

**➔ 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.



Jan Seely smiles brightly while assisting patients to receive wonderful chiropractic and acupuncture care. Thank you for your smile, Jan!

**➔ THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** Looking for a job? Here's a very cool employment opportunity that you might enjoy. The Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] says the U.K. Antarctic Heritage Trust is looking for candidates for several positions at its Port Lockroy base. They're looking for a base leader, a shop manager, a general assistant to work in its gift shop and someone to run its post office and keep track of the local penguins from November 2022 to March 2023. Temperatures on Goudier Island, Antarctica where Port Lockroy is located range from five degrees to 33 degrees. How cool is that?

**2** Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton will be hosting a breakfast for Scouting on April 26, 2022. Gather at 8:00 a.m., program begins at 8:15 a.m. This breakfast event will be held at Fusion 54 101 W Main St. Crawfordsville, IN 47933.

**3** Crooked Lake Nature Preserve Hike, May 7. During the hike you will see a nice variety of spring wildflowers, including large flowered trilliums. You will also see glacial ridges and a shoreline overlook of Crooked Lake, one of the deepest and cleanest lakes in Indiana. The hike starts at 10 a.m. and takes about two hours.

# 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 the Lt. Governor's Office

**Lieutenant Governor Suzanna Crouch delivers remarks at Tipmont REMC's celebration of its 4,000th rural broadband connection. The projects to help create those connections were funded in part by grants from the Next Level Connections Broadband Grant Program, a project overseen by Indiana's Office of Community & Rural Affairs, under the oversight of the Lt. Gov.**

## Lt. Gov. Crouch, Tipmont REMC Celebrate Project Completions

By Joe LaRue

In an event at Tipmont Wintek's Battle Ground facilities, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, executives from Tipmont Wintek, and representatives from around the region gathered to celebrate the completion of 13 of its rural broadband projects, including seven in Montgomery County.

The Montgomery County projects, funded by \$4,229,106 in grants from Indiana's Next Level Connections Broadband

Grant Program and matched by an equal amount of local funding, has helped provide high-speed internet access to 223 homes, 49 farms and businesses and five anchor institutions. Anchor institutions are groups that provide significant community services, such as schools, hospitals, and government agencies.

The grant money came from the Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs' (OCRA) Next Level Connections Broad-

band Grant Program, which aims to provide high-speed internet access to the over 400,000 Hoosiers who live in what Lt. Gov. Crouch termed, "internet darkness." Started in 2018 by Gov. Holcomb as a \$1 billion infrastructure initiative, Lt. Gov. Crouch said that the program, "has already helped connect 132,000 Hoosiers with the money that's been awarded."

➔ See CROUCH Page A5



Photo courtesy of Karen Zach

Michael and Mary Jane Fruits

## No More Fruits in Karen's Column



KAREN ZACH  
Around The County

Hope you have all enjoyed perusing the Fruits' Saga as much as I've delighted in researching, writing and presenting the Saga to you!

Depending on your outlook,

joyfully or perhaps sadly, today's child is the last of Alamo George and Catherine (Stonebraker) Fruits children, the last of the Saga of Dear 'ol Alamo George! - Son Michael Yeakley Fruits, was born on the Fruits farm in Ripley Twp., May 13, 1836. Here he grew-up to not

➔ See KAREN Page A5

## Communities in Senate District 23 Receive Over \$5.4 Million in Road-Funding Grants

As part of the Community Crossings Matching Grant Program (CCMG), Crawfordsville received \$195,418.65 to help with improvements to roads and bridges. Communities across Senate District 23 will receive more than \$5.4 million in total to improve roads and bridges through the Community Crossings Matching Grant Program

(CCMG), said State Sen. Phil Boots (R-Crawfordsville). The CCMG, established by the Indiana General Assembly in 2016, aims to advance community infrastructure projects, strengthen local transportation networks and improve Indiana's roads and bridges. Since its

➔ See GRANTS Page A5

## McKinney Named as New Crawfordsville Wastewater Department Superintendent

Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton is pleased to announce the appointment of Troy McKinney as the new Wastewater Superintendent.

McKinney is a 1988 Crawfordsville High School graduate and has been working for the Department for 35

years, gaining employment with the department right after graduating high school.

