

The Paper OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

50¢

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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➔ TODAY'S VERSE

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

➔ FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Makia Pierce smiles happily while enjoying a nice breakfast. Thank you for your smile Makia!

➔ THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 Registration for the annual Becoming an Outdoors-Woman workshop, which is open to women ages 18 and older, opens this week. The workshop will be held May 5-7, at Ross Camp in West Lafayette. The program is designed for women to learn outdoor skills in a relaxed, low-pressure environment. Participants will choose four activities from more than two dozen offerings, including fishing, archery, geocaching, wild edibles, wildlife tracking, shooting muzzleloader guns, and outdoor cooking. The workshop is for women who want to learn all the way to those who enjoy the camaraderie of individuals with similar outdoor interests and seek time away to reconnect with nature. Size is limited to 100. To register, go to IndianaBOW.com. The cost for the workshop is \$275, which includes all equipment, meals, and lodging.

2 Volunteer child advocates from across Indiana will gather at the State House on March 7 for CASA Day. A CASA—or Court Appointed Special Advocate—devotes their time to supporting abused and neglected children whose families are involved with the child welfare system. On CASA Day, advocates will have the chance to interact with legislators and talk about the importance of best interest advocacy for abused and neglected children. They will hear from Chief Justice Loretta Rush, Judge Dana Kenworthy, former foster youth, and others about how CASAs help these children with the issues they face. There are GAL/CASA programs serving 88 Indiana counties, and in 2022 they advocated on behalf of 20,091 children in the justice system.

3 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. There is no cap on earnings and multiple people in the past have earned \$50,000, \$60,000 and beyond – all the way into six figures. 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 resume to jobs@thepaper24-7.com.

Anna Faye, You Were The Best!



BUTCH DALE
Columnist

Junior high school is a crucial time in a student's education. Students must learn the basic skills that serve as a foundation for success in high school and beyond. Most people believe that math and English skills are absolutely the key determinants, and I wholeheartedly agree. No one could have been a better teacher in these two subjects than Anna Faye Stevenson, who taught junior high math and English for 18 years at Darlington from 1957 to 1975.

Her teaching and influence on our education had a profound impact, and made all of us better students.

Mrs. Stevenson, like other outstanding teachers, was firm and demanded respect, yet she was always helpful and made her classes interesting. She stated, "The thing I enjoyed the most about teaching junior high was watching the maturing of the boys and girls from the time they came into my classes until they left the eighth grade. I tried to develop within the students good reading and study habits, and I tried to develop an appreciation for worthwhile reading material and knowledge of math skills...I always tried to get my classes started as soon as the bell rang. I was in control of the classroom and was firm in making decisions... As a teacher, I felt it was up to me to see that my students both enjoyed school and saw the importance of getting an

➔ See BUTCH Page A5

County Included In State Grant

Montgomery County will share in a \$3 million grant given to a Lafayette organization.

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Housing and Community development Authority awarded about \$1.2 million to Lafayette Transitional Housing Rapid Rehousing to serve up to 40 one-, two- and three-bedroom households. It will also utilize a partnership with InWell and Phoenix Paramedics to expand healthcare resources available to clients in the program. "These funds will help local partners serve those in their communities who are experiencing homelessness," said Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "These projects signify a collaborative step towards our long-term goal to end homelessness in the state of Indiana."

In addition to Montgomery County, the project will serve Benton, Carroll, Clinton, Fountain, Warren and White counties.

IT'S BACK! Welcome To Readers' Choice '23

It's back. It's new and improved. It's better than ever.

What is it? Montgomery County's biggest annual contest, The Paper's Readers' Choice 2023!

The way this huge annual promotion works is simple. The Paper publishes a list and asks you to vote for your favorites. For example, who has the best cheeseburger in town? Who makes the best pizza? Who is the best mover? What's your favorite newspaper? Since around 2005, Crawfordsville and Montgomery County residents have voted for the hundreds of thousands for their favorite people, products and places.

