

TODAY'S VERSE

Job 27:6 My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.

FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Cole Long smiles grandly while attending to apartment maintenance for Justus Property Management. Thank you for your smile, Cole!

THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 "With the world's love for '90s fashion at an all-time high since the decade itself, it's no surprise that grunge has made a comeback," according to the Trend Spotter website. But says the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC], trendy can be costly. Take the newest offering from the luxury fashion house Balenciaga -- a pair sneakers that will make you the grungiest fashionista in your town if you've got dough to spare. The "Paris High Top" fully destroyed footwear is available on Balenciaga's online store for a luxuriously steep \$1,800 per pair. They look like they are falling apart but they bear the name, Balenciaga, seemingly printed with a marker and large enough to be noticed from afar. They're sure to impress your friends and family.

2 A recent survey shows despite 86% of Americans saying sustainability is important to them, less than half (45%) have recycled an electronic device. Even more alarming, 21% didn't know electronics could be recycled! Nearly 20% have put an old phone/computer in the trash. 49% own two or more broken/unused cell phones. 1 in 3 has never thought about electronics sustainability. Recycling electronics isn't always easy. 56% say it's challenging to figure out where to take the devices and 88% say they would be more likely to recycle if it was easier.

3 Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb appointed three people to serve on the state soil conservation board, including a Montgomery County farmer, Kenny Cain. Cain, along with Angola's Larry Clemens and Guilford's Brad Dawson will serve terms that end March 31, 2026.

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper **50¢**

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA WWW.THEPAPER24-7.COM



Photo courtesy of Duke Energy

This is Duke Energy's fifth consecutive year honoring Tippecanoe's veterans with headstone flags.

Duke Energy Continues Tradition Of Honoring Tippecanoe County Veterans

Duke Energy volunteers partnered with Tippecanoe County Veterans Council to place 2,500 flags at the Indiana Veterans Home Cemetery. This is Duke Energy's fifth consecutive year honoring Tippecanoe's veterans with headstone flags. The organization places roughly 5,000 flags a year to commemorate Veterans during the Memorial and Veteran's Day

holidays. Over 20 volunteers participated in the May 23 event. Duke Energy Community Relations Manager, Dan Rhodes, was pleased with the turn out. "This volunteer tradition is important to our team at Duke Energy," said Rhodes. "Memorial Day is about more than a three-day weekend. Our team was honored to commemorate

& reflect on the service of these veterans from all around the state." Duke Energy volunteers will return to the cemetery in November with fresh flags to commemorate Veteran's Day. Anyone interested in supporting the Indiana Veteran's Home can contact the volunteer office directly via email at IVHVolunteers@ivh.in.gov or call 765-497-8638.

Is This Our Community?

"I was expecting to hear stories of isolation, alienation, tokenism, loneliness. I'm really troubled by the number of stories about threats to personal safety and the sense of not being safe in town or on the campus," said one man in the back of the audience. An hour into the show, the stage manager came out to explain that the cast would use improvisation to "playback" the audience's reactions because the "Where is our Beloved Community?" included such intense real-life experiences from Wabash and Crawfordsville's minority residents.



The League of Women Voters, open to men as well as women, is a nonpartisan, multi-issue political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. For information about the Montgomery County LWW, visit: www.lwvmtocoin.org or message to LWW, PO Box 101, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

Each of the dozens of voices recounting their experience revealed a deep divide in our community. Heidi Vogel Winters, the director, made the bold choice to incorporate the "playback" and the cast's courage in illuminating these under stage lights while the audience sat cloaked in the dark being. Not only did they inhabit the stories they recounted, but they were also open to the range of reactions. By mirroring what they heard with improvisation and allowing the audience to affirm their accuracy they led the first steps of (re)connection. The inciting incident that inspired the April production was a bottle thrown through a window at a Wabash frat house. The bottle sprayed broken glass from the window that had been curtained by a Black Lives Matter display. Shards like bullets. Anyone who has experienced the trauma of a home invasion,

What Kind Of World? Fill In The Blank

We live in a (fill in the blank) world today. Sure, I can give you some options, but I'll bet you've already come up with several of your own . . . some of which might even be suitable for a family newspaper. One slightly weird thing that may (or may not) surprise the eight or nine of you who regularly follow these ramblings . . . in the late '60s, I was a big fan of heavy metal groups liked Steppenwolf, Iron Butterfly, Black Sabbath and the like. A decade later I had long hair and thought I would play