Before this role, McKinney was an operation and maintenance supervisor for the Department.

➔ See MCKINNEY Page A5

**➔ HONEST HOOSIER**

Speaking of mushrooms. I'm happy to be an official taste tester if you want to share? Or heck, you could even just tell me the spot you found 'em.



**➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

Cigarette smoke exposure is a risk factor for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Paper and online at www.thepaper24-7.com.



**➔ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION**

Obituaries.....A2  
Meeting Notes.....A3  
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.

**➔ TODAY'S QUOTE**

"See the world like a big wardrobe. Everybody has his own costume. There is only one that fits you perfectly."

- George Harris

**➔ TODAY'S JOKE**

"If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?"  
"Pilgrims."

**➔ OBITUARIES**

Loretta Vaughn

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



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**WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST**

63 BREEZY WINDY TO RAINY LATE	52/73 MORNING SHOWERS CLEARING	54/76 CLOUDY WITH SHOWERS IN THE EVENING	60/82 WINDY AND WARM	62/81 PARTLY CLOUDY LATE DAY RAIN	50/60 RAINY, TURNING CLEARER	42/57 PARTLY CLOUDY, CHILLY
WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE

## OBITUARIES

### Rev. Joe Mack Miller

Sep. 10, 1927 - April 17, 2022

Rev. Joe Mack Miller (Daddy, Papaw, Uncle Joe), 94, went home to Jesus peacefully Easter morning, April 17, 2022, with family by his side.

He was born on Sep. 10, 1927 in Spencer County Indiana.

Mr. Miller lived a full life. He was a farmer who received the calling and continued his education through ministry, serving congregations as a United Methodist Minister for over 60 years, in churches that include the United Methodist Church in Rockport, Indiana; United Methodist Church in Jacksonburg, Ohio; Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Crawfordsville; Faith United Methodist Church in Indianapolis; United Methodist Church in Seymour, Indiana; and Fairlawn United Methodist Church in Evansville, Indiana.

Mr. Miller lived his faith in service to others. He and his wife opened their home to over 50 foster children over the years. Enjoying his retirement in Evansville, and then moved to Crawfordsville for the last few years, he was able to spend more time with family, playing cards (especially UNO), tinkering and fixing things for those he knew and loved, and spending time with his granddaughters and great granddaughters, his pride and joy.

Mr. Miller asked that you love and cherish your family as he did his.

Survivors include his wife of 73 years, Janice Miller; son Joe L. Miller; daughter Carla (John) Schetzlsle; granddaughters Kali Schetzlsle (David Rigdon) and Kristi Schetzlsle (Bill Stull); great granddaughters Aailyah Keys and Brielle Stull; sister-in-law Dianna Enlow; nieces Sandra (John) Roberts, Mary Jo (Charlie) Patterson and Franci Miller; and nephews Wally Murphy, and Matthew (Gayle) Enlow.

The immediate family will have a small life celebration, no service to be held.

It was Mr. Miller's wish to have contributions made to the United Methodist Youth Home, a nonprofit that he helped to build and establish for at-risk youth. Donations can be mailed to the United Methodist Youth Home 2521 N Burkhardt Rd., Evansville, 47715, or made online at [umyh.org/donate-now](http://umyh.org/donate-now)

## Letters

### Mayor Offers Endorsement for Union Township Trustee

Dear Editor,  
 Union Township lies in the center, most populated area of our county, and includes key businesses, industries, and residential areas. While townships have several key responsibilities, none are more pressing and significant than ensuring adequate fire and emergency medical protection in the unincorporated areas. In the case of Union Township, this includes residential areas such as Twin Oaks, Cox Addition, Stonecrest, Harvest Grove, Cottonwood, Cedar Ridge, Lake Holiday, Chigger Hollow, Brown Addition, Walnut Hills, and many more. It also includes vital industries such as Nucor Steel, Steel Technologies, Banjo Corporation, US Aggregates, IMI, and major highways like Interstate 74, US 231, US 136, SR 32, and SR 47. Lastly, but of paramount significance for emergency protection, it includes schools such as North Montgomery High School, North Montgomery Middle School, Sommer Elementary, and Sugar Creek Elementary. Needless to say, the importance of township government ensuring high-quality fire and emergency medical protection (EMS) for these critically important areas cannot be overstated.

