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The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

50¢

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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TODAY'S VERSE

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (NIV)

FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Baby Miranda Leahy was just getting a look around at her new world when she got her picture taken! Welcome to our planet, Miranda!

THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton's next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the city building, 300 E. Pike St. This will be the last community forum for 2021. Barton told citizens he would have these monthly meetings when he first ran for mayor. This is the 10th year, with the only months missed were from March of 2020 through July of 2021 because of the pandemic.

2 U.S. 231 in Crawfordsville will be closed for a few days. Beginning Monday at 8 a.m., the Indiana Department of Transportation will close Washington Street / U.S. 231 at the railroad tracks. CSX Railroad will be on hand to make repairs. The closure should last until Friday at noon. A detour will be set up that follows U.S. 231 south to east on Wabash Avenue, and then south on Mill Street and west on South Boulevard and back to U.S. 231. Traffic traveling in the opposite direction will use the same detour in reverse.

3 The deadline for submitting Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) applications for 2022 projects is Jan. 15. The LARE program strives to protect and enhance aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife while ensuring the continued viability of Indiana's publicly accessible lakes, rivers, and streams. Wetland enhancement, streambank stabilization, and logjam removal are just a few projects that LARE funds can be awarded for. Applications must be completed and submitted electronically.

Chamber director goes back to Wabash

Wabash College's gain is the Chamber of Commerce's loss. Cassie Hagan, the most recent executive director for the Crawfordsville Chamber, will be the new Director of Professional Development and Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship effective Jan. 3. "Cassie emerged from an exceptional pool of applicants based on her strong record of accomplishments, including her past experiences helping Wabash men prepare for their lives after Wabash," Wabash President Scott Feller said. "We know that she will hit the ground running and will continue Wabash's stellar record of helping our graduates find their first destinations in jobs, graduate schools, and service." Attempts to reach Chamber



Cassie Hagan

Board President Tracy Mobley were unsuccessful. This is Hagan's second stint at Wabash. She previously served as Associate Director of Career Services. "We are delighted to have Cassie return to the Professional

Development Team," said Dean for Professional Development Steven Jones. "Her contributions as Associate Director contributed greatly to the excellent outcomes we achieved between 2013 and 2019. Her most recent experience will allow her to lead the Center for Innovation, Business, and Entrepreneurship (CIBE) with a new perspective on how we continue to grow the CIBE." Hagan's leadership of the Chamber of Commerce involved a complete rebuild of the staff and board of directors. She led efforts to re-brand the Chamber and helped create new strategies for supporting small businesses and non-profits, made particularly difficult because of the COVID pandemic. She has also

➔ See WABASH Page A5

OPERATION TOY BOX full steam ahead

For the 28th year OPERATION TOY BOX is collecting toys for needy families in the Montgomery County area. OPERATION TOY BOX began with the help of Gloria and Dave Long working along with the Delta Theta Tau Sorority. In 2020 the Crawfordsville Kiwanis Club took over the operation and is now in their second year of facilitating OPERATION TOY BOX.

OPERATION TOY BOX currently partners with the REINdear project of the Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau who furnishes the names of the eligible families for OPERATION TOY BOX.

Signs have been posted at collection sites in our area including Creek Jewelers, Christi Hubler Chevrolet, Etter Ford, York Automotive and numerous other locations. New, unwrapped toys for children ages infant to 15 years of age

➔ See TOY Page A5

Valero donates \$20K to local non-profits

Valero's Linden Ethanol Plant distributed a total of \$20,000 to charities in Montgomery and Tippecanoe counties from money raised through the Valero Texas Open and Valero Benefit for Children.

The 2021 Valero Benefit for Children local recipients included the Boys and Girls Club of Montgomery County, Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau, Food Finders Food Bank Backpack Program and Helping Challenged Children.

"We're driven to make a difference for our community," Mark Brown, Plant Manager of the Valero Linden Ethanol Plant, said. "We're proud to continue supporting these agencies and all they do to improve children's lives in our community."

This year the tournament and associated events, including the BFC, raised more than

➔ See VALERO Page A5



Photos courtesy Valero Linden Ethanol Plant

A Valero representative handed Craig Reeves of the Boys & Girls Club a check for \$5,000.



Karen Branch from the YSB also got a donation from Valero for \$5,000.

