

Brought to you by:

Sanders Priebe

FUNERAL CARE

Our Family Caring For Yours

315 S Washington St Crawfordsville, IN 47933

765-362-6849

www.sandersfuneralcare.com

TODAY'S VERSE

Matthew 7:2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

⇒ FACES of MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



John Douglas offered a bright smile to one of our roving photographers recently. John said he works at the power company and was enjoying another great day! Thank you for your smile, John!

⇒ THREE THINGS You Should Know:

Want to do something that might save someone's life? Then be sure to be in Waveland on Jan. 7 so that you can donate blood. This life-saving event takes place at the Waveland Library, located at 115 E. Green St. from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. in conjunction with the American Red Cross. Contact the library for more details at (765) 435-2700 or e-mail them at director@waveland.lin.in.us

Hoosiers will soon be able to sport a specialty license ■ plate to show their support for YMCAs throughout the state. Proceeds from plate purchases will benefit YMCA efforts to help youth develop personal growth and engagement in life-long, responsible citizenship as well as access to health and wellness programs across Indiana. The plates, which feature a big blue and purple Y, will be available beginning Jan. 3, for passenger cars and motorcycles. The plate can be ordered on the Indiana BMV website or in person at any BMV branch.

Like the city and county offices, The Paper offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 24 and Monday, Dec. 27. In addition, we won't have an Online Edition on Christmas Day, Sunday and Monday. Our Online Edition will resume on Tuesday, Dec. 28. All Indiana BMV offices will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. A few other branches (not Crawfordsville) will be closed on Thursday.



Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

50¢

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

WWW.THEPAPER24-7.COM

Motivators!



Photo submitted

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a robotics community that prepares young people for the future through a suite of inclusive, team-based robotics programs. On Dec. 11, the Pretzel Pulverizers, a team of 10, local home schooled students ages 9-14, competed in the FIRST **LEGO League Indiana State Championship** at the University of Indianapolis. Their robot, Pretzilla, placed sixth out of 32 teams in the robot game portion of the competition. The team was also awarded the Motivate Award, which celebrates a team that embraces the culture of FIRST LEGO League through team building, team spirit and displayed enthusi

asm. In addition to the robot game, the team was judged on their robot design, the incorporation of the FIRST Core Values into their team activities and their innovation project based on this year's theme, Cargo Connect. They learned how cargo is transported, sorted, and delivered to destinations, then identified a problem associated with the theme and proposed a solution to the problem. Members of the team, coached by Robin Fowler and Karen Thada, include Levi Fowler, Ezekiel McCulloh, Luka Fowler, Malachi Dickinson, Peter Miller, Jameson Wilson, Cillian Wilson, Wesley Chastain, Tristan McCulloh and Jacob Miller.

The gift of life is one of the greatest gifts of all

an oppor-

tunity to

join us!

contribute to

a meaningful

cause? Come

According

to statistics,

'Tis the Season of Giving and there are many in need. While some of us worry about what to give to that difficult person on our list, there is a way of spreading joy to people we may never meet - and it's free! The Crawfordsville District Public Library has partnered with Versiti Blood Center of Indiana, and on Jan. 6, 2022 their bloodmobile will be at our parking lot from 10 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. Looking for

One of the most respected

Davis, who also coached more

basketball history was Cliff

BUTCH DALE

coaches in Montgomery County



Coach Cliff Davis left a very

games

than any-

one else.

Cliff grad-

uated from

Alamo in

1915, and

entered

Wabash

College

shortly

impressive legacy behind him

Ivette de Assis-Wilson Fresh Off The Shelf

> seconds in the US. Whether because of a chronic condition, an

During this time he also attend-

ed various coaching clinics,

trying to learn all he could

Cliff taught at Morocco,

and Rockville before coming

back to Montgomery County,

where he taught and coached at

Linden and Waveland. In 1935,

his Roachdale quintet made it

to the state finals, the last year

that 16 teams comprised the

final group. His 1937 Linden

team won the County Tour-

ney, and from 1946 to 1951,

the Waveland Hornets won 87

See BUTCH Page A6

Brook, Roachdale, Burlington

about the game.

accident, a health emergency,

donating for health and safesomeone needs blood ty reasons, blood centers are every two taking precautions to keep everyone healthy. At each blood See GIFT Page A6

Of Christmas, Dads, daughters, and daring more

or a simple surgery, the need at

hospitals never ends. During the

pandemic, donations dropped to

meet the needs of daily patients.

a record low, and the need for

blood sky-rocketed. Hospitals

depend on selfless donors to

If you are worried about

A concerned little eight-yearold girl, Virginia O'Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of New

York City's third-most significant daily newspaper, The Sun, and a hasty response followed on Sept. 21,

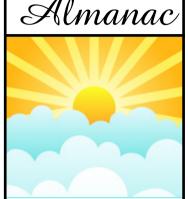


JOHN MARLOWE With the Grain

1897, in an unsigned editorial. In a surprising uncharacteristically cheerful response, The

See MARLOWE Page A6

The Daily Almanac



Sunrise/Sunset RISE: 8:06 a.m. SET: 5:26 p.m.



High/Low **Temperatures** High: 44 °F Low: 26 °F



Wacky Holiday Today Crossword Puzzle Day

• Ribbon Candy Day



wnat Happened On This Day

- 1937 Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs released
- 1995 Palestinians take
- control of Bethlehem 1872 Phileas Fogg wins
- his wager





Births On This Day

- 1982 Philip Humber American baseball player
- 1966 Kiefer Sutherland English/Canadian actor

Deaths On This Day • 1945 George S. Patton

- American general
- 1940 F. Scott Fitzgerald American author

⇒ HONEST HOOSIER

thereafter, although he did not

earn enough money for tuition.

graduate until 1925 as he had

to withdraw several times to

Christmas is four days away. One of my favorite memories is going sledding!



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

lighting in their homes – it takes three times as much light to see as well as

you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The



INSIDE TODAY'S **EDITION**

Obituaries.....A2 Meeting Notes.....A2 Slim Column......A2 Classifieds.....A4 Comics.....A4



Seniors should always have bright

a teenager.

Today's health tip was brought to Paper and online at www.thepaper24-7.com.



