

TODAY'S VERSE

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

FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Tze Loong is a '95 Wabash College graduate. He told one of our roving photographers that he is retired from Microsoft and came back for a visit over the holidays. Very nice to meet you, Tze!

THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 Craig Lapointe, a homeowner in Saskatoon, Canada, returned home one afternoon recently to find two broken front room windows, apparently the work of a moose on the loose in his neighborhood, reports the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. Lapointe suggests the moose was foraging for food, got too close to his home causing a pet dog and a pet cat to make their presence known which, in turn, riled the moose causing it to break the windows. Ryan Brook, a wildlife researcher, says it is a likely explanation. "If there was a pet, and in this case, there sounds like there was more than one pet, the animal may have hit more than once on purpose. Moose can be very aggressive. They're big. Often the biggest animal around. They have a tendency, if they're startled by animals or people, they may go on the offensive."

2 Honor the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. by volunteering at a DNR property on Jan. 16, Martin Luther King Day. On MLK Day, some properties will have self-directed service opportunities such as litter pickup along trails. Check the DNR calendar at calendar.dnr.IN.gov for lists of activities that day, and for volunteer events throughout the year. Work needed year-round includes maintaining trails, helping in nature centers, and sharing photography or art. Projects can also be tailored to volunteers' skillsets. For more information on volunteering see on IN.gov/dnrvolunteer or email DNRvolunteer@dnr.IN.gov. To view more DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

3 Daniel Elliott became Indiana's 56th State Treasurer on January 1, 2023. Elliott was formally sworn in at a public ceremony in the Statehouse yesterday afternoon. He succeeds outgoing Treasurer Kelly Mitchell, who served since 2014 and was constitutionally ineligible to seek another term.

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CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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Governor Candidate To Speak At Wabash



Dr. Jennifer McCormick

Half of Indiana tax dollars are allocated to K-12 Education. Educating children takes priority in the budgets in every state. Here in Indiana the methods for how education funds are collected and distributed has changed

significantly over the last dozen years or so. This leaves citizens and other residents – even those who work in education – with a need for information and questions about how Indiana's education monies are spent.

No person in the state has a fuller understanding of how Indiana's education system works than Dr. Jennifer McCormick, former State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

On Tuesday, the public is invited to hear McCormick talk about our state's educational system and how its allocated dollars are spent. Attendees will be able to ask questions. Several bills in the current legislative session will deal with education.

See WABASH Page A6

One More Look At The Ridiculous World Of Politics



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

The battle for Speaker of the House was irresistible to watch – irresistible in the same way a horrific car crash on the interstate is as you drive by.

And even though most of the mess happened a week ago, it behooves us to not let this fiasco slip past like the regular stream

of waste we're so accustomed to from Washington. Why? Because this is a perfect example of not only what's wrong with politics, but what's wrong with how we accept it.

First, the general news about the 14 failed ballots to select a speaker of the house focused on the 20 or so disruptors. These lawmakers were the problem, we were told. And time and again, the other 200 or so representatives sent out tweets, e-mails and messages to their constituents explaining:

- a) Why this process takes time
 - b) How it's not as bad as it looks
 - c) And why these 20 or so are the problem
- Not so fast my friends!

See TIM Page A6

Driving Force Behind Clock Tower Writes Another Book

Sandy Lofland Brown, winner of the Outstanding Collaborative Project Award for the courthouse clock tower, has written another book! This time with her son, Luther Lofland, Jr. "Linus Teaches Safety at School" is a charming tale of a friendly dog named Linus, who uses his past experiences of trauma to help teach children about safety rules. Sexual abuse continues to increase in Indiana including our own community.

Their book creates an easier way to begin discussing this difficult topic with children. Pictures and illustrations brings Linus's tale to life. This book helps readers discover handy tips tailored around one's own personal safety. You can contact Sandy Lofland-Brown to purchase the book by phone at 765-918-6045 or Luther Lofland, Jr. at 317-966-6565. The publisher is Christian Faith Publishing.

See AGAIN Page A6

God Forbid: The County Is Prepared

The morning after straight-line winds pummeled Crawfordsville in May 2017, it looked like a tiny tornado had



The League of Women Voters, open to men as well as women, is a nonpartisan, multi-issue political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. For information about the Montgomery County LWV, visit: www.lwvmontco.in.gov or message to LWV, PO Box 101, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

waltzed Main Street, crushing cars and bashing houses. Fat tree limbs rendered some blocks impassible except on foot. Milligan Park and dozens of other areas had lost venerable old growth. Thankfully no one was killed.

High winds, flooding, tornadoes and bomb cyclones are just some of the natural hazards that Montgomery County's Emergency Management and Homeland Security Department prepares for annually. The department maintains protocols

See LWV Page A6

We're Doing It Again!

The Paper of Montgomery County once again has free tickets to give away for the 2023 Indianapolis Home Show which runs from Jan. 20-29 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds and Event Center.

All you have to do to win tickets (valued at \$15 each) is send us a selfie of you and our front page (Print or Online Edition). Be sure to tell us who you are, where you are from, how many tickets you would like and a little bit about yourself so we can include it if your photo is selected to publish on our front page. Then all you have to do is wait and watch. If you see your smiling face on our front page – you win!

It's really that simple! You can text or e-mail it to ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com.

And this is the year you don't want to miss! The Indianapolis Home Show returns for its 101st year! An Indiana tradition, the oldest home show in North

See AGAIN Page A6

The Daily Almanac



Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 8:08 a.m.
SET: 5:42 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
High: 51 °F
Low: 36 °F



Wacky Holiday Today
• National Hot Toddy Day
• Secret Pal Day



What Happened On This Day

- 1908 Grand Canyon National Monument (changed to Park in 1919) is created
- 1973 Major League Baseball owners vote in approval of the American League adopting the designated hitter position



Births On This Day

- 1755 Alexander Hamilton Nevisian/American economist, politician, philosopher and 1st U.S. Treasury Secretary
- 1971 Mary J. Blige American singer-songwriter, producer and actress

Deaths On This Day

- 2008 Edmund Hillary New Zealand mountaineer and explorer
- 2013 Aaron Swartz American computer programmer and activist

HONEST HOOSIER

Let's remember Wilbur de Paris, who was born in Crawfordsville on this date in 1900. He became a world-famous bluesman and played with Louis Armstrong among others.



INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

Obituaries.....A2
Public Notices.....A4
Classifieds.....A4

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Listen to your body - If it hurts, your body is telling you to rest it. 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

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



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THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Join The Team!

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. Apply today by e-mailing resume to jobs@thepaper24-7.com.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"Heights by great men reached and kept were not obtained by sudden flight but, while their companions slept, they were toiling upward in the night."
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

TODAY'S JOKE

A Roman Gladiator walks into a bar and holds up two fingers and says, "Five beers, please." (Think about it!)

