

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

50¢

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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TODAY'S VERSE

Isaiah 30:21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Stacey E Hancock-Dollahan, the Director of Instructional Sites at Ivy Tech, reminds us that it all starts here! One of our roving photographers caught up with Stacey during open enrollment days. Thank you for your smile, Stacey!

THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 At last, we have the secret for a long and happy marriage, says the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC). With his wife of 80 years, Edith Mae, at his side, Robert Schaum of Lancaster, PA said, it's simple: "don't go to bed mad." They met in high school in 1936, courted and got married the day after Christmas in 1942. Alas, in 1943, Robert shipped out to the Pacific theater of World War II at the behest of Uncle Sam. The pair of 102-year-olds have two kids and a very happy marriage. Alas, what they don't have is the record for the longest marriage; it was set by Herbert and Zelmyra Fisher of North Carolina. According to the folks at the Guinness Book of World Records, they were married for nearly 87 years until Herbert passed away at the age of 106.

2 Indiana Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, who is president of the Indiana Senate and secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development in the state, is also running for governor. Earlier this week, she shared the following regarding the 2023 Next Level Agenda. "As I travel around the state and meet with Hoosiers, the issues that are top of mind - attacking the mental health and addiction crisis, providing affordable high-speed connectivity, strengthening access to exceptional health care, and receiving a superior education - all contribute to quality of life. This legislative agenda will not only lead to our 10th straight balanced budget, it will lead to a better quality of life Hoosiers want and deserve."

3 Sagamore News Media is looking for talented sales people. Whether you sell by phone or in person, we want to talk with you. Hourly rates begin at \$15 per hour and only go up from there. If you have good sales skills, this might be the job you have been looking for. There is no cap on earnings and multiple people in the past have earned \$50,000, \$60,000 and beyond - all the way into six figures. Sagamore News Media owns newspapers in Noblesville and Crawfordsville and feature award-winning work every day. Come be part of our team! Apply today by e-mailing resume to jobs@thepaper24-7.com. We can't wait to talk with you!



Photo courtesy of Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Of Commerce Welcomes Miss Sugar Ray Chocolatier To Town

The Crawfordsville | Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce welcomed a very sweet addition to Crawfordsville. The Chamber of Commerce was excited to host a ceremonial ribbon cutting for the grand opening of Miss Sugar Ray Chocolatier.

When asked how her passion for chocolate began, owner Raylee Carpenter says, "My love for chocolate started at a very young age but my passion truly started when I worked in a chocolate shop in Zionsville while in high school. At first, I was the counter girl, but slowly

got into the kitchen doing mold work and filling. I fell in love, but society made me feel that going into the dental world would be a safe choice. I worked in the dental field for 10 years, I loved it. Oddly enough, it was like making chocolate on a tiny scale. After the pandemic, I chose to leave the field to follow my dream". Raylee also mentions, "I'm excited to open my doors and share the love of chocolate. The different types of flavor pairings you can experiment

See CHAMBER Page A5

Ball Saga #6 - The Final Two - Salome And Sarah



KAREN ZACH
Around The County

Salome Ball was born April 21, 1821 in Butler, Ohio. Her future husband, Abram Heath, was born there as well in June the year before. He also passed away a year before her (1902 - she 13 June 1903) and they are buried with so many of this family in the Waynetown Masonic Cemetery (thanks to R & S Fine for the FindAGrave photo). They were married three days before Christmas right here in Montgomery County, 1842. Five children came to bless their home: Mary



Ann; William D; Margaret; John H and Rachel (who died in her early 20s, is said to be buried at Waynetown Masonic but no stone). Abram's father William Heath was in the War of 1812 and came here very early on to secure government land in Wayne Township which Abram farmed. Salome was quite a good helper as Abram farmed, was Township Trustee, a Horse Thief Detective, and an active Christian Union Church member (Portrait & Bio Record of Montgomery, Parke

See KAREN Page A5

Upcoming Class For Landowners And Farmers

Do you own land that you cash rent out to a local farmer or are you the farmer that farms rented land? Do you want to learn more about contracts for the cash-rent agreement and other arrangements?

Wednesday nights, Jan. 18- Feb. 8, at 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the 4-H Exhibit Hall. The Power of Information and Open Conversation: A Land Leasing Series for Women in Agriculture program is a Risk Management Education funded grant between Kansas, Nebraska, and Indiana that focuses on land lease basics, written lease agreements, landlord-tenant communication, negotiations, and conservation that is open to all, not just women.

Dinner will be provided at all classes and served at 5:30 p.m.

See CLASS Page A5



IDEM Awards \$513K In Grants

Wabash College is getting \$34,920 from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, along with 15 other applicants the agency announced this week.

