

**➔ TODAY'S VERSE**

Psalm 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

**➔ FACES OF MONTGOMERY**

People who call our community their own.



Lynette Dumas smiles brightly while taking care of the Dollar General store. Thank you for your smile, Lynette!

**➔ THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** In honor of President's Day, there won't be a Monday, Feb. 21 edition of your favorite Montgomery County Daily. The Paper does not publish on postal holidays, but no worries. That's only a few days a year. There's not another postal holiday until May 30 when the unofficial kickoff to summer gets here - Memorial Day.

**2** The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is offering free virtual presentations to elementary schools across the state to celebrate Earth Day 2022. Every year, IDEM staff meet with students to talk about their careers and share science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) based lessons about air, land, water, and recycling.

**3** Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton would like to invite the public to The Joshua Cup, 115 E. Main St. on Wednesday, February 23 at 8-9 a.m. to start conversations about any concerns, input, or suggestions that the public may have.

# The Paper

## OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

50¢

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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Photos courtesy of Judith Kleine Architect, LLC

**Vandals did damage to the front doors at the Crawfordsville Masonic Cornerstone Grand Hall and Event Center.**

### Senseless Vandalism Causes Expensive Damage

A great deal of work and money went at least partly to waste when vandals gave the Crawfordsville Masonic Cornerstone Grand Hall and Event Center the worst Valentine's Day present ever.

Vandals did damage to the front doors, at least partly undoing a couple hundred hours of labor and \$800 in supplies. The damage was done some-

time the evening of Valentine's Day or possibly early the next morning. Officials report that police are investigating not only this act of vandalism but another in the downtown area.

When the restoration project began, workers stripped 11 layers of paint off the old doors almost a year ago. Three people worked six hours on stripping and sanding one side

of one door leaf. The doors were taken down, stripped and sanded, gouges were filled in, caulked and repainted. The brass hardware, which looked black from years of use and weathering, were spruced up and by August the doors were re-hung. Altogether, more than 240 hours were invested in the doors by the board, Masons and willing volunteers.

### Meet George's Child # 3 - Susan

As we continue our series on Alamo George Fruits (one of our many Revolutionary Soldiers as well as fighting in the War of 1812) we come to child number three, Susan, appropriately born on the third day of April in 1809, Butler County, Ohio.

Although married when she came here it was the same time frame as did her parents. Sadly, she died quite young (13 May 1847) but not until she had ten children, which she was able to raise most to a decent age but never meeting any of her many grandchildren. Sadly, their youngest was only 20 when their father died at age



**KAREN ZACH**  
Around The County

64. Susan married John R. Newkirk while still in Butler County (3 April 1827 her 18th birthday) and they came to Montgomery County where he was in the 1850 census alone, raising those children.

John W. Newkirk was their oldest son born May 6, the year after their marriage, coming with his parents as a mere youngster (some accounts say when he was three but others at age two - definitely they were here when his brother, George, passed away in early 1833 (born 14 April 1830). John W. married Elizabeth Bowman and parented five children (at least - David, George, Rebecca, Mary, and Joseph) and they are buried in Phanuel Lutheran Cemetery at Wallace.

Most accounts have John and Susan's son Henry Newkirk born 12 April 1832 in Fountain County so this might be the closest estimation of when they

➔ See KAREN Page A6

### INDOT West Central Hosting Job Fairs

Looking for a job? The Indiana Department of Transportation is hiring for multiple full-time positions, primarily for construction project inspectors, a testing lab supervisor and technician and other spots at a job fair today in Crawfordsville.

Positions are available throughout west-central Indiana. Besides Crawfordsville, there are jobs in Cloverdale, Frankfort, West Lafayette and Terre Haute. Anyone wanting to apply should go to [www.jobs.indot.in.gov](http://www.jobs.indot.in.gov). And then bring your resume to the job fair and prepare to be interviewed.

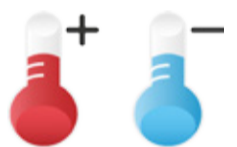
The job fair in Crawfordsville, as well as the other locations, are scheduled for today from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The Crawfordsville

➔ See INDOT Page A6

### The Daily Almanac



**Sunrise/Sunset**  
RISE: 7:34 a.m.  
SET: 6:22 p.m.



**High/Low Temperatures**  
High: 57 °F  
Low: 57 °F



**Wacky Holiday Today**  
• National Cabbage Day  
• National Public Science Day



**What Happened On This Day**  
• 1992 Serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer is jailed for life  
• 1863 A precursor of the Red Cross and Red Crescent is founded



**Births On This Day**  
• 1981 Paris Hilton American model, actress, singer  
• 1963 Michael Jordan American basketball player

**Deaths On This Day**  
• 1982 Thelonious Monk American pianist, composer  
• 1856 Heinrich Heine German poet

**➔ HONEST HOOSIER**

On this date in 1996 chess champ Gary Kasparov beat supercomputer Deep Blue in chess, proving there was still hope for the human race.



