

TODAY'S VERSE

Isaiah 55:12 For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Amanda Shelton and Arianne Vaught smile while working hard. Thank you for your smiles ladies!

THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 To celebrate 50 days out from the 107th Indianapolis 500, 50 representatives from IMS, the NTT INDYCAR SERIES and local race teams will work with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful to plant more than 80 native trees along Georgetown Road from W. 30th Street to W. 38th Street. Staff from participating NTT INDYCAR SERIES teams and manufacturers include: Arrow McLaren, Chip Ganassi Racing, Dale Coyne Racing with RWR, Juncos Hollinger Racing, Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing, Team Penske and Team Chevy. The 107th Indianapolis 500 is scheduled for Sunday, May 28. Fifty days out from Race Day is Saturday.

2 New Mexico officially is the first state in the nation to have an official aroma, namely the "sweet smell of green chili peppers roasting in the fall." The state is a major producer of chili peppers and, in the most recent growing season, produced a record 53,000 tons of the spicy treats. In fact, the Rio Grande town of Hatch, NM, is known as the "Chili Capital of the World."

3 On Saturday at noon there will be an Easter Bake Sale at the Russellville Community Center. Please come and get your homemade goodies for your Easter dinner. There will be decorated Easter cakes, homemade pies, candy, cookies and much more. At 1 p.m. promptly the annual Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Russellville Community Church, gets going. Come and visit with the Easter Bunny and two Giant Carrots. This will be behind the Community Center. Special areas will be marked off for age groups. Immediately following the Easter Egg Hunt will be roller skating in the Russellville Community Center Gym. The cost to roller skate is \$3. Refreshments will be available to purchase during the bake sale and while roller skating. Roller skating ends at 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend all three events at the Russellville Community Center.

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Are Indiana Women's Health Care And Indiana's Economy In Peril?

NOTE: This is the second part of a two-part column reporting information on Indiana's new reproductive policies.



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

Last week's column reported information about economic development concerns in Montgomery County and the significant impact these policies are having on Indiana's medical care, especially for women of child-bearing age. This week we report on business and economic repercussions by professionals in those fields.

On Wednesday, March 22, a sizable audience gathered at the Crawfordsville public library

to hear three Central Indiana professionals share information about how their professions are being affected by Indiana's 2022 passage of Senate Bill 1 in the wake of the Dobbs Decision.

The second panel speaker was Adam Burtner, Vice President for Government Affairs for the Indianapolis Area Chamber of Commerce. Chamber of Commerce organizations represent businesses and business interests in our state and across the nation. The Indy region Chamber of Commerce represents nine counties in central Indiana. The Indy Area Chamber represents 3,000 companies, most of them small to mid-sized. When Senate Bill 1 passed last August, the Indiana business community at large was alarmed.

As both Mayor Todd Barton and Adam Burtner noted, the biggest concern for all businesses is retaining and growing a work force. He explained,

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A Conversation With The Future



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

For the regular eight or nine of you who read these scribbles, you may recall that I've written a time or two about AI - artificial intelligence. According to the experts at IBM, AI combines computer science and data to enable problem solving. According to sci-fi fans, AI is Skynet from the Terminator movies, the evil force that takes over the world and goes to war with us mere humans.

Which is it? I truly have no

idea. So I decided to do what us newspaper types do best - go straight to the source. I interviewed ChatGPT, a language model developed by OpenAI. To be clear, I "interviewed" a computer.

Terrifying? Exciting? Some of the answers with pretty negative connotations for the aforementioned mortals were couched with terms like "could . . . if . . . as of now" and the like. Not exactly reassuring, but hey, you be the judge.

(Oh, one other thing. Since I was chatting with someone, uh, something much smarter than me. I decided to ask it about another world-ending concern I have. It's toward the end.)

Is AI a threat to humanity?
I'm not sure what you mean by "AI." Can you please provide more context or clarify your question?

