

TODAY'S VERSE

1 Corinthians 13:13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (ESV)

FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Ruthanna Williamson gives *The Paper* a beautiful smile. Thank you for your smile Ruthanna!

THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 Are we closer to Doomsday? We'll find out what the stewards of the Doomsday Clock think soon. The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists say they will announce whether the time of the iconic "Doomsday Clock" will change during a live virtual news conference on Tuesday. The Doomsday Clock is a metaphor for how close humanity is to self-annihilation. It also serves as a call-to-action to reverse the hands, which have been moved backward before. The decision is made by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' Science and Security Board in consultation with the Bulletin's Board of Sponsors, which includes 11 Nobel Laureates.

2 Mauricio Henao parked his car at the base of a hillside on the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu, CA and got out to answer his cell phone; it saved his life. A few moments later a rockslide -- including a giant boulder -- landed on the car, compressing it in a matter seconds. It happened in the wake of recent torrential rains; the call saved his life, says the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. Henao was succinct when he described it: "I was in the driver's seat, walked out, got a call, ran back inside, came out and the car was just totaled," he told KTLA-TV.

3 Want free tickets to the 101st Indianapolis Home Show, running 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) to ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com. 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!

The Paper

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Photo courtesy of Sheridan Historical Society Museum

Betty Lee Cooper stands in front of the display of her White House Christmas Ornaments at the Sheridan Historical Society Museum.

White House Historical Society Christmas Ornaments Display

The Sheridan Historical Society Museum has an interesting Christmas display that we are going to pack away for the rest of the year, but we will leave it out through the end of January for you to stop in and see. The display is a collection of the famous White House Christmas ornaments. The collection was begun by Jackie Kennedy in 1961 as an enlightenment to the annual Christmas display at the White House. An ornament was created each year to honor a previous administration and because administrations come in four-year blocks, it has not

taken too long to go back all the way to George Washington's two administrations.

In 1980, the White House Historical Society adopted these Christmas ornaments as a fundraising project. The public responded overwhelmingly, and it has now become a major source of funds for the Society.

Locally, Betty Lee Cooper began collecting the ornaments several years ago. Just this past year she decided to donate them to the Sheridan Historical Society so they could become part of our annual Christmas decorations here at the Museum. Many vis-

itors have been in the Museum over the holidays and admired the collection display but come the end of January and sadly we will have to store them away until this coming November.

If you would like to see them before they are put away until next Christmas, please drop by the Museum and take a peek. We are located at 315 South Main Street in beautiful uptown Sheridan, just on the country side of Hamilton County. Our hours are every Tuesday and Friday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and every second and fourth Saturday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

What To Know About Our Quick Response Team

Let's play "what happens when?" What happens when a senior falls and no one there is strong enough to help her up? What happens after an adult overdoses in their driveway? What happens when a friend shows signs of a manic episode, talks about religious conspiracies and spends hundreds of dollars carelessly? Or, a man rings your doorbell asking for help? Suddenly we, the neighbors, friends, pastors



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 LWW, visit: www.lwvmontcoin.org or message to LWW, PO Box 101, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

and relatives wonder where to find resources to help.

None of these seem 911-worthy. These are just a few services that Crawfordsville's Quick Response Team (QRT) provides, and what distinguishes them from hundreds of other QRTs around the country, most of which developed as communities grappled with skyrocketing substance use disorders (SUD) in the Opioid Crisis.

A minority of counties around the country have adopted the QRT response model to alleviate pressure on law enforcement and jails. Last year, just 17 of West Virginia's 55 counties had QRTs, according to the state's Office of Drug Control Policy. Ohio, where the QRT model originated, listed 20

➔ See LWW Page A6

Politics As Usual . . .



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

A good many of you responded to last week's babblings about the fiasco the U.S. House went through in electing a Speaker. To a person, you agreed that it was just another example of the ineptitude our government sadly exhibits now.

➔ See TIM Page A6



Mayor Todd Barton

Mayor To Meet With The Public

Continuing a practice he started since first taking office, Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton will once again make himself available to meet with the public.

This month's meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday at The Joshua Cup at 9 a.m.

The purpose is to open discussions with concerned citizens about anything to do with the city of Crawfordsville.

HONEST HOOSIER

This from a reader: Remember when you referred to your knees as left and right instead of good and bad?



INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

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

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

It's important for women to know if there is breast cancer on their father's side of the family as well as their mother's. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts.

Be sure to catch his column each week in *The Paper* and online at www.thepaper24-7.com.



OBITUARIES

See Page 2

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



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THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

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TODAY'S QUOTE

"Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly while bad people will find a way around the laws."
- Plato

TODAY'S JOKE

How do you know a snowman has been in your home?
There's a carrot in the middle of a puddle by the fireplace.

13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

35/47 RAIN RETURNS	42/53 MILD, BREEZY FEW SHOWERS	31/35 COLDER FLURRIES	26/38 CHILLY, PARTLY CLOUDY	30/35 SNOW CHANCE	25/37 PARTLY CLOUDY	30/39 MOSTLY CLOUDY
WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE

OBITUARIES

Gregory Williams

Oct. 29, 1964 - Jan. 13, 2023

Gregory Williams, age 58, of Crawfordsville, passed away on Friday, Jan. 13, 2023 at his home in Crawfordsville.

He was born on Oct. 29, 1964 to the late Oscar and Lillie (Baugh) Williams.

He graduated from South Montgomery High School in 1984 and proudly served his country in the United States National Guard. He attended Vincennes University where he studied Mortuary Science and later graduated with a degree in Massage Therapy. He enjoyed all things Titanic and working on computers.