During her time as Union Township Trustee Sally Evans-Molin has

remained steadfast in providing high-quality fire and EMS protection in a manner that is consistent throughout the township and staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year. She eliminated past confusion in areas such as Lake Holiday to guarantee that fire and EMS responds as soon as a call is received and has invested in modern fire equipment such as fire engines, tanker trucks, brush/field fire equipment, and rescue extrication equipment for automobile and industrial accidents.

Much is at stake in the upcoming election when it comes to continuing the vital work of providing strong emergency protection for these critical areas of our community. Sally Evans-Molin has a proven, strong track record and has elevated the standard of fire and EMS protection in Union Township during her time in office. I strongly urge you to please give her your support so that this strong protection is continued in the future.

Emergency situations arise every day in Union Township. The uncertainty of entrusting someone without experience to ensure that adequate protection is provided should be a genuine concern to anyone who lives, works, or travels in those areas.

Todd D. Barton, Mayor  
 City of Crawfordsville

## JUMP Program Members Learn the Basics of Sketching at Little Mexico

The JUMP program, which is a mentoring program for kids, is back to regular monthly group activities! After some hit and miss months during the worst part of the Pandemic, things are opening back up and the mentors and mentees can once again get together each month to experience new things and have some fun!

Last Saturday, the members of the JUMP program met at the Crawfordsville District Public Library to participate in a "Draw with Me" class presented by Linda Brady. Jill Hampton, the JUMP Program Manager stated, "It is amazing how well

you can sketch if you have someone knowledgeable and patient to show you the way. Linda Brady did a fantastic job guiding us through the process of sketching trees in bloom. While all of the sketches looked a little bit different, they were all great. I was glad to see the adults and kids were both having such a good time!

Following the art class, the JUMP program headed to Little Mexico for lunch and had a chance to visit with each other and enjoy a great meal. Some of the kids had never experienced Mexican food so this was their chance to try some new things! That is one of

the benefits of being a part of the JUMP program is seeing different lifestyles and trying new things. This applies to both the mentors and the mentees.

Since the Pandemic began, things have changed for all of us but particularly for the kids. They have been more isolated than ever before. The one thing that hasn't changed is the need for kids to have as many positive roles models as possible to spend time with them. The waiting list for kids wanting a mentor continues to grow. The need for adult volunteers is real and can come in many forms. It can be a male or female

mentoring one on one or a married couple mentoring a child together. It is a fun way to give back to the community!

If you would like to volunteer to become a mentor and a friend to a child on the waiting list, please contact Jill Hampton. Her email is [jill@mcysb.org](mailto:jill@mcysb.org) or call 362-0694 ext. 103.

To learn more about the Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau, visit [www.mcysb.org](http://www.mcysb.org) or visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/mcysb.org](http://www.facebook.com/mcysb.org).

The Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau is a United Way Partner Agency.

## Working at Home Appeals on Wheels to Visit Wabash College



**RIX QUINN**  
 Quinn Summary

Luckily, I've got a little home office. It's a place I can go sleep after my morning coffee.

On Monday I had lots of time on my hands, so I took an online test to gauge my maturity level. It said I was "childish, obnoxious, and apathetic." It said some other stuff, but I didn't care.

I've also started cleaning out the attic. I found my old report cards from high school, along with notes that teachers sent home.

I had forgotten that I once got in trouble for "releasing small rodents during a school assembly." That accusation was unfair. My hamsters would never harm anybody.

One afternoon, I sat on our front porch to watch the world pass by. I waved to everyone.

If somebody didn't wave back, I blew my duck call. Some people react poorly to weird noises.

Because I spend so much time in the house, I actually enjoy talking to telephone salesmen.

Last month I bought a week's vacation from a recorded message. I didn't realize that until I received the package, and the reservation said it was for July 2019.

I've never binge-watched so many old TV series, and I keep getting their plots confused. Last night I dreamed I was the sheriff in a Wild West town who drove a red convertible, possessed magical powers, and kept his talking horse at home.

Also, I've been watching sports events. I've seen some current ones, plus some old ones from the 20th century. This week I saw two bowl games from the 1970s, a baseball playoff from the 1990s, and a track meet from the 1980s.

