

➤ TODAY'S VERSE
Philippians 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.



➤ FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.
Wabash College Professor Tim Lake offered a bright smile when he ran into one of our roving photographers recently. Speaking of Wabash, the Little Giants play Hiram College in football at 1 p.m. at Little Giant Stadium. Might be a good day to catch a game!

➤ THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 Local residents, along with members of the Montgomery County Democrat Party and others, are invited to join family and friends of 5th Congressional District Democrat nominee Jeannine Lee Lake, who will be at the Crawfordsville Pizza Hut at 12 p.m., noon on Tuesday, Nov. 1 for a meet and greet lunch. Lee Lake - who was born in Indianapolis and grew up in Crawfordsville - is the daughter of the late Rev. Clarence and Mrs. Betty Lee and the stepdaughter of longtime Montgomery County resident Veda (Miller) Lee. She is a 1987 graduate of Crawfordsville High School and graduated from Ball State University in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in journalism. To RSVP to the luncheon, text or call (765) 212-7537, or email jeannineleelake@gmail.com.

2 The Montgomery County Community Foundation will host a campaign kickoff event for the Montgomery County Early Learning Center at 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 10. The event will be held at 110 W. South Boulevard in Crawfordsville. Since 2019, MCCF has been focused on improving early learning and child care options in Montgomery County. This led to the formation of the Montgomery County Early Childhood Coalition, an initiative of MCCF, as well as new resources for parents, employers and providers. However, a large part of the issue continues to be accessibility. There are fantastic providers in our community, but not enough seats to serve all of the children in need of care. After county offices moved to the new Government Center, the existing building on South Boulevard was left vacant. This past Monday, Commissioners Frey, Fulwider and Guard agreed to donate the building to MCCF to convert into a new, high-quality child care center projected to open in spring of 2024. The kickoff event will introduce plans for the center and launch a public campaign. RSVP by Nov. 4 with Ellen Hedge at ellen@mccf.in.org or by calling (765) 362-1267.

3 Dubliner Shane Gaffney was visiting New York City. It was about 4 a.m. and he hailed a taxi cab. John McDonagh, an Irish American, was at the wheel, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. Gaffney didn't have enough money for his fare and so he gave McDonagh an IOU, promising two pints of Guinness at his parents' pub if and when the taxi driver might visit Ireland. It all happened in 2013. But nine years later McDonagh showed up at the pub to claim his brews. Gaffney and his mom and dad were waiting for him as were reporters and regulars. And behind the bar was a "massive banner welcoming me," said McDonagh.

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Ask Rusty - Why Don't I Get Annual Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)?

Dear Rusty: I get a NET amount of \$210 from Social Security plus get an alimony check of \$1,400. Other people I know get a COLA increase every year, but I was told I am not eligible? But no reason was given. Why am I not eligible? Signed: *Struggling Senior*



ASK Rusty
Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Dear Struggling Senior: Everyone who collects Social Security receives the annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), so whoever told you that you aren't eligible for a COLA increase was incorrect. However, keep

in mind that COLA is applied to your gross Social Security payment, not your net payment. One thing which can happen, especially to those whose Social Security payment is small, is

that an increase to the Medicare Part B premium may consume your COLA increase. Here's an example of how that might

➔ See RUSTY Page A9

Protect Senior Voters

By John Grimaldi

"If there was ever a senior-centric election cycle, it's this year's midterm elections; older Americans will win big or lose. It is critical that the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population, senior citizens, protect their rights, particularly their voting rights," says Rebecca Weber, CEO of the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC). To this end, she announces that AMAC, its AMAC Action advocacy team, and the AMAC Foundation have joined forces with The American Constitutional Rights Union (ACRU) and ACRU Action to ensure that elderly voters are heard and protected. ACRU is the nation's leading advocate for protection of vulnerable voters.

The evidence of real and tangible fraud is growing according to ACRU Board Members, former Attorney General Edwin Meese III and former Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell. Their recent Townhall article indicates that the problem is widespread. "In Wisconsin, the state assembly appointed a special counsel to investigate vote fraud in nursing homes after an investigation by a county sheriff uncovered evidence indicating numerous cases of vote fraud in a nursing home. Special Counsel Michael Gableman, a former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice, released a report this year indicating 'rampant fraud and abuse occurred statewide' at Wisconsin's nursing homes and other residential care facilities."

➔ See VOTERS Page A9

Scam Alert: That's Not Your Mom Texting!

Scammers have long used social media to impersonate people you know and trust, but recently they've been using a new tactic: text messages with a spoofed caller ID. This scam can be hard to spot at first glance, so watch out for the warning signs.

How the scam works: You get a text message that shows up in your phone as from "Mom" (or in other variations, "Dad.") According to the message, "Mom" is at the store, but

➔ See TEXTING Page A9

Montgomery County Free Clinic Names New Director

David W. Johnson has been chosen as the first dedicated chief executive for the Montgomery County Free Clinic. Mr. Johnson will work with the board of directors to oversee clinic operations, community outreach, fundraising, as well as nonprofit and medical practice compliance measures.

He will lead over a dozen volunteers and staff members to fulfill the organization's mission: to provide high-quality medical and dental care to residents of Montgomery County

who lack insurance and would otherwise go without basic health care.