Survivors include six siblings, Marcia (Dale) Neal, Diana Baugh, Jerry Baugh, Shelia (Micheal) Lannon and Lana Albright; nieces and nephews, Tricia, Tim, Jason, Brittany, Josh, Ben, Elizabeth and Emily; and special persons, Kayleigh Ray and Athena Shimmen.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Cremation was chosen with no services. Sanders Priebe Funeral Care is entrusted with care. Share memories and condolences online at www.sandersfuneralcare.com

Hortense 'Tensie' Crouse

Aug. 10, 1937 - Jan. 14, 2023

Hortense 'Tensie' Crouse age 85 of rural West Point, passed away at 10:05 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023 in St. Mary Healthcare Center, Lafayette where she had resided the past 2 1/2 years.

She was born in Lynchburg, VA, Aug. 10, 1937 to the late Herbert and Ann Craig Thomas.

She married Daniel Crouse in Lafayette, Aug. 14, 1960 and he survives. They were married 62 years.

She was the youngest of 10 children and graduated from high school in Virginia Beach. She was employed as a paraprofessional in special education for the Glass Program with Tippecanoe School Corporation. Her patience and kindness made her a natural working with the children.

Through the years when her children were in school, she was supportive and involved in all their activities. She was a volunteer, served as PTO President and willing to help with anything needed at school. She was an active member of St. James Lutheran Church in Lafayette, where she was a Sunday School teacher.

She was an amazing wife, parent and grandmother with a huge heart! She was totally devoted to her family and made herself available to help out with her grandchildren. The family would like to extend a special 'thank you' to the staff at St. Mary Helathcare Center for the excellent care given her.

Survivors include her husband, Daniel; a son; Paul Crouse; a daughter Lisa (Rahul) Sinha both of Lafayette; grandchildren, Ashley and Dusten Crouse, Nico, Hoon, Dhruvo, and Priyo Sinha.

She was preceded in death by her parents and 9 siblings.

Visitation hours are scheduled 2 - 3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023 with funeral services following at 3 p.m., with Pastor Jim Barton officiating, at Family and Friends Funeral Home of Wingate. Interment will follow in West Point Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be directed to St. James Lutheran Church, Lafayette. Visit us at familyandfriendsfh.com to sign the guest book or leave a condolence.

Phyllis Jean Kirkpatrick Lohorn

Jan. 17, 2023

Phyllis Jean Kirkpatrick Lohorn age 89, of Wingate, passed away at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023 in Creasy Springs, Lafayette. Arrangements are incomplete at Family and Friends Funeral Home of Wingate.

Thanks for reading The Paper!

THE PAPER OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY
(USPS 022-679)

January 18, 2023 Volume 20 Number 3

Published Wednesdays (except for holidays)
Subscription price:
\$44/6 mos.; \$79/1 year.

127 E Main St. Suite 103,
Crawfordsville, IN 47933
765-361-0100

Periodicals Postage Paid at
Crawfordsville, Ind.
POSTMASTER: Send address
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of Montgomery County,
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Mark Dolph

Nov. 6, 1957 - Jan. 3, 2023

Mark Raymond Dolph of Crawfordsville passed away at home on Jan. 3rd. He was 65.

Born Nov. 6, 1957 in Crawfordsville, he was the son of Donald Raymond Dolph and Carolyn Jane Armantrout Dolph.

He attended Crawfordsville schools. He served in the U.S. Army. He worked several places, but was most proud of the time he spent working for the Adolph Coors Brewery in Golden, Colorado. He liked muscle cars, country music and movies.

Survivors include his daughter, Amber Dolph Hurych; several granddaughters; three sisters, Laura Dolph, Roxanne Spurlock, Becky Dolph Chambers; brother, Aaron Hur Dolph.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Michael Ryan Dolph.

The family will remember his life in a private ceremony. Arrangements were entrusted to Burkhart Funeral Home, Crawfordsville.

Online condolences may be made at www.BurkhartFH.com.

Max D. Allen

Sept. 30, 1940 - Jan. 4, 2023

Max D. Allen passed away Jan. 4, 2023 at home in Pheonix, AZ.

He was born on Sept. 30, 1940 to Cyril and Irene (Petty) Allen in Illinois.

He attended Crawfordsville High School. He lived in Pheonix, AZ for over 45 years. Max worked at various auto part stores in the Pheonix area. He enjoyed riding motorcycles and could talk to you about them for hours.

Survivors include his daughter, Sue Melvin (Tom); three grandchildren, Amber Ploense (Steve), Erin Melvin, and James Melvin (Bri), five great grandchildren, Emily, Elise, Jonathan and Michael Ploense and Novi Jett.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Cremation was chosen with a private family burial to be held at a later date in Waynetown Masonic Cemetery. Share memories and condolences at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

Expo Registration Open For Indiana Green Industry Professionals

The Indiana Green Expo is returning this year with three days of educational opportunities for turf and landscape professionals in addition to a trade show and networking events.

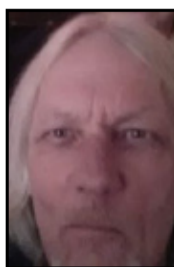
The 2023 Indiana Green Expo will take place Jan. 30 through Feb. 1 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. Fourteen educational tracks will be offered with topics including design, invasive species, tree care and more, along with a track in Spanish. Continuing Education Requirements for a variety of certification programs will be available for attendees.

"The Indiana Green Expo is the best opportunity of the year for the green industry to gather for education, vendors and networking," said Kyle Daniel, a nursery and landscape outreach specialist. "Investing in

your employee professional development will greatly increase employee retention, a critical part to the success of companies."

Conference registration and additional details are available online at indianagreenexpo.com.

The Midwest Regional Turf Foundation (MRTF) and the Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association first joined efforts in 2007 to offer the Indiana Green Expo (IGE). In recent years, the conference has had an average attendance of 1,600 green industry professionals. MRTF supports turf research and education at Purdue University for the advancement of the turfgrass industry. Proceeds from the IGE will be used to improve the green industry through research, educational programming and other supporting functions.



