

# The Paper

## OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

50¢

➔ **TODAY'S VERSE**

Isaiah 43:18-19 *Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. (NIV)*

➔ **FACES OF MONTGOMERY**

People who call our community their own.



Will Bernhardt smiles for our roving photographer. Thank you for your smile, Will!

➔ **THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** A used Harley-Davidson motorcycle sold for nearly a million dollars recently. No, inflation is not what caused the extravagant price tag, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. This bike of dreams sold at auction for a record-breaking \$935,000 because it was in excellent condition considering that it was 115 years old. Greg Arnold, who heads up the motorcycle division of the Mecum Auction house in Las Vegas, said this "hog" had "many of its original parts, which makes it that much more rare." Strap Tank Harleys like this one got the moniker due to the nickel-plated steel bands that suspend the fuel and oil tanks and are rare, indeed.

**2** Feb. 20-26 is National Invasive Species Awareness Week, an international event to raise awareness about invasive species, the threat they pose to our environment and health and what we can do to prevent their spread. Invasive species are plants, animals and diseases that are not native to our area and cause harm to our environment, health and finances. You can fight back by learning the signs, reporting sightings, and taking precautions. Find out more at [dnr.IN.gov/rules-and-regulations/invasive-species](http://dnr.IN.gov/rules-and-regulations/invasive-species).

**3** The public can cut up and remove certain downed trees at Tippecanoe River State Park for firewood. Trees eligible for firewood have fallen as a result of natural causes or have been dropped by property staff. They are along roadsides or in public areas such as campsites and picnic areas. Permit sales and cutting are available through March 10. The cost of one pickup-truck load is \$10. All proceeds will be used for resource management and restoration efforts, including replacement of trees in campgrounds and other public areas. A firewood permit must be obtained for each load. For more information, call the Tippecanoe River office at (574) 946-3213. Firewood cut at Tippecanoe River is for personal use only and cannot be sold.

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### Harshbarger Saga #3 – Mary Harshbarger Nofsinger



**KAREN ZACH**  
Around The County

An almost Christmas present (same with our daughter – day after Valentine's but she's still our sweetie) came to be the day after the holiday in 1790 in Virginia, likely Botetourt County when Mary Harshbarger daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Gish Harshbarger was born. This would make her three years older than her husband (Joseph Nofsinger) but she is younger than him in census records. She'd have been 16 when she married Joe (14 September 1812 in Botetourt). Another interesting item is that their oldest (I have Salome born 13 July 1812 but three years before next child so I could easily see it could be 1813 instead - speculation). Joe and Mary came to the Ladoga area and she passed 9 April 1850. Oddly, she is not in the 1850 mortality schedule and she should be. Yet, she does have a stone (FAGrave photo taken by K&M) at the Ladoga Ceme-



tery. Have wondered if she was born in 1796 vs. 1790 to go along with the census records. The stone has kind of a picked off part right on that 0/6 but without seeing the stone new it is hard to say. Several trees have Joseph passing later in 1850 but he is definitely with their son, William Rowland, who was an Indianapolis banker in 1860. Most of WR's children were born in Indy. Joseph Lewis went to Kansas City, Missouri and was assistant post master there along with other jobs. His brother, Rowland went there too and was also a postal worker. Their half brother, Francis Bacon Nofsinger (born in Ladoga) was also in Kansas City and Independence and was

➔ See KAREN Page A5

### MCLA Hires New Executive Director

The Montgomery County Leadership Academy is excited to announce Jeremy Lemus as the new Executive Director of the organization. Lemus will facilitate leadership training in and around Montgomery County to prepare individuals to serve as community strengthening leaders.

Lemus is a Crawfordsville resident and Alumni of the 2020 signature program; he served on the board for the MCLA from December 2021 until December 2022. He plans to use his passion and love for communication, personal development, and leadership to further develop existing and up and coming leaders from around the community. Lemus brings with him experience facilitating different workshops such as Diversity Equity and Inclusion sessions at Penguin Random House as well as PRINT (a personality-based workshop that teaches employees how to be their best selves and better work with others). He has already implemented a monthly Lunch and Learn that takes place every first Wednesday of the month at Fusion 54 with a wide range of topics

➔ See MCLA Page A5

## The Paper Is Doing It Again!

The Paper of Montgomery County once again has free tickets to give away for the 2023 Indiana Flower + Patio Show which runs from Saturday, March 11 through Sunday, March 19, 2023 at Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center – West Pavilion and Exposition Hall.

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

our front page – you win!