On accepting the position, Mr. Johnson states, "I was raised in a small town where everyone knew each other and where everyone helped their neighbors. Having grown up in an environment where service to others was the norm, and holding a passion for health and wellness, the Montgomery County Free Clinic is a perfect

➔ See CLINIC Page A9



Photo courtesy of the MGFC

Pictured from left to right are board members Nancy Buckles, Jennifer Coyle and Donna Hendrickson as they accept the \$50,000 grant on behalf of the Free Clinic. Pictured on far right is Cheryl Keim, Grants & Community Relations Director for the Montgomery County Community Foundation.

➤ HONEST HOOSIER

Not sure which is scarier, Halloween or the election!



➤ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

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➤ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Be consistent when disciplining your children - they need know their boundaries.

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

See Page A2



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



➤ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

For Your Information

Looking for a part-time job that does not involve the words: Would You Like Fries With That? The Paper of Montgomery County offers jobs that include pagination and page design, basic clerical and even some photography and writing. We're looking for bright and eager people to join our winning team! This could be the perfect job for part-time students all the way up to Baby Boomers looking for something to do. Let us know you are interested by sending an e-mail with your resume and a note telling us what you love about newspapers to jobs@thepaper24-7.com.

➤ TODAY'S QUOTE

"When witches go riding and black cats are seen, the moon laughs and whispers, 'tis near Halloween."
- Unknown

➤ TODAY'S JOKE

What happened when a boy vampire met a girl vampire? It was love at first bite!



OBITUARIES

Loretta L. Hunsinger Haas

October 27, 2022

Loretta L. Hunsinger Haas, 89, of Lafayette and formerly of Wingate, passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by family at 6:10 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022.

Arrangements are incomplete at Family and Friends Funeral Home of Wingate.

Phillip Eugene Sorrels

June 12, 1937-October 26, 2022

Phillip Eugene Sorrels, age 85, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022.

He was born on June 12, 1937 in Crawfordsville to Dwight and Bertha (Douglas) Sorrels.

After graduating from Alamo High School, Mr. Sorrels enlisted and served his country in the U.S. Navy from 1955 to 1958. Returning to the Crawfordsville area, he married and raised his family, attended Freedom Baptist Church, worked as a hoist operator and retired from R.R. Donnelley & Sons with 37 years of service. He resided the last few years at the Indiana Veteran's Home in West Lafayette.

Mr. Sorrels was a stranger to no one and made friends wherever he went, often meeting up at the Snacker diner for breakfast and stories. He remained close with childhood schoolmates throughout his life and delighted in telling the same bad jokes to all, as though each rendition was for the first time.

Survivors include his 4 children Greg (Christie) Sorrels of Lawrence, Debi Rose of New Ross, Scott (Carletta) Sorrels of North Carolina and Rachel (Alan) Metsker of Crawfordsville; sister Nancy Graham of Washington; 2 nephews Doug (Pam) of Tennessee and Stuart (Mitzi) of Wash.; niece Laura Archer (Bob) of Wash.; 10 grandchildren Josh (Emmy) Sorrels, Mike Sorrels, Sydney Wilmoth, J.D. Joseph, Ian Rose, Tammy Robbins, Jill (Leo) Lara, Megan (Jason) Yoder, Elizabeth (Joe) Zuk and Sarah Metsker; 14 great-grandchildren Emma, Ethan, Kaiya, Aubrie, Atlanta, Kaidence, Kamarin, Tristan, Mackenzie, Illiana, Leonardo, Joseph, Remington and Reagan; and great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandson Brayden Metsker; and great-granddaughter Joselyn Sorrels.

Funeral services are scheduled to be held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 2 at Hunt & Son Funeral Home with visitation scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. Military rites and burial at Oak Hill Cemetery North will follow.

Online condolences and memories may be shared at huntandson.com

Garry Redmon

March 18, 1962-October 27, 2022

Garry Lee Redmon, 60, of Crawfordsville passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family after a difficult battle with cancer early Thursday morning, Oct. 27, 2022.

He was born on March 18, 1962, in Crawfordsville, son of Henry Lee Redmon and Margaret Redmon Caldwell.

Mr. Redmon graduated from North Montgomery High School in 1981. He married his high school sweetheart, Linda McCabe, on Nov. 6, 1982, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Redmon enjoyed gardening, antiques, collecting coins and all things outdoors. He was an avid animal lover and liked bird watching. He adored and cherished his wife, children, and grandchildren. Mr. Redmon began his career as a delivery driver for C&C Bakery in San Antonio. He worked for Chesty (Potato Chips) as a delivery driver, then at DeFouw Chevrolet as a salesman in Lafayette for many years before later working at Ceres Solutions.

Survivors include his wife of 43 years Linda Redmon; 2 sons Seth (Bliss) Redmon and Ethan (Shelby) Redmon; daughter Sommer (Carie); 5 grandchildren Gideon, Julian, Krue, Kolbie and Ambrose; sister Carole (Bob) Hawley; 2 brothers Ronald (Donna) Redmon and Brian Redmon; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; father- and mother-in-law; and sister-in-law Leesa Redmon.