Ms. Mattie's life ended in a most dramatic way

Current medicine marvels me and prompted this article as I'm more than sure this situation likely would never have happened with the proper medications of today's world. Instead, you'll read about a tragedy versus a happy ending.



KAREN ZACH
Around The County

Meet our dramatist, Mattie Griffin Canary. In my



teen years, she would have been described as one hot babe with a compelling figure, more than ordinary beauty, and besides all that, could carry on an intellectual conversation with almost anyone, dressed beautifully and always made a good impression. However, in her obituary, she was noted as "being pitifully weak," and I'll add in many concerns.

For one, she was so indecisive and for another, a bit wild. In one obituary, it was noted that she "did not know her own mind and if actions are to be considered as criterion, she did not have much to know!" Thought that was rather cruel, but toward the truth, as well.

➔ See KAREN Page A5

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 7:58 a.m.
SET: 5:22 p.m.

High/Low Temperatures
High: 48 °F
Low: 25 °F

Wacky Holiday Today
• Christmas Card Day
• National Llama Day

What Happened On This Day
• 1979 Smallpox declared eradicated
• 1965 Charlie Brown Christmas makes airs for the first time on television

Births On This Day
• 1608 John Milton English poet
• 1934 Judi Dench English actress

Deaths On This Day
• 2012 Patrick Moore English astronomer
• 1998 Archie Moore American boxer

HONEST HOOSIER

Christmas is two weeks and two days away. One of my favorite memories is popping popcorn and making strings of it for the tree.



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Take family walks - it's good exercise and good for conversation. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Paper and online at www.thepaper24-7.com.



INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

Obituaries.....A2
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THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE Happenings at Linden Library

Looking for some things to do? Then head over to the Linden Library! There is an Adult Reading Program that goes through Feb. 28. And next Thursday, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., there will be a Free Soup & Game Night sponsored by the library but held at the Linden United Methodist Church. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. and then board games will be provided to guests. Soup and drinks will be provided. You may bring a side dish but it is not required to attend.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"Christmas to me is as many people as possible happy."
Tupac Shakur

TODAY'S JOKE

What do reindeer hang on their Christmas trees?
Horn-aments!

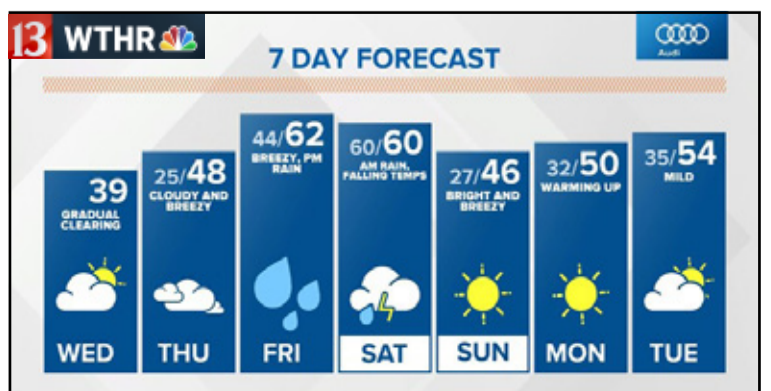
OBITUARIES

Connie Kouns
Mary Patricia Edmonds
Michelle Elaine Freeman
Randy Leon Dickerson

The Paper appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank JERRY WHALEN of Crawfordsville for subscribing!



The Paper
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY



OBITUARIES

Randy Leon Dickerson

Sept. 22, 1959-Dec. 2, 2021

Randy Leon Dickerson, 62, of Roanoke, Va., passed on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021.

Randy was born and raised in Crawfordsville before moving to Roanoke, Va. He, his wife and children have lived there for the past 25 years.

Mr. Dickerson was retired and enjoyed spending time in his garden and doing woodworking. He was a fan of muscle cars, and especially Mustangs. He loved rock n' roll music, spending time with his grandchildren, spoiling the family dog Bella, and was well known for his sense of humor, especially his use of puns and dad jokes.

Survivors include his wife of 38 years, Melissa (Kunkle) Dickerson; his son, Eli Dickerson and daughter-in-law, Kaitlyn (Fisher) Dickerson; his grandchildren, Tinzleigh Faye Marie, Scarlett Lakin, and Mac Leon; his daughter, Salina Dickerson and future son-in-law, Zakarie Adorno; brothers, Ron Dickerson and Gary Dickerson; and step-mother, Jeane (Smith) Dickerson.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Dorothy (Meadows) Dickerson, 52 years ago to the day; his father, Howard Lewis Dickerson; his paternal grandmother, Hiltred (Weliver) Dickerson; paternal grandfather, Frank Dickerson; and maternal grandparents, Basil and Blanche Meadows

There will be a Celebration of Life event planned at a later date.

