



We're  
everywhere  
you are!

*Zahn's* **FLOOR** *Covering*

Carpet • Hardwood • Luxury Vinyl Tile  
• Laminate • Ceramic Tile • Bamboo  
310 N. Green St. • 364-0517  
Family owned and operated

**TODAY'S VERSE**

Psalm 119:89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. (KJV)

**FACES OF MONTGOMERY**

People who call our community their own.



Sheilah Price offered a friendly smile while waiting on customers. Sheilah and all of us are in for some great weather for the next few days. Temps should be in the mid to upper 80s with only a 30 or 40 percent chance of rain

**THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** The Arts Federation (TAF) is partnering with REC Room Recording, and Songwriters Association of Mid-North Indiana (SAMMI) to present a series of affordable business development seminars for recording artists. **DIY: Your Music Career** will be a 2-day intensive on August 20 and 21, 2022 at TAF (638 North Street in Downtown Lafayette). Professional musicians and recording studio staff will provide independent musicians the training and tools necessary to record, produce, and market their own music. A full schedule of the workshop can be viewed here. The workshop will kick off with an optional networking event and open mic night on Friday, August 19 from 6 - 9 p.m. Registration is required. Please note there is a \$20 participation fee, but scholarships are available.

**2** A side of French fries goes for a couple of bucks in most eateries, says the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. But at the pricey Serendipity3 restaurant on the Upper East Side of Manhattan they don't call them French fries, they call them Creme de la Creme Pommes Frites and they will set you back \$200. After all it's not just potatoes fried up by a hash slinger, it takes a genuine culinarian to do the cooking and a list of ingredients that few of us have ever encountered: Chipperbeck potatoes, Dom Perignon Champagne, J. LeBlanc French Champagne Ardenne Vinegar, cage-free goose fat from France, Guerande Truffle Salt, truffle oil, Crete Senesi Pecorino Tartufello cheese, shaved black summer truffles from Italy, truffle butter, organic A2 100% grass fed cream from Jersey Cows, Gruyere Truffled Swiss Raclette and a topping of 23-karat edible gold dust.

**3** The Indiana Department of Transportation is now accepting applications for the Summer 2022 Call for Projects for the Community Crossings Matching Grant Program. The window is open now through Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at 5 p.m. ET. Community Crossings is open to all local government units in the State of Indiana. Cities and towns with a population of fewer than 10,000 will receive funds using a 75/25 match. Cities and towns with a population of greater than 10,000 will receive funds using a 50/50 match. Counties with a population of fewer than 50,000 will receive funds using a 75/25 match. Counties with a population of greater than 50,000 will receive funds using a 50/50 match. Since 2016, the state has awarded more than \$1 billion in matching funds to support local road and bridge projects across Indiana.

**The Paper**  
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper 50¢

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA WWW.THEPAPER24-7.COM

**WHIN Touts Record Of Success, Offers A Bold Plan For Future**

By Joe LaRue  
joe@thetimes24-7.com

At the HHSB Success Center in Crawfordsville, representatives from local businesses, elected officials, school corporation superintendents and the leadership team at Wabash Heartland Innovation Network (WHIN) gathered for WHIN's Montgomery County Roadshow. And the WHIN leadership team delivered a bold plan for the future while touting several successful years of innovation and community partnership.

WHIN CEO Johnny Park said in his closing remarks, "What we're trying to do at WHIN is incredibly ambitious and challenging. Think about developing this region into a global epicenter of digital ag and next-generation manufacturing."



"It is very ambitious! But we believe we have all the key ingredients to make it happen. Why not us?" he said.

Split into four sections, the presentation covered the diverse array of activities and contributions that WHIN has been involved in and made in Montgomery County in the previous

➔ See WHIN Page A6

**Butch Says It's OK To Be In Your "Own Little World"**

Many times in the past, my wife has asked me a question or made a comment...and then repeated it when I did not respond. With a more determined voice she then stated, "You know...I think you are in your own little world!" I would bet that this has happened to many of you...especially those of you who are "baby boomers" or older. Our minds are working all of the time...thinking, planning, worrying, remembering...and we tend to shut out any-



BUTCH DALE  
Columnist

➔ See BUTCH Page A6

**Honoring 10-Year Members**

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please join The Paper of Montgomery County in celebrating this year's crop of 10-year 4-H

members. The 2022 Montgomery County 4-H Fair is July 15-21.



**Stars of 4-H Liddy McCarty 10-Year Member**



Parents: Matt & Misty McCarty  
4-H Club: Crazy K-9  
4-H Projects Taken: Crazy K-9, Horse & Pony, Scrapbooking  
4-H Awards Received: Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion  
High School: Crawfordsville High School  
Plans for Next Year: Attend nursing school in the fall

**Stars of 4-H Katie Bowman 10-Year Member**



Parents: Chad Bowman  
4-H Club: Walnut Willing Workers  
4-H Projects Taken: Sheep (10 yrs), Beef  
4-H Awards Received: 3rd Overall Ewe Lamb, 3rd Overall Market Lamb  
High School: Southmont High School  
Plans for Next Year: Attend Ivy Tech to start my general studies

**HONEST HOOSIER**

So Indiana lawmakers are gathering in Indianapolis for a special session. Maybe they just don't want to see Sen. Boots retire?



**TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

Stretching and strengthening exercises go a long way in helping to prevent falls in the elderly. 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  
Dick Wolfis.....A2  
Ken Thompson.....A3  
Service Directory.....A3  
Classifieds.....A4

**OBITUARIES**

NONE



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



**THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

**Want To Go?**

Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton would like to invite the public to downtown Pike Place this month on Tuesday, July 26 at 12 - 1 p.m. to start conversations about any concerns, input, or suggestions that the public may have concerning the city. Pike Place is located at 125 S. Washington St. Crawfordsville, IN 47933.

**TODAY'S QUOTE**

"We must dare to be great; and we must realize that greatness is the fruit of toil and sacrifice and high courage."  
Theodore Roosevelt

**TODAY'S JOKE**

What's a math teacher's favorite season?  
SUMmer!