Visitation is scheduled to be held from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2022 at Burkhardt Funeral Home. Services are scheduled to begin at 1 p.m., led by Pastor Mike Whitacre. After the service, Mr. Redmon will be laid to rest at Oak Hill Cemetery South.

In honor of Mr. Redmon's love for animals, the family asks that memorial donations in his memory be directed to the Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County, 1104 Big Four Arch Road, Crawfordsville, Ind. 47933. Online condolences may be made at BurkhartFH.com.

Rokita Warns Hoosiers of Fentanyl Disguised as Candy

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita is warning Hoosiers about dangerous drugs being illegally smuggled across the southern border disguised as candy.

With Halloween quickly approaching, Rokita and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration are alerting parents of a new, deadly form of fentanyl found at the border and throughout the US. To disguise this dangerous drug, smugglers have hidden it in brightly colored pills that resemble Sweet Tarts.

"My role as attorney general is to protect Hoosiers, especially the most vulnerable among us," Rokita said. "To help keep

our children safe, monitor the candy in your kids' trick-or-treat bags."

Fentanyl is an opioid that is approximately 50 times more potent than heroin and about 100 times more potent than morphine. Therefore, even consuming the smallest amount could be deadly.

"This is yet another example of the danger tied to a porous border," Rokita said. "Under this administration, all states are border states. We are sadly all at risk."

Rokita advises parents to only allow their children to eat candy that is commercially wrapped and to check the candy for any signs of tampering.

The Rev. Danny Paul Ryan

November 6, 1945-October 26, 2022

The Rev. Danny Paul Ryan, 76, of Waynetown, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2022 at IU Arnett Hospital surrounded by his family.

He was born on Nov. 6, 1945 in Crawfordsville to The Rev. Frank and Grace Durham Ryan Sr.

On July 5, 1973 the Rev. Ryan married Jane Jones. He worked for Lifetime Gate as a truck driver. He then retired from California Pellet Mill in 1992. Following his retirement, he went on to jointly own, with his wife Jane, DJ Enterprises, Ryan's County Line Lounge in Waynetown, The Waynetown Dari-Bar, Cracker Barrel Restaurant of Waynetown, Dans 50's Ice Cream Shop in Hillsboro and the Spartan Inn in Wingate.

The Rev. and Mrs. Ryan were Montgomery County Special Olympics Coordinators beginning around 1980 for over 10 years. He loved his Special Children and remained in contact with most of them.

He was a past member of the Waynetown Masonic Lodge and a current member of the Waynetown Merchants Association.

The Rev. Ryan became an ordained minister in 2003. He loved the Lord and served Him unconditionally.

Survivors include his wife of 49 years Janes Jones; 2 sons Danny Paul (Lisa) Ryan II and Dr. J. Michael (Alex Guerrero) Ryan; step-daughter Kristy Crews; 6 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild on the way.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son Stephen; and 2 brothers Frank Ryan Jr. and Patrick Ryan.

Funeral Services are scheduled to be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022 at Hunt & Son Funeral Home with the Rev. Kelvin Copas officiating. Interment will follow in the Waynetown Masonic Cemetery. Visitation is scheduled to be held from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Tuesday at Hunt & Son.

Online condolences and memories may be shared at huntandson.com



Letters

Reader Voices Concern Over Solar Parks and Contamination

Dear Editor,

I am writing to voice safety concerns about massive 10-plus-square mile solar parks.

If you have a well dug you have to grout the upper 15 feet of the casing usually with Bentonite. The reason for this is ground water contamination into the aquifer. When Bentonite gets wet it swells up many times its original size. This acts as a gasket between the casing and the soil, preventing any water leaching past.

One major public safety concern with solar panels is the enormous number of poles driven 12 to 15 feet into the ground. This will give ground water and herbicide a free ride into the water table. There are many wells in the areas of proposed solar farms that

are 25 feet deep and water levels at only 15 feet that would be contaminated. Also since the ground water with residual herbicide will get to 15 feet without being filtered as it normally would, it can get below even a properly grouted well.

I had a 360 foot well that was not grouted properly and had it get contaminated by groundwater. Once water gets to the casing it follows it straight to the bottom. A lot of peoples' wells are at or near their property lines. In this case the solar panels could be as close as 50 feet. We don't want to wait and address all this after we have an increase in health problems and cancer diagnosis.

Brian Sillery
Ladoga

Help and Protect the Blood Supply by Donating to the Red Cross

The American Red Cross is urging blood donors of all types and those who have never given before to book a time to give blood or platelets now and help keep the blood supply from dropping ahead of the holidays.

People of all blood types are needed, especially platelet donors and those with type O blood - blood products that are critical to keeping hospitals ready to help patients depending on transfusions in the weeks ahead.

Book now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1 (800) 733-2767. As a thank-you for taking the time to give this fall, all who come to give between Nov. 1-22 will receive a \$10 e-gift card by email to a merchant of choice. Details are available at rcblood.org/perks.

How to Donate Blood:
Simply download the American Red Cross



American Red Cross

Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1 (800) 733-2767 or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients

A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive.

To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

Amplify Your Impact by Volunteering:

Another way to support the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross is to become a volunteer blood donor ambassador at Red Cross blood drives. Blood donor ambassadors help greet, check-in and thank blood donors to ensure they have a positive donation experience.