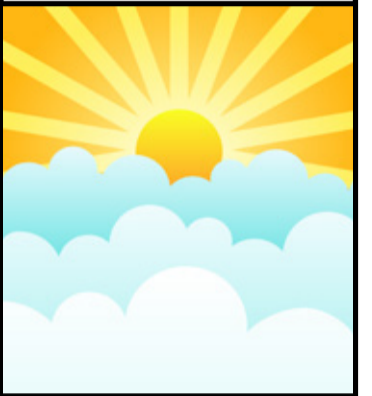
The grants are available to counties, municipalities, solid waste management districts, schools, and nonprofit organizations located in Indiana. Here is the list of recipients and the amounts they were awarded:

"IDEM is proud to work with communities throughout the state toward increasing recycling opportunities," IDEM Commissioner Brian Rockensuess said. "The grants are a great way for IDEM to promote recycling and facilitate recycling education in communities statewide."

Altogether, IDEM awarded

See IDEM Page A5

The Daily Almanac



Sunrise/Sunset:
RISE: 8:09 a.m.
SET: 5:36 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures:
High: 39 °F
Low: 32 °F



Today is...:

- National Bird Day
- George Washington Carver Day



What Happened On This Day:

- 1914 The Ford Motor Company announces an eight-hour workday and minimum daily wage of \$5 in salary plus bonuses
- 1957 In a speech to Congress, President Eisenhower announces the establishment of what later comes to known as the Eisenhower Doctrine



Births On This Day:

- 1876 Konrad Adenauer German politician and Chancellor of West Germany
- 1969 Marilyn Manson American singer-songwriter, actor and director

Deaths On This Day:

- 1933 Calvin Coolidge American politician and 30th President of the US
- 2016 Pierre Boulez French pianist, composer and conductor

HONEST HOOSIER

Yes millennials! Us Boomers walked to school . . . uphill . . . both ways. But before you completely dismiss us, think about this. We passed school without the help of Google or the Internet!



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you snore loudly or appear to stop breathing while sleeping, you may have sleep apnea. 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

None

INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

Service Directory.....A4
Classifieds.....A4

THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE
For Your Information

The Crawfordsville Investment Club will meet Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., at the Crawfordsville District Public Library. The program is a review of various mutual funds. The Crawfordsville Investment Club meets for educational purposes only. Visitors are welcome. For more information call 765-362-2826.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"It's never too late to become who you want to be. I hope you live a life that you're proud of, and if you find that you're not, I hope you have the strength to start over."
- F. Scott Fitzgerald

TODAY'S JOKE

What do you call a dishonest snowman?
A snowfake!



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



7 DAY FORECAST

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
32/39 FLURRIES, LIGHT SNOW	30/38 CHILLY	28/43 RAIN/SNOW LATE	35/41 MIXED SHOWERS	27/43 SOME SUN	32/45 MOSTLY CLOUDY	28/41 SOME SUN

BBB Tip: Holiday Returns And Exchanges

Holiday returns aren't easy, and we don't mean the part where you explain to your mother why you returned the sweater she gave you.

Stores are not legally required to accept exchanges or give refunds unless the merchandise was defective or misrepresented. While most retailers do offer refund and exchange programs, policies vary greatly from one store to another. Be sure to double-check policies this holiday season, even if you are familiar with the brand, as stores can change their policies whenever they want.

The following tips should help to make your holiday returns run more smoothly.

Get to know store policies. Before you make a purchase, find out if the store has a return policy and, if so, how it works. Understand that many retailers change their policies for the holiday season. If the store does allow returns or exchanges, find out if you will need to pay a restocking fee. Ask the seller if they offer cash refunds, exchanges, or only store credit. Store policies are usually posted at the check-out counter or printed on the back of receipts.

Understand online store return policies. If you are shopping online,



search for the seller's return policy and read it through before clicking "buy." Find out if they accept returns or exchanges, and who pays the shipping when an item is returned. In some cases, you can save on shipping fees by returning an online purchase to the local brick-and-mortar store.

Get the details on a product's warranty. Most electronics and home appliances come with warranties that are to be fulfilled by the manufacturer, not the retailer. Find out how returns and repairs are handled if an item stops working or

needs replacement parts. Will the retailer ship the item to the manufacturer for you? Or will you need to deal with the manufacturer directly? Knowing the answers will leave you well-prepared for any future issues.

Keep your receipt and packaging. Most stores will only accept returns and exchanges if you can present the item with its receipt and original packaging. Always include a gift receipt with items you give, and hold on to any gift receipts you receive.

Bring your ID. To avoid holiday return

scams, many stores ask to see your ID when you return an item. Sometimes retailers require you to bring your ID and the original form of payment. If this is the policy of the store where your gift is from, you may need the assistance of the gift giver in order to be reimbursed.

Make returns in a timely fashion. Almost all return policies are valid during a specific time period. Some stores modify their return period during the holidays, so don't risk missing your chance to make your return. Take the item back to the store without delay.

For more holiday tips, visit the BBB Holiday Tips page.

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.



Co-Alliance Cooperative And Signature Farms Announce The Creation Of Legacy Feed

Indiana-based agriculture and energy cooperative Co-Alliance Cooperative, Inc., and Signature Farms, LP announce today the creation of Legacy Feed, LLC, a new Feed Manufacturing and Swine Management Company. This new company will deliver an integrated swine production service to farm families in eastern Indiana.