**7 DAY FORECAST**

|                                 |                                     |                                      |                                  |                                  |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 85<br>SUNNY AND PLEASANT<br>THU | 63/86<br>POOR CHANCE OF RAIN<br>FRI | 66/89<br>MOETLY SUNNY AND HOT<br>SAT | 69/83<br>SCATTERED STORMS<br>SUN | 69/84<br>SCATTERED STORMS<br>MON | 69/90<br>HEATING BACK UP<br>TUE | 72/91<br>HOT AND BREEZY<br>WED |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|

## Linden Library's Summer Reading Program



The Linden Library wrapped up its Oceans of Possibilities Summer Reading Program with a foam party at Bulldog Park for the kids. The winners of the Grand Prize drawings were: Nova Meuchel for ages 0-6, Gina Howell for ages 6-9, and Charlotte Powell for ages 10+. The library staff would also like to thank our generous sponsors who make the program possible: Arni's of Crawfordsville, Clark Truck Equipment, Dutcher Trenching, Jimmy John's, Kiwanis Club, Linden Pizza Corner, LSC Communications, The Mitchell Agency, Murphy Trailer Sales, Nucor Steel, Psi Iota Xi, Town & Country Homecenter, and Valero Renewable Fuels



Photos courtesy of Linden Library

### Letters

## The Boys & Girls Club Want To Give Thanks

Dear Editor:  
The Boys & Girls Club of Montgomery County would like to thank the following for making our Firecracker 5K Run/Walk a huge success. C&F Fabricating for being our Title Sponsor! Our Corporate Sponsors:  
American Legion Post 72  
Deer Projects  
Duke Energy  
Edge Information Technologies  
Hi-Temp Refractory  
K1ds Count Therapy  
And our General Sponsors:  
Amped Fitness  
Arab Termite & Pest Control  
Arni's  
B.K. Painting  
Blue Marketing  
Brothers Pizza Company  
Burkhart Funeral Home  
Caldwell Home Furnishings  
Cardinal Copier Solutions  
Central Indiana Rubber

Products  
Crawfordsville Audiology  
Crawfordsville Home-town Dental  
D & D Trash Service  
Davis Morrison  
Esra Construction Company  
F.C. Tucker - Chad & Julie Hess  
Froedge's Inc.  
Gould Body & Paint  
Hay-Bush Mechanical  
HSD of Central Indiana  
Hunt & Sons Funeral Home  
Indiana Farm Bureau  
Insurance - Austin Earl  
JM Thompson Insurance  
Midwest Bale Ties  
Morgan's Glass & Paint  
Partners' Title Group, Inc  
Price Lawn & Landscape  
PRKD Properties, Inc  
Rod Curran's Tax Service  
RT Insurance  
Safe Hiring Solutions  
Sanders Funeral Care  
Sentry Roofing

Sugar Creek Property Group  
Tom's Marine Sales  
Tri-County Bank  
U-Rent-It-Center  
Valero Renewables  
Linden  
WCVL/WIMC/WCDQ  
York Chrysler Dodge  
Jeep Ram Fiat  
Thank you to Steve & Martie Akers and Roger Azar for their special contributions, and to Hoosier Heartland State Bank and Tri-County Bank & Trust for their donations of bottles of water.  
62 runners/walkers par-

icipated this year and we raised over \$29,000.00 for Montgomery County's youth. We are so grateful for all who supported us, including the numerous volunteers who gave up their time on a beautiful Saturday morning, to support our Club. Once again, Montgomery County came through and we are forever grateful for all you do for our community and youth.

Craig Reeves  
Executive Director  
Boys & Girls Club of Montgomery County

**Butch Buys Old Firearms**  
Retired Sheriff and Licensed FFL  
I will buy your old guns: Winchester, Colt, H&R, Ruger, Savage, Browning, Smith & Wesson, Marlin, & others  
Call me anytime for a free estimate !!  
**John "Butch" Dale (765) 404-1354**

## Base Behavior

Did you read the story about the father and son who attended a professional baseball game together and in the fifth inning rushed the field and beat the pulp out of the first-base coach?

One of the excuses offered by the father was that the first-base coach was making obscene gestures. Had these guys never been to a ball game? That's what a first-base coach is paid to do.

Finger in the air, hand on your butt: Lay down a bunt.

Finger toward your nose, hand between your legs: Take the next pitch. Wave your hand toward your crotch, put your finger in your ear: Go to second.

I'm a family man myself, and back in the '90s I was always looking for something to do with my son, so the idea of getting together on a beautiful Sunday afternoon and attacking a coach is the kind of creative activity that can make the father/son bond even stronger.

It's tough to find cool things to do with kids nowadays and no dad wants to be called a square, so we shouldn't come down too hard on this guy in the news—although he had no problem coming down really hard on the first-base coach.

Maybe this parent had been unsuccessful at getting his son to the ballet or symphony. I'm sure the suggestion to beat up a coach was a last-ditch effort to find something the two could enjoy together. Let's cut the man some slack here.

I think we should offer similar activities that will let fathers and sons become even closer. Let's get them away from those video games that instill anti-social behavior. Here are some suggestions:

**FATHER AND SON CARJACKING**

A car, a dad and his son. What could be more American, more apple pie? And Dad should let Junior drive during the heist, assuming it's legal for him to be behind the wheel. Letting a boy steal a car without a valid license would be setting a



**DICK WOLFSIE**  
Funny Bone

bad example.

**FATHER AND SON LIGHT-BULB SNATCHING**

What better way to get acquainted on a Saturday afternoon (that teaches life skills like sleight of hand, misdirection and concealment)? Don't underestimate the value of petty crimes when it comes to your kids.

There's a lesson around every corner. And on every ceiling.

**FATHER AND SON SHOPLIFTING**

A wonderful way to spend a day. Just the guys out at the local Walmart stuffing their pockets and backpacks with loot from the sporting goods department. You can teach your son the value of being a smart consumer and show him how even a run-of-the-mill shoplifter has more take home pay than the store manager.

**FATHER AND SON PUBLIC INDECENCY**

There is no better way to bond with your son than being caught in a public area without your shirt and pants. A boy may forget the time his family took him to Disney, but spending a night buck-naked in the slammer with your father is a memory that never fades.

We are all busy, but it is important we give our kids the time they deserve. Fathers deserve time, as well. According to the judge, the coach-hating dad is going to be looking at three years.

*Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in The Paper of Montgomery County. E-mail Dick at Wolfsie@aol.com.*

**MIDAS**  
**Now Open**  
**Midas of Crawfordsville**

**SYNTHETIC BLEND OIL CHANGE PLUS**  
**\$24<sup>99</sup>** Plus Disposal Fee

- Oil and filter change
- Courtesy Check including visual brake check, battery, air filter, fluid, belts, and hoses
- 4 wheel tire rotation

Most vehicles. See store for details. Discount off regular retail price. Up to 5 quarts of oil. Other oils and specialty filters extra. Tire rotation at time of service. TPMS reset not included, see store about possible extra charge. Not valid with other offers. Valid at participating locations only. No cash value. Charge for additional parts and services if needed. Taxes and/or disposal fees extra, where permitted. Coupon must be presented at time of service. Shop fees additional, see store for details and applicability. Prices and fees may be higher in HI/AK. Expires: 08-31-22

Brakes, Tires, Oil, and More...  
Monday - Friday 8 am - 6pm  
Saturday 8 am - 4 pm  
**Crawfordsville**  
105 E South Blvd.  
765-234-0500  
midas.com

**TRI-COUNTY BANK & TRUST**

101 E. South Boulevard  
Crawfordsville  
765-362-9555

18 E. Washington Street  
Roachdale  
765-522-1000

Member FDIC  
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

# Ranking The Best Purdue Football Players For The Upcoming Season

Where has the summer gone? By the time some of you read this column, Big Ten football media days will be less than 10 days away.

Before Jeff Brohm steps to the podium inside Lucas Oil Stadium, here's one man's ranking of Purdue's top 10 players for the 2022 season.



**KENNY THOMPSON**  
Columnist

10. Gus Hartwig  
The third-year starting center from Zionsville was an honorable mention All-Big Ten selection as a sophomore. He will anchor an offensive line that will probably make the difference between one of Brohm's best offenses and just an ordinary attack.

9. T.J. Sheffield  
With the departure of David Bell to the Cleveland Browns, Sheffield will be counted upon to help fill the void. His spectacular touchdown grab against Tennessee in the Music City Bowl capped a breakout 2021 season that saw him make 36 catches for 325 yards and five touchdowns.

8. Cam Allen  
The hard-hitting safety enjoyed a career season in 2021 with four interceptions and 65 tackles.

7. Charlie Jones  
Bringing in the reigning Big Ten Rodgers-Dwight Return Specialist of the Year from Iowa will be a big boost to an area that has been unspectacular since Raheem Mostert's final game in 2014. Jones ranked second nationally for Iowa in 2021 with 920 return yards. That total included a 100-yard

kickoff return for a touchdown. If Jones can provide some contributions to a mostly unproven Purdue receiving corps, all the better.

6. Branson Deen  
The defensive tackle will be a third-year starter coming off his best season as a Boilermaker. Deen recorded three sacks among his 26 tackles, keeping opposing linemen busy while George Karlaftis and Kydran Jenkins pressured the quarterback.

5. Broc Thompson  
The Music City Bowl most valuable player stepped up big for Purdue, which played Tennessee without David Bell and No. 2 wide receiver Milton Wright. On two bad knees, which were surgically repaired during the offseason, Thompson caught seven pass for 217 yards and a pair of touchdowns. He will be Purdue's No. 1 receiver this fall.

4. Kydran Jenkins  
Maybe the biggest surprise from an improved defense a year ago, Jenkins recorded five sacks among his 35 tackles. Not bad for a freshman. The Boilermakers will need



Aiden O'Connell

his pass rushing skills in the wake of Karlaftis' departure to the Kansas City Chiefs.

3. Jalen Graham  
The senior linebacker/safety is entering his fourth year as a starter and is probably Purdue's top NFL prospect. Graham recorded 64 tackles and an interception a year ago.

2. Payne Durham  
A possible candidate for the John Mackey Award as the nation's best tight end, Durham put on a show for NFL scouts in the Music City Bowl with his refusal to go down during what turned out to be a 62-yard touchdown reception late in the fourth quarter. He caught 45 balls for 467 yards and six touchdowns. Look for that production to go up in 2022.

1. Aidan O'Connell  
Once upon a time, the former walk-on from Waukegan, Ill., was ninth on Purdue's quarterback depth chart. The

sixth-year senior now is regarded as the Big Ten's second-best QB behind Ohio State's C.J. Stroud. O'Connell outdueled the more heralded Hendon Hooker of Tennessee with 534 yards passing and five touchdowns.

O'Connell has come up big in important games for the Boilermakers. In a 24-7 victory at No. 2 Iowa, O'Connell threw for 375 yards and two touchdowns. Against No. 3 Michigan State, a 40-29 victory in Ross-Ade Stadium, O'Connell tossed for 536 yards and three touchdowns. Even in defeat at Ohio State, O'Connell threw for five touchdowns and 390 yards.

If he can remain healthy and approach last season's numbers of 3,712 yards and 28 touchdowns, O'Connell will enter a lofty place in Purdue's passing record book. Only Drew Brees (11,792 passing yards), Curtis Painter (11,163) and Mark Her-

rmann (9,946) seem out of reach for O'Connell. As for touchdown passes, only Brees' career total of 90 seems safe. Another 28 TD passes from O'Connell would match Herrmann for second at Purdue with 71.

Noteworthy Stephanie White and Brittany (Rayburn) Bertsch, Indiana Miss Basketball winners who also starred at Purdue, are among the inaugural class of the Greater Illiana Sports Hall of Fame. The pair of Boilermakers join the newly created honor which will be housed in the David Palmer Arena in Danville, Ill.

The Greater Illiana Sports Hall of Fame was created to honor the outstanding athletic achievement by athletes, coaches, teams and others from 50 high schools and Danville Area Community College in eastern Illinois and western Indiana.

Other notables inducted include Butler basketball coach Thad Matta and the late Jim Hellwig, a Fountain Central graduate better known as pro wrestling star "The Ultimate Warrior."

White, the 1995 Miss Basketball from Seeger, was instrumental in guiding Purdue to the 1999 NCAA National Championship, the only one ever won by a team from the Big Ten. She also joins the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame this year.

Rayburn attended Attica prior to her time in West Lafayette. A lethal sharp-

shooter, Rayburn was named the 2008 Indiana Miss Basketball. She guided the Boilermakers to a 2012 Big Ten Tournament title and garnered a trio of All-Big Ten honors. She is fourth in Purdue history with 201 career 3-pointers. ...

In addition to once again playing at Florida State (Nov. 30) in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge and against Marquette (Nov. 15) in the Gavitt Games, the Purdue men's basketball team will face another NCAA tournament team in Davidson on Dec. 17 in Indianapolis. That game is part of the new Indy Classic, which replaces the Crossroads Classic that ended after the 2021 edition.