It's really that simple! You can text or e-mail it to [ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com).

The Indiana Flower + Patio Show is returning for its 65th year. One of the oldest and most successful flower shows in the U.S. features showcase gardens crafted by many of Indiana's premier landscapers, hundreds of finer outdoor living experts and thousands of ideas, solutions and products to take home. Inspiration grows here.

The Indiana Flower + Patio Show is produced by Marketplace Events, which produces more than 75 consumer shows in North America, including home, garden, holiday and wedding shows. The 75+ combined events, in 35 markets,

currently attract 22,000 exhibitors, two million attendees and another three million unique web visitors annually.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and free for children 12 and under. Check out the Indiana Flower + Patio Show website at [www.IndianaFlowerandPatioShow.com](http://www.IndianaFlowerandPatioShow.com), and get \$2 off.

The Indianapolis Landscape Association is proud to present the Feature Gardens for this year's Flower + Patio Show! Both West Pavilion and Expo Hall are brimming with color — from gorgeous greens to beautiful blues and everything in between. The area's top landscape professionals have a variety of affordable to big-budget options for your next garden or backyard project.

### The Daily Almanac



**Sunrise/Sunset:**  
RISE: 7:24 a.m.  
SET: 6:30 p.m.



**High/Low Temperatures:**  
High: 68 °F  
Low: 57 °F



**Today is...:**

- National Chili Day
- Digital Learning Day



**What Happened On This Day:**

- 1917 The February Revolution begins in Russia. The demonstrations and armed clashes ultimately resulted in the demise of the Russian Empire
- 1954 The first mass inoculation against polio is conducted.



**Births On This Day:**

- 1899 Erich Kästner German author, poet
- 1868 W. E. B. Du Bois American sociologist, historian, activist

**Deaths On This Day:**

- 1965 Stan Laurel English actor, comedian
- 1848 John Quincy Adams American politician, 6th President of the U.S.

➔ **HONEST HOOSIER**

Here's a tip of the seed corn cap to county councilman Mark Hall. He's writing a column in *The Times* that tells you exactly what he does with his time since taking office. Transparency from a politician? What a concept! Good on you, Councilman Hall!



➔ **INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION**

Obituaries.....A2  
Service Directory.....A4  
Classifieds.....A4

➔ **THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

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➔ **TODAY'S QUOTE**

*"It's hard to beat a person who never gives up."*  
Babe Ruth

➔ **TODAY'S JOKE**

*Want to get rid of a snowman? Get into a heated argument!*

➔ **TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

When you buy a plastic water bottle, make sure it's labeled "BPA-free." 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 **ANDREW BLACKETER** for subscribing!



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**7 DAY FORECAST**

<b>55/66</b> SUNNY & WINDY	<b>25/39</b> A.M. WINDCHILL: 8-15	<b>32/49</b> EARLY MIX THEN PARTLY SUNNY	<b>33/56</b> BREEZY	<b>45/64</b> WINDY, RAIN, STORMS	<b>36/49</b> MOSTLY SUNNY	<b>39/56</b> WARMING AGAIN
WINDY	COLD			WINDY		
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED

## Meeting Notes

### Board of Works and Public Safety Meeting

The City of Crawfordsville Indiana  
 Feb. 22, 2023 at 10 a.m.  
 City Building 300 E Pike St Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
 I. Approval of the

minutes from February 15, 2023.

II. Approval of the claims for the week of February 20, 2023.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business  
 A. Darrin Hutson with parking requests in regards to doing restoration work at Harry's Hideout  
 V. Department Heads  
 VI. Adjournment

## Local Student On Dean's List For Fall 2022 At Millikin

Reagan Minnette of Crawfordsville has made the Dean's List for Fall 2022 at Millikin University!

Students who attempt 12 graded credits during a fall or spring semester

and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher earn Dean's List honors. Students earning a perfect 4.00 grade point average on 12 graded credits attempted earn High Dean's List honors.

## Indiana Joins Suit Against U.S. EPA

Indiana joined 24 other states in suing the Biden administration earlier this week. Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita said it was to protect Hoosiers' jobs, property and freedom from an overreaching U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rule redefining "navigable waters" under the Clean Water Act.



Attorney General Todd Rokita

The lawsuit also names the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a defendant. The new Waters of the United States rule would force Indiana landowners to beg the permission of federal bureaucrats before using their own property in ways deemed to impact certain ponds, streams, ditches or other wet areas of ground.