Germaine W. Lighter **Dianne Larue Emery Betty Joan Hester**

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



⇒ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Volunteers needed

There is still time to volunteer to help with the Community Christmas Dinner, organizer Joyce Fitzwater reports. Volunteers can come at 9:30 and be home by noon. There's a need for helping prep the meal, and If you are an early riser and perhaps have the morning free, please consider volunteering your time. For those who have the afternoon free, come at noon to help in the dining room. In addition, a need for desserts and delivery drivers still exists. If you can volunteer your time, you will help make Christmas special for many, many people. If you can, please call Fitzwater at (765) 366-2341.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"Christmas is the season for kindling the fire of hospitality." Washington Irving

🗢 TODAY'S JOKE

How do snowmen get around? They ride an icicle!







PAGE A2

Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2021

Just a small taste of love that makes us treasure Christmas

Mabel Adams was sitting in the day room at the Rest of Your Life retirement home when the children came in. She smiled and so did all the others in



Slim Randles **Home Country**

the room except for two

going on. The old-timers in the home knew the kids were coming and had put up Christmas decorations around in the day room and on the doors of their own small apartments and on themselves. Mabel had been reminded several times by the staff that morning that the kids were coming over, this being necessary as Mabel's memory isn't what it used to be. And she put a sprig of imitation holly in her hair and tied a red ribbon on the other side.

who didn't know what was

The little girl smiled and walked over to Mabel.

"Are you a grandma?" she asked.

'Why, yes dear, I am." "I brought you a present, Grandma," she said, handing a box to Mabel. Mabel opened it and was delighted at the sandalwood-scented

Want MORE **HOME COUNTY?**

In The Paper of Montgomery County. Slim is out of Albuquerque, N.M. and his writing is enjoyed all over the country.

hankies inside.

"Why thank you so much, Honey!" she said. "And what is your name?"

"I'm Candice. I'm four." "Well, Candice, merry Christmas to you. Have you been here before?"

"Well ... no, I guess. Mom said this is where the grandmas are and we can have fun bringing presents to the grandmas.

"I see," Mabel said. "Well, Candice, come over here, dear and let me give you a hug. There!

Sometimes, it isn't the cost of the hankies, or the fun wrapping them up. Sometimes it's just a child's smile and a small taste of love that makes us treasure Christmas.

Visiting residents of a rest home this time of year sounds like a worthwhile project. Tell them hi for me, okay?

OBITUARIES

Keith Lindow

June 22, 1929 - Dec. 18, 2021

Keith D. Lindow, 92, Crawfordsville, passed away Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021 at Franciscan East in Lafayette. He was born June 22, 1929 in Plymouth, Wis., the son of Edmund

P. Lindow and Leota L. Lindow.

He graduated from Plymouth High School in 1947. A member of the Armed Forces from 1951-1953. Mr. Lindow graduated from the University of Wisconsin- Madison in 1957. He moved to Crawfordsville and retired from R. R. Donnelley and Sons after 35 years.

Mr. Lindow married Marian E. Glick in 1954 at Mason City, Ill. They were charter members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Crawfordsville, Ind.

Survivors include his wife; and three children, Trudi K. Lindow of Fla., Phillip A. Lindow of N.Y. and Jane (Troy) Pierson of Evansville, Ind.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and sister,

Services are scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2021 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1414 E. Wabash Avenue, with Rev. Jeffrey Stone officiating. People are welcome to start gathering at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Private entombment will take place Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2021 at the Oak Hill Mausoleum. Funeral arrangements are provided by Burkhart Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1414 E. Wabash Avenue, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 or a charity of your choice.

Births

A daughter, Collyns Cate Howe, was born at Witham Hospital in Lebanon on Dec. 11, 2021 to Bryan and Brette Howe. The baby weighed 8 pounds 12 ounces.

Collyns will be welcomed home by siblings, Madalyn Chamness, Kenna Howe and Case Howe.

Maternal grandparents are Joe Chamnes and Sally Chamness, and paternal grandparents are Jon Larusch and Jana Webster

Maternal great-grandparents are Pat Price.



C&F Fabricating

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Births

A son, Jackson Ezekiel Eugene O'Hair, was born at Witham Hospital in Lebanon on Dec. 16, 2021 to Martha Carroll and Howard Eugene O'Hair Jr. of Crawfordsville. The baby weighed 5 pounds 6 ounces.

Jackson will be welcomed home by sibling, Phoenix Buckley

Maternal grandparents are Howard Eugene O'Hair Sr., Deborad Dowers and Brenda Gearld of Crawfordsville,





Crawfordsville

CARLSON MOTORSPORTS Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! 215 HIGH STREET • LINDEN • (765) 339-4407







Betty Joan Hester

March 18, 1929 - Dec. 19, 2021

Betty Joan Hester, 92, Hillsboro, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021 at The Waters of Covington. She was born in Roachdale on March 18, 1929 to

the late Courtland Allen Eggers and Doris M. (Patton) Eggers Clore.

Mrs. Hester graduated from Roachdale High School in 1947, and she married the love of her life, John C. Hester, on Feb. 5, 1950. She retired from Milligan's Florist after 50 years. She enjoyed being a farmwife and babysitting her grand-dog, Hank and her dog, Lacy.

Survivors include her son, Phil (Carol York) Hester; three brothers-in-law, Jerry (Dorothy) Hester, Danny (Shirley) Hester and Glen Krout; a sister-in-law, Beverly (Larry) Ricky; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, John; and two sisters, Phyllis Krout and Katherine

Cremation was chosen with a celebration at a later date. Sanders Funeral Care is entrusted with care. Share memories and condolences online at www.sandersfuneralcare.com

Dianne Larue Emery

July 12, 1956 - Dec. 15, 2021

Dianne Larue Emery, 65, of Indianapolis and formerly of Crawfordsville, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021.

She was born Crawfordsville on July 12. 1956, to the late John E. and Ruth

She graduated from Crawfordsville High School in 1974. She married the love of her life, Steven Michael

Emery. He preceded her in death March 6, 2019. She retired from RR Donnelley's after 30 years. She enjoyed cooking, baking, shopping and spending time with her family. She loved her pets and accompanying her husband on any outdoor adventure, hiking, fishing and canoeing. She always made sure her hummingbird feeders were full.

Survivors include her brother, John (Lucinda) Larson of Indianapolis; and two uncles, Vic (Janice) Larson of Lafayette and Jack (Susie) Larson of Crawfordsville

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

Visitation will at Sanders Shoemaker Funeral Care, 202 Bratton Road in Waynetown on Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2021 from 10 a.m. until the time of funeral service at 12 noon, with Chaplain Mike Mercer officiating. Burial will follow at Indian Creek Hill Cemetery. Sanders Shoemaker Funeral Care is entrusted with care.