**➔ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION**

Obituaries.....A2  
Meeting Notes.....A4  
Classifieds.....A4

**➔ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE Churches! Listen up!**

The Paper is offering any Montgomery County church a free ad to let folks know what time services are, sermon topics . . . or really, anything they want - something that is especially valuable as we all try to get people together in places of worship so that we can begin to find some common ground that unites us, instead of focusing on what divides us? If you represent a church and would like a free ad each week in our Faith section, just e-mail [ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com).

**➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

If you're not already seeing an eye doctor, you should have a baseline screening at age 40. 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](http://www.thepaper24-7.com).



**➔ TODAY'S QUOTE**

"Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction."  
John F. Kennedy

**➔ TODAY'S JOKE**

Here's a thought to ponder: The rotation of our planet really makes my day!

**➔ OBITUARIES**  
SEE PAGE A2 FOR OBITUARIES

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



8 51246 00100 5



**13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST**

57/57 FLOODING RAIN TO MIX SNOW	16/33 COLDER & SUNNY	22/34 MAINLY SUNNY	24/54 SUNNY, BREEZY, WARMER	38/60 MILD, RAIN ARRIVES LATE	57/35 RAIN TO LATE DAY MIX, FALLING TEMPS	25/33 CHANCE OF SNOW SHOWERS
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED

## OBITUARIES

### Amy L. (Gleason) VanGilder

April 30, 1959 - Feb. 12, 2022

Amy L. (Gleason) VanGilder, 62, Crawfordsville, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022 at St Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis.

She was born in Crawfordsville on April 30, 1959 to the late William "Bill" & Phyllis Jean (Allen) Gleason. She attended Crawfordsville High School and on Feb. 7, 1976 she married the love of her life, Carl VanGilder, who survives. She was a loving mother and homemaker who enjoyed playing bingo and Candy Crush and visiting friends and family.

Survivors include her husband of 46 years, Carl VanGilder; a daughter, Carly VanGilder; a brother, Billy (Grace) Gleason; a sister, Patricia (John) Branson; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Ben Gleason; and a sister, Linda Walker.

Cremation was chosen with no services. Sanders Priebe Funeral Care entrusted with care. Share memories and condolences online at [www.sandersfuneralcare.com](http://www.sandersfuneralcare.com).

### Effie Marie Rodgers

July 25, 1935 - Feb. 12, 2022

Effie Marie Rodgers, 86, Russellville, Ind., passed away peacefully on Feb. 12, 2022.

She was born on July 25, 1935 in Center Point, Ind. to the late William and Okla (Moss) Young.

She married James A. Rodgers on Sept. 21, 1957 in Crawfordsville, Ind. She was a 1953 graduate of Ashbors High School. She was a loving wife and mother and enjoyed taking special care of her family.

Survivors include her son, James R. Rodgers; two grandchildren, Nick Gentry and Rochelle Gentry; one great-granddaughter, Madeline Gentry; sister, Rosemary Mitchell; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James A. Rodgers; her daughters, Catherine Sue Rodgers and Julie M. Woods; and three brothers, Charles, John and William Jr. Young.

A graveside service is scheduled at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022 at Hebron Cemetery in Russellville, Ind. Pastor Rodney Coffman will be officiating. A light luncheon will be served at the Russellville Community Center for close friends and family following the graveside service. You are invited to visit [www.machledtservices.com](http://www.machledtservices.com) where you may leave an online condolence for the family. Machledt & Servies Funeral Home has been entrusted with her funeral arrangements.

### Esther G. Freed Barnes Rich

Nov. 4, 1927 - Feb. 12, 2022

Esther G. Freed Barnes Rich, 94, Lafayette and a former New Richmond resident, passed away Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022 at IU Health Hospital Lafayette, following a period of failing health.

She was born in Wolcott, Ind. on Nov. 4, 1927 to the late Fred and Sylvia Royce Freed.

She first married Francis Wayne Barnes June 30, 1945 and he preceded her in death June 23, 1977. She married Charles Rich Sept. 5, 1978 and he preceded her in death Dec. 4, 1995.

She was a graduate of Jackson Heights High School. She was employed at Landis-Gyr for many years as a production worker. She later was employed by Weaver Popcorn in New Richmond. Previously she owned and operated the New Richmond Grocery. She had enjoyed square dancing, horse racing, gambling, gardening and canning her produce.

Survivors include two sons, Marvin Barnes and Leonard (Mariam) Barnes both of New Richmond; a daughter-in-law, Sue Barnes; grandchildren, Tracy Michael, Rhonda (Bub) Cook, Misty (Brad) Mills, Dustin (Daymia) Barnes, Christina Sanchez, Samuel Sanchez and Matthew Barnes; great-grandchildren, Haley Michaels, Nash Barnes, Abby Cole, Clay Linn and Austin (Kelsey) Barnes.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two husbands; daughter, Judy Barnes; son, Terry Barnes; two brothers, Harold and Raymond Freed; two sisters, Agnes and Ruth; and grandson, Robby Childress.