"We all want to conserve and preserve our natural resources," Rokita said. "At the same time, exercising wise stewardship over the environment does not require citizens to surrender their legitimate liberties and rights to the federal government. And, in fact, we cannot tolerate edicts designed to subjugate free people in such a manner."

The Biden adminis-

tration's new final rule is the culmination of a decades-long rulemaking process to define the geographic reach of the EPA's and Army Corps of Engineers' authority in regulating streams, wetlands and other water bodies under the Clean Water Act. It follows the Trump administration's 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule, which offered a more restrained vision of federal jurisdiction. If the final rule is left in place, the lawsuit states, "then ranchers, farmers, miners, homebuilders, and other landowners across the country will struggle to undertake even the simplest of activities on their own property without fear of drawing the ire of the federal government."

## Dear EarthTalk: What Is The "30x30 Initiative" For Conservation All About?



Put simply, the goal of the 30x30 Initiative is the conservation of 30 percent of terrestrial and marine habitat across the globe by 2030. The High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, an intergovernmental organization for the protection of nature, first proposed the initiative in 2020 and got 50 nations including the U.S. to sign on. Since then, the 30x30 Initiative has grown rapidly, with 100 signatories in 2021 (when it was signed at the COP 15 Convention on Biological Diversity). By the end of 2022, over 190 countries were enlisted in the battle for conservation.

But why the sudden focus on conservation? "Biodiversity is essential for the processes that support all life on earth, including humans," reports the Royal Society, the UK's independent scientific academy. If one species dies off, others that feed on it will go hungry, and this withering works its way along the food chain until it reaches us, humans. And it won't only affect our health. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), biodiversity loss can "affect livelihoods, income, local migration

and ... may even cause or exacerbate political conflict."

Wildlife conservation can be as simple as introducing legal protection of the land, halting excessive human activity, and a large helping of what the Rewilding Institute calls "benign neglect." In other areas, the process is more intensive, requiring the reconstruction of land, and the (re)planting of flora. The larger the mass of land for conservation, the more complex it becomes, encompassing land politics and ownership rights as well as purely logistical hurdles.

In America, adhering to the 30x30 framework would mean saving an area twice the size of Texas. As a step towards this goal, Biden's administration has deployed the 'America the Beautiful' program. The importance of getting landowners engaged is clear, with the initiative's pledge of "listening and learning from the families and communities that know and care

for American lands."

Scaling this kind of planning and implementation across more than 190 countries will be quite a daunting task. In the U.S., 80 percent of voters were behind Biden's 'America the Beautiful' initiative, whereas public support for such initiatives in less developed, less wealthy nations is another matter entirely. To wit, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a country that contains natural diversity of vast importance to global conservation efforts, biodiverse forests provide sustenance and security for over 40 million of its inhabitants. Conserving these forests in DRC, one of the five poorest nations on the planet, is quite a challenge when so many locals derive their livings from it.

While, for some, the complexity of the issues the 30x30 initiative has confirms its ambitiousness, it also has its skeptics. For Brian O'Donnell, the director

of the Campaign for Nature, 30x30 should be considered a "floor not a ceiling." Likewise, the large group of scientists following biologist E.O. Wilson's theory believes that half of the earth should be protected to stifle the downward spiral following biodiversity loss. The jury remains out on whether or not 30x30 will be enough to protect our climate, but what they all agree on is the importance of conservation for the survival of life on Earth.

CONTACTS: The Royal Society, royalsociety.org; Campaign for Nature, campaignfor-nature.org; Half-Earth Project, half-earthproject.org; Rewilding Institute, rewilding.org/what-is-rewilding/.

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## Indiana Lawmakers Advance Bill Banning Education On 'Human Sexuality' Through The Third Grade

By Casey Smith

More than four hours of "We say gay!" chants echoed through the Indiana Statehouse Monday as hundreds rallied against a bill that would prohibit Hoosier educators from talking about "human sexuality" through 3rd grade.

The latest draft of the proposal also targets transgender students by prohibiting school employees from using a name or pronoun that is inconsistent with a student's sex without a parent's written consent.

Schools would additionally be required to notify parents if a student requests to change their name or pronouns.

The bill advanced along party lines 9-4 to the full House. The chamber must approve the bill and send it to the Senate by Feb. 27, or it dies.

Lawmakers on the House Education Committee met Monday to debate House Bill 1608, authored by Rep. Michelle Davis, R-Greenwood. The proposal is reminiscent of Florida's "Don't Say Gay" law that has been described by some as one of the most "hateful" pieces of legislation in the country.