And this year, we are making it even easier to vote. You can go to www.thepaper24-7.com and click on the Readers' Choice 2023 ad and then vote for any and all your favorites. Or, you can watch for the Readers' Choice page in some



of our Online Editions, print it out, mark your choices and mail it to us at 127 E. Main St. Or you can e-mail your choices to ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com. And don't forget, this is exactly like Chicago politics – vote early and vote often!

Last year we finished with more than half a million votes.

Paper readers have been voting by the hundreds of thousands for their favorite people, products and places for years and this time around looks to be no exception. "We started the Readers' Choice Awards as a way to have some fun and let people

recognize their favorite things," Paper Publisher Tim Timmons said. "It seems that we always hear about the bad things. Readers' Choice is a great opportunity to point out the many, many good things and good people all over Montgomery County." Everyone is encouraged to vote in all categories, and you can vote for as many or as few – or as often – as you want. As usual, there is no definitive ending date announced, so don't wait! Hurry up and vote now, today. And keep voting if you like! You are the Reader and these are your Choices. Make them count!

➔ HONEST HOOSIER

So long February – sure not sorry to see you go! No offense, but the groundhog can keep you.



➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Parents need to set the example – everyone in the family needs to wear bike helmets.

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Paper and online at www.thepaper24-7.com.



➔ OBITUARIES

Sara Jayne (Griest) Allee
Scott Stephen Wajerski

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



The Paper
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

➔ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

For Your Information

The Crawfordsville/Montgomery County Chamber Of Commerce is hosting a City County Legislative Lunch At 11:30 a.m. on Friday, March 10 on the 3rd floor of Fusion 54, 101 W. Main Street, Crawfordsville. The panel will consist of Mayor Todd Barton, City Council Andy Biddle, County Commissioner John Frey, and County Council David Hunt. The sponsor for this event is duke energy. Lunch will be catered by wildfire348. This is open to the public, and 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 crawfordsvillechamber.com by Friday, March 3rd. For more information regarding the breakfast or the chamber, please contact Stacy Sommer at ssommer@crawfordsvillechamber.com.

➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"The secret of getting ahead is getting started."
Mark Twain

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

What'd the flower say about the joke?
Hey, I was just pollen your leg!

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 7:17 a.m.
SET: 6:35 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
High: 55 °F
Low: 38 °F



Today is.....

- Floral Design Day
- National Science Day



What Happened On This Day

- 1986 Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme is assassinated. Even though over 130 people have confessed to the murder, the case has never been solved
- 1991 The first Gulf War ends. The armed conflict had lasted a little over half a year and claimed over 100,000 civilian casualties.
- 2013 Pope Benedict XVI resigns. The pope whose birth name is Joseph Ratzinger was the first leader of the Catholic Church to resign since 1415



Births On This Day

- 1953 Paul Krugman American economist, Nobel Prize laureate
- 1948 Bernadette Peters American actress, singer, author

Deaths On This Day

- 2009 Paul Harvey American radio host
- 1977 Eddie Anderson American actor



OBITUARIES

Sara Jayne (Griest) Allee

May 14, 1962 - Feb. 23, 2023

Sara Jayne (Griest) Allee, age 60 of Crawfordsville, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023 at home. She was born in Crawfordsville on May 14, 1962 to Paul Vernon Griest & Sharon Kay (Griffin) Griest-Leon.

Sara graduated from Franklin Central High School and received her associates degree from Ivy Tech State College. She worked in the medical field for several years. On June 26, 1992 she married the love of her life, Martin Gilbert Allee, who preceded her in death on December 2, 2008.