Legacy Feed will build a state-of-the-art feed mill in Millville, IN. This facility will have 1.5 million bushels of grain storage and the capacity to produce 300,000 tons of pelleted hog feed. Legacy Feeds will combine this high-quality feed production with industry-leading swine management services to assist local farm families in producing top tier pork products.

Legacy Feed is operational today. Both companies are optimistic about the opportunity to work together to bring a more complete solution

to their customers.

"Legacy Feed brings together two strong businesses with a successful history in swine production. This new business will allow Co-Alliance to provide a more diversified offering in our eastern geography. I anticipate this strong combination will provide synergies and help us create more value in the swine production space," said Kevin Still, President and CEO of Co-Alliance Cooperative.

"Combining Signature Farms' strong legacy of swine management services with Co-Alliance's proven success record in swine feed manufacturing will allow our teams to provide a leading swine production company in which our customers and employees thrive and provide opportunity for growth," added Eric Freeman, Operations Manager of Signature Farms.

Legacy Feed will be headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Meeting Notes

Montgomery County Board of Commissioners Meeting

Dec. 27, 2022

Election of Officers

Board President: John Frey

Board Vice President: Jim Fulwider

Consent Agenda

Approved.

Approval of Claims:

Dec. 12, 2022 to Dec. 27, 2022

Minutes: Dec. 12, 2022

2023 Contracts: Treasurer Contracts

Invoice Cloud - Amendment to Biller Agreement from 12-12-2022

GUTS - PVD Software Technical Support

GTS Services, Inc. - MOU - 1 year term - Tax Collector Services

American Financial Credit Services, Inc. - Collection of delinquent personal property tax accounts.

Acknowledge Receipt: Risk Management Report

- The Risk Management Committee is responsible for an annual review of the Risk Management Plan. As a result of the annual review, the Risk Management Plan may be amended to address deficiencies. The attached Report presents recommendations for amendments to the Plan.

Public Hearing and Ordinance 2022-37: Approving the Request of Stephen Jones and Rezoning a Certain Parcel of Land in the South Block of Nucor Road from Agricultural to Commercial

Approved.

Ordinance rezones a parcel of land in the 100 South Block of Nucor Road from Agricultural to Commercial.

New Business

Approve Fishero &

Fishero Proposal - Installation of New Access Sidewalk at Courthouse Parking Lot

Approved in the amount of \$3,200 to remove existing fencing and install new access sidewalk from the Courthouse parking lot to Washington Street.

2022 ADA Annual Report

Accepted the Annual Report regarding compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act.

2022 Title VI Annual Report -

Accepted the Annual Report regarding compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act that pertains to the prohibition of discrimination based on race, color or national origin for any program that receives federal funding.

First Supplemental Trust Indenture Taxable Economic Development Revenue Bonds - Pay App #1 - Approved a \$650,000 payment as a refund to Montgomery County for payments made to Indiana American Water for extending water lines to Comfort Drive. The original payment was made from the wrong bond for the project.

Authorization to Plow Snow on Constitution Row & Indemnification Agreement by Montgomery County

Approved agreement with Houston Companies, Inc. that authorizes Montgomery County and its agents to plow snow on Constitution Row prior to the dedication of the road as a public road.

2023 Board & Commission Appointments

The following appointments were made to Boards and Commissions:

Plan Commission
 Tom McClamroch,
 John Frey and Jordan

Burkett

Drainage Board

Matt Mitchell, John Frey and Doug Mills

Convention and Visitors Commission

Isaak Hook and John Frey

Sugar Creek Advisory Board

Kenny Cain and Jim Fulwider

Medical Care Trust Fund

Jaimie Weliever

Board of Health

Nancy Sennett

Redevelopment Commission

Ron Dickerson, Rex Ryker, John Frey and Julie Hess

Redevelopment Authority

Greg Morrison, John Frey and Brad Monts

Emergency Management Advisory Council

John Frey

Economic Development Authority

John Frey, Jim Fulwider, Dan Guard

Governing Board for the Central Communications Center

John Frey and Jim Fulwider

Operations Board for the Central Communications Center

Tom Klein

Regional Sewer Board

Dan Guard

Solid Waste District Board

John Frey, Jim Fulwider and Dan Guard

Solid Waste District Advisory Committee

Sam Newlin, Jenny Veitch and Jim Johnson

Property Tax Board of Appeals

Lindsey Hamilton and Patricia Richey

Alcoholic Beverage Commission

Jay Busse

Montgomery County Jail Corporation

Tom McCarty, Lonnie Jones and Roger Kunkel

Montgomery County Building Corporation

Jim Johnson, Aaron

Morgan and Greg Morrison

Valley Oakes Mental Health Board

John Frey

Economic Development Commission

Rusty Carter

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council

Jim Fulwider

Resolutions: All Resolutions were approved.

Resolution 2022-10:

Approving Meeting Dates for 2023 - Commissioners meet on 2nd & 4th Monday's except the second meeting in December.

Resolution 2022-11:

Approving Sheriff's Compensation Agreement - Annual 2023 Contract - \$102,406

Resolution 2022-12:

Appointing Building Commissioner & Approving Employment Agreement - 2023

Contract term January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024. Contract amount: \$65,661.