Visitation hours are scheduled 12 - 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18, 2022 at Family and Friends Funeral Home of Wingate, with funeral services following at 2 p.m., with Pastor Mary Hollis officiating. Interment will follow in West Point Cemetery. Memorial Contributions may be directed to charity of one's choice. Visit us at [www.familyandfriendsfh.com](http://www.familyandfriendsfh.com) to sign the guest book or leave a condolence.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE NOTICE**  
 Monday, February 28, 2022 @ 1:30 pm  
 Monday, May 23, 2022 @ 1:30 pm  
 Monday, August 22, 2022 @ 1:30 pm  
 Monday, November 28, 2022 @ 1:30 pm  
 Crawfordsville City Building - Council Chambers 2nd Floor -  
 300 E Pike Street - Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
 PL4270 2/17 1t hspaxlp

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:**  
 Notice is hereby given that on August 9, 2021, Robert B. Hudson filed with the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners a Petition to Vacate a portion of Old Oak Hill Road in front of 907 Lafayette Avenue in Crawfordsville, Indiana. A copy of this petition is available for public inspection at the office of the Auditor, Montgomery County Courthouse, 100 E Main Street - Room 103, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday and at [www.montgomerycounty.in.gov](http://www.montgomerycounty.in.gov).  
 On Monday, February 28, 2022 @ 8:00 am the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners will conduct a hearing at the Montgomery County Courthouse, 100 E Main Street - Room 103, Crawfordsville, IN in order to receive public comment on the vacation of a portion of Old Oak Hill Road in front of 907 Lafayette Avenue, Crawfordsville, IN and to determine the public utility of vacating the road as requested. The public is invited to attend the hearing and to comment on the proposed request.  
 Jennifer Andel, Montgomery County Auditor  
 PL4270 2/17 1t hspaxlp

Never miss a public notice on legal proceedings!  
 After it prints in your local newspaper, it goes online:

**IndianaPublicNotices.com**  
**ThePaper24-7.com**

### Susan Chambers

April 16, 1973 - Feb. 14, 2022

Susan Chambers, Crawfordsville, passed away Monday morning at University Hospital after a long illness. She was 48.

Born April 16, 1973 in Crawfordsville, she was the daughter of Hubert Dowell and Rosalie Blanton Dowell.

She was a huge fan of the show Grey's Anatomy and Patrick Swayze. She loved spending time with family and especially spending time with her grandkids. She was a 1992 graduate of Crawfordsville High School. She married David Chambers on June 21, 1992. He survives.

Survivors include her husband, David Chambers; two daughters, Megan Chambers and Danielle Chambers; two granddaughters, Sophia and Madalynn; three sisters, Ronda Blanton, Vonda Shively and Angie Watkins.

She was preceded in death by her parents and grandparents.

There will be a gathering to celebrate her life from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 19th at the Christian Union Church, 1472 North 650 West, Waynetown, Ind. A memorial service will begin at 3 p.m. Arrangements were made through Burkhart Funeral Home.

Online condolences may be made at [www.Burkhart-FH.com](http://www.Burkhart-FH.com).



### Grayson Wade Hodges

April 26, 2021 - Feb. 14, 2022

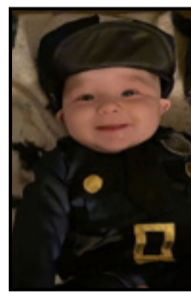
Grayson Wade Hodges passed away Monday, Feb. 14, 2022 at home. He was nine months old.

He was born April 26, 2021 at Lafayette to Jared and Rosie Hodges.

Survivors include his parents; sisters, Temprance Gleason and Penelope Hodges; brother, Jared Hodges II; maternal grandparents, Annie and Chuck Gleason; paternal grandparents, Larry Hodges and Jean (Mike) Abney; great-grandparents, Beverly Gleason, Karl and Colette Spurlock and Bonnie Spurlock; aunts Paige, Melisa, Randi, Amanda, Katie, Jessica Hodges, Jessica Alton, Kayla, Nicole, Crystal and Chelsea; Uncles Isaiah, Chris, Darrin, Austin, Johnathan, Ryan, Zane and Hunter; as well as many cousins.

He was preceded in death by uncle, Richard Hodges; uncle, Ricky Hodges; grandparents, Butch Copner, Chuck Gleason, Judith Copner, Donald Hodges, Geneva Hodges, Herman Hodges and Sharon Mefford; aunts, Jackie Nearon and Trudy Hodges; cousins, Justin Pearson and Chase Ritter; and uncle, little Larry II.

Visitation is scheduled on Friday, Feb. 18th from 5 to 7 p.m. at Burkhart Funeral Home, Crawfordsville. Funeral services are scheduled at 11 a.m. Saturday Feb. 19th at the funeral home with Pastor Tyler Lowe officiating. Burial will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery North.



## Rokita Recoups \$3.3 Million For The Department Of Workforce Development

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita today thanked one of his own, Deputy Attorney General John Millikan, for his work recouping more than \$3.3 million in funds taken fraudulently from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD).

Millikan has targeted funds deposited into bank accounts by scammers who collected unemployment benefits using other people's identities through information gathered from the dark web. Such criminal activity soared during the COVID-19 pandemic as DWD faced pressure to push payments out quickly to newly jobless individuals.

The Rokita administration has recovered more than \$242 million for Hoosiers since January 2021.