For those who are unable to attend, please consider donating in honor of Randy to Angels of Assisi (a local nonprofit animal welfare organization) at Assisi Animal Clinics of VA, Inc., 415 Campbell Ave., SW, Roanoke, VA 24016 or to a charity of your choosing.

The family would enjoy hearing any memories or stories and/or photos you would like to share of Randy. Just go to <https://memorial.oakeys.com/randy-dickerson/4795040/> and click on Memory Wall.

Michelle Elaine Freeman

April 10, 1954 - Dec. 5, 2021

Michelle Elaine Freeman, 67, passed away on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 5, 2021 at IU in Lafayette.

She was born on April 10, 1954 in Linden, to the late Donald and Miriam (Eaton) Wade.

After high school she married Thomas Freeman and together they raised two sons, Christopher and David. Mrs. Freeman was very artistic and enjoyed woodworking, artwork, painting and writing. She was a beloved wife and mother, and will be missed by those she leaves behind.

Survivors include her children, Christopher Freeman of Indianapolis and David (Trisha) Freeman of Wingate; six grandchildren; brother, David Wade; and sisters, Judith Wade and Carol Wade.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and husband, Thomas.

Funeral service are scheduled for 12 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 10, 2021 at Servies & Morgan Funeral Home, 203 N. Washington Street in Ladoga. Burial will follow in Indian Creek Hill Cemetery. Friends and family are invited to gather for a time of visitation on Friday from 11 a.m. until time of service at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family. You are invited to visit www.serviesmorgan.com where you may leave an online condolence for the family. Servies & Morgan Funeral Home has been entrusted with the funeral arrangements.

Connie Kouns

Feb. 10, 1954 - Dec. 5, 2021

Connie Kouns, 67, Crawfordsville, passed away Sunday evening at Franciscan Health Crawfordsville.

She was born Feb. 10, 1954 in Lebanon to Ellis and Martha Freeland.

She had worked at McDonalds and Buffalo Wild Wings. She married Ivan Kouns on March 9, 1990, he survives.

Survivors include her husband; his children, Michael (Tamara) Riddle, Chris Riddle, Angela French, Timothy Kouns and Jesse Kouns; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Friday at Hunt & Son Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 12-2 p.m. at the funeral home. Cremation will follow the service.

Mary Patricia Edmonds

Aug. 8, 1943 - Dec. 8, 2021

Mary Patricia Edmonds, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021 at The Lane House.

She was born in Crawfordsville on Aug. 8, 1943.

Mrs. Edmonds attended Crawfordsville schools and was a member of St. Bernard Catholic Church. Mrs. Edmonds had been a waitress at several local restaurants

She enjoyed Colts football, games, working in the yard, gardening and relaxing on the porch with a glass of wine. She married Robert Edmonds on Jan. 19, 1963 and he preceded her in death.

Survivors include her daughter, Michelle; and two grandsons, Chip (Shelley) and Kevin.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents; her daughter, Marilyn; her brother, Bud; and her sister, Libby.

Funeral services are scheduled for 2 p.m. on Saturday at Hunt & Son Funeral Home, with Rev. Michael Bower officiating. Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery. Friends may call two hours prior to the service.

For memorial contributions may be made to St. Bernard Catholic Church. She will be greatly missed.



Meeting Notes

Board of Works and Public Safety

Meeting Agenda
 The City of Crawfordsville Indiana
 Dec. 8, 2021 at 10 a.m.
 City Building 300 E
 Pike St Crawfordsville, IN 47933

I. Approval of the minutes from Dec. 1, 2021.

II. Approval of the claims for the week of Dec. 6, 2021.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business
 a) Change order - bid received on March 31, 2021 from York Chrysler for 2021 Dodge Ram 2500 due to elimination of fleet pricing by Chrysler. (Street Department)

• Original bid \$30,750
 • Change order, additional \$14,012

Triple-homicide investigation makes arrest in Lebanon area

Chad Grimball, 40, Thorntown, has been charged with the murders of Larry Stogsdill Junior, Brannon Martin and Grace Bishop that took place on the evening of Sept. 8, 2021, located at 403 East Walnut Street.

