

# The Paper

## OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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**TODAY'S VERSE**

*Habakkuk 3:19 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.*

**FACES OF MONTGOMERY**

People who call our community their own.



Jace Melvin smiles for one of our roving photographers. Thanks for your smile, Jace! Got a great photo of your loved one? E-mail it to news@thepaper24-7.com along with the pertinent info (and your contact information so we can reach you if we have questions).

**THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** Did you know that Indiana ranks 11th in the nation for skilled trade professionals to work? That's according to a survey conducted by Today's Homeowner. They measured the average pay for 10 jobs, the expected growth and the places that are hot spots for skilled trades. In part, the study found that Indiana skilled jobs paid about \$54,000, that Indiana had overall unemployment of 4.7 percent and almost 250,000 skilled trade job opportunities.

**2** Josh Anderson of Hopewell, VA had had enough! He and his neighbors had been begging the town to fill in a dangerously huge pothole on a street where they live but it appeared they were being ignored -- for more than a year. So Josh took matters into his own hands. He planted a small tree in the hole as a warning for local drivers. It got the attention of the township, which sent workers not to fill the pothole but to remove the tree. That didn't discourage Josh; he promptly replaced the tree with another tree. But this time he adorned it with lights and, lo and behold, it worked. A day later a crew showed up and finally filled the hole.

**3** A team of Purdue University researchers investigated whether Americans were willing to put on their walking shoes instead of driving or riding. The researchers surveyed almost 2,000 U.S. adults to understand if colorful sidewalks, images of people moving and even just the image of walking shoes would entice vacationers to skip Uber and hoof it themselves. The research, published in the April 2023 Tourism Management journal, found those polled would be more apt to walk around tourist locations if the paths leading them to a museum or historic site were clearly marked and decorated. The images of people walking or merely of sneakers were encouraging as well, whether they were posted near the paths or in hotels, the project also found.

**BTN**

By The Numbers, a look at what's in the news . . . by the numbers. These are just numbers, not suggestions that they mean more or less than what they are. We do not suggest that one number is connected to another. These are simply facts with no extraneous details, bias or slanted reporting. To borrow (and perhaps mangle a bit) a quote from legendary fictional detective Joe Friday, it's just the numbers, ma'am!

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**1**

Nucor is first in the nation in production of steel

**One Fourth**

The percentage of steel in the U.S. that comes from Nucor annually

**750**

Number of Nucor employees at the Crawfordsville facility

**Top 5**

Nucor is one of the top five recyclers in the world



**\$400,000,000**

The amount of money over five years Nucor is investing in two new lines in Montgomery County.

The number of new high-paying jobs Nucor is creating with this expansion

**80**

**1989 - 1993 - 2023**

1989, the year Nucor came to Montgomery County  
1993, the year Nucor doubled the capacity of the local mill  
2023, the year Nucor announced another major expansion



**HONEST HOOSIER**

I don't care what the IRS says, not having tax day on April 15 still feels weird.



**INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION**

Carrie Classon.....A2  
Casey Williams.....A3  
Classifieds.....A4  
John Roberts.....A4

**TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

When you read a food label, make sure you determine how many servings are in the package. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Catch his column each week in The Paper and online at www.thepaper24-7.com.



**OBITUARIES**

NONE

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**The Paper**  
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

**THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

Say Cheese!

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

**TODAY'S QUOTE**

"Note, besides, that it is no more immoral to directly rob citizens than to slip indirect taxes into the price of goods that they cannot do without."  
Albert Camus

**TODAY'S JOKE**

A guy asks the attorney, how much do you charge? The attorney says "A thousand bucks for three questions." The guy, taken back, says "That's kind of pricey, isn't it?" The attorney doesn't miss a beat. "Yes it is. Now, what's your third question?"



Sunrise/Sunset  
RISE: 7:07 a.m.  
SET: 8:28 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures  
High: 45 °F  
Low: 35 °F



Today is...

- International Ford Mustang Day
- National Crawfish Day



What Happened On This Day

- 1986 The world's longest war ends without a single shot having been fired
- 1961 A CIA-sponsored paramilitary group attempts to invade Cuba



Births On This Day

- 1734 Taksin Thai king
- 1974 Victoria Beckham English singer, actress

Deaths On This Day

- 2014 Karpal Singh Malaysian politician
- 1790 Benjamin Franklin American politician, scientist, publisher, 6th President of Pennsylvania

**7 DAY FORECAST**

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
35/45	32/62	39/77	56/78	51/65	42/56	32/51
Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy



Photo courtesy of Carrie Classon

## Burro In Pants

I saw the burro wearing pants and carrying a basket filled with paper flowers.

