

➔ **TODAY'S VERSE**  
*James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

➔ **FACES OF MONTGOMERY**  
*People who call our community their own.*



Andrew Jones smiles for our roving photographer. Andrew is a senior of Crawfordsville High School where he plays soccer and golf. Thank you for your smile Andrew!

➔ **THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** Floridian Wesley Williams broke his back a couple of years ago when he fell off his 27 foot unicycle at a Spain's Got Talent event. According to the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC], he survived the fall and, to paraphrase that old song suggests, he picked himself up, dusted himself off and started all over again. But his time he didn't break any bones but he did break the Guinness record for building the world's tallest unicycle -- nearly 32 feet in height -- and riding it for a distance of nearly 28 feet 27 feet.

**2** Want to see a comet with your naked eye? Well, you just might get your chance soon. Comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF) will be closest to our planet today and tomorrow. According to the good folks at space.com, if the comet continues to get brighter, we just might be able to look up and see it. And even if it fades a bit, we should still be able to use binoculars or a telescope around then. Go to [www.space.com](http://www.space.com)

**3** Are you a proud parent or grandparent? Got a great photo of your loved one? E-mail it to [news@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:news@thepaper24-7.com) along with the pertinent info (and your contact information so we can reach you if we have questions). C'mon, let's show off as many bright and smiling faces as we can and make clear exactly why Montgomery County is such a great place to raise a family!

# The Paper

## OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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## State Legislative Breakfast Hosted By The Crawfordsville/Montgomery County Chamber Of Commerce



The Crawfordsville/Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce is hosting a State Legislative Breakfast at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 11 on the 3rd floor of Fusion 54, 101 W. Main Street, Crawfordsville.

The panel will consist of State Senators Brian Buchanan (District 7) and Spencer Deery (District 23) along with State

Representatives Sharon Negele (District 13), Jeff Thompson (District 28), Mark Genda (District 41), and Beau Baird (District 44.)

The State Legislative Breakfast is sponsored by Tipmont REMC Wintek and will include a light breakfast catered by 1832 Brew Espresso Bar. The event is open to the public. The cost is \$10 for Crawfordsville/Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce members and \$15 for non-chamber members.

Space is limited so please register to attend online at [www.CrawfordsvilleChamber.com](http://www.CrawfordsvilleChamber.com) by Monday, Feb. 6. For more information regarding the breakfast or the chamber, please contact Stacy Sommer at [ssommer@crawfordsville-chamber.com](mailto:ssommer@crawfordsville-chamber.com).

## Untapped Potential: Section 202 Housing For Senior Citizens

Crawfordsville is one of many small towns struggling with the housing crisis. Our League of Women Voter's Economic Health team members keeps asking, "What about housing?" because we have almost no options for homeless men, a shortage of affordable rental units for



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

low-income earners, too few options for first-time home buyers, a struggle to draw developers for new builds and affordable housing for seniors. 2022's Federal Spending Bill set aside millions to expand non-profit, supportive housing for

seniors, a HUD program called Section 202 Housing.

In recent years, senior citizens in Crawfordsville have been losing access to Section 8 Housing, Stacey Doty, head of Crawfordsville's HUD office, said that there are plenty of

vouchers, but too few property owners willing to work with the Section 8 housing, even though it guarantees payment, screens residents for the landlord and ensures that both owner and renter keep the property in good condition. Section 8 Housing vouchers go first to survivors of domestic abuse, then to seniors, the disabled and veterans. Those who are homeless or paying more than 50 percent of their income toward rent and utilities can also qualify. (People can qualify under multiplied categories.) Again, the shortage is in available housing, but for some seniors, it's not just any housing but the kind that aids those over 62 who would benefit from community and critical aids such as groceries, food, cleaning and laundry. Section 202 Housing specifically includes this.

Consider what was lost when Athena Apartments evolved away from being a senior-centered living community. Residents lost a lively community where they could gather for game nights, walk the corridors together and attend Bible studies or church services in the gym. Presently, Crawfordsville's

## Where Are We With Taxes? Let's Ask ...



**TIM TIMMONS**  
**Two Cents**

I'd like to think that my talent with the written word is responsible for the landslide of response the last two weeks. But I suspect the topics -- politics as usual and the insanity of our massive national debt -- has far more to do with it. Whatever the reason, I'll take it. The more of us who get involved the better. The more unwilling to accept the embarrassing load of debt we're handing our child-, uh, grandchild-, er, great-grandchildren . . . the better.

Let's recap. The discussion began when our country reached its debt limit . . . and the hired hands in Washington appear to be going down the same ol' path

➔ See TIM Page A6

## Clay Bird House With Athens Arts

Come and make a clay ornamental bird house! You will learn a slab technique to make a bird house you will take home when completed.

At the first session on Feb. 9 we will build the bird house. We will have another session March 2 to glaze the bird house. After the teacher fires your project, we will coordinate a pick up at Athens Arts so you can enjoy your creation for many years.

The instructor will provide each student with Sedona Clay as well as all other supplies needed to create an ornamental bird house.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, Feb. 9 and Thursday, March 2. The cost of \$35.00 covers both sessions. Choose either an afternoon session (1 - 3 p.m.) or an evening session (6 - 8 p.m.). Class is open to any-

➔ See CLAY Page A6

## The Daily Almanac



**Sunrise/Sunset**  
RISE: 7:56 a.m.  
SET: 6:06 p.m.



**High/Low Temperatures**  
High: 31 °F  
Low: 13 °F



**Wacky Holiday Today**  
• Car Insurance Day  
• G.I. Joe Day



**What Happened On This Day**

- 1865 President Lincoln signs the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution
- 2003 Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrated during reentry into the Earth's atmosphere, killing all seven astronauts aboard



**Births On This Day**

- 1894 John Ford American director
- 1901 Clark Gable American actor

**Deaths On This Day**

- 1851 Mary Shelley English author
- 1966 Buster Keaton American actor, director and producer

## ➔ HONEST HOOSIER

Welcome to February, the home of lovers, groundhogs and all of us Hoosiers sick and tired of winter!



## ➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Treat burns by immediately soaking the area in cold water for at least five minutes and cover any open areas with antibiotic ointment. 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

None

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



**The Paper**  
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

## ➔ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

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

## ➔ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

**For Your Information**

Sagamore News Media is looking for talented sales people. Whether you sell by phone or in person, we want to talk with you. Hourly rates begin at \$15 per hour and only go up from there. If you have good sales skills, this might be the job you have been looking for. Sagamore News Media owns newspapers in Noblesville and Crawfordsville and feature award-winning work every day. Come be part of our team! Apply today by e-mailing resumes to [jobs@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:jobs@thepaper24-7.com). We can't wait to talk with you!

## ➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"February is the border between winter and spring."  
Terri Guillemets

## ➔ TODAY'S JOKE

What's the difference between a \$30 meal and a \$120 meal?  
February the 14th





## Witham Health Services February Classes And Support Groups

• **Diabetes Self-Management Class** – Call the Diabetes Education Department at 765-485-8120 for individualized class, scheduling and pricing.

• **Rock Steady Boxing 1 & 2** - held weekly at 9 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center.

• **Rock Steady Boxing 3 & 4** - held weekly at 9:45 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center.

• **Silver Sneakers** – held weekly at 11:15 a.m. on Mondays for those 65 or older at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center.

• **Silver Sneakers Cardio** - held weekly at 11:15 a.m. on Wednesdays for those 65 or older at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center.

• **Silver Sneakers Chair Yoga** - held weekly at 11:15 a.m. on Thursdays for those 65 or older at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center.

• **Tai Chi for Health 2** - Seven week sessions, held weekly at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center.

• **Tai Chi for Health 1** - Seven week sessions, held weekly at 11 a.m. on Tuesdays at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center.

• **Fight Smart** – Designed to reduce the risk of any chronic disease you may be facing. Held weekly at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays and another class on Thursday's at 9 a.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center.

• **Restorative Yoga** – is held weekly on Mondays at 6 p.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center.

• **Flow Yoga** – held weekly on Fridays at 12:30 p.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center.

• **Gentle Yoga** – Gentle Yoga is held weekly on

Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at the Witham South Pavilion Wellness Center.

• **Yin Yoga** – is held weekly on Thursdays at 6 p.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center.

Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.

• **Breastfeeding Support Group** – is held weekly on Mondays at 6 p.m. in the VIP Dining Room.

• **Individualized Breastfeeding Support** is available with a Lactation Consultant. To schedule an appointment and for pricing, call 765-485-8411.

• **Diabetic Support Group** – cancelled in February

• **Grief Support Group** – cancelled in February

• **Cancer Support Cooking for Wellness** – Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 1 p.m. in the South Pavilion Wellness Center.

• **Alzheimer's Support Group** – Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. in the North Pavilion Conference Rooms.

• **Cancer Support Group** – Monday, Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. in the North Pavilion Conference Rooms. Parking is in the Physician Parking Lot and exterior door is marked 39.

**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)

## New Market Elementary Honor Roll

### Preschool

Character Counts (Responsibility): David Busenbark, Carson Barnhart

### Kindergarten:

Character Counts (Responsibility): Silas Porter, Gavin High, Liam Page, Weston Hoskins

### 1st Grade

Character Counts (Responsibility): Ava Barclay, Paige Simpson, Caroline Nichols

### High Honor Roll:

Ainsley Anglin, Alexander Badertscher, Ava Barclay, Michael Bell-Grayson, Cole Boyd, Enzo Carr, Olivia Clark, Hadley Cornelius, Leo Cox, Braden Ford, Elijah Hester, Hudson Hockersmith, Benson Jones, Kaydence Lambka, Jason McNair, Ezra Mortara, Caroline Nichols, Aunysa Pyle, Paige Simpson, Eliana Starcevic, Isaac Steiner, LauraBelle Surber, Brecken Thomas, Raelynn White, Kerstin Wilson, James Wurtsbaugh

### Regular Honor Roll:

Hadley Abell, Gracie Barnhart, Delaney Carr, Frances Cotten, Emma Datzman, Jackson Davis, Elizabeth Emberton, Noah Fruits, Kason Hall, Connor Largent, Nevaeh McMullen, Serafina Nowak, Maverick Roach, Chaseten Scheurich, Kaydan Sims, Jason Yeary

### Semester High Honor Roll:

Ava Barclay, Leo Cox, Elijah Hester, Isaac Steiner, Brecken Thomas, Kerstin Wilson, Olivia Clark, Braden Ford, Hudson Hockersmith, Benson Jones, Ezra Mortara, Aunysa Pyle, Paige Simpson, James Wurtsbaugh, Ainsley Anglin, Alex Badertscher, Cole Boyd, Enzo Carr, Hadley Cornelius, Caroline Nichols, Raelynn White, James Wurtsbaugh

### Semester Regular Honor Roll:

Kinley Archer, Delaney Carr, Elizabeth Emberton, Maverick Roach, Kaydan Sims, Hadley Abell, Gracie Barnhart, Parker Bonilla, Frances Cotten, Emma Datzman, Jackson Davis, Kason Hall, Serafina Nowak, Riley Ward, Michael Bell-Grayson, Cora Clos, Noah Fruits, Kaydence Lambka, Connor Largent, Jason McNair, Chaseten Scheurich, Eliana Starcevic, LauraBelle Surber

### 2nd Grade

Character Counts (Responsibility): Charlotte Stull, Hudson McCandless, Beckett Jones, Addie Lindsay

### High Honor Roll:

Roran Alesi, Tyberius Anglin, Syllis Barnett, Isla Beach, Alden Bray, Elijah Brown, Vera Carrell, Ace Charles, Audri Cohee, Sawyer Cohee, Sutton Cohee, Oliver Cook, Peyton Doss, Lucille Fishero, Beckett Jones, Elyse Langevin, Adelaide Lindsay, Landen Marine, Hudson

McCandless, Mallory Morphew-High, Eva Rice, Kaison Steiner, Nora Stetler, Charlotte Stull, Gabriel Turner, Gage VanDorn, Oliver Vice, Derrick Ward, Colton Watson  
Regular Honor Roll: Levi Badillo, Paislie Barnes, Harmony Cheesman, Elle Collins, Cale Cunningham, Lucas Edwards, Jackson Gray, Maxine Hartman, Reyna Hernandez, Lux Highland, Liam Howard, Stella Hughes, Elayna Johns, Henry Jones, Kyhia Larrance, Briley Malone, Calvin McCandless, Creed Newkirk, Samuel Newlin, Sawyer O'Neal, Ellie Poole, Audrey Porter, Levi Rhodes, Nolan Rothrock, Conner Sexton, Jackson Surber, Henley Surface, Zane Turner, Macy White, Katana Willhite