IRS Free File Launch Aims To Save Taxpayers Hard-Earned Dollars

The Internal Revenue Service's Free File Guided Tax Preparation service is live and ready for taxpayers to use. Free File went live Jan. 13, 2023, 10 days prior to the 2023 filing season start date. The IRS starts accepting individual tax returns on Jan. 23.

IRS Free File marks its 21st filing season this year and is one of many free options available to taxpayers for filing their taxes either online or in person. IRS Free File is offered via a public-private partnership between the IRS and the Free File Inc., formerly the Free File Alliance. Through this partnership, leading tax software providers make their online products available in both English and Spanish for free.

Seven partners will provide IRS Free File online products this year to any taxpayer or family who earned \$73,000 or less in 2022.

Because the filing season does not start until Jan. 23, IRS Free File providers will accept completed tax returns and hold them until they can be filed electronically on that date.

Those who make over \$73,000 can use the IRS's Free File Fillable Forms (FFEF), the electronic version of IRS paper forms beginning Jan. 23. This product is best for people comfortable preparing their own taxes.

How IRS Free File online works

Each IRS Free File provider sets its own eli-

gibility rules for products based on age, income and state residency.

Taxpayers that made \$73,000 or less in 2022 will likely find a product that matches their needs. Some providers also offer free state return preparation. Active-duty military can use any IRS Free File products if their adjusted gross income was \$73,000 in 2022 or less.

To find the right IRS Free File product taxpayers can:

- Go to IRS.gov/FreeFile,
- Click on Free Guided Tax Preparation. Then select IRS Free File Online Lookup Tool for help in finding the right product, or
- Use the Browse All Offers tool to review each offer,
- Select the best product for them, and
- Follow the links to the provider's website to begin their tax return.

No computer? No problem. IRS Free File products support mobile phone access. Taxpayers can do their taxes on their smart phone or tablet.

IRS Free File participants

For 2023, the following providers are participating in IRS Free File:

- 1040Now
- ezTaxReturn.com
- FileYourTaxes.com
- On-Line Taxes
- TaxAct
- FreeTaxUSA
- TaxSlayer

For 2023, ezTaxReturn.com will provide an IRS Free File product in Spanish.



Photo courtesy of Gina Haile

Crawfordsville Team (first row: Will Gobel, Chayce Miller, Aiden Stephenson, Derek Gobel, Ian Stewart; second row: Lizzie Dicken, Maddie Lewellyn, Lacie Bush, Madison Ellingwood, Campbell White)



Photo courtesy of Gina Haile

Southmont Team (first row: Hunter McArthur, Avery Hannum, Camden Haile, Ty Bupp; second row: Terrence Lindsey, Briley Bennett, Jackson Bushong, Hunter Alesi)

Montgomery County High School Bowlers Sectional Results

Twenty-five students representing the three Montgomery County high schools competed in the Wabash Valley South Conference Bowling Sectional.

Team Sectionals were held on Saturday, Jan. 14 at the Lebanon Bowling Center. In the co-ed division, the Southmont team placed 3rd and advances to regional play. Crawfordsville finished 4th and North Montgomery placed 6th. In the girl's division, Crawfordsville finished 2nd.

Individual Sectionals were held on Sunday, January 15 at Plaza Lanes in Crawfordsville. In the girl's division, Crawfordsville's Campbell White



Campbell White

was crowned Sectional Champion and advances to regional play. In the boy's division, Crawfordsville's Aiden Stephenson placed 2nd, Southmont's Jackson Bushong placed 3rd and North Montgomery's Edgar Biddle placed 5th, all advancing to regional play.



Aiden Stephenson

Regional Playoffs are Saturday, Jan. 21 at Vigo Bowl in Terre Haute. Girl's Individual Results - 26 bowlers
1 - Campbell White (Crawfordsville)
8 - Lacie Bush (Crawfordsville)
13 - Camden Haile (Southmont)



Edgar Biddle

14 - Avery Hannum (Southmont)
15 - Madison Ellingwood (Crawfordsville)
18 - Ashleigh Broadstreet (North Montgomery)
19 - Aurora Murdock (North Montgomery)
23 - Maddie Lewellyn (Crawfordsville)



Jackson Bushong

24 - Khloe Johnson (North Montgomery)
26 - Lizzie Dicken (Crawfordsville)
Boys Individual Results - 41 bowlers
2 - Aiden Stephenson (Crawfordsville)
3 - Jackson Bushong (Southmont)
5 - Edgar Biddle (North

Montgomery)
9 - Derek Gobel (Crawfordsville)
10 - Will Gobel (Crawfordsville)
13 - Briley Bennett (Southmont)
18 - Ty Bupp (Southmont)
23 - Hunter McArthur (Southmont)
25 - Michael Deming (North Montgomery)
27 - Ty Zeller (North Montgomery)
28 - Hunter Alesi (Southmont)
31 - Shelby Alspaugh (North Montgomery)
33 - Ian Stewart (Crawfordsville)
38 - Terrence Lindsey (Southmont)
39 - Chayce Miller (Crawfordsville)