Resolution 2022-13:

Appointing Highway Director & Approving Employment Agreement - 2023 Contract term January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024. Contract amount: \$70,666.

Resolution 2022-14:

Appointing Mapping Director & Approving Employment Agreement - 2023 Contract term January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024. Contract amount: \$52,020.

Resolution 2022-15:

Appointing County Attorney & Approving Engagement Letter

Resolution 2022-16:

Appointing County Administrator & Approving Employment Agreement - 2023 Contract term January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025. Contract amount: \$98,838.

Resolution 2022-17:

Declaration of Surplus - 2003 Ford Expedition is no longer needed.

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 Check back daily for updates!

Indiana High Court Sides With Utilities On Solar Power, Ending Benefits For Small Owners

By Leslie Bonilla Muñiz

The Indiana Supreme Court on Wednesday decided a key solar power case in favor of a southern Indiana utility, ending certain benefits for small panel owners but taking pressure off ratepayers who don't own panels.

Vectren Energy — now part of CenterPoint Energy — and Indiana's utility regulator had argued a new subsidy scheme follows a 2017 state law, while utility consumer advocates said the methodology wasn't legal, and would shortchange Hoosiers who generate more energy than they consume.

Before 2017, when ratepayers with solar power panels generated excess electricity, utilities reimbursed them at retail rates at the end of each billing cycle. The commission established that 1-to-1 credit system in 2004 to boost solar panel

adoption at a time when the technology was newer and more expensive.

But because utilities typically buy energy at significantly cheaper wholesale prices and sell it at higher retail prices to cover costs, ratepayers without solar panels subsidized the 1-to-1 credit deal.

Senate Bill 309 reshaped that system, cutting reimbursement to 125% of the wholesale rate and setting a timeline for utilities to phase it out completely.

Case background Vectren in May 2020 asked the commission to approve a new tariff rate rider to procure excess solar energy. It included what the utility called "instantaneous netting," when a meter instantaneously calculates the different between energy inflow and outflow. That's in contrast to the previous monthly method, when the utility

tallied energy production versus consumption every monthly billing period.

Solar-generating customers would continue paying retail rates on the electricity consumed when the sun wasn't out, and earn the wholesale-based rate back on the extra electricity produced when the sun was out.

The commission approved that method, but the Court of Appeals overturned it in a January 2022 decision.

The Supreme Court took on the case and heard arguments in September 2022.

In an 11-page decision, Justice Mark Massa upheld the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's approval of Vectren's subsidy method.

He argued that Indiana's General Assembly didn't specify in law how often utilities should measure excess energy, and that rejecting Vec-

tren's bid would return Indiana to the pre-2017 status quo.

"It is unlikely the Legislature would have overhauled the distributed generation statutes to offset the burden placed on non-[distributed generation] customers by the old scheme only to produce the same result," Massa wrote.

Two other justices concurred with the decision, while another concurred only in the result. One, who only recently filled a vacant slot, didn't participate.

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NFPA Reminding Homeowners To Remove Their Christmas Trees

One-third (33 percent) of U.S. home fires involving Christmas trees occur in January. With this post-holiday fire hazard in mind, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) strongly encourages everyone to keep the festive memories and remove the hazards by disposing of Christmas trees promptly after the holiday season.

"As much as we all enjoy the look and feel of Christmas trees in our homes, they're large combustible items that have the potential to result in serious fires," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at.

"The longer Christmas trees remain in homes, the longer they present a risk."

Carli notes that fresh Christmas trees, which continue to dry out and become more flammable over time, are involved in a much larger share of reported Christmas tree fires than artificial trees.

According to the latest Christmas Tree Fires report from NFPA, 160 home structure fires began with Christmas trees, resulting in two civilian deaths, 11 civilian injuries, and \$12 million in direct property damage, on average each year between 2016 and 2020. Overall, fires that begin with Christmas trees represent a very small but notable part of the U.S. fire problem, considering that they are generally in use for a short time each year.

To safely dispose of a Christmas tree, NFPA recommends using the local community's recycling program, if possible; trees should not be put in the garage or left outside. NFPA also offers these tips for safely removing lighting and decorations to ensure that they remain in good condition:

- Use the gripping area on the plug when unplugging electrical decorations. Never pull the cord to unplug any device from an electrical

outlet, as this can harm the wire and insulation of the cord, increasing the risk for shock or electrical fire.

- As you pack up light strings, inspect each line for damage, throwing out any sets that have loose connections, broken sockets or cracked or bare wires.

- Wrap each set of lights and put them in individual plastic bags or wrap them around a piece of cardboard.

- Store electrical decorations in a dry place away from children and pets where they will not be damaged by water or dampness.

For more information on home fire safety all winter long, visit "Put a Freeze on Winter Fires," a winter safety campaign NFPA promotes annually with the U.S. Fire Administration.

About The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is a global self-funded nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property, and economic loss due to fire, electrical, and related hazards. The association began its work to solve the fire problem in a young, industrialized nation in 1896 and has since become a global force known for advancing safety worldwide.