I recorded the 100-yard dash, then played it backwards. Now, that's what you call a true rerun.

- Got a subject you'd like Rix to talk about? E-mail him at [rix@rixquinn.com](mailto:rix@rixquinn.com)

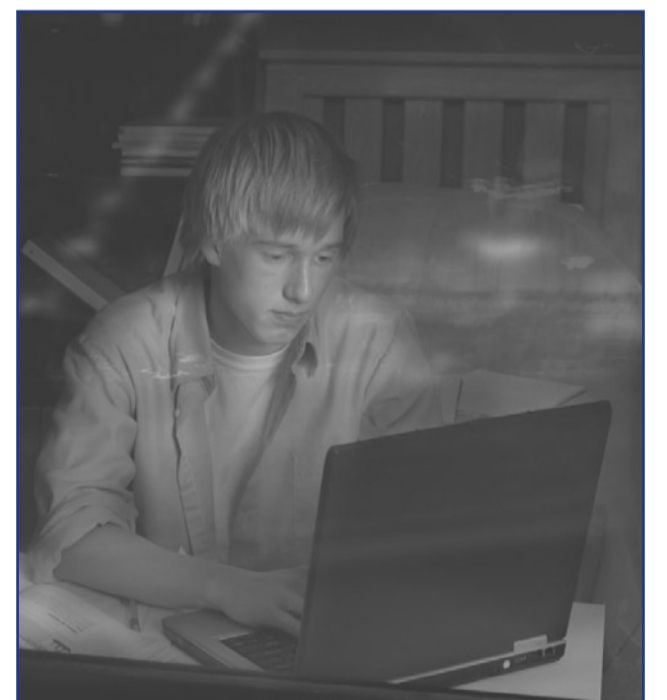
## MCHS Job Opening

The MCHS is hiring a new Assistant Director:

The Assistant Director is responsible for volunteer management; newsletter and membership mailings; marketing and communications; assisting the Executive Director with administrative tasks, educational programming,

special events, and exhibit development.

For full job descriptions please look on our website at [www.lane-mchs.org/jobs](http://www.lane-mchs.org/jobs). If interested in applying, please send a cover letter and resume to MCHS Executive Director Jill CoatesMatthews at [jcoates@lane-mchs.org](mailto:jcoates@lane-mchs.org).



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# Holcomb Announces \$65M in Trails Grants for Indiana Communities



Gov. Eric Holcomb

Gov. Eric J. Holcomb and Indiana Department of Natural Resources Director Dan Bortner today announced 38 com-

munities and non-profit organizations will receive a combined \$65 million for 77 miles of new trail development as a part of the third round of the Next Level Trails program. With matching funds from applicants, this round is expected to generate total investment of more than \$102 million.

"Trails connect communities together in such a personal way and are perfect pathways to good mental and physical well-being," Gov. Holcomb said. "These continued quality-of-life investments will reap gen-

erational economic and tourism development dividends and further showcase Indiana's incredible outdoor experiences."

A \$150 million grant program, Next Level Trails is the largest infusion of trails funding in state history. In rounds one and two, a total of \$55 million was awarded to 35 communities. To date, \$120 million has been awarded to build 190 miles of trails throughout Indiana. Ninety-four percent of Hoosiers live within five miles of a trail.

For example, three sections of the Nickel Plate

Trail in Indianapolis, Fishers, and Noblesville were selected, as well as smaller local projects in Jasper, Middlebury, Shelbyville, and Huntington.

"The DNR listens to the recreational and outdoor needs of Hoosiers," Bortner said. "We are excited to expand our partnerships with local governments and non-profits to bring these important connections and amenities to communities across Indiana."

The grants awarded in the third round include 17 regional projects and 21 local projects. The list of awards, project

descriptions, and a map are posted at [on.IN.gov/NLT-round-3](http://on.IN.gov/NLT-round-3).

The third-round grant recipients are contributing \$37.4 million in matching value, resulting in a \$102.4 million total investment in trails. The program requires a minimum 20 percent project match, which can include monetary contributions, land value, and in-kind donations of materials and labor.

