre Dame. That left a gaping hole at a forward spot opposite Hummel, forcing Purdue to go with a three-guard lineup of Moore, Chris Kramer and Lewis Jackson during the 2008-09 and 2009-10 seasons.

Martin started all 84 games he played at Notre Dame, averaging 9.0 points a game.

Shut out by Martin's commitment, Howard chose Butler. Playing for Brad Stevens, Howard helped the Bulldogs reach back-to-back Final Fours. Howard was the hero in two 2011 NCAA games, scoring the winning basket against Old Dominion as time expired and sinking a free throw with eight-tenths of a second remaining to topple No. 1 seed Pittsburgh in the Sweet 16.

"I was seriously looking at Purdue, but I just wasn't ready to say yes when they said, 'Hey, we have one scholarship for you or Scott. The first one gets it,'" Howard told Washburn in 2011 before a workout with the Indiana Pacers.

As a senior, Howard averaged 16.4 points and 7.7 rebounds for Butler. At the same time, Hummel was out for the 2010-11 season with his second ACL tear.

"Maybe I don't work in Purdue's system," Howard said. "Maybe I wouldn't have panned out up there. Who knows? You can say 'what if' both ways. For sure, it makes you feel good when people say those things."

Howard wasn't the only Indiana All-Star blocked from coming to Purdue by an earlier commitment.

Four months ago, former NBA guard Jeff Teague said on the Podcentral podcast that he had committed to Purdue. There was just one problem, a big one.

"I didn't have a scholarship," Teague said. "The whole time they were recruiting me, they didn't offer me a scholarship. I thought they did. When I committed, they said ... we didn't offer you. Basically they were (bleep)ing with me. I was hurt a little bit.

"So I thought I'd go to IU. I go on my visit. I walk in the office. (They've) got a board with every point guard they're recruiting. I'm ninth on the list."

In hindsight, Moore's commitment likely took

Teague off Purdue's recruiting list. But what if Painter hadn't essentially wasted a scholarship on the 6-9 Reid – who scored just three points during his two seasons in West Lafayette – and had filled out his class with Teague?

Imagine a starting lineup in 2008-09 of Teague and Moore in the backcourt, Hummel and Howard at forward and Johnson at center?

Teague, listed as the ninth-best point guard in the nation and 57th overall by Rivals.com, ended up at Wake Forest. As a sophomore, he became the school's first All-American since Chris Paul in 2005. Teague entered the NBA Draft after the 2008-09 season and was taken 19th overall by Atlanta.

Fortunately for Painter and Purdue, Teague didn't hold a grudge. Now the head coach at his alma mater Pike High School, Teague will be sending five-star center Isaiah Hill to Purdue in the fall of 2027. The 7-foot Hill is the highest-ranked player the Boilermakers have landed since the inception of Internet ranking services. He's ranked 13th by On3/Rivals and 16th on 247sports.com's 2027 rankings. Rivals lists Hill as the nation's top center.

Hill supplants the late Caleb Swanigan, Indiana's

2015 Mr. Basketball, for that honor.

Purdue never had a shot with 2007 Indiana Mr. Basketball Eric Gordon of North Central. Gordon was the subject of a bitter recruiting battle between Illinois and Indiana. Gordon committed to the Fighting Illini and coach Bruce Weber on Nov. 30, 2005.

Months later, Mike Davis resigned at Indiana and Kelvin Sampson replaced him. Sampson, who could turn a square into a circle with his recruiting tactics, hired the college coach of Eric Gordon Sr. – Jeff Meyer – as an assistant. That move helped sway Gordon to change his commitment to the Hoosiers on Oct. 13, 2006.

Gordon led the Big Ten in scoring, but Indiana lost to Arkansas in the first round of the 2008 NCAA tournament. Gordon declared for the NBA Draft after his freshman season and was taken seventh overall by the Los Angeles Clippers.

Next time: Glenn Robinson's recruitment and the big one Purdue didn't get.