"The goal of House Bill 1608 is to empower Hoosier parents by reinforcing that they're in the driver's seat when it comes to introducing sensitive topics to their children," Davis said, noting that the bill is a response to "numerous concerns of parents in her district."

"Parents know what's best for their children, and their authority should not be superseded by teachers and school administrators," she continued.

Earlier language in Davis' bill banned K-3 classroom instruction or discussion about sexual orientation, gender fluidity, gender roles, gender identity, gender expression and gender stereotypes.

The committee nixed that list of topics and instead changed the bill's language to bar younger kids from being taught

about "human sexuality."

Davis said that encompasses "the way people experience and express themselves sexually." She noted that the change intends to prevent sex education from being taught to younger Hoosier students.

Davis conceded that Indiana schools do not currently teach sex education to students that young. The introduction of those concepts usually starts in the fourth grade, according to state standards.

Bill targets pronouns Education advocates argued Monday that the bill, as amended, is an "attack" on LGBTQ Hoosier youth — especially transgender students.

A provision to the legislation prohibits schools and teachers from using "a name, pronoun, title, or other word to identify a student that is inconsistent with the student's sex" assigned at birth unless a parent requests the change in writing.

The bill advanced along party lines 9-4 to the full House. The chamber must approve the bill and send it to the Senate by Feb. 27, or it dies.

Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, said that the pronoun language, specifically, "makes the bill far less palatable."

Still, Republicans on the committee maintained that the bill would not apply to curriculum for academic standards or prevent students from having private, one-on-one conversations with a school counselor, social worker or therapist.

But the bill isn't so cut and dry. Language in the bill reads that "a school, an employee or staff member of a school, or a third party vendor used by a school to provide instruction cannot provide any instruction on "human sexuality."

Additional amendments adopted to the bill on Monday clarify that teachers — if asked — are allowed to answer students' questions about "human sexuality" and other topics. It's not exactly clear what educators are or are not allowed to say,

however.

"(A teacher can respond) any way that is the correct answer ... You can have two moms, you can have two dads, you can have a mom and a dad. The rest of the discussion should be with the parents," Davis said, when asked what a teacher would be able to say to a first grader who asks why a peer has two moms.

Private schools were also carved out of the latest draft of the bill.

Majority of testimony in opposition

Only a handful of people testified Monday in support of the bill. That included Micah Clark, executive director of the American Family Association of Indiana, who said K-3 teachers should be focused on improving dismal math and literacy scores, not "unnecessary controversies."

"Parents are free to talk to children about these issues. But when the teacher, counselor or guest speaker does it, all that will do is cause heartache for school administrators and the school board, at some point," Clark said.

Damon Clevenger, a music teacher in Lawrence Township in Indianapolis, said, "As a young LGBTQ+ child, I was constantly a target for bullies and close-minded people who would rather isolate me than accept me for who I am. I honestly don't believe I wouldn't be standing here today if it had not been for my teachers who saw me accepted me, and the proud, out educators who let me know that I was not alone in this world. This bill would take that away from our children today."

He also promised that students will always have a safe space in his classroom.

Jennifer Laughlin of the Indiana State Teachers Association (ISTA) said current state law already protects students of all ages from "obscene materials" — which is what some of the bill's supporters say they want erased from classrooms.

"This bill is about scoring political points, rather than addressing the real issue," she said. "Regardless of this bill's merit, it's based on a bad faith argument from the start. This bill brings to light issues that are a part of a national trend designed to sow doubt and further a false narrative of our great public schools."

Rep. Vernon Smith, D-Gary, held that state lawmakers should not "create a universal standard" that imposes Christian values and beliefs on all Hoosiers.

"The bottom line is that we're here in education and in government to serve people ... and to get so upset about pronouns ... that we lose the educational focus — we're here to educate children, not to sanctify them," Smith said. "We need to make schools inviting ... we're creating a problem that we don't need to create."

Paula Davis, mom of three school-age children, an educator, and a chapter president of Moms for Liberty, disagreed.

"This is not about whether or not I agree with homosexual lifestyle. This is about my right as a parent to guarantee my children are not being told the morals and values of their parents are wrong."

She added that the bill "is guaranteeing that my children do not have an educator introduce them to a topic that I do not believe should be discussed outside of my presence. It is creating a neutral space so children are not forced to participate in something that is so divisive, especially when they may not feel like they have a voice or the power to challenge the teacher."

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# Dear EarthTalk: How Can We Harness The Power Of AI To Fight Climate Change?