### Semester High Honor Roll:

Syllis Barnett, Alden Bray, Eli Brown, Hudson McCandless, Eva Rice, Oliver Vice, Roran Alesi, Oliver Cook, Addie Lindsay, Nora Stetler, Gage VanDorn, Derrick Ward, Colton Watson, Tyberius Anglin, Isla Beach, Vera Carrell, Ace Charles, Sawyer Cohee, Sutton Cohee, Elle Collins, Peyton Doss, Lucille Fishero, Lux Highland, Beckett Jones, Elyse Langevin, Landen Marine, Mallory Morphew High, Audrey Porter, Charlotte Stull, Henley Surface, Gabriel Turner, Zane Turner

### Semester Honor Roll:

Maxine Hartman, Reyna Hernandez, Stella Hughes, Briley Malone, Josh Rosenbaum, Kaison Steiner, Macy White, Katana Willhite, Cale Cunningham, Elayna Johns, Sam Newlin, Levi Rhodes, Levi Badillo, Harmony Cheesman, Kynlee Cheesman, Kynlee Cleary, Audri Cohee, Jackson Gray, Azariah Hernandez, Liam Howard, Henry Jones, Calvin McCandless, Carley Meseraull, Creed Newkirk, Sawyer O'Neal, Ellie Poole, Nolan Rothrock, Conner Sexton, Jackson Surber

### 3rd Grade

Character Counts (Responsibility): Elizabeth Parker, Quinn Badertscher, Holly Priddy

Six Weeks High Honor Roll: Quinn Badertscher, Branch Blakley, Brogan Blakley, Mackenzie Bullock, Rowyn Cravens, McCoy Gomez, Tobias Lacy, Evelyn Stephens, Libby Stull

Regular Honor Roll: Emma Bonebrake, Noah Carr, Klaeton Caudill, Koltan Collins, Dorothy Cotten, Baine Franklin, McKaley Gibson, Faith Grimes, Marlaina Halstead, Cayson Hester, Autumn Hunt, Alex Langevin, Ava Largent, Trevor Largent, Stella Livingston, Maribelle Marine, McLaren Mason, Nevaeh Nelson, Elizabeth Parker,

Jackson Parrish, Coree Perez, Holly Priddy, Avalyn Simpson, Arya Steward, Riley Thompson

Semester High Honor Roll: Quinn Badertscher, Branch Blakley, Rowyn Cravens, McCoy Gomez, Evelyn Stephens, Libby Stull

Semester Honor Roll: Brogan Blakley, Emma Bonebrake, Mackenzie Bullock, Noah Carr, Klaeton Caudill, Koltan Collins, Dorothy Cotten, Baine Franklin, McKaley Gibson, Faith Grimes, Marlaina Halstead, Cayson Hester, Autumn Hunt, Tobias Lacy, Alex Langevin, Trevor Largent, Stella Livingston, Maribelle Marine, Nevaeh Nelson, Qwendolyn Norman, Elizabeth Parker, Jackson Parrish, Coree Perez, Holly Priddy, Avalyn Simpson, Riley Thompson, Elijah VanDorn

### 4th Grade

Character Counts (Responsibility): Addilynn Edwards, Addilynn Wood, Karter Maddock, Jolene Kappel

Six Weeks High Honor Roll: August Ashment, Abigail Badillo, Mila Barsotti, Karsyn Charles, Kellan Dittmer, Addilynn Edwards, Ryder Fruits, Ryan Gilliland, Joslynn Gray, Raylan Hester, Jacey Hoenshell, Jolene Kappel, Presley Lesko, Anna Lindsay, Hillary McCandless, Elouise McGaughey, Hope Smith, Rayleigh Thomas, Addilynn Wood, Arian Wrede

Six Weeks Regular Honor Roll: Johnthaen Allison, Carson Barker, William Boots, Phoebe Buckler, Ashley Bunting, Aaleeah Carrell, Adrien Cohee, Katherine Crouch, Jett Cummins, James Ethington, Ava Eubanks, Thomas Fishero, Ruger Foster, Tori Frazier, Zayden Gross, Hadley Hedge, Haven Hernandez, Colby Kessler, Carter Maddock, Charlie Moore, Kinley Murphy, Rachel Reimondo, Sully Roark, Logan Rosenbaum, Korbryn Sandefur, Harrison Simmons, Remy Stetler, Tregan Sutton, Angel Waddell, Wyatt Wilkins

Semester High Honor Roll: August Ashment, Abigail Badillo, Carson Barker, Mila Barsotti, Karsyn Charles, Jett Cummins, Addilynn Edwards, Thomas Fishero, Ruger Foster, Ryder Fruits, Ryan Gilliland, Joslynn Gray, Raylan Hester, Jacey Hoenshell, Jolene Kappel, Colby Kessler, Presley Lesko, Anna Lindsay, Hillary McCandless, Elouise McGaughey, Sully Roark, Hope Smith, Rayleigh Thomas, Addilynn Wood, Arian Wrede

Semester Honor Roll: William Boots, Phoebe Buckler, Kaitlyn Burkhart, Aaleeah Carrell, Adalyn Caswell, Adrien Cohee, Katherine

Crouch, Kellan Dittmer, River Eller, James Ethington, Ava Eubanks, Oviene Fowler, Tori Frazier, Anna Froedge, Zayden Gross, Richard Hens, Haven Hernandez, Adalyn Hood, Karter Maddock, Charlie Moore, Kinley Murphy, Kinzie Price, Rachel Reimondo, Logan Rosenbaum, Lainey Sheldon, Harrison Simmons, Remy Stetler, Tregan Sutton, Angel Waddell, Wyatt Wilkins

### 5th Grade

Character Counts: (Responsibility): Kenzie Turner, Ailise Bradshaw, Allison Largent, Calista Hale

Six Weeks High Honor Roll: Grant Albertson, Addison Anglin, Keiarra Archer, Hudson Beach, Ailise Bradshaw, Cole Edwards, Cole Fullenwider, Lea Gregg, Boltan Hagenow, Calista Hale, Kailyn Howard, Carter Kessler, Ryder Kessler, Charles Maddock, Emily Needham, Ryder Newkirk, Marilyn Prado, Taylor Sering, Jordanna Troutman, Kenzie Turner, Gunnar Williams