*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.*

## Ernie Gets VIPs



Photo courtesy Andy Chandler

The Ernie Pyle Museum in Dana, Ind. welcomed some very important guests as Memorial Day draws closer. Dr. Susannah Koerber and two members of her preservation staff visited the museum to evaluate the conditions of the museum to determine if it would be appropriate for item loans from the Indiana State Museum. With the recommendations of minor alterations and adjustments, the loans are slated to go ahead as planned and will most likely occur by the July 4th weekend this year. Present for the tour was, from left, Dr. Susannah Koerber, Katie Barbour (photo preservationist), Kevin Whaley (technician), Friends of Ernie Pyle Board President Steve Key and Rep. Tim Yocum (R-Dist. 42).

## It's Mailbox Improvement Week

This is Mailbox Improvement Week (May 18-24, 2026) and the United States Postal Service is reminding Americans everywhere to inspect, maintain, and make any needed upgrades to their mailboxes to help keep the mail flowing. Through regular, simple mailbox maintenance akin to Spring Cleaning, customers can help their carriers ensure mail, packages, and special deliveries arrive on time, safely, and securely.

"Your mailbox is the gateway to connection, bringing everything from birthday wishes from loved ones to vital documents to your doorstep," said Postmaster General David Steiner. "A well-maintained mailbox isn't just about curb appeal; it's a partnership in efficiency and precision, helping our carriers continue to deliver for you – every day."

Each year, USPS designates the third week of May as Mailbox Improve-

ment Week to encourage homeowners with box-on-post-delivery to examine and, where necessary, improve their mailbox appearance and functionality. Regular maintenance not only helps streamline postal operations but enhances the beauty and safety of entire neighborhoods.

### Fix up your mailbox in a snap

The yearly initiative calls attention to the wear and tear that occurs, often without customers' awareness. Some of the most common fixes homeowners may need to make include:

- **Tighten Up:** Check for and tighten any loose hinges on the door.
- **A Fresh Coat:** Brighten up a rusty or peeling mailbox with a fresh coat of paint.
- **Stand Securely:** Ensure your mailbox post is secure and upright.
- **Be Seen:** Make sure your house numbers are clear, visible, and easy to read.

### Security is a shared mission

USPS partners with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to keep postal employees, the mail stream, and the American public safe through education, awareness, laws that protect our nation's mail network. Here's how you can help keep your mail safe:

- **Don't Wait:** Collect your mail promptly after delivery to prevent theft.
- **Say Something:** If you witness mailbox tampering, call the police immediately.
- **To report mailbox vandalism,** contact Postal Inspectors at 1-877-876-2455.
- **If you know of someone who committed an act of mailbox vandalism,** report it to Postal Inspectors at 1-877-876-2455.

LEARN MORE: [How to Set Up & Mount a Mailbox](#)

The Paper  
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Visit us online:

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**

## CONTRACTS

Continued from Page 1

utes or more. And a third say it depends on the contract.

Nearly half of Americans (48%) say they would feel embarrassed to admit they signed without reading. Yet nearly 9 in 10 (88%) have clicked "I agree" on digital terms and conditions without reading them. The embarrassment is real, yet the behavior hasn't changed.

The Most Skipped Contract Types and Sections:



Reading habits vary significantly by contract type. Employment agreements top the list of contracts people read in full at 72%, followed by lease or rental agreements at 59% and financial agreements at 50%. At the other end, only 15% fully read digital terms and conditions, and just 24% read service subscription agreements or vendor contracts in full.

When it comes to contracts never read at all, digital terms and conditions top the list at 43%, followed by service subscriptions at 26% and medical forms at 10%. Employment agreements, leases, and mortgages are each skipped entirely by 4%.

Even within contracts people do attempt to read, the most consequential sections get glossed over. Data and privacy provisions and governing law or jurisdiction clauses are the most skipped, with nearly 1 in 3 (31%) skipping each. Intellectual property rights follow at 30%, arbitration clauses and indemnification each at 27%, non-compete clauses at 25%, and liability limitations at 23%. Auto-renewal terms are skipped by 14%, and payment and late fee terms by 10%. Just 17% say they read all sections, while 1 in 5 (20%) skip most sections entirely.

