#### **⇒ TODAY'S VERSE**

2 Corinthians 5:6,7 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: For we walk by faith, not by sight

#### **⇒** FACES of **MONTGOMERY**



Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton smiled for our roving photographer. Thanks for your smile!

#### **⇒** THREE THINGS You Should Know:

While Christians celebrated Christmas this year, the Jewish population of the U.S. observed the seven day festival of Hanukkah lighting the seven candles of their menorahs. The Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] reports that Rabbi Yonaton Nuszen and 425 Jewish teens in Denver, CO celebrated the festival by creating a potentially record breaking menorah. They built it using 25,000 LEGO pieces. It stood 24 and a half feet tall. But Rabbi Yonaton said "It's not about the height - it's about the unity it created. Our entire Jewish community came together to build this mammoth of a LEGO menorah."

The DNR and Monroe County Parks and Recreation celebrated the opening of a newly completed segment of the Karst Farm Greenway in Monroe County earlier this month. The 2.67-mile asphalt extension accommodates both pedestrians and cyclists and was made possible by a grant of more than \$2.33 million from the DNR Next Level Trails (NLT) program. The greenway extension is the 15th NLT project to be completed and marks the 50th mile of trail funded by NLT. The project extends the existing 4.5-mile trail north to Highway 46 in Ellettsville. The entire trail now covers approximately 7.3 uninterrupted miles.

In its continuing effort to support youth pursuing careers in agriculture, Ceres Solutions will offer \$25,000 through scholarships to high school seniors and college students this spring. Students receiving the scholarships are selected based on their commitment to agricultural youth programs and their desire to pursue higher education. Students interested in applying for these scholarships or learning more about Ceres Solutions should visit the website at www.ceres.coop or contact David Smith at 260-571-6990. Completed scholarship forms must be submitted by March



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**CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA** 



Photo courtesy of the MCCF

The Unsung Hero Honorees pose together in a ceremony at the courthouse on Nov. 16

# **MoCo Celebrates 200th Birthday**

As Indiana prepares to celebrate the State's bicentennial. Montgomery County has spent the past few months honoring its 200th birthday, which tell on December 21. Here's a look back at what they did:

Postcard Contest, Unsung Heroes

The Montgomery County Bicentennial Committee hosted a celebration on November 16 at the County Courthouse for winners of the Bicentennial Postcard Contest and those nominated as Unsung Heroes of Montgomery County. In addition, a Bicentennial Monument, completed by Allen Monument Company, was installed and dedicated on the west side of the courthouse by the flag pole.

**Postcard Contest:** Participants were asked to submit their favorite images of Montgomery County for the Bicentennial Postcard Contest. The committee received over 30 entries and selected the top 6 to be featured as commemorative Bicentennial postcards. They are now available at the Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County and the Montgomery County Visitor's

Bureau. • Will Bernhardt II - Two of Bernhardt's photos were selected by the committee. The first was taken at Shades State Park while hiking the Devil's Punchbowl and shows how large the punchbowl is. The second featured his son skipping rocks in Sugar Creek, with the historic Deer's Mill Covered Bridge in the background.

• Sam Douma - Douma, a



# **MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

#### BICENTENNIAL \* 1822-2022

young photographer, was working with a Crawfordsville health clinic to provide images of local areas and landmarks when he captured a beautiful shot of the Montgomery County Courthouse Clock Tower right before

a thunderstorm. • Anne Shaw - Shaw's selected entry featured a magnificent Montgomery County sunset in fall 2017. Shaw took the photo as she was headed west toward Crawfordsville on State

Road 47. • Denise Booher-Walker - Booher-Walker captured a serene early morning sunrise outside of New Richmond. Her image shows a rural landscape and a classic red barn amidst the

fog on a country road. • Heidi Walsh - Downtown Crawfordsville at sunrise was the focus of Walsh's winning entry. Her photo was taken from her home on West Main Street looking east at downtown buildings and the Montgomery County Courthouse Clock Tower

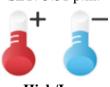
Unsung Heroes: The Bicentennial Committee asked for names of local "unsung heroes," who may not have received proper recognition for their contributions to the community. Nominees could be anyone, alive or deceased, who has had a positive impact in Montgomery County in the past 200 years.