No doubt, artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to play a significant role in addressing the challenges posed by climate change. One way that planners are already utilizing AI is for so-called predictive modeling about the potential impacts of climate change on different regions and ecosystems to help identify areas that are most vulnerable and prioritize mitigation and adaptation efforts. AI algorithms' ability to process decades of historical weather and climate data and crunch the numbers make it far superior at predicting the future than a few humans could ever be. (But at least we still need to be here to program the AI and interpret the results.)

Another way AI is already playing a role in reducing emissions is by helping optimize energy use and other systems in buildings, transportation systems and industrial processes. To wit, optimized manufacturing processes have led to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions at individual factories and other industrial facilities by



as much as 40 percent. Direct carbon emissions from the manufacturing sector account for almost one-quarter of all U.S. greenhouse gas output; finding ways to trim back emissions therein could mean significant reductions in our overall national carbon footprint.

The ability of AI software to continuously optimize industrial processes means that the companies that employ such technology can reap a whole host of benefits beyond greenhouse gas emissions reductions, including increased yields, reduced waste, faster design iteration and less energy consumption—all which result in lower costs and higher profits. Meanwhile, AI is also in use to help industrial facilities still burning fossil fuels to monitor and optimize carbon capture and storage systems to make our dirtiest facilities do less damage.

AI is also optimizing our capture and storage of energy from renewable sources. Hydroelectric systems are using AI tools to optimize water levels according to seasonal needs and other factors. Wind farms and solar arrays are employing AI systems to improve their efficiency and reliability which in turn makes them easier to scale as market demand dictates.

And yet another recent application of AI in the fight against climate change is monitoring and tracking deforestation by analysis of satellite imagery; this kind of climate surveillance can help detect and prevent illegal logging—and the loss of critical carbon sinks—in real time. Conservation groups like Global Forest Watch, Conservation International and World Resources Institute have pioneered various uses of AI to analyze satellite

and/or drone imagery to map and monitor forests “on the fly” so to speak.

While the climate crisis is more dire than ever these days, environmental advocates and others are keeping their fingers crossed that we can realize the potential power of AI to rein in emissions in time before things get outright cataclysmic.

**CONTACTS:** AI Is Essential for Solving the Climate Crisis, [bcg.com/publications/2022/how-ai-can-help-climate-change](http://bcg.com/publications/2022/how-ai-can-help-climate-change); World Resources Institute, [wri.org](http://wri.org); Conservation International, [conservation.org](http://conservation.org); Global Forest Watch, [globalforestwatch.org/](http://globalforestwatch.org/).

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# Bill Expanding Hoosier Women's Access To Contraceptives Heads To Senate

The Indiana House of Representatives this week advanced legislation co-authored by State Rep. Sharon Negele (R-Attica) that would allow pharmacists to prescribe and dispense hormonal contraceptives like birth control pills and patches.

Currently, primary physicians can prescribe hormonal contraceptives. This legislation would allow pharmacists to prescribe birth control to Hoosier women 18 years and older, and offer self-screening information and referrals to primary care providers for follow-up. Negele said many Hoosier women struggle to get access to care, including those who don't have a primary care doctor or can't afford transportation to a different city or county for care.

"When women are unable to get an appointment with a physician, that is a barrier to care, and this bill addresses that by allowing pharmacists to prescribe hormonal contraceptives," Negele said. "Pharmacies provide convenience and easy access to care."

According to a study from Manatt Health, more than 19 million women across the country do not have access to some form of birth con-



State Rep. Sharon Negele

trol. Negele said the bill would allow pharmacists to be reimbursed after prescribing birth control to Medicaid recipients, ensuring low-income Hoosiers can receive this resource.

Under this bill, pharmacists who object on the basis of ethical, moral or religious grounds would not be required to prescribe contraceptives. If passed, Indiana would join nearly half the states in the country that allow pharmacists to prescribe hormonal contraceptives.

House Bill 1568 now heads to Senate for further consideration. For more information, or to watch session and committees live, visit [iga.in.gov](http://iga.in.gov).

*State Rep. Sharon Negele (R-Attica) represents House District 13, which includes all of Benton and Warren counties, and portions of Fountain, Jasper, Montgomery, Newton, Tippecanoe and White counties.*

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# House GOP Budget Advances To Full Chamber

By Casey Smith

The proposed House Republican budget advanced Monday to the full chamber, where much of the debate over Indiana's next two-year spending plan will continue to center around school funding, public health and tax cuts.

The House Ways and Means Committee voted 14-5, along party lines, in favor of the draft budget.

