

# The Paper

## OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

50¢

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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### ➔ TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 23:1-6 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

### ➔ FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Jessica and Jimmy Abbott smile for our roving photographer in beautiful downtown Crawfordsville. Thank you for your smiles!

### ➔ THREE THINGS You Should Know:

**1** Joel Strasser of Kuna, ID took Christmas decorations to a new level, earning himself a page in the Guinness Book of World Records, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. He did it by decorating his beard with 710 Christmas baubles, knickknacks and ornaments. It is the fourth time in four successive years that he's been honored by the Guinness judges. In 2019 he set the record with 302 baubles, in 2020 he did it again with 542 ornaments and last year he managed to adorn his whiskers using 686 festive knickknacks. His secret: "My technique has evolved and gotten a lot more specialized over the years that I've been breaking the record. I stuck them in a lot more haphazardly at first and that's why those first beard bauble record numbers were so low ... I found that if I take my time and really focus on the individual strands of beard hair and small groups of hair, I can manage to fit so many more in there."

**2** 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](mailto: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

**3** Former State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Jennifer McCormick is speaking at Wabash College tonight at 7 p.m. at Baxter Hall, Room 101. McCormick is also said to be exploring a run for Indiana governor. The former Republican'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. She will be speaking about our state's educational system and how its allocated dollars are spent. Attendees will be able to ask questions.



Photo courtesy of Crawfordsville Kiwanis

Judge Petrie (center) and Rachel Oldham at the latest Kiwanis meeting.

## Kiwanis Hears About the Family Recovery Court

Judge Daniel Petrie who presides over Montgomery County Superior Court II talked to the Crawfordsville Kiwanis membership this week about the new Family Recovery Court which was launched by Judge Petrie in the fall of 2022.

The Family Recovery Court helps those parents, who have agreed to participate, to overcome issues such as substance

abuse to work towards reuniting them with their children who, in many cases, have been taken away from the family through the child welfare system.

Rachel Oldham, a probation officer for Montgomery County, coordinates the program for the court.

Since the system is so new there have been some minor successes but both Judge Petrie

and Ms. Oldham are looking forward to more participation and growth in this project to see the success that other counties around the US have seen.

Speakers such as Judge Petrie speak each week at the Crawfordsville Kiwanis Club meetings. Come on out and visit any Thursday at 11:45 on the lower level of the Crawfordsville District Public Library.

## School Days in the Early 1900s...What A Difference!



**BUTCH DALE**  
Columnist

In 1988 I interviewed Thelma Cook Warren, who graduated from Darlington High School in 1918. Thelma was married to Alva Warren, who served in WWI and WWII and owned the hardware store here in town for many years. They were the parents of Jack Warren, Damon "Mutt" Warren, Betty Warren Vaught, and Jean Warren Gunn. I asked Thelma what school was like back in those days...

"My first grade teacher was Verna Williams, who was excellent and cared for

her students. She taught me the Lord's Prayer and Twenty-Third Psalm, which all of us had to say every morning before class started. We sat in double seats in the classroom, and I remember the restrooms were located outdoors. During grades 3 through 8, I attended one-room schools in Sugar Creek Township. I remember walking to school in the snow and rain, and then finally being able to ride in a horse-drawn hack. I often started to school in the dark and arrived home after dark.

I started attending Darlington High School again when I was a freshman. I would often drive a horse and buggy to school, with my sister and another girl accompanying me. There were seven subjects that were offered, and I signed up for all of them. I had to carry an armload of books home almost every evening. At this time, the students went for eight months, and the grade schoolers for seven months. I took Latin for three years, which helped me

➔ See BUTCH Page A5



Ella Rauch, reader of 4,000 books!

## 4K Books Read

Ella Rauch, age 4, has completed the Crawfordsville District Public Library program "1000 Books Before Kindergarten" for the 4th time. Ella, along with her parents, Torey and Bethany Rauch, have read 4,000 books. Ella's favorite thing to read is the High Five magazine by Highlights. Mom said, "We are always very excited to go to the library and check out new books. The fun prizes definitely help motivate us to read at home and encourage Ella to grow as a reader."

## The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset  
RISE: 8:02 a.m.  
SET: 5:56 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures  
High: 39 °F  
Low: 30 °F



Today is.....

- Belly Laugh Day
- Peanut Butter Day



What Happened On This Day

- 1933 20th Amendment to the US Constitution is ratified, changing beginning and end of terms for all elected federal offices
- 1935 Gottfried Krueger Brewing Company sells the first canned beer



Births On This Day

- 1941 Neil Diamond American singer-songwriter and guitarist
- 1943 Sharon Tate American actress

Deaths On This Day

- 1965 Winston Churchill English politician, Prime Minister of the UK and Nobel Prize laureate
- 1989 Ted Bundy American serial killer



**JOHN MARLOWE**  
Columnist

John Marlowe is out and dealing with some medical issues. We wish him the best and pray for his recovery.

### ➔ HONEST HOOSIER

Three weeks to Valentine's Day. Better not forget, fellas!



### ➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Not wearing a seatbelt because you think they're dangerous? Ask emergency personnel why nearly 100% of them wear theirs. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Paper and online at [www.thepaper24-7.com](http://www.thepaper24-7.com).



### ➔ OBITUARIES

Kathryn Jane Faubion  
Rita A Covault

### ➔ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

Obituaries.....A2  
Slim Randles.....A3  
Notes.....A3  
Honor Roll.....A3  
Brian Howey.....A4

### ➔ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Celebrating Students

Benedictine College has recognized those students who have distinguished themselves academically during the last semester. Elias Washer of Crawfordsville, IN, was recently named to the Dean's List for the fall semester, which ended December 12, 2022.

### ➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"Poor is the pupil who does not surpass his master."  
- Leonardo da Vinci

### ➔ TODAY'S JOKE

We all know Frosty the Snowman. But do you know who his parents were?  
Mom and Pos Sicle.



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

**The Paper**  
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY



## OBITUARIES

### Kathryn Jane Faubion

July 31, 1956 - Jan. 19, 2023

Kathryn Jane Faubion passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on Jan. 19, 2023.

She was born on July 31, 1956 to Royal and Shirley (Dehne) Faubion in Crawfordsville.

Kathy, known to those close to her as "Wilamina", to her son "Mother of mine," was a woman of substance. Strong and determined to do her best whether it was caring for others, working in her garden, quilting, or her artwork. She was eclectic, witty and her laugh could be heard throughout the room making others laugh with her. Spring was her favorite time of year when the redbuds would bloom and time for the annual sister/friend greenhouse run to see the new plants and garden art available. She was a twin and will be sorely missed by all.

Studied at the Art Institute of Chicago. She once wrote that her art would say the words she wanted to convey. As an artist, I can portray all the senses and emotion on a white sheet of paper that will last a lifetime.

In 2007 she won 3rd place at the Embroidery Classic. For the last 10 years, she worked at Penguin/Random House where she had many friends and loved working there. A celebration of her life will be done in the spring. Look for an announcement on Laura or Sarah's Facebook page.

Survivors include her son, Graham Faubion (Kellsey); granddaughter, Lydia Faubion; father, Royal Faubion; twin sister, Laura Faubion (Skip Brenton); siblings, Mark Faubion and Sarah Hayes (Jim); step-father, Hector Monroy; uncles, Steve and Dick Dehne; and several nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Shirley.

Cremation was chosen with Sanders Shoemaker Funeral Care assisting with arrangements. Share memories and condolences at [www.SandersFuneralCare.com](http://www.SandersFuneralCare.com).



### Rita A Covault

Oct. 14, 1960 - Jan. 19, 2023

Rita A Covault, age 62 of Kingman, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023 at Carle Hospital in Urbana, Ill.

She was born in Danville, Ill. on Oct. 14, 1960 to the late Jim R. & Patricia Ann (Remster) Covault.

She loved to draw, enjoyed listening to country music and visiting with everyone at The Waters of Covington.

Survivors include her brother, James Covault; niece, Julie Covault; cousins, John (Fran) Covault, Michelle (Ed) Lancaster and Sherry (Wayne) Hegemeier; and aunts, Joy Slade, Iris (Lewis) Brock and Mary Harrison.

She was preceded in death by her parents and grandparents, Oakley "Bill" and Geneva Covault and Edward and Faye Remster.

Visitation will be at Sanders Funeral Care, 203 S 1st Street, in Kingman on Thursday, Jan. 26, 2022 from 5 p.m. till the time of the funeral service at 6 p.m., with Pastor Greg McDonald officiating. The service will be recorded which can be viewed on her obituary page at [www.SandersFuneralCare.com](http://www.SandersFuneralCare.com) Cremation will follow the service with burial of cremains at Osborn Prairie Cemetery at a later date. Share memories and condolences online at [www.SandersFuneralCare.com](http://www.SandersFuneralCare.com).



Photo courtesy of Witham Health Services

(From left to right) Jeff Byrum, Dr. Thomas Cartwright and Dr. Christopher Huffer stand together at last Thursday's Chamber banquet, where Dr. Cartwright was recognized as "Outstanding Healthcare Professional of the Year"

## Witham Health Services Recognizes Dr. Thomas Cartwright With 2023 "Outstanding Healthcare Professional of the Year" Award

Dr. Christopher Huffer, Pulmonologist at Witham Health Services and Jeff Byrum, former Executive Director at Witham health Services had the honor to present Dr. Thomas Cartwright The "Outstanding Professional of the Year" award at Thursday's Chamber banquet.

The Healthcare professional of the year award began in 2003 to recognize an individual who exemplifies knowledge and skills relating to patient care. The recipient must demonstrate professionalism, eagerness to serve and leadership, which goes above and beyond the norm within his or her organization. The individual must contribute to healthcare within the community by promoting healthy living, public health education or volunteer activities.