13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

36/51 CLOUDY WITH SHOWERS	48/55 RAINY, BREEZY, SNOW LATE!	30/33 COLD WITH SNOW SHOWERS	25/36 COLD AND MAINLY BUNNY	26/46 WARMING AGAIN	36/51 LATE DAY RAIN	43/52 BREEZY AND SHOWERS
WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE

CMS Q2 Honor Roll

8th Grade High Honor Roll

Henry Bannon, Kadyon Crowder, Shawna Dowell, Sydney Elizondo, Landon Gerold, Crystal Gonzalez, Henry Hoar, Jozlyn Hudson-Rivenbark, Paige Johnson, Franco Marcelo Robles, Sabella Moore, Sarah Moore, Pujan Patel, Claire Peacock, Josmary Sanchez Huesca, Alayna Schroeter, Jaimee Simpson, Hope Taylor, Emerie Venis, Chang Yeung

8th Grade Honor Roll

Samantha Alvarado, Elliot Baker, Camila Bellorin Lopez, Lauren Brosman, Blayze Burnett, Siddalee Cotten, Brittany Crew, Brooklyn Crew, Emma Dominguez Munoz, Melanie Dowd, Vivian Ewoldt, Edwin Fernandez, Bella Gaston, Chloe Hamilton, Addison James, Alasandra Johnson, Aaliyah Keys, Litzy Luna, Madison Martin, Scarlett Martinez Castellanos, Priyanshi Mehta, Jackson Miles, Jason Minnette, George Mixtega, Kaya Money, Het Patel, Princy Patel, Talon Pike, Reese Price, Jovanny Rodriguez, Tryston Sauer, Lauren Snider, Clairissa Stacey, Jaelynn Thompson, Owen Tomamichel, Enrique Trejo Morales, Makayla Whitecotton, Alyvia Wilhoite, Jaxon Wireman

7th Grade High Honor Roll

Olivia Alvarado, Caroline Bowling, Gabe Elizondo, Noelle Froerer, Silas Hartnett, Mabel Hoar, Dario Huesca, Magnolia Joyner, Graeme Mason, Sami Maurer, Carter McDorman, Brayleigh McMurry, Sebastian Rice, Ryan Rohr, Gabriella Saidian, Trenton Tucker

7th Grade Honor Roll

Jade Brattain, Taylor Bray, Kent Calvert, Averie Davies, Aiden French, Isabel Gerdes,

Baela Hensley, Jackson Hill, Kristian Kelso, Ledger Lyons, Namet Macegoza, Kristine McMahan, Hailli Omundson, Owen Pierce, Alexis Ratcliff, Steven Rodriguez Diaz, Milagros Romero, Alea Seward, Abigail Sheets, Olivia Todd, Keira Toomey, Jarron Torres, Tylea Turner, Abby White

6th Grade High Honor Roll
Anna Boyd, Scarlett Cawthon, Lexi Cox, Claire Dennison, Lanie Light, Corbyn Long, Jayken McFarland, Everly Morgan, Karter Nolan, Elizabeth Nunan, Elliott Peck, Ellie Perry, Shakira Rodriguez, Cole Strickland, Laken Suitors, Katelyn Teeple

6th Grade Honor Roll
Dylan Andrade, Diego Berber, Madilyn Biddle, Annalyse Brown, Cooper Burns, Kinzlee Cline, Laeton Dezarn, Darius Dobey, Kennedy Ellis, Essence Farris-Steen, Aubrey Finney, Olivia Frets, Brealin Goins, Yoselyn Gomez Castro, Osiris Herrera, Arabella Himes, Makayla Holt, Owen Huesca, Alexander Hutchison, Joseph Jeffries, Violet Kline, Sebastian Kochert Cosby, Kaito Koyanagi, Kenley Lain, Peitan Lewis, Alivia Lowe, Jasmine Loy, Katie Manzoni, Madison McGaughey, Sarah Melevage, Yumalai Monge Palacios, Michael Moore, Jared Moreno, Keyra Munoz, Alaina Parker, Blaine Peacock, Vanessa Pettit, Sophia Pond, Kimberly Salinas, Emanuel Sanchez Mora, Hailey Sarver, Grant Schroeter, Josslyn Simmons, Emily Southern, Teagan Spencer, Sophia Stewart, Conley Taylor, Connor Toomey, Jaxen Trent, Olivia Vo, Audrik Walbert, Nathan Wilhoite, Sophia Williams, Max Wilson, Cambria Winter

Girl Scouts Of Central Indiana Kicks Off 2023 Girl Scout Cookie Season

Girl Scouts of Central Indiana kicks off the 2023 Girl Scout Cookie season in 45 Central Indiana counties yesterday as Girl Scouts and their troops rally their communities to support the world's largest entrepreneurial program for girls. Every box of cookies sold provides invaluable experiences for Girl Scouts such as service projects, troop travel, and summer camp for girls across the country.

Girls will sell and take orders in person, and can receive cookie orders via Digital Cookie®, to personally deliver cookies to their local customers. Consumers can also use the Cookie Finder to locate a booth near them and purchase cookies in-person from girls at the iconic cookie booths beginning Feb. 3. And beginning Feb. 27 consumers can order their favorite cookies for shipment directly to their front door, including the new Raspberry Rally™ cookie.

The Girl Scout Cookie



Program is the world's largest entrepreneurial program for girls. Girl Scouts' newly updated Financial Literacy badges offer entrepreneurial playbooks for every age level. From the Cookie Goal Setter badge earned as a Daisy to the Entrepreneur Accelerator for girls in high school, the Girl Scout Cookie Program teaches girls financial literacy, planning, budgeting, teamwork, innovative thinking, and confident decision making. New this year, Raspberry Rally is exclusively offered through

digital channels for direct shipment only, enhancing girls' e-commerce sales. This latest approach will help to guide the evolution of the cookie program for the digital future.

Text COOKIES to 59618 to stay informed about how to purchase Girl Scout Cookies and other exciting Girl Scout news. Learn more about the Terms and Conditions and the SMS Privacy Policy.

Girl Scouts in grades K-12 can start their journey to fun, friendship,

and new experiences by joining the world's largest entrepreneurial organization for girls at any point in the year. Girls can join and adults can become volunteers at www.girlscoutsindiana.org/join.

We Are Girl Scouts
Girl Scouts bring their dreams to life and work together to build a better world. Through programs from coast to coast, Girl Scouts of all backgrounds and abilities can be unapologetically themselves as they discover their strengths and rise to meet new challenges—whether they want to climb to the top of a tree or the top of their class, lace up their boots for a hike or advocate for climate justice, or make their first best friends. Backed by trusted adult volunteers, mentors, and millions of alums, Girl Scouts lead the way as they find their voices and make changes that affect the issues most important to them. To join us, volunteer, reconnect, or donate, visit girlscoutsindiana.org.

