

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 25:6,7

“Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love, remember me, for you, Lord, are good.”

■ AWL LUKE



LAB LOVERS — THIS ONE'S FOR YOU!

Luke is a 2-year-old male Labrador Retriever mix available from AWL since 2/10/26. Did you know we currently have THREE tan Lab mixes (Booster, Luke, and Olivia) and ONE black Lab mix (Maks) at AWL looking for homes?

Labrador Retrievers are known for being AMAZING family dogs, and Luke is no exception! This goofy guy is playful, energetic, and still acts like a big puppy.

He's very food motivated (treats = instant best friend and absolutely LOVES going out for walks and frolicking around in a fenced yard.

If you've been thinking about adding a Lab to your family, now is the perfect time to stop by AWL and meet Luke and his fellow Lab buddies!

Luke is available for: Adoption Foster care, Dog walks and outings

AWL is open Monday-Friday from 12:15-5:00 PM and Saturdays from 12:00-3:00 PM. Stop by to walk dogs, snuggle cats in the community cat room, lend a helping hand... and maybe meet your new best friend.

■ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

The Hoosier Authors Book Club is into its 11th year with four planned book discussions still to take place. The first one took place May 21 when the Club discussed *If This Isn't Nice What Is?* (A collection of Kurt Vonnegut's commencement speeches.) Coming on June 18 will be a discussion on *Rabbit Hutch* by Tess Gunty. The remaining two are *Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker* and the *Harlem Renaissance* by A'Lelia Bundles on Sept. 17. The year wraps up with *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/>.

HONEST HOOSIER



Some companies are “rounding up” your bill to the nearest mark so your change doesn't have to include pennies. For a big corporation, I wonder how much that will help their bottom line?

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June.”

Unknown

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

What happens when ice cream gets angry?
It has a meltdown.



The Paper

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10 Rights Did Not Make Anything Wrong

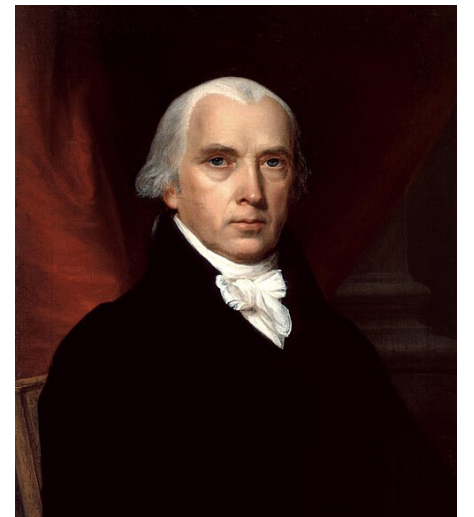
BY THE NUMBERS

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!

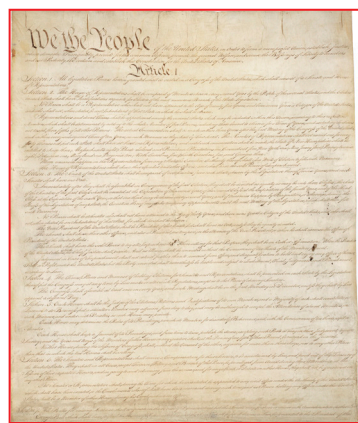
Did you know that on this date in 1789 Mr. James Madison, the man who 20 years later would become our fledgling nation's fourth president, introduced a dozen proposed amendments to our Constitution and that those would eventually turn into what we know as the Bill of Rights? Madison would become known as the father of the Constitution. He, arguably more than any other founding father, led the way to what became the U.S. Constitution. So today, in honor of Mr. Madison, we take a look at the Bill of Rights . . . By The Numbers!

As mentioned, Madison proposed 12 amendments but only 10 were ratified by the states. The two that did not make the grade initially? One was a mathematical formula that would have increased the House of Representatives as our country's population grew (more on this in a moment). The next one would forbid Congress from giving themselves a mid-term pay raise. Madison believed that Congress shouldn't be able to give itself a raise without input, namely an election where their constituents could vote them out if they didn't agree. Before you get too excited, Congress added the 27th Amendment that allowed them to do

12



10



The number of amendments that were ratified initially – and the ones we know as the Bill of Rights. We know (wink, wink) that you remember all 10 from those history lessons in school. But just to refresh, here they are:

First: Five freedoms are protected here – speech, religion, assembly, petition and (our favorite) press!

Second: Protects the right to bear arms

Third: Stops “quartering” soldiers in private homes

Fourth: Doesn't allow unreasonable search and seizure

Fifth: Rights to a grand jury, due process, stops double jeopardy and gives just compensation for property taken

Sixth: The right to a speedy trial by an impartial jury and the right to legal counsel

Seventh: Gives the right to a jury trial in federal cases worth more than \$20

Eighth: No cruel and unusual punishments, including excessive bail or fines

Ninth: Somewhat of a catchall – says that we humans have more rights than listed above

Tenth: Gives the states and people rights the federal government doesn't have (And aren't you proud of us – no editorial comments – other than sharing which one is our favorite. Believe us, it was tempting!)



These 10 amendments are ratified by three-fourths of the states and officially become the law of the land.

