

**➔ 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.



Members of Team Mason smile in honor of World Kidney Day. They are preparing for their seventh annual Golf Scramble to collect donations for kidney disease. Thanks for the smiles Team Mason!

**➔ THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** New York City gets a bum rap for being a cold-hearted, what's-in-it-for-me kind of a place. But sometimes you hear about how some of its eight-and-a-half million inhabitants can expose a tendency for kindness and honesty, says the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. Take the case of Eduardo Martinez. He was rushing to get to work and dropped his wallet in Times Square. When he realized his loss he retraced his steps and frantically began searching for the wallet; after all, it contained no less than \$4,000 in cash. Two police officers saw how agitated he was and approached him and gave him back his wallet. It seems that an unidentified fellow commuter found the wallet on his way to work, saw the cops and turned it over to them.

**2** Celebrate the migration of birdlife through the Indiana Dunes region this May 12-15 at the eighth annual Indiana Dunes Birding Festival. The entire festival program schedule has now been released, featuring over 150 individual trips, programs, and workshops. The event is being organized by the Indiana Audubon and includes both the Indiana Dunes National Park and Indiana Dunes State Park as site hosts.

**3** Representatives from veteran organizations across the state of Indiana cut the ribbon March 1 to celebrate the Indiana Veterans Center located at 777 N. Meridian St. Indianapolis. The IVC is a one-stop shop for military veteran services, resources, and benefits and houses organizations dedicated to the veteran community. The building is open Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

# The Paper

## OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

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CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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Photo courtesy of Salvation Army of Montgomery County

Pastor Darrell Portwood, Tura Klepfer, Clay Adams, Silas Adams, Ken Doty

## Salvation Army Of Montgomery County Red Kettle Campaign Success

The Salvation Army of Montgomery County is pleased to announce the 2021 Red Kettle Campaign was a success. Donations from the community totaled \$29,084.76. All funds remain in Montgomery County and will provide help and hope to those in need throughout 2022. Services offered include assistance for food, clothing, utilities, medication, rent, and disaster relief as well as other crisis-related needs. The local Council has also

reorganized. Clay Adams has been named the Council Chairperson and Tura Klepfer is the Service Representative, serving with council members Ken Doty, Joey Hamby, and Silas Adams. New Hope Christian Church has generously opened their doors to be the home office for the local chapter. "We are grateful to Pastor Darrell Portwood and the board of New Hope for coming alongside us to serve those in need in

our community," Adams said. "Partnering with a local church is an important way we can focus our resources on direct assistance." The Salvation Army of Montgomery County's mailing address is 2746 S. US Hwy 231, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 and phone number is 765-362-0098, ext. 8. Those seeking assistance should leave a message and a member of the Salvation Army board will respond.

## Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Fruits #6

John S. Fruits was John George (Alamo George) and Catherine Stonebraker's sixth child and is the subject of this week's article. Born in Butler County, Ohio on 11 March 1818 a few years later, he came to Montgomery County with his parents and brothers and sisters. Here, he grew to manhood. He followed in Alamo George's footsteps, farming in Ripley Township plus he spent a few years in Jackson Township next door in Fountain County. In the 1878 MoCo Atlas, a John (fairly positive it is this one) has a sawmill and steam mill besides 300 acres of land. He is next to William, his brother, with



Photo courtesy of Karen Zach



**KAREN ZACH**  
Around The County

160 acres and a brick yard. The Fruits' School was on William's land and you'll hear more about him and hopefully the school in the tenth Fruits' installment! Have always thought that the S in John S. Fruits' name probably stood for Stonebraker but could easily be incorrect

➔ See KAREN Page A6

## Nominations For Century & Half Century Awards



Rep. Tim Brown

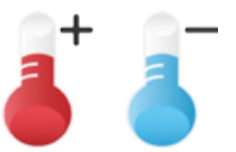
Indiana is home to many longstanding businesses that provide jobs, quality goods and services, and support our communities. Those in operation for 50 years or more are eligible to be recognized with a Governor's Half Century or Century Business Award. Go to <https://www.iedc.in.gov/program/century-and-half-century-awards/apply#skip-headerto> to apply before

➔ See CENTURY Page A6

## The Daily Almanac



Sunrise/Sunset  
RISE: 7:07 a.m.  
SET: 6:49 p.m.