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

The Daily Almanac



Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 6:24 a.m.
SET: 9:05 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
High: 84 °F
Low: 63 °F



- Wacky Holiday Today**
- Geek Pride Day
 - National Wine Day
 - National Missing Children's Day



- What Happened On This Day**
- 1977 The first Star Wars film is released
 - 1979 American Airlines flight 191 crashes shortly after takeoff
 - 1963 32 African countries form a coalition against white rule



- Births On This Day**
- 1803 Ralph Waldo Emerson
American poet, philosopher
 - 1976 Cillian Murphy
Irish/English actor

- Deaths On This Day**
- 2005 Graham Kennedy
Australian actor
 - 2006 Desmond Dekker
Jamaican singer-songwriter

See LWW Page A6

See TIM Page A6

HONEST HOOSIER

Here's hoping for a safe and exciting Indy 500! I can't wait!



INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

- Obituaries.....A2
- Public Notices.....A4
- Classifieds.....A4
- Clue.....A5

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you're on medications from multiple doctors, make sure each one knows your entire list. 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.



OBITUARIES

Obituaries on page A2

The Paper appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank Aimee Malott for subscribing!



THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Want To Go? Make sure to keep taking part in the 2022 Great Montgomery Scavenger Hunt! The Paper has already received tons of responses (some of them even came pretty close to being right!) but we definitely want more. Don't forget – getting all the clues right and finishing top of the standings earns you cash prizes and your picture in your number one local daily newspaper! It's an offer you can't refuse, so make sure to flip over to page A5, check out the latest clue and keep your eyes peeled for new clues as they come out!

TODAY'S QUOTE

"If we have the attitude that it's going to be a great day it usually is."
Catherine Pulsifer

TODAY'S JOKE

Why'd the cowboy get a wiener dog? He wanted a long, little doggie!

7 DAY FORECAST

TUE 50/75 MAINLY SUNNY & PLEASANT	WED 63/84 BUT WITH POSSIBLY SEVERE	THU 65/74 RAIN LIKELY	FRI 58/70 CLOUDS, SHOWERS, COOL	SAT 54/81 WARMER, PARTLY CLOUDY	SUN 65/86 BREEZY AND WARM	MON 68/88 BREEZY AND WARM
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OBITUARIES

Judith "Judy" Ann Byers

Aug. 30, 1945 - May 22, 2022

Judith "Judy" Ann Byers, age 76 of Crawfordsville, passed away on Sunday, May 22, 2022 at Majestic Care of Lafayette.

She was born in Crawfordsville on Aug. 30, 1945 to the late Hugh Laverne "Vern" & Wilma Jean (Rice) Hart.

She graduated from Waveland High School in 1964. On Sept. 17, 1966 she married William "Bill" C. Byers, who preceded her in death on June 26, 1984. She worked at Co-op (Ceres Solutions) as the administrative assistant for 26 years. She enjoyed scrap booking, traveling, camping, going to her grandkid's events, watching hockey and NASCAR racing, and was a Jeff Gordon fan. She was a member of AMVETS Auxiliary, Crawfordsville American Legion Auxiliary, and VFW Auxiliary.

Survivors include her three children, Kevin Byers, Andy (Kristy) Byers and Buffy (Ed) Bunch; four grandchildren, Tonya (Matthew Taylor) Posthauer, Brittany (Dustin) Carr, William Byers and Alex Bunch; five great grandchildren, Chloe, Madisyn, Noah, Enzo and Conley; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, William "Bill" Byers.

Visitation is scheduled at Sanders Priebe Funeral Care, 315 S Washington St, in Crawfordsville on Friday, May 27, 2022 from 5 - 8 .pm. The funeral will be Saturday, May 28, 2022 at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. The service will be live-streamed and recorded which can be viewed on her obituary page at www.sandersfuneralcare.com. Burial will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery South.

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

Robert Shirar, Jr.

May 18, 1967 - May 23, 2022

Robert Shirar, Jr. of Crawfordsville passed away Monday afternoon at home. He was 55.