Six Weeks Regular Honor Roll: Andrea Allen, Delilah Amstutz, Abigail Brown, Brolin Burris, Maddox Clark, Harper Cornelius, Molly Cregger, Elijah Endicott, Carter Harshbarger, Lorelei Hoskins, Arabella Jackson, Jane Jones, Thomas Kelsey, Ethan Langevin, Allison Largent, Maci Largent, Emery Light, Luke Light, Tracy Long, Hadley McArthur, Oliver Pattengale, Jagger Rector, Sequoya Roark, Kaidyn Robbins, Judah Smith, Shawn Smoot, McKinzie Stoner, Abigail Thomas, Noah White

Semester High Honor Roll: Grant Albertson, Keiarra Archer, Hudson Beach, Ailise Bradshaw, Maddox Clark, Cole Fullenwider, Lea Gregg, Calista Hale, Kailyn Howard, Ryder Kessler, Charles Maddock, Ryder Newkirk, Taylor Sering, Judah Smith, Jordanna Troutman, Kenzie Turner, Gunnar Williams

Semester Honor Roll: Andrea Allen, Delilah Amstutz, Addison Anglin, Abigail Brown, Brolin Burris, Harper Cornelius, Molly Cregger, Jack Cripe, Cole Edwards, Elijah Endicott, Maci Epps, Boltan Hagenow, Carter Harshbarger, Lorelei Hoskins, Arabella Jackson, Jane Jones, Thomas Kelsey, Carter Kessler, Ethan Langevin, Allison Largent, Maci Largent, Emery Light, Luke Light, Tracy Long, Hadley McArthur, Emily Needham, Oliver Pattengale, Marilyn Prado, Jagger Rector, David Rhodes, Sequoya Roark, Shawn Smoot, McKinzie Stoner, Abigail Thomas, Ayden Thomas

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# House Committee Passes TANF Hike, Workforce Training Program

By Whitney Downard

Indiana ended 2022 with more than 136,000 job openings partly because hundreds of thousands of Hoosiers don't have the skills needed to join the workforce.

According to committee testimony last week, 80% of Hoosiers with disabilities are unemployed along with an estimated 60% of impoverished adult Hoosiers receiving benefits from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. Both populations could benefit under a new bill that would help connect underskilled employees to companies.

"This is an untapped workforce pipeline that could really fill this workforce shortage," said Hannah Carlock, the director of public policy with The Arc of Indiana. "This (proposal) would provide job readiness training and help low-income Hoosiers and individuals with disabilities get connected to the labor force and help employers take on workers who have little to no work history."

Carlock, whose organization advocates on behalf of Hoosiers with disabilities, said myths surrounding disabled employees make employers hesitant to hire.

House Bill 1160 includes a pilot program for adult

students, an incumbent worker training program and the first TANF eligibility increase in over three decades.

"I think we all know that we have a workforce shortage; we have a lack of workforce participation," bill author Rep. Ed Clere, R-New Albany, said. "We have these populations, especially people with disabilities, who would love to have the opportunity to be part of the workforce."

### Using TANF for workforce training

Clere's bill proposes creating a program to collaborate with private companies for workforce development, with a focus on training Hoosiers using TANF and Hoosiers with disabilities.

"Incumbent worker training, for those who aren't familiar with the term, refers to scaling up people who are already working and a particular job. Historically, we viewed that on a company-by-company basis or employer-by-employer basis and that is very limiting," Clere said. "What we're trying to do... is create an ecosystem (to) facilitate the movement of workers among companies."

Clere described two hypothetical companies: Company A and Company B. Company A has many

low-skill positions but no place for employees to move upward, leaving them stuck. Under this scenario, Company A has no incentive to train up their workforce because they'd leave for another company.

Meanwhile, Company B has open positions for a higher-skilled, better paid workforce that builds upon the skills of Company A, but no one qualified to do the work.

Under the program, the Department of Workforce Development would identify low-skill workers at Company A with the potential to train up to fill an open position at Company B. Then Hoosiers on TANF and Hoosiers with disabilities – many of whom aren't in the workforce – would be matched with the now open jobs at Company A.

"With this ecosystem concept, what we're trying to do is create a win-win situation," Clere said. "(This) has the ability to help address the workforce crisis while also getting people into the workforce who have not had the opportunity."

Clere withheld an amendment in committee outlining employer reimbursement under the workforce training program and other stakeholder details, citing the need for additional work. TANF, under

federal guidelines, can reimburse employers to cover the salaries of recently hired TANF recipients fully for the first month and partially for the next five months.

According to the fiscal accompanying the bill, funding for the employer program could come from Next Level Jobs Employer Training Grants in addition to TANF.

### Eligibility changes, benefit increases

Clere told the committee that eligibility guidelines and benefit increases were essentially identical to the Senate version, in which anyone in deep poverty, defined as 50% of the federal poverty line, would be eligible. Currently, Indiana's TANF eligibility cutoff is 13-16% of the federal poverty level, depending on family size.

That bill, and Clere's, also include the first TANF increase since 1988 with annual adjustments similar to Social Security to keep up with inflation.

Indiana receives roughly \$206 million annually from the federal government for TANF but regularly ends with more than \$50 million leftover. Indiana has some of the strictest eligibility standards in the country and spends just 5% on direct benefits to Hoosiers.

State governments have been criticized for using TANF as a "slush fund," because the program's

federal flexibility allows states to spend the money on a variety of programs such as child care, adult education and more.

Indiana spends just over one-third of its funding, a maximum of \$61.8 million, on the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), which provides childcare vouchers to impoverished families, according to a December 2022 report from the Congressional Research Service. The largest portion of Indiana's spending, 42.4%, falls into the "other" category that doesn't include: basic assistance, child care, education/ training, refundable tax credits, pre-K, child welfare, administration or emergency and short-term benefits.

### Other provisions of the bill

The workforce training bill also includes an Education and Career Support Services pilot program that would fall under the purview of the Commission of Higher Education and fund wraparound services, but not tuition, for students.