12-15-1791

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. Marc Tuttle, president of Right to Life of Indianapolis and one of Indiana's most prominent pro-life advocates, died suddenly on June 2. Tuttle had served as president of Right to Life Indianapolis for 18 years, and he was widely regarded as a leading voice for the protection of unborn children throughout Central Indiana and the state. “Marc was more than a leader to this organization,” said Tom Hirschauer, board president of Right to Life of Indianapolis. “He was a passionate advocate, a steadfast servant of life, and a dear friend to so many of us. His dedication to the cause of protecting the unborn was unwavering, and his presence will be deeply missed.” Under Tuttle's leadership, Right to Life of Indianapolis organized numerous rallies at the Indiana Statehouse and worked closely with state legislators on behalf of unborn children and vulnerable mothers. He was instrumental in building the annual Indianapolis March for Life into one of the largest pro-life gatherings in Indiana, drawing thousands of participants each year.

2. U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Illinois State Director Jesus Ortega announced that the agency provided Clay County with an \$800,000 grant to construct a new medical building for the Clay County Hospital. The Clay County Hospital is a county-owned hospital governed by the Clay County Board. “Under the leadership of President Donald J. Trump and Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins, USDA Rural Development is committed to improving access to rural healthcare,” said Ortega. “This project is an example of how Rural Development is working to ensure that rural residents across the state have access to quality and affordable healthcare.” USDA provided the county with an \$800,000 Community Facilities grant for its new 5,267-square-foot medical building in Louisville, Illinois. The new building has allowed Clay County Hospital to expand operations, offer additional primary care hours and begin offering behavioral health services. The new medical building serves more than 1,130 residents of Clay County providing access to additional healthcare services.

3. Indiana Governor Mike Braun announcement that Boston Scientific Corporation will establish a new global medical device distribution facility in Plainfield highlighted the creation of up to 300 new, high-wage jobs. The new operation bolsters Braun's life sciences initiative – a commitment to investing \$1 billion over 10 years in agricultural and life sciences – and the BioHeartland. Boston Scientific, a global leader in medical device technology, anticipates investing approximately \$138 million to construct and equip a 500,000-square-foot facility at the Plainfield Innovation Park to support and enhance its US-based distribution and logistics operations. The new facility will feature state-of-the-art technology, light manufacturing and incorporate necessary processes and operations for regulatory compliance. The company expects to break ground later this year. Once complete, the facility will be responsible for global distribution of medical devices, helping Boston Scientific provide solutions that treat more than 48 million patients annually.

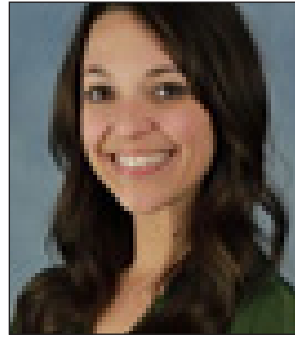
The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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Crawfordsville Director Elected to National Board

The City of Crawfordsville is pleased to share that Crawfordsville Mobile Integrated Health Director Samantha Mitchell has been elected to the Board of Directors for the National Association of Mobile Integrated Healthcare Providers.



Samantha Mitchell

Mitchell was selected from a competitive field of more than 30 candidates during the organization's May 2026 elections and is one of just 10 individuals elected to serve on the national board.

As a member of the board of directors, Mitchell will help guide the future of mobile integrated healthcare and community paramedicine initiatives across the

country. Her election reflects the innovative work being done in Crawfordsville and the leadership role our community continues to play in advancing healthcare delivery models that improve outcomes for residents.

The city and many others congratulate Mitchell on this outstanding achievement and the national recognition of her work and leadership.

Dog Days of Summer...Kickoff

Everyone knows we experience the dog days of summer each year. Well, this year Rin Tin Inn and the Animal Shelter have the Dog Days of Summer Kickoff event that takes place June 20 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be pet adoptions, raffle, food trucks, music, face painting, balloons,

pup cups and more. Visitors can tour the Inn and shop to their hearts content. If you bring a donation for the Animal Shelter, you will get an entry in the raffle.

And this isn't just for visitors. Vendors are welcome too. Please email info@therintinn.com for more information.

Get Some Pars for Paws

The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County has its second annual Pars for Paws Golf Scramble set to tee off July 18 at 8 a.m. at Rocky Ridge Golf Course.

This annual fundraiser helps raise critical money for the AWL and takes care of our furry friends. Cost is only \$70

per player and that includes the cart. There will also be raffle tickets, mulligans, strings and skirts available for purchase the morning of the event.

Sign up by either visiting the shelter or emailing shelterpets@mcawl.com or call (765) 362-8846.

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OBITUARY

Samuel "Sam" Scott Maurer

December 12, 1962 - May 30, 2026

It is in profound sadness that we announce Samuel "Sam" Scott Maurer, age 63, of Crawfordsville, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, May 30, 2026, in Crawfordsville. Born December 12, 1962, in Indianapolis to Wanda Dickey and Wayne Maurer, Sam was the youngest of many children and lived an adventurous, full life.

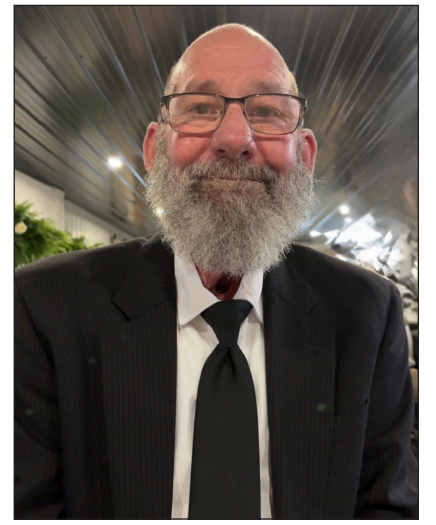
After studying mechanical engineering, he worked at many places in Indianapolis such as Harlem Bakery, Conagra Foods, and Koorsen Fire & Security before eventually working for Southmont School Corporation, where he served the community and formed connections and friendships. He also enjoyed volunteering his time to various causes throughout his life.