Franciscan Health Lafayette To Offer Emergency Medical Services Training Course In The Spring

Franciscan Health Lafayette is holding an Emergency Medical Services Training course where students have access to the only EMS simulation lab in the area. The class will be on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 9 p.m. April 3, 2023, through September 14, 2023 (occasional Saturday classes to be determined). Applications will be accepted until noon on Friday, March 10, 2023.

The Emergency Medical Services Training course will help prepare those interested in an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) career with an extremely hands-on, entry-level class—starting them on the path to becoming emergency medical technicians (EMTs). The course will be held at Franciscan Education Center Lafayette, located at 1501 Hartford Street in Lafayette, Ind.

Students will be able to take part in the high-fidelity simulation lab as part of their learning process. Franciscan Education Center Lafayette is the only educational center that offers an EMS simulation lab in the area. Students will also get to perform clinicals in the Emergency Room



and ambulance.

Requirements to enroll in the class include:

- You must be at least 17 years old and have a:
- High school diploma or a GED
- Driver's license
- Negative drug test
- Approved background check
- Vaccinations (or approved exemptions) and negative tuberculosis test

The cost of the class is \$1100 and the application fee is \$100. However, for those who are enrolled in the class, the application fee will be deducted from the class cost. There will be additional fees which will be listed on the application.

Tuition discount opportunities for Franciscan Health Employees

Discounts are available for persons who work full-time or part-time for Franciscan Health

or who work full-time for any of our affiliated provider organizations or our field precepting sites. Only one discount is allowed per student. Documentation of eligibility is required. A discount for the program is available to EMTs who graduated from the Franciscan Health EMT program.

How to Apply

To learn more about the spring Emergency Medical Services Training course or to apply, please reach out to Mike Master, Emergency Medical Services educator, through his email at: mike.master@franciscanalliance.org. He will send you the application and provide you with additional information. The course is also offered in the fall. If you are considering applying for the fall course instead, Mike Master is the resource for that class as well.

About Franciscan Health

The Franciscan Alliance healthcare ministry began in Lafayette, Ind., in 1875. Today, Franciscan Alliance is one of the largest Catholic healthcare systems in the Midwest with 12 hospital campuses, more than 19,000 employees and a number of nationally recognized Centers of Health Care Excellence. Hospitals include: Franciscan Health Carmel; Franciscan Health Crawfordsville; Franciscan Health Crown Point; Franciscan Health Dyer; Franciscan Health Hammond; Franciscan Health Indianapolis; Franciscan Health Lafayette; Franciscan Health Michigan City; Franciscan Health Mooresville; Franciscan Health Munster; Franciscan Health Olympia Fields (IL); and Franciscan Health Rensselaer.

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Hold Off On Ruling Jeff Saturday Out



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

As of this writing, the Indianapolis Colts have not selected a coach. As I read and listen to the sports pundits, I hear something rarely heard in the sports world – unanimity. Jeff Saturday must go. Owner Jim Irsay would be committing franchise suicide should he drop the interim title from Saturday's coaching resume and hire him for the gig going forward.

I'm not kidding. The opinions being offered are in lockstep.

Saturday. Must. Go. They are wrong.

Not sure whether this missive is more of an indictment of the sports media community or a pitch for Saturday. But there are several key factors you aren't hearing much about.

First and foremost is that the folks in sports media often get it wrong. Look, my career started in sports. I still recall a conversation I had with a coach more than 40 years ago. The season was over and I asked if we could sit down and talk – off the record. I used that opportunity to ask what I could have done better and what I need to improve on going forward.

This was no spring chicken. He said in all his years, no sports writer had ever asked. He said players did all the time, but no one from the other side of the notebook. So we sat there for a while and he offered his observations – some critical, some not so much. But I remember the biggest thing he

told me – know the job. Know the difference between a 4-3 and a 3-4 defense. Know what a box-and-one Know when a bunt is called for. Understand what NCAA rules mean for the sport you are covering. And on and on.

It seems a lot of folks are missing that point on interim coaches. Let's look at some facts. First, Saturday inherited a mess. The Colts started the season with a tie and a loss . . . to the worst two teams in the AFC South. But Coach Frank Reich rallied the troops and they won three of their next four.

And then the roof caved in. The Colts lost three straight and the season was basically over.

Owner Jim Irsay pulled the plug and did the unthinkable – he brought in Jeff Saturday. Never before had someone without big-time coaching experience been hired to lead an NFL team. Former Pittsburgh Coach Bill Cowher called the decision to hire Saturday a "travesty" and "disgrace." Newspaper, radio and Internet reports ripped the hire as well.

Until the Colts won the first game Saturday coached, a 25-20 victory at Las Vegas.

Until the Colts lost a one-point hearbreaker against the best team in the NFL, Philadelphia, a team coming in with only one loss.

All of a sudden we were hearing, hey, maybe the hire wasn't so bad.

Once more, the roof caved in.

The Colts lost the next seven in a row, several in unbelievable and embarrassing fashion, and Saturday is once again the dumbest hire in the history of football . . . according to the media. Poppycock.

There are a few im-

portant factors being left out.

First, there was little opportunity for anyone to win with the Colts the last half of the season. The quarterback merry-go-round was already out of control before Saturday was hired. Not long after he started Jonathan Taylor, the reigning NFL leading rusher from a year ago, was hurt and lost for the season.

Think about that for a second – a revolving door of mediocrity at QB and the best offensive player gone. And the losses were Saturday's fault?

Let's also not forget a big reason the QB situation was so bad – the offensive line was so soft the girls flag football team could have made mincemeat out of them.

No QB, no leading rusher, a porous offensive line . . . not to mention a depleted coaching staff . . . and Vince Lombardi would have been hard-pressed to win a game with what was left.

That same coach I mentioned earlier once told me that a coach can only work with the talent he has on hand. His words? "You can't make chicken salad out of chicken . . . " Well, let's just leave it at that.

Saturday had piles and piles of it. Yet did we ever hear him use that for an excuse? Nope. Did we ever hear any excuses at all? Nope.

Here's what we do know.

Jeff Saturday's leadership with the NFLPA was often cited as the main factor in ending the NFL lockout in 2011. The owners and players were settling in for what could have been a long work stoppage and under Saturday's leadership a new contract was hammered out. And Mr. Cowher, I don't think it was a disgrace to union officials everywhere that

Saturday had no experience in that job either.

There's little doubt and plenty of evidence that the offensive line improved while Saturday was there.

We know that the running back replacements coached by Saturday did a phenomenal job replacing the injured Taylor.

We know that the offense – which only scored above 24 points once in the first nine games under Reich – scored more than that three times in the final eight. With backup upon backup at QB, Saturday's offense showed a 25 percent increase in scoring.