Chad Grimball faces the following charges:

- 3 counts of Murder
- 1 count of carrying a handgun without a license, Level 5 Felony
- 1 count of carrying a firearm without a license, Class A Misdemeanor
- 1 count of unlawful possession of a firearm by a domestic batterer, Class A Misdemeanor.

Lebanon Police filed charges with the Boone County Prosecutors Office on Dec. 7, 2021.

A judge issued a warrant on December 8th, 2021, and Chad Grimball was served with the warrant at the Boone County Jail where Grimball has been incarcerated since Oct. 7,

2021, for charges relating to possession of a firearm by a felon.

The Lebanon Police Department would like to thank our community for your help and support. Lebanon Police Department Detectives and members of the Boone County Prosecutors Office will continue to work diligently until the conclusion of this case and all involved are held accountable.

The Lebanon Police Department was assisted by a number of agencies across Boone County during this investigation including the Boone County Sheriff's Office, the Whitestown Police Department, the Zionsville Police Department, the Thorntown Police Department, the Boone County Prosecutors Office, and the Boone County Coroner's Office.

All suspects are innocent until proven guilty

Club News

Psi Iota Xi, Gamma Xi Chapter holds meeting

Twelve members attended a Zoom meeting of the Gamma Xi Chapter of Psi Iota Xi held on Dec. 6, 2021. Co-president Jennie Hesler called the meeting to order with the Opening Verse and took attendance. December birthdays were announced and Happy Bucks were shared. The treasurer's report and minutes of the last meeting were shared by email. A donation was sent to the Montgomery County Mental Health. Members reported on the status of our national project application and our state grant application. Members discussed the possibility of applying for local grant funds.

Committee reports were presented. Tamara Hemmerlein reported that her committee will be meeting soon to plan the project with the funds provided by the state rotating grant that we received. Angie Griggs and Pam Karle reported on the successful cheeseball

sale. Some extras were made. Please contact a Gamma Xi member if you would like to purchase some cheeseballs. We want to thank all in the community who have supported us through the cheeseball sale and the annual appeal for donations. Your support helps our chapter with our many projects for the children of Montgomery County. We also thank those who have supported the Elizabeth Backe Scholarship Fund that provides a scholarship to a Purdue University graduate student in the area of speech and hearing. Pam Karle reported that plans are under way for the spring geranium sale in April.

The meeting concluded with members playing a game called Name that Christmas Movie. The next meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 3 at 7 p.m. The meeting was adjourned with the closing verse.

Meeting Notes

North Montgomery Community School Corporation

Monday, Dec. 13, 2021
 480 W 580 N
 Crawfordsville, IN 47933

December 13, 2021 Regular School Board Meeting 6 p.m.

1. Public Hearing for Comments on the Back to School Plan

2. Call to Order

2.1 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance (please stand)

3. Consent Agenda

3.1 Minutes

3.2 Monthly Claims

3.3 Personnel, Extra-Curricular, Field Trips, Facilities Usage, Contributions, Gifts, Superintendent Stipends

3.4 Other

3.5 Consent Vote

4. Other

4.1 Presentation of the Montgomery County Re-tired Teacher Grant

5. Action Items

5.1 First Reading on Policy 2603 - School Performance Internet Dashboard

5.2 Approve Policy Revisions to Policies:

0167.3 - Public Participation at Board Meetings, 1220- Employment of the Superintendent, 1520- Employment of Administrators in Addition to the Superintendent, 2262 • Latch-Key Programs, 2370.03 - Indiana Course Access Program, 3120.08 - Em-

ployment of Personnel for Extra-Curricular Activities, 3120.11 -Public Hearing Before Commencement of Collective Bargaining and Public Meeting Before Ratification of Tentative Agreement, 3214 - Staff Gifts, 3220- Staff Evaluation, 4120.08 - Employment of Personnel for Extra-Curricular Activities, 4214- Staff Gifts, 5113.02 School Transfer Options, 5340.01 -Student concussions and Sudden Cardiac Arrest, 5460 - Graduation Requirements, 5540 • The Schools and Governmental Agencies, 5722 - School Sponsored Student Publications and Productions, 6105 - Authorization to Accept and Distribute Electronic Records and to use Electronic Signature, 6114 - Cost Principles - Spending Federal Funds, 6220 - Budget Preparation, 6230- Budget Hearing, 7300 - Disposition of Real Property, 7310 - Disposition of Surplus Property, 7450 - Property Inventory, 7540.03 - Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, 7540.04 - Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety, 8305 - Information Security, 8455 - Coach Training, References, and IHSAA Reporting, 8600 - Transportation