Purdue is still awaiting its draw in the Phil Knight Legacy (Nov. 24-27) but it seems likely that the Boilermakers will have to face two of the combination Duke/Gonzaga/Florida/West Virginia on its side of the bracket.

The season opener will be Milwaukee on Nov. 8 in Mackey Arena. Three days later, Austin Peay pays a visit. New Orleans (Dec. 21) and Florida A&M (Dec. 29) close out the non-conference slate.

Purdue has sold out season tickets for the 2022-23 season.

*Kenny Thompson is the former sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier and an award-winning journalist. He has covered Purdue athletics for many years.*

# Classifieds

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

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

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

**need a job?**  
Find one in the classifieds. 765.361.8888

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 877-930-3271

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

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

High-Speed Internet. We instantly compare speed, pricing, availability to find the best service for your needs. Starting at \$39.99/month! Quickly compare offers from top providers. Call 1-844-961-0666

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

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

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

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

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

New Starting Base Pay - .60 cpm w/ option to make .70 cpm for Class A CDL Flatbed Drivers, Excellent Benefits, Home Weekends, Call 800-648-9915 or www.boydandsons.com

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

DIAGNOSED WITH LUNG CANCER? You may qualify for a substantial cash award. NO Obligation, NO risk! We've recovered millions. Let us help you!! Call 24/7, 844-284-4920

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

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

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

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

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

Denied Social Security Disability? Appeal! If you're 50+, filed for SSD and denied, our attorneys can help get you approved! No money out of pockets! Call 1-855-995-4758

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

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

Guaranteed Life Insurance! (Ages 50 to 80). No medical exam. Affordable premiums never increase. Benefits never decrease. Policy will only be cancelled for non-payment. 833-535-1043

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

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

The **PAPER** of Montgomery County  
*Visit us online:*  
**thepaper24-7.com**

# Comparably Awards First Merchants Bank For The Best Leadership Team

First Merchants Bank announced today it has been recognized by Comparably for Best Leadership Team. This annual award identifies leaders and leadership teams who are driving positive cultural change across companies large and small. First Merchants Bank was selected by Comparably as being in the top 5% of all financial services companies evaluated for their leadership qualities.

This Comparably Award is derived from employee sentiment ratings provided anonymously by employees about their leadership teams (CEO, executives, and direct managers) on Comparably.com during a 12-month period. "Great culture is driven by strong leadership teams who know how to work together to bring out the best in their people," said Comparably CEO Jason Nazar. "First Merchants Bank employees applauded their leaders for being transparent, approachable, and committed to community and company culture."

"I am thrilled to receive this recognition because it reinforces what we strive to do every day, and that is to give our employees the resources and positive support they need to grow and feel genuinely fulfilled by their work," said First Merchants CEO Mark Hardwick. "We strongly believe in our people and culture and support them in authentic ways. That support is central to our delivering exemplary and distinc-



tively attentive service to all customers across all the communities we serve. We look forward to continuing to positively develop a workplace where all employees feel inspired to do their best work for our clients."

This is another award in a series of reputable third-party recognitions for First Merchants Bank this year. First Merchants has been ranked among the top 20 banks by S&P Global Market Intelligence, as a Best Bank by Newsweek for the second year in a row, and as fourth in the list of the 2022 Great Employers to Work for in Indiana by Best Companies Group. First Merchants Bank was also recognized in June of 2022 as a "Best-in-State" bank by Forbes for a superior customer experience across the following full range of key customer needs: branch services, digital services, financial advice, trustworthiness, overall customer services, general satisfaction, and terms & conditions.

About First Merchants Corporation  
First Merchants Cor-

poration (NASDAQ: FRME), with assets of more than \$18 billion and operating in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan, is the parent company of First Merchants Bank and is the second-largest financial services institution based in Indiana. The Muncie, Indiana-based bank is committed to providing exceptional financial services while making meaningful contributions in each community it serves. First Merchants Bank promotes economic mobility through its five community pillars: Employee Empowerment; Community Investments and Charitable Giving; Financial Wellness; Community Home Lending; and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The company has been honored for its excellence in banking by Forbes, Newsweek, and S&P Global Intelligence and attributes this recognition to a mission-driven team passionate about helping you prosper. To see how First Merchants Bank is making a difference, go to (www.firstmerchants.com).

# The Generational Divide Shows In Our Food System, Too

Gen Z households are struggling more to put food on the table compared to those of Millennials, Gen X and Boomers, according to the Consumer Food Insights Report.

Thirty percent of Gen Z households report seeking groceries from a food pantry, church or other charity in the last 30 days, compared to 8% of Boomer households, it showed.

The survey-based report out of Purdue University's Center for Food Demand Analysis and Sustainability assesses food security and spending, consumer satisfaction and values, support of agricultural and food policies and trust in information sources.

In addition to the monthly survey, the team analyzed how responses differed between respondents of different age groups. The team studied survey data from January to June of 2022 and divided respondents into the age groups of Gen Z (those born after 1996), Millennials (those born from 1981-1996), Gen X (those born from 1965-1980) and Boomers+ (those born before 1965). The results showed differences in food security, beliefs about their food and food system, shopping habits, policy support and in what information sources they trust.

"Since January, around 30% of Gen Z adults have experienced or are experiencing food insecurity, compared to around 19% of Millennial and Gen X adults and 7% of Boomers," said Jayson Lusk, the head and distinguished

professor of agricultural economics at Purdue, who leads the center. "Those who are younger tend to have lower incomes, so the results aren't necessarily surprising, but we need to pay attention to it. Food inflation is outpacing salary growth, and it hits those with the lowest incomes the hardest."

Purdue experts conducted and evaluated the survey, which included 1,200 consumers across the U.S.

Additional key results include:

- 16% of all households are food insecure.
- Most consumers are worried about the impacts of the war in Ukraine on food supplies.
- Food demand and happiness continue to be price insensitive.
- Trust in the FDA dropped more than 20% from last month.
- A Sustainable Food Purchasing (SFP) Index of 70/100.

The survey results show consumers clearly follow current events, Lusk said. Seventy percent of respondents are worried about the Russia-Ukraine war affecting global food supplies, and 58% said the war had impacted the price or availability of their food.

The continuing drop in trust of the Food and Drug Administration also correlates with its recent involvement in controversies, he said.

It is interesting that the rapid rise of food prices does not seem to have yet changed how Americans think or feel about their food, as food satisfaction measures remain strong, said Sam Polzin, a food

and agriculture survey scientist for the center and co-author of the report.