What could any coach do with those limitations? What could any coach do who didn't have a training camp and off-season OTAs to work with? What could any coach do without key offensive coaches? Very little. But know this. It is important to note that Saturday did do something: he made what he had better.

Did it show up as wins? Absolutely not. And we all know that in sports – especially pro sports – the bottom line is the bottom line. The Saturday-led Colts did not win. The sports media, in typical short-sighted fashion, seems to forget that no one else would have either.

Despite what they are overlooking, here's hoping a guy who has been a leader, a straight-shooter and an achiever gets the chance to see what he can do when given all the tools and a full season. Stay tuned.

Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically in The Paper. Timmons is the publisher of The Paper and can be contacted at ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com.

Meeting Notes

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023 at 6 p.m.

Willson Developmental Preschool, 500 E Jefferson
Crawfordsville, Indiana

AGENDA

I. Roll Call

II. CHARACTER COUNTS!SM Corporation – Pillar of Fairness

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Spotlight on Excellence

V. Reorganization of Board

a. Election of President

b. Election of Vice President

c. Election of Secretary

d. Election of Assistant Secretary

e. Appointment of Legislative Liaison to the Indiana School Boards Association

VI. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes, Payrolls, Claims Vouchers, and Surplus Items

VII. Building Principal Report - Heidi Plunkett, Director- Willson

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

a. Consider Resolution for Authorization to Sign Agreements for Alternative

Services and Private Residential School Placements

b. Consider Transfer

h. Recommend Marjorie Susdorf - One on One Aide - Willson

XI. Change of Position

a. Kristel Crowder from Assistant at Hose to Success Center Coordinator at Hose.

b. Alexandra Odum from Aide at Hoover to Assistant at Hoover

c. Zoe Baker from Assistant at Hoover to Aide at Hoover

d. Lisa Warren from Aide at CHS/CMS to Assistant at CHS/CMS

XII. Associate Superintendent Report

XIII. Superintendent Report

XIV. Other

XV. Board Member Comments

XVI. Patron Comments

XVII. Adjournment

Meeting Notes

Psi Iota Xi, Gamma Xi Chapter Meeting

Twelve members and one pledge attended the business meeting of the Gamma Xi Chapter of Psi Iota Xi held on January 9, 2023. President Tonya Michael called the meeting to order with the Opening Verse and attendance was taken. An anniversary and Happy Bucks were announced. The treasurer's report and minutes of the last meeting were sent by email and summarized. Our chapter received a grant from the Harold and Doris Larsen Fund for area children to receive speech and hearing therapy. Parents of the 2022 Summer Speech Clinic clients will receive details about the application process in June. Plans are being made for a social event in February or March.

Committee reports were presented. Plans are being made for our Everyone Reads in Montgomery County event,

from the Rainy Day Fund to the Education Fund

X. Personnel

a. Consider Resignation of Fiona Pearn - Hose

b. Consider Retirement for Donna Wilson - CMS

c. Recommend Sandra Castilla - Receptionist - Nicholson

d. Recommend Kristi Strickland - Computer Lab Assistant - Nicholson

e. Recommend Brandy Ferguson - Teachers Aide - Hose

f. Recommend Donna Stewart - Temporary Teacher for Maternity Leave Nicholson

g. Recommend Haley Webb - Teachers Aide - Hose

h. Recommend Marjorie Susdorf - One on One Aide - Willson

XI. Change of Position

a. Kristel Crowder from Assistant at Hose to Success Center Coordinator at Hose.

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XIV. Other

XV. Board Member Comments

XVI. Patron Comments

XVII. Adjournment

the Easter Bunny project in area schools, our geranium sale in April, and the June Summer Speech Clinic. It will be a busy spring! Please put March 18th from 10:00 to 1:00 at the Crawfordsville District Public Library on your calendar for our Everyone Reads event for elementary students and families. Information will be coming home with your elementary school student in early March. Members are so grateful for the donations of alumni and community patrons in support of our Summer Speech Clinic, projects for area children, and the Elizabeth Backe Scholarship Fund providing a grant for a graduate student in speech and hearing at Purdue University each year.

Several members will attend the State Convention on Saturday, April 22nd. The next meeting of the Gamma Xi Chapter will be held on Monday, February 6th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned with our closing verse by President Tonya Michael.

Addressing The Burdens Of American Nurses

(StatePoint) According to a new survey, American nurses are overwhelmed by job demands, a long-brewing situation only exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. While the majority of nurses continue to be dedicated to the care of patients, many are considering leaving the profession at a time when staff shortages are part of the problem. But there's hope, according to industry experts, who say that understanding these challenges can lead to meaningful and necessary reforms.

The 2022 national survey, "The Future of Nursing: A Profession in Crisis," of nurses and student nurses, was conducted by Cross Country, a market-leading tech-enabled workforce solutions platform and advisory firm, in partnership with Florida Atlantic University's Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing.

Overall, the study revealed that nurses remain passionate about patient care, with 66% citing helping people through meaningful work as a main driver for staying in the field. Neverthe-

less, ongoing challenges have created undue burdens for nurses, with pay rates/compensation (86%), staff shortages (53%), stress (39%) and burnout (35%) cited as top career dissatisfiers.

This frustration has put the industry in crisis: 28% of nurses indicated their desire to leave the profession has increased dramatically since the pandemic, while those who said their desire to stay has dropped from 24% in 2021 to 4% in 2022. This translates to a real potential loss of talent in hospitals, physicians' offices, long-term care facilities and other healthcare settings. Of those surveyed, 23% plan to look for a new career in 1-2 years and 13% plan to retire in 1-5 years.

"We had hoped that as the pandemic eased, nurses would have better balance, mental health and working conditions, but we are not there and as a result, nurses are leaving the profession in droves," says John A. Martins, president and chief executive officer, Cross Country Healthcare. "The time to fix

these mounting problems is now."

To that end, Cross Country is deploying several strategies to transform the nursing profession. These include an ongoing examination of pay rates and retention practices; identifying new pathways for education, licensing, and talent development; focusing on flexibility and growth opportunities; and investments toward innovation to strengthen the nursing workforce.

The company continues to invest heavily in technology and digital transformation to support these strategies. Among these initiatives is a new website dedicated to nursing candidates. Found at crosscountry.com, the site aims to help health care professionals find and engage with potential job opportunities more effectively.

Identifying new pathways for nursing education is also a critical steppingstone towards reforming the profession and addressing healthcare provider shortages. That's why the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing offers accredited

programs at all levels to prepare and train students, including various tracks for a BSN, Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), PhD and DNP focused on Caring Science. Also offered are a BSN-DNP program with a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner concentration and post-graduate dermatology and telehealth certificate courses, as well as other concentrations that intersect innovation and technology.