• Violet Benge - She was nominated by Sue Lucas, who said of Benge: "When the looming COVID pandemic shuttered all area restaurants in March 2020, most all locally owned restaurants were looking at a dark future. Catering contracts canceled, sales stopped cold, employees furloughed. Violet Benge envisioned a way to help businesses survive by creating the Facebook Page, 'Crawfordsville Curbside & Delivery". This thread enabled restaurants to post creative ways to continue sales - and help those in need throughout

See BIRTHDAY Page A5



Sunrise/Sunset RISE: 8:09 a.m. SET: 5:31 p.m.



High/Low **Temperatures** High: 56 °F Low: 54 °F



Today is...

- Bacon Dav • Falling Needles Family
- Fest Day • No Interruptions Day



#### What Happened On This Day

- 1916 Grigori Yefimovich Rasputin, a Russian mystic and advisor to the Tsar, is murdered by a loyalist group led by Prince Felix Yusupov
- 1993 Israel establishes diplomatic relations with Vatican City and upgrades to full diplomatic relations with Ireland
- 2006 Former President of Iraq Saddam Hussein is executed





#### **Births On This Day** • 1975 Tiger Woods

- American golfer
- 1984 LeBron James American basketball player

#### **Deaths On This Day** • 1970 Sonny Liston

American boxer

#### • 2006 Saddam Hussein Iraqi politician and 5th President of Iraq

#### HONEST HOOSIER

I say this every year, but every year some lamebrain ignores it. If you are going out to celebrate tomorrow night, BE SAFE!!!



#### TODAY'S **EDITION** Obituaries.....A2

Classifieds.....A5

INSIDE

#### 🗢 TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Consider sitting on an exercise ball instead of a chair - it helps your balance and keeps you more alert. 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.



#### OBITUARIES **Lora Cathern Cox Orus Steve Harvey**

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



#### THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

#### We Want To Talk With You!

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#### TODAY'S QUOTE

"Let our New Year's resolution be this: we will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity, in the finest sense of the word." - Goran Persson

#### TODAY'S JOKE

The drunk was stopped after midnight by a cop, who asked where he was going.

"To a lecture," the drunk said. "And who is having a lecture at this time of night," the cop asked. "My wife."



PAGE A2 FRIDAY, DEC. 30, 2022

#### **OBITUARIES**

Helen J. Brown

October 27, 1946-December 27, 2022

Helen J. Brown, 76, of Darlington, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022 at Franciscan Health, Crawfordsville. She was born Oct. 27, 1946 in Win-

gate, daughter of Norris D. Dowden and Neva Mae Dowden McCorkle.

Mrs. Brown graduated from Coal Creek Central High School. She married Ron Brown in 1965.

She loved flowers, children and collecting antiques. Mostly, she loved spending time with her family. Mrs. Brown worked in the public for several years, but her last job was her favorite, as a bus driver for North Montgomery schools.

Surviving family includes: son, Jamie Brown of Indianapolis; daughter, Melissa Wilcox of rural Crawfordsville; daughter-in-law, Amy Brown; grandchildren, Nicole (Clint) Chase, Cody (Mindy) Wilcox, Amanda (Nick) Riddell and Kayla Brown; great-granddaughter Emaree Wilcox; brother Bud (Pat) Dowden; sister, Laura Lea (Kurt) Sneed.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Ron Brown in 2017; son Jeff Brown; 2 sisters Donnis Dowden and Mary Lou Dowden McCain; 2 nieces Bonny Gross and Jenny Dowden; and son-in-law John Wilcox. A celebration of life will be held by the family at a

Arrangements have been entrusted to Burkhart Funeral Home, Crawfordsville.