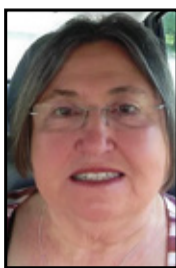
Born May 18, 1967 in Crawfordsville, he was the son of Robert Allen Shirar, Sr. and Donna Lee Stewart Shirar.

He worked at Raybestos for 16 years. In his spare time, he enjoyed mushroom hunting, whittling sticks, and hanging out with his friends at Sugar Creek.

Survivors include his daughter, Ashley Russell (Andrew); son, R. Garrett Shirar; father, Robert Shirar, Sr.; sister, Angie Lucas; and two grandchildren, Beau and Kensley.

He was preceded in death by his mom, Donna Shirar; and a sister, Jodi Kay Franklin.

A celebration of his life will be held later. Details will be announced as they become available. Cremation arrangements were entrusted to Burkhart Funeral Home.



Mobile Integrated Health Program Grown

In January 2017, the Crawfordsville Mobile Integrated Health Community Paramedicine Program (MIH) was launched through a grant provided by the Indiana Department of Health and partnership with Franciscan Health Hospital-Crawfordsville as an extension of the Crawfordsville Fire Department. MIH is a growing, innovative approach to how the EMS system works as part of the overall public health system. It is a patient-centered model of care delivered in a patient's home or in a mobile environment and connects public safety, public health, and health care.

The Crawfordsville model was the first of its kind and served as a pilot program and blueprint for other mobile healthcare services around the state and country. The goal is to acknowledge the struggles of receiving quality healthcare in communities and bridging that gap between a need and a necessary public service.

The Crawfordsville MIH program has come a long way since that beginning. These programs focus on all types of prevention rather than relying on reaction to problems, expand the traditional scope of emergency care to encompass a variety of healthcare resources, and reduce adverse outcomes and disparities. The MIH model is now concentrated into four divisions. These include Project Swaddle, Substance Use Disorder and Quick Response Team, Chronic Disease Management and Vaccination and Immunization.

Project Swaddle is a home-visiting program that provides community paramedicine services as an extension to a mother's primary physician to reduce poor maternal health outcomes and deliver wrap-around care for pregnant women and recent mothers who face any number of health, social, and environmental challenges. The goal of this program is to improve the lives and health

of both mother and child by providing prenatal and postpartum healthcare and expanding the traditional scope of emergency care to include mental and physical wellness, education, and resources for new parents.

The Quick Response Team works to combat substance use, behavioral health-related issues, and falls in our community by working on prevention efforts, responding to emergency incidents, and working with evidence-based community initiatives to ensure every individual has access to the appropriate resources needed for successful care and recovery.

The Chronic Disease Management division was created to support and extend primary health services for heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pneumonia, and diabetes to Crawfordsville's underserved populations. The division creates individualized plans to improve an individual's overall health, including active lifestyle choices,

improved nutrition, and medical compliance to help the patient maintain a wholly healthier lifestyle.

Lastly, immunizations are the newest in the MIH programs. Historically, vaccinations and immunizations have been administered either through a primary care physician or the local health department. This program expands both accessibility and availability to a wider audience, including school-aged children and homebound adults.

These programs partner with Franciscan Health, community stakeholders, and through the support of grant funds under the Crawfordsville Fire Department to make integral healthcare and resources available to underserved individuals in our community. For questions or to learn about participating in these services, call (765) 362-1277 or visit the Fire Department's Mobile Integrated Health page on www.crawfordsville.net.

USAC Sprints Return To Circle City Raceway

One of the biggest weeks in racing will see the return of some of the greatest wheelmen on dirt making their second appearance at Circle City Raceway. Circle City, which opened for its inaugural season last year, brought the USAC AM-SOIL Sprint Car National Championship back to Indianapolis for the first time in 37 years. The series will slide its way back into the Indianapolis dirt for two exciting days of racing, presented by Mastin and Cain Warehousing Services, Wednesday-Thursday, May 25th-26th during the week of Indy.

These two shows will carry on the long-standing week of Indy traditions like the Hoosier Hundred and the Hulman Classic, races that have been a staple of USAC racing for more than 65 years.



With some of the greatest modern stars in the sport at Indy's newest track, a tradition like no other will continue to prevail.