Share memories and condolences online at www. sandersfuneralcare.com.

Germaine W. Lighter

Germaine W. Lighter, 69, passed away peacefully with her husband by her side at Rosewalk

Village of Lafayette. She was born in Vincennes, Ind. to

the late Russell (Kathy) and Lorraine (Owen Trimble) Brown. Mrs. Lighter moved to Linden, Ind.

as a toddler to a Funeral Director Russell Brown. She was raised in Crawfordsville with her brother, Leonard R Brown (Atkinson) and her parents.

She was a 1971 graduate of New Market High School. She worked at the Women's Shelter, RB Furniture, Dr. Molin's and for Sear Optical for years. She loved reading, writing and visiting with family and

Surviving are her husband, James D Lighter; daughter, Angela C. (Jeremy) Lawless; and two grandchildren, Lilli-Ann M. Lawless and Deegan C. Lawless.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Russell (Kathy) and Lorraine (Owen Trimble) Brown.

Cremation was chosen with no services planned at this time. Hunt & Son Funeral Home is assisting the family.



-307-2337 / 765-918-1773



111 N. Washington St. Crawfordsville, IN 47933



The PAPER Visit us online:

thepaper24-7.com

See us for all your car detailing needs!

We have affit earth available Available in any amount - Purchase on our website:

www.greatdetailsautocare.com



May 2022 be as bright and prosperous! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Dave, Haley, Kim, Lisa, Paula

705 N. Englewood Drive Crawfordsville

765-364-9675

Chairman Hupfer with (hair on fire) columnist

From my "lamestream media" perch things sure do look dicey and dangerous. There's that 36-page coup d'etat Powerpoint titled "Election Fraud, Foreign Interference & Options for 6 Jan" that President Trump's Chief of Staff Mark Meadows gave to the House Jan. 6 Committee.

The Atlantic's Barton Gellman writes that "Trump's next coup has already begun." According to Gellman, "If the plot succeeds, the ballots cast by American voters will not decide the presidency in 2024. Thousands of votes will be thrown away, or millions, to produce the required effect. The winner will be declared the loser. The loser will be certified president-elect."

Veteran GOP operative Steve Schmidt describes "the obvious edge of the abyss into which we are staring. A great crisis isn't just at hand, it is underway. We are living through its early days."

NBC's Meet The Press Daily observes: "Today



BRIAN HOWEY HOWEY POLITICS

prominent GOP candidates are running campaigns based on waving the bloody shirt of a stolen election. Sixty percent of the party's voters believe the blood is real when it's actually fake. Republicans in several states are trying their best to make sure those local officials who protected the election from false fraud claims won't be there next time."

And CNN's Chris Cillizza was alarmed when commentator Hugh Hewitt told Trump, "You know, Mr. President, you and I disagree about the election, but we agree on so much."

Cillizza went on: "Talk about an 'other-than-that-how-was-the-play-Mrs.

Lincoln?' moment! That Hewitt uttered that line without irony is a telling window into how conservatives have found ways to rationalize Trump and his fundamentally anti-democratic attempts to undermine the faith of the American public in the 2020 election results."

So when I sat down with Indiana Republican Chairman Kyle Hupfer at Biscuits in Broad Ripple Monday morning, I made sure the waitress supplied enough coffee and ice water in case my hair spontaneously became ablaze.

I asked Hupfer about that 60% of Republicans who believe in Donald Trump's "Big Lie" about the purloined 2020 election.

"I don't see it persisting," Hupfer calmly said. "It may be persisting on the edges out there, but the vast majority of Republicans have moved past that concept. They are looking to 2022 and they know how critical it is. We have to win back the House and Senate.

That's all I hear at RNC meetings and out across the country."

Hupfer said that "2020 is in the rearview mirror," adding, "The focus is on 2022. We've got to win back and House and Senate."

What about the House Jan. 6 committee, Hupfer said, "I'm not following it," Hupfer said of the Bennie Thompson Show starring Republican Reps. Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger. "I know they're having some meetings and hearings,' Hupfer said. "I try to have as little of contact with what's going on in Washington, D.C., as possible. It's all being politicized at this point. It's all about the latest hot take, the latest hot tweet.

The chairman is focused on pocketbook issues. "Inflation was up 6.8% in November," Hupfer said. "It's going to be the issue. You have an administration and Congress who are tone deaf about that. They're still talking about the Build Back Better plan which would be another

couple of trillions of dollars infused in. The federal government cannot buy or spend their way out of whatever these perceived issues are right now."

As for Mike Pence running for president in 2024, Hupfer explained, "I don't know whether the premise is whether Trump runs or doesn't run impacts his decision. I'll let the vice president answer those questions."

"As you look around the country and the work he's doing, Republicans like himself are not focused on 2024, they are focused on 2022," Hupfer said. "He's out raising money for candidates in 2022."

Hupfer noted recent internal GOP polling in Indiana that had Gov. Eric Holcomb's job approval at 65%, and on the COVID pandemic, 66%. That polling showed President Biden's Indiana approval at an apemic 41%

at an anemic 41%.

As for 2024, Hupfer says it's still too early for him and Gov. Holcomb to reveal their political plans. Speculation is rampant that the chairman is eyeing

a gubernatorial run; Holcomb rekindling his U.S. Senate ambitions.

"There's the right time to make a decision on that," Hupfer told me. "It will probably come in the not-too-distant future. The governor gets these same questions a lot and the answer we both tend to give is we're not taking anything off the table. The governor certainly is not. Just in the short history, sometimes planning on these things is a fool's errand, right? There was a lot of planning going on in 2016 only to be thrown into the wind when Mike Pence was chosen to be the vice presidential candidate with Donald Trump. There's a lot of changing moods and politics, and when it's the right time, I'll make that decision."

Our conversation ended. There was no smoke wafting in the air; just the steam rising off our cups of Folgers.

The columnist is publisher of Howey Politics Indiana at www.howeypolitics.com

Classifieds

765-361-0100 ext. 15 | class@thepaper24-7.com Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Portable Oxygen

Concentrator May be

Covered by Medicare!

Reclaim independence

and mobility with the

compact design and

long-lasting battery

of Inogen One. Free

information kit! Call

877-930-3271

LIVE PAIN FREE

Deadlines for next-day publication: Line ads: 1 p.m. l Display ads 11 a.m.

2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes, Contract Sales, Hooks (765) 918-8700, (765) 362-0185 www.hookshomesindiana.com

need a job?