NFPA delivers information and knowledge through more than 325 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission. In celebration of its 125th Anniversary, NFPA is hosting a Conference Series and other initiatives that reflect the association's steadfast commitment to advancing fire and life safety for the next 125 years and beyond.

For more information or to view NFPA codes and standards for free, visit nfpa.org

IDDC Launches 2 Grant Programs To Support Public Art And Signage

The Indiana Destination Development Corporation (IDDC) has just launched two new grants — the IN Indiana Public Art Activation Grant and IN Indiana Placemaking Activation Grant — that will give local artists and communities the unique opportunity to create IN Indiana artwork and signage in highly-visible locations throughout the state.

The IN Indiana Placemaking Activation Grant is a matching grant of up to \$25,000 to fund signage and placemaking efforts. The IN Indiana Public Art Activation Grant is a non-matching grant of up to \$10,000 to fund public art projects.

The IDDC plans to allocate up to \$500,000 total between both grants based on the quality of

applications received. Grantees will receive 75% of funding upon award and 25% upon project completion.

These programs follow the success of the initial round of the Public Art Activation Grant program in 2022, which saw IDDC fund over 40 murals and sculptures across the state. You can see those projects at VisitIndiana.com/Murals.

"Indiana is a diverse state that's full of character, and we plan to showcase that through these works of art," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch.

"Through the public artwork, we will have the opportunity to work together with our local communities to show in our state. From the smallest towns to the

largest cities, there is something for everyone IN Indiana."

The IDDC is now accepting applications and the deadline to submit is 4 p.m. on March 17. All applicants will be considered, including but not limited to communities, destination marketing organizations, chambers of commerce and private businesses. Potential public art locations can include anything from exterior walls and alleyways to bridges, barns and more.

"This activation aligns perfectly with the IDDC's new IN Indiana campaign, which is all about giving tools and a voice to everyone," said IDDC Secretary and CEO Elaine Bedel.

"This not only enables us to highlight local

artists and organizations, but also use the IN Indiana campaign to tie Indiana communities together in a way that adds to the beauty of Indiana's rural, urban and suburban landscapes."

Projects will be selected based on the quality of the submitted design, with preference given to locations in high-view areas that create potential for photo opportunities. IDDC intends to include a diverse group of locations and projects, including urban, suburban and rural settings, large and small communities, and locations in different regions of the state.

For more information on guidelines and timelines, go to visitindiana.com/about-iddc/for-industry-partners/awards-grants.

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Gov. Holcomb Outlines Big Spending Plans For 2023

By Casey Smith

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb on Wednesday rolled out proposals for several major funding increases in the next state budget, including paying for all K-12 textbooks, salary increases for state police troopers, and millions more for public health services in all 92 counties.

The Republican governor announced his priorities for the 2023 legislative session, which is set to kick off next week at the Statehouse.

Indiana writes its two-year budgets in odd-numbered years during four-month sessions. State budget writers are likely to release their completed plan in April, following a final revenue forecast.

Members of Holcomb's administration say revenue increases have put the state in a favorable position to spend more and called the governor's budget proposal his most comprehensive yet in terms of how many Hoosiers could benefit from state dollars, should lawmakers greenlight the requests.

"The budget that we've presented is balanced — it doesn't spend more than we take in, forecasted or actual," the governor said Wednesday.

Still, Indiana economist Michael Hicks noted that Holcomb's budget proposal is lower than the last one when accounting for inflation. The state experienced a 15.9% price level increase since June 2020, but the governor's plan is only a 12.8% increase from the budget.

"I just believe that over the course of the next four months, this is a bold agenda that hits on topics that are needed," Holcomb said. "They're not just a wish list — these things are needed."

Republican Senate Pro Tem Rodric Bray said in a statement Wednesday that Indiana Senate Republicans "share a number of the governor's priorities," including public health spending, law enforcement support, K-12 public education spending boosts. He also mentioned paying down the pre-1996 Teachers' Retirement Fund, which wasn't part of Holcomb's plan.

GOP House Speaker Todd Huston said his chamber is also similarly focused on "funding critical services and making strategic, one-time investments that deliver results for Hoosiers — all while keeping government small."

House Democratic Leader Phil GiaQuinta, D-Fort Wayne, said that while his caucus and Hol-

comb "are on the same page," he fears whether Republican lawmakers "are as forward-thinking" as Democrats and the governor.

Meanwhile, Senate minority leader Greg Taylor, D-Indianapolis, said the governor's budget priorities "ultimately just fall short."

"There were several good priorities in the governor's agenda which members of my caucus have been pushing for years — investments in K-12 and public health, more money for food banks, elimination of school textbook fees, auto-enrolling students in the 21st Century Scholars Program — but as is the trend, his agenda failed to go far enough," Taylor said in a statement.

State funding for textbooks

In addition to proposed increases to K-12 tuition support — 6% in fiscal year 2024 and another 2% in the following fiscal year — Holcomb is calling on state lawmakers to eliminate textbook and curricular material fees for Indiana families. Indiana is currently one of only seven states that allows families to be charged for textbooks.

Instead, the governor wants Indiana to fully fund those fees for more than 1 million Hoosier students at all public and charter schools, as well as some students at non-public schools.