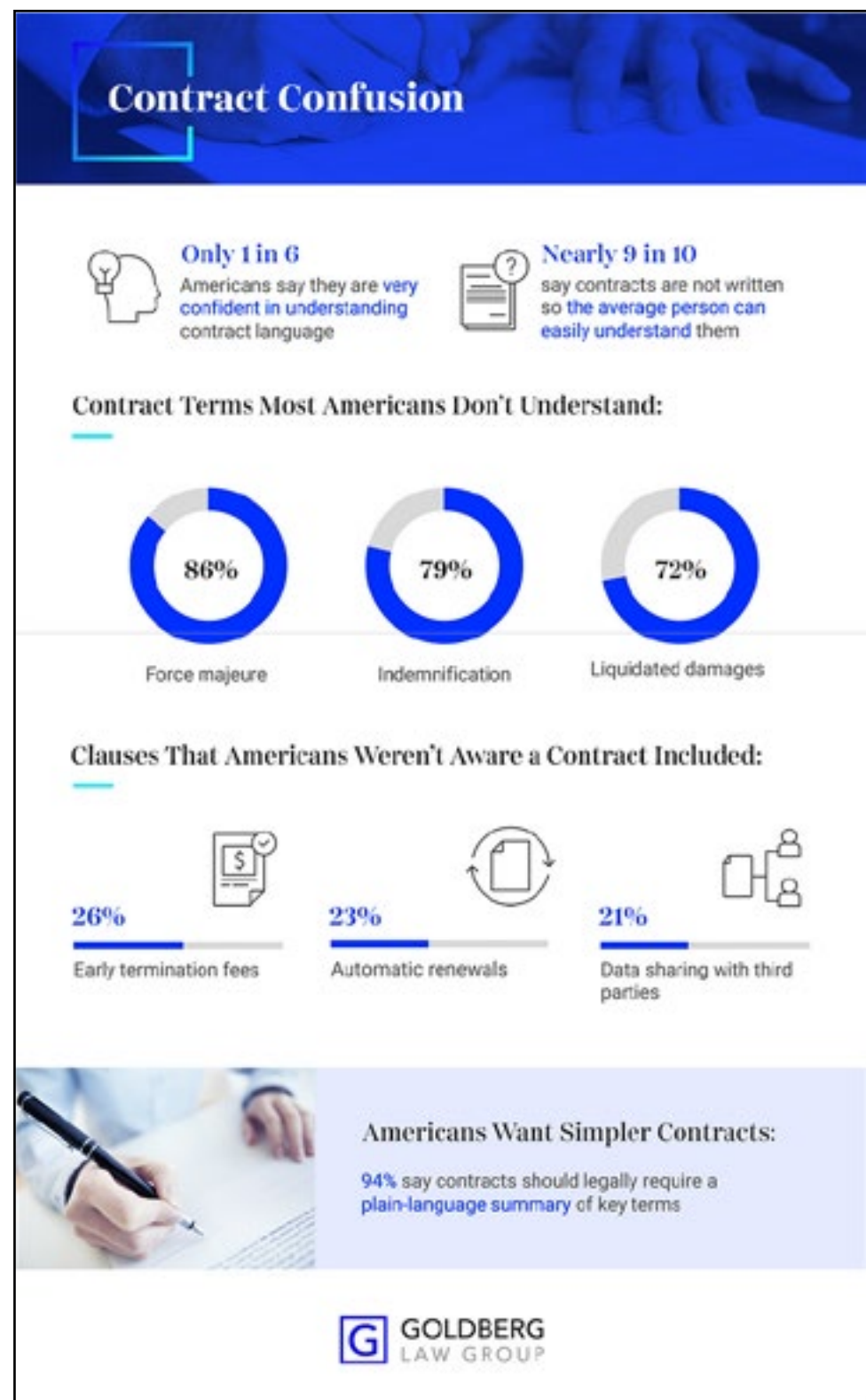
Nearly a Third of Americans Have Faced Negative Consequences From Not Fully Reading Contracts

The risks of skipping the fine print can cost you. Nearly 3 in 10 (29%) Americans say not fully reading a contract has led to a negative outcome. Of those, service subscriptions were the most common culprit at 49%, followed by lease or rental agreements at 27%, financial and loan agreements at 19%, employment contracts at 18%, and digital terms and conditions at 11%.

