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**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**

People who call our community their own.



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

**THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** 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."

**2** 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.

**3** 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](http://www.ceres.coop) or contact David Smith at 260-571-6990. Completed scholarship forms must be submitted by March 1.

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Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

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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 fell 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 Bengé** - She was nominated by Sue Lucas, who said of Bengé: "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 Bengé 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

**The Daily Almanac**

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



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



Today is...

- Bacon Day
- 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 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.com](http://www.thepaper24-7.com).



**OBITUARIES**

Lora Cathern Cox  
Orus Steve Harvey

**INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION**

Obituaries.....A2  
Classifieds.....A5

**THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

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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."

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**The Paper OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

**7 DAY FORECAST**

<b>FRI</b> 54/56 PARTLY HEAVY AT TIMES	<b>SAT</b> 43/49 SUNSHINY EARLY	<b>SUN</b> 38/52 CLOUDY AND WINDY	<b>MON</b> 42/56 WARM WITH LATE DAY RAIN	<b>TUE</b> 60/63 RAINY AND WINDY	<b>WED</b> 50/52 BREEZY, FADING SUN	<b>THU</b> 32/36 FREEZING, OVERCAST
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## 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 Wingate, 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 Donniss 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 later date.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Burkhart Funeral Home, Crawfordsville.



# 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](http://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.

## 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 ahead.

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

- 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 in-house employees, as well as those who work from

home or frequently are on the road for your business. Encourage real feedback and actually listen to what employees have to say. Be kind and encourage kindness among team members.

- 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 in 2023.

## 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 year.

**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.

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# 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!**

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Kiwanis  
Lions  
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Community Christmas Dinner  
Forest Park Aquatic Center  
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Libraries  
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The Belfry  
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Hillsboro Homecoming  
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Ducks Unlimited  
Champions of Character  
Mental Health  
Historical Society  
Master Gardeners  
Various sororities  
Sheridan Historical Society

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*We believe in not just talking, but doing.  
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