"This office is full of staff serving with servants' hearts on behalf of Hoosiers to protect their liberty and property," Attorney General Rokita said. "Typically, the fruits of their labors, though important, go unheralded because they occur outside the limelight. But I am always honored to gratefully recognize, on behalf of all Hoosiers, these diligent public servants."

Investigators found that fraudsters often funneled their ill-gotten gains to either the same bank account or several set up around the country within the

same bank. One such bank, Green Dot Bank, held approximately \$3.15 million dollars in fraudulently obtained unemployment benefits.

DWD staff provided important guidance throughout the efforts to claw back the money, Millikan said.

"With the help and dedication of the Department of Workforce Development, we were able to identify and recover large-scale unemployment benefits-related fraud," Millikan explained. "I am grateful for the good-faith negotiations from Green Dot Bank and other financial institutions that brought about this great result for Hoosier taxpayers. The Rokita administration will continue to investigate and assist in clawing back unemployment funds paid out due to fraud."

If you learn that your identity has been fraudulently used in a claim for unemployment benefits, you should report it to the Office of the Attorney General via this online form for reporting identity theft.

Additionally, you should report it to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development via that agency's website.

Finally, you should also file a report with local law enforcement and the Indiana State Police, which offers an online form that can be filled out and emailed to [uifraud@isp.IN.gov](mailto:uifraud@isp.IN.gov).

## Bookwalter Fights Challenge To Candidacy

Charles Bookwalter's candidacy for Indiana District 4 House seat is being challenged by two members of the Republican Party.

Newly amended Indiana Code 3-8-2-7 (effective 1/1/2022) states that would-be candidates for U.S. Congress who wish to run on a major party ticket must file a declaration stating they "affiliate" with that party, by virtue of their having either voted for that party in the last two primaries in which the candidate voted, or by attaching the certification of that party's Chair for the County of the candidate's residence that the candidate is a member of the party. Prior to its amendment this year, candidates were required to have voted in only the most recent primary of the party with which they claim affiliation.

Candidate Charles Bookwalter is in this position, but Deborah Ottinger, the GOP Chair for Boone County, where Bookwalter resides, refused to certify that he is a member of the Republican Party, even after Bookwalter presented her with an affidavit attesting to his lifelong record of supporting the party, and his sincere belief in the Republican Party's core values.

Bookwalter filed his CAN-2 after being advised

to do so by Indiana Elections Division staff. On February 10, challenges to Bookwalter's candidacy were filed by Danville-attorney Greg Irby, who serves as Vice Chair of the Hendricks County Republican Party, and Greencastle City Councilor Cody Eckert, who is a former Senior Legislative Assistant for the Indiana House of Representatives.

The Indiana Elections Division will hold a hearing at 1:30pm on Friday, February 18 to adjudicate the challenges. If one or more of the challenges is upheld, Bookwalter plans to seek an order from the court allowing him to remain on the ballot, on the basis that I.C. 3-8-2-7(a) (4), as amended, unconstitutionally burdens his rights, and the rights of voters, under the First and Fourteenth Amendments. The hearing is open to the public at Indiana Government Center, South Conference Rooms A and B. 402 W Washington St, Indianapolis IN 46204.

For more information about Charlie and his platform or to join the fight, subscribe to his newsletter or donate to his grassroots campaign at [charlesbookwalter.com](http://charlesbookwalter.com)

If you would like more information on Charles and his platform, please contact Rod Noggle, campaign manager, at [rjnoggle@gmail.com](mailto:rjnoggle@gmail.com).

**ALAMO CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE: 10:30 AM

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**Home Buyer Tip #1**

Know what you can afford. The problem with viewing beautiful homes for sale online or on television, is that it shapes what you want in a home.

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 Email: [william.dale@exp Realty.com](mailto:william.dale@exp Realty.com)  
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# BBB Scam Alert: How To Protect Yourself From Tax Scams

Tax scams are among the most stubborn cons out there. They reappear often, each time with a slightly different spin. The main theme is scammers posing as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) trying to trick people into either paying up or sharing personal information.

## IRS Impersonation Scams

These scams most often start with a phone call and take two basic forms. In the first version, the IRS "agent" says you owe back taxes and pressures you into paying by prepaid debit card or wire transfer. If you don't comply, the scammer threatens you with arrest and fines. In the other version, scammers claim they are issuing tax refunds and ask you for personal information so they can send your refund. This information can later be used for identity theft. Scammers also use this approach to target college students by claiming a "federal student tax" has not been paid.

You are pressured to act quickly. Scammers typically try to push you into action before you

have time to think. The IRS will give you the chance to ask questions or appeal what you owe. Also, their first contact with you will always be by mail, not phone or email. Payment must be made by wire transfer, pre-paid debit card, or other non-traditional payment methods. These methods are largely untraceable and non-reversible. The IRS will never demand immediate payment, require a specific form of payment, or ask for credit card or debit card numbers over the phone.

In the U.S., the IRS may call you about outstanding debts after reaching out by mail. See BBB's tips on IRS calls to tell if the IRS is really calling or if you are talking to a scammer.