Volunteers can also serve as transportation specialists, playing a vital role in ensuring lifesaving blood products are delivered to nearby hospitals. For more information and to apply for either position, contact 1 (888) 684-1441 or visit redcross.org/volunteertoday.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission.

For more information, visit redcross.org or Cruz-RojaAmericana.org, or go their Twitter account at @RedCross.



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County Commissioners Hear You

As many of you know, Montgomery County is being considered as a possible location for solar energy sites. During this exploratory time, your Montgomery County Commissioners believe it is important to gather as much information as possible on all sides of the solar energy question. Before any decisions are made, the Montgomery County Plan Commission and the Montgomery County Commissioners have as their primary goal finding the right and best answer for residents, or in other words, what makes the most sense for Montgomery County in terms of the future, safety and overall direction? Below are some of the questions that have been asked and the answers we have learned so far. Thank you all for your input! Your County Commissioners encourage you to continue the conversation. *We are listening!*

Q: What are County Officials doing to address concerns about Commercial Solar Energy Systems?

A: Many members of the public have contacted County Officials regarding this important issue. Some citizens want to lease their land to solar developers in order to capture the economic benefits available to landowners. Some citizens oppose these developments. In August 2022, the Board of Commissioners adopted text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance which provided for enhanced setbacks and other changes designed to protect adjacent, non-participating landowners. Currently, the Plan Commission will continue to review the issues and may propose to the Board of Commissioners additional text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance.

Q: Is the County providing economic development incentives to the solar developers?

A: No. In June 2022, Cold Spring Solar, LLC requested tax abatement for its project, but the County Council denied this request. No other requests for such incentives have been received by County Officials.

Q: Can the County prohibit commercial solar energy systems?

A: No, but it can consider changes to its Zoning Ordinance to restrict where the projects may be located, under what conditions such projects are allowed, and what process must be used for such approvals. These are the types of matters the Plan Commission is considering at this time.

Q: Who decides this issue?

A: The Board of Commissioners. The Plan Commission is advisory, and this means that it makes recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding possible changes to the text of the Zoning Ordinance.

Q: What is the timetable for consideration of changes to the text of the Zoning Ordinance?

A: If the Plan Commission makes a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners for text amendments, the Board of Commissioners will consider those proposed changes approximately 30 days after the Plan Commission certifies its recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

Q: Does the public have the right to be heard on such text amendments?

A: Yes. The public has the right to speak at both the Plan Commission meeting when the text amendments are considered and the Board of Commissioners' meeting when the text amendments are considered.

Q: Are there restrictions on how far the County can go in regulating Commercial Solar projects?

A: Yes. There are several state law limitations and state and federal constitutional restrictions which apply to County planning and zoning. In its regulation of commercial solar projects, the Board of Commissioners must comply with these laws and restrictions.

Q: The Comprehensive Plan indicates that the preservation of prime farmland is one of the primary purposes of planning and zoning in Montgomery County. Does the Comprehensive Plan require the Board of Commissioners to take action to preserve prime farmland and protect it from solar projects?

A: No, the Comprehensive Plan is a statement of objectives for future development, a statement of policy for land use development, and a statement of policy for the development of public ways, public places, public lands, public structures, and public utilities. The Plan is a vision for land use and development in the County. Although the Comprehensive Plan is a very important guide to land use policy, it is simply one of five factors the Board of Commissioners must consider when making amendments to the text of the Zoning Ordinance. These five factors are (1) the comprehensive plan, (2) the current conditions and the character of current structures and uses in each district, (3) the most desirable use for which the land is adapted, (4) the conservation of property values throughout the jurisdiction, and (5) responsible development and growth. The law requires the Board of Commissioners to consider the totality of all five factors. No one factor controls the decision.



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FAITH

INCLUDE YOUR INFORMATION The Paper of Montgomery County is asking churches to send us church news by noon on Thursday. Information can be e-mailed to: churchnews@thepaper24-7.com

The following is a listing of church services and various programs that organizations around Montgomery County have sent The Paper. If you would like to have your church information included in this free listing, simply e-mail it to churchnews@thepaper24-7.com by Monday for the Wednesday Print Edition.

There may be closures due to health concerns with the COVID-19 pandemic.

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday's schedule will include Sunday School at 9:30 and morning worship at 10:30 followed by a pitch-in dinner. After dinner there will be a special service in which Pastor Roe will step aside and Bro. Keith Harris will become the pastor. Meetings will continue with the Danfords Monday through Thursday at 7 each evening.

The public is invited to all the services anytime but especially during our revival with the Danfords. The location is 5113 S 200 W, Crawfordsville. Or just five miles south of Crawfordsville on State Highway 47. For more information call 866-1273 or visit www.faithbaptistcville.com.

NEW MARKET CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Sanctuary as well as the Drive-in Parking Lot are open for Worship held at 10:00 am. Tony Thomas will speak on "No Gods" His text is from Deuteronomy 10:4 & Exodus 20:1-3.

SUNDAY SCHOOL begins at 9:00 am. COFFEE & DONUT FELLOWSHIP is at 8:30 am the first Sunday of each month. The next fellowship is November 6.

The worship service and Sunday school are open to everyone.