Next Level Trails is part of Gov. Holcomb's \$1 billion Next Level Connections infrastructure program, which accelerates the comple-

tion of major highway projects, expands access to rural broadband services, and pursues the expansion of rail projects in northwest Indiana. The initial program received funds totaling \$90 million; \$60 million more was appropriated in the current biennial budget to bring the Next Level Trails investment to \$150 million.

Progress on all Next Level Trails projects can be found here.

Next Level Trails objectives and more information in the grants program is at [on.IN.gov/nextleveltrails](http://on.IN.gov/nextleveltrails).

# BBB Scam Alert: High Demand for Used Cars Leads to Online Purchasing Scams



With used car prices skyrocketing recently, consumers are turning to the internet to find a deal. Better Business Bureau is warning consumers to hit the brakes on these types of transactions.

**How the Scam Works**  
You see a used car listing online or through a sponsored ad on social media. You begin communicating with the seller and after agreeing to the deal, you're asked to wire money for the vehicle to a

shipping/escrow company. The seller claims they will keep your payment in escrow for five days to make sure you're satisfied with your purchase.

In another scam, the seller claims her husband recently died and is trying to get rid of his old car because it's "brought back bad memories." The seller says someone else was going to buy the car but didn't get the loan, so it's ready to be shipped.

In each instance, the scammer makes the fraud appear legitimate by assuring the transaction will occur through a third party's buyer protection program.

One consumer reported losing \$82,000 to BBB Scam Tracker from an online vehicle purchase which turned out to be a scam. "[I] purchased a vehicle from this dealership only to find out the car does not exist nor

does the dealership." (Victim is willing to speak to the media).

After the transaction, the scammer typically ignores all follow-up calls, text messages, and emails or may demand additional payments. In the end, the consumer does not receive their car and is never able to recoup their losses. Aside from the monetary losses, consumers may put personal banking information at risk through these scams.

**Avoid Online Car Sales Scams:**

- Never wire funds or complete bank-to-bank transactions. Scammers love this kind of transaction because there is no way for you to get your money back once it is completed. Instead, make legitimate purchases by check or credit card.
- Watch out for too good to be true deals. They are most likely a

scam. Scammers often steal consumers' personal information and money by offering them high-value goods at extremely discounted prices.

- Contact the seller by phone. At some point during your negotiations, speak with the sales manager on the phone. If they are unusually vague about certain details of the sale or cannot confirm their location or the vehicle location, it's most likely a scam.

- See the car first. Never buy a car without making an in-person inspection and taking a test drive first.

- Don't give in to pressure. Scammers often try to pressure you into giving up your personal information or making a down payment before you have time to think about the purchase. Take your time and think a

deal over before agreeing to anything. If you get a bad feeling, listen to your gut.

- Don't trust a seller or buyer who says that the transaction is guaranteed by eBay, PayPal, Craigslist, or another online marketplace. These sites explicitly explain they cannot guarantee that people using their services are legitimate.

For More Information:  
To learn more, see the BBB tips on buying a new car and buying a used car. You can also look up car dealerships at BBB.org to check their business rating and read customer reviews.

To report a scam visit BBB's Scam Tracker at <https://www.bbb.org/scamtracker>

Read the FBI's Alert on Online Vehicle Fraud by visiting [https://www.fbi.gov/?came\\_from=https%3A/www.fbi.gov/scams-and-safety/common-scams-and-crimes/retracted-pages/online-vehicle-sale-fraud](https://www.fbi.gov/?came_from=https%3A/www.fbi.gov/scams-and-safety/common-scams-and-crimes/retracted-pages/online-vehicle-sale-fraud)

Find new car dealers near you and used car dealers near you by visiting <https://www.bbb.org/near-me/new-car-dealers> and <https://www.bbb.org/near-me/used-car-dealers>, respectively.

The Better Business Bureau has empowered people to find businesses, brands and charities they can trust for over 110 years. In 2021, people turned to BBB more than 200 million times for BBB Business Profiles and Charity Reports on 25,000 charities, free at BBB.org. Local, independent BBBs can be found across the United States, Canada, and Mexico, including BBB Serving Central Indiana, which was founded in 1916 and serves 46 counties.