The move would cost the state approximately \$160 million per year — but only \$121 million would be new money. Indiana already budgets \$39 million per year for textbook reimbursement for the 440,000 Hoosier students who qualify for free or reduced lunches.

Under the proposed model, non-public school students who already qualify for textbook reimbursement will continue to be eligible for textbook fee waivers.

"We have the financial wherewithal to do this," Holcomb said Wednesday.

Senate President Pro Tempore Rodric Bray, R-Martinsville, (Senate Republican website)

He added that the overall school funding increase he proposed is enough to raise average Indiana teacher salaries from \$56,600 to \$60,000.

"It will vary, depending on the local bargaining units," he said, adding that while he supports "local determination ... I don't want the state to come in and start setting those levels."

In response to calls for the the state to up investments in literacy, which

fell during the pandemic, Holcomb wants to establish a \$20 million incentive program that rewards schools and K-3 teachers that improve students' passing rate for the Indiana Reading Evaluation and Determination, also called the IREAD-3 test. He also wants to secure \$10 million in state funding to obtain another \$10 million match from the Lilly Endowment to continue the state's literacy initiatives.

Just 81.6% out of the 65,000 third graders at public and private schools in Indiana passed the 2022 exam. The Indiana Department of Education's goal is that 95% of students in third grade can read proficiently by 2027.

For the state's higher education institutions, Holcomb recommended a 6% increase in year one and a 2% increase in year two, totaling \$184 million of the biennial budget. That state support comes with a charge that a portion of the funding be based on performance goals that are "focused on keeping the students that are coming to our state here in our state."

The governor said he supports the Commissioner for Higher Education's goal of auto-enrolling eligible students in the 21st Century Scholarship Program, a statewide grant program that supports student enrollment at two- and four-year schools. Administration officials said auto-enrollment shouldn't be a cost to the state for six to seven years.

Other education line items include:

Expanding On My Way Pre K eligibility to another 5,000 families by raising the income eligibility criteria from 127% to 138% of the federal poverty limit. Federal funds will be used through September 2024, and the state will spend \$15 million per year after that.

Calling on Indiana's Family and Social Services Administration to use \$25 million in federal funds to develop a grant program to encourage employer-sponsored childcare.

Appropriating \$4.1 million to implement statewide the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which provides every child up to age 5 with one book each month.

A one-time \$10 million budget commitment to Martin University, Indiana's only predominantly Black institution.

Salary raises for state police

To support Indiana State Police and other law enforcement officials,

Holcomb also proposed raising the starting salary of state police troopers to \$70,000. The governor's administration noted that the current starting salary for state officers is \$53,690. That's "significantly below" other law enforcement agencies in the state, according to the Indiana State Police Alliance.

Increasing salaries is expected to cost about \$36 million more per year.

Holcomb is seeking an additional \$160 million per year to increase salaries for other state employees, too. He's hoping such a move will help attract and retain more state workers.

Other public safety asks include:

A \$6 million per year increase to the Secured School Safety Grant fund. Bumping the fund to \$25 million per year will cost the state \$1.6 million annually when factoring in federal dollars.

A \$24.2 million investment in a regional firefighter training infrastructure "to provide a consistent and standardized firefighting training model across the state."

A state investment of \$10 million over the next five years to purchase needed equipment and gear for volunteer firefighting organizations.

New money available for county health initiatives

Asking for less than the Governor's Public Health Commission originally suggested, Holcomb is pursuing \$120 million in fiscal year 2024 and another \$227 million in fiscal year 2025 to increase public health services across the state.

Stakeholders reduced their initial ask to \$120 million from \$243 million for the 2024 Fiscal Year after receiving a tepid response from budget writers, proposing a phased-in approach for distributing monies to counties. In 2025, proponents asked for the full amount, though Holcomb's ask still falls under the recommended threshold.

About 80% of that funding is earmarked specifically for Indiana's 92 counties. Under the proposed model, each county would have the option to participate in the statewide program, which intends to "build from the ground up" and redesign health infrastructure. The remaining funds would financially bolster a myriad of public health needs across the state, including staffing, disease prevention, emergency preparedness, EMS services and child health screenings.

A funding formula based on a per-capita

system and social vulnerability index has already been crafted to determine how much each county is eligible to receive. Counties will have a local share of 20% to participate.

The program would replace the state's current Local Health Maintenance Fund, which is currently only funded at \$6.9 million per year.

Other public health agenda items include: Piloting four mobile crisis teams in 15 counties.

Developing crisis stabilization units via grants for pilot programs that ensure Hoosiers have a safe place to receive care.

Investing \$4.25 million over the next two years to promote veteran wellness, reduce risk, increase protection and improve effective treatment and recovery.

In 2023, the governor said he will further launch a new Treatment Finder Program to connect Hoosiers battling drug addiction with treatment programs. To do that, state and local municipalities will use the more than \$500 million received in the coming years from the national opioid settlement.

Getting more Hoosiers to fill high-skill, high-pay jobs

Holcomb's agenda also highlights investment in adult education to reduce the number of working-age adults without a high school diploma or workforce training. The governor seeks to:

Invest an additional \$12 million over two years for education programs to help eliminate waiting list of 8,000 people who are seeking more training opportunities.