“Oh, my gosh!” I said. “That poor burro.”

There are several burros with this job in this Mexican town and, as burro employment goes, it’s a pretty easy gig. The burro wears a rustic basket filled with bright paper flowers and is led by a man in a similarly rustic costume, and they follow wedding processions, providing photo opportunities for the guests. The burro is photographed dozens of times and spends the afternoon in the park, doing her best to look picturesque.

On weekdays, when weddings are less common, the burro and her handler park themselves on a narrow bit of cobblestone street with a beautiful view of the old church in the background. Tourists get their photos taken with the burro for a few pesos. I saw no harm in it until the day the burro showed up in pants.

“Oh, my gosh!” And I felt a sense of indignation rising on the burro’s behalf.

I mean, it’s one thing to carry around fake flowers all day. It is another thing entirely (according to me) to put the poor burro in trousers. To add insult to injury, the pants were not even on her back legs! She was wearing trousers on her front legs that made her look sort of like a little person with a donkey head.

“Outrageous!” I decided in furious defense of the burro’s dignity. Making a burro dress up in a silly costume was somehow intolerable, as far as I was concerned. Her handler was making her look comical, a ridiculous punchline to lure more tourists in. She was a joke burro, and I decided—from my vantage point as the Tourist Who Knows Everything—this was unacceptable.

From that moment on, I made it my mission to restore the burro’s dignity. On days when she showed up in pants, I shook my head disapprovingly and said, “No pants!” in Spanish. On



CARRIE CLASSON  
The Postscript

days she showed up in her natural attire, I indicated my approval. “I am happy the burro has no pants!” I said—a phrase I am unlikely to need on many other occasions.

My mission was going well, I thought. The burro was showing up in pants far less often and everything was going well—until yesterday.

Yesterday, I actually stopped to talk to the burro’s handler.

“I’m glad she is not wearing pants!” I reiterated as if, by now, he might not have gotten my point.

“I will show you,” he said in English. And he gestured that I should come near.

The burro had large patches on the back of her legs where the flies had been eating her skin. He told me they hurt her, and he could not keep the insects away. He put poison on the spots, but it did not work well, and it cost 500 pesos for a small bottle. The pants kept the flies away and allowed her poor legs to heal.

And I am an idiot. “I’m so sorry,” I said in Spanish. “I didn’t understand. She should wear pants if she needs them!”

And I thought of all the assumptions I make every day, all the opinions I form with no basis but my own ridiculous preconceptions. This man took the time to show me the truth—about one little burro in pants—and I wondered how often I am just so, so wrong.

“Gracias,” I told him. “De nada,” he said. “It’s nothing.”

But of course, it was something. It was something very important.

Till next time,  
Carrie

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Author on Facebook or visit  
CarrieClasson.com.

## What’s A Thyroid And What Does It Do?



JOHN R. ROBERTS, M.D.  
Montgomery Medicine

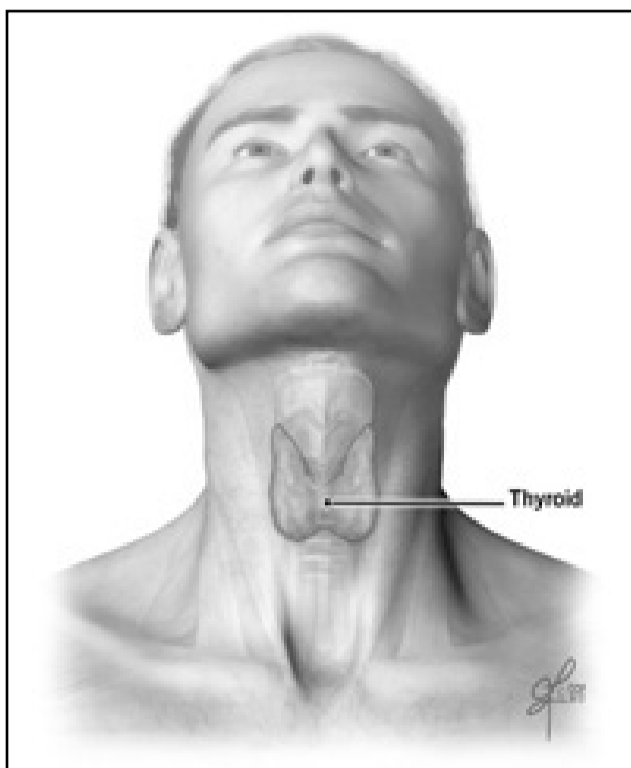
Jill wants to know, “what’s a thyroid and what does it do?” Thyroid problems are common in primary care medical practices. For those like Jill who don’t know what the thyroid gland is or does, read on!