K-12 education accounts for almost half the proposed two-year, \$43.3 billion state budget. The GOP proposal would also appropriate \$225 million for a highly-anticipated statewide public health program and speed up income tax cuts for Hoosier taxpayers.

But lawmakers are already getting pushback for provisions that seek to generously expand eligibility for the state's "school choice" program — which allows families to receive vouchers to attend private schools. Further, some traditional public schools could stand to lose millions in operating revenues under a proposed cap on operations tax levies.

Democrats attempted to remedy some of those concerns with their own amendments on Monday but were unsuccessful getting the changes past members of the GOP-supermajority.

The House's proposal is the first draft of a

two-year state budget that must still be approved by the Senate and the governor.

A final version of the budget is expected by the end of April.

Democrats seek more funding for health, education

House Democrats offered their own ideas for the new state budget Monday. Many of their proposals built upon line items that are already laid out in the House Republican budget.

A wide-reaching amendment filed by Rep. Greg Porter, D-Indianapolis, included language to fully fund the governor's Public Health Commission recommendations, for example. The GOP plan commits to only two-thirds of Gov. Eric Holcomb's ask for the statewide public health program, and less than half what the blue-ribbon panel originally suggested.

"In too many areas in the state of Indiana, we fall short on being healthy as a state," said Rep. Cherrish Pryor, D-Indianapolis.

Porter's amendment also included tax relief for low-income Hoosier homeowners and statewide universal pre-K, as well as funding increases for public transit and mental health. It was rejected by the committee.

"Everything Rep. Porter does present — at least by our calculation

— it's tight. It's close. Any little hiccup, and all of a sudden, it's unstructured, it's unbalanced," said Rep. Jeff Thompson, R-Lizton, who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee. "We'll have more spending than we have ongoing revenue."

Democrats also sought significant changes to portions of the budget dealing with education.

Porter's defeated amendment sought a 10% increase in "complexity" funding schools receive for low-income and at-risk students. Under the House GOP plan, that per pupil grant is set to go up just 4.4% in fiscal year 2024 and 1% in fiscal year 2025.

An alternate budget proposal authored by Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, additionally sought to increase "sin taxes" on cigarette sales and sports betting as a means to spend more state dollars on public health and schools.

For K-12, specifically, DeLaney proposed a "dramatic" increase to complexity funding. The state currently spends about \$691 million on the supplemental school grants. DeLaney said he wants that to increase to over a billion dollars.

"My belief is that we're not going anywhere near far enough," DeLaney said of the House GOP's complexity funding plan. "I think

we're ignoring the poor, and the kids in the public schools. And the best way to do it is to say, 'If you've got more poverty, we're going to give you substantially more money.'"

DeLaney pointed out, too, that the Republican budget commitment to expand access to private school vouchers is a misappropriation of state funds.

"What we're going to be doing is funding the tuition costs of students whose tuition cost is already being met, either by their parents or by some donation from their church, or whatever," he continued. "I happen to think that dealing with our poor kids is far more important than bailing out some people who were already getting their tuition paid in the voucher schools."

DeLaney's amendment was also defeated in committee along party lines.

Big questions about schools

Indiana taxpayers would more than double their spending on the state's Choice Scholarship program under the House GOP budget.

The latest bill raises the income eligibility ceiling to 400% of the amount required for a student to qualify for the federal free or reduced price lunch program, equal to about \$220,000. Currently, vouchers are

limited to families that make less than 300% of the federal poverty level, meaning a family of four can make up to \$154,000 annually.

After the expansion, the program would cost the state an estimated \$500 million in fiscal year 2024, and another \$600 million in the following fiscal year. The current state budget appropriates \$240 million annually for the Choice Scholarships.

Thompson maintained Monday that private school tuition vouchers will "save the state money."

"We're educating 100,000 students (at voucher schools) for half the cost of those at traditional public schools," Thompson said, pointing to debt service costs at public schools that "costs the state more money."

"That's a great deal for taxpayers, and also just honors a philosophy that I think a lot of us have, that parents should make what they believe is the best choice for their students," he continued.

The House GOP budget would also change how local property taxes fund public school districts.

Every Hoosier school corporation would get the same amount of local property taxes for operations funding that is intended to cover non-classroom expenses, like electric bills or

school bus maintenance. As currently drafted, the budget proposes \$1,400 per student in 2024 and \$1,500 per student in 2025.

The state would additionally provide a grant to any traditional public school that is below the per student funding benchmark. The move is expected to boost dollars to small and rural schools.