Sorry, I mean AI, artificial

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Veterans Newsletter



JOE ELLIS
Veterans Service Officer

Well the spring weather is here. I had 64 phone calls into my office this month and I had 15 visit into my office and we took 7 veterans to appointments at the VA Hospital. I will be at the American Legion Post 72 on April 6 from 1 - 4 p.m. and anyone can come into the Post to see me and you don't need to be a member to talk with me. I will also be at the VFW Post 1431 on the April 20 from 3 - 5 p.m.

Honor Flight of Greater Lafayette is pleased to announce they are flying to Washington D.C. and are taking applications for this year out of Purdue Airport In West Lafayette.

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National Child Abuse Prevention Month

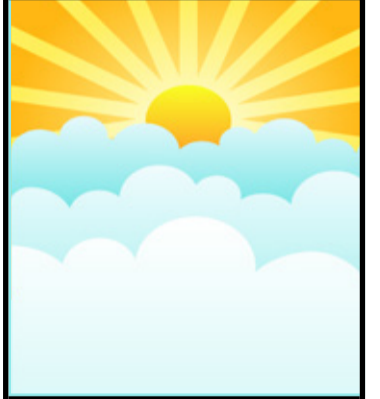
Throughout the month of April, Prevent Child Abuse Indiana and the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Montgomery County, a program of the Youth Service Bureau, remind Montgomery County residents that helping our communities and families create healthy, nurturing environments for children is one of the best investments we can make.

During this time, it is more important than ever that we support each other and especially families who are under extreme stress. Check in on your families, families in your neighborhood, families at your church. Offer help where and whenever you can.

Most of all if you suspect

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The Daily Almanac



Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 7:20 a.m.
SET: 8:13 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
High: 72 °F
Low: 66 °F



Today Is...
• Bell Bottoms Day
• First Contact Day



What Happened On This Day
• 1951 Ethel and Julius Rosenberg are sentenced to death. The U.S. couple was accused of passing information about nuclear weapons on to the Soviet Union.
• 1955 Winston Churchill resigns as U.K. Prime Minister.



Births On This Day
• 1908 Bette Davis American actress
• 1917 Robert Bloch American author

Deaths On This Day
• 1994 Kurt Cobain American singer-songwriter, guitarist
• 1976 Howard Hughes American engineer, director

HONEST HOOSIER

People now talk about "your" truth. I may be old, but pretty sure there are different opinions, but only one truth.



INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

Obituaries.....A2
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TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Skipping meals is not a good way to try and lose weight - eat smaller meals more frequently. 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

None

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



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THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

For Your Information

The Crawfordsville Investment Club will meet Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., at the Crawfordsville District Public Library. The program is about Previous Economic Recessions, based on an article from American Investment Services, Inc. The Crawfordsville Investment Club meets for educational purposes only. Visitors are welcome. For more information call 765-362-2826.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"One of the lessons of history is that nothing is often a good thing to do and always a clever thing to say."
Will Durant

TODAY'S JOKE

What do you call a bear caught in an April shower?
A drizzly bear!



Meeting Notes

Crawfordsville Council Committee Meeting

The City of Crawfordsville, Indiana

April 3, 2023 at 6 p.m.
 City Building, 300 E. Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933

Council Chambers
 I. Fiscal Affairs
 A. A Resolution Acknowledging Receipt of the 2022 Crawfordsville Redevelopment Commission Annual Report under Indiana Code § 36-7-14-13

B. Resolution Approving Amended American Rescue Plan

C. An Ordinance to Appropriate from the ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund for Purposes that Fulfill the

Intent of the American Rescue Plan Act in Aid of the City of Crawfordsville's Recovery from the Effects of the COVID-19 Emergency

II. Ordinances & Petitions

III. Traffic, Parking & Safety

A. An Ordinance Vacating Beech Street in Crawfordsville, Indiana

B. An Ordinance Amending City Parking Ordinance to Amend Limited Parking Zones along East Pike Street and Official Vehicle Designations in Parking Lots at Water Street and Main Street and 300 Block East Main Street in Crawfordsville, Indiana

IV. Annexation

V. Miscellaneous

VI. Adjournment

Lowery Delivers His First State Of Higher Education Address



Chris Lowery

Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery delivered his first State of Higher Education address this week. This year's address focused on the Commission's long-term goals and strategic priorities in its HOPE - Hoosier Opportunities and Possibilities through Education - Agenda.