## Tax Identity Theft Scams

Another tax scam to look out for is tax identity theft. This occurs when a scammer uses your government-issued identity number (Social Security number) to file a tax return in your name and collect your refund. It can also be someone using



your information to get a job. Consumers don't usually realize they have been victims of tax identity theft until they get a written notice from the IRS saying that more than one tax return was filed, or they were paid by an employer they don't know. Learn more about tax ID theft scams.

## Email Phishing Scams

The emails appear to be from the IRS and include a link to a bogus web site intended to mirror the official IRS web site. These emails contain the direction "you are to update your IRS e-file immediately." The emails sometimes mention USA.gov and IRS.gov (without a dot between "IRS" and "gov") Don't get scammed. These

emails are not from the IRS.

## Tips to Avoid Tax Scams

- The best way to avoid tax identity theft is to file your taxes as early as possible. File before a scammer has the chance to use your information to file a fake return.

- In the U.S., jot down your Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) from the IRS before you file your return. This is a six-digit number, which, in addition to your Social Security number, confirms your identity. It is important to note that you cannot opt-out once you get an IP PIN. So once you apply, you must provide the IP Pin each year when you file your federal tax returns. The IRS will provide your IP PIN online and then send you a new IP PIN each December by postal mail. Visit the IRS for more information about the program. Read BBB's tips about the IRS PIN.

- The IRS does not initiate contact with tax payers by email, text message or social media to request personal or fi-

nancial information. This includes requests for PIN numbers, passwords or similar access information for credit cards, banks or other financial accounts.

- Only deal with trustworthy tax preparation services. For many people, major life changes, business ownership, or simply a lack of knowledge about the ever-changing tax laws make finding a trustworthy tax preparer a good idea. That said, not all tax preparers have the same level of experience and training. See our tips for finding the right tax preparer for you.

- Check out websites carefully and make sure you are accessing the real IRS website when filing your taxes electronically or inquiring for additional information.

- If you are the victim of tax identity theft, contact the IRS at 1-800-908-4490. You should also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at [ftc.gov/](http://ftc.gov/) complaint or by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP. The FTC also offers a personalized identity theft

recovery plan at [identitytheft.gov](http://identitytheft.gov).

- If you get tax information delivered electronically from your employer or other entity, treat that information carefully. Download it onto a password-protected computer.

For More Information Visit our Tax tips and resources page.

To report a tax scam, go to BBB Scam Tracker. To learn how to protect yourself, go to "10 Steps to Avoid Scams."

**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](http://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 FFA Celebrates National FFA Week, February 19-26

The Indiana FFA Association and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture will celebrate all things blue and gold for National FFA Week from February 19 - 26, 2022. National FFA Week remembers more than 94 years of FFA tradition and history while also highlighting and celebrating the success stories of the 735,000 members of the national organization.

"I am incredibly proud of the work FFA members do year-round to support and promote Indiana agriculture," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Secretary of Agriculture. "National FFA Week is a great opportunity for our FFA members to show their community, schools and neighbors what FFA and serving others is all about. I am excited to see the work completed by these young leaders during this weeklong celebration."

Starting in 1948, the

National FFA Board of Directors designated a weeklong celebration to recognize George Washington's example and legacy as a leader and farmer. For the past 74 years, FFA members across the country have taken part in agricultural, leadership and service-based activities during National FFA Week.

"FFA has a strong history in agriculture and in community service," said Bruce Kettler, Indiana State Department of Agriculture director. "This week is a great opportunity for FFA members to give back to their community and their school and to recruit new members to join this outstanding organization."

Tamara Ketchen, Director of the Indiana FFA Association, is looking forward to seeing all the work done this week in FFA chapters across the state.

"National FFA Week



Photo courtesy of Indiana State Dept. of Agriculture

## 2021 - 2022 Indiana FFA State Officers

is a time for local chapters to highlight their programs showcasing their success and passion for agriculture," Ketchen said. "We also use this as an opportunity to recognize community supporters and broadcast the mission of the organization."

During the week, chapters host a variety of events to educate, advocate and celebrate the agricultural industry.

From a school petting zoo to a farmer's breakfast, these activities pay homage to the dedication and commitment of today's agriculturalists. During National FFA Week, the Indiana FFA State Officers travel the state to participate in activities with local FFA chapters and their communities.

FFA encourages the next generation of leaders who will change the world. FFA members

are our future leaders, our future food suppliers, our future innovators and more! Whether it is through service projects or community gatherings, National FFA Week is a time for FFA members to raise awareness about agricultural education and the role the National FFA Organization plays in the development of agriculture's future leaders.

## ABOUT ISDA

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) was established as a separate state agency by the Legislature in 2005. Administratively, ISDA reports to Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. Major responsibilities include advocacy for Indiana agriculture at the local, state and federal level, managing soil conservation programs, promoting economic development and agricultur-

al innovation, serving as a regulatory ombudsman for agricultural businesses, and licensing grain firms throughout the state.