Many schools currently offer career counseling services but other wraparound services – such as transportation, housing assistance and childcare – aren't frequently available.

Mary Jane Michalak,

the vice president for government relations at Ivy Tech Community College, said current services help all students, but were especially beneficial for students of color struggling to balance parenting obligations with school.

"We found that students who are engaged in our career activities are retained at a rate that is 16 percentage points higher than students who are not engaged," she said.

The bill also removes the TANF family cap, in which a family already receiving assistance cannot get additional assistance if another child is born, and also encourages families receiving assistance to receive family planning counseling.

The real challenge for the bill lies ahead. The committee voted unanimously to send the bill to House Ways and Means, which has repeatedly blocked TANF bills under a previous chair.

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## New Leader For State's Agriculture Economic Development Division

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) has promoted David Coates as the new director of the economic development division. He was previously the agribusiness engagement director for the department.

Coates is a graduate of Wheeling University in Wheeling, West Virginia with a degree in Nuclear Medicine Technology. He has an extensive background in health-care, workforce development and entrepreneurship through experience in sales, management and marketing.

"We are excited to promote David to this elevated role within the department," said Jordan Seger, ISDA deputy director. "The expertise he brings in workforce development and training and in sales will greatly enhance our economic development division and we are excited to see how he supports our existing programs and what

new initiatives he builds under this division."

As the director of economic development for the department, Coates will be responsible for managing staff and overseeing economic focus areas, such as, agritourism, biofuels, hardwoods, the Indiana Grown program, international trade and livestock. He will manage a variety of projects and will encourage agribusiness expansion, attraction and retention for the state.

This role will also lead ISDA in mirroring Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) strategies and support initiatives in key areas of agribusiness, agbiosciences and agriculture workforce development.

"I was honored to be selected as economic development director for ISDA," said Coates. "I am eager to hit the ground running and support those on my team to

make Indiana agriculture the best it can be. I am looking forward to the continued success of our agriculture industry for years to come."

David grew up with many fond memories from his grandparent's small farm in West Virginia. He has a passion for agriculture and has raised cattle, horses, swine, hay and cover crops. During his free time, you can find him and his wife, Lisa, working on their small farm in Scott County, Indiana. Together they operate a seasonal flower, sunflower and wildflower u-pick operation during summer weekends. They enjoy sharing their love of flowers while educating gardeners, beekeepers and the public on regenerative farming, seed saving and agritourism. David and Lisa have six children.

Visit [www.isda.in.gov](http://www.isda.in.gov) for more information on the Economic Development Division.

## Baird Leads Bipartisan, Bicameral Bill To Address Costly Catalytic Converter Thefts

Indiana Congressman Jim Baird (IN-04) re-introduced the Preventing Auto Recycling Thefts (PART) Act earlier this week, which aims to reduce catalytic converter thefts by marking identifying information on catalytic converters, addressing how the parts are purchased, and strengthening enforceability of catalytic converter theft for local law enforcement.

"Across the country, millions of Americans are faced with costly repairs to their vehicles thanks to skyrocketing rates of catalytic converter thefts," said Congressman Baird. "Last Congress, I was proud to introduce the PART Act because I recognized the impactful financial consequences these all-too-common thefts have had on Americans and business owners, and I want to empower our law enforcement to hold these thieves accountable. It's time to close loopholes in our legal system that allow thieves to easily steal this required car part, and I'm excited to work with Congresswoman McCollum, Congresswoman Craig,



IN Congressman Jim Baird

and Senator Klobuchar to re-introduce this bill to deliver a common-sense solution to this very serious problem."

"Theft of catalytic converters continues to be a growing and costly problem, leaving victims on the hook to pay to replace them," said Congresswoman McCollum. "I'm pleased to join my colleague Rep. Baird in reintroducing the PART Act in the 118th Congress. By working collaboratively with our auto dealers and law enforcement, we can help prevent this crime by closing loopholes to make it a criminal offense and providing tools for investigators to link stolen catalytic converters to the vehicles from which they were stolen. I look forward to working with them and my

colleagues in the House to pass the PART Act."

"Catalytic converter and auto thefts are on the rise in Minnesota and our local law enforcement need more support to get this under control," said Congresswoman Craig. "That's why I'm working to pass the bipartisan Preventing Auto Recycling Theft Act, so Minnesota law enforcement can more effectively combat these crimes and help keep our communities safe. I'll keep reaching across the aisle to get this important bill across the finish line and improve public safety in the Second District."

"Throughout the country, we've seen an alarming increase in catalytic converter thefts. These converters can be easily taken from unattended cars but are difficult and expensive for car owners to replace," said Senator Klobuchar. "By making catalytic converter theft a criminal offense and ensuring each converter can be easily tracked, our bipartisan legislation would provide law enforcement officers with the tools and resources they need to crack down on these crimes."

PUBLIC NOTICES						
NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING						
Notice is hereby given the Taxpayers of Montgomery County, Indiana, that the proper legal officers of Montgomery County will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the 2023 Budget Order from the DLGF at the regular Council meeting on February 14, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Community Meeting Room, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana.						
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS						
Fund	Fund Description	Dept #	Department Description	Account	Account Description	Additional Amount Requested
1000	County General	0010	Reg of Voters	11103	Election Coordinator	\$33,500.00
9104	Adult Gaurdianship	0202	Superior Court 2	30055	Adult Guardianship Services	\$38,500.00
2500	County User Fee	0235	Probation	21919	Participant Incentives	\$348.69
2500	County User Fee	0235	Probation	21919	Participant Incentives	\$121.50
1148	Drug Free Community	0610	Health	20450	Education/Prevention	\$11,142.00
1148	Drug Free Community	0610	Health	30130	LCC Administrative Expenses	\$11,142.00
1148	Drug Free Community	0610	Health	30131	Intervention/Treatment	\$11,142.00
1148	Drug Free Community	0610	Health	30132	Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice	\$11,142.00
8146	FY22 SHSP Cybersecurity	9655	EM-HS	21900	Equipment & Supplies	\$145,991.28
8147	FY22 SHSP CERT Classroom	9655	EM-HS	21900	Equipment & Supplies	\$79,366.72
8147	FY22 SHSP CERT Classroom	9655	EM-HS	30300	Training	\$3,237.71
8147	FY22 SHSP CERT Classroom	9655	EM-HS	36013	Mass Notification System	\$9,900.00
TBD	FY23 HMEP Confined Space Training	9655	EM-HS	30002	Travel/Training	\$16,000.00
TBD	FY23 EMPG-C Conference	9655	EM-HS	30002	Travel/Training	\$18,085.00
	TOTAL					\$389,618.90
The additional appropriations as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). The DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action taken. This will be considered a work session for the Board of Commissioners in conjunction with the scheduled Council meeting. Dated this 01/26/2023 Mindy Byers Auditor, Montgomery County						