Rookie sensation Emerson Axsom remains near the top of the USAC AM-SOIL Sprint Car National Championship points in 2nd place. Axsom is battling USAC drivers

Justin Grant (point leader) and Robert Ballou for the podium spots. A fierce battle is expected around the tight quarter-mile, as the USAC AM-SOIL Sprint Car National Championship makes its second trip to the newly formed Circle City Raceway.

Also joining the USAC AM-SOIL Sprint Car Na-

tional Championship, will be the Sherley Unlimited Snow Company DIRTcar Modifieds, as well as an appearance on Wednesday night by the Midwest Oldtimers Vintage Race Car Club.

NASCAR legend, Ken Schrader, will also be making his inaugural appearance at Circle City. Schrader, will be competing in the accompanying Modified division and looks to make his first attempt at Circle City a successful one.

A great two days of racing is expected in southeast Indy for a week that brings incredible racing action to the epicenter of motorsports.

Pits will open at 3:00pm, followed by grandstands at 5:30pm, with hot laps beginning at 6:00pm, and racing to follow.

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Cook, Jeter Help Override Veto To Protect Girls' Sports

State Reps. Tony Cook (R-Cicero) and Chris Jeter (R-Fishers) today joined the majority of Indiana's lawmakers in successfully overriding the governor's veto of legislation protecting the integrity of girls' sports.

House and Senate legislators voted on Tuesday at the Statehouse to override the governor's veto of House Enrolled Act 1041, which prohibits its biological males from competing in K-12 girls' sports in Indiana. Jeter, who co-authored the bill, said the vote came as part of technical corrections day, where lawmakers can take up any

vetoed and fix technical errors in laws passed during the prior session.

"My young daughters, and all Hoosier girls, deserve a fair and level playing field in sports," Jeter said. "I strongly believe this is a much-needed step to protect female athletes and their opportunities to compete, earn spots on teams and obtain scholarships."

Indiana will join at least 16 other states that have similar laws on the books protecting female sports. Jeter said concerned parents reached out after an increasing number of biological

males have dominated the national spotlight in girls' athletic events across the nation.

There are certain biological differences that give males an unfair advantage over females in sports, like greater muscle mass, bone density and cardio capacity. Cook said the vote Tuesday was especially important as June marks the 50th anniversary of Title IX, which ensures women have an equal opportunity to play and compete in sports.

"Nearly 50 years ago, we federally passed Title IX to give women the right to equal opportuni-

ty in sports. Now, we're seeing those rights are being threatened across the country," Cook said. "This override indicates that Indiana stands with our female athletes, and this new law will protect their athletic opportunities now and in the future."

In Indiana, a gubernatorial veto can be overridden with a constitutional majority vote in both chambers, and the bill becomes a law without the governor's signature. For more information about House Enrolled Act 1041, effective on July 1, 2022, visit iga.in.gov.

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FREE HEARING HEALTH CLINIC NOTICE

We are excited to announce Beltone's Annual Hearing Health Clinic for members of our community who have questions about their hearing. Our event will offer the following services to you or a loved one at no cost or obligation:

FREE Hearing Screening – Do you have hearing loss? Could it be excess ear wax or your sinuses? If your screening shows no hearing loss, you'll have peace-of-mind for you and your family.

FREE Ear Check – Our Otoscope allows us to see the inside of your ear canal. If wax is present, you will know right away and we will provide you with the options to manage it.

FREE 10-Point Hearing Aid Performance Check-Up on Any Make or Model – Do you already own hearing aids? Do they whistle? Do they work in noisy places? Have they weakened? Let us check and clean them for you.

This special is available now! Appointment times are limited. Call for your appointment today and take advantage of this opportunity. We are excited to serve your hearing care needs, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Why Should I Get a Hearing Screening?

- Hearing loss can be an early warning sign or is linked to ailments including: cardiovascular disease, diabetes, dementia and Alzheimer's.
- Hearing loss can also contribute to depression and social isolation.
- Everyone over age 50 should have a baseline hearing screening and should be checked regularly, similar to an eye exam.
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FINANCING AVAILABLE!