Sam was a proud father, loving husband, supportive friend, and kind stranger. He enjoyed spending time with his family, golfing, fishing, and

enjoying nature. He was a lover of music, animals, and history and enjoyed sharing this knowledge with loved ones. He was a collector of all things old and vintage and had a knack for fixing things, especially his lawn mower. In his younger years, he enjoyed long fishing trips in Montana, nights out on the town, and visiting many state and national parks. He had been a survivor of neck cancer for over a decade and had an inspiring, preserving spirit throughout tribulations.

Sam was preceded in death by his parents, Wanda & Wayne; his sister, Judi; his brother, Michael; his best friend, DuJuan; and many beloved pets.

He is survived by his wife, Jenna; daughters, Sami & Abbagale; son, Kyler; stepchildren, Robert & Mallorie; sisters, Linda & Susan; and brothers, Tony, Larry, & Jerry. He will be missed beyond



words or comprehension.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Milligan Park on Sunday, June 14th starting at 1pm and lasting all day. Friends and family are encouraged to attend and enjoy comfort in company and memories. Share memories and condolences online at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

Mayor's Community Forum Tomorrow

Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton has scheduled his monthly Community Forum for Tuesday from noon to 1 p.m. at Lincoln Park, 950 E. Wabash Ave.

This will be Barton's 156th Community Forum since taking office.

Holding a monthly community forum was something Barton pledged to do during his first campaign for mayor and he has continued to do so every month – except during the COVID pandemic.

This event is designed to allow the public to come ask questions, discuss concerns, interact with the mayor and



Photo courtesy Andy Chandler

Mayor Todd Barton has been holding these meetings with the community since 2012.

learn more about anything regarding the city.

Lincoln Park is located at 950

E. Wabash Ave. The Forum will be held in the shelter there.

Death, Taxes and Invasive Species

I always appreciate the joke every Purdue Basketball season of "Death, Taxes, and Matt Painter". But not everyone has to face Matt Painter and the seven-foot-something he has on the team that year. For most of us, the three inevitabilities of our normal lives are indeed: death, taxes, and invasive species.

First, let's talk about Death. It is something I feel all too familiar and close to in the recent months. After experiencing my own family tragedy of losing my three close family members all at once in a car accident this January, to now; witnessing nearby families go through unexpected losses of loved ones as well. No one prepares you for the hurt, regrets, and overall grief. Time for everyone else keeps moving, and sooner or later, you realize you have to get up and start moving with it too. We all know death is inevitable, but for those left behind, it's not just grief to deal with; there are also now the "taxes" of it all. The regrets of conversations not had. When it comes to farm families, the proverbial and very real taxes of an unexpected loss only make a hard time harder.

The best gift you can give yourself and the ones that succeed you is a plan. The Purdue Extension Farm Succession Team is here for landowners, farm families, AND Family

Businesses that want to make plans. We can help educate you and help equip you and your family members to have those hard conversations. We can help you prepare for meetings with attorneys and accountants so that when God wills you, your loved ones can focus on grieving you and not the taxes.

Now for your third inevitable in life, invasive species. And I do mean it, I think everyone will have to deal with these in their lifetime. Probably already have. Off the top of my head, Ash trees. Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive species that has impacted many land owners. If you walked down the street in the spring and thought, "Gosh, the air smells terrible... almost like dead fish!" That was a Callery Pear. As I drive to work, I see those and Asian bush honeysuckle everywhere in the ditches. Even in town, I see so many residents with a Tree of Heaven growing next to their house foundations. I want to knock on their doors and tell them, but then I would get nothing done all day, every day. Now you might not own property and tell me, "I don't deal with invasive species." But then I'll tell you about the Master Gardener volunteer who told me she used to visit cousins on a lake up in Northeast Indiana. They slept on the boat each night together. But now the

Tricia Herr

Extension Educator |
Agriculture & Natural
Resources



lake is infected with zebra mussels, and you don't want to anchor overnight because they can attach after idling for too long. Not to mention, I personally used to go to a summer camp with those things. When the counselors recommend water shoes, they mean it. OUCH! I still can picture the screaming girl with a bloody foot.

I encourage you to educate yourself on these inevitabilities: Death, Taxes, and Invasive Species with these upcoming Extension Programs. Email me, Tricia Herr, at triciaherr@purdue.edu to learn more.

Invasive Species Class in Waveland – June 4, 11, & 18, 5-7 pm at the Waveland Fire Station

Thursday, June 4: Introduction to Invasives

Thursday, June 11: Invasive Fish & Aquatic Invertebrates

Thursday, June 18: Invasive Aquatic Plants

Please email or call to register! triciaherr@purdue.edu or 765-364-6363

Purdue Extension Farm Succession Team Programs (3):

Securing the Future: Legal Audits for Farm

Families and Agricultural Success:

Join the Purdue Extension Succession Planning Team for a FREE, live, virtual webinar series. Designed to help farm families navigate the legal side of transition planning. Learn how proactive legal audits can support a smoother, more successful transition to the next generation.

Free & virtual: 8 live webinar options. Attend one—or join them all

Next Programs are: June 22 – Contingency Planning/Code Red, June 29 – Operating & Buy-Sell Agreements, and July 13 – Personal Estate Planning

Register today and invest in your farm's future! <https://bit.ly/securingthefuture2026>

Farm Family Meetings: Schedule a confidential meeting to start or revisit your succession plan with this link: <https://bit.ly/ContactPurdueSuccession>

Land of Opportunity: A Conference for Farmland Owners- This is a one-day conference being offered in two separate locations- Wabash (October 5th) and Vigo Counties (October 6).