"Nursing is the greatest profession in the world. The experience you will get is priceless," said one of the survey respondents. "Make sure you're getting into nursing for the right reasons because I love coming to work and look forward to caring for patients every day. No two patients are alike, so every day in nursing is like a new experience and adventure. And you make the difference."

To learn more about the challenges facing the nursing industry, visit crosscountry.com/the-future-of-nursing, where the complete study results, can be found.



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Lawmakers Cautiously Eye Property Tax Relief

By Leslie Bonilla Muñoz

Indiana lawmakers are drawing up changes to the state's property tax system, with high value assessments last spring pointing toward potentially high bills this year. But their approach has been cautious, laden with warnings about a lack of data and negative consequences.

Taxable assessed values shot up 15% from 2021 to 2022 — even after tax abatements, deductions and credits — according to data from the Association of Indiana Counties. That's compared to a 5% increase the year before, and increases under 5% in each year since at least 2014.

Association Executive Director David Bottorff said Indiana has several safeguards to protect property owners — caps, maximum levies, discounts — but said, "Admittedly, the system probably never anticipated this type of assessed value increase all in one year."

And because of the system's built-in delay, it's 2022's higher assessments that property owners will see reflected in their bills this spring. Sales one year influence assessments the next, which affect bills the year after.

But an increase in assessment doesn't automatically portend higher tax bills as tax rates can be adjusted downward to bring in the same amount of money. One study by Sen. Brian Buchanan, R-Lebanon, estimates the bills themselves might increase just 7%.

Is there a problem to fix? House Speaker Todd Huston, R-Fishers, has repeatedly pushed property tax relief as a legislative priority. He told reporters at the legislative session's ceremonial start in November that Hoosiers "are going to want it."

But the potentially high bills are simply a byproduct of a market-based system, according to tax expert and Purdue University

agricultural economics professor Larry DeBoer.

"What we're seeing is the assessment system working," DeBoer told the Capital Chronicle.

"Assessors have been capturing actual changes in home prices, and we know this is true because home prices actually fell back in 2009 and 2010, and sure enough assessed values fell in 2011 and 2012," DeBoer said. "... So, since 2021 was a big increase in home prices, then that's why we're seeing this increase in assessed value."

And others have pushed against quick fixes.

"It's probably premature to be looking for the panic button," said Indiana Office of Management and Budget Director Cris Johnston while on a fiscal leadership panel at a legislative conference last month.

"We still have to see what the bills actually say," Johnston added. "... What goes up is coming down. We'll have to see that over over the next couple of years. My caution would be: let's not take some sort of drastic action immediately."

Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee Chair Travis Holdman, R-Markle, said he'd had to warn committee members to "be careful with legislation."

"It's like pulling a thread," Holdman said, as part of the same panel. "We have a complicated property tax structure in the state of Indiana, with property tax caps. And if we started pulling that thread, we can see that the whole blanket becomes unraveled. There's not a quick fix."

Bill drafts abound Despite the warnings, several lawmakers have already introduced property tax relief bills, ranging from small tweaks to major changes.

Four were available online as of Thursday, including a lengthy Republican proposal to ditch the market-based yearly adjustments to assessed values and a Democrat

attempt to freeze property taxes for elderly longtime homeowners.

And lawmakers are sitting on more bills.

Senate Ways and Means Committee Chair Jeff Thompson, R-Lizton, said multiple drafts with other property tax relief strategies exist, but hadn't yet been put forth.

"We've not decided yet ... because some of those may not be the right solution," Thompson told the Capital Chronicle. "There's multiple possible ways you might sell this, but nothing's concrete."

"Once we get some hard data, that will really start to drive drive home what we're going to do," he added.

For instance, some suggestions focus directly on assessed values and ways to keep them low. But that could lead to artificial prices that caused the state's property tax system to be found unconstitutional in the 1990s. Other approaches focus more on the bills themselves and how much they can increase in one year. But that limits revenue local government might need to provide services.

Good data, good decisions?

Thompson expected data from the Department of Local Government Finance to come in soon. Bottorff, of the Association of Indiana Counties, also said his organization was working to generate projected tax bill increases and distribute that information to lawmakers during the legislative session.

Bottorff said he wanted lawmakers to "wait until we get this data available to their hands, and make sure the decisions they make are based on facts that will address the unique situation." He warned against "an overreaction that changes the system in the long run to a negative situation that we'll never be able to, perhaps, recover from."

The language from the un-introduced bill drafts

could come into play weeks down the line in amendments, Thompson said. He wasn't sure which lawmakers would carry the legislation.

An attempt could come from Buchanan, who told the Capital Chronicle he'd spent months reviewing historical property tax data going back 10 to 15 years. He declined to provide specific provisions from the bill drafts, but emphasized "sticker shock" from sudden and large bill increases as a key problem.

"We are not looking to completely overhaul the property tax system in Indiana," Buchanan said. "... If anything, we may just need a few tweaks to stop those tremendous ... fluctuations from year over year."

Local governments worry Property tax revenue goes to local governments — not the state of Indiana. And it's those governments' primary source of income.

Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM), which represents the state's hundreds of cities and towns, said its members fear state changes would hurt local finances and functioning.

CEO Matthew Greller noted that income tax is a local government's second-biggest revenue source. If warnings of impending recession come true, those governments could be hit by a "double-whammy" of revenue declines.

Huston told reporters in November that he recognized "the concerns of local governments," and would work with them to address those concerns.

Ball State University economics professor Michael Hicks said state lawmakers should strive to maintain high-quality public services to draw more people toward Indiana.

"Thirty years ago, there was no way to know if schools were good. There was no No Child Left Behind [and] there was no internet," Hicks said on the December legislative

conference panel. "Now, you can tell very quickly if they're good or not. And so the quality of public services plays much more into the decision of households to locate someplace."

And businesses often make decisions, he said, based largely on the quality and quantity of the human capital available someplace.

But public services also get more basic, said Rachel Blakeman, director of Purdue University Fort Wayne's Community Research Institute.

"With fewer services, [if] you want your employees to get to work, that's not happening because they've decided they're not doing 24/7 snowplows," Blakeman said as an example. "They stop plowing at 10 p.m. and we'll get back to it at

6 a.m. Well, school buses start before then ... or [in] emergencies, you would kind of like the ambulance to be able to get to your house."

Blakeman urged further caution, asking, "Are we making this as a particular strategic decision about how we pay for services — and specifically, local services that people need and like — or are we doing this as a reactionary measure for a short-term political win?"

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By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Circuit/Superior Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No. 54D02-2111-MF-000935 wherein U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust was Plaintiff, and Brian Higgins aka Brian S Higgins, et al., were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the day of _____, 2022, at the hour of _____ or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 600 Memorial Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana.