NEW MARKET FIRST BAPTIST

New Market First Baptist Church will hold their services this Sunday. Worship services begin at 10:00 a.m. with Pastor Todd bringing the message. Sunday School Classes and Holy Grounds will be at 9:00 a.m. Following the service, we will have our monthly business meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sundays: Worship (Casual Traditional/Family Friendly/Childcare) - 10:15 am, Adult Faith Learning/Sunday School - 9:15 am, Good News Cafe - 9:15 am, Wednesdays: WOW! - Mid-week Youth Program (Grades 1-12) - 4:30 - 7 pm, Faith Learning and Dinner, Rev. Daria Goodrich, We are located at: 211 S. Walnut St. Crawfordsville IN 47933 Telephone: 765-362-4812

YOUNG'S CHAPEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

If contemporary worship is not your preference, then you Might want to visit us. A small country Bible based church made up of very friendly, compassionate, loving people. A church where everyone knows everyone's name. You will be warmly welcomed here. Why not try us out? 4527 North 200 East, Crawfordsville Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 am.

WOODLAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

468 N Woodland Heights Drive
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Fax Number: 765-362-6641
Lead Minister: Tim Lueking
Worship Minister: Wayne Wilkinson
Youth Minister: Bryson Feese

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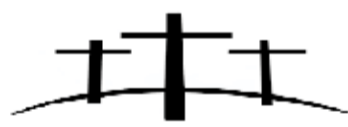
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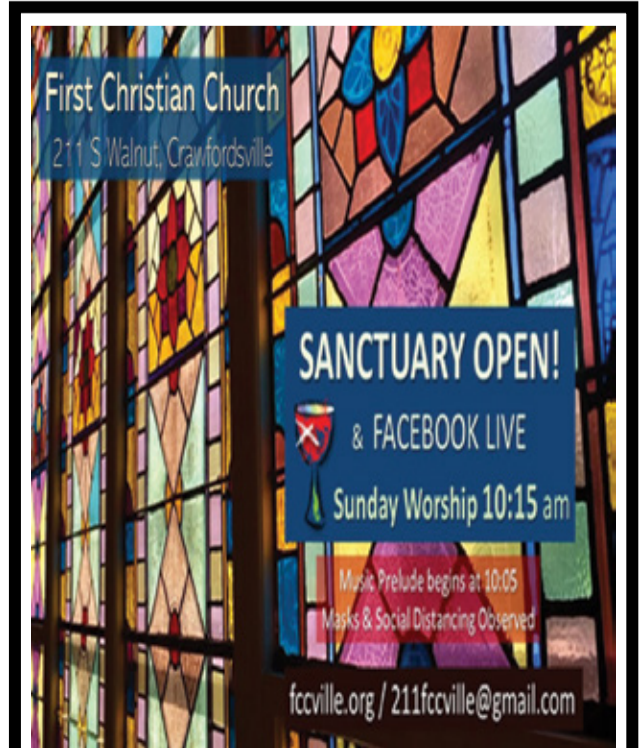
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Photo by Monroe Bush courtesy of the Capital Chronicle

Strategists for both parties preview the races they think will be the most competitive on Election Day.

Competitive Races in the Indiana Statehouse

By Whitney Downard

Republican and Democrat strategists alike are buckling down in the final weeks before Election Day, targeting competitive races in the House Chamber with the hopes of growing their parties' influence at the Statehouse.

Similar to the Senate, Republicans identified several House Democrat seats they've targeted to flip but, unlike the other chamber, Democrats seem focused on offense as well.

Republicans take aim at Democratic incumbents

Matt Huckleby, the executive director of the Indiana Republican Party, suggested that a handful of seats were no longer safely Democratic, including ones in southern and central Indiana.

"The environment is better for us," Huckleby said. "I feel pretty confident (about keeping the chamber supermajority). Our candidates are taking every race seriously and working their tails off – some of them are working harder than they ever have."

Republicans hold 71 seats to Democrats' 29, meaning the caucus can conduct its business without input or even participation from the Democrats. To break that supermajority in the House, Democrats would need to pick up five seats.

But Huckleby believes Republicans can grow that number, pointing to Republican Scott Hawkins, a public school teacher, challenging incumbent Democrat Rita Flemings, a retired OB-GYN, in

District 71.

Hawkins received \$40,000 from the House Republican Campaign Committee while Fleming, who has held the Jeffersonville district for four years, was one of two Democrats to get a contribution, for \$10,000, from the Democratic House Committee.

"I'm excited about (Hawkins') race and think he has a good shot," Huckleby said.

Another competitive contender to Huckleby would be Rep. Terri Austin, a Democrat who represents Anderson, who will face Republican Kyle Pierce in November.

"There are others we're following and keeping a real close eye on," Huckleby said.

In a newly created District 82 in Fort Wayne, chances are Democrats will be the winner but Huckleby said his party fielded a good candidate, Davyd Jones.

"The Fort Wayne seat isn't a slam dunk for us," Huckleby said. "Jones has really impressed us but we're looking at a very competitive race there."

Democrats target seats in the doughnut counties

In the areas surrounding Indianapolis, the "doughnut counties," Democrats have their eyes on several races they believe could erode away the Republican supermajority in the House Chamber.