The financial impact is significant. While most affected suffered an impact under \$500, 48% reported losses over \$500, with 13% reporting losing over \$2,500.

Beyond finances, 1 in 6 (17%) say they stayed in a job, service, or lease longer than they wanted because they didn't understand the exit terms. Another 1 in 6 (17%) say they lost money, intellectual property, or faced a penalty because of a clause they overlooked.

Americans' Understanding of Legal Contract Language



Only 1 in 5 (20%) Americans say they are not confident at all in their ability to understand legal contract language. 63% describe themselves as somewhat confident, and just 1 in 6 (17%) say they are very confident. This lack of confidence translates to suspicion: nearly 9 in 10 (86%) Americans believe contracts are not written so the average person can easily understand them.

The data on specific legal terms shows how big that comprehension gap really is. Even the most familiar term, auto-renewal, is still misunderstood by 22% of respondents. Non-compete is misunderstood by half of respondents (50%), while arbitration is unclear to 56%. From there, the gap widens. 72% of respondents do not understand liquidated damages, 79% misunderstand indemnification, and force majeure is unclear to an overwhelming 86%. On top of that, 12% of respondents said they didn't feel confident understanding any of the terms listed at all.

That knowledge gap translates to real consequences. More than 1 in 4 (26%) were blindsided by early termination fees, and nearly 1 in 4 (23%) were surprised to discover their contract included automatic renewal terms. 1 in 5 (21%) found their contract allowed data sharing with third parties, and another 1 in 5 (20%) discovered their agreement permitted the company to change terms without notice. Despite all of this, 45% say they have never been surprised by contract terms, suggesting that the surprises may simply be going unnoticed.

Most People Read Employment Contracts, But Many Miss What's Inside

Employment contracts are the category Americans engage with most seriously, yet awareness of what those contracts actually contain remains low. When asked about their most recent employment contract, 57% say they read it fully before signing, 25% skimmed it, 5% did not read it, and 13% did not sign one.

Despite that relatively high engagement, nearly 1 in 3 (31%) were unaware of any specific provisions in their employment agreement, including non-competes, non-solicitation clauses, IP assignment language, and mandatory arbitration. Among those with agreements, only 1 in 4 (23%) knew about a non-compete clause, 13% each knew about mandatory arbitration and non-solicitation clauses, and just 1 in 10 (10%) were aware of an IP assignment provision. These kinds of overlooked terms are often at the center of contract breaches and corporate disputes. Some are willing to take risks: 6% admit to knowingly violating a non-compete agreement.

1 in 8 Americans Sign Medical Forms Without Reading Them at All

Healthcare intake forms are signed quickly, with Americans often missing important details. Only 29% of Americans read them very carefully. Nearly 3 in 5 (59%) read them only somewhat carefully, and 1 in 8 (12%) don't read them at all.

What makes this especially interesting is that 3 in 4 (75%) Americans already know that medical intake forms can include clauses related to billing, data sharing, or arbitration. The remaining 25% were unaware.

94% of Americans Say Contracts Should Require Plain-Language Summaries

When asked whether contracts should legally require a plain-language summary of key terms before the full document, 94% of Americans said yes. That kind of near-unanimous agreement across a diverse sample of people is rare and shows a shared frustration that cuts across demographics.

That's where having the right legal counsel makes all the difference. Whether you're negotiating an employment agreement, reviewing a vendor contract, or trying to understand what you're actually signing before you sign it, Goldberg Law Group is here to help. Our team works to ensure you understand every clause, every obligation, and every right you have before you put your name on anything. Don't let the fine print work against you. Contact Goldberg Law Group today and make sure the contracts in your life are working for you.

Methodology

In early 2026, Goldberg Law Group surveyed 1,002 Americans on their contract reading habits, legal literacy, and experiences with contract-related consequences. Respondents ranged in age from 18 to 81, with an average age of 40. The sample was 50% male, 49% female, and 1% non-binary.

**Thank you for reading  
The Paper!**