"Official government estimates show food prices, like gas prices, dramatically rising over the past year, though not quite as sharply as gas," Polzin said. "However, consumers report being extremely dissatisfied with gas affordability but feeling neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with food affordability. Perhaps this says more about the unique power gas prices have on the American psyche."

The Sustainable Food Purchasing Index offers insight into how sustainability and health relate to consumer behaviors. It is a self-reported assessment of how consumer shopping habits correspond with healthy diets from sustainable food systems. The June score was the highest of the survey to date but remains broadly consistent, Polzin said. Millennials scored the highest on the environment, social and nutrition indicators, while consumers in the Boomers+ group scored higher on the taste, economic and security indicators.

Lusk further discusses the report in his blog.

The Center for Food Demand Analysis and Sustainability is part of Purdue's Next Moves in agriculture and food systems and uses innovative data analysis shared through user-friendly platforms to improve the food system. In addition to the Consumer Food Insights Report, the center offers a portfolio of online dashboards.

# White River Alliance Launches First Season Of "The Collective Tap" Podcast Series

The White River Alliance (WRA), the premier organization for regional water resource protection in Indiana, has launched its first season of "The Collective Tap," a new podcast series examining our relationship with water and various water issues affecting Indiana. The series features conversations with state and national experts on topics connected to water such as local food and beverage production, health risks, energy supply, riverside mining, rare aquatic species and more. "The Collective Tap" will release new seasons throughout the summer and fall, each containing five episodes.

Season one, "The Spigot: Water at home," centers around themes of water access and equity, lawn watering and landscaping/conservation, and personal health and safety. Topics are explored by two curious, non-water expert hosts who engage guests in discussions about affordable access to water, the obsession with green lawns and its impact on our water supply, and the overall condition of the water we use every day to clean our homes, cook food, shower and drink.

"We launched this podcast to educate Hoosiers and give them a new appreciation for our most critical resource – the one that is at the root of everything we do, from work and play to energy and food," said Jill Hoffmann, Executive Director of White River Alliance.

"Without water, everything else ceases to be important, so we want to challenge people to think about what a day without it would look like."

Dr. Thomas Duszynski, Assistant Clinical Professor and Director of Epidemiology Education at the Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, agreed.

"Water has been recognized as necessary for life on this planet for thousands of years, not only for drinking, but also for maintaining our hygiene," Dr. Duszynski said. "As our population grows and our climate changes, water is going to become more important than ever."

To help the public visualize the many water dependencies that exist, 15 art canoes are being installed in locations across five Indiana counties to help highlight specific water issues discussed in the podcast's various episodes and seasons. Designed by central Indiana artists, the canoe artwork coupled with their location will raise awareness that, while people may not see water everywhere, it is a critical part of our economy, heritage and our own existence. The canoes will be on the landscape for at least the next six months while the podcast will remain available indefinitely.

WRA wishes to express its appreciation for their proud watershed sponsors, Coca-Cola Consolidated, Cummins Inc.,

Ingredion Inc., Duke Energy, and Citizens Energy Group, for supporting the project due to its importance, subsequent awareness, conservation impact and connection to their missions.

For more information on "The Collective Tap" and featured guests, please visit [www.TheCollectiveTap.com](http://www.TheCollectiveTap.com).

About The White River Alliance

The White River Alliance exists to improve and protect water quality on a watershed basis in the White River region in central Indiana. The Alliance supports local governments and other key stakeholders by helping them improve water quality protection, leverage financial resources, educate large numbers of people and cooperate across political or social boundaries. The collective assets of the Alliance lead to an innovative regional approach to understanding and addressing water quality and land use changes.

In addition to the The Collective Tap and White River Art Canoes, the Alliance's programs include the national Clear Choices Clean Water program, which encourages residents to take individual action to improve water quality and increase water conservation, as well as several other local and regional public engagement and professional training programs including the statewide Indiana Water Summit. For more information, visit [www.thewhiteriveralliance.org](http://www.thewhiteriveralliance.org).

## Meeting Notes

### Crawfordsville Community School Corporation

Board of Education - Regular Meeting  
Thursday, July 14, 2022, at 6 p.m.

Crawfordsville Middle School - 705 Wallace Avenue

AGENDA

- Roll Call
- CHARACTER COUNTS!SM Corporation - Pillar of Fairness
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Consent Agenda: Previous Meeting Minutes, Construction Accounts Payable Voucher, Payroll
- Claims Vouchers, Register of Accounts Payable Voucher, and Surplus Items
- Old Business
- New Business
  - Crawfordsville Community School Corporation Administration Building Project Public Hearing
    - Consider the Journal Review, The Paper, WIMC 103.9, WCDQ 106.3 and WCVL 1550 as Official Media Outlets
    - Consider Mishler Dental as Corporation Dentist
    - Consider Dr. Scott Douglas as Corporation Doctor
    - Consider Stuart Weliever as Corporation Attorney
    - Consider Board Dates

for 2022-2023 School Year

- Consider Resolution to Sell Property
- Consider 2022-2023 School Food Prices
  - Consider West Central CTE Joint Services Agreement
  - Personnel
    - Consider Resignation of William Nelson - Spanish Teacher at CMS
    - Consider Resignation of Marah Galbert - Teachers Aide at Hoover
    - Consider Resignation of Patrick Myers - Social Studies Teacher at CMS
    - Consider Resignation of DeDe Groves - ELA Teacher at CMS
    - Consider Resignation of Sabrina Gatlin - School Nurse at Hoover
    - Consider Resignation of Grace Clark - Library Assistant at CHS
    - Consider Resignation of Victoria Williams - Occupational Therapist at WCICSS
    - Recommend Adam Simmons for Alternative Classroom Teacher at CMS
      - Recommend Samantha Cotten for Student and Stakeholder Engagement Specialist at CTE
      - Recommend Mackenzi Cannici for PE Teacher at Hose
      - Recommend Cassandra Hicks for Spanish Teacher at CMS
      - Recommend Hannah Berber for Receptionist at Nicholson
      - Recommend Angela Clements for Media Assistant at Nicholson

n. Recommend Jennifer Hopper for Teacher's Aide at Hose

o. Recommend Leanna Lewellen for Teacher's Aide at Nicholson

p. Recommend Korey Warren for Speech Language Pathologist at Nicholson

IX. Change of Position
 

- Cindy Pierce from Alternative Classroom Teacher at CMS to Academic Interventionist at CMS
- Camaryn Peterson from Teachers Aide at Nicholson to 2nd Grade Teacher at Nicholson
- Katie Ferguson from Music Teacher at Hose to 2nd/3rd Grade Teacher at Nicholson
- Jennifer Hall from Preschool Director at Willson to Principal at Hose
- Maranda Patton from 2nd Grade Teacher at Nicholson to Reading Interventionist at Nicholson

IX. Associate Superintendent Report

X. Superintendent Report

XI. Other

XII. Board Member Communication

XIII. Patron Comments

XIV. Adjournment

Patron's Comments are limited to 3 minutes per spokesperson for a total of 30 minutes.