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY, INDIANA LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE The 2023 Montgomery County LEPC meeting dates will be as follows: Thursday, Feb 16, 2023 1201 Elmore St, Crawfordsville, IN Thursday, May 18, 2023 1201 Elmore St, Crawfordsville, IN Thursday, Aug 17, 2023 1201 Elmore St, Crawfordsville, IN Thursday, Nov 9, 2023 1201 Elmore St, Crawfordsville, IN The meeting times will be 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. All meetings will be held at the Montgomery County EMA office with the exception of the November meeting. It will be held in conjunction with other counties LEPC's in Covington, Indiana.

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Holcomb Touts State's "Position Of Strength," \$30 Million Trail Deal

By Leslie Bonilla Muñiz

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb praised Indiana's economic "position of strength" in his annual State of the State address Tuesday evening — and argued the state can afford to invest in "needs" like economic development, public health, schools and public safety.

He also unveiled a \$30 million grant for what would be Indiana's longest trail.

"Because our revenue and population are both growing, we have the ability — rather, the obligation — to fuel that growth and utilize reserves for one-time projects, even while we maintain a healthy surplus," Holcomb said, speaking in front of a joint convention of the Indiana General Assembly.

The Department of Natural Resources will spend the last \$29.5 million from its \$150 million Next Level Trails

program on acquisition and development costs for the 62-mile Monon South Trail, Holcomb announced. The trail, along a former rail corridor, will span five counties in Southern Indiana, and lay within 10 miles of about 440,000 Hoosiers.

"The Monon South Trail will preserve a piece of our Hoosier history while promoting quality of place in our rural communities," Holcomb said in a news release Tuesday. In his speech, he also asked lawmakers to approve \$50 million more in trails funding, plus \$25 million for a land conservation program.

Holcomb also took the chance to talk about the legislative priorities he released last week, making his case in front of the lawmakers who control the state's purse strings.

He acknowledged the state's woeful public health standings for smoking, obesity, mental

health care access and childhood vaccinations — 45th, 46th, 43rd and 41st, respectively — and reiterated an ask for major investments in public health: \$347 over the course of the next two-year budget.

Willing local governments would have to pony up funds for the 80-20 state-local mix.

"We don't have a day or a dollar or a life to waste," Holcomb told legislators, "so taking the next four months [of the legislative session] to get it right: nothing could be more important."

The governor also asked lawmakers to prioritize education, asking for an increase of \$1.1 billion toward K-12 tuition support and an additional \$120 million to pay for textbooks and curriculum material.

Indiana is one of just seven states in which public school students' families shoulder the cost of textbooks — which Holcomb dubbed

a "disguised tax."

And he also called on lawmakers to focus on public safety by boosting money for school safety grants, court technology upgrades, a "true" state-wide firefighting training system, state police pay and more.

"Here in Indiana, we have a well-run, soundly financed state — and the word is out!" Holcomb said. "... Investors are giving us their vote of confidence. They're creating industries and careers here. They see their growth and future here. Let's prove them right!"

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Fast Facts To Stay Healthy This Flu Season

(StatePoint) December through March is peak influenza (flu) season. While common, flu is a potentially serious and highly contagious respiratory illness.

This winter, a new American Lung Association campaign funded by CLS Seqirus aims to educate Americans about the flu and steps they can take to protect themselves and others from severe flu illness. Here's what to know:

- Who is impacted by flu? Flu can affect anyone, however, certain communities are at higher risk of severe illness and complications, such as those living with chronic medical conditions including chronic lung disease, heart disease and diabetes. During past flu

seasons, approximately 90% of flu-related hospitalizations were among adults with at least one underlying medical condition. During the 2021-22 flu season, approximately 30% of hospitalizations were among adults with chronic lung disease. People from certain racial and ethnic minority groups are also at higher risk for being hospitalized with flu compared to non-Hispanic white adults.

- What will this year's flu season look like? Flu activity was relatively low the last two flu seasons, but it causes a significant burden every winter. Seasonal influenza activity is already elevated and continues to increase across the country. The Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as of early January, there have been at least 22 million illnesses and 230,000 hospitalizations.

- How can I protect myself? While covering your cough, washing your hands frequently and staying home when you're sick can help stop the spread of flu, the very best way to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community is with vaccination. The flu shot is recommended on an annual basis for everyone 6 months of age and older and can be given at the same time as COVID-19 vaccination. Flu vaccination is especially important for people with chronic lung disease and other chronic health conditions. Speak

with your healthcare provider to learn more about influenza and annual vaccination.

- When should I see a doctor? If you do get sick, call your doctor as soon as possible for diagnosis and treatment — especially if you're at high risk for complications. You should also consult your doctor if you have complications such as difficulty breathing, chest pains or a cough persisting for weeks or months after other symptoms go away.

To learn more, visit [Lung.org/prevent-flu](https://www.lung.org/prevent-flu).

Take steps to protect yourself, your family and your community flu. Practice good health habits and get your annual vaccination as early as possible.

New Grant Enables Indiana Wesleyan University To Fund English Language Learners Licensure For Teachers

Indiana Wesleyan University-National & Global is excited to partner with the Indiana Teachers of English Language Learners (I-TELL) Project to provide a pathway for English Language Learners Licensure in the state of Indiana. Through a grant from I-Tell, current teachers can use I-TELL scholarships to English Language Learners Licensure at IWU for free. This partnership will eliminate the financial burden of ELL Licensure for Indiana teachers and help respond to the high demand for ELL teachers across the state.

"We're excited to see how this partnership with I-TELL increases opportunities for classroom teachers who want to deepen their teaching abilities and work closely with English language learners," says IWU Director of Academic Operations Tony Hembrook. "This grant will help us enable teachers across the state to achieve an affordable pathway to ELL Licensure."

IWU's English as a New Language certificate program is designed for current teachers seeking licensure in the English Learners (EL) P-12 area. It can be completed 100% online in approximately 12 months. Candidates in the program will complete a 15-credit-hour program that is aligned to the TESOL Association's professional standards and the Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education's advanced-level program standards. They will engage in inquiry, research, dialogue, team learning, reflection, problem-based learning, collaboration and standards-based assessment from a comprehensive P-12 perspective.

Course instruction is designed to model best practices and procedures in the classroom, equipping teachers to help their students learn through culturally responsive teaching, ethics and faith and research and technology tools. Candidates will participate in field experiences to apply their knowledge on a practical

level, ensuring complete understanding of course material.

Although the English as a New Language certificate program is designed for currently licensed teachers looking to add EL certification, IWU is also working to establish a Transition-to-Teaching program that will allow candidates seeking initial teacher licensure to become licensed as an English Language Learner Teacher.

To learn more about the opportunities provided by the I-TELL grant, visit indwes.edu/I-TELL.

About IWU

Indiana Wesleyan University celebrates 100 years as a Christian, global, comprehensive university providing liberal arts and professional education to approximately 10,000 students worldwide.