Expand the Excel Center programs model to several new Indiana cities by increasing funding by \$3 million in 2024 and \$11 million in 2025.

Increase funding from \$1 million to \$1.5 million annually for the Graduation Alliance, an online education program for adults to achieve a diploma or credential.

Support the development of a Department of Workforce Development Unemployment Insurance pilot program that incentivizes recipients — up to \$4,000 per person — to complete their diploma or equivalency. That's estimated to cost about \$4.4 million annually.

Increase the Workforce Ready Grant investment to \$6 million a year at DWD, \$6 million a year at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and maintain the Employer Training Grant investment at \$17 million annually.

Relocate veterans to Indiana through INVETS

by doubling funding to \$2 million annually.

More incentives to attract businesses to Indiana

The governor's agenda additionally focuses on diversifying the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) "toolkit" to keep the state competitive for future growth.

Doing so includes re-

newing a \$300 million per year "deal closing fund," as well as an additional \$300 million per year tax credit cap, meant to attract new businesses and jobs to Indiana.

Holcomb also wants the state to make a one-time, \$150 million into an on-going revolving loan fund for state land purchases similar to a large innovation project being developed in Boone County.

"There's nothing eminent domain about this," Holcomb said. "This is others stepping forward to say, 'Wait a second, we have an ideal location for such a venture. And we're looking for a partner with the state.' And oftentimes, the state can go in and play this role, working every step of the way with the local community."

Holcomb's 2023 agenda further seeks an expansion to the Manufacturing Readiness Grant Program by doubling the funding to \$40 million over two years. He also wants lawmakers to increase the Indiana Destination Development Corporation's funding by \$20 million — up from \$6.8 million currently — to attract tourism and retain college students as they transition to the workforce

Another round of READI

Holcomb will request an additional \$500 million to fund another round of the Regional Economic Acceleration & Development Initiative (READI).


He's also asking for an additional \$50 million for Next Level Trails and \$25 million for additional land conservation efforts.

The governor said the state will continue its partnership with the state's food bank network by increasing funding from \$1 million to \$2 million each year, as well.

Finally, Holcomb said he's still seeking roughly \$1.25 billion in the current fiscal year to finish four ongoing capital projects that have largely been delayed by supply chain issues and inflation-induced price increases.

Those are a new Westville Correctional Facility, a new state archives building, the co-location of the state's blind and deaf schools, and a new state park inn at Potato Creek State Park.

BUTCH DALE



John "Butch" Dale is a former teacher, County Sheriff, author, artist, and local historian. He is the librarian at Darlington and has been there for 33 years! You never know what Butch might offer his readers two times each week...from funny and nostalgic stories about his childhood and hometown...to stories about life and death incidents when he was Montgomery County Sheriff. Sometimes he highlights sports stars from our county's past...or he might just poke a little fun at some of our national politicians and celebrities. He can make you laugh, make you cry, help you to appreciate the past or make you think about the future. But no matter what, Butch will keep you on your toes and keep you entertained!

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KAREN From Page A1

& Fountain).
 Mary Ann Heath was born Dec 11, 1843 and passed Dec 15 (my birthday) in 1926, age 83 of dementia and heart trouble. She and her husband, James Beauchamp Gray are buried in Wesley with lovely stones. They were parents of three children, Cooper and Charles growing to adulthood. Cooper married and had three daughters (Dorothy, Margaret and Frances), Dorothy and Frances were school teachers in Indianapolis for many years. Charles Howard Gray went to Calgary, Alberta, Canada where he was a superintendent of the United Grain Growers where he had worked since 1906 when going to Canada from here (died April 1931). He and wife Lucy had five daughters, Doris, Marjorie, Mary, Florence and Jean as well as two sons, James and Ellis.
 William D. Heath, second child of Salome Ball and Abram Heath was born 11 Sept 1845 and carries his gpa' Ball's name as his middle; in fact, he was mainly known as Dennis. He married Sarah Ellis from Fountain County. Dennis passed away in severe pain (26 Nov 1913) after having been kicked in his groin area by one of his treasured horses. Sarah followed him 10 years later. Their children were Howard, Nettie, Cleve, Nina and Rachel. Howard married Eva Lena Bottorff who was born in Salem, Indiana (daughter of John W. and Nora).

They lived in the Waynetown area and were active in the Wesley Church with many other family members. They are buried in Wesley as are many of the Heaths. Their children were: John Dennis, Russell, Leota and Rachel. Nettie married William "Dick" Williams - they farmed in the Waynetown area and were not blessed with children. Nina married Stanley Jones, a mail carrier in C'ville who retired after three decades. No children for this couple either. The youngest daughter of Dennis and Sarah was Rachel. She passed away from tb (never married) at age 26 and is also buried in Wesley.
 Cleveland "Cleve" Heath was a farmer and married Anna Louisa Brown. They were parents of two nifty daughters. Mary Helen married Donald Beard, an insurance agent in Indianapolis (two sons, Steve and Ron). She was dubbed the family "corker!" Always happy, she loved cooking (for over 30 years) at the Speedway Jr. high cafeteria, retiring at age 80. Her sister, Barbara married (Sept 1948) Kenneth David Rusk (farmer, grain dealer...) and mothered three sons: Dennis, David and Paul. Love the way Dennis is still working through the family. Barbara went on many mission trips to the Dominican Republic and sang in the community choir, plus spent many years singing at the C'ville Baptist Church.