High/Low  
Temperatures  
High: 51 °F  
Low: 29 °F



Wacky Holiday Today  
• Mario Day  
• World Kidney Day



What Happened  
On This Day  
• 1876 The first telephone call is made  
• 1945 The most destructive bombing raid in history hits Tokyo



Births On This Day  
• 1940 Chuck Norris American actor, martial artist  
• 1957 Osama bin Laden Saudi Arabian terrorist, founded al-Qaeda

Deaths On This Day  
• 1913 Harriet Tubman American nurse, activist  
• 1948 Zelda Fitzgerald American author

**➔ HONEST HOOSIER**

For those of you keeping score at home, there's a little more than a week left until the first official day of spring!



**➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

Men over 35 without heart risk factors and women over 45 with risk factors should have their lipids checked. 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).



**➔ OBITUARIES**

SEE PAGE A2 FOR OBITUARIES

**➔ 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 QUOTE**

"Mental pain is less dramatic than physical pain, but it is more common and also more hard to bear. The frequent attempt to conceal mental pain increases the burden: it is easier to say 'My tooth is aching' than to say 'My heart is broken.'" C.S. Lewis

**➔ TODAY'S JOKE**

In honor of St. Paddy, we'll share some jokes for a bit that'll have you Dublin over with laughter! What musical instrument does a show-off play this time of year? Brag-pipes!

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



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**WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST**

34/49 WED WEDNESDAY	29/51 THU THURSDAY	30/35 FRI FRIDAY	15/25 SAT SATURDAY	19/50 SUN SUNDAY	35/56 MON MONDAY	37/58 TUE TUESDAY
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## OBITUARIES

### Debra Lynn Griffin

Dec. 22, 1958-March 7, 2022

Debra "Debbie" Griffin of Crawfordsville passed away Monday morning at home. She was 63.

Born Dec. 22, 1958 in Crawfordsville she was the daughter of Marion Luther Kiger and Carole J. Ingram Whitaker.

Mrs. Griffin worked as a nurse in the skilled nursing unit of the hospital, did home health care and worked at a couple of long-term healthcare facilities. She was a member of Rock Point Church. She liked the great outdoors and the wonderful creations God made. Most of all, she loved her family, her grandkids, friends, home and God's amazing grace.

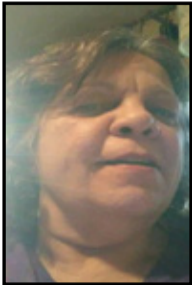
She graduated from Crawfordsville High School in 1977 and earned a nursing degree from Ivy Tech. She married Vernon Dale Griffin on Jan. 21, 1989. He passed away Dec. 13, 2014.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Cary Alan Brock and Crystal; son and daughter-in-law, Michael J. Baumgardner and Mariah; father and step-mother, Marion and Rosemary Kiger; step-father, Floyd Franklin Whitaker; grandchildren, Kiera, Angela, Kaydence, Andrea, Michael, Bella and Chadd; brother, John Alan Kiger; sister, Belinda Kiger; and loving sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dale; mother, Carole Whitaker; and an uncle that was raised as her brother, John Ingram.

Visitation is scheduled from noon to 2 p.m. Friday, March 11th at Burkhart Funeral Home. Services will begin at 2 p.m., after which she will be laid to rest next to Dale at the Linden Cemetery.

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



### George Flowers

June 21, 1964 - March 6, 2022

George Flowers of Crawfordsville, Ind. passed away Sunday evening in the Emergency Room. He was 57.

Born June 21, 1964 in Parkersburg, West Virginia, he was the son of John R. Flowers and Barbara E. Clark Flowers.

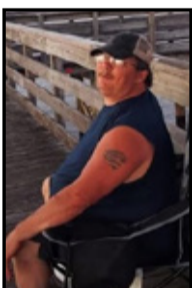
He graduated from Parkersburg High School. He loved to go fishing. He served his country in the U.S. Army. He worked as a hoist driver at LSC Communications until his recent health problems.

Survivors include his long-time partner, Joetta Kemp; two daughters, Crystal Flowers (Chelsea) and Natasha Canterbury (Josh); son, Michael Kemp (Latisha); father, John Flowers; brother, John Flowers, Jr.; sister, Sherry Flowers; grandchildren, Emma, Jaden, Jordan, Mackenzie, Landon, Natalie, Isaac, Bailey, Hannah and Raelinn.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Barbara Flowers and a brother, Kevin.