OrthoIndy Hospital #1 In Indiana For Joint Replacement

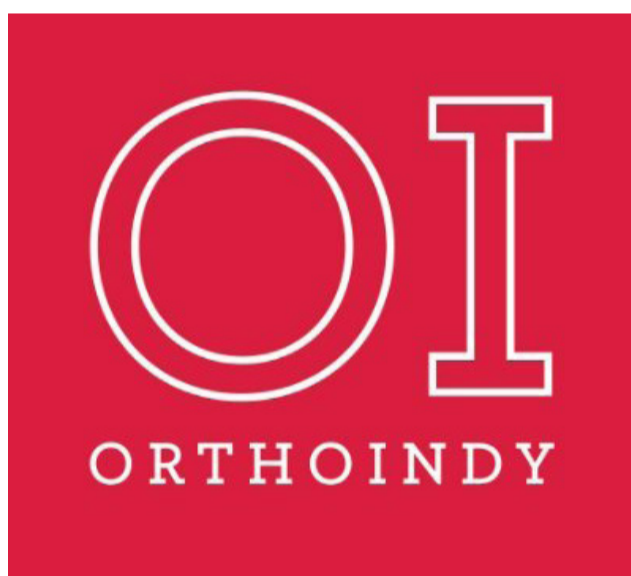
OrthoIndy Hospital ranks #1 in Indiana for Joint Replacement according to a new analysis released by Healthgrades, the leading marketplace connecting doctors and patients. Additionally, OrthoIndy Hospital is one of Healthgrades America's 100 Best Hospital for Joint Replacement for a second consecutive year (2022-2023). For the State Ranking analysis, Healthgrades evaluated clinical performance for nearly 4,500 hospitals nationwide focusing on 18 key specialties across a mix of chronic, urgent, and surgical specialty areas. OrthoIndy Hospital is the only Hospital in Indianapolis, IN to achieve one of America's 100 Best Hospitals in Joint Replacement in 2023.

As OrthoIndy celebrates its 60th anniversary, John Ryan, CEO of

OrthoIndy, reflected on this latest achievement. "Indiana has so many options for healthcare. For OrthoIndy to be recognized as #1 in the state is a testament to our commitment to patient safety and outcomes. I'm most excited for our staff. They go above and beyond in their consistent, high-quality care year after year. When we get awards like this, it's gratifying to know that it's not just our patients saying we're the best, but our industry as well."

OrthoIndy provides minimally invasive and robot-assisted options for total joint replacements for knees, hips, and shoulders at its three hospitals around central Indiana

Hospitals recognized as top ranked in their state by Healthgrades are providing patients



with consistently better-than-expected clinical outcomes.* For example, patients treated at hospitals receiving a state ranking for Joint Replacement have, on average, a 62.5% lower risk of experiencing a complication while in the hospital than if they were treated in hospitals that

were not ranked for Joint Replacement.*

"Being ranked #1 in Indiana for Joint Replacement is a testament to OrthoIndy Hospital's continued commitment to top-quality care. Hospitals receiving a #1 ranking in their state have a proven track record of delivering superior

outcomes for the patients in their community," said Brad Bowman, MD, Chief Medical Officer and Head of Data Science, Healthgrades. "For almost 25 years, our mission has been to provide consumers with clear and accessible information to make more informed healthcare decisions. Patients can feel confident knowing that they have access to #1 ranked care for Joint Replacement at OrthoIndy Hospital."

OrthoIndy was also recognized with the following achievements:

- America's 100 Best Hospital for Joint Replacement for 2 Years in a Row (2022-2023)
- Joint Replacement Excellence Award for 4 Years in a Row (2020-2023)
- Five-Star Recipient for Total Knee Replacement for 16 Years in a

Row (2008-2023)
· Five-Star Recipient for Total Hip Replacement for 10 Years in a Row (2014-2023)
· Five-Star Recipient for Spinal Fusion Surgery for 10 Years in a Row (2014-2023)
"The awards always follow the outcomes," Ryan added. "Our total joint replacement program is successful because we see to it that our patients are successful in their recoveries." Consumers can visit healthgrades.com for more information on how Healthgrades measures hospital quality and access the complete recipient list and methodology here.
*Statistics are based on Healthgrades analysis of MedPAR data for years 2019 through 2021 and represent three-year estimates for Medicare patients only.

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Telehealth For Pets Is Here, Could Change Veterinary Medicine

By Kim Salerno, Founder/CEO TripsWithPets

Telehealth isn't just for people anymore. Virtual health consultations are now available for pets, and it's a promising prospect.

Pets are a treasured part of life, and have grown in both numbers and in status in recent years. Pet ownership has increased by 20 percent since 1988. As of 2022, there are 393.3 million pets in the United States. Nearly seven out of 10 American households have at least one pet, and 95 percent of pet owners think of their pets as part of the family.

Higher pet ownership and an increase in regard for pet comfort and care have naturally increased the demand for veterinary care. This has led to challenges for pet parents when it comes to accessing quality, convenient care and timely health advice. Telehealth offers a promising solution for the gaps in the current veterinary industry.

Dr. "Scott" Swetnam strongly believes in the benefits of telehealth for pets. A veterinarian with decades of experience treating patients and leading veterinary teams, Dr. Scott created Pet Vet Hotline, a membership based service that provides pet parents affordable, unlimited, convenient and immediate access to experienced licensed veterinarians 24/7 via video or chat.

"We love animals and the human animal bond," he noted. "We wanted to create a solution that allows veterinarians to support that bond in the best way possible, while achieving the best possible outcomes for pets."

Telehealth can help meet these goals in several different ways.

Provides access to care, anytime

Through virtual care, vets can provide pet parents with general health consultations, behavioral advice, nutritional information, education on administering basic care, and advice about when and when medical atten-

tion is required – all at their own convenience, in the comfort of their own home. The service helps to bridge the "gaps" of veterinary care – those times when a new symptom has appeared or an incident has occurred, and a caregiver doesn't know what the next steps should be.

A pet parent's ability to access this kind of professional advice whenever necessary, at a time that's convenient for them, in a place their pet feels comfortable and safe, is an obvious benefit of virtual veterinary care. Additionally, the ability to seek the advice of veterinarians beyond a pet parent's local pool of resources allows for easier access to more expertise, with no extra time or effort.

Saves both time and money

When health issues come up, even minor ones, pet parents commonly bring their pets in for a vet visit just to be on the safe side. Having a licensed, professional veterinarian "on call" to listen to concerns, answer basic health questions, suggest some initial at-home treatments, and help determine the seriousness of any given illness or injury could change everything in terms of time and money spent on vet visits.