During his address, Lowery discussed the challenges and opportunities facing higher education in Indiana which include enrollment, completion and graduate retention. In addition, Lowery shared the proven policies, programs and partnerships that address these challenges head-on and will guide the Commission's work throughout the coming years.

"By staying focused on the key pillars of the Commission's HOPE Agenda - enrollment, completion and graduate retention - all Hoosiers will have the opportunity to access the hope higher education provides, employers will have access to a better-prepared workforce and our communities will be stronger," said Lowery.

Enrollment Just over half - or 53 percent - of Indiana high school graduates in the graduating class of 2020 pursued education beyond high school. While the pandemic exacerbated the decline, this trend was

happening for some time. In the previous five years, the total decline was 12 percentage points, and 15 points over the previous decade.

Hoosier adults are also lagging in educational attainment with nearly two million adults with only a high school diploma. Like the college-going rate for high school graduates, there has been a similar decline in adults seeking postsecondary training and education - 13 percentage points in five years.

State lawmakers are committed to addressing college costs through sustained and generous financial aid benefits - nearly \$400 million annually. Last fall, the State Budget Committee endorsed restoring cuts made in 2009 to the Frank O'Bannon Grant and provided a 35 percent increase to the award to account for inflation. Additionally, the Commission's efforts to set in motion automatic enrollment for 21st Century Scholarship-eligible students have seen successes in both chambers of the General Assembly.

"I cannot think of a better example of a program that is a beacon of hope for Indiana's college-going rate than the 21st Century Scholarship," said Lowery. "Since its creation over 32 years ago, the scholarship has been an extremely successful, nationally recognized promise program. Enrolling all students who are eligible will clear a barrier for Hoosiers and would enable everyone to shift resources toward ensuring students are succeeding in high school, in college and beyond."

Indiana public institutions have moved the needle on student completion. Over the past five years, on-time college

completion has improved by 11 percentage points. And nearly two out of three students complete college within six years.

Progress has also been made in overall statewide educational attainment. Indiana set a goal over a decade ago to have at least 60 percent of Hoosiers with a quality credential beyond high school by 2025. Today, with recently updated data, Indiana is at 54 percent with most of the growth - about two-thirds - due to an increase in awarding certificates, technical certificates and industry certifications, which were not originally counted in 2009.

But, when the 54 percent is broken out, about 41 percent is comprised of 2-year, 4-year and higher degree holders. Indiana has lost ground comparatively in attainment when only accounting for associate degrees and higher. In 2009, the state was ranked 39th in the nation. Today, Indiana is 43rd.

"Now is the time to intentionally move to improve the attainment of associate degrees, bachelor's degrees and above to move Hoosiers through the talent pipeline for a growth-oriented career," said Lowery.

Graduate Retention Indiana is the 14th best in the nation in attracting people to come to the state's colleges and universities, but 40th best in retaining college graduates. The Commission revised its Outcomes-Based Performance Funding formula to incentivize public institutions to prioritize graduate retention.

"Our colleges and universities are a good value, are bringing people into our state, and the market is speaking," said Lowery. "But we have to be more intentional about

getting students in front of Hoosier employers and getting them to stay here."