The meeting site is fully accessible. Any person requiring further accommodations should contact the Superintendent at the School Corporation's central office.

**Want more local news coverage and entertainment?**

Visit us online at  
[www.thepaper24-7.com](http://www.thepaper24-7.com)

for coverage of County Council meetings, school board meetings, more information on these stories as well as articles from your favorite columnists, such as Karen Zach, John Roberts, Butch Dale, John Marlowe, Kenny Thompson, Gwynn Wills, Rix Quinn, Casey Williams, Carrie Classon, Dick Wolfsie and Tim Timmons!

Check back daily for updates!

## Food Finders Food Bank Joins Feeding America's "Elevating Voices To End Hunger Together" Initiative

Food Finders Food Bank announced today its plans to join Feeding America's initiative, Elevating Voices to End Hunger Together, an effort aimed to collect input from people facing food insecurity. Through Elevating Voices to End Hunger Together, the Feeding America nationwide network of food banks will engage in a variety of activities to reach people in community, listen and learn with the goal of co-creating solutions to be shared with the White House, which has set a goal to end hunger by 2030.

"As the nationwide network of food banks, food pantries and meal programs, Feeding America provides billions of meals to tens of millions of people each year," said Vince Hall, chief government relations officer at Feeding America. "The network covers every county, borough and parish and Elevating Voices aims to amplify the power and voices of neighbors in need across the country. Feeding America believes that communities understand the solutions to their problems better than anyone, and we want to help surface those solutions to inform policies and programs to end hunger."

Elevating Voices to End Hunger Together will connect directly with indi-



## Food Finders Food Bank, Inc.

viduals and families with living or lived experience of food insecurity through 100 listening sessions, 10,000 questionnaires and 100,000 text message conversations. That data and insights will be published in a report later this summer by Feeding America. At the local level, Food Finders plans to host four listening sessions across its service area in the coming weeks. There will be options for all local people facing hunger to participate through questionnaires and text surveys distributed through the food bank and their agency partner's direct service programs now through the end of August.

"It has been more than 50 years since the first and only White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health. That event influenced the country's food policy agenda for the next 50 years," said Kier Crites Muller, Chief Engagement Officer at Food Finders Food Bank. "We are thrilled

that the Administration is turning the spotlight onto the issues of hunger and health across American and even more so to offer our neighbors an opportunity to share their lived experiences in an effort to shape future policy," says Muller.

Earlier in May, the White House announced that it will host a conference on hunger, nutrition, and health this September aimed at ending hunger, reducing diet-related disease, and increasing physical activity. Food Finders shares Feeding America's intent to focus Elevating Voices to End Hunger Together using the guiding principles that put the people facing hunger at the center, with solutions grounded in preserving their dignity and agency.

Upcoming Listening Sessions  
 · Tippecanoe County  
 Thursday, July 14, 11 am - 12:30 pm  
 FFFB Food Resource & Education Center  
 1204 Greenbush Street,

Lafayette, IN 47901  
 Second Session - August, TBD  
 · White County  
 Monon Community Church  
 Monday, July 25, 5 pm  
 530 West Broadway,  
 Monon, IN 47959  
 · Warren County  
 Williamsport Public Library  
 Thursday, July 27, 11 am - 12:30 pm  
 28 E 2nd St, Williamsport, IN 47993  
 · Howard County - August, TBD  
 · Miami County - August, TBD

Reservations to attend a listening session are required. Space is limited to 10 attendees per listening session, attendees will be compensated for their time. Additional sessions may be added if there is demand. Those who would like to participate should call 765-471-0062 to RSVP.

To learn more about Food Finder's local hunger-relief efforts and get involved, visit food-finders.org

## Dine With A Doc®

Senior Education Ministries, Inc. has scheduled Dine with a Doc®- Greencastle: the 4th Monday of every month from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. to take place at the Putnam County Hospital located at 1542 S. Bloomington St. Greencastle, Indiana.

Dine with a Doc® is a FREE community-based program that welcomes the local senior public to get to hear an educational topic while enjoying a complimentary lunch.

This program is a community effort of a doctor, a lunch sponsor, the senior citizens, local churches and area businesses coming together for the good of all to serve the senior citizens.

Each doctor has graciously donated this time in effort to listen, hear, and answer your medical questions while sharing a meal with you. Various community businesses also participate by donating door prizes or providing complimentary lunch for you to enjoy and learn about ways they may help you as well.

The Dine with a Doc® program was designed to allow the seniors to get out of their homes, fellowship with their peers, extend their available financial resources, promote enhanced living, and educate them (from a preventative standpoint) with the goal of improving their quality of life and providing them with the resources and information to make an informed choice about their healthcare.

This month we are excited to present:

CARDIOPULMONARY SERVICES @ Putnam County Hospital  
 1542 S Bloomington St.  
 Greencastle, IN 46135  
 765.301.7520

The Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation department at Putnam County Hospital provides comprehensive cardiovascular services that include:

- Monitored Cardiac Rehab
- Cardiac Rehabilitation Maintenance
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring
- Holter and Event Monitoring
- Cardiac Stress Testing (Treadmill, Nuclear and Echo)
- Health and Wellness Coaching
- Heart failure education, monitoring and follow up
- Supervised Exercise Therapy for Peripheral Artery Disease

Cardiac Rehabilitation is a medically supervised program, staffed with experienced cardiac nurses, for people who have had a heart attack, heart failure, heart valve surgery, heart transplants, coronary artery bypass grafting, stable angina or percutaneous coronary intervention (stents or angioplasty).

Cardiac Rehab involves adopting heart-healthy

lifestyle changes to address risk factors for cardiovascular disease and to help encourage lifestyle changes. Their program includes exercise training, education on heart-healthy living and counseling to help reduce stress and return to an active lifestyle. Research has found that cardiac rehabilitation programs can reduce your risk of death from heart disease and reduce your risk of future heart problems. The American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology recommend cardiac rehabilitation programs. Come and learn about ways to improve your quality of life. A question/answer period will follow their discussion.