She is survived by her mother, Sharon Griest-Leon; a daughter, Jessica (Edgar) McKinley-Fernandez of Texas; a son, Dustin (Meghan) McKinley of Michigan; two sisters, Roxanne Thomas of Missouri and Kandy Hicks of Crawfordsville; two brothers, Thomas Griest of Darlington and Mark (Kelly) Griest of Crawfordsville; two grandchildren, Camila and Gabriel Fernandez; two grand-dogs, Olive and Moe; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Paul Griest; her husband, Martin Allee; and a brother, Timothy Griest.

Visitation will be at Sanders Priebe Funeral Care, 315 S Washington St, in Crawfordsville on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023 from 4 p.m. till the time of the memorial service at 6 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to the Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County, 1104 Big Four Arch Road, Crawfordsville, IN 47933. Share memories and condolences online at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

Scott Stephen Wajerski

Aug. 26, 1955 - Feb. 19, 2023

Scott Stephen Wajerski, age 67, of New Richmond, passed away on Sunday, Feb. 19, 2023 at Franciscan Health Lafayette. He was born in Arlington Heights, IL on Aug. 26, 1955 to the late Clyde and Bonnie (Hoffman) Wajerski.

He graduated from Hersey High School in Arlington Heights, IL and went on to serve his county in the United States Coast Guard. He married the love of his life Vera Ann Littlefield on Oct. 20, 1974, they have been together for over 50 years. He was a plumber throughout his life. He enjoyed playing his guitar and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He loved his pet dogs, Webster, Precious, and Bonnie.

Scott is survived by his wife; two daughters, Melody (Patrick Mahoney) Littlefield and Destiny (Dennis Curtin) Wajerski; three grandchildren, Paige, Christopher, and Meadow; three siblings, Kenneth (Mary) Wajerski, Donna (David) Piastowski, and Debbie (Karl) Kimmel; and many nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Susan Martinek.

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



2nd Trimester Honor Roll Sommer Elementary

2nd Grade Mrs. Callis: All A- Eleanor Evans, Malcolm Risner, Lynkin Tyrrell, Maycee Williams A/B- Carson Wray, Emalou Barclay, Kreed Harkrider, Jackson Horn, Grayson Leslie, Norah Warnecke, Hayleigh Maxey, Itzayana Morales, Trinity Newlin, Annabelle Tyler

2nd Grade Mrs. Sankey: All A: Sawyer Bolen, Lilly Bowers, Jonah Conkright, Ava Dehne, Lylah Ferguson, Bristyl Fitch, Gideon Koehl, Draven McBride, Alivia Morgan, Lennon Priebe, Ryder Taylor, Hannah Shadle, Owen Walter A/B: Myia Brown, Kartyr Harkrider, Jackson Fry, Sydnie Martin

3rd Grade Mrs. Dykstra: All A- Camden

Bechtel, Odette Leaming A/B- Beckett Bonebrake, Sawyer Dickerson, Waylon Ellingwood, Zoe Gemino, Caitlin Jeffries, Finley Kunkel, Kassy McBride, Asher Niece, Sage Schenck, Brooklynn Stuffer, Remington Zuk, Raylyn Berzenye (only at LBS since 2/3/22)

3rd Grade Mrs. Peterson: All A: Hayes Finlayson, Athalia Hurt, Cruz Leigh, Madeleine Nelson, Klaire Parker, Rylin Tyrrell A/B: Brynn Hutson, Alexavier Johnson, Colton Jones, Reese Robinson, Easton Ruiz, Addison Smith, Cristian Viveros, Briar Watts

4th Grade Mrs. Jeffery: All A's: Treycin Cope, Brayden Leslie, Scarlett Webb, Hudson

Lewis, Aaron Welch A/B: Rachelle Brackman, Paola Carrion, Hunter Conkright, Emily Brock, Qwinton Carey, Giovany Garcia, Maiah Rathbun, Giavanni Minnick

4th Grade Mrs. Stigall: All A: Nolan Catlin, Gavin Cope, Ethan Fruits, Cristian Lagunes Gonzalez, Kinzie McElheny, Oliver Neese, Haylee Shadle, Milly Stine, Madison Skinner, Lucas Woolwine A/B: Jaxon Cohee, Hunter Delp, Easton Horton, Elan Laughlin, Quentin Mattox