John Howard Heath was born in Montgomery 9 Aug 1851. He attended Asbury (DePauw) and graduated from medical school, lived in Tippecanoe County for several years but then went on to Alameda, California prior to 1900 where he and his son Robert were both listed as druggists in that census and owned a drug store many years there. Wife Emma, Robert and John are all buried in Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland, California. Robert preceded him in death but married and was father of twin sons and a daughter.
 Another doctor arrived in the Heath family when daughter Margaret married Thomas J. Simpson - they lived in Portland, Fountain County and later in the Waynetown area. They were parents of but one daughter, Byrina who died unmarried at age 27 and they also raised his nephew, Virgil. Dr. Simpson, Margaret and daughter all buried in Wesley.
 Lastly, Rachel N. Heath passed away at age 21 and is buried with her parents in Waynetown Masonic.
 The last child and concluder of this saga of Dennis and Margaret (Line) Ball was Sarah born 14 Sept 1822 in Butler County, Ohio married 17 Nov 1842 in Mo Co to Perry "Jack" Miller (who had been born in Kentucky about 1819 and died here 7 Jan 1894). He, too, was a druggist and he and son William owned and operated a livery stable

in 1880. Sarah passed not long after that census (18 May 1883). She was mother of five sons and two daughters, losing their youngest Dora at age 22. The youngest son also is likely the David who died 18 Jan 1863 buried Wesley but not sure - couldn't find him anywhere else, though.
 Several in this family were carpenters, including their son, James N. who lived in Waynetown. He and wife, Martha Henderson had one daughter, Ruth Henderson Miller who married a Purdue professor later in life. They are buried at Wesley, as well.
 This Miller family has been a bear to research but do think Alonzo B. married Leona Ludlow in Fountain County where they were living in 1880 with a one-year-old son, Paul, but couldn't track him down after that.
 The last of the Millers and last of the Ball saga was Nathan T. and also found his middle initial as G. He, too was a carpenter and I couldn't find him after the 1870 census. Sorry this family is not well filled-out but there are yet many Ball descendants and stories in the Ball Saga and sure hope ya' enjoyed!
Karen Zach is the editor of Montgomery Memories, our monthly magazine all about Montgomery County. Her column, Around the County, appears each Thursday in The Paper of Montgomery County. You can reach her at karen.zach@sbglobal.net.

CHAMBER From Page A1

with are endless." She also ended with a quote, "There is no life I know to compare with pure imagination. Living there, you'll be free if you truly wish to be." -Willy Wonka".
 Miss Sugar Ray Chocolatier is located at 120 W. Main Street. Visit soon to enjoy these

delicious, homemade chocolates. For any questions, feel free to stop in or call at 765-323-3193. For additional information regarding the chamber, visit the website at crawfordsvillechamber.com or email Stacy Sommer at ssummer@crawfordsvillechamber.com.

CLASS From Page A1

Thanks to Hoosier Heartland State Bank for sponsoring the meals! Register online for the class at puect.in/Power-OfNegotiation
 - Cost of 4 week class is \$50
 - Registration closes Jan. 16, 2023
 For more information, please call or email Tricia Herr at the Purdue Extension Office. 765-364-6363 or triciaherr@purdue.edu
 Upcoming Online Master Gardener Basic Training Class:
 There will be a State-wide Virtual Purdue EMG Basic Training from Feb. 7 - May 9 (with completion of final exam after May 9). Many counties have come together to offer this program which includes a local county connection hour. The statewide live webinars will be held on Tuesdays,

from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (ET)/5:30 - 7:30 p.m. (CT). Here in Montgomery County, the local county connection hour will be online on Thursdays at 5:30-6:30 EST each week. This will be offered live virtually by online Zoom Call.
 Our main objective is to train volunteers to assist Purdue Extension with home horticulture education in local communities. Purdue EMG's receive training in horticulture to equip them to fulfill this educational role through volunteering in a variety of projects
 - Cost is \$180 for the 13 week class.
 Come learn more about horticulture, landscaping, gardening, and raising houseplants! Please email TriciaHerr@purdue.edu for the application form or stop by the extension office! Registration closed Jan. 16, 2023.

IDEM From Page A1

\$513,593 to 16 applicants. IDEM said that grant funding is intended to create successful, cost-effective programs. Applicants must demonstrate a positive environmental impact within the project service area, an increase in waste diversion because of the project and show the sustainability of the project.

Grants are funded through IDEM's Solid Waste Management Fund. Funds come from the solid waste management fee (IC 13-20-22-1). The fee consists of \$0.50 per ton charge on solid waste for final disposal at Indiana municipal solid waste landfills and incinerators. None of the funding comes from tax dollars.

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