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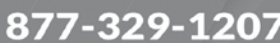
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Sugar Creek Township, Montgomery County, Indiana			
Detailed Receipts 2022			
Governmental Activities	Payroll Withholdings	Other Receipts / 1234 - Payroll Withholding	\$434.96
Total Other Receipts			\$434.96
Total Payroll Withholdings			\$434.96
	Township	General Property Tax	\$6,026.95
		Vehicle / Aircraft Excise Tax Distribution	\$388.85
		Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax Distribution (CVET)	\$590.00
		Local Income Tax (LIT) Certified Shares	\$14,071.00
		Other Taxes / 7330 - 2022 LIT CS SUPPLEMENTAL	\$971.00
Total Taxes and Intergovernmental			\$22,047.80
		Donations, Gifts, and Bequests	\$800.00
		Other Receipts / 2344 - voided check	\$650.00
		Other Receipts / 2345 - Excess Levy	\$244.00
Total Other Receipts			\$1,694.00
Total Township			\$23,741.80
SP FIRE TER GEN		Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax Distribution (CVET)	\$77.50
Total Taxes and Intergovernmental			\$77.50
Total SP FIRE TER GEN			\$77.50
SP FIRE TER EQU		Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax Distribution (CVET)	\$39.50
Total Taxes and Intergovernmental			\$39.50
Total SP FIRE TER EQU			\$39.50
Total Governmental Activities			\$24,293.76

	Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg Cash & Inv Bal Jan. 1, 2022	Receipts	Disbursement	End Cash & Inv Bal Dec. 31, 2022
Governmental Activities	1234	Payroll Withholding	\$355.52	\$434.96	\$385.24	\$385.24
	3	Rainy Day	\$4,104.09	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,104.09
	4	Township	\$61,270.30	\$23,741.80	\$19,481.68	\$65,530.42
	5	Township Assis- tance	\$6,102.09	\$0.00	\$632.59	\$5,469.50
	8604	SP FIRE TER GEN	\$146.95	\$77.50	\$146.95	\$77.50
	8692	SP FIRE TER EQU	\$78.05	\$39.50	\$78.05	\$39.50
	Grand Total		\$72,037.00	\$24,293.76	\$20,724.51	\$75,606.25

Sugar Creek Township, Montgomery County, Indiana			
Disbursements by Vendor 2022			
Fund Name	Category	Paid To	Amount
Payroll Withholdings	Personal Services	Internal Revenue Service / 944 Payroll Taxes	\$290.72
	Personal Services	PERF withholdings	\$94.52
		Total Personal Services	\$385.24
		Total Payroll Withholding	\$385.24
Township	Personal Services	Peggy Whitacre / Trustee Salary	\$3,150.00
	Personal Services	Molly Campbell / Deuptry Trustee Salary	\$650.00
	Personal Services	Deborah Lough / Board Salary	\$150.00
	Personal Services	John Gable / Board Salary	\$150.00
	Personal Services	Charles Anderson / Board Salary	\$150.00
	Personal Services	PERF Employee Benefits	\$352.80
	Personal Services	PERF Employee Withholdings	\$94.52
		Total Personal Services	\$4,697.32
	Supplies	Post Office / Stamps	\$58.00
	Supplies	A. E. Boyce / Printing of new checks	\$186.75
		Total Supplies	\$244.75
	Services and Charges	G & G Agency / Bond	\$145.00
	Services and Charges	Journal Review / Advertising	\$174.12
	Services and Charges	The Paper of Montgomery County / Advertising	\$106.33
	Services and Charges	Peggy Whitacre / Office Rent	\$1,000.00
	Services and Charges	Adam Hampton Lawncare / Cemetery Mowing	\$5,000.00
	Services and Charges	Wilcox Tree Service / Cemetery Maintenance	\$2,000.00
	Services and Charges	Indiana Township Association / Dues	\$150.00
		Total Services and Charges	\$8,575.45
	Other Disbursements	Darlington Public Library	\$2,000.00
	Other Disbursements	Darlington Youth Sports	\$750.00
	Other Disbursements	Town of Darlington / shared expense of recycle bin	\$900.00
	Other Disbursements	Ginny Jones / 4-H	\$1,200.00
	Other Disbursements	Montgomery Co. Treasurer / Ditch Assessment, cemetery	\$24.00
	Other Disbursements	US Treasury / Payroll Taxes	\$196.16
	Other Disbursements	Excess Levy	\$244.00
	Other Disbursements	Reissue of voided check	\$650.00
		Total Other Disbursements	\$5964.16
		Total Township	\$19,481.68
Township Assistance	Township Assistance	Wright Hardware	\$632.59
		Total Township Assistance	\$632.59
		Total Township Assistance	\$632.59
SP FIRE TER GEN	Other Disbursements	Franklin Township	\$146.95
		Total Other Disbursements	\$146.95
		Total SP FIRE TER GEN	\$146.95
SP FIRE TER EQU	Other Disbursements	Franklin Township	\$78.05
		Total Other Disbursements	\$78.05
		Total SP FIRE TER EQU	\$78.08
		GRAND TOTAL	\$20,724.51

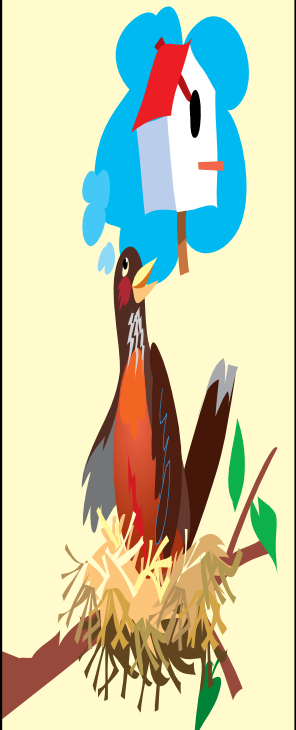
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IRS And Partners Promote Major Tax Benefit To Millions Of Low- And Moderate-Income Workers

The Internal Revenue Service and partners nationwide today kicked off their Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day outreach campaign to help millions of Americans who earned \$59,187 or less last year take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

“This is an extremely important tax credit that helps millions of hard-working people every year,” said IRS Acting Commissioner Doug O’Donnell. “But each year, many people miss out on the credit because they don’t know about it or don’t realize they’re eligible. In particular, people who have experienced a major life change in the past year – in their job, marital status, a new child or other factors – may qualify for the first time. The IRS urges people to carefully review this important credit; we don’t want people to miss out.”