Mike Schmuhl, the chair of the Indiana Democratic Party, said that pickup opportunities weren't limited to central Indiana but, in particular, highlighted four races he said were very

competitive:

- Democrat Victoria Garcia Wilburn versus Republican Fred Glynn in House District 32

- Democrat Matt McNally versus Republican incumbent Jerry Torr in District 39

- Democrat Jen Bass-Patino versus Republican Becky Cash in District 25

- Democrat Joellyn "Joey" Mayer versus Republican incumbent Donna Schaibley in District 24

"Those four races I think are really competitive and potential pickup opportunities for us," Schmuhl said.

"That's really the fastest, most-changing terrain in Indiana over the last few years... All of those folks are just fantastic candidates, impressive people."

District 32 hugs the Hamilton County side of the Marion County border,

with a sliver in Marion County, and District 39 sits above it. District 25 covers parts of Boone and Hendricks Counties while District 24 is split between Hamilton and Boone Counties.

Abortion's role in the election

In the races against Glynn and Torr, Schmuhl anticipated that abortion would play a large role. He said that Torr's vote to ban the reproductive healthcare procedure put him "out of touch with his constituents" and the Democrats observed that Glynn removed references to abortion from his website following his primary election.

"What you've seen in these races... is the Republican candidates backtracking or hiding from their stances on that issue," Schmuhl said. "I

think it shows that this issue is a loser for them and they don't want to talk about it; they don't want to address it."

But Huckleby said he believes the political winds are in his party's favor, citing recent national polling that reported economic concerns outweighed abortion fervor.

"People across the country, and even more so in Indiana, are focused on inflation and economic security," Huckleby said. "Voters trust Republicans on these issues."

As with the Senate, many aspiring Republican lawmakers didn't respond to Indiana Right to Life's survey, as detailed in its voter guide, especially candidates challenging Democrats in tough districts.

But some candidates in safer districts were

inclined to respond, including Lorissa Sweet in northeastern Indiana and Julie McGuire in southern Indianapolis. Both won a "supports pro-life legislation" designation from the organization.

McGuire received the largest sum of money from the House Republican Campaign Committee, \$532,000, but the bulk of that spending came during the primary election when she defeated incumbent GOP Rep. John Jacob.

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Photo by Leslie Bonilla Muñiz courtesy of the Indiana Capital Chronicle
A housing task force meeting this past Thursday.



Photo by Leslie Bonilla Muñiz courtesy of the Indiana Capital Chronicle
Housing Task Force Co-Chair Rep. Doug Miller (R-Elkhart) at this past Thursday's task force meeting.



Photo by Leslie Bonilla Muñiz courtesy of the Indiana Capital Chronicle
Sen. Fady Qaddoura (D-Indianapolis) at a Housing Task Force meeting this past Thursday.

Task Force Recommends State Cash, Bad Landlord Crackdown to Ease Housing Crisis

By Leslie Bonilla Muñiz

An interim study committee examining solutions to Indiana's housing crisis on Thursday approved a lengthy list of recommendations for future legislation — including state funding for housing-related infrastructure and a vague pledge to hold accountable negligent landlords peddling “substandard” housing.

There are 16 early-stage ideas on the draft list. But despite their broad strokes and wide range, all have the same goal: boost housing in Indiana, said Housing Task Force Co-Chair Rep. Doug Miller, R-Elkhart.

“This in no way, shape or form has to be the absolute definitive. We had to take a 10,000-foot view and decide, of all the issues that were presented [at] the task force, what can move the needle?” Miller asked.

State could step in Chief among those solutions — and the most likely piece of legislation to hit the Statehouse come January, according to Miller — is state infrastructure financing, through a revolving loan fund or grants. Representatives for builders, buyers and municipal governments

repeatedly emphasized the financial strain posed by water-sewer connections and other necessary infrastructure in previous meetings.

Rep. Cherrish Pryor, D-Indianapolis, said the loans and grants should be targeted to the Hoosiers that most need the help, while Indiana Builders Association President Paul Schwinghammer said the infrastructure support was needed across the state for a “broad spectrum” of income ranges.

The tax force also recommended raising a 1% construction cap on residential tax increment financing districts, with some set of financial guardrails. Representatives for local governments and builders previously said the cap prevented the construction of some housing projects, especially larger ones.

Sen. Fady Qaddoura, D-Indianapolis, successfully argued the cap should be bumped up instead of removed and that legislation should include some financial management restrictions. He also suggested sunset clauses for projects with bonds that don't require the default 25-year TIF lifespan currently in state law.

Another list item, tax sale reform to prevent out-of-state investors from snapping up and mismanaging cheap properties, garnered wide support among task force members — with some caveats.

Pryor said she wanted to ensure nonprofits that might accumulate the properties have the resources to follow through on rehabilitation. Habitat for Humanity Indiana State Director Gina Leckron said her nonprofit would welcome a property cap or capacity assessments.

Task force members also sparred over local zoning, permitting and inspection recommendations.

What about renters? Missing from an original 15-item list was consideration for renters — especially those living in poorly kept units — Qaddoura said. He referenced an infamous New Jersey-based nonprofit landlord facing utility shutoffs, lawsuits and ownership changes over its affordable housing in Indianapolis.