5.3 Approve Solar Project Installation Contract with Performance Services

5.4 Approve Budget Expenditures & Intra-Fund Transfer to Balance Various Funds

6. Adjournment

6.1 Adjourn




THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CLIENTS AND EMPLOYEES FOR A GREAT 2021!
May 2022 be as bright and prosperous!
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Dave, Haley, Kim, Lisa, Paula

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BBB Scam Alert: Beware of Medicare and ACA cons during special enrollment period

The coronavirus pandemic left many Americans unemployed — and uninsured. To give people a chance to sign up for health care coverage, the U.S. federal government has opened Medicare.gov from Oct. 15, 2021 – Dec. 7, 2021. Healthcare.gov is open from Nov. 1, 2021 to Jan. 15, 2022. Unfortunately, scammers often see open enrollments as a chance to trick people out of money and personal information.

How the Scam Works: Anytime the government has an open enrollment, people understandably have questions and concerns. Scammers take advantage of this opportunity to confuse and mislead victims.

BBB.org/ScamTracker gets many reports about scammers claiming to be a government representative who can help you navigate your Medicare or Affordable Care Act options. Scammers claim to be a “health care benefits advocate” or a similar title. These scammers allege they can enroll you in a better program than what you currently have. This new plan is cheaper,

and you can keep all the same services. To get started, all you need to do is provide some personal information, such as your Medicare ID number. Of course, the call is a scam, and sharing personal information will open you up to identity theft.

In another common scam, callers try to frighten — rather than assist — victims with their health care plans. In this case, scammers claim that your Medicare will be discontinued if you didn't re-enroll. Fortunately, this “Medicare advisor” can fix the situation — if you share personal information with them.

Watch out for similar scams this fall. Healthcare.gov does provide legitimate help with figuring out which plan is right for you. These people — sometimes called Navigators or Assisters — are not allowed to charge for their help. If someone asks you for payment, it's a scam. You will also need to contact them. They will not call you out-of-the-blue.

Tips to Avoid Open Enrollment Scams

Selecting a health insurance plan can be challeng-



ing and complex. Be on the lookout for common red flags.

Be wary of anyone who contacts you unsolicited. People representing Medicare or ACA plans don't contact you by phone, email, or in person unless you are already enrolled. Be especially cautious of threatening calls that require quick action or immediate payment.

Decline promotional gifts in exchange for personal information. Keep a healthy level of skepticism any time a broker offers you free gifts, health screenings, or other special deals. Never sign up with a broker who offers you an expensive “sign-up gift” in exchange for providing your Medi-

About BBB Serving Central Indiana

For more than 100 years, Better Business Bureau has been helping people find businesses, brands and charities they can trust. In 2018, people turned to BBB more than 173 million times for BBB Business Profiles on more than 5.4 million businesses and Charity Reports on 11,000 charities, all available for free at bbb.org. There are local, independent BBBs across the United States, Canada and Mexico, including BBB serving Central Indiana, which was founded in 1916 and serves 46 counties.

care ID number or other personally identifiable information.

Beware of dishonest brokers who offer “free health screenings.” Some brokers offer this to weed out people who are less healthy. This is called “cherry picking” and is against the Medicare rules.

Guard your government-issued numbers. Never offer your Medicare ID number, Social Security number, health plan info, or banking information to anyone you don't know.

Hang up and go to official websites. You can enroll or re-enroll in Medicare at Medicare.gov or in a marketplace health plan at Healthcare.gov.

For more information:

If you are unsure whether a call or offer is from Medicare, or you gave your personal information to someone claiming to be with Medicare, call 1-800-MEDICARE to report it. If you suspect fraud when signing up for ACA coverage, go to Healthcare.gov or call the Health Insurance Marketplace call center at 800-318-2596.

For more tips from BBB on avoiding health care scams, check BBB.org/HealthCareScam. If you've been the victim of a scam, please report it to BBB.org/ScamTracker. By sharing your experience, you can help others avoid falling victim to similar scams.