Find one in the classifieds.
765.361.8888

Smart Home Installations? Geeks on Site will install your WIFI, Doorbells, Cameras, Home Theater Systems & Gaming Consoles. \$20 OFF coupon 42537! (Restrictions apply) 855-668-0067

DIAGNOSED WITH

LUNG CANCER?

You may qualify for a

substantial cash award.

NO Obligation, NO

risk! We've recovered

millions. Let us help

you!! Call 24/7, 844-

284-4920

Denied Social Se-

curity Disability?

Appeal! If you're

50+, filed for SSD

and denied, our attor-

neys can help get you

approved! No money

out of pockets! Call

1-855-995-4758

with CBD products from AceWellness. We guarantee highest quality most competitive pricing on CBD products. Softgels, Oils, Skincare, Vape & more. Coupon Code: PRINT20 Call Now 833-226-3105

Looking to SELL your Home? Save time & money, connect with the Top Agents in your area to get more MONEY and close FASTER! Call 317-854-9781

Thinking about installing a new shower? American Standard makes it easy. FREE design consultation. Enjoy your shower again! Call 1-855-475-0534 today to see how you can save \$1,000 on installation, or visit www.newshowerdeal. com/hoosier

DISH Network. \$64.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100 Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-855-551-9764

SERIOUSLY IN-JURED in an AUTO ACCIDENT? Let us fight for you! Our network has recovered millions for clients! Call today for a FREE consultation! 844-517-6414

Wesley Financial Group, LLC - Timeshare Cancellation Experts - Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 877-329-1207

Directv Stream - The Best of Live & On-Demand On All Your Favorite Screens. CHOICE Package, \$84.99/mo for 12months. Stream on 20 devices at once in your home. HBO Max FREE for 1 yr (w/CHOICE Package or higher.) Call for more details today! (some restrictions apply) Call IVS 1-844-412-9997

Earthlink High Speed Internet. As Low As \$49.95/month (for the first 3 months.) Reliable High Speed Fiber Optic Technology. Stream Videos, Music and More! Call Earthlink Today 1-855-977-7069

ATTENTION OX-YGEN THERAPY USERS! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. FREE information kit. Call 855-965-4916

Never Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Complete Care Home Warranty COV-ERS ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND AP-PLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK FREE. \$200.00 OFF 2 FREE Months! 1-855-408-3894

Guaranteed Life Insurance! (Ages 50 to 80). No medical exam. Affordable premiums never increase. Benefits never decrease. Policy will only be cancelled for non-payment. 833-535-1043 High-Speed Internet. We instantly compare speed, pricing, availability to find the best service for your needs. Starting at \$39.99/month! Quickly compare offers from top providers. Call 1-844-961-0666

New Starting Base Pay - .60 cpm w/ option to make .70 cpm for Class A CDL Flatbed Drivers,

Excellent Benefits, Home Weekends, Call 800-648-9915 or www. boydandsons.com

COMPUTER IS-SUES? GEEKS ON SITE provides FREE diagnosis REMOTE-LY 24/7 SERVICE DURING COVID19. No home visit necessary \$40 OFF with coupon 86407! Restrictions apply. 888-715-8176

Become a Published Author. We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing-Trusted by Authors Since 1920. Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution. Call for Your Free Author`s Guide 1-888-965-1444 or visit http://

dorranceinfo.com/hoosier

4G LTE Home Internet Now Available! Get GotW3 with lightning fast speeds plus take your service with you when you travel! As low as \$109.99/mo! 1-877-327-0930

DONATE YOUR
CAR TO CHARITY!
FAST FREE PICKUP-24 HR RESPONSE!
Help Children in Need,
Support Breast Cancer
Education/Prevention or
Veterans. Tax Deduction 844-820-9099

Need Help with Family Law? Can't Afford a \$5,000 Retainer? www. familycourtdirect.com/ Family/Law - Low Cost Legal Services - Pay As You Go - As low as \$750-\$1,500 - Get Legal Help Now! Call 1-888-417-4602 Mon-Fri 7am to 4 pm PCT

DIRECTV for \$69.99/mo for 12 months with CHOICE Package. Watch your favorite live sports, news & entertainment anywhere. One year of HBO Max FREE. Directv is #1 in Customer Satisfaction (JD Power & Assoc.) Call for more details! (some restrictions apply) Call 1-888-885-8931









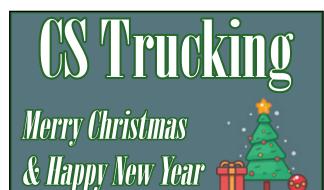
Custom Embroidery

blessed Christmas & a Happy New Year



Sewer/Septic Install & Cleaning • Grease Trap Cleanout • Risers • Lift Pumps
Rooster & High Pressure Jetting Service • IOWPA Septic Inspections • Camera Service • Locator Service
IOWPA Certified and Licensed for the state of Indiana





Meeting Notes

Montgomery County Plan Commission

Minutes Wednesday, Nov. 24,

The Montgomery County Plan Commission met Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021. Members present were John Frey, Tom Mc Clamroch, Bob Campbell, Steve Loy and Tom Cummins. Staff present were Marc Bonwell, Scott Huff and Tom Klein.

The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

RZ2021-4:
John Frey explained
how the meeting would
run stating that the meeting
would be opened up for
public comment and each
person would have three
minutes to speak.

Marc Bonwell gave the staff report.

Ty Eshlemen, PHS, representing the petitioner Overland spoke. He stated that a traffic study had been completed. The study suggested that no additional lanes will be required. He said that a

landscaping buffer could be done and the lights on the site, located on all four side of the proposed building, will shine down and are only on during open business hours which are typically 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and occasionally until 10 p.m. The traffic study also suggested that peak traffic hours were between 7:45 a.m. and 8:45 a.m.

The public hearing was opened at 4:12 p.m.

Tyler Anglin, 6250 S State Road 47 said that is against the rezone. He discussed some things addressed in the Comprehensive Plan. He plans on having an alpaca farm in the near future. He feels the property values in the area will go down.

Mary Rewerts, 5990 S State Road 47. She also discussed some things addressed in the Comprehensive Plan. She fears that a rezone would not be beneficial to the area and has concerns regarding increased traffic. She asked that it remain zoned for agriculture.

Deb Barowski, 3576 W 600 S, discussed items addressed by the Comprehensive Plan and stated that she is against the rezone. She has a petition of 341 signatures against the proposed rezone. She presented a crime report for Dollar General stores in Montgomery County.