5th Grade Mr. Dark: All "A" Honor Roll: Santiago Amigon, Cash Cole, Dastan Cooper, Addisyn Sabo A/B Honor Roll: Syris Lafoe,

Carson Neal, Estella Newton, Carter Morrison, Cohen Carpenter, Lorelei Leaming, Jada Jeffers, Trystan Orduña-Reyes

5th Grade Miss Dyson: A: Easton Barker, Colton Benge, Brynlynn Fitch, Mason Grimes, Trevor Hintz, Bella Hutson, Joyln Lawson, Sadie Martin, Remley Redden A/B: Journey Hinchman, Addison Leigh, Parker Nichols, Genevieve Schultz

5th Grade Mrs. Reichert: All A: Harper Allen, Jillian Clark, Will Dark, Grady Finlayson, Nolan Jeffery A/B: Kimmi Almond, Sadie Arnold, Westin Craig, Gavin Huber, Elisama Santana-Roldan, Strom Schenck

Nomination Deadline Extended For The Environmental Awards 2023



The Indiana Department of Environmental Management announced that it will continue to accept nominations for the 2023 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence until Friday, March 17.

Citizens, government

agencies, businesses, organizations, and educational institutions are invited to submit nominations. Self-nominations are encouraged. Nominated projects must have occurred in Indiana and been implemented in 2021 or 2022.

"It is always an honor for IDEM to recognize these outstanding Hoosiers who are choosing to go above and beyond to make a difference in Indiana's environment," said Commissioner Brian Rockensuess. "I encourage Hoosiers to submit their applications for their innovative projects, and I look forward to celebrating this year's honorees and their many contributions to our state."

The Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence are the most prestigious environmental awards given in the state. This year, IDEM and Governor Eric J. Holcomb's office will present seven awards, one in each of the following categories: Energy Efficiency/Renewable Resources; Environmental Education/Outreach; Five Year Continuous Improvement; Greening the Government; Land Use/Conservation; Pollution Prevention; and, Recycling/Reuse.

The deadline for nominations is now March 17, 2023. The previous deadline was March 6. Awards will be presented in September. A panel

of conservation, environmental, and academic professionals review nominations. The awards will be based on project innovation, measurable results, and transferability. Nomination forms and instructions are available at idem.IN.gov/partnerships/governors-awards-for-environmental-excellence/.

In 2022, award winners included: Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, LLC, Paramount Schools of Excellence, AstraZeneca Mount Vernon Operations, Indianapolis Public Schools, Big Pine Creek Watershed, Cummins Inc., and the City of Monticello. Watch the Governor's call for nominations video.

Young Completes Jobs And Security Tour, Says Hoosiers Prepared To Lead On National Security

Last week, U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) traveled across the state on his Jobs, Innovation, and Security Tour and met with Hoosiers to discuss how Indiana is positioned as a leader in areas important to our national security.

Stops on Young's tour included NSWC Crane, New Albany, Fishers, West Lafayette, South Bend, and Fort Wayne.

"I am excited about all of the innovative ways Hoosiers are contributing to our national security. Indiana is already a leader in the 21st century economy, and we will continue to lead the way in the years ahead," Senator Young said.

During the tour, Young visited multiple high-tech research and manufacturing facilities to discuss how his CHIPS and Science Act will help bring investment to Indiana and reshore the fabrication of computer chips and other key technologies.

Highlights from the tour include:

- WestGate@Crane

Technology Park:

Senator Young kicked off his tour on Tuesday at WestGate@Crane Technology Park where he met with leaders of NWSC Crane, Radius Indiana, and military suppliers to hear about opportunities the CHIPS and Science Act is bringing to Indiana. He also toured ManTech to learn about its partnership with Crane and leadership in advanced weapons systems.