"It becomes a question of whether to take action or pause and monitor for changes," says Dr. Scott. "Let's say your dog is having digestive issues at 11 p.m. You could take him to the emergency vet and pay a hefty fee just to be seen. Or you could pay \$12.95 per month for Pet Vet Hotline for unlimited access and speak to a licensed veterinarian immediately who can tell you, 'He's okay, just watch for these specific symptoms.' This really has the potential to save pets a lot of undue stress and parents lots of money and time."

Allows for treatment on-the-go

Managing pet illnesses or injuries during travel is distressing. You're far from home, far from a familiar, trusted veterinar-

ian, and not sure whether to head back home or continue your trip. Knowing the support of a licensed vet is right at your fingertips, no matter where you roam can give you the peace of mind you need to enjoy your trip.

Educates and empowers caregivers

When it comes to human colds, stomach bugs, and minor injuries, we all know what to do and which medicines and home remedies will make us feel better. But when it comes to our pets, we're often at a loss. Our dogs and cats can't tell us exactly where they hurt or detail their specific symptoms. We have to rely on what we see, and we're not always sure what we're looking at, or what we should be looking for in terms of changes in behavior or appearance. Human remedies for injuries and illness don't always work well for pets – and can even be dangerous for them.

Through telehealth, veterinarians can educate pet parents about first aid; help them make sense of behavioral changes, which commonly correspond with a pet's overall health; and perhaps most significantly, teach them how to assess their pets so they can make educated decisions about their care and treatment. They can also separate truth from fiction when it comes to outdated or anecdotal remedies pet parents may find along the way as they search for answers to their pet health questions.

Learning how to assess your own pet and provide him with basic treatment and care, while knowing that help is readily available whenever you should need it, whenever you happen to be, can ease your anxiety, improve your confidence, and empower you as a pet parent.

Support vets and their staff

A sharp uptick in demand for veterinary services has, in some cases, put an increased strain on veterinary staff. Veterinarians often find themselves in the posi-

tion of having less time to manage a continuously growing number of patients. Pet parents, for their part, often find themselves dealing with longer wait times, both for care, and for answers to their basic health and wellness questions. Telehealth can help reduce the strain on veterinary offices by fielding general behavioral, health, and nutrition questions, separating urgent health issues from those that are non-urgent, and performing pre-in-clinic visit assessments. This frees up time and resources for veterinary offices, allowing them to run more efficiently, and enabling veterinarians to take more time with patients, and focus on pets with the most serious health issues.

In the end, telehealth can go a long way toward bridging the gap between pet patients, pet parents, and veterinarians.

"As a veterinarian, you're doing the best you can but you can only do so much," says Dr. Scott. "Virtual veterinary services provide easy access to veterinarians, give pet parents the education they need to make the right decisions for their pets, and support veterinarians so they can do the best possible job. I really believe this is a solution for the future."

About TripsWithPets: TripsWithPets is a leader in the pet travel industry – providing online reservations at pet-friendly hotels across the United States and Canada.

With over 45,000 accommodations, TripsWithPets provides pet travelers with a wide variety of pet-friendly options. Pet parents go to TripsWithPets.com for all they need to find and book the perfect place to stay with their pets – including detailed, up-to-date information on hotel pet policies and pet amenities.

As passionate animal advocates, TripsWithPets supports local and national 501(c)(3) animal welfare organizations by raising much needed funds through their annual Partners for Animal Welfare Series (PAWS).

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that bids will be received from invited Bidders For: Asbestos Removal for North Montgomery High School
480 W. 580 North
Crawfordsville, IN 47933
At: Patterson Horth, Inc.
5745 Progress Road, Indianapolis, IN 46241
Until: 2:00 PM local time, Tuesday, February 21st, 2023
Bids received after that time will be returned unopened.
Pre-bid meeting will be held at the project site on Tuesday, February 7th @ 3:30 PM. Bidders to meet at main entrance of High School building.
Complete bidding documents may be obtained by bidders from:
Patterson Horth, Inc.
5745 Progress Road
Indianapolis, IN 46241
Contacts: Jacob Jeffries
Phone: 317-243-6104
Email: jvjefries@pattersonhorth.com
Each bid proposal shall include all labor, material, equipment, tools, insurance and services necessary to complete the project in strict accordance with the drawings and specifications as prepared by:
Asbestos Consultant: Alliance Environmental Group, Inc.
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Indianapolis, IN 46237
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Plaintiff Attorney:
Matthew C. Gladwell (30493-49)
Joel F. Bornkamp (27410-49)
Christopher J. Arlinghaus (31680-15)
Reisenfeld & Associates LLC
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Cincinnati, OH 45227
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Proposal Seeks to Change Constitution — and Who Has Right to Bail in Indiana

By Leslie Bonilla Muñiz

A Bedford Republican wants to change who has the right to bail in Indiana — and it will mean editing the state’s Constitution to make it happen.

Prosecutors say Sen. Eric Koch’s Senate Joint Resolution 1 would keep dangerous people off the streets before trial, while defenders and civil rights advocates say its subjectivity could endanger the rights of those presumed innocent until convicted.

In Indiana now, only people accused of murder or treason can’t get bail.

All others can pay to get out of pre-trial detention, though judges typically set higher bails for people with more severe charges, who might not show up for trial or who are otherwise considered safety risks.

“But if they set that bail too high, the Indiana Supreme Court has ruled that could be considered an unconstitutional, de facto denial of bail,” Koch told reporters at a Jan. 9 presentation of Senate Republican priority bills.

So he worked “with Indiana prosecutors” to draw up SJR 1. Koch’s proposal would let judges deny bail to anyone that they believe — based on “strong” evidence — “poses a substantial risk to the public.”