IWU is one of the largest faith-based universities in America with rich undergraduate, graduate, master's, and doctoral programs in such highly acclaimed academic units

as the School of Nursing, School of Physical and Applied Sciences, College of Adult and Professional Studies, and School of Arts and Humanities. An early leader in adult and online education, IWU is known for excellence in innovation. Students live and learn on the beautiful 350-acre IWU-Marion traditional campus and study through IWU-National & Global programs offered online and at education centers in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University, founded by the Wesleyan Church denomination and IWU, prepares Christian leaders to engage in missional ministry locally and globally. Indiana Wesleyan University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission ([hlcommission.org](https://www.hlcommission.org)), a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. It is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. For more information, visit indwes.edu.

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TIM From Page A1

Of course the process takes time, and time is exactly what Republican lawmakers had from the end of the election in November when it was apparent they were back in the majority. Why couldn't the Grand Old Party come to some decision in the almost two months since then?

But you know what, let's give them that one. After all, we had the Christmas break and far be it from us peasants to expect our nation's elected elite to work over the holidays . . . Like! The! Rest! Of! Us!

That still leaves the pathetic points of it not being as bad as it looked, and why those who held up the coronation of Kevin McCarthy were the problem.

It absolutely was as bad as it looked! The problems with politics in general today, and specifically inside the beltway, are too numerous to detail. But here's a few:

- Everything is decided on what's best for one party or the other, not the country

- The fat in government is so outrageously overwhelming it's obscene

- Lawmakers live by their own set of rules while we're given another
- Lobbyists and money influence (i.e., determine) far too many decisions

- There are too many career politicians who have never worked a real job in their lives

That's just for starters. Let's be clear, those 20 were the heroes not the bad guys.

They were vilified, accused of being "far-right" and a bunch of other labels that have become watchwords in today's world. It used to be conservative and liberal weren't negative terms. When did that change? About the same time as when folks decided you were either on their team or you were the enemy. Forget the idea that two good people can hold opposing points of view and in the process find better outcomes. That's long gone. The 20 or so who said they wouldn't go along with Kevin McCarthy as the speaker cited valid objections. Maybe you agreed with them, maybe you didn't. But that's what a lot of them got elected for, to help –

what's that term? – drain the swamp. For that, they got pummeled instead of respected.

Perhaps I'm overreacting here? Maybe I'm just on my soapbox – again. Maybe, but I don't think so. We, as in We The People, have become resigned to the outrageous things going on in our country. We accept this sort of absurd politics as normal, never stopping to think that this is the first time in 100 years the House failed to elect a speaker on the first vote. We take in stride – or apathy – a ton of other things that defy logic in today's world.

It's time, no, it's past time, for us to stand up and say enough is enough. There's an old saying – politics as usual. We have the power to give that a whole new definition. We'd be better off if we do exactly that.

Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically on Wednesdays in The Paper. Timmons is the publisher of The Paper and can be contacted at timmons@thepaper24-7.com.

AGAIN From Page A1

America offers the latest in decorating, landscaping, construction and remodeling ideas. Visitors to the Indianapolis Home Show can talk to hundreds of home and décor experts for advice and explore thousands of the newest home products.

The opening day of the show is special because visitors can pay honor to all our heroes! All active and retired military, police and fire personnel get FREE ADMISSION for the day, plus FREE PARKING at the State Fairgrounds. Just bring a valid ID, and come enjoy the Home Show on opening day!

The show opens at 10 a.m. each day and closes at 8 p.m., except for Sundays when it wraps up at 5 p.m.

Regular admission prices are \$15 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6-12 and free for children 5 and under.

The following are some of the special features at this year's show.

- Can't CONTAIN Ourselves with This Custom-Built Home

A brand-new development has arrived at the 2023 Indianapolis Home Show — one you won't be able to contain your excitement for! Custom Container Builders specializes in building with shipping containers to ensure long-lasting homes for the first-time home buyer, the move-up buyer and the luxury buyer. They are building a customized, 2,000-square-foot, two-story home for this year's Centerpiece Home. Plus, there's a swimming pool and a pool house!

- Twin Sisters Host HGTV's "Unsellable Houses"

Real estate consultants and twin sisters Leslie Davis and Lyndsay Lamb have a knack for helping desperate homeowners sell their lifeless homes on the HGTV show "Unsellable Houses." After visiting nearby comparable homes, the sisters make the necessary, impactful renovations that convert these unlovable houses into diamonds in the rough. Catch Lyndsay and Leslie at the Home

Show on Friday, January 20 and Saturday, January 21.

- Nina Klemm of Carmel-Based "Flipping Exes"

Nina is a realtor with a client roster that includes everyone from professional athletes to CEOs. She and her ex-boyfriend starred on Bravo's "Flipping Exes," flipping properties in and around Carmel, the "Beverly Hills of the Midwest." Meet Nina and hear about all the up-and-coming trends for home décor and renovation when she appears at the Home Show on Sunday, January 22.

- HGTV Star Mina Starsiak Hawk Gets Risky!

Daughter of the "Two Chicks and a Hammer" mother-daughter duo, Mina Starsiak Hawk is back at the Home Show revealing all the best stories from season seven of "Good

Bones." Plus, she's got a gritty new spinoff called "Good Bones: Risky Business," a six-episode series that follows Mina's undertaking of a singular run-down mansion. Make sure to see Mina at the Home Show on Saturday, January 28.

- Make It a "Great Day" with Local Personality Patty Spitler and Louie

Host and executive producer of "Great Day TV with Patty Spitler," Patty is a popular name in central Indiana TV and radio, having won The Indianapolis Star's Best Local TV Personality twice! She has a 45-year career in radio and TV broadcasting, including 23 years at WISH-TV, and is known for her passion for pets. Meet Patty at the Home Show when she appears with her dog, Stewie, on Friday, January 27 — she will be selling and signing her new autobiographical book, "The Dog That Saved My Life."

- The Marketplace

At the Marketplace, Home Show attendees can find everything from affordable furniture to unique knick knacks you won't see anywhere else! Seek and Find Furniture and Home Décor along with several local furniture artisans from The Artisan

Markets bring a boutique shopping experience with curated home décor and gift items. Plus, they'll be on stage throughout the 10-day Home Show to show you creative ways to take your next step in home décor.

- Backyard Bungalows

The Backyard Bungalows are the perfect place to gather design and décor inspiration for multiple home spaces! Millers Mini Barns is bringing four mini barns — their classic space-saving storage solution — to the Home Show, and a group of local designers will get creative with the interiors. Four different barns and four different design themes for Home Show attendees to explore! Designers will also share the dos and don'ts of home renovation in a panel discussion on stage on Saturday, January 21.