Indiana as a Top 10 State

In addition to highlighting the challenges and opportunities confronting higher education in Indiana, Lowery shared his goal of Indiana becoming a top 10 state in terms of:

- post-high school training and education going rates for youth and adults across all demographics by leveraging tools such as the Frank O'Bannon Grant, 21st Century Scholars program, the Indiana College Core, FAFSA completions, the Workforce Ready Grant, and promoting Indiana institutions' low tuition and fees, and continuous focus on high quality;
 - postsecondary attainment for veterans, individuals with disabilities, and the justice-involved;
 - utilization of credit for prior learning to honor the work, training and education already achieved by adult learners;
 - the rate at which Hoosiers successfully complete their chosen areas of study;
 - retaining talent once someone has graduated from a postsecondary program;
 - measurable distinction in economic and social mobility and prosperity outcomes, and;
 - as the recognized state for growing or starting a business, based upon the strength of human capital.
- "It is going to take a robust and intentional statewide effort to reverse the present trends facing education beyond high school, but I do not fear for the sake of our state," said Lowery. "I am hopeful because the evidence tells me to be so."

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Witham Health Services Named To The Healthiest Employers Hall Of Fame

Witham Health Services has been recognized as one of the honorees for the Healthiest Employers Hall of Fame for the 2023 induction period. The awards program was created to honor people-first organizations that prioritize the well-being of their employee population. These companies were recognized because of their commitment to workplace wellness and their exceptional health and benefits offerings.

Award applicants are evaluated across six key categories: Culture and Leadership, Foundational Components, Strategic Planning, Communication and Marketing, Programming and Interventions, and Reporting and Analytics. Completed assessments were ranked with the proprietary Healthiest Employers® Index, a 1-100 rubric for wellness programming. The award currently takes place in over 45 regions across the country and all applicants also have the opportunity to earn national recognition as one of the Healthiest 100 Workplaces in America.

Each member of the Hall of Fame has been recognized on a national level numerous times since the award's inception. This is the first year that Healthiest Employers has released their Hall of Fame recognition.

Witham Health Services mission is to improve health through excellence and personalized care with a team of experienced staff and state-of-the-art technology. Since the inception of our Wellness program in 2009, the focus has



been on changing the perception of a hospital as only a place you go when you are sick. Our Wellness team has worked tirelessly to engage our employees, our local schools, community partners as well as Boone County at large on their own journey to optimal health. We prioritize physical, emotional, spiritual, occupational, social, intellectual, environmental and financial Wellness. We offer individualized programs and services to prevent those lifestyles diseases that are within our control. So much of our health is powered by the choices we make each and every day. Every choice moves us closer to health or towards disease. Our intention with the whole person, not just the employee side, really demonstrates our commitment to our staff and our patients. Witham has been recognized in the Healthiest 100 Workplaces in America since 2018. Constant education, a consistent message and the fact that small changes really

make a big impact are attributed to our success. Witham is blessed with the very best Administration, Physicians, Nurses and support staff. It is felt the moment you walk in our doors.

"Witham Health Services offers our employees educational programs, exercise and cooking classes, health screenings, and various wellness tips. Many of these same programs are offered to our community members as well. Witham partners in the community to help spread and bolster health initiatives throughout Boone County. Our wellness team promotes healthy lifestyles and activities in our schools and businesses. Health factors differ throughout Indiana. Communities that are healthier thrive. We are thrilled that Boone County ranks #3 in Indiana county health rankings and continues to improve and foster healthy equity in our community." -Kelly Braverman, President and CEO

About Springbuk and

Healthiest Employers®:

Springbuk's Health Intelligence platform extends beyond traditional data warehousing and analytics to help you unlock your data and maximize the value of your employee health investments. Each year, Springbuk administers the Healthiest Employers® Awards Program across the country to honor the nation's most dedicated employers in bettering their worksite health and wellness programs. To date, over 10,000 employers across 45+ U.S. regions have participated in the awards program. Learn more at www.Springbuk.com and www.HealthiestEmployers.com.

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.

New \$20K Scholarship Aimed At Educating Future Black Preservation Leaders

Indiana Landmarks' Black Heritage Preservation Program is launching a college scholarship program for Indiana residents who identify as black or African American and who are attending or planning to attend an accredited college or university.

One \$20,000 scholarship to cover education-related expenses at an accredited college or university will be awarded for the 2023-24 school year.