“We think this is a tool the Indiana criminal justice system needs to have too, in our toolbox,” Koch said.

Action, reaction?

Two men made headlines across the state last year when Indianapolis law enforcement officials arrested each one on charges of murder — allegedly committed while each was out on bail paid by a charitable organization. Their cases — and similar ones — went viral.

State lawmakers clamped down on The Bail Project within months, with House Enrolled Act 1300.

But Koch proposal supporters and detractors alike say the motivation goes back further, to a four-year Indiana Supreme Court review of the bail system and the rule change in which it culminated.

The court in 2020 told lower courts they should release arrestees without bail as long as those people are not “a substantial risk of flight or danger to self or others,” hadn’t already been out on bail, or hadn’t already been on probation or parole.

Criminal Rule 26 reversed previous logic that arrestees should stay in pre-trial detention until they could cough up the cash to get out.

For SJR 1 proponents like Daviess County Prosecutor Dan Murrie, that’s part of the “disconnect” between bail on the national level versus in Indiana.

There’s no absolute right to bail on the federal level — just an Eighth Amendment protection against “excessive” bail. Indiana, in contrast, has just two non-bailable charges.

“My view, at least, is that [SJR 1] is the other half of what Criminal Rule 26 does,” Murrie said. He co-chairs the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council’s legislative committee; the judicial branch agency has thrown its weight behind Koch’s proposal.

“If you’re going to offer no bail for low-level offenders or people who don’t pose a problem, you need to likewise identify

Proposed Changes

Koch’s proposal would add the bolded words to existing language in Indiana’s Constitution:

“Offenses, other than murder or treason, shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, **unless the accused poses a substantial risk to the public.** Murder or treason, **or if the accused poses a substantial risk to the public,** shall not be bailable, when the proof is evident, or the presumption strong.”

Read SJR 1 online at d37sr56shkhro8.cloudfront.net/pdf-documents/123/2023/senate/resolutions/SJ0001/SJ0001.01.INTR.pdf

those who should be preventatively detained,” Murrie added. “It’s just kind of the logical upper half of that concept. And we’ve been prevented from pursuing that because of the Constitution.”

Even opponents agree that the rule was a key launching pad to SJR 1.

“I feel like the [Indiana] Supreme Court started us on a path with Criminal Rule 26,” said Indiana Public Defender Council Executive Director Bernice Corley.

But she argued that the rule has already been used to approve overly high bails, citing 2022’s *DeWees v. State*. In that case, the Indiana Supreme Court upheld a \$50,000 bond for an 18-year-old accused of being the driver in an armed burglary because she was deemed a flight risk and a risk to the alleged victim’s safety. Sierra DeWees had no prior record and no way to pay.

Murrie said he’d personally experienced people in Daviess County allegedly commit crimes while out on bail for earlier alleged crimes — and had noted similar cases in counties across the state. He declined to name specific cases.

But TyJuan Garrett, a vice president and legal counsel for Indianapolis’ chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, criticized rhetoric about repeat offenders committing new crimes while out on bail as “scare tactics.”

“This legislation is an overreaction to a straw man, to a boogeyman, that’s really not there,” he said.

With SJR 1, Indiana would join 22 other states that have also adopted language narrowing the right to bail, according to prosecutors council research.

Discretion vs. discrimination

For SJR 1 supporters, Koch’s proposal would weigh public safety more heavily in bail decisions, but others say it is subjective criteria rife with potential for misuse.

“Indiana’s focus is more on the attendance of the defendant at future hearings,” Murrie argued. “As prosecutors, we would like to see that expanded, giving judges more tools than they have now to also protect the people in the community.”

“The foundational piece of freedom and economic prosperity is public safety,” he added. “And that’s what we’re after.”

But defenders and civil rights advocates worried that with SJR 1, judges could deny bail to people accused of low-level crimes.

“From my point of view, we already do a great job, in a negative way, of keeping people detained pre-trial,” Corley said. “I think this language just gives comfort to what was already being done. And ... it broadens the catchment of people who could be caught up.”

The vast majority of people nationwide imprisoned in county

jails under local authority hadn’t yet gone to trial in 2021 — more than 80%, according to a 2022 report by the anti-mass incarceration nonprofit Prison Policy Initiative. Until convicted, they’re presumed innocent.

Corley pointed to the bail schedules that many counties have, which go up with charge severity and violence.

“That proportionality is out the window,” Corley said. “It really has the potential for sweeping abuse.”

Corley said people experiencing mental health crises could languish in county jails instead of being diverted toward care. Opponents also feared other types of discrimination.

“Policy wise, I agree with [SJR 1]. The question is: who’s going to make that decision?” Senate Minority Leader Greg Taylor asked reporters last week.

“As we’ve seen over the history of any type of public policy that has these types of subjective criteria, people who look like me seem to be on the bottom end of the of the scale,” Taylor, who is Black, said.

Garrett, of the NAACP, said he didn’t think judges would go as far as to discriminate based on race. But, he said, “Most judges are elected. Prosecutors are elected.”

He argued that neither would want voters to consider them “soft on crime,” and would instead be motivated to minimize the potential for people to commit additional crimes while out on bail.

Koch, asked how he might ensure SJR 1 is applied consistently, said Hoosiers should trust their judges.

“We’re relying on and trusting the good discretion of our trial court judges, who will make those decisions on a case by case basis,” he told the Capital Chronicle.

Murrie, meanwhile, said SJR 1’s intent was not to “deteriorate” the rights of arrestees but to “increase the safety of everyone else.”

Looking toward 2026

There’s a long road ahead for SJR 1. Because it seeks to change Indiana’s Constitution, two successive general assemblies must approve it: this session, and after a new legislature takes office in 2025.

Then, it would go to ballots in 2026. A majority of Hoosiers would need to support SJR 1 for it to take effect.