Courtesy of Mazda

It only seats five, but can tow 5,000 pounds and swallow a cavern of cargo for family travels

2026 Mazda Cx-70 is Much Like a Grown-Up's Mazda3 Hatchback

One of my all-time favorite compact cars is the current Mazda3 Hatchback, a car that proves style and performance don't have to be expensive. It takes a sporty stance, but the sensuousness of how the rear body wraps over the wheels and around its rump is seductive artistry. But, it's not really large enough for families. Take its finest attributes, blow it up a few sizes, toss in carnal luxuries and you have the 2026 Mazda CX-70 Platinum Plus.

Mazdas definitely have a family look. Large Italianesque grilles flanked by squinty headlamps project fury while beautifully bulging fenders flow into tall bodysides and sculptural rear quarters shaped by the spirit of Michelangelo. There is an echo of Mazda3 in the execution, but the CX-70 dwarfs average humans and needs all of its 21-inch wheels to fill the flanks. It's handsome, but looks somewhat awkward from some angles.

Since the CX-70 is essentially a three-row CX-90 with only five seats, the interior is cavernous. Open the power hatch, flip down the rear bench, and you could seemingly park a sports car back there. You can't, but five do indulge in sued Nappa leather seats – heated and ventilated up front, heated in back. A power steering column with heated bi-color leather wheel seduces drivers.

Sitting behind the wheel, there's a lot of Mazda3 in the simple dashboard with dual-zone automatic climate controls tucked beneath. Of course, this dashboard is sued. Flatscreen gauges and head-up display complement the 12.3-inch screen embedded in the dashtop. I wish Mazda would dispense with its decrepit joywheel controller



Casey Williams
Columnist

and confusing menus, but key functions can be accessed via touch. Phones connect through wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Toss them in the console to charge wirelessly too. Listening to the 12-speaker Bose audio system under the twin-panel sunroof, you might not care.

It would take pages to fully describe all of the CX-70's crash avoidance technology, however automatic emergency braking, rear cross path detection with auto brake, driver attention monitor and safe exit warning are my favorites.

Mazda definitely took its own path with the CX-70's powertrain. Under the hood is a 3.3-liter turbo-charged inline-six engine mated to an 8-speed automatic transmission. Inline six engines are inherently balanced and refined – and efficient, delivering 23/28-MPG city/highway. You won't want for power either as the engine conjures 340 horsepower and 369 lb.-ft. of torque, enough to tow 5,000 lbs. of camper or speedboat. All-wheel-drive handles the slick stuff.

There's plenty of power, but the turbo, transmission turning and throttle response make it difficult to modulate in city traffic. It always wants to gallop. While the Mazda3 has an incredibly refined suspension, the CX-70 feels a little clunky over broken pavement. Every city bump seemed to reverberate, but then I found the freeway where the big wagon

settled and handled like a much smaller vehicle, harnessing the engine's power to leap forward through traffic.

For the CX-70, not all roads are created equally, but its style and luxuries are worthy of all. I think I'd go for the three-row CX-90 if my money was involved, but the lighter vehicle with huge cargo area does impress. I'd like the turbo and throttle to become better friends, but power and performance are delights. So, how much does it cost? Base models start at a very fair \$42,750, but climb to our Premium Plus's more luxurious \$59,825. Also consider the Subaru Ascent, Kia Telluride, Honda Passport, Toyota Highlander and Jeep Grand Cherokee.

Storm Forward!
Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @Auto-Casey.

Likes
• Elegant style
• Luxury interior
• On-highway performance
Dislikes
• Low-speed throttle
• Harsh suspension
• Five seats?

2026 Mazda CX-70 Premium Plus
Five-passenger, AWD Crossover
Powertrain: 3.3-liter T16, 8-spd
Output: 340hp/369 lb.-ft. torque
Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind
Wheels f/r: 21"/21" alloy
Brakes f/r: disc/disc
Towing: 5,000 lbs.
Fuel economy: 23/28 mpg city/hwy
Assembly: Hofu, Japan
Base/As-tested price: \$42,750/59,825

“On the Shoreline”



Carrie Classon
The Postscript

I spent last week with my parents, which is always fun.

My father has been having trouble with his legs, and tasks that involve getting up from the ground are hard for him, particularly if the ground is steep or slippery—and that is a pretty accurate description of the shoreline where the dock lives over the winter.

But we both thought the dock should get in the water, and I told my dad I'd help, so we made our way down to the shoreline to tackle the project.

We had a few things working against us.

The ground, as I mentioned, is very steep, and it was slick with last year's leaves. The dock had wheels at the end and was tacked on to a frame on the hill. It had to be loosened from the frame so it could slide down into the water.

This is a task that used to take my dad no time at all, but instead of doing it himself, he had to instruct his daughter on how to do it, and his daughter has no demonstrable engineering skills.

And that wasn't the full extent of the problem, because my dad's eyesight is not good, so he couldn't really see what I was up to. He had to describe what I should be doing without being able to see if I was doing it.

Then the last screw holding the dock in place got stuck. I am sure that screw was

stuck due to operator error (I use a screwdriver approximately once every five years) but whatever the cause, the screw was jammed and the whole thing was hung up. We surveyed the situation.

“I don't think it's coming loose,” my dad concluded.

“What if we hit it with a hammer?” I suggested. Hitting things with hammers was something I felt qualified to try.

“No...” My dad was thinking. “Can you just push it?”

My dad suspected there wasn't much holding the dock in place and, once it was free, it would merrily roll down the hill on its own accord.