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita, a Republican, tried his own hand at a lawsuit in 2021 but was rebuffed by the Marion County Superior Court. Rokita has asked lawmakers to expand his authority

to pursue litigation against nonprofit landlords, for which Qaddoura advocated.

“These buildings that we're currently having problems with, they were brand new at one point,” Qaddoura said. “So the problem is that we're shooting ourselves in the foot if we are just allowing new developments to go in, incentivizing that, and then 10 years down the road, tenants live in horrible conditions. [Then] we say we have a shortage of supply of affordable units. I see the connection.”

Task force Co-Chair Sen. Linda Rogers, R-Granger, was initially reluctant. She said the task force was intended to streamline new construction rather than existing rental units, and that the topic hadn't been discussed enough in committee.

Miller later clarified to the Capital Chronicle that the group's mandate included “all of the above” housing options, while other committee members acknowledged during the meeting that bad landlords had previously been a topic of conversation.

“Every responsible corporate landlord should get the support of the state of Indiana,” Qaddoura said

in impassioned remarks. “I don't understand the hesitation of going after negligent, irresponsible people who violate our laws.”

The task force agreed to adopt broad language, “Address substandard housing,” as its sixteenth recommendation.

But Miller also said it would likely take the most time to develop into legislation.

“I think we've really got to work hard to pull the private sector partners in on the conversation and ask hard questions like, ‘What's preventing you from addressing these issues?’ ‘Is there anything that the government can do to help those those issues don't exist?’” Miller said.

Another more complicated recommendation, he said, was one on financial literacy for prospective homebuyers and homeowners.

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Want MORE?
The Indiana Housing Task Force has made a series of 16 recommendations for Indiana's housing crisis. On top of those listed in the article, the task force also recommended:

- Brownfield redevelopment support
- Tax incentives
- Appraisal anti-discrimination education
- Fund appraisal gaps
- READI program grant support
- Renovation and repair help
- Statewide building code adoptions
- Manufactured housing in legislation
- Oppose new taxes on housing

Meeting Notice
Montgomery County Health Board
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The morning session will be from 10-11:30 and the evening session from 6:30-8:00 on Monday, Oct. 31 at Fusion 54.

Please contact Gwynn at gwills6735@me.com to sign up or if you desire further information.



RUSTY From Page A1

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David W. Johnson

fit. I am so pleased to be part of this incredible community organization.”
Born and raised in the Lafayette area, Mr. Johnson attended Purdue University where he received his bachelor's degree in psychology. Mr. Johnson started his professional career coordinating general medical and mental health services for adults with disabilities for four years followed by two years working with youth on alcohol, tobacco, and other drug education and prevention programs.

He then returned to Purdue to pursue a master's degree in health promotion and worked at the university providing health and wellness programs to the 12,000+ residential students. Mr. Johnson moved to Montgomery County in 2002 to serve as the executive director of the Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau for three and a half years followed by serving as the executive director of MUFFY for nearly twelve years.

Donna Hendrickson, Board President, adds that hiring Mr. Johnson is historic and will be a real turning point for the organization, “David is very compassionate with the people we serve, and he has an outstanding knowledge base for running a nonprofit organization. We feel very fortunate to have David to provide guidance and vision as we navigate our growth in the coming years. Additionally, we are extremely fortunate that the Montgomery County Community Foundation has recently awarded us a \$50,000 grant to fund the initial overhead needed to



Photo courtesy of the MGFC

David Johnson is pictured with Nancy Sennett, who served as interim, volunteer executive director for the last twelve months. The Clinic would thank Nancy for her tireless dedication.

make the leap to a dedicated, non-volunteer executive director.” The grant was made possible by the Faye O. and Anna Winter Schenck Fund, the Joseph D. Smith Trust Fund, and the Drs. Paul and Mary Ludwig Fund, each established by local donors and managed by the Montgomery County Community Foundation.

About the Montgomery County Free Clinic:
The Montgomery County Free Clinic offers high-quality medical care to residents who lack insurance, fall within 300% of the federal poverty guidelines, and do not qualify for Medicaid. The organization focuses on disease prevention and medication management to improve quality of life and reduce strain on the healthcare system. They also utilize restricted funds to support needs that extend beyond the Clinic's services, including support for breast cancer patients through FAITH Alliance.

The clinic is a descendant of the Christian Nursing Service, founded in 1968 by Dr. Mary Ludwig and seven other women as a volunteer-run

clinic housed in an old church. In 2009, community partners came together to form the Montgomery County Free Clinic, Inc., a nonprofit 501c3 organization, which operates the Dr. Mary Ludwig Free-Clinic at 816 Mill Street, Crawfordsville. The Clinic is staffed by healthcare professionals and volunteers who donate their time and skills to improve the health of our community.

The nonprofit also directs the work of the local “Meals on Wheels” program which provides meals to home-bound residents. For more information, visit mcfreeclinic.org.

Looking for a way to help?
To further support the Montgomery County Free Clinic, please consider making a donation. Donations can be made at mcfreeclinic.org or by mail to PO Box 86, Crawfordsville, Ind. 47933. Make sure to mention that you would like your donation to be earmarked for the restructuring and expansion fund to grow the seed that the Montgomery County Community Foundation has planted.