Its first hearing is scheduled for Tuesday. Capital Chronicle reporters Whitney Downard and Casey Smith contributed reporting.

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Tough Road Ahead for Bill to Increase Semi Truck Speed Limits

By Casey Smith

A pair of bills filed in the Indiana Legislature seek to raise the speed limit for large trucks on certain state highways and interstates, but continued pushback from a Hoosier truck drivers group is likely to keep the measures from becoming law.

Five prior proposals to eliminate the lower speed limit for trucks have been filed in the House since 2017 without success. All have been authored by Rep. Mike Aylesworth, R-Hebron, but none have ever received a hearing in committee.

He’s filed the same language in a bill again this year, hoping that it can at least be discussed in the House roads and transportation committee where it’s been assigned.

“Those of us that live a considerable distance from the state capitol travel interstates, and it’s always bothered me that Indiana has a bifurcated speed limit,” Aylesworth told the Indiana Capital Chronicle. “The trucks can be very annoying, going slower than regular traffic. I think for safety sake, they all ought to be uniform.”

Republican Sen. Jim Tomes, of Wadesville, has additionally authored a separate bill that similarly seeks to increase speed limits for large vehicles, like semi trucks.

Like Aylesworth’s bill, Tomes’ measure would raise the speed limit for trucks to 70 mph on highways and interstates outside urban areas. Currently, those vehicles must not go above 65 mph.

Tomes declined the Indiana Capital Chronicle’s request for comment about the bill, however. Increased speed limit would make roads ‘safer’ Under current Indiana law, passenger vehicles are allowed to travel at 70 mph while commercial vehicles (other than buses) weighing more than 26,000 pounds are subject to the reduced speed limit.

There are about 124,000 vehicles that meet this weight criteria registered in Indiana, according to a legislative fiscal report. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) reported in 2018 that more than 414 million tons of truck freight travels through Indiana each year, making it the fifth busiest state for commercial

freight traffic.

Aylesworth said Indiana’s lower speed limit for trucks creates more traffic — and makes roads less safe.

“I was coming back from a trip to South Carolina, and as we came back through the Carolinas and Tennessee and Kentucky — where the speed limits are all the same — we didn’t have many blockages of semis,” he said. “We came to Southern Indiana, and all of a sudden, you’ve got semi issues, for stretches, and it’s very aggravating.”

Indiana is one of eight states that requires a lower speed limit for semi trucks on rural interstates and highways, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

Those in support of the increased speed limit for large trucks maintain that the current split speed creates congestion for surrounding traffic. They further argue that averting trucks can be hazardous — especially on rural roads that are often reduced to two lanes.

Groups like the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA), a national trade union representing professional truck drivers, have opposed differential speed limits for heavy duty trucks “because it decreases safety by increasing the interaction between large trucks and passenger vehicles.”

Motor Truck Association remains opposed

But Aylesworth said years of pushback from the Indiana Motor Truck Association (IMTA), which represents the trucking industry in Indiana, has largely kept the bill from even being placed on the committee schedule.

IMTA President and CEO Gary Langston maintains that the group “will continue to support” the current lower speed limit for trucks in Indiana, rather than measures to raise those speeds.

“There are different opinions within the industry, yet the majority of our members continue to support the 65 MPH speed limit,” Langston told the Indiana Capital Chronicle in a written statement. “As trucks with technological advanced safety features become more prevalent, an increased speed limit may

be more acceptable.”

Still, Aylesworth says his conversations with insurance experts, INDOT and the Indiana State Police indicate that “everybody’s cool with it.”

“There isn’t going to be a significant change in accidents or increased danger to the public,” Aylesworth said. “It’s just very frustrating. With the (IMTA) ... we have a disagreement on this one.”

In 2020, there were 153 people killed in crashes involving large trucks in Indiana, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. At least 26 fatal semi-involved crashes in the state involved speeding.

An Indiana Public Policy Institute report also notes that occupants in large trucks were almost five times as likely to be injured in crashes when speeding, compared to the same vehicle type not speeding.

A chance to be heard in the Senate committee?

Aylesworth said he wasn’t sure if his bill would get traction in the House committee in the 2023 session. Anytime he’s told a committee chairperson about the IMTA pushback, he’s been told that he’s “going to have trouble” moving the bill forward.

But given that Tomes is a ranking member of the Senate committee to which his bill has been assigned, it’s possible that his proposal could be up for debate.

If Tomes’ bill makes it out of the Senate, Aylesworth said he’s still skeptical as to whether it can advance in the House, however.

“I would welcome that bill to come over, but I can tell you where it’s going to go,” Aylesworth said. “Knowing the way the legislature works, if that bill got assigned to my committee, as an agricultural bill, then we’ll get to hear it. But it isn’t going to happen that way.”

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LWV From Page A1

back in 2017. According to the Center for Health and Justice, a Cincinnati-adjacent community, Colerain, Ohio innovated its QRT under the leadership of an experienced police chief, Dan Meloy. Meloy had been discussing critical questions about collaborative responses to active shooter incidents at a national law enforcement conference in 2013. Law enforcement leadership proposed bringing together more departments. After Colerain struggled with a spike in overdoses, Meloy proposed bringing together fire and police, then extended to all the community stakeholders: faith-based organizations, behavioral health, politicians, shelters, parks department and any other community leaders.

As an innovator, Meloy's police and fire departments had to educate the community to be proactive rather than reactive to its substance use epidemic.

"We have a responsibility to serve and that is our job," he said of educating about what to do if a needle is found in a park and not seeing people as a threat. "It was a big community education piece in understanding that there is a proactive side to this and our responsibility is to problem-solve. Problem-solving brings a lot of people together. We're there to solve problems and work with our community to make it safer and better for everybody."