“I don't know if I can push it. But I can kick it.” And so I did. I sat on my butt in the slippery leaves, and I kicked the dock. The little chunk of two-by-six with the one remaining screw holding it in place split into two, and the dock came loose with a mighty “whoosh!” and rolled down the hill.

Fortunately, both my dad and I were out of the way.

“I don't know where that block went,” I told

my dad.

“Forget about it,” he said.

We got the dock into the water. It was a little cattywampus, but it was more or less ready for another season.

“I might need to get a kid to help me with some things this fall,” my dad said, as if this was a major concession at 92. He thanked me for helping him and apologized for needing the help.

“Dad, we all do as much as we can, for as long as we're able.”

“I guess that's so.”

That night, I saw a boat trolling along the shoreline as the sun set.

“Hey, Dad, there's a guy fishing right off the end of the dock.”

“I hope he knows the rules,” my dad said.

“The rules?”

“He's gotta leave half of whatever he catches at the end of the dock for me.”

“We'll have to put up a sign on the shoreline so he knows the rules,” I told my dad.

“We'll have to do that,” my dad said.

Till next time,

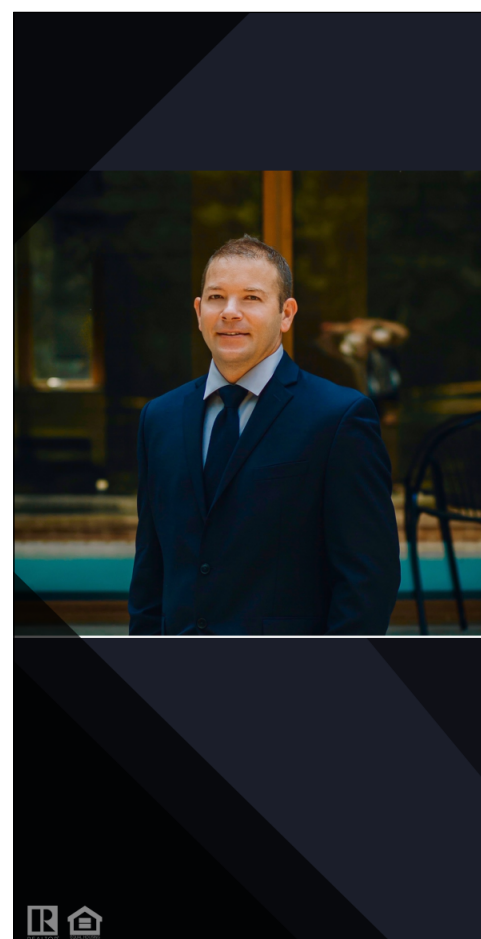
Carrie
Carrie's debut novel, "Loon Point," is now available at both local and online retailers.

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Rockville Has Connection to Republic of Texas

Howard County Named After Short-Lived Ambassador



Andy Chandler
Columnist

While most people associate Rockville with the Covered Bridge Festival, it's also a town that has a unique relationship with the Republic of Texas. About a quarter mile from the courthouse is the old city cemetery, established in 1824. Left of the flagpole, and a few yards down the path are three prominent markers. One of them is in honor of Tilghman Howard, Ambassador (Charge D'Affairs) from the United States to The Republic of Texas.

When we think of an ambassador, we think of someone who goes on a mission from the president of the United States to lands far off and to embassies with high walls staffed by Marines. While that modern image befits the modern age, one must remember, any country that the United States has a diplomatic relationship with has an ambassador. Texas was its own country for a time.

Tilghman Howard was born on Nov. 14, 1797, in Easley, S.C. He moved to Knoxville, Tenn. in 1816 and was admitted to the bar in 1818. After years of

practicing law, he moved to Bloomington, Ind., in 1830 and eventually to Rockville in 1833.

Being a Jacksonian Democrat, he was appointed by President Jackson to serve as Attorney for the State of Indiana (1833-1839). He served a year as Congressman from Indiana's 7th district until his resignation to run for governor in 1840.

He ran as the Democrat candidate for governor of Indiana and lost to Whig candidate Samuel Bigger.

In June of 1844, while on a trip to Washington DC, he met with President John Tyler. Tyler appointed Howard charge d'affairs to Texas. By his own account, the appointment was because of his friendship with Texas President Sam Houston dating back to their time in Tennessee. However, it's my opinion that Tyler wanted a Democrat to smooth the turbulence between him and Secretary of State, John C. Calhoun, while the 1844 annexation was being negotiated. The prior secretary of state, Tyler's go-to man, Abel Upshur was blown up in the Princeton Explosion and



Tyler and Calhoun were not working out. It's important to note that a charge d'affairs is an ambassador that has limited

powers to only administer an embassy and not to promote policy in a host country.

Howard was off to Texas. On July 4th hundreds from the Town of Rockville showed up to his farewell, and many accompanied him to Montezuma where he departed down the Wabash River. He arrived at Washington-on-the-Brazos on Aug. 2, 1844, and presented his credentials to secretary of state and future

Texas Republic President Anson Jones. Having already contracted yellow fever in Galveston en route to Washington-on-the-Brazos, he died on Aug. 16, having only served two weeks.

Eventually, Howard's body was returned to the United States and is buried in the family plot at Rockville Cemetery.

Howard County, Indiana is named after him.

This brings me to the two spots I explored to learn more about him. He's buried in Rockville Cemetery, which is about half a mile down the road from my house.

In March, while on a road trip to Texas, I visited Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park and talked to the residential historian. We surmised that more than likely, Howard stayed at the Washington Hotel for his fortnight there and most likely passed away in the hotel. Being that it's next to the office of the secretary of state, probability says, he died at the Washington Hotel.