The thyroid is an endocrine gland found in the front of the neck below and to the sides of the larynx or Adam’s apple. Endocrine glands produce hormones that are secreted into the bloodstream and travel around the body where they signal cells in different tissues to perform particular functions.

The primary job of the thyroid gland is to control metabolism (energy use) in our cells. It does this by producing two hormones, T4 (thyroxine) and T3 (triiodothyronin). Both of these hormones contain iodine which is why iodine is so important in our diets.

Our cells have hormone receptors protruding from their cell membranes that act as sensors to constantly monitor body functions and adjust them to maintain “homeostasis,” a balanced internal environment. Biochemical systems that maintain homeostasis are very elegant. The thyroid works somewhat like a furnace thermostat that turns the furnace on or off based on the temperature in the room. Instead of using wires and electricity to communicate, the body uses thyroid hormones as chemical messengers.

The hypothalamus, found near the bottom of the brain, functions as the thermostat in our body that interacts indi-



rectly with the thyroid. When the hypothalamus detects that the body needs to increase metabolism, it will release the hormone TRH (Thyrotropin Releasing Hormone). This hormone travels to the pituitary gland, another endocrine gland just below the hypothalamus, where it stimulates the pituitary to secrete TSH (Thyroid Stimulating Hormone) into the bloodstream. The TSH then stimulates the thyroid gland to release T4 and T3.

Once the hypothalamus turns on the thyroid “furnace” via TRH and TSH, how does the system get shut off? The hypothalamus and pituitary also monitor the levels of T4 and T3 in the bloodstream via a feedback loop. When the hormones reach a certain level in the blood they suppress the production of TRH and TSH.

Now that you know the physiology of the thyroid, hopefully it will make it easier to understand how things can go haywire. There are two main problems that can develop with the thyroid. The first is HYPOTHYROIDISM, a “low” thyroid state where too little T3 and T4 are produced. The other is HYPERTHYROIDISM a “high” thyroid state where too much of the hormones is released.

Either one of these conditions can be very serious since homeostasis is knocked out of balance.

Hypothyroidism can result when there is an interruption in any step of the complex hypothalamic – pituitary – thyroid pathway. The hypothalamus may not detect the body is in need of energy and/or may not produce or release TRH to stimulate the pituitary to secrete TSH. The pituitary may not respond to TRH or may not make or release TSH. Finally, the thyroid gland itself may not respond to TSH to make T3 or T4.

Common symptoms of hypothyroidism include fatigue, weight gain, water retention, intolerance to cold, brittle hair and nails, dry skin, muscle cramps, joint aches, thyroid enlargement (goiter), low heart rate, and constipation.

Hypothyroidism may result from a number of conditions involving the endocrine glands controlling the thyroid as well as the thyroid’s ability to make T3 & T4. The most sensitive way to diagnose hypothyroidism is by checking the level of TSH in the blood. Levels will be high in the blood because the pituitary is sensing the low levels of thyroid hormones and is trying to stimulate the thyroid to

make more. Depending on the situation, blood tests for T3 and T4 may be checked in addition to TSH.

Treatment of hypothyroidism usually requires taking synthetic thyroid hormone pills for the rest of one’s life. Monitoring is performed by checking blood levels of thyroid hormones on a periodic basis and adjusting the replacement medication dose accordingly.

Hyperthyroidism is caused by problems with excess production of thyroid hormones. Hashimoto’s thyroiditis is the most common cause that results from a person’s immune system producing antibodies that mimic TSH and keep the thyroid in a constant “on” state. Other problems like thyroid tumors can also cause production of excess hormones.

Symptoms of hyperthyroidism include weight loss, anxiety, tremor, intolerance to heat, rapid heartbeat or palpitations, thyroid enlargement, apathy or depression, and occasionally bulging eyeballs.

Like hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism is confirmed with lab testing. Usually the level of TSH is low since the pituitary sees plenty of thyroid hormone in the blood. The thyroid hormones T3 & T4 are usually elevated. Additional testing may include ultrasound or nuclear imaging of the thyroid to look for growths or other abnormalities.