- Samtec in New Albany:

On Tuesday afternoon, Senator Young toured Samtec in New Albany. Samtec is a global leader in producing the technology needed to support computer chip innovation around the world.

- INCOG BioPharma Services in Fishers:

On Wednesday morning, Senator Young joined Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness and National Association of Manufacturers President and CEO Jay Timmons to visit INCOG BioPharma Services' recently

completed facility in Fishers. INCOG is an innovative Hoosier manufacturer that is helping to save lives through advanced pharmaceutical development. During the event, Young discussed his legislation to renew and expand tax incentives for research and development and other ways he has worked to support Hoosier manufacturers.

- Purdue University and Stratolaunch in West Lafayette

On Wednesday afternoon, Senator Young visited Purdue University and discussed opportunities related to his CHIPS and Science Act, including microelectronics research and manufacturing, biotechnology research, and the innovation workforce. Senator Young and Purdue University President Dr. Mung Chiang also visited Stratolaunch. Purdue and Stratolaunch recently launched a new partnership in the field of hypersonics, a field that will benefit from the

CHIPS and Science Act.

- AM General in Mishawaka

On Thursday, Senator Young visited AM General in Mishawaka and received an update on the recent announcement that AM General received a contract for Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) follow-on production.

- 122nd Fighter Wing in Fort Wayne

On Friday morning, Senator Young visited with Airmen of the 122nd Fighter Wing in Fort Wayne to receive an update on the transition to the F-16 fighter.

Young, along with Congressman Jim Banks, worked for years to bring the F-16 back to Fort Wayne and prepare the wing for a strong future. In December, Congress passed the annual National Defense Authorization Act to officially approve the conversion, paving the way for F-16 jets to come to Fort Wayne and eventually help the 122nd Fighter Wing compete for future platforms.

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The Defiance Of President Biden

When Vice President Joe Biden met with Russian President Putin at the Kremlin in March 2011, he recounted, "I looked into his eyes and I said, 'I don't think you have a soul.'"

To which Putin responded, "We understand one another."

When ABC News anchor George Stephanopoulos asked President Biden years later, "You think he's a killer?" Biden responded, "Mm-hmm. I do."

Here at the first anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Putin has been exposed as a lying killer, commanding a rattle tin army eroded by decades of chronic corruption and incompetence. Both sides have taken more than 100,000 military casualties, or more than 200,000 total, said Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Mark A. Milley. According to the United Nations refugee agency, there have been 8,006 civilian deaths, including 456 children. There have been hundreds of reported atrocities by Russian forces and Wagner mercenaries. Russian artillery has targeted apartment buildings, utilities, schools, nuclear power plants and hospitals.

This war has created more than 8 million refugees, including 1.6 million who are now living in the homes of many families in Poland. According to the Council on Foreign Relations, citing the U.N., more than 13 million people, or nearly a third of Ukraine's prewar population, have been displaced. U.S. officials say Russian forces have forcibly transferred up to 1.6 million Ukrainian refugees to Russian territory as of September 2022.

Last weekend, Presi-



BRIAN HOWEY
Howey Political Report

dent Biden took a secret journey to Ukraine as this war reaches a pivotal state. Stepping out into the streets of the capital city as air-raid sirens blared with Ukraine President Zelensky at his side, a defiant Biden said, "One year later, Kyiv stands. And Ukraine stands. Democracy stands."

This was the 21st Century version of Presidents Kennedy and Reagan appearing before the Berlin Wall, with the latter saying, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." Or the trans-Atlantic alliance between President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill during World War II.

According to the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, the Biden administration and the U.S. Congress have directed more than \$75 billion in assistance to Ukraine, which includes humanitarian, financial, and military support (\$46.6 billion, or 61%).