There will not be a public service. Cremation arrangements were made through Burkhart Funeral Home, Crawfordsville.

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



### James G. Smith

Oct. 11, 1934 - March 7, 2022

James "Jim" Smith of Crawfordsville passed away Monday at home. He was 87.

Born Oct. 11, 1934 in Glasgow, Kentucky, he was the son of Gilbert Smith and Ada Bridges Smith.

Mr. Smith worked at the brickyard, then for CEL&P, where he worked 27 and a half years, retiring from there. He then went to work mowing at Oak Hill Cemetery, took a couple of years off and worked at North Montgomery and then went back to work at the cemetery. He also loved mowing his own grass and was meticulous about his yard.

He married Margaret Brenda Wilson on Oct. 17, 1958. She passed away Aug. 18, 2005.

Survivors include his son, Keith Smith of Crawfordsville; brother, Richard Smith of Thorntown; and two sisters, Mary Ann Nichols and Pauline McClellan, both of Kentucky.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret Smith; daughter, Johnna Smith Parker; infant son, James Gilbert Smith; three brothers, Herbert, Joe and Robert; and four sisters, Joyce, Maggie, Marie and Mildred.

There will not be a public visitation. Graveside services are scheduled on Saturday, March 12th at 1 p.m. at Oak Hill Cemetery North. Arrangements were entrusted to Burkhart Funeral Home.

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



### Sharon K. (Taylor) Williams

Feb. 13, 1946 - March 4, 2022

Sharon K. (Taylor) Williams, 76, of Wallace, Ind., went home to be with the Lord on Friday evening March 4, 2022.

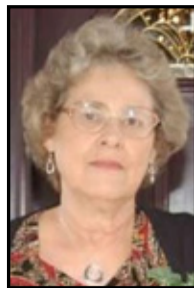
She was born to the late Norman & Norma (Taylor) LaFollette on Feb. 13, 1946 in Crawfordsville, Ind.

She attended Crawfordsville Schools and on Nov. 20, 1970 she married Richard L. Williams who preceded her in death on Nov. 19, 2013. She was a member of United Methodist Church. She was a homemaker and a loving mother and grandmother. She enjoyed being with family, her sisters, cooking, traveling to historical places, and her beloved animals.

Survivors include her sons, Steven (Pauline) Brisse and Scott (Lori) Williams; daughters, Cheryl Reynolds and Kathy (Randy) Crain; sisters, Rebecca (Vernon) Dowell, Sandra (Jimmie) Dishman, Carolyn (John) Mouat and Carolyn (Willie) Shaw; 14 grandchildren; several great grandchildren, notably Samuel and Sydney Cox; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Richard; a son, "Rick" Williams; sisters, Sandy (Roger) Busch and Sheila (Tommy) Rayburn; an infant brother, Steven LaFollette; and three great nephews.

There will be a private family viewing with cremation to follow. Memorial donations may be given to Riley Children's Hospital 30 S Meridian St. Suite 200, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Sanders Priebe Funeral Care entrusted with care. Share memories and condolences online at [www.sandersfuneralcare.com](http://www.sandersfuneralcare.com).



### Tammy Willhite

Dec. 18, 1970 - March 4, 2022

Tammy Willhite of Crawfordsville passed away Friday, March 4th at home. She was 51.

Born Dec. 18, 1970 in Crawfordsville, she was the daughter of Robert Allen Hall and Aleta Jane Miller.

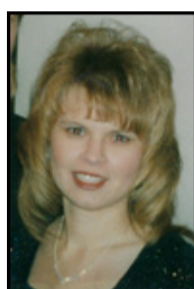
She graduated from Crawfordsville High School in 1989.

Survivors include two daughters, Lakyn (Steven) Brown and Lynzie Willhite; two sisters, Rhonda (Mike) Voorhees and Tina Brock; brother, Homer Brock; nephews, Dustin Brock, Trent Brock and JD Hall; nieces, Destiny (Cory) Golladay, Taylor (Colton) Evans, Dakota Barnes, Bailly Barnes, Reagan Barnes and Celestial (Curtis) Daughterty, all of whom she loved.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Jimmy Dale Hall; and nephew, Christopher James Calton.

No public services will be held. Cremation arrangements were made through Burkhart Funeral Home.

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



## Births

A daughter, Delaney JoAnn Kiste, was born on March 4, 2022 at Witham Health Services to Mackenzie and Levi Kiste. The baby weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces.