The treatment of hyperthyroidism varies based on the cause. It may require taking medication to suppress hormone production or taking radioactive iodine to destroy overactive thyroid tissue. Surgery is sometimes performed. Treatment of hyperthyroidism often results in hypothyroidism that requires replacement with thyroid hormone pills.

Dr. John Roberts is a retired member of the Franciscan Physician Network specializing in Family Medicine.



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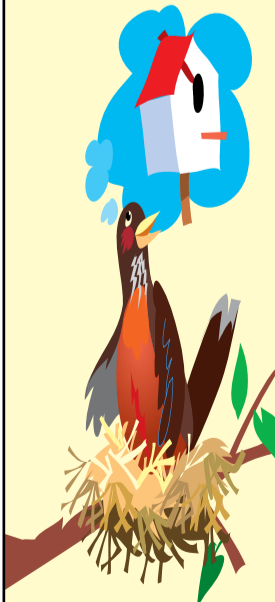
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\*Subscriptions expire 12-31-23

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Photos courtesy of Cadillac

## 2023 Cadillac CT4: The Stylish Driver's Car With Its Own Chauffeur

For way too long, Cadillac built cars better suited to riding than driving. But over the last twenty years, GM's luxury brand kept a grip on its opulent heritage while engineering truly world-beating sport sedans. The CTS-V, STS-V, and current CT5 Blackwing are a few examples. But just as Cadillac put its German competitors to bay, it's decided to let their cars chauffeur themselves. Let's drive and ride in the 2023 Cadillac CT4 with Super Cruise.

Lucky for me, I'm planning a drive from Indianapolis, Indiana to Bowling Green, Kentucky and back to visit a certain sports car museum. It's one of my favorite drives, combining wide-open Interstate through cornfields and fast curvy roads south of Louisville. Sharing basic architecture with the Chevy Camaro, the CT4 is as much sports car as luxury sedan, so I can't wait to settle in for about 250 miles each way.

I'm greeted by a

### Likes:

- Super Cruise
- Spirited driving
- Bold style

sleek design with familiar cues. A proud grille, long horizontal bodylines, and vertical taillamps that hint of fins recall the past while thin LED headlamps, vertical driving lamps, 18" wheels, and formed rear deck spoiler impart fresh attitude. The long creased hood and streamlined C-pillar hugging the beltline add a pleasing combination of formality and sport. Dynamic styling lends the car presence beyond its compact size.

Even for a small sedan, the CT4 embraces proper Cadillac luxury. It's not as lavish as larger Cadillacs, but I there's no complaining about heated and ventilated front seats, heated steering wheel, crisp Bose audio, and dual-zone auto climate control. I connect my

### Dislikes:

- Tight rear seat
- No sunroof
- Limited lifespan

phone wirelessly via Apple CarPlay rock out. A new flatscreen instrument cluster accompanies a super simple touchscreen to access navigation and phones. There's a joywheel in the console if you prefer, but I do not. Wireless console charging adds convenience. Just toss the phone in and go.

I feel safe. I'm a big fan of the head-up display that hovers over the hood, especially when pressing the car to beat closing time, but Cadillac went further with adaptive cruise, automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, and blind-spot warnings. Should I lose attention, rear cross traffic alert with auto brake protects pedestrians and bicyclists. The safety alert seat cushions buzz in the direction of

### 2023 Cadillac CT4 Premium Luxury

**Five-passenger, AWD Sedan**  
**Powertrain: 2.7-liter T4, 10-spd trans**  
**Output: 310hp/350 lb.-ft. torque**  
**Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind**  
**Wheels f/r: 18"/18" alloy**  
**Brakes f/r: disc/disc**  
**0-60 mph: 5.2s**  
**Fuel economy: 21/29 mpg city/hwy**  
**Assembly: Lansing, MI**  
**Base/As-tested price: \$34,395/\$53,215**

danger.

Base CT4s come with a 2.0-liter turbocharged engine, but this one is stoked with the 2.7-liter turbo-four generating 310 horsepower and 350 lb.-ft. of torque. All of that power routes to the all-wheel-drive system through a 10-speed transmission. Naught to sixty rolls up in a smidge over 5 seconds. Sport and Touring modes adjust sharpness of throttle and steering, but there's no Magnetic Ride Control. Drive gently to see 21/29-MPG city/highway.