THE GREAT MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCAVENGER HUNT 2022



CURRENT CLUE

THE EARLY ROADS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY WERE VERY BAD. SLUSH AND MUD GAVE WAY TO GRAVEL, AND THE GRAVEL WAS PAID FOR - IN PART - THROUGH TOLLS. IN 1882, THE COUNTY HAD 50 MILES OF THESE TOLL ROADS BUT BY 1909, THE COUNTY HAD 400 MILES OF GRAVEL ROADS. OFTEN, TOLL HOUSES WERE BUILT WHERE PEOPLE WOULD STOP AND PAY A TOLL FOR TRAVELING ON THE ROAD. TODAY, THERE IS AT LEAST ONE OF THESE KNOWN TOLL HOUSES STILL IN EXISTENCE. WHERE IS IT?



PREVIOUS CLUES

CLUE 1 - WHERE WOULD THESE NAMES BE FOUND IN CRAWFORDSVILLE AND WHY WOULD THEY BE LISTED TOGETHER? ZEPHANIAH BALL, JAMES R. CARNAHAN, ISAAC C. ELSON, SAMUEL B. FERGUSON, SMITH S. FRY, THOMAS W. FRY, JOHN P. HAWKINS, JESSE L. HOLMAN, LYCURCUS RALBACK, ROBERT SPILMAN, SAMUEL C. VANCE, WILLIAM C. WILSON, JOSEPH M. WISHARD, AND A LOT MORE.
CLUE 2 - A SHIP WAS SUNK AND HOSTILITIES BROKE OUT. HUNDREDS OF MEN LOST THEIR LIVES AND NOT LONG AFTER THE UNITED STATES WAS INVOLVED IN A WAR. ULTIMATELY, THAT LED TO THE ERECTION OF A MONUMENT RIGHT HERE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY. WHAT IS THE MONUMENT, WHERE IS IT LOCATED AND NAME ONE OF THE MEN INCLUDED ON THAT MONUMENT WHO FOUGHT IN THAT WAR?
CLUE 3 - FIND THE NAME AND PLACE OF A HOME WHICH SERVED AS AN INN AND HAD SEVERAL IMPORTANT VISITORS, INCLUDING WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON AND HIS MEN. THIS CLAPBOARD HOME EXISTED FOR CLOSE TO 100 YEARS IN OUR COUNTY AS A TRADING POST, TAVERN, POLITICAL AND CIVIC CENTER. IT WAS A PERFECT STOPPING PLACE BETWEEN TWO CITIES BEGINNING TO GROW AS IMPORTANT INDIANA CENTERS (LAFAYETTE AND TERRE HAUTE).
CLUE 4 - IN A SMALL CEMETERY INSIDE THE COUNTY, A MAN HAS A UNIQUE WHITE-BRONZE TOMBSTONE WITH AN URN ON THE TOP. MUCH INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND THERE. HE DIED IN 1863 AND HE WAS 64 YEARS OLD. THERE'S ALSO AN UNUSUAL MESSAGE TO HIS FAMILY, "FAREWELL MY WIFE AND CHILDREN ALL, FROM YOU A FATHER CHRIST BOTH CALL; MOURN NOT FOR ME IT IS IN VAIN, TO CALL ME TO YOUR SIGHT AGAIN!" THERE ARE OTHER VERSES AND IMAGES. WHO DOES THE TOMBSTONE BELONG TO AND IN WHICH CEMETERY CAN IT BE FOUND?
CLUE 5 - GEORGE FRUITS IS BELIEVED TO BE THE OLDEST SURVIVING LOCAL SOLDIER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR. SOME HAVE FOUND PROOF AGAINST THAT BUT AN ADDENDUM TO HIS TOMBSTONE WOULD ARGUE THE POINT. WHERE IS HE BURIED AND WHAT DOES THE PLAQUE SAY IN REGARDS TO PROOF OF HIS AGE AND SERVICE.
CLUE 6 - THERE WAS A YOUNG MAN IN OUR COUNTY WHO STUDIED SUICIDE FOR YEARS AND EVEN MANUFACTURED "MEDICINE" FOR THAT PURPOSE. HE PLANNED HIS OWN SUICIDE, AS WELL AS HIS FUNERAL, REQUESTING A BAND PLAY. HE HAS ONE OF THE TALLEST, MOST IMPRESSIVE TOMBSTONES IN THE COUNTY. WHO IS HE AND WHERE IS HE BURIED?
CLUE 7 - EVER HEAR OF THE HORSE THIEF DETECTIVE ASSOCIATION? DO YOU REALIZE THE VERY FIRST ONE IN THE UNITED STATES (JUNE 1845) WAS RIGHT HERE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY? THE GROUP BEGAN IN JUNE 1845 AND MET SOUTH OF ELMDALE WITH THESE GOALS IN MIND: "SUPPRESS HORSE STEALING, HOME ROBBERIES, PICK-POCKETERS" AND OTHER CRIMES. THREE BROTHERS WERE QUITE INSTRUMENTAL IN BEGINNING THIS GROUP. WHAT WAS THEIR LAST NAME?