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

The Victim Mentality

EDITOR'S NOTE: This opinion piece is from the Indiana Policy Review Foundation, a nonprofit education foundation focused on state and municipal issues. IPRF is free of outside control by any individual, organization or group. It exists solely to conduct and distribute research on Indiana issues. Opinions expressed in signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the editors, the Indiana Policy Review Foundation, or its board of directors. Nothing in this journal, whether in print or pixels, is an attempt to aid or hinder the passage of any bill or influence the election of any candidate.

Parents who set boundaries, teachers who allow consequences, leaders who demand competence and churches that preach endurance all reinforce agency rather than fragility.

In every era, people face hardship. What changes is how societies respond. Ancient cultures — especially Greece, Rome and early Christianity — emphasized agency, resilience and personal responsibility. Today, many of our institutions promote the opposite: a victim mentality that externalizes blame, demands validation and weakens character. History suggests that tough love — accountability, endurance and honest feedback — builds stronger individuals and societies than coddling ever could.

Ancient Greece and Rome were built on the expectation that individuals would master themselves and meet hardship without complaint. Greek literature offers clear examples. In

Homer's Odyssey, Odysseus faces betrayal, shipwreck and divine hostility, yet he responds with cunning and perseverance rather than self-pity. Aristotle taught that human flourishing (eudaimonia) comes not from comfort or favorable circumstances, but from cultivating virtue through disciplined action.

Stoicism turned these ideas into a practical ethic. Its central insight—the dichotomy of control — held that peace and strength come from focusing on one's own judgments and actions while accepting external events without resentment. Epictetus, born a slave, insisted that circumstances do not define us; our responses do. Marcus Aurelius echoed this as emperor: real power lies over one's mind, not outside events. Seneca viewed hardship as training, not injustice. Roman history itself provided living models. Cincinnatus left his farm to save the Republic, then immediately returned to the plow — embodying duty over personal grievance. Regulus kept his word to Carthage even at the cost of torture, showing that honor and responsibility transcend suffering.

Early Christianity deepened rather than rejected this framework.

Scripture consistently frames suffering as formative. Joseph, sold into slavery by his brothers, rose through betrayal and imprisonment by refusing self-pity and choosing faithfulness instead. Paul, beaten and imprisoned repeatedly, rejected self-pity and emphasized personal responsibility. Jesus endured the cross without resentment, praying forgiveness for His killers. The Christian message does not deny injustice, but it rejects wallowing. Believers are called to accountability, forgiveness and endurance, trusting that trials produce character.

Together, these traditions built durable cultures by elevating responsibility over resentment.

Modern Western culture has largely inverted these values. Younger generations increasingly interpret hardship through the language of grievance. Schools emphasize emotional safety over resilience. Families shield children from failure. Governments expand entitlements framed around identity and historical harm. Even churches often replace calls to repentance and endurance with therapeutic affirmation.

Social media accelerates this shift by rewarding public grievance with attention, status and institutional response. Victimhood becomes not just a way of interpreting life, but a source of moral authority.

A powerful driver of this mindset is Marxist thought. Karl Marx framed history primarily as a struggle between

oppressors and oppressed. Later thinkers expanded this framework beyond class to race, gender, sexuality and other identities. Where ancient and Christian traditions saw hardship as a challenge to overcome, Marxist-influenced frameworks treat it as permanent proof of victim status requiring institutional rescue.

The result is competitive victimhood. Social capital flows to those who can most persuasively claim oppression. Responsibility shifts away from individual agency toward governments, corporations and schools. Instead of cultivating resilience, this system incentivizes dependency.

A victim mentality does not heal individuals or societies; it erodes them. It is associated with poorer mental health, lower achievement, reduced forgiveness, and deepening social division. When institutions reward grievance with benefits, apologies, or exemptions, claims of victimhood multiply. Dependency grows, while initiative declines.

Societal cohesion also suffers. Dividing people into permanent categories of "oppressors" and "victims" breeds resentment on all sides and undermines the shared responsibility necessary for a functioning democracy.

This logic appears clearly in debates over reparations for historic injustices such as slavery. While slavery was a moral atrocity, demanding financial compensation or privi-

Dan Eichenberger
MD
Columnist



leges generations later based solely on ancestry reframes history as a permanent victim claim. This approach ultimately weakens the very groups it claims to help by discouraging the agency and resilience that ancient wisdom and Christian teaching promoted.

The same mentality damages families. Rising numbers of young adults now sever relationships with parents or siblings over perceived grievances or emotional harm. Instead of working through conflict with forgiveness, accountability and endurance, victimhood culture promotes permanent rupture. Families—the most basic source of resilience—fracture, leaving individuals more isolated and dependent on external validation or government programs.

Tough love works because it aligns with what historically produced strength: clear standards, manageable hardship and the expectation of growth. Parents who set boundaries, teachers who allow consequences, leaders who demand competence and churches that preach endurance all reinforce agency rather than fragility.

None of this denies real injustice. Some suffering is not deserved and compassion mat-

ters. But when life is primarily framed through a lens of victimhood, individuals are robbed of their power. Resilience is replaced with resentment, and growth with grievance.

The choice before us is both personal and cultural. Individually, we must reject the temptation to become victims and reclaim what is ours to control: our actions, responses and character. We must endure what we cannot change and grow stronger through it.

Culturally, we must abandon policies, education systems and habits that reward grievance and instead champion responsibility, resilience and tough love. Only by recovering the ancient wisdom of agency and the Christian call to endurance can we rebuild strong families, a confident nation and a people capable of meeting real challenges.

The age of fragility is not inevitable. It is a choice — and it can be reversed.