TEXTING From Page A1

she left her credit card at home by accident. Could you send her \$150 to finish her shopping?

The request seems harmless, but don't do it! Scammers have spoofed caller ID to appear as “Mom” or “Dad.” They are relying on the fact that many people have “Dad” or “Mom” saved in their contacts list. Scammers hope you won't think twice (or double-check the phone number) before sending help. If you do transfer money to a bank or digital wallet account, your money will be gone for good.

How to spot fake emergency text messages:

- **If anything about a message is unusual, consider it a red flag.** If your parents never send text messages, it's probably not them texting now. On the other hand, if they text all the time but never ask for money, you're probably dealing with an impersonator.
- **Look for a new message thread.** If you text with your parents on a

regular basis, you should be able to see previous messages from them. If you can't see any of the earlier messages, it's probably a scammer contacting you for the first time.

- **Double check the sender info.** Click on the sender information to make sure the name matches your parent's real phone number.

- **Call your parents to confirm the story.** Look up their number in your contacts list and call them to confirm if the message really came from them.

- **Don't be fooled if a scammer has personal information about you.** Because of data breaches and social media posts, scammers may have their hands on some of your personal information, including your name and your parent's name.

- **If you suspect a scam, don't answer the message.** Just block the number and delete the message. If you reply, scammers will know your number is active and could target you with scams in

the future.

For more information:

Read about other ways scammers use text messages in the BBB Scam Alert: That's not your boss texting. Learn how to spot and avoid emergency scams. Find more useful advice in BBB's tip on spotting the red flags of fake text messages.

If you've been a victim of a similar scam, report it to BBB Scam Tracker.

About BBB Serving Central Indiana:

The Better Business Bureau has empowered people to find businesses, brands and charities they can trust for over 110 years. In 2021, people turned to BBB more than 200 million times for BBB Business Profiles on 6.3 million businesses and Charity Reports on 25,000 charities, free at BBB.org. Local, independent BBBs can be found across the United States, Canada, and Mexico, including BBB Serving Central Indiana, which was founded in 1916 and serves 46 counties.

VOTERS From Page A1

AMAC's Weber to take action by joining forces with ACRU and ACRU's team of experts, including Meese, Blackwell, LTC Allen West and ACRU President Lori Roman. “It is time to take measures to ensure not only the safety of seniors who reside in these facilities but to demand that their rights — including voting rights — are protected,” stated Weber.

The AMAC chief notes that Dr. Alveda King, the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has also joined with ACRU in its efforts to expose and put an end to elder voter fraud, particularly fraud found in nursing homes and other senior citizen facilities. According to Dr. King, her uncle “fought to ensure that every single American had the right to vote freely [but] many of those voters are nursing home residents who are often targeted by those who would steal or suppress their votes.”

The American Constitutional Rights Union has been working to protect the votes of vulnerable voters since they launched their Protect Elderly Votes Project in 2020. The project has been expanded to protect other vulnerable voters. This week the organization launched the Center for Vulnerable Voters (www.centerforvulnerablevoters.org) which will be a valuable resource for AMAC members.

During the 2020 and 2022 election seasons, ACRU has worked across the nation to educate facility staff of their legal and moral obligations to residents, inform residents and their families of their rights and assist residents and family members in filing formal complaints.

ACRU's Senior Citizen Voter Bill of Rights has been used by many facilities across the country. And this year, ACRU's guide for citizens and family members who wish to protect the rights of vulnerable voters has been the cornerstone of the organization's nationwide training. Because AMAC is focused squarely on protecting the interests of America's seniors, these resources will now be in the hands of AMAC members.

In addition to these resources, ACRU's Vote Fraud Hotline is another important tool to help end this form of abuse. The hotline has brought in many actionable tips for handling by ACRU's legal team and staff. “With our joint operation with AMAC we are even closer to putting an end to this form of vote fraud,” said Roman.


Roman notes, “We've received reports of cognitively impaired facility residents having their bal-

lot choices made by staff, sometimes under coercion and often without their knowledge. Other complaints have uncovered activist groups across the country collecting ballots from residential facilities with the promise that the ballots would be delivered to election officials. The chain of custody and security of ballots should be a foremost concern.”

“In 2020, a Texas social worker was indicted on 134 felony counts of vote fraud for registering mentally incapacitated citizens to vote without their consent. And this year, an employee at the Father Murray Nursing Center in Macomb County, Michigan, was sentenced to jail for forging signatures on absentee ballot applications. This abuse of vulnerable voters is not acceptable,” said Roman.

AMAC's Weber says that America's electoral process is “under siege” and that AMAC's joint venture with ACRU comes at a time when the fate of our nation “is in the balance.”

AMAC Foundation Executive Director Joleen Teninty embraces the collaboration with the ACRU saying, “I look forward to the opportunity to expand and enhance the resources we provide. It will be a productive partnership to ensure America's senior and Veteran communities stay informed.



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Wabash College invites applications for two full-time, salaried positions of Research Analyst and Data Manager for the Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium (HEDS). HEDS is an organization of colleges and universities committed to sharing data, knowledge, and expertise to advance undergraduate liberal arts education, inclusive excellence, and student success.

To Learn more about the position and to apply, please visit the College's employment website at www.wabash.edu/employment.

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