RULES



1. RANDOM CLUES WILL APPEAR ON THIS PAGE SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE MONTH OF MAY. TO ENTER, SIMPLY ANSWER THE QUESTION AND TURN IN THAT ANSWER PER THE RULES BELOW. ANSWERS ARE WRITTEN, NOT OBJECTS.
2. THIS SCAVENGER HUNT REQUIRES PARTICIPANTS TO PICK UP NOTHING. RATHER, SIMPLY IDENTIFY AND WRITE OR TYPE THE EXACT INFORMATION THE CLUE REFERS TO.
3. E-MAIL THOSE ANSWERS TO TTODD@THEPAPER24-7.COM. OR YOU CAN DROP THEM OFF AT THE PAPER'S OFFICE BETWEEN 9 AM AND 4 PM, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 117 E. MAIN IN DOWNTOWN CRAWFORDSVILLE. NO PHONE CALLS OR ORAL ANSWERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOON, JUNE 3, 2022.
4. ABSOLUTELY NO OBJECTS OR ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED AS ANSWERS.
5. MULTIPLE GUESSES ARE ACCEPTED, BUT EACH ONE MUST BE IN A SEPARATE E-MAIL, OR ON A SEPARATE PIECE OF PAPER IF DROPPED OFF AT OUR OFFICES.
6. PLEASE INCLUDE NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION WITH EACH ANSWER.
7. WINNERS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE BEST PERCENTAGE OF CORRECT ANSWERS. IN CASE OF TIES, A RANDOM DRAWING OF THOSE PARTICIPANTS WILL BE USED TO BREAK THE TIES!
8. NO PURCHASE REQUIRED TO PLAY.
9. WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED BASED ON THE CONTACT INFORMATION THEY PROVIDE. PRIZES MUST BE PICKED UP AT OUR OFFICE AND WILL NOT BE MAILED OR DELIVERED.
10. PARTICIPANTS AGREE TO ALLOW THEIR NAME TO BE USED FOR PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES WITH THIS CONTEST. WINNERS WILL BE ASKED TO COME TO OUR OFFICE TO PICK UP THEIR PRIZE AND HAVE THEIR PICTURE TAKEN.

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LWV From Page A1

an act of violence, an assault, or being accosted by hate might find it easier to understand the layers of shock such an event would provoke: the fear for safety and the right to exist or live in that space.

What do people do after such traumas? We tell the story over and over, combing the details, processing for a cause. The young men in the room lost a sense of safety, of calm, of the freedom to be themselves. As students, staff, and community members shared their stories for the original play, a truth stood out. Crawfordsville is divided by “two realities that co-exist but do not intermingle.”

In one story, an international student recounted why minority students warn each other about when to avoid Walmart. A fellow student went there too late one night, he said, and witnessed people gathered in the parking lot, flying confederate flags, wearing hoods, and burning a cross. In another account, a freshman sitting at his house on campus had “a group of four big white dudes with guns and a truck” stop and tell him to “Get the F out of here, N word.”

We might be tempted to dismiss these events as hearsay or unbelievable, they are so grievous. Is this truly Crawfordsville? How can we “trust but verify,” as we tend to do when we encounter overwhelming truths? For starters “Where Is Our Beloved Community” can be

found on Youtube. It helps to observe our community with an “outsider’s eyes.” We’ve all heard that confederate flags send a message of threat to Black Americans. As we drive around town, do we notice the signs and symbols that might be interpreted as unwelcoming to others? Aside from certain flags, what other signals insinuate threat, violence, and danger?