What the tyrant Putin is discovering is that Biden is a very different adversary than he found in President George W. Bush when he invaded the neighboring country of Georgia in 2008. Or President Barack Obama when Putin sent an army of "little green men" into Crimea while launching a takeover of the Donbas region in 2014. Neither Bush nor Obama con-

fronted Putin beyond rhetoric and sanctions. Obama handed the Kremlin portfolio to Vice President Biden, who, like Putin, grew up and came of age during the Cold War.

Biden has long viewed Putin as a thug. He was offended when Putin interfered in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. In the PBS edition of Frontline ("Putin and the Presidents") there is a direct correlation between the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol insurrection that had been plotted to, as Steve Bannon said, "Kill the Biden presidency in the crib" and Putin's decision to invade Ukraine the following year. America is divided, Putin believed. The U.S. Capitol is under attack. He had a green light to invade Ukraine.

Former U.S. Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch told Frontline that Putin made a "calculation" that President Biden would not hold the western alliance together, as well as Congress. Instead, NATO has expanded and the European Union is weaning itself off of Russian energy.

"This was a miscalculation of Napoleonic magnitude," Kori Schake, director of the American Enterprise Institute, told Frontline.

Through the lens of former Senate Foreign Relation Committee staffers to the late U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana in a Roll Call op-ed in October 2020, there wasn't much doubt about the Biden resolve we've seen three years hence. From 2003 through 2006, Lugar chaired the committee, while Biden was ranking member. They flipped roles in 2007 when Democrats won control of the Senate. "Despite

major policy differences between Lugar and Biden and the typical rivalry between their staffs, there never was a moment when we doubted that Biden's main objective as an elected official was the well-being of the United States," Republican staffers Dan Diller, Shellie Bressler, Mary Locke and Carl Meacham wrote.

"Lugar and Biden also had different priorities," these staffers continue. "Biden usually was more interested in regional geopolitics, diplomatic negotiations and conflict resolution than Lugar was. Lugar was more focused on the building blocks of American economic and political power — alliances, trade agreements, arms treaties and diplomatic capacity."

"The partnership flourished because Biden and Lugar had a common vision of how the two parties should overcome their differences. Lugar and Biden believed that fights over policy in committee should not translate into division in front of foreign leaders. Their standing order was to present the most united front possible."

Because of this resolve, Ukraine still stands. It faces a brutal year ahead in 2023, if not years longer.

"When Putin launched his invasion nearly one year ago, he thought Ukraine was weak and the West was divided. He thought he could outlast us," Biden said in a statement issued by the White House. "But he was dead wrong."

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

Mrs. Forrest's Feeding Compulsions

Mrs. Forrest has always been a compulsive feeder. Before she retired, she was cooking for the Mule Barn truck stop's customers, and is singularly responsible for about three flabby tons of avoidupois on this nation's truck drivers, and may have been marginally responsible, third-hand, for a cardiac event or two.

But now she's retired, and a widow, and her kids all have kids and are scattered like a covey of quail. Local bachelors of a certain age know if they should just happen to be chatting with Mrs. Forrest on her front lawn along about supper time, there's a dang-near dead certainty they'll get a meal out of it.

And, through the magic of telepathic communication and the synchronistic wave lengths of humanity, the message about Mrs. Forrest's unstoppable feeding compulsion had somehow reached the psyches of the homeless.

At any rate, two of the aforementioned drifters had knocked on Mrs. Forrest's door and asked if there were any chores she needed done in exchange for some food. Well, you should've seen her eyes light up at that question. She said she had a bunch of firewood that needed to be split into kindling and if they



SLIM RANGLES
Columnist

didn't mind doing that, she'd fix them a chicken dinner with cream gravy. Mrs. Forrest puts cream gravy on everything.

So she busied herself in the kitchen, and then went out to see how these fellows were doing. And there, leaning on an axe handle, was one of them, and the other was doing gymnastics in and around the woodpile. It was amazing. He'd come out of a round-off flip flop and then gracefully go into a full layout Sukuhara with a right-hand twist. She watched in awe for a few minutes before whispering to this gymnast's partner.