Tracy Budd, 5038 W 600 S is a past New Market Fire Chief and has responded to several accidents at the intersection. He stated that he is not against Dollar General. He is opposed to the proposed location.

Ressa Conkright, 6290 S 450 W and owns Bal Hinch Grocery Store. Feels this is not a good intersection for the proposed project.

Richard Turner, owns a farm between 600 S and Lake Holiday and has issues with the intersection and feels if the project goes through that a stop light should be installed.

Stacey McClure, 5748 W 600 S, three miles west of proposed site. She referenced the Comprehensive Plan and feels rural land should be protected. She asked that the land be kept zoned rural.

Kenny Rice, 4473 W 600 S, feels the traffic survey means nothing.

He discussed some past wrecks at the intersection.

Marcia Utterback, 4952 W 600 S, has concerns with the possibility of increased traffic on the road and that the road is already in bad shape.

There being no more people wishing to make public comments, the Public Hearing was closed at 4:39 p.m.

The floor was opened up for the Board to ask questions.

Steve Canfield asked Mr. Eshlemen why this site was chosen. He explained that the intersection serves four directions and the land was available.

Steve Loy asked if Overland considered other locations. Mr. Eshlemen stated that this location fit their model location.

Steve Canfield makes a motion to give an unfavorable recommendation. The motion was seconded by Bob Campbell. Motion carried 6-0.

This request will go before the Montgomery County Commissioners on Jan. 10 at 8 a.m.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

State jobs initiative adds 3 IUPUI certificate programs

Three certificate programs offered by the IU School of Informatics and Computing at IUPUI are now part of the state's jobs initiative to help people gain and improve skills that are needed in the workforce.

The certifications added to the Next Level Jobs initiative are medical coding, multi-device development and applied information science/data studies. They will be offered as part of the initiative in the spring semester.

Next Level Jobs provides Indiana residents with free training for skills that are needed for in-demand, high-paying jobs in growing industries.

"Informatics is now a fast-emerging discipline, encompassing many high-demand career paths in virtually every industry that uses technology and data to make lives better," said Mathew J. Palakal, senior executive associate dean of the School of Informatics and Computing. "All three of these School of Informatics and Computing certificate programs are part of the growing field of informatics, and we are pleased that they will help many more Hoosiers improve their prospects for well-paying career opportunities.

The multi-device development certificate is being offered in an online bootcamp format where students complete an 18-credit certificate in one semester. This is the first bootcamp-style certificate program at IU-PUI. Students can graduate with an accredited college certificate or continue their studies to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in media arts and science. The certificate will prepare students to enter the workforce in web and mobile application development.

Medical coding is critical for the timely flow of medical data. The program, offered both online and on campus, requires 28 credit hours over two semesters. Earning the certification could lead to careers such as a benefits coordinator, documentation and coding specialist or medical biller.

The applied information science/data studies program teaches students to manage data, develop digital competencies and build database infrastructures. Those who complete the online 18-credit-hour program could be hired for jobs such as a data project manager, market research analyst or logistics analyst.

"Being a Next Level Jobs training provider is a sign of IUPUI's commitment to innovation and access. There is a growing demand for shorter and less expensive pathways to a credential from both traditional

freshmen and adult students wanting to reskill. The IU School of Informatics and Computing at IUPUI has the right faculty and the right programs to meet this demand," said Taylor Dooley, associate director of undergraduate recruitment for the School of Informatics and Computing. "By partnering with the Next Level Jobs program, we also hope to reach more first-generation and underrepresented students who have been left out of higher education."

Students who have a high school diploma and have completed less than an associate degree could be eligible to complete one of these certificates at no cost, Dooley said.

The state's Workforce Ready Grant will pay for tuition and mandatory fees for the approved certificate programs for up to two years. If a student takes 12 credits or more, they will be charged the banded rate and full tuition and mandatory fees will be covered, said Lisa Bridgewater, associate director in IUPUI's Office of Student Financial Services.

To qualify for the grant, according to Next Level Jobs, students must:

- Be an Indiana resident and a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.

Have a high school diploma or equivalent, but less than a college degree.
Enroll in a qualifying

program at an eligible training provider.
- File the Free Applica-

tion for Federal Student Aid form.
- Enroll full-time (typically four courses) if you are a

dependent student.
- Enroll at least half-time (typically two courses) if

you are an independent student. - Maintain satisfactory

academic progress.

- Meet any other mini-

mum criteria.

The Workforce Ready Grant is considered a last-dollar award and is added after other gift aid. The exception is anyone with the GI Bill or other related military awards, which do not count toward gift aid.

The School of Informatics and Computing is the first school at IUPUI to have certificate programs tied to the state jobs initiative. IU Southeast also has a medical coding certificate in the initiative.

As one of seven Indiana University campuses, IU-PUI is known as Indiana's premier urban research and health sciences institution and is dedicated to advancing the intellectual growth of Indiana and its residents through research and creative activity, teaching, learning, and community engagement.

Happy New Year

Thanks for your support!

GOD BLESS YOU ALL

Merry

and

Christmas

Meeting Notes

Montgomery County Plan Commission

Agenda Wednesday Dec. 22, 2021 4 p.m.

Montgomery County Courthouse RM 103 100 E Main St. Crawfordsville, Ind.

I. Call to Order II. Approval of November 2021 meeting minutes

III. New Business:
A. Plat Vacation:
Eagles Nest Estates,

B. Conceptual Plat: SD 2021-1, Pine Hills

SD2020-3

IV. Other Business: V. Adjournment Agenda subject to change*

Montgomery County acknowledges its responsibility to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In order to assist individuals with disabilities who require special services (i.e. sign interpretive services, alternative audio/visual devices, and amanuenses) for participation in or access to County sponsored public programs, services, and/or meetings, the County

Next regular schedule meeting – Jan. 26, 2022

Indy man honors memory of best friend lost to lung cancer

Though Michael
McCulloch lost his best
friend, Jason Morse, to
lung cancer three years
ago, he continues to work
hard to honor his memory.
McCulloch will climb with
his family, friends and colleagues for the American
Lung Association in Indiana's Fight For Air Climb,
presented by Anthem, at
Lucas Oil Stadium on Feb.
12.

"I support the Lung Association and the Climb in honor of my best friend who fought his lung cancer with strength and determination," said McCulloch. "He was a husband, father of two children, former college swimmer and a

non-smoker."