Delaney will be welcomed home by a brother, Colton Kiste.

Maternal grandparents

are Kimberly Fairfield and John Dixon; paternal grandparents are Janet McMurtrey and Mike McMurtrey and Tim Kiste. Maternal great-grandparents are Tammy Winningham, Gary Winningham and Nancy Campbell; paternal great-grandparents are Janice Pass.

## Baseball Memories

At a family reunion, I went outside to play catch with a cousin.

"I'd rate your baseball skills below average," he said. "Does that surprise you?"

That didn't shock me one bit. I score below average in most sports, with the exception of "spitting for distance."

Coaches generally took one glance at me, then decided I was not a leader. My natural facial expression is "confused." And when I concentrate, I look positively disoriented.

In school, I attempted all the standard games. But I was too skinny for football, and in basketball my vertical leap was only three inches. Could baseball be my specialty?

Our neighbor coached a kids' team, and invited me to join. I practiced fielding flies and grounders, and could soon catch close to 50%. My technique was to buy the largest glove, then hope that the ball accidentally got trapped there, or somewhere in my shirt.

I had zero skills as a hitter, but the coach had a plan. "When you get to the batter's box, crouch down like a serious hitter. But never, ever take the bat off your shoulder."

In one year, I was called out on strikes 20 times, but got walked 38



**RIX QUINN**  
Quinn Summary

times. Once on first base, I could generally navigate the other bases without wandering into the outfield or tripping over the shortstop.

That was a happy year. I got on base, scored a lot, bragged constantly about it, and thereby earned the nickname "Walkie Talkie."

Today, over 40 years later, I still boast about the time I won the league's title for most bases on balls. And when friends ask how I earned so many walks, I modestly say, "Pitchers respected me."

*Rix Quinn is a former magazine editor who appears here each week. Quinn is a native of Fort Worth, Texas and appears in about 140 newspapers across the nation. Got a story idea for Rix? E-mail it to [rix@rixquinn.com](mailto:rix@rixquinn.com)*

## Council Approves Partnership To Bring Broadband Nearly County-wide By 2024

Nearly all Tippecanoe County homes and businesses will have access to broadband internet by the end of 2024 — thanks to a partnership between the Tippecanoe County Commissioners and Tiptont Wintek approved by the Tippecanoe County Council.

Supported by \$14.8 million in county funds, the project was approved by the council Tuesday, March 8, as part of nearly \$38 million designated to fund 12 county initiatives over the next several years.

Wintek is the fiber-optic broadband arm of Tiptont, a rural electric membership corporation whose service area includes parts of Tippecanoe County. Through this partnership, Wintek will make high-speed fiber broadband available by the end of 2024 in the following Tippecanoe County areas without current or pending broadband solutions:

- North River Road
- State Road 26 W.
- Buck Creek & Surrounding Area
- State Road 26 E.
- East Otterbein
- Montmorenci & Surrounding Area
- Shadeland & Surrounding Area
- White / Tippecanoe Border

- E. County Road 1200 S.

- Surrounding Area of Stockwell
- Clarks Hill & Surrounding Area
- Purdue University Airport West

"We are thrilled to announce this transformative project for people in these areas," said Tippecanoe County Commissioner Tom Murtaugh. "Tippecanoe County will be among the very few in Indiana to claim this kind of access, which is essential for strategic economic development, remote learning and working, and quality of life."

Wintek will add these areas to its existing broadband construction schedule — through which every Tiptont electric-service member will have broadband access by the end of 2024.

"We applaud the ambition and vision of the Commissioners and Council to bring vital services to these areas of Tippecanoe County and are honored to play a pivotal role in realizing it," said Ron Holcomb, president and CEO of Tiptont Wintek. "We look forward to providing these homes and businesses with the high-quality service and local support that has been our legacy for over

80 years."

Wintek fiber internet packages offer speeds from 250 Mbps to 1 Gbps, or 1,000 Mbps. All speeds are symmetrical for upload and download, creating seamless interaction for video conferencing, online learning and more. In addition to being the fastest broadband solution, fiber-optic technology is also future-proof — meaning regular system upgrades will not require the replacement of fiber-line infrastructure. Wintek also offers local customer service seven days a week.

"It's exciting that we can address this access gap and create new opportunities for people who call these parts of Tippecanoe County home," says Kevin Underwood, president of the Tippecanoe County Council.