Dr. Cartwright came to Boone County over 16 years ago as a Witham

physician. At the time Witham did not have a pulmonary or sleep medicine program. He took a chance by starting these essential services while giving our community access to new avenues of care. He set standards for physicians at Witham. He was a foundational leader for our culture of caring and grace by example as other physicians saw him practice. He has the dynamic combination of being a truly gifted clinical doctor and also having the personality and communication skills to get patients to believe in what we were trying to do. He devoted his career at Witham to world class care, kindness and grace to his patients and developing Witham into what is has become today.

He served in many medical staff leadership roles over the years but his most impactful role was of Chief Medical Officer.

This is the administrative leader for the physicians and an essential voice for physicians within our executive team. In this executive leadership role he helped recruit and hire more than 1/3 of Witham's current medical staff and mentored many of the younger Witham physicians. He helped develop new service lines such as Cardiology, Addiction Medicine, a 24/7 Hospitalist Program, Neurology, Endocrinology and more.

As Dr. Huffer said "Not everyone can tell the difference between the average doctor and a supremely gifted one...but I can. Tom, you are the greatest. Witham would not be Witham without the dedication of Dr. Thomas Cartwright."

Witham congratulates Dr. Thomas Cartwright on this most deserving "Outstanding Healthcare Professional of the Year" award!

**About Witham:** Witham Health Services is proud to be part of the growth and vitality throughout Boone County and the surrounding communities.

Our mission is to improve your health through excellence and personalized care. Every day, our experienced and compassionate staff, combined with our state-of-the-art technology, bring exceptional health resources to patients and their families - all close to home.

Witham has offices in Crawfordsville, Frankfort, Jamestown, Lebanon, Thorntown, Whitestown at Anson and Zionsville. At Witham Health Services, we feel called to care for our neighbors; supporting them to live healthy, active lives and helping them heal in times of injury and illness. To learn more about our mission, our values and vision, visit [www.witham.org](http://www.witham.org).

## Senator Braun Celebrates Historic Pro-Life Victories at March for Life in Indianapolis

Senator Mike Braun spoke at the March for Life rally in Indianapolis today, thanking the crowd for their commitment to defending the unborn and celebrating historic victories for the

Pro-Life movement in 2022.

In his remarks, Senator Braun recapped the actions he's taken in office to protect the unborn - including confirming Hoosier Amy Coney

Barrett as a Justice of the Supreme Court, celebrated the victories the Pro-Life movement has had in the last year, and noted that the crowd had more young people than he'd ever seen before.

"I'll always stand for the unborn," said Senator Mike Braun. "I'm so proud to join the March for Life today in Indianapolis and to see so many young people fired up to defend the unborn."

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[IndianapolisHomeShow.com](http://IndianapolisHomeShow.com) MARKETPLACE EVENTS

# Southmont Junior HS Honor Roll 2022-2023

Marking Period 3  
Grade 6 High Honor Roll: Elijah Badillo, Emma Bengé, Hayleigh Boots, Chance Brock, Reese Bullock, Cassidy Dittmer, Derek Hale, Briellah Halstead, Eli Hannum, Alexis Harden, Kirra Hopkins, Tyson Kelsey, Parker McCaffry, Paxton Moore, Emma Plemons, Lanie Ramsey, Kemberlee Redman, Emily Simpson, Emory Siple, Skyler Strickland, James Stumph, Jaron Swick, Brody Tolliver.

Grade 6 Regular Honor Roll: Cheyenne Bachmann, Andrew Badertscher, Gabriel Becerril, Kohen Bonebrake, Job Bradley, Jamie Buckler, Jayden Buntin, Callen Bupp, Kasen Bushong, Dwayne Catubay, Bentley Chapman, Hunter Chieppo, Gabriele Church, Emma Cox, Hailey Douglas, Ryan Ebert, Ryannah Faulk, Jade Fields, Colton Fox, Troye Fry, Callaway Garlock, Ronan Gentry, Layla Grimes, Owen Grimes, Benjamin Gurule, Caiden Halstead, Jackson Halstead, Lillie Hood, Janice Hudson, Easton Hut-

son, Emery James, Henry Keller, Ella Kelly, Jaclyn Kelly, Colton Kendricks, Eliana Korhorn, Avery Langevin, Kai Lewin, Silas Lewis, Kurt Lockard, Gavin Mason, Remy McClure, Emily Mohan, Mason Musser, Olivia Myers, Brayden Parker, Austin Parrish, Grace Pendleton, Korbin Perry, Easton Phipps, Brynlee Pruett, Grant Reeves, Jack Sarver, Gabriel Schindler, Clay Sering, Macie Shaw, Jordan Snarud, Isabella Snow, Emily Steiner, Emma Stephens, Carson Vaught, Jayce Wagoner, Danika Ward, Ellee Wethington, Amelia Woods.