For More Information Read more tips on social media ad scams.

Avoid scams this holiday season by reading BBB's Holiday Tips. You can find more tips by reading BBB's tips for smart shopping online and visiting BBB.org/Avoid-Scams.

If you've come across a social media scam recently, report it at BBB.org/ScamTracker. Your report can help others spot a scam before it's too late.

ABOUT BBB SERVING CENTRAL INDIANA: For more than 100 years, Better Business Bureau has been helping people find businesses, brands and charities they can trust. In 2020, people turned to BBB more than 220 million times for BBB Business Profiles on more than 6.2 million businesses and Charity Reports on 11,000 charities, all available for free at BBB.org. There are local, independent BBBs across the United States, Canada and Mexico, including BBB serving Central Indiana, which was founded in 1916 and serves 46 counties.

Indiana State Fairgrounds gives back to the community during the holiday season

The holiday season brings a unique merriment that encourages spirited fun, giving back, and meaningful time spent with family and friends. Once again, despite the challenges of the last 18 months, holiday magic remains present at the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center. The Fairgrounds gives back in several efforts that impact the community and bring joy to Hoosiers.

11th Annual Million Meal Movement – Million Meal Movement Tip-Off

Held on Oct. 14, this effort focused on feeding hungry Hoosiers, while teaching the power of volunteerism. The Tip-Off event, held at the Indiana Farmers Coliseum,

was the first time that the Fairgrounds partnered with Pacers Sports Entertainment on this important project. At the end of the day, volunteers had assembled 110,000 packages of macaroni and cheese pasta.

WTHR's Coats for Kids For more than 35 years, Coats for Kids has helped to make sure central Indiana kids stay warm. This year's event, held Oct. 16 at the Fairgrounds' Champions Pavilion, provided more than 3,000 children with coats. WTHR is The Paper of Montgomery County's news gathering partner.

Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center 25th Annual Safe Night Halloween



INDIANA STATE FAIR

For the 25th year the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center, along with several community partners, came together to host Safe Night Halloween Trunk or Treat event on October 31 on the northside of the Fairgrounds at Celebration Park (outdoors, trunk or treat-style). Offering kids and parents a free, safe place to spend Halloween, the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center's Safe Night Halloween was

open to children ages 12 and under who are accompanied by an adult.

This annual event began as a community service for State Fairgrounds-area neighborhood families and, thanks to generous sponsors and donors to the Indiana State Fair Foundation, the event has provided a free, fun and safe Halloween to more than 60,000 area children since 1996.

The Little Red Door's 13th Annual Face of Hope

Breakfast

Held from 7 – 9:30 a.m. Nov. 18 at the Hoosier Lottery Expo Hall, this free breakfast helped the community learn more about the organization and how it's impacted the cancer community for more than six decades.

21st Annual YMCA Toy Distribution Event

From 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Dec. 18 at the State Fairgrounds' Champions Pavilion, kids in central Indiana ages newborn to 15 will receive toys from Santa. The Fairgrounds is proud to partner with the YMCA on this event and to help bring smiles to more than 3,500 children each year. Registration is now closed, as the pro-

gram is full this year.

Indiana State Fairgrounds and Event Center Food & Fund Drive to Benefit Gleaners Food Bank

For the second year, Indiana State Fairgrounds' team members will have the opportunity to donate food or funds to benefit Gleaners Food Bank during the month of December. On a yearly basis, hundreds of thousands of hungry Hoosiers depend on food and other critical grocery products provided by Gleaners. The organization supplies items to hunger relief agencies and schools throughout 21 counties in central and southeastern Indiana.

Indiana soon discontinuing Afghan donation collections as population and need diminishes

The statewide donation effort to help Afghan evacuees at Camp Atterbury will wind down this week as existing donations meet the needs of the thousands of evacuees who are being resettled across the country.

The eight Indiana National Guard armories used as collection sites will cease collections at 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 10.

The outpouring of support for the Afghans temporarily housed in Indiana has led to a surplus of some items, and planning is underway to determine how to provide needed resources in the months ahead to evacuees who have been resettled. Camp Atterbury is expected to house evacuees through the end of January.

“The success of this initiative to support Operations Allies Welcome reaffirms the undeniable fact that Hoosier Hospitality is alive and well,” Governor Eric J. Holcomb said. “I am extremely thankful how Indiana residents stepped up to help these evacuees, many of whom sacrificed so much for our country.”