In 2022, 31 million eligible workers and families across the country received about \$64 billion in Earned Income Tax Credits, with an average amount of more than \$2,000.

The IRS administers the EITC, which Congress originally approved in 1975. It was developed in part to offset the burden of Social Security taxes and provide an incentive to work.

The IRS and partners urge people to check to

see if they qualify for this important credit. They also encourage people who don’t normally file a tax return to review whether they qualify for EITC and other valuable credits.

The EITC is a tax credit for certain people who work and have low to moderate income. A tax credit usually reduces tax owed and may also result in a refund. Even though millions of people get the EITC, the IRS estimates that about 20% of EITC eligible taxpayers do not claim it

Workers at risk for overlooking the EITC include those:

- Living in non-traditional homes, such as a grandparent raising a grandchild
- Whose earnings declined or whose marital or parental status changed
- Without children
- With limited English skills
- Who are veterans
- Living in rural areas
- Who are Native Americans
- With earnings below the filing requirement

The IRS also reminds taxpayers that the quickest way to get a tax refund is by filing an accurate tax return electronically and choosing direct deposit for their refund. Tax software, tax professionals and other free options can help people see if they qualify for the EITC.

To qualify, taxpay-

ers must meet certain requirements and file a tax return, even if they did not earn enough money to be obligated to file a tax return. There’s no need to guess about EITC eligibility; find out with the EITC Assistant, only at IRS.gov.

Workers with qualifying children may be eligible for EITC if their adjusted gross income (AGI) was less than \$53,057 in 2022 (\$59,187 for married filing jointly). These individuals can receive a maximum of \$6,935 in EITC, up from \$6,728 in 2021

The maximum EITC for taxpayers with no dependents is \$560, available to filers with an AGI below \$16,480 in 2022 (\$22,610 for married filing jointly), and it can be claimed by eligible workers between the ages of 25 and 64. Married but separated spouses who do not file a joint return may qualify to claim EITC if they meet certain requirements.

EITC is for workers whose income does not exceed the following limits in 2022:

- \$53,057 (\$59,187 married filing jointly) with three or more qualifying children who have valid Social Security numbers (SSNs).
- \$49,399 (\$55,529 married filing jointly) with two qualifying children who have valid SSNs.
- \$43,492 (\$49,622

married filing jointly) with one qualifying child who have valid SSNs.

- \$16,480 (\$22,610 married filing jointly) with no qualifying children who have valid SSNs.
- Investment income must be \$10,300 or less.

How to claim the EITC To get the EITC, workers must file a tax return and claim the credit. Eligible taxpayers should claim the credit even if their earnings were below the income requirement to file a tax return. Free tax preparation help is available online and through volunteer organizations

Those eligible for the EITC have these options:

- Free File on IRS.gov. Free brand-name tax software is available that leads taxpayers through a question-and-answer format to help prepare the tax return and claim credits and deductions if they’re eligible. Free File also provides online versions of IRS paper forms, an option called Free File Fillable Forms, best suited for taxpayers comfortable preparing their own returns.
- Free tax preparation sites. EITC-eligible workers can seek free tax preparation at thousands of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) sites. To locate the nearest site, use the search tool on IRS.gov, the IRS2go

smartphone application, or call toll-free 800-906-9887. Taxpayers should bring all required documents and information.

- Find a trusted tax professional. The IRS reminds taxpayers that a trusted tax professional can prepare their tax return and provide helpful information and advice. Tips for choosing a return preparer, including certified public accountants, enrolled agents, attorneys and many others who don’t have a professional credential, and details about national tax professional groups are available on IRS.gov. EITC recipients should watch out for unscrupulous return preparers.

The IRS reminds taxpayers to be sure they have valid Social Security numbers for themselves, their spouse if filing a joint return and for each qualifying child claimed for the EITC. The SSNs must be issued before the April due date of the return. There are special rules for those in the military or those out of the country.

Most EITC refunds deposited by late February

While the IRS began accepting 2022 returns on Jan. 23, 2023, the IRS cannot issue a refund that includes the Earned Income Tax Credit or Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) before mid-February. This is due to the 2015 PATH Act law passed by Con-

gress, which provides this additional time to help the IRS stop fraudulent refunds from being issued.

Where’s My Refund? should show an updated status by Feb. 18 for most early EITC/ACTC filers. The IRS expects most EITC/ACTC related refunds to be available in taxpayer bank accounts or on debit cards by Feb. 28 if taxpayers chose direct deposit and there are no other issues with their tax return.

Get it right

Taxpayers are responsible for the accuracy of their tax return even if someone else prepares it for them. Since the rules for claiming the EITC can be complex, the IRS urges taxpayers to understand all of them.

Look out for scams

Be sure to choose a tax preparer wisely. Beware of scams that claim to increase the EITC refund. Scams that create fictitious qualifying children or inflate income levels to get the maximum EITC could leave taxpayers with a penalty.

Visit IRS online to learn about other tax credits

IRS.gov is a valuable first stop to help taxpayers get it right this filing season. They can check to see if they also qualify for the Child Tax Credit, Additional Child Tax Credit or Credit for Other Dependents.

LWV

From Page A1

seniors have few options: move out of town and break with their life-long friend networks, move into nursing homes or find a place with their children. Most aging adults prefer to age in place, enjoying the privacy of an affordable apartment in a supportive community.