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# What to Do If You Missed April Deadline to File and Pay Taxes

The federal income tax deadline has passed for most individual taxpayers. However, some haven't filed their 2021 tax returns or paid their tax due.

Some people may choose not to file a tax return because they didn't earn enough money to be required to file. Generally, they won't receive a penalty if they are owed a refund. However, they may miss out on receiving a refund.

On the other hand, tax owed and not paid by April 18, 2022 is subject to penalties and interest. Taxpayers in Maine and Massachusetts had until April 19 to file and pay due to the Patriots' Day holiday in those states.

Anyone who didn't file and owes tax should file a return as soon as they can and pay as much as they can to reduce penalties and interest.

Electronic filing options, including IRS Free File, are still available on IRS.gov through October 17, 2022, to prepare and file returns electronically.

The military community can also file their taxes using MilTax, a free tax resource offered through the Department of Defense. Eligible taxpayers can use MilTax to electronically file a federal tax return and up to three state returns for free.

If taxpayers find that they owe taxes, they can review their available payment options. The IRS has information for taxpayers who can't pay taxes they owe.

Some taxpayers may have extra time to file their tax returns and pay any taxes due. This includes some disaster victims, taxpayers living overseas, certain military service members and

eligible support personnel in combat zones.

Filing soon is very important because the late-filing and late-payment penalties and interest on unpaid taxes add up quickly. However, in some cases, a taxpayer filing after the deadline may qualify for penalty relief. For those charged a penalty, they may contact the IRS by calling the number on their notice and explain why they couldn't file and pay on time.

Taxpayers who have a history of filing and paying on time often qualify for administrative penalty relief. A taxpayer usually qualifies if they have filed and paid timely for the past three years and meet other requirements. For details, taxpayers should visit the first-time penalty abatement page on IRS.gov.

Attorney General Todd Rokita took another step forward in Indiana's ongoing legal fight to get relief for Hoosiers harmed by the negative side effects of smoking. This also represents one element in the larger effort to help Hoosiers stop smoking and decrease the incidence of youth smoking throughout Indiana. This includes settlement payments from the tobacco companies for victims of smoking, as well as by placing significant restrictions on how tobacco companies can engage in marketing and advertising in Indiana.

Last week Indiana received over \$200 million from tobacco product manufacturers under the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.

"Thousands of Hoosiers die each year from conditions caused by

smoking," said Attorney General Rokita. "My office is working hard to ensure our kids stay healthy and that they never go down the dangerous path of smoking."

Under this agreement, the state will receive annual payments as long as the tobacco manufacturers continue selling cigarettes in Indiana. The agreement also forbids participating cigarette manufacturers from targeting youth, imposes restrictions on advertising and promotional activities, and product placement in media, branded merchandise, free product samples, and sponsorships.

The Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement remains the largest civil settlement in U.S. history. Entered in 1998, the agreement involves the four largest US tobacco

companies, Phillip Morris Inc., R.J. Reynolds, Brown & Williamson, and Lorillard, and the attorneys general of 46 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The agreement required the companies to pay more than \$206b over the course of 25 years. The funds received by Indiana under the settlement agreement go to healthcare, prevention and reduction of smoking.

Cigarettes cause cancer and other diseases, as the Surgeon General first concluded in its historic 1964 report. So, improving Hoosiers' health remains a priority of the Attorney General, as well as the entire Indiana state leadership team.

For more information on quitting smoking, call Indiana's Tobacco Quit Line at 1-800-QuitNow.

## CROUCH

From Page A1

Tipmont Wintek REMC CEO Ron Holcomb, in remarks at the event, remarked that, "It's said that necessity is the mother of invention. And nothing is more necessary than bringing broadband internet to rural Americans." He went on to say that, "Projections estimate that the economic returns on delivering high speed broadband to rural Americans are 4-1."

Holcomb made specific note of the work the state has done in helping, saying, "We look forward to our continued partnership with the state and their continued support and vision."

In her remarks at the event, Lt. Gov. Crouch emphasized how COVID-19 had made

rural broadband access even more critical than it already was. With remote learning and tele-work becoming a way of life for most Hoosiers, it became critical that the state expand its efforts to connect rural Hoosiers.