Caveat here: We all want to claim our liberties, such as freedom of speech, yet we live in a nation committed to the right to everyone’s life and liberty, everyone’s pursuit of happiness. So we co-exist in a system that operates on forbearance, where we choose not to use all of our rights and liberties in extremes, though we could because we mutually tolerate each other. Tolerance is a useful starting point, as it allows us to hold onto our deeply held beliefs and values, honors that others get to do the same, and intersect with each other through conversation and listening, seeking to understand each other without having to change the other.

The boldness of “Where is Our Beloved Community” was in both its truth-telling and its invitation to listen to the audience. Listening is a powerful tool. Beyond the walls of the theater, we can use listening as a way into the truth that comes before reconnection (and perhaps to reconciliation someday, as Nelson Mandela’s government aspired to do

in South Africa). We’ve begun that process, with the public conversations in autumn 2021. When Mayor Barton, Bob Rivers, Kenny Lee, the Human Rights Commission, and others came together to discuss the division. On the second anniversary of the death of George Floyd and just weeks after the tragedy in Buffalo, we are reminded to return to the commitment of listening. To do so, we may need to detour from our usual paths and find the places where others work, shop, worship, and relax. This is a call to action. As individuals, we may need to frequent a different store, festival, or restaurant until we become a familiar face in that space. All of us need to feel comfortable in order to connect.

A final thought about this call to action: it often feels inauthentic or “fake” when we try new techniques for listening or relating to other people, but when we seek to reduce others’ isolation, loneliness, feelings of being treated as a token, or being alienated, we strengthen our own sense of belonging.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, multi-issue political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government. For information about the League, visit the website www.lwvmtcoin.org; or, visit the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, Indiana Facebook page.

TIM From Page A1

tennis for a living.

How things change. Today, what little hair I have left keeps falling out and the last time I was on a tennis court I think Ronald Reagan was telling Mr. Gorbachev where he could place that wall.

I digress. Everyone seems to rely on the Internet today, but that’s a place where nothing is simple and certainly not all is accurate – even things you think are no-brainers. Do a search on how many sexes there are and up jumps a whole lot more options than I thought possible.

It’s a (fill in the blank) world.

Back to the eight or nine regulars, you know that I don’t wear my religion on my sleeve in these weekly missives. I believe strongly and am not ashamed or embarrassed to say so. My wife was raised Lutheran and I grew up in a Catholic church. Today, I still go to mass and we “attend” weekly services on the Internet watching Pastor Allen Jackson – no, not the country singer.

Recently, he has been talking about the world and the path we’re on. I won’t do him the disser-

vice of trying to tell you what I think he said, but it resonated with me.

In short, we have been trained over the years to not discuss two things in polite company, religion and politics. Well, ever since Donald Trump came on the scene (and even before), we threw away the concept of not talking politics. But we still don’t go much for religion.

Why? Look, this isn’t a column recruiting you to my beliefs, nor any others. Not at all. At the end of the day, we’re all going to be responsible for our life choices. If you are an atheist and you turn out to be right, then I’m wrong. If God is indeed up there like I think, then I’ll be held accountable for all my decisions, some of which I’m not looking forward to explaining.

We each make our choices. We each live with the outcome.

But for the first 50 or 60 years of my life, it seems like what we all believed wasn’t as diverse and peculiar (sorry, that was the politest term I could think of) as some of the stuff going around today. What was consid-

ered extreme a decade or three ago would pass as vanilla today.

My point? I don’t know, maybe I’m just getting old. Maybe I’m turning into the old man who yells at kids to get off his lawn. But I truly believe that something has to give. I truly believe it has to start at home with moms and dads. It’s not up to schools or governments or companies. Values, morals, ethics, beliefs come from the heart or perhaps a church. They certainly shouldn’t come from the ballot box or the blackboard.

I’ll end with this. The changes in our world, our society, are happening so fast that if we as individuals and families don’t step up and do something about it soon . . . well, remember that part about what was considered extreme? What do you think that’ll look like in five years?

Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically on Wednesdays in The Paper. Timmons is the publisher of The Paper and can be contacted at timmons@thepaper24-7.com.

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