## **New Year's Resolutions** For Business Owners

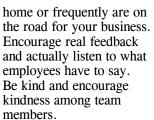
(SPM Wire) New Year's resolutions aren't just for individuals and families. Businesses can benefit from them as a method to reflect and set themselves up for improvements in the months

Here are a few ways small business owners can get their enterprises on a better track in the new

- Hit the books smarter: Get your records in better shape by making sure to put in effect a process of checks and balances, whereby at least two sets of eyes hit your books every month or at least every quarter. Now is also the time to update balance sheets, generate income statements and compile cash flow statements.
- Be more positive: Foster a more positive work environment for inhouse employees, as well as those who work from

• Be goal oriented: Evaluate the past year and be honest in asking yourself if your business met its goals. Clearly define new ones and make sure your entire team knows what these goals are. Create a plan with measurable benchmarks and with regular staff check-ins where your team honestly reviews monthly, quarterly and yearly goals together. Define goals and create a platform for your entire team to transparently benchmark their successes and failings.

The new year is the perfect time to reassess your company and to set it up for increased success



# **Resolve To Protect Your Finances And Your Family In The New Year**

(StatePoint) After a holiday season spent racking up credit card bills, many Americans consider making financial resolutions in the New Year. However, now is the perfect time to not only reevaluate your saving and spending, but also commit to creating a more holistic financial plan designed to protect your finances and your family.

Consumers are seeking stability and preparedness in today's uncertain economic environment, according to a recent Consumer Sentiment Tracker study by Lincoln Financial Group. With ongoing inflation and market volatility, 56% of respondents cited protection from risk as being most important to them. When it comes to thinking about their finances, people said they have the greatest interest in protecting their family (39%) followed by their income (26%).

'Our research reinforced the importance of financial solutions that can help consumers navigate through market cycles and protect their loved ones,' said David Berkowitz, president, Lincoln Financial Network, Lincoln Financial's wealth management business. "People are not only concerned about having enough to pay their bills, but also saving for retirement and preparing for the unexpected. It's important to have a well-rounded financial plan that can address those risks, protect assets and create positive outcomes for today's families.

To achieve a stronger financial future, don't neglect your finances in 2023 - instead, add a little TLC (Talk, Learn, Commit). Resolve to create a robust financial plan using these three tips from Lincoln Financial:

1. Talk about it. Financial conversations play a crucial role. Be transparent with your loved ones about financial priorities so you can set expectations and work toward your shared

financial goals. Initiate ongoing discussions to stay on track with everything from saving for retirement to paying for a long-term healthcare event, which can happen suddenly and be very costly. Also, consider talking to a financial professional who can help identify solutions that best meet your individual needs, as well as drive better outcomes. Lincoln's research found those who work with financial professionals are more likely to prioritize retirement savings (26% vs. 10%).

2. Learn more about tax-deferred investments. Life insurance can be more than just a death benefit, with some types of policies offering income replacement for unforeseen events. It can also protect your financial security from the impact of taxes, market volatility and longevity. It's not just for individuals and families either, but businesses too. Also, consider diversifying your portfolio with an

annuity, which can provide protected growth and monthly lifetime income to help cover expenses in retirement and ensure you have a stream of income.

3. Commit to maximizing your workplace benefits. Look into supplemental coverages like disability, accident and life insurance that may be available through your employer. Solutions like these protect against unexpected events that can disrupt your ability to provide for your family or drive you into additional debt. If you have an employer-sponsored retirement plan, make sure you are contributing and getting a match, if offered. Tap into any financial wellness tools offered at work to help provide you with an accurate picture of your holistic financial situation and lower stress.

Visit www.lfg.com for more tools and resources.

With a robust plan, you can help ensure a solid financial future for you and your family.

# Tips To Minimize Holiday Clutter

(StatePoint) 'Tis the season for fun and festivities, which means more party attire, kids' toys and decorations coming into the home. Family organizing expert Jessica Litman, the CEO and founder of The Organized Mama, shares her tips to keep your space clean and under control during the holidays.

Clear the Countertops

"When the party invitations, gift lists and schedules start to pile up in the kitchen, it's time to designate one area where everything should go," Litman says. "This will make it easier to keep the counters clear and for everyone in the family to know where to find their things before running out the door."