Grade 7 High Honor Roll: Annie Alesi, Ella Barry, Layla Bauman, Isabella Cade, Daxton Cottrell, Brayden Fullenwider, Madison Hester, Ethan Hutchison, Maycie Jennings, Margaret Klein, Zoey Larue, Sophie Lockard, David Long, Claire McCutchan, Arlon Musick, Creek Plemons, Camryn Priebe, Amy Roeder, Lane Slavens, Kaylee Turner, Elizabeth Veach, Ava Wells.  
Grade 7 Regular Honor

Roll: Jasmine Ashment, Ava Bradshaw, Jackson Brown, Kooper Charles, Brita Cleek, Hayden Cornelius, Bethany Cregger, Braxton Ebert, Ezekiel Endicott, Jenna Evans, Ella France, Regan Freeland, Maggie Gilliland, Gavyng Gleason, Aubrey Hall, Vivyan Haltom, Hayden Harkrider, Lakynn Hart, Rylan Haslam, Makinzie Highland, Judah Hoensshell, Cameron Holt, Emberlynn Hoskins-Sprague, Katarina Jennings, Bryor Johnson, Rebekah Johnson, Makenzie Lacy, McKiah Lairson, Haiden Leslie, Drew Magill, Caden Miller, Graisen Million, Maxwell Myers, Lillie Otenburg, Carter Pattengale, Kaycee Perez, Kynzie Powell, Keelyn Pruitt, Kalora Roschin, Kaelynn Sanburn, Damien Severe, Alex Sexton, Malcom Simpson, Espen Sutton, Hunter Thompson, Liam Trautwein, Allison Turner, Kaylee Wallace, Brooklynn Willhite, Lillian Zimmerman.

Grade 8 High Honor Roll: Andrew Blaydes, Lillian Davis, Emmalie Dexter, Alicia France,

Paxton Gentry, Landon Grimes, Eden Hernandez, Addison Kendricks, Claire Kessler, Emily Link, Dean McCaughy, Samaya Morton, Trent Reeves, Natalie Rhoads, Madelyn Roberts, Michael Schindler, Amarah Shannon, Layla Shaw, William Stumph, Layla Testerman, Marlena Trautwein, Makinzie Wood, Lennon Woods.

Grade 8 Regular Honor Roll: Lino Aguiar, Indeya Albertson, Drayton Barker, Isaac Becerril, Savannah Bradley, Alizabeth Brown, Lily Bushong, Makenzie Clate, Brayden Cochran, Logan Crane, Tyler Cregger, Samantha Crosby, McCallister Dalton, Kayden Davis, Jacea Edwards, Jentry Gobin, Jaiden Golladay, Layla Gomez, Gavin Gray, Macy Halstead, Kimber Hill, Briana Howard, Clayton Kessler, Kaydence Lewin, Emerie Lieske, Hayden Overfelt, Luke Parker, Olivia Phelps, Abel Prado, Daniel Simpson, Jessica Starnes, Payge Wagoner, Alexis Weiler, Molly Williams.

## Manchester University Fall 2022 Undergrad Dean's List

Manchester University congratulates 322 undergraduate students who were named to the Fall 2022 Dean's List.

The following students are on the list:

- Tristen Bronaugh of Crawfordsville (47933), majoring in digital media arts
  - Ty Lynas of Crawfordsville (47933), majoring in Sport Management
  - Thomas Richardson of Ladoga (47954), majoring in Software Engineering
- Undergraduate students earning a semester grade point average of 3.5 or

higher who have completed at least 12 semester hours with no more than three hours of Pass/Not Pass grades are included on the Dean's List. Students with more than one hour of Incomplete (I) or Not Recorded (NR) grades at the end of the semester are not eligible for the Dean's List.

In North Manchester and Fort Wayne, Ind., Manchester provides vibrant and transformative student experiences. Learn more at [www.manchester.edu/about-manchester](http://www.manchester.edu/about-manchester).

### Meeting Notes

#### Southmont Schools Board of Trustees

Special School Board Meeting  
Corporation Board Room  
Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023 - 8:30 a.m.  
AGENDA  
Public Meeting

- Call to Order
  - Pledge of Allegiance
  - Roll Call
- The board will meet in a special meeting to appoint the new board member for the open Clark Township seat on the South Montgomery Community School Corporation Board of Trustees.
- Adjournment

# Steve Wants A Hot Tub



**SLIM RANDES**  
Columnist

There was Steve, our resident cowboy, sitting at the round table in the Mule Barn truck stop, doodling on paper. Other members of the world dilemma think tank gravitated to Steve's table.

Steve appeared to be oblivious of the rest of us. "Downspout," he mumbled.

Doc nodded at Herb. "Downspout, Herb." "I thought so, too,"

Herb said. "Oh hi guys," said Steve. "So Steve ... downspout?"

"Hot tub," Steve said, as if that cleared everything up. "For the cabin. You know. I'm going to put in a hot tub."

"And you need a downspout for this?" Herb said.

"For the rain," Steve said.

We looked at him.

"No water," Steve said.

"You know, at the cabin."

"Let's see if I have this right," Dud said. "You want to put a hot tub in at your cabin and you don't have water."

"Exactly."

"So you need a downspout...?"

"For when it rains," Steve said. "To fill the hot tub."

"Okay. So how will you get it hot?"

"Going to wrap copper tubing around the stovepipe in the cabin, you see, and then send it on out to the hot tub. The tub will be outside on the porch."