## ABOUT INDIANA FFA

The Indiana FFA is the largest youth leadership development Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) in Indiana with almost 12,000 members as a part of 219 local FFA chapters across the state. The FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. The Indiana State Department of Agriculture provides leadership and direction for the Indiana FFA as a service to local agricultural education programs. For more information, visit the Indiana FFA webpage at [inffa.org](http://inffa.org) or follow the conversation on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

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# Indiana VEX Robotics State Championship Returns To Lucas Oil Stadium In March 2022

TechPoint Foundation for Youth (TPF4Y), the leader in K-12 STEM education efforts for the state of Indiana, announced the return of the Indiana VEX Robotics State Championship, powered by Group 1001, at Lucas Oil Stadium on Saturday, March 12, 2022. The event, which is the largest VEX robotics state championship in the country, will showcase the talent of more than 245 elementary, middle and high school teams as they compete for a chance to advance to the VEX World Championship.

Inside the event  
This year, a total of 100 elementary, 96 middle and 50 high school teams from across Indiana have qualified to participate at the state level. During the competition, students will showcase their talent in robotics by operating a plastic or metal robot, constructed by each team, to complete challenges.

"Our State Robotics Championship is a full circle moment for these students, and their energy each year is unwavering," said George Giltner, president and CEO of TPF4Y. "The beauty of K-12 STEM programs such as robotics is that it fosters more than just knowledge. Every year, students from all backgrounds make their way to Indianapolis radiating confidence, a love for robotics and strong collaboration skills. We intentionally host this event at Lucas Oil Stadium, home to the Indianapolis Colts, so that students are able to see that their intelligence, hard work and dedication to robotics is celebrated

on a grand scale here in Indiana just as we recognize athletics."

Supporting robotics programs  
TPF4Y is dedicated to connecting underserved and underrepresented populations to STEM opportunities, and competitions like the state championship provide students an environment to interact with their peers and witness how hundreds of other students, at all different ages and education levels, share a love for robotics. Through the ongoing efforts of TPF4Y and their partners, robotics programs continue to flourish within schools, clubs and after school programs across the state, making Indiana the No. 1 state in the U.S. for having the most K-12 schools participating in robotics program initiatives.

"I continue to be amazed by the robotics opportunities made available for Indiana students," said Dan Mantz, CEO of the Robotics Education & Competition Foundation, an organization that oversees all VEX competition teams and events. "The Indiana VEX Robotics State Championship is a model for other states to follow as this event brings a diversity of students from across the state together. This large-scale competition run by TPF4Y demonstrates what can be accomplished when local and state governments, private industry, education organizations and nonprofits work together."

This competition is free and attendance is open to the public. At the door, there is a suggested dona-

tion of \$3-\$10 as TPF4Y has a fundraising goal of \$10,000 for the day. Funds raised during the event will go directly back toward supporting Indiana schools that want to bring STEM education opportunities to their communities. Individuals or businesses interested in supporting these efforts are welcome to make a single or group donation in person at the event or by visiting [bit.ly/SupportTPF4Y](http://bit.ly/SupportTPF4Y).

Prioritizing health and safety  
The health and safety of all participants, spectators and volunteers is TPF4Y's top priority. Public event guidelines from the Marion County Health Department and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will be strictly followed. In accordance with these guidelines, TPF4Y requests that every individual attending this year's state championship adheres to the following:

- Face masks/coverings are mandatory
- When possible, social distancing is expected
- The pit areas are limited to students and coaches only
- Stay home if you are showing any signs or symptoms of illness

This year's event was made possible through partnerships and support from: Group 1001, Indy Women in Tech, Roche Diagnostics, Eli Lilly and Company Foundation, Inc., Herbert Simon Family Foundation, RSM US LLP, and more.

About the State Robotics Initiative, a program of TechPoint Foundation for

Youth  
The State Robotics Initiative was developed by TPF4Y to provide hands-on, STEM learning experiences to Indiana students through an economical, entry-level robotics platform proven to engage diverse student populations in comprehensive STEM subject matter and spur student interest in STEM college and career pathways. The program was developed in 2016 as a statewide expansion of the City of Indianapolis VEX Robotics grant program, a legacy of former Mayor Greg Ballard. This Initiative has made Indiana the leading state in elementary and middle school robotics teams, serving students in all 92 counties of the state and culminating in the country's largest robotics state championship held at Lucas Oil Stadium. For more information, please visit [www.techpointyouth.org/robots](http://www.techpointyouth.org/robots).

About TechPoint Foundation for Youth

As the leader in technology education efforts for the state of Indiana since 2001, TechPoint Foundation for Youth (TPF4Y) is committed to inspiring our state's underserved K-12 students to explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). And to us, that means connecting ideas, investments, industry, and individuals to exemplary programs that inspire students to pursue careers in STEM fields.

For more, visit [www.techpointyouth.org](http://www.techpointyouth.org), Like TechPointYouth on Facebook, or follow @techpointyouth on Instagram.

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# Janus Motorcycles Of Goshen Named Indiana Chamber's Coolest Thing Made In Indiana

Janus Motorcycles of Goshen is the first-ever winner of the Coolest Thing Made in Indiana contest from the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. The manufacturer bested runner-up Hoosier Bat Co. of Valparaiso and 63 other competitors from around the state in the bracket-style tournament.