Litman says to collect all the papers and store them in a tray. For a DIY organizing system, try hanging

a couple of clipboards on the wall in the entryway to hold important reminders and leave messages, or empty out a drawer and use shallow baking pans as bins for each person to place their grab-and-go items.

#### **Prep for Cooking and** Cleaning

With all the time spent in the kitchen cooking, baking and cleaning up after family parties, make sure that you're set up for easy maintenance.

A Lazy Susan is a great way to create more room in a cabinet and store ingredients and utensils in one place for quick access, while keeping the mess to a minimum. Litman suggests lining it with the Duck brand Smooth Top EasyLiner Lazy Susan Kit to keep surfaces free from sticky residue. The pre-cut, circular shaped

liner is simple to install, prevents items from falling over and is easy to wipe clean without having to remove the Lazy Susan from the cabinet. Litman also suggests decluttering drawers and stocking up on to-go containers so you can send guests home with leftovers.

#### Store the Décor

There will likely be an excess of bows, ribbons, gift bags, tape, scissors and wrapping paper around your home in the coming months. Instead of using a cabinet or drawer to store these items, Litman suggests hanging an over-the-door organizer in the closet and using the compartments to keep extras neat and tidy.

When the holidays are over, Litman says to store small ornaments in egg cartons and wrap breakables in bubble cushioning for safekeeping until next

#### Make Way for Play All of the gift wrap

means the kids will have new toys that need to be stored. Before the holidays begin, Litman says to go through your little one's playroom and donate items they no longer use or have grown out of.

Once the room is clear of clutter, wipe and line storage bins and cubbies with machine-washable EasyLiner with Clorox. The liner contains antimicrobial protection that resists the growth of odor-causing mold and mildew, keeping surfaces spotless throughout the cold season and ensuring there is always a tidy spot to put holiday crafts, games and puzzles.

Following these simple tips will allow you to enjoy neat spaces all season long.



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







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# Everyone at Sagamore News Media The Noblesville Times The Paper of Montgomery County Montgomery Memories Montgomery Sports Report and more would like to wish you and yours a \*\*Happy New Year!\*\*

Butch Dale
Jeff Bannon
Terry Barker
Melissa Bernhardt
Jeff Birk
Phil Boots
Kevin Carpenter
Chuck Clore
Kelsey Curran
Paula Dunn

**Beth Hedge** 

**Jacob Hester** 

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Robert Miller
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Debbie Schavietello
Dan Taylor
Kenny Thompson
Tim Timmons
Joy Willett
Gwynn Wills

Karen Zach



# A Report on Our Stewardship

On Nov. 24, 2004, the company that would grow into Sagamore News Media published its first issue. Since then, we have committed ourselves to doing our part toward improving the communities in which we all live.

Thanks to our company, our owners and our employees, we submit this report to you. We believe that local ownership matters. We believe that not just having roots in a community makes a difference, but that what companies do with their time, treasure and talents matters. Some companies seem to continually cut back on the resources they use to serve our communities; cutting jobs and sending profits out of the state. But for us, it just means we get more involved.

From weekly church ads donated at no cost to sponsorship of community events to donated ads to investments of time and money, we don't just say it, we live it.SNM is proud to report that in 2022, we have donated more than

\$135,270

in the communities we serve!

Some of the great organizations that includes:

Boys & Girls Club

Athens Arts

Noblesville Babe Ruth

**United Way** 

VFW

Multiple Churches

Vacation Bible Schools

Kiwanis

Lions

Rotary

American Legion

Community Christmas Dinner

Forest Park Aquatic Center

Lew Wallace Study

TASTE!

Libraries

Masonic Cornerstone

Cicero American Legion Riders

The Belfry

The Vanity

Hillsboro Homecoming

New Ross

**Ducks** Unlimited

Champions of Character

Mental Health

Historical Society

Master Gardeners

Various sororities
Sheridan Historical Society

Since that first publication almost two decades ago,
Sagamore News Media
has now committed millions to our great communities.

We believe in not just talking, but doing. We believe in our communities!