"You don't have a porch."

"But I will by the time I get the hot tub built," Steve explained. "I'll bet that copper tubing will heat that water right up and then I can have a good soak up there any time I want."

"Not quite," said Doc.

"Not the way I figure it."

Steve looked at him.

"Why not?"

"If the water comes down the downspout, around the stovepipe and then outside to the hot tub, it looks to me like the only time you

can soak in the tub is in a rainstorm.

Steve thought about that for a minute. Then sipped his cold coffee. Loretta heated it up.

"And Steve," said Doc, "you ever been on that mountain when the lightning's popping? If you're in that hot tub, with your moustache flopping around in the wind while you watch the surrounding countryside explode, well ..."

Steve wiped out what he was drawing with the pencil and started in on a fresh napkin.

He looked up after a few minutes. "Pool table," he said.

It's a good thing dreams are free.

*Mother-in-law planning a visit? Here's some help. Try [bagpipelessonsonline.com](http://bagpipelessonsonline.com).*

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# Rep. Banks Take a Preemptive Swing at Mitch Daniels



**BRIAN HOWEY**  
Howey Political Report

In the coming days or weeks, Mitch Daniels will make a decision about whether to return to politics by running for the Senate seat Mike Braun is vacating to seek the open governor seat.

After serving as White House budget director, then two terms as Indiana governor followed by a decade at the helm of Purdue, where he froze tuition for a decade (saving families \$1 billion), raised billions of dollars and ignited a research corridor on the west side of campus, Daniels appears poised for a Senate run where he could redefine conservatism after the era of Donald Trump.

If Daniels runs in this 2024 cycle race, he will

likely face U.S. Rep. Jim Banks. The Columbia City Republican had predicted a GOP tsunami last Spring, but after that gusher was reduced to a trickle in November, this ambitious lawmaker has been on a demolition derby course.

He had flirted with a run for governor, but deferred to Sen. Braun when the latter declared for that open seat in November. He dabbled in U.S. House leadership in December and early January, losing a whip race to Rep. Tom Emmer, and then received a vote for speaker during his ally Kevin McCarthy's tortured 15-ballot squeaker.

Then late last week with a toxic blast of political rectal gas, Rep. Banks signaled he would enter the brewing 2024 U.S. Senate race. Teaming up with Club for Growth President David McIntosh, the pair did something we've never seen before: Running a preemptive TV ad designed to keep a rival – Mitch Daniels – out of the race.

The same Mitch Daniels who never ran a negative TV ad during his two gu-

bernatorial runs in which he defeated an incumbent Democrat, and then recorded a landslide reelection on the same day Barack Obama carried Indiana's 11 Electoral College votes in 2008.

But in the eyes of Club for Growth, a PAC of billionaires, it said in the TV Ad, "After 50 years in big government, big pharma and big academia, Mitch Daniels forgot how to fight. An old guard Republican clinging to the old ways of the bad old days."

Long-time GOP operative Mark Lubbers responded to the Club for Growth TV ad, telling me, "These are the same people who cost us Republican control of the Senate. Sad to see that Banks has thrown in with them."

The Wall Street Journal's conservative editorial board weigh in: "It's bewildering to see the Club for Growth, whose reason for being is promoting growth economics, smack a politician for working in private industry at Eli Lilly. Even more odd is the higher-ed slam: He stepped down at the end of

2022 as the most successful college president in the country."

According to Lubbers, Daniels and Banks had a phone conversation on a recent Saturday and, reportedly, Daniels did not attempt to dissuade Rep. Banks from making a Senate bid. "Apparently they think it's political genius to poke the bear with a sharp stick," Lubbers said. "We'll see how that works."

Donald J. Trump, Jr., then tweeted on Jan. 13: "The establishment is trying to recruit weak RINO Mitch Daniels to run for US Senate in Indiana. The same Mitch Daniels who agreed with Joe Biden that millions of MAGA Republicans are supposedly a danger to the country & trying to 'subvert democracy.' He would be Mitt Romney 2.0."

This was the first time anyone had described Daniels as a "weak RINO."

Lubbers responded to Trump the younger: "You think the progressive left needs to be fought; we think it needs to be BEATEN. That requires optimis-

tic positive conservatism that builds majorities, wins elections & makes policy. Not just foaming at the mouth, counting tweets, and grifting contributions. Hit the road."

So, what are the chances of a "U.S. Sen. Mitch Daniels?"

The two strongest Hoosier political dynasties in the last 30 years have been run by Democrat Evan Bayh and Daniels. It was Daniels, along with then-Republican Chairman Eric Holcomb, who created the modern GOP dynasty.

Watching his 2004 and 2008 gubernatorial campaigns, what became clear was Daniels's strategic, tactical and messaging strengths. As a retail campaigner, he was without peer. We have seen this persist while at the helm of Purdue University this past decade.

As for the "strongest" president of Daniels's life, the answer would probably be his former boss, President Reagan, who repeatedly promoted his "11th Commandment: Thou shalt not criticize another Republican."