As of Dec. 1, Camp Atterbury reported more than 1.6 million items had been donated since Gov. Holcomb launched the statewide program in September. Data from donation efforts at other Afghan safe haven sites indicate Indiana was a national leader in the support of the mission. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana Department of Correction and other state agencies collaborated on this mission.

National Guard per-



sonnel kept the armories operational, helped pick up and deliver items and completed a variety of other tasks to make the mission a success.

“Our Indiana National Guard soldiers, airmen and Guard Reservists were proud to assist in Operation Hoosier Allies Support along with our state agencies in collecting donations for our Afghan allies who were instrumental to our forces, including our Guardsmen, in America's operations in Afghanistan for nearly 20 years,” said the Indiana National Guard Adjutant General R. Dale Lyles.

Camp Atterbury officials are working to establish a clearinghouse of remaining items to help support Indiana resettlement agencies. As of Dec. 1, more than 300 Afghans have been resettled in Indiana with the potential for up to a total of 700 to be resettled in Indiana in the coming weeks. State and federal personnel have been working with several resettlement agencies, including Exodus International, Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne, South Bend and Indianapolis, The Welcome Network and the Burmese American Community Institute.

The Camp Atterbury Rail Deployment Facility, at 5921 Schoolhouse Road in Franklin, Ind., 46131,

will continue to accept donations until the end of January 2022.

Sites still collecting donations until 4 p.m. Friday include:

Fort Wayne: 130 W. Cook Road, Fort Wayne, IN, 46825

South Bend: 1901 S. Kemble Avenue, South Bend, IN, 46613

Lafayette: 5280 Haggarty Lane, Lafayette, IN, 47905

Terre Haute: 3614 Maple Avenue, Terre Haute, IN, 47804

Kessler (Indy): 2625 W. Kessler Blvd N Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46222

Evansville: 3300 E. Division St., Evansville, IN, 47715

New Albany: 2909 Grant Line Road, New Albany, IN, 47150

Columbus: 2160 Arnold St. Columbus, IN, 47203

Organizations that have been collecting items for the Afghans at Camp Atterbury can contact Tyler Smith with Team Rubicon after Dec. 10 to arrange to drop off large donations. The items most in need include wallets, shoes, bras, fingernail clippers, personal hygiene items and activity items like crochet supplies, games, books and toys.

Indiana Department of Homeland Security

Established in 2005, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) leads the way to a safer and more secure Indiana. With jurisdictions involving emergency management, building code enforcement, as well as training and certification for first responders around the state, IDHS works to provide a safe, secure and resilient Indiana. For more information about IDHS, visit dhs.in.gov.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy & blessed New Year!

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USDA to make up to \$800mil available to provide relief to biofuel producers and restore renewable fuel markets

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that USDA will make up to \$800 million available to support biofuel producers and infrastructure. The announcement includes \$700 million to provide economic relief to biofuel producers and restore renewable fuel markets affected by the pandemic. The Department will make the funds available through the new Biofuel Producer Program authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Additionally, in the coming months, the Department will make \$100 million available to increase significantly the sales and use of higher blends of bioethanol and biodiesel by expanding the infrastructure for renewable fuels derived from U.S. agricultural products. The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to further growth of the biofuels industry, and the House-passed Build Back Better Act commits additional funding that will provide better market access for farmers and more affordable and cleaner fuels for consumers.

"Under the leadership of President Biden and Vice President Harris, USDA is providing direct relief to the people of rural America who are still reeling from the economic impacts of the pandemic," Vilsack said. "As we continue to rebuild the nation's economy, USDA is targeting resources and investments to improve the strength and resiliency of America's sustainable fuel markets. The relief we're announcing today will pave the way to economic recovery for America's biofuel producers, stimulate a critical market for U.S. farmers and ranchers and move the country closer to President Biden's goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050."

Background on the Biofuel Producer Program

Through the Biofuel Producer Program, USDA will make up to \$700 million in direct payments available for biofuel producers who faced unexpected market losses due to the pandemic. USDA



will announce the official application window for this program within the coming week.

By making payments to biofuels producers, the program will help agricultural producers maintain and create more viable markets for products that supply biofuel production, such as corn, soybeans, or biomass. Payments will be based on the producer's market loss volume in 2020, which is calculated by the amount of fuel produced in 2020 in comparison to 2019.