- Capture the Moment with Neon Leon

Penny Lane's VW Photo Bus, Neon Leon, is a fully-restored 1971 Volkswagen Bus that has been converted into a unique photo booth — helping you create smiles and memories while at the Indianapolis Home Show! Don't miss getting your pic snapped with family and friends on site!

- Sip, Sip, Hooray!

The Wine Bar by Booher Remodeling and PRP Wine International is the place to wine down. Featuring an open concept in the West Pavilion, the Wine Bar has a variety of wines for Home Show attendees to treat their taste buds.

- Precision Outdoors Living Stage

Check out all the Home Show stage presentations on the Precision Outdoors Living Stage, designed and constructed by Precision Outdoors. A local landscaping company servicing the Indianapolis area for almost two decades, Precision Outdoors offers everything to build your outdoor dream space.

For more information, check out the Indianapolis Home Show website at www.IndianapolisHomeShow.com/

WABASH From Page A1

This program will take place on the Wabash College campus in Baxter Hall, Room 101, at 7 p.m. Doors will open at 6:30. Easy-access parking is available in the Grant Street parking lots closest to Wabash Avenue.

After her four-year term as Indiana's last elected State Superintendent, McCormick went on to be named Chairman of the Board for Gibraltar Design. She is also the CEO of Fierce Up! Leadership

that provides opportunities to partner with schools. Most recently, she has been said to be exploring a run for governor.

McCormick has served on various boards dealing with state education issues. Currently she is on the board for the Indiana Coalition for Public Education, a non-partisan organization notable for keeping statistics on how policies affect schools. McCormick says that she "proudly provides a voice

for students, educators, parents, and communities" to help all constituencies understand our educational system more fully. Her driving principle, she notes, is to always put kids first—"Kids First. Always" is my message."

McCormick's talk is being sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County and the Political Science and Education Studies Departments at Wabash College.

LWV From Page A1

for more than 20 natural and man-made disasters, all identified during regular hazard and threat assessment meetings held with each incorporated and unincorporated area of the county. These could include events like the fire that altered an entire downtown block in 2007, or God forbid, a disaster like last year's shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

"We have an all-hazards approach," said Acting Director Jessica Burget. She flipped pages in a binder called the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). Every major stakeholder and policymaker in the county keeps a copy handy because it guides them step-by-step for critical events.

The number one threat in Montgomery County is flooding, Burget said. A flash downpour can debilitate streets, overload sewage drains, sweep away unsuspecting drivers and wreak havoc on property. Other threats include tornadoes and high winds. In 2009, tornadoes struck the east side of Indianapolis, wiping out multiple apartment complexes, churches and other organizations. Suddenly the city had hundreds of unsheltered residents without food, clothing, critical documents and family memorabilia. A catastrophe like that affects humans on every level of need: not just the material basics like food security, shelter, health care and transportation, but also mental and social needs such as a sense of safety, belonging, agency and self-efficacy. In a disaster, all things fall apart, thus the best mitigation is a well-planned, exercised and tested response.

"Planning is our jam. It's what we do here," Burget said. Every year, her department meets with all the incorporated and unincorporated county communities to assess local threats and hazards. County council members, emergency management, fire department officials, law enforcement and others come together to anticipate likely man-made and natural disasters.

Disasters happen. If we could predict and prevent them, we would. All we can do is use data and evidence to respond to dynamic and dangerous situations. They're complicated and unpredictable. Burget's department anticipates them as best they can.

Many of us don't think about the hazards and threats that the department anticipates: animal emergencies or animals in an emergency, people trapped in cars on icy roadways, massive fires, gas leaks or

explosions and HAZMAT disasters. Five years ago, civil unrest was not the threat that it is now, noted Burget, nor was the COVID pandemic. (During the pandemic few state and local governments, let alone organizations, could procure PPE. They needed central systems like a department of emergency management to both conduct the agreement, then store the massive amounts of masks, sanitizers, cleansing products, et cetera.)

Our county department is an extension of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IHS), which structures communication and plans. IHS has sorted Hoosier counties into 10 smaller regions that build mutual support agreements. If there's an event in one of our nine cohort counties, our personnel deploy to their management center; they would come to us in an emergency. IHS also exercises the larger, more complicated emergency plans that are costly to act out. (Last year, one plan cost more than \$100,000 to practice.) The county exercises plans as well. Sometimes they run a table read; other times they simulate the disaster.

A prepared, robust department should operate like a hub that strengthens and balances each spoke on the tire, keeping the wheel turning without warp. A nimble responsive department learns from the missteps and mistakes of other regions. (May every community learn from Uvalde and avoid similar disasters!)

Data analysis and experienced leadership matter, but so does funding, most of which comes from grants. Burget praised former director Shari Harrington for her skills in grant writing, as well as Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton for utilizing his experience in emergency response to establish Montgomery County's uncommonly advanced systems. Compared to Indiana and the nation, our county can boast far more funded programming for everything from our quick response unit to animal emergencies.

The department also recruits and trains volunteers for CERT, the Community Emergency Response Team, who deploy shortly after an event — many of those come from the storm chaser classes and commit to 20 hours of training including AED, CPR, Stop the Bleed medical training and monthly meetings. Presently the county has 15 CERT volunteers but after an event such as the 2016 tornado that touched down in a local unincorporated

community, they can do "just in time" training for more volunteers. (Note to future volunteers: it's important to avoid showing up in shorts and flip-flops. Long pants and close-toed shoes are must-haves for safety.) CERT members will handle many of the on-the-ground operations.

Having effective timely communication and coordination is critical to disaster relief. The department has mutual agreements with long-term care facilities and schools for sheltering and churches for storage and distribution of donations and necessities. What it needs is a VOAD or COAD network to help with assessed needs and coordinate fulfillment without redundancy and efficiency. In some disasters, a glut of water or clothing may be a lovely problem to have, but also reveals a shortage of other resources. Burget said that a COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster) is part of the department's 2023 goals.

Internally, our county is more cooperative than most. Burget showed off the facilities, which many county services utilize. The heart of the building contains the Emergency Operations Center, which looks like a NASA command center. Rows of computers, dual monitors and landlines face several large screens with a podium labeled "Department of Homeland Security" front right. Every row has signage to organize personnel who will lead the 15 emergency support functions, some of which include human services (shelter, food and water); transportation; medical care; donations; search and rescue; and damage assessment.

The building also is home to the police K9 training spaces, quick response team vehicles, rangers for county safety response at Tom's Marina and city events, emergency supplies for COVID, the SWAT team and even car seats for the Women's Resource Center. There's a strong sense that our city, county, non-profit and religious community are connecting and assessing the need to grow and improve these capacities to continue to be an exemplary community.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, multi-issue political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government. For information about the League, visit the website www.lwvmontcoin.org; or, visit the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, Indiana Facebook page.

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