Over the last five weeks, the public cast votes for well-known manufacturers and budding entrepreneurs – and a wide variety of products they make. From automobiles to food and drink to a polygraph instrument to fire shelters to refrigeration for the COVID-19 vaccine and much more. The top makers were honored tonight at the

Indiana Chamber's annual Chamber Day Event at the Indiana Roof Ballroom in downtown Indianapolis.

"This contest featured some of the coolest, most incredible things made anywhere," offers Indiana Chamber President and CEO Kevin Brinegar. "We are very pleased with the interest level for the first year – both the companies that entered and the thousands of votes cast each round. It's been a great way to celebrate the state's rich manufacturing history."

"We especially congratulate our champion and runner-up; their products epitomize quality craftsmanship and capture the imagination of their customers."

Janus Motorcycles manufactures small displacement motorcycles in an appealing vintage style. The company was co-founded in 2011 by Richard Worsham. The mission at Janus Motorcycles is to make simple, beautiful machines that are a joy to own and ride – and safe and reliable. Janus Motorcycles are built to order and sell directly to riders in all 50 states.

Runner-up, the Hoosier Bat Co., makes wood baseball bats for youth leagues all the way up to Major League Baseball players. Their specialty bat is a combination of three pieces of wood joined together. The Final Four of the

2022 Coolest Thing Made in Indiana competition, sponsored by MCM CPAs & Advisors, also featured Wag'n Tails Mobile Conversions for pet grooming and veterinary clinics from Granger and bourbon maker Old 55 Distillery from Newtown.

Revisit the 65 companies in the Coolest Thing Made in Indiana tournament at [www.indianachamber.com/coolestthing](http://www.indianachamber.com/coolestthing).

An online randomizer generated the initial matchups. Entry in the competition was free. To participate, a company did not need to be headquartered in Indiana, but the product entered had to be manufactured in the state.

# The American Lung Association Urges Indiana State Reps To Reject Proposal To Reduce E-Cigarette Tax

A proposed provision in Indiana SB382 – Various Tax Matters would lower the current state tax on e-cigarette products such as JUUL, NJOY or Puff Bar by 10 percent (from 25% to 15%). Ahead of the bill's anticipated vote and amendment on February 17, the American Lung Association in Indiana's Advocacy Director, Tiffany Nichols, issued the following statement:

"We know that price is the single biggest factor that prevents kids from starting to use tobacco products. Reducing the state's excise tax on e-cigarettes by 40% will lead to even more Hoosiers addicted to these products. Additionally, this provision would remove parity with the tax on cigarettes and make e-cigarettes an even more appealing option for cig-



arette smoking youth to switch rather than quitting their tobacco use altogether. The Lung Association strongly urges state representatives to oppose the e-cigarette tax reduction provision in SB382."

According to the Lung Association's 2022 "State of Tobacco Control Report," Indiana received failing grades in multi-

ple categories including tobacco taxes.

\*Interviews with Indiana school district representatives available upon request.

About the American Lung Association  
The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and prevent-

ing 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](http://Lung.org).

## Meeting Notes

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

MEETING SUMMARY  
February 14, 2022  
Consent Agenda

Approved

Accounts Payable & Payroll Claims

Minutes: January 24, 2022 Meeting

New Business

Agreement: IWM Consulting Group

Approved.

Consultant will assist the County in applying for the State Brownfields program for the property known as Tri County Petroleum along South 231. The agreement is for a lump sum amount of \$1,000.

Agreement: Montgomery County Family Recovery Court and Montgomery County Community Foundation

Approved.

Establishes a pass through fund at the Foundation for use by the Family Recovery Court.

Agreement: Indiana Finance Authority

Approved.

The County has received a State grant in the amount of \$446,200 for storm-water improvements. The agreement outlines the obligations of the County to construct the project including the requirement to complete the project within 18 months from the date of the agreement. It also requires that the project commences within 6 months from the date of the agreement.

Contracts: Public Defender's Office

Alex Robbins, Melissa Garten, Riley Parr and Todd Meyer

Approved.

Contracts with attorneys to provide public defense representation. Alex Robbins' contract will be for 75 cases per year at a fixed fee of \$16,000. Melissa Garten's contract will be for 75 cases per year at a fixed fee of \$16,000. Riley Parr's contract will be \$16,000 per year with no set number of cases. Todd Meyer's contract will be for 60 cases per at a fixed fee of \$18,000.

Agreement: Civil Con, Inc.

Approved.

For bridge #182: engineering design, preparation of construction plans and submittal for an

IDEM 401/USACOE 404 Regional General Permit. The replacement of bridge #182 will be funded with the Cumulative Bridge Fund and the project is part of the 10-year bridge improvement plan. Agreement amount is \$20,000.

Change Order: Bridge 114 Project-CLR, Inc.

Approved.

The construction documents, prepared by BLN, were set up as a unit cost contract. Based upon the measured field quantities the project required additional milling, asphalt paving, bridge pier/deck patching and latex modified concrete. The project was completed 28 days beyond the contract date, therefore liquidated damages were applied.

The total change order amount, including liquidated damages, is \$37,422.51. The amount will be paid from the Cum Bridge Fund.