Section 202 Housing intentionally creates senior communities that help stave off loneliness, and isolation, and improve social determinants of health, those conditions such as where people live, learn, work, play, worship and age that affect well-being and quality-of-life. In 2019, 13 percent of people age 65 and older reported taking prescription medicine for feelings of worry, nervousness or anxiety and 12 percent reported taking prescription medicine for depression. The CDC reports that chronic loneliness is associated with a 29 percent increased risk of heart disease and a 32 percent increased risk of stroke. Loneliness is associated with higher rates of depression, anxiety and suicide. Section 202 Housing would create dedicated communities for senior citizens that allow them to connect

with peers but maintain their privacy and independence.

Furthermore, Section 202 Housing improves Section 8 options because it provides for other common needs of our aging population. According to a 2019 profile of senior citizens in the US, 19 percent of adults age 65 and older reported they could not function at all or had a lot of difficulty with at least one of six functioning domains: sight, hearing, mobility, communication, cognition and self-care. Twenty-two percent reported trouble seeing (even if wearing glasses), 31 percent reported difficulty hearing (even if wearing hearing aids), 40 percent reported trouble with mobility (walking or climbing stairs), 8 percent reported difficulty with communication (understanding or being understood by others), 27 percent reported trouble with cognition (remembering or concentrating) and 9 percent reported difficulty with self-care (such as washing all over or dressing). Section 202 Housing must include food, market, laundry and cleaning services that residents may choose to use (or not). It would

dramatically improve upon voucher-based housing that Crawfordsville has presently. Low-income seniors cannot afford grocery delivery and with few supermarkets in town, options for healthy, fresh vegetables and fruits are too far flung to access on their own.

Imagine a place with a food court, mini-market, laundry services for seniors struggling to lift baskets of clothing and staff on hand to help with vacuuming and trash removal. Imagine a place where seniors could go for walks together, and gather in affinity groups. Imagine an option for low-income people over 62 being able to age-in-place, a far more fiscally responsible, health-wise option for local governments to add to their development planning.

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

CLAY

From Page A1

one 12 years and older. Classes meet at Athens Arts, 216 E. Main Street, Crawfordsville, IN.

To reserve a spot, call Athens Arts at

765.362.7455 and leave your name a phone number to return your call.

Come be pART of it This project in part is made possible through funds from The Arts

Federation (TAF) via the Biden-Harris Administration’s American Rescue Plan (ARP) allocation to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).



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TIM

From Page A1

of not addressing the real problem (let alone cutting spending and actually starting to fix it). Nope, they’re going to play politics for a while and then, one-two-presto . . . they’re going to “solve” everything by kicking the can down the road and raising the debt limit.

However, there’s a little good news. In addition to an awful lot of you talking about this, Sen. Mike Braun – yes, the same one running for governor in the great Hoosier State, and 23 of his Republican buddies sent a letter to President Joe Biden about the growing debt. Was it a political stunt? Oh, probably. But at least they said something.

“Americans are keenly aware that their government is not only failing to work for them – but actively working against them,” the letter said in part. “We do not intend to vote for a debt-ceiling increase without structural reforms to address current and future fiscal realities and manage out-of-control government policies.”

It stops short of saying they’ll find ways to reduce spending.

Hey, it’s a start. How did we get here?

Well, part of it is greed and corruption. If anyone out there thinks that Joe Biden and his pals all over D.C. (past and present) didn’t get fat and happy in their government jobs, well, I’ve got a couple of daily newspapers I want to sell you! Besides, let’s not forget the wise words from one of the last honest guys to sit in the Oval Office, Harry S. Truman. “Show me a man who gets rich by being a politician, and I will show you a crook.”

Amen, Harry . . . amen!

Look, a lot of us grew up the same way. My wife and I will celebrate 40 years of marriage in a few months – assuming she doesn’t kill me first. And we’ve done OK for ourselves. I say that not to brag. We worked our asses off for what we have. The thing is, we – like many of you –

started out with little. We lived in Mrs. Schroeder’s upstairs for a while on West Main Street because we couldn’t afford our own place. When we finally could, that first abode was a house trailer. Hey, the Journal-Review was paying me \$190 a week and all the newsprint I could eat. It’s what we could afford.

Did I suggest the government was to blame? Did I expect someone to improve things for me?

My Dad and his Dad would have kicked me in the posterior if I had.

Instead, I got more jobs. I worked at the Park & Rec Department running a summer league. I got my referee’s license and started ref’ing games. As a writer, I freelanced. Later on, I coached three sports at South.

How many of you worked more than one job back in the day? I’ll bet a lot.

We had to, right? The idea that the government would step in and either give us a free handout, or force our employers to double the wages they were paying would have resulted in a whole lot of politicians finding out just how angry voters react at the ballot box.

- Times have changed.
- Our taxes are out of control.
- Government spending is out of control.
- Government growth is out of control.

I’ll ask again – how did we get here? It sure didn’t happen overnight. It’s kind of like that old story about the camel’s nose. The thought is that if a camel sticks its nose under the tent and you don’t shoo it away, then little by little the camel will soon follow. Tell you what friends, the camel and his buddies are in our tent.

So we’re going to be like that camel. Over some time, we’re going to take a closer look at the details of where our money goes in the government and pass what we learn along. We’ve already started by reaching out earlier this week and asking for some “big picture” data.

Simply put, we asked four things: 1.) How much money does the county bring in each year 2.) What are the sources of that money (income tax, property tax, etc.) 3.) What local taxes have been passed over the years (dates and what it was for) And 4.) How much does the county spend year by year?

What I’ve gotten so far is a 40-something page document full of numbers, charts, graphs, bells and whistles. It’s titled Strategic Financial Plan and Analysis and it was put together by Peters Municipal Consultants, Ltd. What’d it cost? I asked, and will let you know what they say.

Let’s be clear. The intention here is to not be critical of the county. It’s just a place to start to figure things out. Let me say it again:

- Times have changed.
- Our taxes are out of control.
- Government spending is out of control.
- Government growth is out of control.

So we’re asking questions. We’ll report the answers – good, bad or indifferent – and we’ll see what we learn. Truth to tell, I hate to start here. The best, and I truly do mean that, the best people in government are those on the local level. For the most part, these are friends and neighbors and folks who just want to do their part. Government at the local level is usually as good as government gets.

The bigger issues, 97.5 percent of the problems, are in Indianapolis and Washington. But if we’re going to get things to change, we have to start somewhere.

Want to join in? Send your questions, comments and concerns my way. We’ll see where this goes.

*Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columnns 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.*