After their initial allocation of \$100 million in grants in 2019, the Next Level Connections program helped deliver a staggering \$250 million in grant money in 2021, largely as a result of the increased need for high-speed internet access.

Lt. Gov. Crouch closed her remarks by saying, "Through providing this service, Tipmont REMC continues to improve the quality of life for both Hoosiers living here now, as well as those looking to

locate here in the future."

In speaking to Lt. Gov. Crouch after her remarks, she emphasized that, "Governor Holcomb and I believe that rural Indiana is our next great economic opportunity. And by expanding broadband, we are able to unlock that opportunity, not just for the people that live there but by attracting other people to our rural areas." She went on to say, "It's also about quality of life, and improving the quality of life for the residents that live there. We saw during COVID that being connected is no longer a luxury, it's absolutely essential."

When asked if there was anyone she felt had not gotten the proper credit or recognition for their work

on this project, Lt. Gov. Crouch said, "People are absolutely ecstatic once they are connected and they haven't had that connection, but then having the support when they have problems or things aren't working right, is equally important." She said, "I would say that those that haven't gotten maybe enough credit would be the support and the Data Center."

The Data Center is Tipmont Wintek's support hub, responsible for ensuring that its systems stays functional and working for customers throughout its coverage area.

Tipmont Wintek Communications Director noted that, due to the significant increase in funding

through the grants from the Next Level Connections program, they are expected to complete their six planned rural broadband projects by 2023, a year ahead of the original projected completion date of 2024.

On April 18, 2022, Tipmont Wintek received an additional \$3.2 million in grants from round 3 of the Next Level Connections grants, on top of the \$16 million in total it received in September of 2020. Beyond Montgomery County provides rural broadband to areas in Clinton, Fountain, Tippecanoe, and White Counties. Their coverage region stretches from west of Veedersburg to east of Mulberry in Clinton County, and from south

of Crawfordsville to north of West Lafayette.

In total, Tipmont Wintek services over 4,000 customers. Since connecting their first customer in 2019, Tipmont has laid 1,797 miles of fiber to help connect rural Hoosiers to high-speed broadband.

Tipmont REMC, which acquired the Lafayette-based Wintek Corporation in January of 2019, has 24,872 members, 2,779 miles of electric line and provides electrical power in the five previously listed counties, as well as Benton, Boone and Carroll Counties. They continue to be an innovation leader in providing electrical and broadband solutions to rural Hoosiers.

## KAREN

From Page A1

only farm but run a sawmill where a sad family tragedy occurred.

On November 27th in 1855, Justice of the Peace, William Smith married Michael and his wife (who would be so for 54 years), Mary Jane Thomas (21 Sept 1837 – 31 Jan 1909). Both are buried in O'Neill Cemetery (he passing April 11, 1912), along with three babies (an infant daughter in 1866; Willard 1868-1870 and Balas 1870-72). Andy R. added a photo of the couple, while Kim & Roger Hancock provided a photo of their tombstone.

Their first child, son James B. was born about a year after their marriage, would grow-up to marry Jennie Lavendar Burke 13 days before his 18th birthday, she about a year older. James B. at age 22 was working for his father at the sawmill, two miles north of Alamo. It was a Saturday afternoon and one of the boilers of a large engine exploded tearing through the side of the building. James was operating that engine and was said to have been one of the best at the job but something happened as three of the

men switched jobs and the explosion mangled and scalded James so badly he lived but a few minutes. Three children had already blessed (Marie Alice, Michael John and Dora Mae, plus a Nettie who possibly died shortly after birth) James and Jennie's union, thus leaving Jennie to raise these three. Jennie there afterward married Fred Lightcap and had two sons with him – Fred and Forest.