Having said that, Evan Bayh was once considered invincible, but he lost the 2016 U.S. Senate race 52-42% to Sen. Todd Young. You can be the right candidate, but in the wrong race at the wrong time.

That is a key question for Mitch Daniels: Is this the right race at the right time?

Banks, too, will cite his patriotic duty to save America, all while embracing Donald Trump, who since helping kick away another Senate GOP majority last November, has dined with a neo-Nazi, expressed solidarity with the Jan. 6 insurrectionists, and called for the termination of the U.S. Constitution so he could be "restored" to power after losing in 2020 by seven million votes.

If this race is enjoined and fought, it could define the coming political era in Indiana as well as the nation.

*The columnist is managing editor of Howey Politics Indiana/State Affairs at StateAffairs.com/pro/Indiana. Find Howey on Facebook and Twitter @hwypol.*

## Proposed Auditor Name Change Aligns with Duties but Requires Further Consideration

By Whitney Downard

Indiana State Auditor Tera Klutz wants Hoosiers to know: regardless of her title, she isn't really auditing anything.

"I always like to be on the same page with anybody in the room and I feel like I spend a lot of time explaining that I don't audit governments, I don't audit tax returns, I won't audit your township," Klutz said. "I think it's confusing for the public."

During her election campaign last year, Klutz floated the idea of changing the name of her office to comptroller – a change several other state governments have made over the years. The proposal has the support of the General Assembly and is included in Gov. Eric Holcomb's proposed state's two-year budget.

But the office of auditor – along with the secretary of state and state treasurer – is enshrined in the state constitution, meaning a simple name change likely requires a constitutional amendment.

"I feel like, over the last six years, I've done a lot of explaining about my

role... the term 'auditor' has changed over the last few hundred years," Klutz, who previously conducted audits in the public and private sectors, said. "I definitely put a lot of thought into it and we're trying to change it to say comptroller to more accurately reflect our duties."

**What's in a name?**  
In practice, the auditor has the responsibility to balance the state's checkbook and pay state employees – ensuring that the government money spent goes to the right place and reporting it through the state transparency portal.

But few states run their accountancy offices in the same way – and there isn't even agreement on what to call the office.

Some states assign the duties of fiscal oversight to a controller, comptroller or examiner, names used somewhat interchangeably with auditor. But other states wrap those duties into other offices – such as treasury or even secretary of state.

Klutz maintains that the office of auditor should remain separate from

other agencies because it establishes a system of checks and balances. But some states don't elect an auditor – or an equivalent to auditor – at all.

Roughly half of states hold elections for the role and another two states – Maine and Tennessee – elect their auditors through the state legislature. In the remaining states, the governor nominates someone to the role and the legislature confirms the appointment.

Other states have both an elected auditor and an appointed auditor, including Minnesota, Utah and Washington. Those state leaders split their duties, one auditing local units of government or agencies and another evaluating the state's fiscal management.

Indiana's auditor doesn't review agency spending to detect fraud, but does act as an accountant for the state by checking budgets and administering payroll.

**What does it take to change a name?**

State ballot initiatives or referendums allow every resident to vote on a proposal in a more direct form of democracy.

Several states have passed marijuana reform using this process, including Michigan, bypassing their state legislatures.

But generally Indiana doesn't allow that – with the exception of local school funding referendums.

To change the Constitution, the language must pass in two successive general assemblies – meaning an election must occur between the two – before appearing on the ballot the following year. A resolution proposing to change Indiana's constitutional language guaranteeing bail faces the same uphill road this year.

Because her 'auditor' title is specified in the state constitution, Klutz's office prepared to go the lengthy constitutional amendment route. But legislators Klutz consulted worried that placing the name change before voters would be confusing and many might believe the referendum would eliminate the office of auditor entirely.

As an alternative, Klutz said the State Budget Agency proposed putting the name change into

the budget, which is guaranteed to pass in some form.

"The auditor of state is officially known as the state comptroller. After June 30, 2023, the auditor of state shall use the title 'state comptroller' in conducting state business, in all contracts, on business cards, on stationery, and with other means of communication as necessary. The change in title under this subsection does not invalidate any documents or transactions conducted in the name of the auditor of state," the budget language says. "After June 30, 2023, state agencies shall refer to the auditor of state as the state comptroller when adopting agency rules, and references to the auditor of state in the Indiana Administrative Code are considered references to the state comptroller."

However, Klutz said the office of auditor would still appear on the ballot and go through Indiana's primary convention process because both elections must adhere to the Indiana Constitution. Klutz likened it to a company "doing business as" under a name other

than their legal name.

Other states have successfully changed their auditors to comptrollers or controllers through a ballot initiative, such as Illinois in 1973 and Idaho in 1994. Both states have a simpler process than Indiana.

Still, Klutz hopes that a name change, even if it doesn't change the constitutional office of auditor, will at least be a more accurate description of her duties.

"I'm trying to quell some of that confusion; I obviously don't want to create more," Klutz said. "My hope is that, if we can move forward with this change, that at least I will set the expectation that I don't audit governments or individuals."