Bid Award: 2021-2 CCMG Resurfacing Project

Awarded to Rieth Riley Construction Co., Inc for \$1,362,851.45.

9.2 miles of road will be resurfaced with hot mix asphalt. 75% of the project cost will be funded from the CCMG State program. Montgomery County will fund \$362,851.45 towards the project.

2022 Gravel Road Dust Control Program

Approved.

Program consists of an oil application that is sprayed in front of properties along gravel roads. The County will pay for 50% of the cost of application up to 600 feet and the property owner is responsible for paying the remaining amount.

Ordinances

Ordinance 2022-2 - Create 2022 VASIA Grant Special Condition Fund

Approved.

Superior Court 2 has been awarded a grant to establish a Volunteer Adult Guardianship Program. The grant is for \$38,500 and will be used to recruit and train 5 new volunteers by June 30, 2022.

Ordinance 2022-5: Amending Inclement Weather Policy

Approved.

Ordinance establishes a leave benefit for employees that work during an inclement weather event that closes the County offices.

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**KAREN** From Page A1

arrived in our area. Henry and his wife Mary Jane (McKinsey) were farmers in Jackson Township, Fountain County and as the theme seems to go, had three sons, as well (Samuel, John and Thomas).

Jackson Newkirk and his wife, Ann were parents to four sons (Elwood, John, Edgar Earnest, and Herb), two born before he volunteered and went to the Civil War and two afterwards. He received several severe wounds and was never well afterward. He passed away at the Danville, Illinois County Poor Farm 6 July 1908 never being able to make it on his \$24 pension. Sadly, Herbert got his hand caught in a new type corn husking machine while working for a local farmer in 1894 - lost two fingers, at least; however, he was in the newspapers quite a bit working in other capacities on the farm for various farmers. He was also an active "wheel man," or in other words, he was adept at riding bicycles, but not so amazing at that as in 1898 he was going too fast and plowed an

old man down, smacked him head on at top speed. Didn't see an obituary for the old feller so he must have been a toughy. Jackson's son, John sadly was murdered, and he died in a few minutes. He had gone to arrest someone, being the Judson marshal in Parke County. Barney Roberts the ruffian walked right up to the sheriff, pulled a gun and shot him right in the breast. It was obvious in the upcoming news that Jackson was devastated and wanted the man to pay for the injustice. Barney ended-up in the county jail a couple of hours later and assume went on to a tougher place! Edgar Earnest lived in Hammond and ran a shoe store, having one son that Ed named after his brother, Herb.

Daughter, Matilda was born in Alamo (or likely near, possibly even over the border into Fountain) 13 January 1836 and passed away in Shelby County, Illinois Oct 22, 1931, quite a nice age. She married Andrew Jackson Patterson and, although they had eleven children, only six survived. She passed away

at 95 years old, after receiving a broken hip.

Another November baby, Malinda Jane was born (29 Nov 1837) in or near Alamo and died in June of 1890 in Warren County, Illinois. She and her husband, Daniel "Pop" Rose (married Jan 24, 1859) and five children (Bertha, Myrtle, Charles, John and Margaret) are all buried there in Warren County.

Although I did not have Evans listed he wouldn't have shown-up in any census (with names, anyway) and several have him with the family in Ancestry. Evans according to the family trees was born Nov 28, 1839 and passed away 13 Sept 1847 born and died in Fountain County.

William was in a couple of census records born 18 Nov 1842 but so sadly died during the Civil War 29 May 1862 in Corinth, Mississippi. He is on the Civil War Roll of Honor, a member of the 10th Indiana Infantry, Company B (private) and is buried in Corinth in the National Cemetery there.

Margaret was also

born in November on the 15th in 1844. Family trees have her passing in Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa.

Last child of Susan and John was Jonathan born 5 July 1846 in Fountain County. He passed away in Alamo 7 May 1929. He married Ellender Myers in October of 1869 and they lived in the Alamo area. At least two children, Ida M. and Charles J. Newkirk were born to them. As a day laborer, it was kind of sad that in the 1900 census, he was not employed for eight of the twelve months.

Thus you have Susan the third child of Alamo George and Catherine Stonebraker Fruits, passed young but sure left her mark in the community with her children, grandchildren, and beyond!

*Karen Zach is the editor of Montgomery Memories, our monthly magazine all about Montgomery County. Her column, Around the County, appears each Thursday in The Paper of Montgomery County. You can reach her at karen.zach@sbcglobal.net.*

**INDOT** From Page A1

location will be at 41 West 300 North. Other locations are:

- Cloverdale Subdistrict, 10 High Street, Cloverdale
- Frankfort Subdistrict, 1675 W. S.R. 28, Frankfort
- West Lafayette Subdistrict, 2319 U.S. 231, West Lafayette
- Terre Haute Subdistrict, 5693 East Sony Dr, Terre Haute

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**Dutcher Trenching Inc**

Call us for your septic & sewer needs

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**RESTAURANTS**

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765-350-4836  
Open Daily 11 AM - 8 PM

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Italian

Contact our advertising department at 765-361-0100 ext. 1 to be included in our next Service Directory.

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