McCulloch and Morse met over 25 years ago as freshmen at the University of Evansville in Indiana, where they were college roommates and were both on the University's Division 1 swim team. After college, they both moved to Indianapolis to start their new jobs.

eir new jobs. In 2015, Morse was diagnosed with lung cancer and doctors gave him about six months to live. The progression of his cancer caused doctors to remove one of his lungs. He worked hard to fully recover but the cancer came back in other parts of his body and took his life.

McCulloch, vice president of commercial lending for Community First Bank of Indiana, serves as vice chair of the Indianapolis Climb Committee. He leads the Community First Bank climb team, as well as his personal climb team and is a top fundraiser in both categories. McCulloch is participating in his third Climb. Last year, he raised \$4,700 total. His goal this year is to raise over \$5,000.

"I became a top fundraiser just by asking everyone I knew to donate and to get involved," said McCulloch. "The Lung Association has a great story to tell and is a great cause. My friend was also a great guy who had a lot of friends so many of them have gotten involved in the Climb or have made donations in his honor."

Funds raised at the Climb will support the Lung Association's efforts to end lung cancer and lung disease as well as support the organization's COVID-19 Action Initiative, a \$25 million investment to address COVID-19.

COVID-19.

"I'm most passionate about helping the Lung Association to create a world free of lung disease," said McCulloch.

"There is nothing scarier for anyone than not being able to breathe. From COVID-19, asthma and lung cancer initiatives to clean air and quit smoking programs, the Lung Association does so much to help people breath freely and safely."

and safely."
For more information about the Climb, and to register, visit FightForAirClimb.org/Indianapolis.

Participants' safety is always our number one priority so we are continually monitoring local COVID-19 conditions that might affect the event. Please check our Climb website for the most upto-date information.

About the American Lung Association

The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research. The work of the American Lung Association is focused on four strategic imperatives: to defeat lung cancer; to champion clean air for all; to improve the quality of life for those with lung disease and their families; and to create a tobacco-free future. For more information about the American Lung Association, a holder of the coveted 4-star rating from Charity Navigator and a Gold-Level GuideStar Member, or to support the work it does, call 1-800-LUNGUSA (1-800-586-4872) or visit: Lung. org.









315 S Washington Street • Crawfordsville









Upcoming events as part of ongoing #IndyKeepsCreating Series

Details of upcoming events as part of the ongoing #IndyKeepsCreating Series are now available at www.indykeepscreating. org. The series, supported by The City of Indianapolis and the Arts Council of Indianapolis, features music, art installations, and cultural programs happening through March 2022 to support the Indianapolis arts community.

• Fast Facts about the #IndyKeepsCreating Series

The #IndyKeepsCreating Series engages artists and arts and culture partners with paid opportunities to support the vibrancy, beautification, and activation of Marion County's neighborhoods and public spaces, reconnecting residents and visitors with the places and experiences they've been missing during the pandemic.

- Marion County-based visual artists and performers, community organizations, and neighborhood businesses applied to participate in three programs administered by the Arts Council of Indianapolis; Big Car Collaborative: and GANGGANG:

#IndyKeepsCreating Cultural Connection Grants

- Grants supporting community-centric cultural programs, festivals, and events in Marion County. Administered by Big Car Collaborative.

#IndyKeepsCreating Music Series & Naptown Next Up Fellowship Program

- The Music Series features artists performing live at signature downtown locations, in neighborhoods, and other public spaces. Curated by Smart Girl Creative Co. The Naptown Next Up Fellowship program is a professional development program for rising Marion County performing artists. Ten fellows will be announced in February. Administered by GANGGANG.

 #IndyKeepsCreating Sidewalk Galleries

- About 100 visual and literary/poetry artworks, mostly located outdoors, will create welcoming spaces throughout Marion County. Curated by the Arts Council of Indianap-

- The Series is powered by a \$500,000 allocation made possible through the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, unanimously approved by the Indianapolis City-County Council.

- Currently, nearly \$220,000 has been awarded supporting 250 artists engaged in paid opportunities across 16 city neighborhoods, including collaboration with more than 30 community partners to support existing art and culture events or create new ones.

- To date, 56 percent of all grants and paid engagements have been awarded to artists of color.

 Recently Announced & Upcoming Events

All events and programs supported by #IndyKeepsCreating Series funding are open to the public, free or affordable, and take place in Marion County.



Visit www.indykeepscreating.org for updates.

Featured Now: Sidewalk Galleries

23 murals from local artists, displayed at Circle Centre Mall.

- Ongoing: Classical Music Indy's CMI City Sounds

Free, site-specific music video performances at iconic Indy locations.

- December 27: Frozen Frequencies

Free, 4-7 p.m. at Listen Hear (2620 Shelby St.)

Frozen Frequencies is

an event to launch two semi-permanent augmented reality soundtracks for walking around Garfield Park created by Rob Funkhouser and Landon Caldwell. Using the freely-available platform echoes.xyz, which allows for the creation of cost and ad-free GPS-driven soundscapes, Caldwell and Funkhouser will each create a work that highlights their favorite walking paths through Garfield Park, and use sound to bring attention to points of beauty and interest that each artist has grown fond of therein. An opportunity to experience the entire park as the landscape of a dynamic and changing musical universe. Enjoy warm refreshments, a chance to ask questions

works. This is a one-time opening event, but the pieces will be up for as long as possible, accessible via QR codes that will be posted at Listen Hear and in the park. Printed maps will also be avail-

- Dec. 29: Snuggy Bear Presents... (Community Art Music and Education

Free, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Garfield Park Arts Center (2432 Conservatory Drive)

Taking place during the week of Kwanzaa, this event will highlight some of Indy's most-renowned Black visual and performing artists. During the first half of the day, artists provide educational activities for visitors. The public can also purchase these artists' work directly and commission-free. In the second half, the event will transition into a performing arts space featuring an all-star lineup of local performers.