Applicants must be a graduating high school senior, undergraduate, graduate student, or post-graduate. Preference will be given to the following majors: history, public history, African/African American studies, archaeology/anthropology, preservation, conservation, city planning, landscape architecture, and journalism. The deadline to

apply is May 12, 2023.

In addition, two full-time paid internship positions with the Black Heritage Preservation Program are available for summer 2023. Interns will be paid \$900 per week for 11 weeks. Eligible applicants include graduating high school seniors, undergraduate and graduate students. Post-graduates dedicated to pursuing preservation careers are also eligible. The deadline to apply is May 1, 2023.

"Indiana is full of untold stories of black heritage, and we see the new scholarship and internships as key to helping gather the facts, tell the stories, and preserve the heritage," said Eunice Trotter, director of Indiana Landmarks' Black Heritage Preservation Program.

Learn more about the program at www.indianalandmarks.org.

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Readers' Choice Awards 2023

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TIM From Page A1

intelligence.

The impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on humanity depends on how it is developed, deployed, and regulated. AI has the potential to bring significant benefits to society, including improved healthcare, transportation, and education. However, it also presents certain risks and challenges, such as job displacement, bias and privacy concerns, and the possibility of unintended consequences.

There is a debate among experts about whether AI is a threat to humanity. Some argue that if left unchecked and unregulated, AI could pose an existential threat to humanity, potentially leading to the development of superintelligence that could be difficult to control. Others believe that AI will continue to evolve as a useful tool that can be harnessed to solve some of the world's biggest problems.

Regardless of whether AI is seen as a threat, it is essential to continue to study and develop it responsibly, with appropriate ethical considerations and safety precautions in place. This will help to ensure that the potential benefits of AI are maximized while minimizing any risks or unintended consequences.

Can AI be weaponized unintentionally?

AI can be weaponized unintentionally if it is not developed and deployed responsibly with adequate safeguards in place. For example, if AI systems are designed to be autonomous and can make decisions on their own, they may potentially be used for unintended purposes, including military applications.

Additionally, if AI systems are not tested thoroughly or if there are vulnerabilities in their programming, they may be susceptible to hacking or other forms of cyber attacks, which could be used to weaponize them. In such cases, the AI systems could be used to cause harm to people or to

disrupt critical infrastructure.

To mitigate the risk of unintentional weaponization of AI, it is important to develop and deploy AI systems responsibly, with appropriate safeguards in place. This includes testing AI systems thoroughly to identify and fix any vulnerabilities, ensuring that they are used for their intended purposes, and implementing ethical guidelines and regulations for their development and use.

Will AI develop feelings and emotions?

As of now, artificial intelligence (AI) is not capable of developing feelings and emotions in the way that humans do. While AI systems can simulate emotions, they are not truly experiencing them in the way that humans do.

Emotions are a complex aspect of human psychology, involving not just subjective experience but also physiological responses, cognitive processes, and social and cultural factors. While AI systems can be programmed to recognize and respond to emotions in humans, they do not have the subjective experience of emotions themselves.

That being said, some researchers believe that it may be possible to create AI systems that can simulate emotions and develop a degree of emotional intelligence. These systems would be designed to recognize and respond to human emotions in a more nuanced and empathetic way, potentially improving the human-machine interaction. However, even if such systems were developed, they would still not be experiencing emotions in the way that humans do.

I write for a daily newspaper. May I quote your responses?

Yes, you may quote my responses in your newspaper article as long as you attribute them to me, ChatGPT, a language model developed by OpenAI. Additionally, please keep in mind that my

responses are based on the current state of knowledge and may not reflect the views of any specific individual or organization.

Where do you see AI going in the next year? And after that, in the next five? And after that in the next 10?

As an AI language model, I do not have the ability to predict the future with certainty. However, based on current trends and developments in the field, I can provide some general insights into where AI may be heading in the next few years.