Candiss Vibbert, who lives off State Road 26 near its intersection with U.S. 231, is eager to enjoy improved broadband access for work, community meetings, family connections, and entertainment.

"This is a forward-looking initiative that reflects Tippecanoe County and Tiptont Wintek's commitment to making these areas a better place to live, work and play,"

Vibbert says. "In the end, technology is about communication, and communication is about connecting us to each other. We're grateful for the commitment of these partners. It is really wonderful to watch people work together and get things done."

To view a map of the build areas in rural Tippecanoe County, please visit [wintek.com/tippcouncil](http://wintek.com/tippcouncil).

About Tiptont Wintek  
A premier regional provider of energy and communication services, Tiptont Wintek empowers people and communities with state-of-the-art essential services. Founded in 1939, our rural electric membership corporation now provides electric service to over 28,000 meters in eight Indiana counties (Tippecanoe, Montgomery, Fountain, Clinton, Carroll, White, Benton, Boone). In January 2019, Tiptont acquired Wintek Corporation, a Lafayette technology company. Together, Tiptont Wintek is building state-of-the-art in-home fiber internet service in Tiptont's electric-service area and additional areas of Tippecanoe County, as well as delivering customized business technology solutions.

### Home Buyer Tip #4

Put together your home-buying team, including an agent that is communicative and ORGANIZED, a mortgage lender, and a professional home inspector. Your agent will have recommendations for you if this is your first time buying or new to the area.

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# Indiana Chamber Says 2022 Legislative Session Ended 'Overall In A Good Place'

Indiana Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Kevin Brinegar says the 2022 Indiana General Assembly concluded "overall in a good place for the rights of businesses, for the state's economy and for talent attraction and growth. But the Senate's failure to support a tax cut that would strengthen the state's manufacturing sector is a head-scratcher given Indiana's incredibly strong finances."



Kevin Brinegar

Brinegar offers comments on key bills and provisions that passed/failed in the last week of the legislative session:

Tax cuts and public finance (passed in HB 1002, but one tax provision failed to be included) "We applaud lawmakers for two important tax relief provisions that will benefit all taxpayers. The repeal of the utility gross receipts tax will lower the energy bills of both

businesses and homeowners. Additionally, with a record state surplus, a reduction in the state income tax rate for all individuals and pass-through businesses was warranted. The paydown of the \$2.6 billion of the longstanding pension obligations for teachers will serve to free the state of future payments in budgets going forward. All three actions are very positive for the state.

"However, we were extremely disappointed that the Senate blocked the phaseout of the 30% depreciation floor on



business equipment and machinery. That tax requires businesses to pay at that value even after the personal property has greatly depreciated below it. It's unfortunate that Senate Republicans fail to see that this shouldn't be happening and only serves to discourage large capital investment in Indiana. Getting rid of this tax would infuse our economy and add jobs."

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) notifications and assistance (passed in

SB 82)

"It's taken several years and a winding path, but Indiana will now formally urge high school seniors to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The passed version includes enhanced parent/student notification requirements and an online affirmation form that empowers families to confirm that they received the notification, indicate whether they intend to complete the FAFSA and request direct FAFSA assistance.

This policy will put more students – particularly those from low- and middle-income families – on the path to post-high school education and training aligned with Indiana's workforce needs and upward economic mobility."

Remote worker attraction/talent retention (passed in SB 361) "Communities can use the designated funding for promotional advertising or to offer residency incentives to 'qualified workers' – anything from grants and loans to co-working space memberships. Freeing up resources for communities wanting to retain or recruit new residents is important for several reasons. Indiana's labor force is expected to decline over the next two decades, while the U.S. labor force increases. Also, over the next 30 years, Indiana's population is expected to

increase but at rates that are among the slowest in our state's history. An investment to attract these workers will be well worth it. For instance, in Muncie, a remote worker with a household income of \$138,000 will contribute on average \$415,000 of new economic impact in spending – and \$55,000 in tax revenue – over five years."

Workers' compensation fix and increase (passed in HB 1153)

"The Indiana Chamber supported this bill as it establishes reasonable reimbursement rate caps for workers' compensation services provided by ambulatory surgical centers and other health care providers where such caps previously did not exist. It also establishes reasonable workers' compensation benefit increases for the next several years, which we recognize needed to take place."