- End of December: Norwood Notes: Portrait **Project**

Free, online platform **TBD**

Artist Kaila Austin will work in the Norwood neighborhood to record the oral histories with five elders in the community and complete their portraits to be passed down as family heirlooms. The oral histories will be available

in a community archive. - Post-Game Buskers on Georgia Street

Hosted by the Indianapolis Cultural Trail following Colts games on Jan. 2, and Jan. 16 or 17 (playoff date TBD)

- Flurries on the Canal: A Performance Series by the Indianapolis Cultural Trail

Free, 1-5 p.m., Downtown Central Canal, Walnut Street / Orange Bridge Featuring Emma Peridot, Jason+Joy, Kelly Mills, Circle City Orchestra

Saturday, Jan. 29, 1-5 Saturday, Feb. 19, 1-5

Saturday, March 19,

1-5 p.m. TBD 2022 Dates: Girls Rock! Indianapolis Showcase and Lunchtime Performances

Free, The AMP at 16 Tech

Past Events: #IndyKeepsCreating Series grants supported events that began happening in August 2021

and that featured Marion County artists and performers. Programs have included: Gen Con Block Party

- Indy Jazz Fest - IndyVolved 16 Pre-

sented by AES Indiana - Downtown Indy,

Inc.'s Fall Arts Market on the Circle - Monster Bash,

featuring a gallery show & market hosted by the artist-owned Chromatic Collective Blacktoberfest, an out-

door music event featur-

ing Soulful Muzik, Okara

Imani, Allison Victoria, The Girl Called Books, Renee King, Terrence

Anderson, and June - Benefit concert for the

construction of the Indianapolis Music Cooperative - Dia de los Muertos

celebration at the Eiteljorg

Museum - Handpicked Indy

- Indy ArtsFest

- Lafayette Square Coalition's Latino Heritage Festival and Taste the Difference Festival & Sister Cities Fest

- Indianapolis City Market's Jingle & Mingle

- Holiday Arts Market on Monument Circle

- Babehouse Indy Holiday Gala

- Le Alta Moda, a night with art / fashion designer Katy Newton More Information:

All #IndyKeepsCreating Series programs and events will take place in Marion County before March 31, 2022; be free or affordable and accessible to residents of all ages; pay artists a competitive wage; and prioritize the use of public spaces across Indianapolis, including downtown locations such as Monument Circle, Georgia Street, Lugar Plaza, and the Canal, Indy's Cultural Districts, Indy Parks, Lift Indy communities, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Indianapolis' five Great Places neighborhoods, and Reconnecting to our Waterways (ROW)'s six waterway districts.

For more information, visit www.indykeepscreat-

BBB issues warning for Columbia City ammunition company

Better Business Bureau serving Northern Indiana has issued a warning for ammunition company Pine Valley Munitions located in Columbia City, Indiana.

BBB has received 14 nationwide complaints since March 2021.

BBB notified Pine Valley Munitions of a pattern of complaints, alleging the company fails to honor promised fulfillment and delivery of products. Consumers also report the company does not respond to messages or emails attempting to check on the status of unfulfilled orders.

May your

season be

merry &

bright!

This pattern of complaints has remained unresolved and repeated attempts by the BBB to contact the company have gone unanswered.

One Michigan consumer reports, "When I made my purchase, their website showed over 100 in stock and was not listed as a backorder. I have sent multiple emails with no response and phone calls go straight to voicemail. They give a four-week estimate on backorders, and it's been over a month since I placed my order."

Pine Valley Munitions

Trash Service

Transfer Station

Merry Christmas from all of

us at T&S Trash Service

765-866-0372 • tandstrashservice.com

currently has an "F" rating with the BBB for failure to respond to consumer complaints.

and learn a little more

about the specifics of the

Use BBB's tips to protect yourself when shopping online:

Research before you buy. Use BBB.org and shopper reviews to do your homework before purchasing. Watch out for phony reviews, too.

Be careful purchasing sought-after products, especially during the holiday season. The risk of online purchase scams rises during the holidays as more people are making online purchases, and scammers lure in victims by offering the most popular products of the season at great prices.

Use secure and traceable transactions and payment methods. According to BBB's research, those who paid with a credit card were less likely to lose money. Be cautious when paying by digital wallet apps, prepaid

Merry Christmas &

Happy New Year

money cards, or other non-traditional payment methods. Visit BBB.org to learn more about payment types and how to use each safely.

Report unsatisfactory purchase experiences to BBB. If you are unhappy with a purchase, file a complaint at BBB.org/ complaints. If you never received what you paid for, consider reporting it to BBB Scam Tracker (BBB.org/ScamTracker) to help other consumers avoid being scammed.

If you spot a scam, whether you've lost money or not, report it to BBB's Scam Tracker at BBB.org/ ScamTracker and the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. Your story can help other consumers avoid similar

scams. BBB is a nonprofit, business-supported organization that sets and upholds high standards for fair and honest business behavior. BBB services to consumers are free.

A deployed US soldier fulfills Christmas promise to his kids

When Sergeant Wayne, who is stationed overseas, came across a puppy severely in need of care he didn't hesitate to step in. Still grieving the loss of his 11-year old family pet, he began nursing the puppy, he named Branko, back to health. Along the way, he sent photos and videos back to his family, and the kids fell in love, wanting to make him a permanent part of the family. He promised the children he'd get Branko back home before Christmas, so he reached out to Paws of War, who successfully pulled off the holiday miracle for his family.

"When Sergeant Wayne's family bonded with Branko we knew we had to step in and help with the relocation effort," explains Dereck Cartright, a disabled veteran who is the stateside logistics coordinator at Paws of War. "Seeing how getting Branko to his family made them all so happy it is a reminder of exactly why we do what we do. Our soldiers do so much for the country, it's an honor to do something for them in return."

Paws of War took the mission on and came through, ensuring that Branko made it home to Sgt. Wayne's family before Christmas. Successfully relocating a pet for a soldier who is deployed overseas takes an effort that includes complex travel arrangements, veterinary care, paperwork, and a variety of other expenses.

Once Branko was relocated to the United States he was delivered to his new forever home with Sgt. Wayne's family. The children were able to get the gift of the dog that their dad rescued and nursed to health, and dad was able to fulfill a promise and put a

smile on their faces. "I'm so grateful for the help of Paws of War in helping to safely relocate Branko," explains Sgt. Wayne. "I may still be overseas for the holidays, but it's a great feeling knowing that my family is happy and Branko brought so much joy to my children during this time. This is a

great Christmas!" Sgt. Wayne has served the country for the last

decade in the U.S. Army and has completed several overseas deployments. Like many soldiers, he suffers from the traumas of war. When he returned home from deployment in Afghanistan in 2009, he was struggling and the one thing that helped him was his dog, Peedy.

During this most recent deployment, Peedy was having a difficult time and passed away, leaving him and his family devastated. He thought he'd never want another dog, until he met and rescued Branko. With his family being heartbroken at the loss of Peedy and not having dad home for the holidays, Branko was able to bring them comfort. Branko quickly bonded with the family and Sgt. Wayne is happy that he was able to give this Christmas miracle to them. Paws of War will be providing ongoing training for Branko, so that he can be a service dog for Sgt. Wayne when he returns home.