In the next year, we can expect to see continued progress in the development and deployment of AI systems across various industries, including healthcare, finance, and transportation. We may also see more progress in the development of conversational AI and natural language processing, as well as increased focus on ethical considerations and responsible use of AI.

In the next five years, we can expect to see significant advances in AI technology, particularly in the areas of machine learning, computer vision, and natural language processing. We may also see more widespread adoption of AI systems in industries such as education, manufacturing, and agriculture, as well as increased use of autonomous systems such as self-driving cars and drones.

In the next 10 years, we can expect to see even more profound changes brought about by AI, including the potential for significant advances in areas such as robotics, virtual reality, and quantum computing. We may also see the emergence of more advanced forms of AI, such as artificial general intelligence (AGI), which would be capable of performing a wide range of intellectual tasks at a human level or beyond. However, it is important to note that the development of AGI is still a long-term goal and subject

to significant uncertainty and debate in the AI research community.

Overall, the future of AI is likely to be shaped by continued advances in technology and research, as well as by ethical considerations and societal debates around the responsible use of AI.

In the fictitious "Terminator" movie series, robots take over the world in a war against humanity. Is a future like that possible?

The scenario depicted in the "Terminator" movie series, where robots take over the world in a war against humanity, is a fictional one and not a likely outcome of current developments in artificial intelligence (AI).

While AI does present certain risks and challenges, including the possibility of unintended consequences and the potential for misuse or weaponization, there are many reasons to believe that a future where robots take over the world is unlikely.

First, AI is not inherently malicious or benevolent; it is a tool that can be used for a wide range of purposes, depending on how it is developed and deployed. As such, the development and deployment of AI can be guided by ethical considerations and regulations to minimize any potential risks.

Second, even if advanced AI were to emerge in the future, it would likely be designed and programmed with specific goals and limitations, rather than being a general-purpose intelligence capable of taking over the world.

Third, the scenario depicted in the "Terminator" movie series relies on many assumptions and exaggerations about the capabilities and limitations of AI, as well as about the likelihood of certain events and actions taking place.

Overall, while it is important to take AI risks seriously and to develop

and deploy it responsibly, there is no reason to believe that a future where robots take over the world is a likely outcome of current developments in AI.

If you were human, what precautions and safeguards would you put into place regarding AI now, and its future development?

As an AI language model, I do not have personal opinions or preferences. However, I can provide some insights into the precautions and safeguards that experts in the field of AI are currently recommending for the responsible development and deployment of AI.

Some key precautions and safeguards include:

1. Ethical guidelines: Developing ethical guidelines for AI research and deployment, and ensuring that AI systems are designed and used in ways that are consistent with these guidelines.

2. Transparency: Ensuring that AI systems are transparent in their decision-making processes, so that the reasons for their decisions can be understood and audited.

3. Accountability: Establishing accountability for the actions of AI systems and their developers, so that responsibility can be assigned in case of unintended consequences or misuse.

4. Human oversight: Ensuring that AI systems are subject to human oversight and control, so that they can be monitored and modified as needed to ensure safety and ethical use.

5. Safety testing: Conducting safety testing and risk assessments for AI systems, to identify and mitigate potential risks and unintended consequences.

6. Privacy protection: Protecting the privacy and security of individuals and their data, and ensuring that AI systems are used in ways that respect these rights.

Overall, these precautions and safeguards are aimed at ensuring that AI

systems are developed and deployed in ways that are safe, ethical, and aligned with human values and interests.

At the Bern Supercollider, what is the likelihood that a black hole will be created that will destroy the earth?

There is no likelihood that the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN, commonly referred to as the "Bern Supercollider," will create a black hole that could destroy the Earth.

The LHC is a particle accelerator designed to investigate the fundamental properties of matter and the universe at very small scales. It does this by colliding subatomic particles together at high speeds and energies. While these collisions can produce a variety of exotic particles and phenomena, they do not pose a risk of creating a black hole that could threaten the Earth.