Charter schools would benefit from the new funding stream, too. Charter schools do not currently receive local property taxes, but would get \$1,400 per student next year from state funds, according to the draft budget. A current state grant offers charter schools \$1,250 per student each school year.

But the levy cap would mean cuts at some schools — especially larger ones, like those in Indianapolis. It's not clear how much exactly individual school districts could lose, though. A fiscal analysis of the plan is still pending.

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# Concerned About Flooding? Ensure Your Home And Belongings Are Protected

(StatePoint) According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), floods are the most frequently occurring natural disaster in the United States, which is why it is important to understand the risks and costs associated with flooding, and what you can do to protect your home.

Rampant storms and hurricanes are not the only causes of flood damage – leaky pipes can cause just as much water damage and put a huge hole in your wallet, too. According to FEMA, just 1 inch of water in a home can cost more than \$25,000 in damage.

What can you do to protect your home in the event of a flood? First, make sure you have flood insurance. Some people may think they don't need flood insurance because of where they live. Many may also assume that flooding is included in their homeowners insurance policy when in fact, most

homeowners policies do not cover flooding.

Why is that? A string of flood disasters occurred throughout the '40s, '50s and '60s that put tremendous financial strain on private insurers, so in response, the federal government created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to protect homeowners, renters and businesses.

Talk to your insurance agent about getting flood insurance through NFIP. Some companies offer additional unique options. For example, Erie Insurance recently began offering a coverage called Extended Water that covers damage caused from flash floods, inland flooding, storm surges, snow melt and more. It covers the home and its foundation, electrical and plumbing systems, air conditioning equipment, furnaces and heaters, appliances and personal possessions, such as clothing and furniture. It even offers coverage if you need

to temporarily relocate while your home is being repaired.

"As the frequency of flooding increases, homeowners need to understand that flood insurance is typically not included in their standard homeowners insurance policy, but there are options available," said Michelle Tennant, vice president of product management, Erie Insurance. "Even if you don't live in an area that you think is flood-prone, if it rains or snows, it can flood. That's why it's so important to talk to your agent about your home and your neighborhood, to make sure you have the coverage that's right for you."

To learn more about flood insurance, contact your agent or visit <https://www.erieinsurance.com/flood-insurance>.

As flooding becomes more frequent, make sure that you have the insurance you need to protect your home and belongings.

## How To Be A Pet Parent On A Budget

(StatePoint) Whether you are a first-time or veteran pet owner, being a pet parent can be expensive. From daily needs like food, treats and toys to medicines, the costs can add up.

To help stretch your budget, the experts at Dollar General are providing cost-friendly ways to provide for your pet:

**Food to Fuel Your Furry Friend**

Fueling your pet with nutritious food doesn't have to break your budget. By stocking up on options available exclusively at select retailers, you can feed your furry family member affordably. For example, Nature's Menu is available only at Dollar General and offers dog and cat food free from artificial colors, flavors or pre-

servatives. Their dry pet food products also include pre and probiotics to support healthy digestion, along with added vitamins, minerals and other trace nutrients and a money-back satisfaction guarantee.

**Hygiene How-To**

Having a pup or feline companion comes with responsibility, especially when it pertains to their cleanliness and well-being. To maintain a groomed pet, create a care tote that includes such hygiene essentials as a brush or flea comb, shampoo, nail clippers and puppy pads, which can be used as clean-up tool for both dogs and cats. Also consider using a dual-action topical treatment to help prevent fleas and ticks. Be sure to see a trusted veterinar-

ian for annual checkups and other needs.

**Paw-some Accessories**

All those accessories that enhance your pet's days and nights don't have to be costly. Consider new water and food bowls, a collar and a bed for a good night's rest after playful days. Next, make playtime a bit more fun with a few new toys from Dollar General's private brand, Forever Pals, which include a variety toy pack for dogs and a feather wand for cats. With these accessories, your pet will be wagging their tail or purring with excitement all day long!

By shopping wisely for all your pet's needs, you can provide them with quality products while stretching your budget in the process.

## KAREN From Page A1

a well-loved physician.

Regressing as WR was not the oldest child, Salome mentioned above was indeed and married Joel Britts (son of John and Susannah Eckles). Joel lived to 11 October 1876, and Salome died in January 1880 (also found 7 May) of cancer of the face; both buried Greenwood Cemetery, Brownsdale, Minnesota. This family spread, believe you me! Although they are only linked to seven children on FA-Grave, I have them with 11. Samuel Harshbarger Britts was born in Ladoga (27 Jan 1838) was in the 2nd Minn Cavalry in the CW and is buried in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Ed Montgomery Britts went to St. Louis County, Minnesota and was an important banker there. He fathered eight children (I think triplets?) but only one was living in the 1900 census. Joseph Addison Britts served in the 2nd Minnesota Volunteers but then went to Missoula, Montana where he is buried. Others stayed in Minnesota where their parents are buried but most went forward to other states.