Many service members stationed around the world rescue cats and dogs and become attached to them. The pets bring them peace and comfort, and put smiles on their faces. Paws of War has made it its mission to help get those pets to safety in America when the time arrives. It has helped many service members to get their rescued pets relocated following deployment. To learn more about what they do or to make a donation to help support their efforts, visit the site at: https://pawsofwar.networkforgood. com/projects/149748-branko-holiday-miracle.

About Paws of War Paws of War is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization that provides assistance to military members and their pets, rescues and trains dogs to be service dogs, and provides companion animals to veterans. To learn more about Paws of War and the programs provided or to make a donation, visit its site at: http://pawsofwar. org.











U GIFT From Page A1

drive, the staff wears gloves and change them often, they take care that all surfaces are clean and disinfected, and they follow social distancing protocols.

The staff is also required

to do a complete health assessment of donors. Only eligible healthy individuals are allowed to give blood. If you are able to donate, you should! Those who have experienced the need to receive blood or

know someone who did, understand how precious this gift is. Donating blood is an act of love, and it saves lives. Don't wait for an emergency to happen to donate blood.

To register for our

upcoming blood drive at CDPL go to our website at www.cdpl.lib.in.us and click on the "Blood Drive" banner to make an appointment. Need help? Stop by the Reference desk on the second floor

at CDPL, or call us at (765)362-2242 and we'll guide you through the registration process. If you can't make it for whatever reason, promote the event! Tell family and friends how they can participate in

this Season of Giving and give the gift of hope and life to those in need.

Ivette de Assis-Wilson is the Head of the Reference and Local History Department at

() BUTCH

From Page A1

regular season games and lost only 28, in addition to winning two County Tourneys and two Sectionals. During the 1950-51 season, the talented Waveland boys won 26 straight games before losing by one point in the Regional championship. Cliff then coached at Waynetown for five years before retiring

His career varsity record was 485-238, while his B-team coaching record was approximately 300-150. But guess what...Cliff also coached many grade school and junior high teams along the way, and it is believed his total record for all age levels would total more than 1,000 wins . . . quite impressive!

After retirement, Cliff scouted games for several coaches, including Dick Baumgartner, Del Har-

From Page A1



Cliff Davis

ris, Bill Steerman, Virgil Sweet and Pat Rady. He also served on the Southmont school board and participated in various community activities here in Montgomery County.

According to Bill Greve, who was one of Cliff's players at Waveland and later was a two-time MVP for Purdue (and who was also voted as one of our county's best all-time players) . . . "Mr.

Cliff Davis was the person who had the most impact on my basketball life. He was a fundamentalist! I started playing basketball under Mr. Davis in second grade and learned the fundamentals. He was great with kids. This is where it has to be learned. High school and college is a pay-off from the basketball fundamentals learned earlier in life. Someone should write a tribute to

Mr. Cliff Davis."

There were many great coaches in Montgomery County, and I certainly agree with Bill Greve . . Cliff Davis was one of the

John "Butch" Dale is a retired teacher and County Sheriff. He has also been the librarian at Darlington the past 32 years, and is a wellknown artist and author of local history.

• MARLOWE

Sun's resident cynic Frankitsch and coffee mugs. cis Pharcellus Church, the Books have been written brother of the paper's publisher, put to ease a little girl's heart, and answered Virginia's question: Is

there a Santa Claus? Church's response has since become history's most widely known newspaper article. It has been reprinted in dozens of languages, appeared on posters and postage stamps; about it, and movies made. Hundreds of other editorials and columns -- such as this one -- have refocused attention on the story at this time of year, every year.

"Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus," wrote Church. "He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound

and give to your life its highest beauty and joy."

And he's right. But in thinking about it, I've noticed that these fruits seldom occur on their own. Ultimately, they require action on our part, and consequently, action involves risk.

To offer and receive love and generosity and devotion, we have to allow ourselves to become vulnerable to indifference and selfishness and betrayal. That's why these deep affections are such sought-after commodities. These are things we feel within ourselves, and often the memory of past experiences closes the door to opportunities at hand. The risk of rejection seems more powerful, sometimes, than the reward of beauty and joy.

Risk is actually at the heart of the original Christmas story. There was a lot to lose for standing by a young wife for a man named Joseph. Mary risked even more traveling in an inhospitable world, so soon to birthing a child. The Magi risked the wrath of a king. A newborn baby, in peril to all, found peace surrounded by animals and strangers, although no larger himself than a promise.

Virginia risked a lot, too: "DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old. Some of

my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.' Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?'

That's a big chance Virginia is taking, asking questions so meaningful to her, about ideas she can't solve on her own. What if Dad had said, "Heck no"? What would that have done to the childlike faith that Church explains we all need "to make tolerable this existence."

Ginny's dad is risking something, too. He's put an awful lot of confidence in The Sun not to damage his daughter's heart. Maybe he didn't think they would even answer a child, or just trusted them to be kindly in their response. We'll likely not ever know.

Church -- the author of the most reassuring children's story of all times; the comforter of millions of children and children to

come -- had no children of his own. He was seldom compassionate nor caring. A lonely curmudgeon, he remained a cynic and skeptic toward religion and superstition, and initially refused to have his name credited to his article. Grudgingly or not, he believed he could answer a young girl's question, and brought comfort to the world.

It is a truth, yet a mystery nonetheless, that God or the universe seeks out those of us who believe we are the least capable to furnish the most genuine

Luckily, we don't really have to know the answer. We just have to chance that we will find it.

Let me challenge you. After all we've been through, together, let's make this Christmas the year we step out from behind our fears. Let's dare to do more than hope. Let's have faith that beauty and joy belong to us, too.

"[We] have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age," says Church. "No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever."

Merry Christmas every-

John O. Marlowe is an award-winning columnist for Sagamore News Media.

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

DUTCHER TRENCHING INC.



765-362-3308

Sewer/Septic Install & Cleaning

Grease Trap Cleanout Risers **Lift Pumps Rooster & High Pressure Jetting Service IOWPA Septic Inspections Camera Service**

IOWPA Certified and Licensed for the state of Indiana

Locator Service



THE CHICALL WEARPONS & SUPPLAY

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



11 Years in **Business**

For all your coyote hunting & night vision needs

Gun stocks are better than pre-Covid!



Find us on Facebook 2303 Indianapolis Road • Grawfordsville 765-361-1242