Background on Grants for Biofuels Infrastructure
USDA intends to make up to \$100 million available in new funds for grants for biofuels infrastructure, such as blender pumps which ensure biofuels have greater availability in the retail market. The funding will provide grants to refueling and distribution facilities for cost of installation, retrofitting or otherwise upgrading of infrastructure required at a location to ensure the environmentally safe availability of fuel containing bioethanol blends of E-15 and greater or fuel containing biodiesel blends B-20 and greater. USDA will announce the official application window for grants within the coming months.

This announcement comes on the heels of an announcement the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) made today. EPA is proposing a package of actions setting biofuels volumes for years 2022, 2021, and 2020, and

introducing regulatory changes intended to enhance the program's objectives. In addition, EPA is asking for public comment on a proposed decision to deny petitions to exempt small refineries from RFS program requirements. Read the full announcement at www.epa.gov/newsroom.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov. If you'd like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit our GovDelivery subscriber page.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate-smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

Indianapolis Symphonic Choir celebrates live performance return of annual holiday tradition

The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir's Festival of Carols. A Midwest family tradition filled with a variety of holiday favorites, the Choir will be joined by guest artists including Indianapolis native and world-renowned soprano Angela Brown, the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, and of course - Santa. Although the Symphonic Choir is best known for performing classical music, Festival of Carols features a selection of fan-favorite and traditional holiday music such as "Joy to the World," "Do You Hear What I Hear?" and Kenny Loggins' "Celebrate Me Home." Timeless classics will be intertwined with holiday film favorites, a visit from Santa, and Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus."

WHEN & WHERE:
Presenting Partner: Indianapolis Monthly
Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021 at 7 p.m. - Warren Performing Arts Center*
Friday, Dec. 17, 2021 at 8 p.m. - The Palladium, Carmel

Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021 at 3 p.m. - The Palladium, Carmel**
Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021 at 3 p.m. - The Palladium, Carmel*

*Denotes performance with sign language (ASL) interpretation.

**Denotes performance with live stream option available.

TICKETS: For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.indychoir.org.

LOCAL COMPOSER'S PREMIERE: Festival of

Carols will also feature the world premiere of "Gather Round the Holy Manger," winner of the 12th Annual Christmas Carol Commission Competition, an initiative as part of the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir's ongoing commitment to the future of choral music. Composer Joyce Vickery, an Indianapolis native, is an alumna of the International Hymn Writing Collective where she studied modern hymn writing with Matt Merker and Keith Getty. A homeschooling mother, Vickery finds great joy in writing songs for her local church and elementary music classes. She holds a BM in Composition from Indiana University, where she first studied choral composition with the renowned Swedish composer Sven-David Sandstrom. She currently resides in Indianapolis with her husband and six children.

HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY INFORMATION: The Indianapolis Symphonic Choir will require proof of full COVID-19 vaccination, or a negative COVID-19 PCR test for anyone ages 12 years and older for all self-produced productions in the 2021-2022 season, which includes Festival of Carols. Policy details:

Children under 12 years of age are exempt from the vaccination mandate and the testing requirement, although a mask must be worn at all times for children over the age of 2.

Patrons must have a completed Covid-19 vaccination card with their final

dose at least 14 days prior to the event, or a negative PCR test result within 72 hours or less prior to the event.

Proof of vaccination may include a physical card or a photo of a complete vaccination card that matches the patron ID.

Proof of a negative test may be a printed or digital PCR test result (Rapid or Antigen tests not accepted) that matches the patron ID.

People with a medical condition or closely held religious belief that prevents vaccination can attend with proof of a recent negative coronavirus test.

In addition, per the latest CDC guidelines, patrons, staff, and volunteers will be required to wear masks regardless of vaccination status.

CHRISTMAS CAROL COMMISSION COMPETITION: Applications are now being accepted through May 31, 2022 for the 13th Annual Christmas Carol Commission Competition. For more information and application guidelines, visit <https://indychoir.org/outreach/commission-competition/>. Winners of the Commission Competition have been published by these and other publishers: EC Schirmer, Shawnee Press, Beckenhorst Press. Access and awareness of the annual competition has reached more than 44,000 students, teachers, and industry professionals through the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir's ad placement in Musical America's competition database.

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