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# Indiana Lawmakers Gear Up for Debate Over Bill to Repeal Certain Floodplain Requirements

By Casey Smith

Property owners and environmental advocates are clashing over an Indiana bill that would repeal a requirement for local administrators to use the latest statewide floodplain maps when deciding new construction projects.

Authored by Sen. Jean Leising, R-Oldenburg, the bill seeks to nix a provision in current state law that requires floodplain administrators to use the “best floodplain mapping data available” when reviewing an application for a construction permit in or near a floodplain.

Hoosier property owners complain that the newest floodplain maps adopted by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are more restrictive than those from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Many who spoke before lawmakers said they were never notified of the floodplain map changes that went into effect in 2022 and are now faced with costly requirements for building projects on their property.

Leising additionally contends that lawmakers were “unaware” that they approved the DNR-supported provision last year that requires the new statewide floodplain maps to be used.

But environmental groups point to increases in extreme rain events that lead to greater flooding. Some who spoke against the bill said they are concerned the bill could increase the risks and potential damage that could be caused by future flooding — especially after state lawmakers removed wetlands protections in a previous legislative session.

“None of us want to see anybody build where they’re going to be flooded. But I don’t want to see people’s property devalued,” Leising said in a committee hearing last week. “Whether (the DNR maps) are good or bad, whether we need to be more protective than the federal maps, that’s a whole other issue. But I do know that we are

getting a lot of concerns expressed from folks throughout our districts.”

The bill advanced from the Senate Natural Resources Committee last week and now heads to the full Senate for further consideration.

If passed, the change would take effect July 1.

## How the floodplain maps work

A floodplain is the area next to a stream or river that is at risk for flooding at least once per 100 years or more.

Resulting floodplain maps are often made by calculating rainfall, topography, and hydraulic analysis, which evaluates the capacity of a stream or other water body.

FEMA has published maps for many of Indiana’s floodplains, but not for all of them.

To cover the rest of the state, the DNR maintains floodplain maps for an additional 18,500 miles of Indiana streams. The state agency combined its maps with those created by FEMA to produce the Best Available Flood Hazard Area map.

Environmental advocates maintain that the DNR map is the best resource for identifying flood-prone areas. Currently, local floodplain administrators are charged with using it to reduce construction in the floodplain so rivers and streams can spread out, as needed. That keeps flood waters from flowing as fast or rising as high, which also reduces erosion.

Climate change analyses are increasingly predicting that flooding will become a major concern for American cities. Annual rainfall has increased by 15% since 1895, a trend that is anticipated to continue — and possibly accelerate, according to Purdue’s Climate Change Impacts Assessment.

## Hoosiers give mixed testimony on current DNR floodplain maps

Dozens testified before the Senate committee last week.

Caitlin Smith, representing the DNR, said the agency is neutral on the bill. She maintained that current state law “codi-

fies what local floodplain administrators should be following” as required by federal code, as well as state and local ordinances.

Still, Smith defended the current Indiana law. She said the state’s floodplain requirements — while “more restrictive” than FEMA’s — result in cost savings for 450 Indiana communities that purchase flood insurance.]

The Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management (INAFSM) urged lawmakers to let the Indiana Drainage Task Force work through the issue before making changes to the Flood Control Act.

“Let us get more information to address some of these questions and concerns,” said Kerry Daily, INAFSM’s legislative chair. “Let’s see what other states are doing and what they have done with this type of situation.”

Multiple property owners who supported the bill said the state’s current floodplain maps restrict construction on their land, like the building of garages and bridges.

That included Melanie Caldwell, who lives with her husband in rural Union County. The couple testified in support of Leising’s bill, saying that they’ve been kept from building a small bridge over a stream on their property.

“Why are we involved in this? We live in rural Indiana .... It’s just unfathomable,” Caldwell said of current restrictions.

The Indiana Builders Association and the Indianapolis Association of Realtors were among the groups that lobbied in support of the measure. The Indiana Farm Bureau is neutral on the bill.

But Jill Hoffman, executive director for the White River Alliance, pushed back on the idea to revert back to the FEMA maps alone.

The federal maps are dated and incomplete, she said, noting that “we know a lot more about the potential risks we’re facing” because updated DNR maps cover streams that FEMA has never

documented before.

“Today’s flooding isn’t yesterday’s flooding, so maps can’t be stagnant. We need to recognize what it means — and what these maps mean — and what it means to have sustainable water management,” Hoffman said. “Being stagnant about how we manage floodplains is going to leave us at great risk going forward. As I look across the landscape, I can’t see one other state, county, municipality, town or anybody that’s working to rollback flood protections.”

The trend nationally is to increase flood protections because of the changing environment, Hoffman continued. Allowing Hoosier floodplain administrators to use the updated DNR maps “provides them with a really important tool,” she said.

Dr. Indra Frank, the Hoosier Environmental Council’s director of environmental health and water policy, added that even if the bill is passed, language in the Indiana Flood Control Act that requires floodways to stay open so they can “convey flow” will remain. That means it will still be illegal to build in the floodplain without a permit from the DNR.