# This Just In Exhibit Opens At Study

The General Lew Wallace Study & Museum is pleased to announce the opening of our 2022 exhibit "This Just In: Recent Acquisitions at the Museum." The exhibit will open at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 12, in the Carriage House Interpretive Center at the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum.

A lot of people may believe history museums stop adding to their collections. Lew Wallace died in 1905, after all, so nothing has changed about his life since then, right? But we are constantly learning new things about Lew. In the past few years, people have decided some pieces should come to the Museum as we help tell Lew's story to the world. We have had paintings and other artwork inspired by Ben-Hur, The Fair God,

and the Study grounds donated to us. Just last year we were contacted by someone who had a notarized document that the very ornate carriage lanterns they wanted to donate had been owned by Lew Wallace.

Some items are easier to verify than others (and some still haven't been traced). In the 2022 exhibit, you'll learn what guides a Museum's decisions to collect (or not collect) certain pieces. We discuss aspects of our Vision & Mission Statements & Collections Policy, among other guiding documents, and we'll tell the stories of some of the fantastic pieces we have added to our collection in the past decade.

The exhibit may be viewed free of charge from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. "This Just In" will

run through early December 2022. The Study is also open for guided tours. The Museum requests visitors seeking a guided tour of the Study book their appointment ahead of time, but walk-ins will be accommodated as much as possible. Tours last approximately one hour and are \$7 for adults and \$3 or \$1 for students. As a precaution, Museum staff will still wear masks.

Other upcoming events at the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum include American Battlefield Trust's Park Day on Saturday, April 2, and Hoosier Authors Book Club on Thursday, April 7. Park Day is a grounds work day from 9 a.m. to noon. Hoosier Authors Book Club will be virtual on Zoom; participants must register ahead of time to receive a link.

For more information about the exhibit, visit <https://www.ben-hur.com/programs/annual-exhibit/> or contact Larry Paarlberg at 765-362-5769 or [lpaaarlberg@ben-hur.com](mailto:lpaaarlberg@ben-hur.com).

About GLWSM The General Lew Wallace Study & Museum is deeply committed to the protection and preservation of Lew Wallace's legacy now and for generations to come. The museum is located on Wallace's home site in Crawfordsville, Indiana, and is where he wrote Ben-Hur. His unique and personal Study, built in the 1890s, is a National Historic Landmark and the home of the world's largest collection of General Wallace's personal memorabilia. For more information, please visit the museum website: [www.ben-hur.com](http://www.ben-hur.com).

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# BBB Scam Alert: Utility Impostor Scam

This con happens any time of year and typically during extreme cold or heat event when many people are more likely to need their heat or air conditioning. Scammers impersonate water, electric, and gas company representatives threatening residents and business owners with deactivation of service if they don't pay up immediately.

Within the last year BBB Serving Central Indiana has received numerous Scam Tracker reports from consumers losing more than \$2,000 to utility scams.

**How the Scam Works:**

Utility company impostors will typically contact customers with a telephone call or knock on the door claiming to be a representative from the local water, electric, or gas company. In the most common scenario, they will claim payment is overdue and the utility will shut off within the hour if the bill is not paid immediately.

Scammers use a variety of other tricks to prey on



utility customers. A "representative" may appear at the door in a plausible work uniform claiming that the electric meter is not working properly and must be immediately replaced— at the homeowner's expense. In another form of this con, the scammer may gain access inside the home to perform "repairs" or an "energy audit" with the intent of stealing valuables or coming across personal identifiable information that just happens to be out in plain sight. These cons may also involve promises of energy discounts with the intent of taking money, personal information, or

possibly the account details needed to switch the resident to another utility provider without consent (an illegal practice known as "slamming").

**Tips to Spot This Scam:**

- Prepaid debit cards and wire transfers are a red flag. If a caller specifically asks for payment by prepaid debit card or wire transfer, this is a huge warning sign. Utility companies will often accept a check or credit card.

- Pressure to pay immediately. Scammers will press for immediate payment and may try high pressure tactics to intimidate consumers into giving them personal and banking information.

**Protect Yourself Against This Scam:**

- Call customer service. If you feel pressured for immediate action by a caller, hang up the phone and call the customer service number on your utility bill. This will ensure you are speaking to a real representative. Never give your personal or banking information to

an unverified or unsolicited caller.

- Never allow anyone into your home unless you have scheduled an appointment or reported a problem. Also, ask utility employees for proper identification before letting them enter.

Report scams to BBB Scam Tracker and learn how to protect yourself, by going 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. 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.