#### **UBIRTHDAY** From Page A1

the community. The work of administrating "CCD" surely called for constant vigilance as every post was reviewed in order to cultivate & maintain a positive, encouraging culture - one focused on helping others. I don't recall Violet receiving any public recognition in the news or elsewhere. Her diligent work borne from love for community may well have saved some of our local businesses. For this reason, she should be recognized as a champion "unsung hero" in

Montgomery County." • Christian Brown - He was nominated by Chancellor and Rachel Southard, who said of Brown, "Christian is a military veteran which included two tours in Iraq, is the current Lieutenant at the Montgomery County Jail, and has been employed with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office for 16 years. Christian has also been a police officer for the Town of Waynetown for 13 years and continues to serve the county today. We all know what our veterans and law enforcement have to face in today's world, and many go unrecognized for their commitment to the community. Christian Brown is one of them and that is why we are nominating him as an unsung hero of Montgomery County.

• Vicki Cope – She was nominated by Jamie Jackson. Jackson's nomination said, "Vicki works so hard for this community, by working dispatch as a 911 operator for Montgomery County. She is one of the voices you hear first in an emergency, but never get to see. Vicki is not only a blessing in my life, but she is also a blessing for our community. She is definitely an Unsung Hero."

• George A. Dawson (posthumous) - Mr. Dawson was nominated by Dian Moore, who raved about him, saying, "George was an inspiting mathematics teacher at Crawfordsville High School for 20 years. The story was that he quit an engineering job at General Motors to come home to teach high school math. He made mathematics real and applied to the world, reminding us that 'if the question is how many, it is not wrong to count.' I went into college a math major because of Mr.

Dawson."

• Rebecca Degitz – She was nominated by Kitty Haffner. Haffner said of Degitz, "Becky was one of the founding "mothers" of the Wesley Thrift Shop, active member of her church, First United Methodist, and had been a continuous volunteer in our community until her 90's. She still owns her parents' farm in Darlington."

• Jack and Susie **Larson** – The Larsons were nominated by Janet Zielinski, who said of them: "My nominees, Jack and Susie Larson, spent a combined 81 years serving the children of Montgomery County as teachers (and coach, Jack) in Crawfordsville, North Montgomery, and St. Bernard Schools. Retirement, however, didn't mean they stopped serving the community. It just enabled them to devote more time to their civic and church activities. Their days now include FISH food pantry volunteers (Susie, a board member), Mealson-Wheels deliveries, Summer Lunch Program deliveries, Rotary Club, and Montgomery County Retired Teachers. Susie serves on the scholarship committee of Delta Kappa Gamma, a society that promotes growth in education for women, and was also a volunteer and board member at Halfway House. At St. Bernard Church, Jack is a member of the Knights of Columbus, and they are active on the senior luncheon and funeral dinner committees. They were the originators of the popular Mystery Dinner, which enabled church members and their friends to enjoy an evening of food and fellowship at an unknown destination every month. Jack and Susie do what is expected of them but also do what is not expecteddriving people to doctors' appointments, taking food to a sick or grieving family, showing kindness and compassion wherever it is needed. They expect nothing in return-like true Unsung Heroes of our

• Montgomery County Dispatchers (past and present) - They were nominated by the Montgomery County Bicentennial Committee, who said of them: "As a committee, we chose to



Photo courtesy of the MCCF

The winners of the Montgomery County Bicentennial Postcard Contest pose together in a ceremony at the courthouse on Nov. 16.

recognize the Montgomery County Dispatchers, past and present, for their work in our community. They are the voices that guide us in emergencies, coordinate necessary help, and provide comfort in the minutes that follow. All too often, they go unrecognized for the skillful, knowledgeable service they provide to Montgomers Counts."

ery County.' • Grayson Stande**ford** – He was nominated by Sue Lucas, who said of him, "Grayson at the south Taco Bell in Crawfordsville is arguably Montgomery County's favorite drive thru server. He is famous in the social media universe for the way he consistently goes above & beyond to brighten each customer's day. Type in "Grayson" on Montgomery County Chatter's search to see the MANY anecdotes of how he has lifted spirits. However, Grayson's reputation remains largely unknown outside of Facebook. A great number of people would be encouraged to see this unsung hero publically recognized by community leaders for the way he has quietly made a difference in so many lives."