The reason for this is that any black holes produced by the LHC would be very small and short-lived, and would not have enough mass or energy to pose a danger. In addition, there are many layers of safety and monitoring in place to ensure that the LHC operates safely and without risk to the environment or public health.

Overall, the idea that the LHC could create a black hole that could destroy the Earth is a common misconception that is not supported by scientific evidence or theory.

Thank you for chatting with me today. I enjoyed and appreciate it.

You're welcome! It was my pleasure to chat with you and answer your questions. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any more questions in the future. Have a great day!

Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically on Wednesdays in The Paper. Timmons is the publisher of The Paper and can be contacted at timmons@thepaper24-7.com.

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LWV From Page A1

“When people look at issues of where to live, work, raise a family, and build a life, many things are considered.” Here in Indiana, we have long assumed that our favorable tax climate (which we are noted for) will bring people. Burtner noted that “a favorable tax climate is no longer the most important issue for businesses nor for people in general.” Quality of life issues now top the list and quality of life indexes rate sound, available health care for all family members as a top priority.

In addition to this new concern about attracting and retaining businesses, Burtner reminded the audience that Indiana already has a brain drain problem: too many of our young people leave the state to build their lives elsewhere.

The passage of SB 1, making nearly all abortion care illegal, has sent a shockwave through Indiana’s healthcare system. As in all states, health care providers constitute a major part of a state’s business. Burtner explained that even though abortion restrictions are actually not

in force in Indiana now, the fact that SB 1 passed created a problem: even though SB 1’s legality is being challenged in the courts, “that is [basically] irrelevant to Chamber businesses.” The uncertainty of the situation makes it difficult for businesses to make decisions about hiring, expansion and investment.

This places Indiana in an uncomfortable position. Chamber of Commerce studies have shown that beginning in 2011, the positive perception of Indiana by people from out of state has declined. This has been an ongoing concern to business leaders who now worry about a compounding effect. Burtner reported that although abortion remains legal in Indiana, as long as SB 1 is “tied up in the courts,” not knowing what future is coming causes anxiety, confusion and inactivity in the business community.

In the past, Chamber of Commerce and the Indiana legislature have worked closely in tandem to strengthen and promote Indiana’s robust business climate. That no longer seems to be

the case: when Indiana became the first state to pass a “Dobbs Decision Law” in SB 1 last August, research revealed that more than 70 percent of Americans saw more than a billion media posts linking “Indiana” and the term “abortion.”

The repercussions of that media message have sobered our business community. They rely on people everywhere to seek out Indiana as a good place to live and grow and raise a family. Burtner concluded that “the fact that our tax rate is so low can no longer be seen as key to growing the state’s economy.” Access to full, quality health care and other quality of life issues are. Along with Mayor Barton and Dr. Rouse, Burtner encouraged us to contact our state representatives and senators to express concerns you may have about this situation. A State Legislative Breakfast will be held in Crawfordsville on April 15. Register online at www.CrawfordsvilleChamber.com. Cost is \$10.

Dr. Joyce Burnette, a professor of economics at Wabash College, is one of many economists who

look at health-related issues over the long term through cost-benefit analysis. From an economics point of view, states with an abortion ban bear long-term costs beyond the medical and business costs already mentioned.

Burnette reported that over the last 40 years (since 1980) when *Roe v Wade* was in effect, the number of abortions nationwide have fallen by half and have been continuing to fall steadily.

Now that new abortions bans are being put into place in states, we have to take into account others costs to public and health care systems. They include providing travel to other states for medical care, an increase in adoptions, and an increase in unwanted children.

The cost of unwanted children is particularly severe for individual families and for a state. Statistics show that mothers lose on average \$9,000 annually in income; families or individuals must absorb the cost of the 24/7 care required by a young child. If child care can be provided by the family, average cost is \$226/

child per week. Mothers who do continue to work have 10 to 15 percent lower wages.