# Applications Open For Student Member Of The Indiana Commission For Higher Education

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education is seeking applicants for the next Student Commission Member position. The student member, to be appointed by Gov. Eric Holcomb, will serve on the Commission from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024.

The student member is a full voting member of the Commission for Higher Education, which is a 14-member coordinating body for the state's public postsecondary education system. In addition to the student member, the Commission consists of one faculty representative, one representative from each of the nine congressional districts in Indiana and three at-large members.

To qualify, the student may be a full- or part-time undergraduate or graduate student, must be enrolled through the spring 2024 semester at an Indiana public higher education institution

and live in the state of Indiana.

The 2022 Student Application and Agreement to Serve will be accepted via email (preferred), regular mail, express mail or fax. Candidates for the student member position must submit the application, two letters of recommendation and a signed agreement to serve by midnight on Friday, April 1, 2022.

The Commission's Student Nominating Committee will review applications and notify those that will be selected for in-person interviews by Friday, April 22.

Interviews will take place on Friday, April 29 at the Commission's office in downtown Indianapolis. All applicants will receive notification as to whether or not the Nominating Committee has selected them for the Governor's consideration.

Visit [www.in.gov/che/4874.htm](http://www.in.gov/che/4874.htm) for more information.

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# The Libertarian Party Of Indiana Nominates Candidates For 2022

The Libertarian Party of Indiana (LPIN) held its annual state convention this weekend at the Forum Event Center in Fishers, IN. Over 175 Libertarians gathered for the convention, including 131 delegates selected from 48 local county parties, to set the direction of the state party and to nominate Libertarian candidates for the 2022 election.

The annual convention kicked off Friday Night with a social event and a debate between Libertarian US Senate candidates William Henry (Elkhart) and James Sceniak (Johnson). Both candidates debated each other well and professionally. The two men articulated their approaches to the policy issues of today and engaged with the nearly 80 delegates and members of the public in attendance.

On Saturday at the start of the convention, LPIN Chair Evan McMahon awarded Certificates of Affiliation to members from local county parties that were formed since the 2021 state convention, including Monroe, Hendricks, Owen, and Jackson counties.

LPIN membership then nominated candidates

for the 2022 election for US Senate, Secretary of State, State Auditor, three Congressional districts, and multiple State House seats.

In the contested race for the US Senate seat, the delegates selected James Sceniak as the Libertarian candidate for United States Senator.

"I'm honored by this nomination, and I look forward to bringing a fresh, modern approach to Washington, D.C.!" Sceniak exclaimed from the main stage to a standing ovation after receiving the party's nomination.

McMahon then said, "Unlike the other parties, Libertarians both welcome and encourage competition in contested races. These two gentlemen have spent the past year campaigning for this nomination and they have done it with professionalism and class. They have made each other and their campaigns stronger for it. Thank you both for being great examples of Libertarians."

In a powerful show of unity, more than a dozen delegates, including former state chairs and 2020 Libertarian gubernatorial candidate Donald Rain-

water, rose to nominate Jeffrey Maurer (Hamilton) for Secretary of State. Maurer was unable to attend the convention, due to his active military service, but accepted the nomination in a pre-recorded video message. Maurer will return from active military service in a few weeks and will immediately hit the campaign trail as the Libertarian candidate for Secretary of State.

The LPIN delegates also nominated John Schick (Porter) for State Auditor, Gavin Maple (Marion) for 7th Congressional District, Andrew Horning (Owen) for 8th Congressional District, Tonya Millis (Lawrence) for 9th Congressional District, Josh Vergiels (Kosciusko) for State House district 22, Morgan Rigg (DeKalb) for State House District 52, Jada Burton (Vanderburg) for State House district 78, and others who are completing their paperwork.

The Libertarian Party of Indiana will continue to recruit, vet, and nominate candidates up and down the ballot over the next few months.

After the close of the business meeting, LPIN

members were recognized for the hard work and dedication during the annual awards banquet. At which this year's keynote speaker was 2020 Libertarian Presidential candidate, Dr. Jo Jorgensen. Dr. Jorgensen recapped and reported on her campaign and highlighted Indiana's growth and strength as a Libertarian stronghold. Including a national heat map of her 2020 votes by county.

Citing the strength of the Libertarian Party of Indiana, the 2020 Presidential Candidate stated, "On a map showing Libertarian votes, Indiana lights up like a Christmas tree!"