Howard Fruits was Michael and Mary J's second child, born March 2nd, 1860 in Montgomery County and died right here 5 Aug 1938, buried Waynetown Masonic Cemetery. He married first Clara Hunter and 2nd Alvaretta Stonebraker. In 1891, on May 22nd, his father almost tragically lost another son when Howard's store (between Waynetown and Yountsville basically at Fruits which also served as the Post Office, Howard the PM) was hit by lightning. The chimney was torn off and bricks hurled everywhere. The bolt made a turn and he was knocked to his knees and rendered insensible for quite a few minutes. Overall,



Photo courtesy of Karen Zach

### Michael and Mary J. Fruits' gravestone

Howard was one lucky man and was mainly just badly shaken. When he recovered he went to aide his customer, Mrs. Small who lost her team which had been hitched in front of the store but was so frightened they took off down the muddy road, completely shredding the well-made buggy. He

must have enjoyed music as in 1902, he purchased a graphophone and had parties to entertain his friends with the tunes from it, and he was involved in improving the community having invested in telephone lines that year as well, first to Yountsville, selling his interest in that to invest

in the lines to Alamo. He was the father of two children, I believe, one from each wife (Martha and James W).

Samuel Larkin Fruits is one of my fav of all the Fruits' family born near Alamo 8 Jan 1873 (died at Alamo 20 June 1946 buried in the Alamo Cemetery) marrying Sarah Katherine Krout (1882-1959) in 1900. They had several children, only one passing young Fannie Helen 1897-1900 and there is a picture of her on FindAGrave as well as one of Samuel and Sarah – they are a sharp looking couple. One of their son's Burl owned the Fruits Sawmill for many years and I've always wondered if it was the same that his grandfather owned. Burl's other brothers and sisters were: Harry, Omer, Daisy (married Carl Davis) and Forest.

Michael's last child was Haddley Walter Fruits, born on a farm near Alamo, 9 September 1878. Sadly, he passed young as well, on 9 May 1920 at just 41. His widow, Minnie Krout lived 21 years thereafter. Her sister Sarah married his brother Samuel Larkin above. I knew a lot of these Fruits

I've written about the last several weeks, but don't believe I knew any of these children, Oren Oscar, Cecil Faye who married #1 Roy McCormick and #2 Maurice Bratton, George William and Byron Arthur. According to FindAGrave (probably more as being the youngest of the youngest others are likely not passed yet) seven grandchildren derived from this man.

And so the Fruits Saga (from my point of view, I guess, as well as George's children) is basically complete. You have read many interesting, fun, confusing and tragic stories, hopefully many you didn't know about Alamo George and his sweet Catherine Stonebraker Fruits and their offspring. My main hope is that you have greatly enjoyed 'em!! Please let me know if you'd like to read more sagas.

- 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.

## GRANTS

From Page A1

enactment, the program has awarded more than \$1 billion in state matching funds for local construction projects.

In Senate District 23, the following communities received grants:

- Crawfordsville received \$195,418.65;
- Advance received \$98,377.50;
- Attica received \$224,579.47;
- Boone County received \$320,189.37;
- Covington received \$178,523.96;
- Fountain County received \$1 million;

- Jamestown received \$170,239.50;
  - Lebanon received \$315,300;
  - Parke County received \$717,972.22;
  - Rockville received \$201,073.49;
  - Veedersburg received \$628,662.78;
  - Vermillion County received \$613,297.50;
  - Warren County received \$665,720.62; and
  - West Lebanon received \$79,244.42.
- "Maintaining Indiana's roads and bridges is an important part of sustaining a strong state

and a thriving economy," Senator Boots said. "I'm pleased to see so many communities in our district receive this funding, as it will have a direct impact on our local infrastructure."

Through the program, the Indiana Department of Transportation matches up to \$1 million annually when localities invest in road and bridge repairs. Counties with populations fewer than 50,000 and cities and towns with populations fewer than 10,000 receive a 75%/25% match, while counties

with populations greater than 50,000 and cities and towns with populations greater than 10,000 receive a 50%/50% match.

The CCMG offers two rounds of applications each year, with the next call for applications occurring in July of 2022.

To view the full list of communities receiving matching funds, visit <https://www.in.gov/indot/doing-business-with-indot/local-public-agency-programs/community-crossing-matching-grant-program/>.

## MCKINNEY

From Page A1

"Troy has been with the city for years and is extremely knowledgeable about our city's water resource management," Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton said. "We are excited for him to step into this new role and continue to develop the department and its employees. We are thrilled to

continue having him work with us here in Crawfordsville."

McKinney replaces Larry Kadinger who recently retired as Wastewater Superintendent.

For more information on the Crawfordsville Waste Water Department visit [www.crawfordsville.net](http://www.crawfordsville.net).

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