A complimentary Lunch will be courtesy of Putnam County Hospital. Putnam County Hospital delivers services to patients and customers in a high quality, efficient, appropriate and caring manner on a daily basis. The Continuous Quality Improvement program of Putnam County Hospital is on an organizational-wide quest to continuously improve the quality of services offered, expand professional knowledge, and exceed the expectations of our customers.

Their everyday values are:

- Improving the health care status of individuals in the Hospital's service area.

- Respectful, courteous, professional inter-actions with all customers.

- Offering the highest quality services possible with efficient use of available resources.

- Pride, ownership, and enthusiasm in all endeavors.

Putnam County Hospital holds Accreditation with:

- Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP)
- American College of Surgeons
- College of American Pathologists (CAP)
- Indiana State Board of Health

The hospital provides ongoing support and educational classes to meet the needs of the community. They are very pleased to be partnering with Senior Education Ministries to serve the seniors in the Putnam County area through the Dine with a Doc® program.

There will be an opening prayer and Veterans in attendance will be recognized for their service and dedication to our country followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to start off the program. There will be various Health Care Providers present to share information about their services and provide Door prizes for participants to win.

If you'd like more information about this event, or to schedule an interview with Lori Aplin RN, please call to Senior Education Ministries, Inc. 812-917-4970 or email to loriaplin@gmail.com.

## FSSA Announces New Funding For Mental Health Services, Launch Of Indiana 988 For Crisis Response

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's Division of Mental Health and Addiction is providing new funding to help build and support projects in Indiana to improve mental health services for Hoosiers. This includes funding appropriated by the Indiana General Assembly in House Enrolled Act 1001, and additional funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act and other sources.

DMHA is working with partners in the private sector, the health care system and community and philanthropic organizations to provide grassroots support and funding alongside DMHA's statewide mental health programming, through grant funding for community programs, the launch of Indiana 988, and a partnership to integrate mental health care into pediatric care across the state.

"One serious, lingering result of the COVID-19 pandemic that has been widely-recognized by experts all over the country is a worsening of our mental health crisis," said Dan Rusyniak, M.D., FSSA secretary.

"This major infusion of funds, spread throughout Indiana, will provide more access to mental health care, expand the mental health workforce, and invest in our state's mental health infrastructure."

The largest investment is in Community Catalyst Grants provided to 37 recipients. The \$54.8 million provided in these grants includes \$22.3 million of local and grantee match dollars as well as \$32.5 million in federal funds. The goal of these grants is to enhance the quality, integration and access of mental health prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery services across the state. These funding infusions are intended to build out the care continuum and improve mental health and substance use disorder outcomes for many local and diverse organizations. Grant recipients include:

- Dove House, to expand its inpatient and outpatient substance-use disorder treatment for women in Marion and Dubois counties
- La Porte Community Resource Intervention's

substance use, instability and suicidal support outreach program, for the formation and development of outreach teams as well as a crisis intervention team and cultural competency training for law enforcement officers

- The Marion County Reentry Coalition for a holistic model using public defenders and the criminal justice system to help Hoosiers with mental health challenges as they reenter society
- Courageous Healing in Allen County for a program to provide mental health treatment to uninsured and underinsured people

On Saturday, 988 will go live in Indiana and around the United States as a new national three-digit dialing code to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. In Indiana, Hoosiers experiencing mental health-related distress may call 988 to connect to a trained crisis specialist. In the coming years, that service will be expanded to include a response team and locations where people can go for help. The work to develop this complete system is well underway and will

continue over the next seven to 10 years.

Additionally, Indiana is entering into an \$8 million partnership with Riley Children's Health to provide mental health services at pediatric primary care officers across the state, removing barriers to access. This includes \$4 million in matching funds from Riley Children's Health

Through this partnership, mental health services will be embedded within primary pediatric care settings around the state of Indiana, directly addressing the growing child mental health crisis.

Other funding includes:

- \$27.6 million in workforce stabilization grants to community mental health centers around the state

- \$4.4 million provided to the Indiana University School of Medicine to fund psychiatrist residency (training) slots, and fellowships for psychiatrists and internships for psychology students.

- \$15 million in grants to help Indiana's community mental health centers transition to the new Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic model.



Life without local news is like hearing crickets

**STOP LISTENING TO CRICKETS**

**The Paper**  
 OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**  
**361-0100**

Dreaming of a new home?



find it here!  
 thepaper

**WHIN** From Page A1



The Paper photos by Joe LaRue

**WHIN CEO Johnny Park opens the presentation by offering highlights of WHIN's accomplishments and community engagement (left). A gathered crowd including elected officials, local business representatives and the superintendents of the three local school corporations look on as Pat Torey (standing, left), VP of Engagement and Greg Jarman, VP for Broadband Partnerships, talk about the community impact WHIN has made. Seated in the blue shirt and khaki pants is Crawfordsville Schools Superintendent Dr. Scott Bowling; to his immediate right is County Commissioner John Frey (right).**

three years. Those include:

- \$1,340,393 directly invested in grants, subsidies and staff time;
- \$249,045 in industry investments through matching funds, in-kind contributions and partnerships;
- \$200,376 in e-learning funds awarded for local schools, which have:
  - o Served 517 students;
  - o Provided 352 Chromebooks and iPads for classrooms, including every student at Nicholson Elementary School;
  - o Equipped 36 school buses with internet hotspots to help athletes and students get a jump on schoolwork and stay connected with family and friends while traveling for school;
  - o And given 65 MiFi routers to help give rural students access to wireless internet service;
  - Providing broadband coverage and resource access to over 12,000 acres of farmland through Ag Alliance;
  - Supported 102 Ivy Tech students in agriculture and manufacturing programs that focused on digital agriculture and

advanced manufacturing;

- Provided 39% coverage with LoRaWAN systems, which is designed to connect battery-powered devices like weather monitors and grain bin sensors, to the internet;
  - 11 weather stations in Montgomery County that have provided more than 28,000,000 weather readings to assist local farmers;
  - And 2,205 GB of data collected to assist local ag producers and manufacturers.
- So what is WHIN? Testifying to the House Committee on Agriculture on April 20, 2021, CEO Johnny Park offered an explanation: "WHIN is not an Internet Service Provider, and broadband is not our primary business. In fact, we are a 501c3 community organization and our overarching goal is to build a regional ecosystem that can help our rural region attract globally competitive businesses to plant and grow in the Wabash Heartland." He went on in his testimony to say, "Towards that goal, our principal strategy has been to accelerate the adoption of

digital technology in our region, especially digital agriculture and smart manufacturing. As you might expect in Indiana, agriculture and manufacturing are mainstays of our rural economy."