"I had no idea your friend was an acrobat," she whispered.

He looked at her and whispered back, "Neither did I 'til I cracked him on the shin with this axe."

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“Grossly Underpaid”: Hoosiers Would Earn More For Jury Duty Under Proposal

By Leslie Bonilla Muniz

Hoosiers haven’t seen a pay increase for jury duty in at least two decades, but that could change — even double — under a bill advancing steadily through the Statehouse.

But corresponding fee increases have sparked debate on how to fund the criminal justice system: as a public service, or through the people using it.

Hoosiers who show up for jury selection earn \$15 per day. Those chosen to serve earn \$40 per day — about \$5 dollars hourly for an eight-hour workday. That hasn’t changed since at least 2004, when lawmakers reorganized the state’s criminal justice codes.

“I say, if it’s a 10-hour day, ‘Thank you, and here’s your \$4 an hour,’” Lake County Superior Court Judge Sam Cappas told lawmakers in committee this month. “That’s what they’re getting for the work that they do. They’re grossly underpaid.”

And jury pay is taxable. Some localities do offer mileage reimbursements.

House Bill 1466 would double daily appearance pay to \$30 and jury pay itself to \$80 for the first five days. Starting day six, jury pay would increase to \$90 daily.

But it would increase the \$2 jury fees defendants pay to \$6, and create a new \$75 jury fee for people filing civil torts or plenary actions, to fund the higher pay. The latter would be on top of an existing \$100 civil filing fee.

Local units of government pay jurors, and also collect the fees to help finance juries. State finance would be unaffected, according to a fiscal analysis of the bill.

Getting Hoosiers in the door

Some in the legal system say that low pay depresses the number of people that show up for jury duty. Still more potential jurors go hoping they’ll get rejected.

“People don’t want to be there. I mean, people work very hard to get out of jury duty,” Allen County Superior Court Judge Frances C. Gull told the Capital Chronicle. “... It is hard to get people to commit to jury duty because they are looking at financial hardship.”

“Extreme” hardship is a legitimate way to get out of jury duty, but anything less severe won’t get you out. That’s in order to keep the broadest array of potential jurors possible.

“In each and every trial, invariably there are a handful of people that say they cannot afford to sit for jury service,” Cappas, an Indiana Jury Committee member, told

lawmakers. “They live check-to-check and when it’s not enough to compensate them, they can’t pay their bills.”

If they’re removed from the jury selection pool, he said, “that results in the parties not having a fair cross-section of the community. ... The plaintiff and the defendant do not have the right people to hear the facts and testimony.”

Indiana is actually middle-of-the-pack nationally for jury pay. Five states pay \$5—\$7.50 daily, at the low end, according to Jury Duty 101. At the high end, six pay \$50 daily.

The bill, authored by Rep. Michelle Davis, R-Greenwood, would put Indiana far ahead of the rest of the country. Davis didn’t respond to requests for comment.

Making a mostly self-sustaining system But to raise jury pay, Davis’ bill gets money from elsewhere.

It hikes up the jury fee that people found guilty must pay, from \$2 to \$6. That increase is expected to bring in an additional \$1.1 million—\$1.7 million annually, according to the fiscal analysis.

The bill also creates a \$75 jury fee for people who file civil torts or plenary actions, which could generate an estimated \$552,000—\$706,000 annually.

The Indiana Jury Committee, which recommended the provisions contained in the bill, said it didn’t want to leave local governments picking up the tab on higher pay.

“We didn’t feel like it was our function or our decision to say this should come out of taxpayer dollars in some other fashion,” Delaware Circuit Court Judge Kimberly Dowling told lawmakers.

Dowling, who is also a committee member, said that’s why the group didn’t add the \$75 filing fee to collections or mortgage foreclosure cases, because those typically don’t use the jury system.