Dan Eichenberger, M.D., an adjunct scholar of the Indiana Policy Review Foundation, is an Indiana native with 30 years experience as a primary care physician, physician executive and healthcare consultant. He is the recipient of the Indiana University Southeast Chancellors Medallion.

Crawfordsville District Public Library

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SAT/SUN |
|---|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Cville Chess Club: 5:45p | 2 Baby Story Time: 10:30a Summer at the Museum all Month: 10a-5p | 3 Toddler Story Time: 10:30a Unearth a Local Story: Asst Chief Ryan Teeter: 3:30p Club Heavily Meditated: 7p | 4 Preschool Story Time: 10:30a Lego Club: 4p Drop-in Tech Help: 6-7p | 5 Summer Friday Fun Day: 10:30a | 6 Digital Resources online 24/7 SCAN ME 7 CLOSED |
| 8 Yam Works: 10a Cville Chess Club: 5:45p | 9 Baby Story Time: 10:30a Yoga for Better Mental Health: 5:30p Unearth a Local Story at Genealogy Club: 6p | 10 Toddler Story Time: 10:30a Healthy Living for Your Brain & Body: 6p | 11 Preschool Story Time: 10:30a CDPL Board Meeting: 4p Drop-in Tech Help: 6-7p | 12 Summer Friday Fun Day: 10:30a | 13 Book Sale 10a-4p 14 CLOSED |
| 15 Cville Chess Club: 5:45p | 16 Baby Story Time: 10:30a Special "buggy" Story Time: 5:30p Dungeons & Dragons for Beginners: 5p | 17 Toddler Story Time: 10:30a Wyrd Words Book Club: 5:30p | 18 Yam Works: 10a Preschool Story Time: 10:30a Craft Collective: 5:30p Drop-in Tech Help: 6-7p | 19 Summer Friday Fun Day: 10:30a | 20 21 CLOSED |
| 22 Cville Chess Club: 5:45p Unearth a Local Story: Meteorologist Sam Lashley: 6p | 23 Baby Story Time: 10:30a Genealogy Basics: 6p | 24 Toddler Story Time: 10:30a Mystery of History Club: 5p | 25 Preschool Story Time: 10:30a Teen Anime Club: 6p Drop-in Tech Help: 6-7p | 26 Summer Friday Fun Day: 10:30a | 27 Cville Chess Club Tournament: 10a-4p Purdue's Bug Zoo: 11a 28 CLOSED |
| 29 Cville Chess Club: 5:45p Unearth a Local Story: Archaeologist Emma Lashley: 5p | 30 Baby Story Time: 10:30a | 1 2 Sign up with BEANSTACK! It's Our Online Reading Program Hub | 3 Learn About Your New Evergreen Library Card! | 4 CLOSED | Library Hours Mon-Thu: 10a-8p Fri-Sat: 10a-5p Sun: CLOSED |

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Strawberry Festival Celebrates 52 Years

The Crawfordsville Strawberry Festival Committee is proud to announce the 52nd Annual Crawfordsville Strawberry Festival, a cherished community tradition that brings together residents and visitors for a weekend filled with family fun, entertainment, food, and shopping June 12-14th.

As the largest festival in the community, the Crawfordsville Strawberry Festival requires months of planning and coordination. The festival committee has been working for nearly a year to prepare for this year's event. The success of the festival is made possible through the dedication of volunteers, the generosity of sponsors, and the support of numerous community partners who work together to create a memorable experience for all attendees.

"The Strawberry Festival is truly a community effort," Jessica McClamroch, Chair of the Festival, said. "On behalf of our entire festival committee, we are incredibly grateful for the volunteers, sponsors, and community partners who help make this event possible year after year. Let's hope the rain holds so we can all enjoy the Festival!"

This year's festival will feature several exciting new attractions. Families can enjoy the inaugural Touch a Truck event on Friday from 5 to 7 p.m., offering children a hands-on opportunity to explore a variety of vehicles and equipment. On Saturday, Ironman Raceway's Bike Blast will take place from 2 to 5 p.m., bringing high-energy excitement to the festival grounds. On Sunday, Silly Safaris will present two free

animal shows at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., providing fun and education-

2026 Festival Committee Members: Jessica McClamroch (Chair), Chris Cogdill (Co-Chair), Dale Petrie (Treasurer), Brenda Barton (Secretary), Paul Pfladderer (Director), Ethan Grant, Stephanie Timmons, Dianne Cooksey, Patti Perkins, Chris Long, Hannah Yund, Matt Allen, Shelly Allen, Jewel Johnson, Steve Zachary, Judy Pfladderer, Gary Williams, Dan Goff, Sean Gerold, Steve Frees, Dave Long, Joyce Fitzwater, Lesli White, Joey Gerold, Chris White, Martha King, Branton Homsher, Campbell White, and Dave R. Long.

al entertainment for guests of all ages.

Festival favorites will also return throughout the weekend. The 2nd annual baby contest will be held on Saturday at noon on stage. Rock Point Church will host the community church service on Sunday at 10 a.m. Car enthusiasts can enjoy the Strawberry Festival Car Show presented by Carpenter Realtors on Sunday. The Montgomery County Pioneer Tractor Association will once again showcase its popular tractor show throughout the weekend.

Additional free family-friendly activities include Reading with the Queens on Saturday at 2 p.m., giving young readers the opportunity to enjoy stories with festival royalty. Random House will also be distributing free books throughout the weekend. The Linden Carnegie Public Library will host a Book Walk, encouraging families to read and explore together while enjoying the festival grounds. On Saturday, attendees can meet the Snow Queen from noon to 2 p.m., presented by Mermazing Princess Parties.