Elizabeth Nofsinger was born in Botetourt County, Virginia and died 9 June 1889 buried in the Baker Cemetery in Lane, Kansas (very neat stone) with her husband, Joshua Baker. They are only connected to two children on FAGrave but I have them with: Salome; William H; John Wesley; George; Eliza and Frank. Their son William H. died at the end of the Civil War (30 May 1865) and is buried in Little Rock, Arkansas in the Baker Cemetery – he was born in Putnam County, Indiana and when he volunteered on the 19th of August

1862, he was 21 and a farmer. His sister, Eliza married Amos Lingard and they were parents of four daughters (Elinore; Elizabeth; Genevieve and Anna) and two boys (James and Amos). George Washington Baker was born 25 Oct 1848 in Ladoga, and Frank was after my heart with his occupation of book agent!

Mary Nofsinger, daughter of Joseph and Mary Harshbarger married Dan Hale in Putnam County in late 1842 – they lived here in Montgomery County where Dan was a tanner, farmer and courier, passing away 14 Nov 1878 at just 58 years old. He was buried in Shiloh cemetery where their daughter, Emma is, dying just a couple of months prior to her father. Mary is in MoCo with three of her children in 1880, but some time after went to Lane, Kansas where she passed 2 Feb 1890 and is buried. Son, Tilghman Howard Hale, in the Civil War, married and lived here, but others of the Hale children (eight I count) went to Kansas where other members of the Nofsinger family went to live. Daughter Mary married John C. Morris and lived most of the time in the Mace area.

Next up is Peter W. who married Phebe LaFollette in Putnam County on October 14th in 1847 and his sister, Susannah married her brother George Washington LaFollette just a few months before. Oddly, one couple went west and the other stayed here. It was the Nofsingers who in 1869 settled in Franklin County, Kansas near the town of Lane. Sadly, he died January 7 in 1871, she opting to remain in the

new country. Their children (Nancy, Thomas, Susan, Mary and George W) aided her and became leading citizens. She has quite an obituary that makes her wreak of spunkiness, telling a young man about four hours before her death (while sweeping the porch) at age 88 that she was a bit older than him but felt just fine.

Lastly, we have Susan(nah) and George LaFollette, Susan born in Botetourt County, Virginia 11 Nov 1827 and passed away in Shannondale (15 July 1902) where they are both buried. They began housekeeping and farming in Russell Township, Putnam County but spent most of their years in Franklin. The GenWeb page has three wonderful LaFollette histories thanks to a couple of wonderful Suz's – find that here <http://ingenweb.org/inmontgomery/bios%20I/index.html>. In the nice but short obituary for "Uncle" George LaFollette it noted that "he was such a man as the world can ill afford to lose, just, upright, honorable to the last degree." He and Susan had Joseph, Frank, Mary, Nancy, Clara, Oliver, Wallace with Hubert and Nancy passing young.

So, hope you have enjoyed learning about Mary Harshbarger Nofsinger and her versatile family who stayed here and wandered there. Harshbarger Saga #4 coming up next week!

*Karen Zach is the editor of Montgomery Memories, our monthly magazine all about Montgomery County. Her column, Around the County, appears each Thursday in The Paper of Montgomery County. You can reach her at karen.zach@sbcglobal.net.*

## MCLA From Page A1

relating to leadership, business, and personal development. Lemus assisted in facilitating a lesson on IKIGAI (Ikigai- Japanese for a reason for being. A concept that helps individuals find their personal meaning of life in regards to profession, passion, and contribution to the world) for the 2022 signature program and hopes to bring that

concept back to this year's class along with various other subjects and tools to better serve our community.

In addition to the Youth Programming and Signature Program, the Montgomery County Leadership Academy offers leadership development training for nonprofit and private employers.

MCLA also hosts the

Montgomery County Volunteer Center, POINT, with a goal of connecting volunteers to organizations for volunteer service. For more information about MCLA, or to inquire on programming or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Jeremy at [ExecutiveDirector@54leadership.com](mailto:ExecutiveDirector@54leadership.com) and visit our website at [www.54leadership.com](http://www.54leadership.com).

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