Most QRT programs have a mission to divert and deflect people who've overdosed, trying to avoid arrests by engaging people who've overdosed with treatment and support options. QRTs are multi-disciplinary. Staffed with social workers, peer recovery coaches, paramedics and nurses, they serve as the first and follow-up responders who offer medication-assisted treatment from Narcan administration to regular suboxone treatments for people with substance use disorders. Here in the county, social workers, nurses and volunteer peer recovery coaches help with building trust and

finding the right resources.

Samantha Swearingen, project manager for Montgomery County's QRT, overviewed what makes our local program unique at the Lunch with the League on Jan. 6. The catalyst that distinguishes our QRT team from others came from high readmission rates at Franciscan Hospital. People released within the past 30 days were returning, so they looked at who was coming back to the ER and why. They looked at common conditions – congestive heart failure, at-risk pregnancies, infant health, diabetes – and realized that social determinant factors were causing residents to return to the hospital when other services might prevent or better treat their conditions.

The hospital partnered with county paramedicine services and created several programs for Franciscan patients, including Project Swaddle – which aims to improve maternal and infant health. The March of Dimes reported that Montgomery County had a 2022 maternal vulnerability score of 60 out of 100, about a D, based on lack of reproductive healthcare, poor physical health, behavioral health problems and substance abuse, lack of general healthcare, poor socioeconomic determinants and risky physical environments. Project Swaddle allows paramedics to provide some medical support, including administering a Makena shot to help women with prior preterm labor, an important intervention for a county with no labor and delivery services.

The QRT began with just paramedics but looking at the spike of 911 calls related to mental health, especially during the pandemic and substance use, they expanded services. Now their team has a paid staff of two social workers, two nurses, a project manager and four paramedics who respond to calls. They help find beds at out-of-county emergency shelters or find local solutions. If someone has a behavioral health problem, they can refer to

treatment. They support mothers-to-be who are not Franciscan patients with a program similar to Project Swaddle, called Project Bundle, and they plan to expand with an "Age in Place" program to support seniors.

Not only do they respond to emergency calls, or calls/texts to their hotline, but they also follow up 24 to 72 hours after an overdose with the goal of non-judgment and no stigma about getting treatment. They find programs, shelter options, health insurance and transportation resources for people who end up in jail. Each month they regularly support 28-40 different clients and have seen a drop in jail recidivism by 38 percent. That's a significant drop that helps law enforcement and the jail manage their workload, as well as provides substantive programs that save lives.

The value of the QRT's efforts is profound. In 1999, fewer than 20,000 people died of overdoses according to the National Institutes of Health, but in 2020, more than 91,000 died, a leap of 20,000 from the year before. Behavioral and mental health stressors, along with a multitude of addictive technologies and substances, not to mention the significant lack of healthcare coupled with increases in fentanyl and meth, have complicated life and community-saving measures in rural areas like ours. Notice that last sentence. That's a lot of factors. We can support our QRT by using them and destigmatizing services. Their number is (765) 401-6200 for Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and calls to 911 outside of business hours will be referred to them.

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.lwvmtcoin.org; or, visit the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, Indiana Facebook page.

TIM From Page A1

But a lot of you went further. Much further. The anger, the frustration, the absolute disappointment in where our government, and thus our country, stands today is almost overwhelming.

The bloated, inefficient hot mess that our government has turned into is a sore topic. Many of us, I dare say nearly all who are reading this, had the privilege of growing up in a country that was proud, spirited and patriotic. Yes, our government had its problems, but nothing like today. The only thing woke meant was what time your alarm got you going. If a politician blatantly lied about darn near everything and got caught, i.e., Rep. Santos, he wouldn't be in office. Think not? Ask Richard Nixon.

But before we go any further, no, this is not a call for overthrow . . . not a desk-pounding cry to take up arms . . . not an accusation of shadows and conspiracies.

What's wrong with our government isn't that complicated. For today, let's boil it down to five things.

1. Career politicians: We need term limits.
2. Lobbyists and campaign contributions: Money talks. Too loudly in this case.
3. Complexities: Richard Branson, the billionaire owner of Virgin Airlines has a great quote: "Any fool can make something complicated. It is hard to keep things simple." Way too

much of our government is complicated. Tax code that weighs almost as much as me? C'mon!

4. Pork: I suppose you could throw this one under No. 3. But bills that get passed have riders attached to them that have nothing to do with the bill. Make proposed legislation plain to read and restricted to that specific law.

5. Benefits and perks: Get rid of insurance, pensions and other perks for the hired hands. Not only do they now have sweetheart deals that most of us could only dream of, but it encourages them to stay in office.

To be fair, we could add a bunch more to the list, but this feels like a starting point, don't you think? The bottom line is we have allowed our government to grow far beyond what was intended.

We could talk more about what the Founding Fathers created. But as soon as you mention them, it sends some folks into a tizzy. Kind of like when you mention the definition of a man or woman.

Look, those who hold elected office work for us, at least in theory. So, let's all put our boss hat on for a second and think of this like a performance review.

First, the wonderful folks in HR would tell us we have a problem. How can we review someone's performance if we don't have standards and expectations in place – specific ones? Without

that, how do we measure job performance? It's a fair point. Can you imagine having a job in which your performance was never measured? Yet that's exactly the situation we have today with the hired hands.

If we can't agree on how to rate their performance how about if we focus on laws? It kind of feels like they think creating new laws is part of the job, right? But seriously, don't we have enough laws? Maybe instead we can task them to examine laws that are out of date and get them off the books?

While they're examining those, let's add that we want them to take a look at taxes. All of them. I'd be willing to bet there are several (that might be the understatement of the year!) that are no longer used for what they were intended. The term is sunset clause – and it's not used often enough.

When they get those two things done, we can get them working on the five things from above. Too much? Nah, we're good and patient bosses. Let's give them plenty of time to get all this accomplished. How much? Oh, I don't know, how about four years?

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 ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com.




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KAREN ZACH



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