Push for a “public service” funding approach

But some say the tab shouldn’t go to people involved in the criminal justice system.

“It should be a public service,” Gull told the Capital Chronicle. “I’m a firm believer in that. It’s unfortunate that we try to fund so many things in the criminal justice system on the backs of the users of that system.”

She said 80% of the defendants in her courtroom have public defenders, meaning that they don’t have the money to hire their own attorneys.

“It isn’t great. [But] I’ll take it if that’s all we can get,” Gull concluded.

The Judicial Conference of Indiana, in a 2020 10-year strategic

plan, called the state’s current funding structure “inefficient and unfair.” It recommended that the state kick in some more funding for needy local governments, and ideally cover the whole tab.

“I do hope that the General Assembly, in the future, will take that on holistically,” Indiana Public Defender Council Executive Director Bernice Corley told lawmakers.

The outlook for Hoosiers serving jury duty Brian Gould’s first worry when he was called to serve late last summer was child care.

Gould took paid time off from his construction industry lobbying job, but knew neither he nor his wife — a nurse working long hours — would be able to make the 2:45 p.m. bus drop-off for their three children.

They managed to find care for the two-day Hamilton County trial, but Gould noted a longer trial of a week or more would’ve been “a huge commitment.”

“There were a couple people in the jury that were retired, so it didn’t impact their work schedule, it didn’t impact their finances,” Gould said. “But, you know, if you are having to take time off from work, you’re not getting paid and now you’re having to potentially pay for child care on top of that, I think [raising jury pay] is probably a wise thing to do.”

Gould said he and most of his fellow jurors got the summons and dreaded the service, but after getting selected, “knew what type of responsibility we had.”

“Not that I would want to do it on a regular basis ... but I was glad I was able to participate in the process,” he said. “... I would be hopeful that most juries would put in the time and effort that our group did.”

But he said he wasn’t sure a bigger token of appreciation would change how Hoosiers feel about serving. Gould himself got his check in the mail several weeks later and initially thought it was a tax refund of some kind.

The bill flew through its original committee and a financial one this month on unanimous votes. The House also passed it unanimously, on February 14.

It’s now in the Senate awaiting consideration.

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education. I made my classes interesting and tried to stimulate the students to do their best.”

Mrs. Stevenson told me that she enjoyed teaching at Darlington because of the smallness of the school. She felt that she really got to know the students and their parents. When Anna Faye retired, she decided not to substitute teach, as she felt a sub has difficulty maintaining control for one or two days at a time. I think Mrs. Stevenson wanted to remember her teaching the way everyone else does...the perfect classroom. Here’s what a few of her former students had to say:

“Mrs. Stevenson made my adjustment into junior high. I loved her teaching English, literature, and math. She was always neat in her appearance, and she made a great role model to pattern after.”

“Besides being knowledgeable, she was probably one of the most patient and understanding teachers ever. She was very sensitive to the students’ needs and provided a lot of encouragement.”

“Mrs. Stevenson was a good teacher who had strong discipline and could get her point across. There were no favorites in her class. She was a very caring and devoted teacher.”

“Math wasn’t my favorite subject, but she



Photo courtesy of Butch Dale

Anna Faye Stevenson

made sure we got it... or we went over and over again until we did! She was a challenging teacher. She made us work hard, but she was very fair.”

When I entered Mrs. Stevenson’s classroom as a 7th grade student, I knew that she meant business. I studied very hard that year under her guidance and encouragement, and became a much better student. I

repected her, and I knew she wanted me to excel. I also had the privilege of teaching with Mrs. Stevenson from 1972 until she retired, and I appreciated her talents

even more then. Sadly, Mrs. Stevenson passed away several years ago. She changed the lives of hundreds of students for the better, not just as students, but also deep down as good human beings and productive members of society. Anna Faye, I will always be grateful to have had you as my junior high teacher. You were one classy lady!

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

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