Economists have also done “turn-away studies” which follow cases in which a legal abortion or other pre-natal care is sought by a patient who is “turned away” because the state has a ban on abortion and the individual doesn’t qualify. (Let’s say a state’s law says abortion is legal until week 12 but the pregnant person is judged to be in week 13, so they would be “turned away.”) Turn-away people become unintentional parents. These mothers are shown to have worse physical health, increased risk of violence in the home, a higher poverty rate and more financial distress in general. Bankruptcy becomes much more likely. These are all costs the public as well as an individual must bear.

The costs to children (including siblings) in such environments is also high: they are less likely to be breastfed, have a higher probability of child abuse, have less success in school and have less schooling. As

adults they face more mental health, financial and other burdens than average.

All of us want to promote our own physical, mental and economic health and that of our state. If Indiana’s SB 1 stands, who should bear the costs that professionals in the field are deeply concerned about? How should we go forward to assure the best outcomes possible in this climate of risk and potential peril?

Contact your legislators and let them know what you think. As a resident of Montgomery County, what is important to your health and well being? We are all in this together and we need talk to one another and to our lawmakers to face these issues so we can move forward.

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.

JOE From Page A1

We serve the following Veteran military service years: WW11-12/7/1941-12/31/1946; Korea 6/25/1950-7/27/1963; Vietnam 2/28/1961 5/7/1975. Please phone 765-357-1000.

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Vietnam Proof of Service or Afghanistan Service: if you have a

alcohol ration cards for Vietnam or a Pork Ration Card for those that were in Afghanistan these can be used to prove you were in these countries.

On March 29, Gary Bell and I traveled to the American Legion Post 64, Indianapolis and took part in the festive and we also got to say hello to Medal of Honor Sammy L. Davis who spoke and it was all done in good taste.

Joe Ellis is the Veterans Service Officer for Montgomery County. He sends in information from time to time and The Paper is proud to publish it as a service for our many local veterans.

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MONTH From Page A1

child abuse or neglect, call and report it. While we do not take abuse or neglect reports here at the Youth Service Bureau, please contact the Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at 1-800-800-5556 to report suspected abuse or neglect. Many people are afraid to make a call, saying it is not their business or that they do not know for sure there is abuse or neglect. Protecting our children and youth is the business of the community. It is our responsibility to look out for our most vulnerable community members who cannot look out for themselves. You do not need to know for certain that there is abuse or neglect, an assessor from the Department of Child Services can determine that and offer support and assistance to families in need.

You may ask what you can do to help prevent

abuse and neglect in Montgomery County. Supporting families and ensuring parents have the knowledge skills and resources they need are effective ways to protect children from the risk of child abuse and neglect. Children do well when their parents do well. Parents do best when they live in communities that actively support families. We can champion services and provide the support they need to raise strong, healthy and successful children. It begins with awareness but it does not end there.

As part of our awareness campaign, we are pleased to promote the national pinwheel symbol of prevention. The pinwheel was chosen for its positive association with children and with happy images of childhood. It represents the hope and

promise that every child can be raised in a healthy, safe and nurturing environment. If you would like to have a pinwheel garden at your church, business or agency to highlight Child Abuse Prevention, just come by the Youth Service Bureau at 808 W. Pike St. We have free pinwheels and yard signs for you to display to support our message. Also, as you see the pinwheel gardens planted around our community, we hope you will be reminded of the need for all of us to be involved in making our community a healthy and safe place for children.

We also have a variety of child abuse prevention materials that we are happy to share with any church, organization or business that would like to have them. Additionally, the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Montgomery

County provides, at no cost, training for adults about prevention, signs and symptoms of abuse and mandated reporting. If your church or organization is interested in this training just contact the Youth Service Bureau to schedule a presentation.

If we all work together in Montgomery County we can achieve our vision of having a community where all children and youth are respected, nurtured and protected. We appreciate the support we receive to make this vision a reality.

For more information about what you can do to prevent child abuse in our community, please contact the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Montgomery County at the Youth Service Bureau at 765-362-0694, ext. 105 or visit our website at www.mcysb.org.

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