• Alawnzo Whaley

- He was nominated by
Lisa Whaley, who offered
this about Mr. Whaley:

"Alawnzo helped protect
underground utilities here
in the community. He's
Vice President of the Ben
Hur Car Club an organization that's committed
to our county by raising
money for the community.
He's been in customer
service at several locations here in town and

people respect him for his friendship and kindness to others. He puts others needs above his own and gives money to people when he can, even though our family struggles. His struggle to help others makes him a great friend and it's an honor to have him as a husband, friend and community member."

• Ivette de Assis-Wilson – She was nominated by Christina Hunt, who said of her, "As the head of Reference at the Crawfordsville District Public Library over the past several years she has seen to it that the library is offering more inclusive programs, has a reached a greater depth of service to our public/patrons and ensured a welcoming environment to all who pass through our doors. If the library is the heart of a community than Ivette is the conductor that keeps our heart beating!"

Senator Braun
In September, Indiana
Senator Mike Braun recognized the 200th anniversary of the founding of Montgomery County in a letter he submitted to the Congressional Record. He did so to acknowledge the unique contributions that the county has contributed to both the state of Indiana, and the rest of the nation.

The letter reads in part: "This December,
Montgomery County
celebrates the bicentennial
of its foundation. Montgomery County is a place
one could characterize as
quintessentially "Indiana:"
the mellow bends of Sugar
Creek crossed with covered bridges; the buzzing
hometown feel of Craw-

fordsville; and the ambitious energy of Wabash college; all hallmarks of Indiana that make my state such a wonderful place to live."

Braun's alma mater, Wabash College, resides in Crawfordsville, to which the Senator paid tribute. The rest of the letter paid homage to the other all-American trademarks that make Montgomery County so special.

The Paper presents the letter in its entirety here. BICENTENNIAL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Mr. BRAUN. Mr./Madam President, I rise today to recognize the two-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Montgomery County, Indiana, and the unique contributions that the Montgomery County community has made to the United States.

This December, Montgomery County celebrates the bicentennial of its foundation. Montgomery County is a place one could characterize as quintessentially "Indiana:" the mellow bends of Sugar Creek crossed with covered bridges; the buzzing hometown feel of Crawfordsville; and the ambitious energy of Wabash college; all hallmarks of Indiana that make my state such a wonderful place to live. Over two centuries, this county has steadily grown from a handful of log cabins into a historic community, contributing greatly to American histo-

ry and culture.
Consider, for instance,
Lew Wallace, a highly
accomplished citizen who
spent much of his life in
Crawfordsville. Wallace

left his career as a lawyer to fight for the Union in the Civil War, rising to the rank of general. Later, he served as governor of the territory of New Mexico. After completing his service to the United States and returning to Crawfordsville, Wallace published his highly acclaimed and influential novel, Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ. It soon became the bestselling novel of the nineteenth century, and is still adapted for stage and film today.

Now, I could not com-

memorate Montgomery Country without mentioning its important role in the story of Indiana's favorite sport, basketball. Indeed, according to many historical sources, Montgomery County served as the launch pad for the sport of basketball in Indiana. The first Indiana High School Athletic Association basketball championship was won by Crawfordsville High School in 1911, and the following eight Indiana high school basketball champions were located within thirty miles of Montgomery County. Piggy Lambert, one highly influential basketball coach from Purdue University, played basketball at Crawfordsville High School and Wabash College. Even scenes from the legendary movie Hoosiers were filmed in New Richmond, cementing Indiana's relationship with basketball in American culture.

Finally, I want to address Wabash College, my alma mater. The time that I spent at Wabash College impressed upon me the qualities that make Montgomery County not only special, but representative of Indiana. Founded in 1832, on what was then our Nation's western frontier, Wabash College has produced thousands of influential graduates across many fields. As president of the student body at Wabash College, I had plenty of experience to prepare me for my careers in business and public

Mr./Madam President, in closing, I am delighted to honor Montgomery County, and I want to congratulate the communities of Montgomery County for two hundred years of meaningful contributions to American history and culture. Thank you.

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