If local permit decisions are made with just the federal maps, more buildings are likely to be built in flood-prone areas, leading to flooded buildings and less healthy rivers and streams, Frank said.

“The language that this bill would repeal helps to ensure that fewer properties are built in flood prone areas in the future,” Frank said. “And that means fewer families in the future wind up with these just heartbreaking situations.”

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**BUTCH** From Page A1



Photo courtesy of Butch Dale

## Horse-drawn school “hack”

quite a bit in English. Merle Coons was the principal my senior year, and he also taught agriculture. Roscoe Elmore taught writing and general arithmetic. Margaret Weesner taught English and Literature. I also remember Esta Grantham and Lousie Peek. Miss Grantham used to play classical music to us on the Victrola. Mabel Morin was another teacher, and she was one of the first teachers to smoke cigarettes. In fact, I believe she had to go an extra year of college because she was caught with a cigarette and lost one year’s worth of college credits.

One time Ward Alston was up at the board trying to get a math problem. He was having a terrible time, and very frustrated, he stomped back to his seat and said the teacher should not be calling him ‘gourd-head.’ He didn’t realize that she was merely saying to him, ‘Go ahead!’ Once in Miss Weesner’s class, we were reading Shakespeare’s plays, and I came across a part which seemed funny at the time. I began to laugh, and she started coming towards me, stood by me awhile, and never said a word. She was an outstanding teacher and had good discipline.

Miss Peek once took several of us to Riverside Park along Sugar Creek west of town for a boat ride. The water was rather high and swift as we paddled about, oars in hand. As we neared the pier, I grabbed the pole, the boat upset, and I was dunked in the water. I walked home soaking wet, and I pleaded with my mother not to tell father, as I knew he would be angry since I couldn’t swim a lick.

At the end of each school year, we marched out the rooms, out into

the hallway, and down the front steps, two at a time, while a march played on the Victrola. Our senior reception was held in the library basement room, and the graduation in the old armory. The only sad time I remember was when several of our schoolmates joined the army to serve their country during World War I. Their desks in the assembly room were covered with the American flag, and this saddened us all.

As I look back on my school days at Darlington, I learned many things from teachers who were determined to see that I got a good education. I really enjoyed my classmates, and at my advanced age, still remember the good things I was taught. I hate to see the school close, because I believe it will be a great blow to the town and community. Only time will tell if today’s students will really have any advantages by attending a new school.”

Although an overwhelming majority of the public voted to remodel the schools and keep them in the little towns, the school board voted to close the schools, tear them down, and build new schools out in the country. Thelma, you were right. The school was the heart of the community, and Darlington, Linden, New Richmond, Wingate, and Waynetown have never been the same since then.

And when will school board members realize that fancy new buildings and facilities have nothing to do with a good education?

*John “Butch” Dale is a retired teacher and County Sheriff. He has also been the librarian at Darlington the past 32 years, and is a well-known artist and author of local history.*

# Alzheimer’s Association Greater Indiana Chapter to Host State Advocacy Day

Volunteer advocates from across the state will urge lawmakers to pass legislation to help Hoosiers affected by Alzheimer’s and other dementia during the Alzheimer’s Association Greater Indiana Chapter’s State Advocacy Day on Feb. 7 at the Indiana Statehouse. This will be the Chapter’s first in-person Advocacy Day since the pandemic.

Advocates will push for the Association’s top legislative priority, House Bill 1422, authored by Rep. Gregory Porter (D-Indianapolis) and Rep. Brad Barrett (R-Richmond). The bill would establish a Dementia Care Specialist Program, directing each of

the state’s Area Agencies on Aging to create full-time positions that will bring dementia expertise to local communities.

Dementia Care Specialists would provide community education and help connect caregivers with resources. These services can help individuals stay in their homes and remain active in their communities longer.

The program would cost about \$1.5 million a year over the course of two years. A similar program in North Dakota yielded more than \$39 million in long-term savings.

“Indiana spends \$1 billion a year in Medicaid funds on Alzheimer’s

alone, and that number will increase exponentially unless we build a foundation to make Indiana a more dementia-capable state,” said David Sklar, director of government affairs, Alzheimer’s Association Greater Indiana Chapter.

“This bill is an investment that will reduce long-term costs and — most importantly — better support people living with this disease and their caregivers. The time to act is now.”

Speakers at the Advocacy Day event will include Darlene Bradley, a Hancock County woman who is living with early stage Alzheimer’s disease, Alzheimer’s Association

executive director Natalie Sutton and Governor Eric Holcomb.

“We are honored that Governor Holcomb has agreed to speak at this year’s Advocacy Day, and we support his efforts to improve Indiana’s public health system,” continued Sklar.

“Given that one in every three seniors dies with Alzheimer’s or another form of dementia, it is crucial that investments in public health address the impact of this disease.”

Registration for State Advocacy Day is open, and no prior advocacy experience is required. More information is available at [alz.org/indiana](http://alz.org/indiana).

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