The Libertarian Party of Indiana is demonstrating that it is willing to put in the work to see Libertarians get elected and the message of Liberty to be spread across this great state!

The Libertarian Party of Indiana is committed to America's heritage of freedom: individual liberty and personal responsibility, a free-market economy of abundance and prosperity, a foreign policy of non-intervention, peace and free trade. To learn more, go to [www.lpin.org](http://www.lpin.org)

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**KAREN** From Page A1

and it be Samuel, a name that came through later in several of his brothers and sister's children. At any rate, he named his first child for his father, George Fruits. You would wonder again on the naming if his middle initial K was for his mother's maiden name Keys but it stands for Keith, it seems. George K. farmed in the Alamo area, as well. Buried in Waynetown, he was 73 and married a younger gal, Rhoda Shafer, when he was 42. They parented five children: Omer, Ida, Lydia, Jesse and Effie. George was not a member of any particular church but regularly attended one in Alamo. He was a Mason for 43 years. The obituary of George K. Fruits said this about him: "Mr. Fruits was one of the most beloved citizens of this community. He was a good man in every respect!" Pretty great epitaph.

Keys were married three days before Valentine's Day in 1845. To my knowledge, it was John's first walk down the aisle, whereas she had been married briefly to Hiram Albertson before his passing as on some of her children's various documents she is listed as Rebecca Albertson - seeming to be her maiden name, so it sure could steer someone down a wrong family tree without knowing about the first husband. No children with him, I don't believe!

George K. was followed by Lydia Ann Fruits born 13 March 1848 who died at age 11, on 16 November 1859, buried McCormick-Fruits-Snyder Cemetery in Ripley Township. She should have been entered in the 1860 census mortality schedule, but alas she was missed. Their parents are there as well, on the same stone but loved the way Kim and Roger H took the photo.

Charles -was not even 33 years old at his death (also buried in McCormick-Fruits-Snyder cemetery with his little sister) born 21 April 1851 died 24 Feb 1884. His father lost several in such a short period of time. Charles was married to Manda Brawley, born in Indiana and was just two months older than Charles. They had two children, John William and Alonzo James. She remarried John Day and had two other children, Charles and Edith and their family moved to Missouri (at least according to FindAGrave).

Noah is the last child from this marriage, born 16 Dec 1852 in the same home where he would later pass away (22 March 1933). Just a week before his 22nd birthday, he married Susan Le" Nora" Lewis. The Ridge Farm United Brethren Church near Waynetown was where he was an active member. His

children were: Merrit, Delmar K., Fred E., Charles M., Lewis N. (died young) and only daughter, Grace who went off to Kansas where she passed away at age 33 as the flu epidemic was subsiding. She was returned to rest with her parents in the Waynetown Masonic Cemetery.

Rebecca Keys was John's first wife. Rebecca (Ann) Keys was his second. They were cousins. Rebecca #1 was the daughter of William and Lydia (Thomas) Keys. Both of her parents were also long lived, mother at about 75 and father 89, but daughter Rebecca not so much. She died 29 Oct 1876 at a reasonable 64. Family lore notes that on her death bed, Rebecca begged John to marry her cousin, Rebecca Ann (daughter of Joe and Amanda Sparks Keys). She died on 29 June 1877 at age 63. Rebecca Ann was 45 years old and they had

no children, yet Rebecca #1 likely felt her cousin would take care of him, and perhaps she did! He lived to be 76 years old, passing on the 10th day of April, 1884 and Rebecca Ann lived until late 1903, buried in Frankfort, Indiana (Bunnell Cemetery with their parents) next to her long-time widowed sister, Rachel Keys Ostler, another of the eight Keys children. Well, I'll say this: Hear ye' hear ye' - the Rebecca Keys girls must have been amazing ladies since Alamo George and Catherine (Stonebraker) Fruits' sixth child John S. married the two of 'em!

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.

**CENTURY**

From Page A1

the April 1 deadline. Award recipients, which demonstrate a commitment to serving their communities, will receive a commemorative certificate and be recognized during a ceremony at the Indiana Statehouse. Before applying, be sure to check out these requirements.

For more information and to apply before the April 1 deadline, go to <https://www.iedc.in.gov/program/century-and-half-century-awards/overview>

Rep. Tim Brown, Crawfordsville, is a Republican who represents Montgomery County and portions of Boone and Tippecanoe as part of District 41

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