But WHIN doesn't focus on simply playing up their brand or making themselves the point-person on projects. Pat Torey, VP of Engagement at WHIN, said in her section of the presentation that, "What we're trying to do is get all the community stakeholders together, get all the players playing together, leverage our resources and do things faster when we can and help our county grow."

Torey, along with VP for Broadband Partnerships Greg Jarman, spoke about the importance of the community work WHIN does, focusing on their connections with local school corporations. Torey said, "We're encouraging schools to be very creative, encouraging e-sports and teachers to use devices to help get synchronous learning."

Greg Ottinger, VP of Strategic Partnerships,

focused on how WHIN was helping to bring newer and better technologies and practices to both farmers and manufacturers through investment and innovation. But the larger point of all of this, at least for WHIN, is about securing a future for the Wabash Heartland Region.

"Our goal is to create jobs for your kids and grandkids," he said. "Whether they enter right into the workforce, learn a trade or get a college degree, we're losing kids who move to Indianapolis or Chicago or even further because there are better, higher paying jobs there."

"You can't convince everyone to stay, but I know plenty of kids who would love to stay and work and live in Indiana, and we're hoping to help do that."

The other member of the WHIN leadership team to speak was Jack Stucky, VP of Engineering. Most of his comments focused on what the new technologies WHIN is helping to proliferate and share do, and he rattled off some impressive facts and

figures.

"We have over 185 weather stations in our region, which we believe is one of the densest weather station networks in the county," he said.

He also pointed out that those 2,205 GB of data collected by WHIN have been instrumental for Purdue and Ivy Tech researchers and students. In fact, that data has been used in research or classes by:

- 50+ researchers at Ivy Tech and Purdue
- And 570+ students at both schools

WHIN is also working to begin two pilot online programs at two high schools in Benton and Fountain counties.

The key idea that was threaded through each of these presentations was the idea of the Living Lab. WHIN, through the partnerships, technology and data gathering, are creating a real-world laboratory for innovation and advancement in the fields of agriculture and manufacturing.

Park, interjecting at the close of Stucky's remarks, focused on why this Living Lab model is so effective and why

they hope it can help be a catalyst for making the Wabash Heartland region a global leader in ag and manufacturing technology.

"That's real-world data, from real factories and real farms. We have real-time insight into what is happening and what works or doesn't work," he said. "That is what is unique; there's really nothing else like this in the country."

WHIN is focused upon serving 10 counties: Pulaski, White, Cass, Benton, Carroll, Tippecanoe, Warren, Fountain, Montgomery and Clinton. By promoting smart technology throughout these 10 counties, WHIN is aiming to become the first recognized smart region in the nation.

WHIN was established with a \$38,900,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment to help develop the Wabash Heartland Region as a smart community. The endowment is due to expire this year, but stay tuned: WHIN 2.0 is gearing up to take the next steps forward for rural communities across the Wabash Heartland Region.

**BUTCH** From Page A1

thing that might interrupt our thoughts. I think I know why...

I was the firstborn in a family of five children. I had no siblings until I was four years old, so I entertained myself, sometimes in creative ways...and, according to my parents, often in mischievous ways! When I started first grade, I was friendly, but not very sociable. I became more extroverted as the school years progressed, but I never did enjoy parties or large gatherings... and still don't today. I believe growing up on a farm also allowed me to achieve more individuality and introspection. I would often climb to the very top of a barn or our house, and just sit there and enjoy the view and the solitude. Although four brothers and sisters joined me as the years

progressed, most of the time I was content to just be doing something on my own. I could entertain myself.

After college I chose occupations in which I interacted with the public to a great extent... teacher, police officer, and librarian. Most people would assume that public service individuals are extroverts, but that assumption is often misleading. As a teacher, I enjoyed directing an energetic group of youngsters, but I looked forward to "prep period," the quietness and solitude of preparing the next day's lessons or grading papers. As a police officer, and even as County Sheriff, between calls and incidents, I was alone in my patrol car or office most of the time. And when working at the library, patrons come

and go, but the majority of the time I am alone, with only the grandfather clock ticking away to keep me company. My hobbies, perhaps selected subconsciously, also do not involve being with others...drawing and painting, writing, reading, restoring antique guns and old cars. And one of my favorite weekend activities is mowing. You can do a lot of thinking on a riding mower or tractor. Just ask Forrest Gump.

I actually enjoy talking with people, but my early childhood evidently induced some introversion which leads me to seek solitude. It's similar to a farmer who enjoys conversing with his farming buddies, but savors his alone time in the fields...or the factory worker who stands at his machine all day, hoping

no one will bother him... or the commuter who enjoys the time alone driving to and from his workplace...or the housewife who relaxes in her chair after all the kids are in bed. It turns out that wanting to be alone often is a good thing, according to these people:

"The best thinking has been done in solitude." Thomas Edison

"Being alone gives us the power to regulate and adjust our lives. A restorer of energy, the stillness of alone experiences provides us with much-needed rest. Alone time is fuel for life." Ester Buchholz

"In solitude the mind gains strength and learns to lean upon itself." Lawrence Sterne

In the peace and quiet, the mind becomes more keen, and people my age often recollect pleasant

childhood memories, which improve their attitude. One of the quotes in Dostoevsky's classic book "The Brothers Karamazov" goes like this: "You must know that there is nothing higher and stronger and more wholesome and good for life in the future than some good memory, especially a memory of childhood, of home.... If a man carries many such memories with him into life, he is safe to the end of his days."

And to be sure, many of us "baby-boomers" who grew up here in Montgomery County have many good memories from our childhood. We are so lucky to have grown up in the "good times" when school was fun, people got along, neighbors helped each other, and parents taught us Christian values that

lasted a lifetime. We may not have realized it at the time, but now, as we have reached our later years, the solitude allows us to remember and cherish all of those good times. You don't have to be a "loner," but you can enjoy the peace and quiet and self-reflection.

Yes, dear, you were correct...sometimes I am in my own little world...a world full of many present thoughts, and sometimes memories from the past, and after 73 years, I doubt that I will change...but give me a few minutes alone, and I will think about it.

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