Visitors can browse a wide variety of arts, crafts, and commercial vendors throughout the festival. The Children's Area will offer activities and games for kids of all ages, while the Food Court

will feature a diverse selection of food vendors serving festival favorites and local specialties.

Other events happening on the festival grounds are the annual 5K Run/Walk and 1k Kiddie Romp on Saturday morning beginning at 8 a.m. with registration from 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. Those interested in donating blood

can stop by the Versiti Blood Center of Indiana Blood Drive from 11 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on Sunday. Festival attendees can also explore free First Floor Tours of the Historic Lane Place during the festival on Friday from noon to 4 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Entertainment at the 2026 Crawfordsville Strawberry Festival will keep the energy high all weekend long with a variety of live performances at the Historic Lane Place. Festival attendees can enjoy an exciting lineup featuring Lindsay Lowe & The Lone Riders, Small Town: A John Mellencamp Experience, The Midtown Madmen, Resurrection: A Journey Tribute, and Grupo Pasion. In addition to these featured acts, local musicians, performers, and dance groups will showcase their talents throughout the weekend. Please visit the website to see schedule times for all entertainment acts.

The Crawfordsville Strawberry Festival welcomes everyone to join in celebrating 52 years of tradition, community spirit, and hometown pride.

For additional festival information, schedules and event updates, visit the Crawfordsville Strawberry Festival's website and social media channels.

Down Under

My home office is downstairs. It was just a cellar when we moved into this house in 2018, but we invested a little money to fix it up, so it became a basement. I guess you could call it a finished basement. Well, it will be finished, if we ever finish paying the mortgage.

Apparently, it wasn't finished enough. A designer we hired said that for a few extra bucks, she could add a few finishing touches, and then we could truthfully call it our lower level. We didn't have that kind of money, so it's still a basement.

Our original plan was to make it a beautiful room for entertaining guests, sipping white wine, and discussing good books. That hasn't happened. I occasionally invite people downstairs to see my huge Laurel and Hardy statues, and my wife once let the neighborhood yoga group practice Balasana, Uttanasana, and Savasana. (By the way, that last one is called a corpse pose, and it scared me half to death when I peeked in on the class. Did I leave the gas on?)

In my office, I have lots of my TV memorabilia on the wall. I'm in every single photo. Then there are photos in the rest of the cellar that Mary Ellen took on our vacations, and



Dick Wolfsie
Columnist

later had them blown up and framed. I am not in one of these pictures. Fair is fair.

This all reminded me of the last basement in our previous home.

We had a pool table that I bought in 1998. We seldom played pool. We used the cue sticks to wrangle cobwebs from the ceiling. I stored a dozen suitcases under the base, and the top of the table became a perfect nesting area for a year's supply of Campbell's Soup. Each side pocket held a flashlight. Corner pockets? Duct tape, Scotch tape, masking tape, and electrical tape. And my wife said we'd never use the pool table. Jeez, what a pessimist.

We finally decided to get rid of the exercise bike because we couldn't hang enough clothes on the handlebars to make it worthwhile.

Two years ago, Mary Ellen thought we should get a ping-pong table. That Christmas Eve, I told her I had a

surprise for her in the basement...

"Oh, that's great," she said. "Did you get rid of the Laurel and Hardy statues?"

We played ping pong once. We took a break when the score was 9 to 6. We hope to finish the game before race day. Right now, it is the perfect place for 16 cans of Bush's Baked Beans.

Let me sum up the current state of our lower level. We have an exercise bike that needs a little exercise, a rowing machine that has been left adrift, and a ping-pong table that is seldom pinged or ponged.

We do have a treadmill that Mary Ellen uses quite often, mostly to catch up on Outlander and Call the Midwife episodes on her iPad while walking. I also use it religiously, which means only on Sundays for 10 minutes after church.

I told Mary Ellen it was about time we finished the table tennis game that we started.

But first, I have a whole lot of baked beans to eat.

Lecture Series Returns to Gen. Lew Wallace Study

In honor of America's 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence this year, the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum is proud to present historian Gail Stephens, author of Shadow of Shiloh, her award-winning biography Wallace's military career. Stephens will offer her program in Crawfordsville on Thursday 11 at 7 p.m. in the Carriage House Interpretive Center at the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum.

Stephens will discuss Wallace's Civil War career from his acclaimed 1861 victory in the mountains of Virginia to the 1864 battle of Monocacy, which saved Washington from Confederate seizure. Her focus will be on his controversial role in the battle of Shiloh.

She has a Bachelor's Degree in International Politics from George Washington University in Washington DC. She did graduate work at Johns Hopkins and Harvard Universities. Stephens worked for the National Security Agency for 26 years before retiring in 1994 as a member of the Agency's Senior Executive Service. Upon retirement, she began to study the American Civil War.

In 2002, she won the National Park Service's E.W. Peterkin Award for her contributions to public understanding of Civil

War history. Her book on Wallace's Civil War career, Shadow of Shiloh: Major General Lew Wallace in the Civil War, published in October 2010 by the Indiana Historical Society Press, won the Civil War Forum of New York City's William Henry Seward Award for best Civil War biography of 2011.

In 2015, she moved to New Mexico. She is currently drafting a book on Wallace's tough tenure as Territorial Governor of New Mexico during the era of Lincoln County War.

This presentation is free and open to the public and the Carriage House is ADA ac-

cessible, seating is limited and reservations are strongly suggested. For more information visit our website: www.ben-hur.com or call Thomas Meeks at (765) 362-5769 or email tmeeks@ben-hur.com.

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