This is a seriously

confident car. The peppy engine, AWD, and crisp analog suspension press the car firmly into pavement. After some fun on backroads, I hit I65, set the cruise, press a button on the steering wheel, wait for green lights, and lift my hands. The car monitors traffic, automatically switching lanes and passing when necessary, buzzing the safety alert seat to communicate intentions. A camera on the steering column makes sure I'm watching the road. As much as I enjoy driving the CT4, it's calming sitting back, having a cup of coffee, and listening to



**CASEY WILLIAMS**  
Auto Reviews

my music.

The CT4 is the kind of cozy unflappable sport sedan Germany used to build, but no longer does. If you want this one, get it quick because whatever replaces it will soon be electric. A base price of \$34,395 makes baby Caddy surprisingly affordable, but add the \$7,700 Super Cruise package to Premium Luxury models like ours and the total comes to a loftier \$53,215.

Storm Forward!

Send comments to Casey at [AutoCasey@aol.com](mailto:AutoCasey@aol.com); follow him on YouTube @ AutoCasey.

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(Statepoint) Moving Is A Big Job – And It Can Be A Wasteful One, Too, Considering All Of The Packing Material Required. Make Moving More Sustainable With These Eco-Friendly Tips:

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That Attaches To Itself, So No Tape Is Needed. Once You Unpack, The Paper Can Be Directly Recycled, Or Stored To Be Reused.

**Folding In:** Instead Of Using Tape, Fold Your Box Tops In An Interlocked, Neat Manner. They'll Stack Up Easily Inside Your Vehicle, Maximizing Packing Space, Plus You Won't Need To Use Any Additional Materials. Unpack Your Items Without Tearing Or Ripping Your Box, Then Recycle Or Fold It Flat To Store For Future Use.

**Stacking Up:** Ensure Your Plates And Serving Ware Stay Scratch-Free

By Using A Protective Layer Between Each Item. Made Of Recycled Content, Flourish Brand 100% Recycled Kraft Paper Provides Lasting Security For Traveling To Your New Home.

**Blanketed:** Oversized Or Uniquely Shaped Home Décor Can Be Exceptionally Fragile And Isn't Always Easy To Squeeze Into Standard Storage Containers. When Packing Your Vehicle, Incorporate Padding By Wrapping These Items In Spare Blankets, Comforters Or Oversized Towels. You'll Minimize The Risk Of Damage To The Items And Have Zero Waste.

# No Voucher Expansion, More Health Care Funding In Indiana's GOP Senate Budget Plan

By Whitney Downard and Casey Smith

Indiana's Senate Republicans nixed a major voucher school expansion in favor of increased Medicaid funding under their latest state budget proposal released Thursday.

That's a significant shift from the House GOP spending plan, which sought to allocate \$1.1 billion in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 to expand eligibility for the Choice Scholarship program.

The new voucher dollars accounted for roughly a third of the \$2 billion in new, additional state funds that House Republicans wanted to earmark for K-12 education. K-12 tuition support increased by 8.5% in the first year and 2% in the second year in the House budget. On the Senate side, tuition support goes up 4.68% in the first year followed by a larger 9.43% bump in the next year.

But Senate budget writers opted to keep the Choice program as-is, meaning vouchers will stay limited to Hoosier families that make less than 300% of free and reduced lunch eligibility, equal to about \$154,000 annually for a family of four.

Sen. Ryan Mishler, R-Mishawaka, outlines the Senate budget proposal in a press availability on April 13, 2023. (Whitney Downard/Indiana Capital Chronicle)

"Medicaid is now outpacing K-12," said Sen. Ryan Mishler, R-Mishawaka, who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee. "(Medicaid) has already grown at a rapid pace. Everybody wanted to expand it more in their bills. And this is the thing that scares me the most... we have to figure something out."

The two-year budget spends \$43.3 billion overall and ends the biennium with \$3.2 billion in reserves.

The Senate also included a separate, \$160 million annual line item to eliminate K-12 student textbook fees. House budget writers, on the other hand, required schools to dip into their foundational funding to fully pay students' curricular materials costs.

Advocates for vouchers blasted Senate Republicans, who have long been more cautious than their House counterparts.

Betsy Wiley, the president & CEO of the Institute for Quality Education said in a statement that six other states had adopted universal choice but senators did "nothing to expand eligibility for the largest single voucher program in the nation."

"The two-year budget proposed by the Indiana Senate Republicans today ignores the students and families in Indiana who want educational free-

dom and choice," Wiley said in a statement. "... Adoption of the Senate budget plan would be a huge step backward for Hoosier students and a complete assault on Hoosier voters who support educational freedom and universal school choice."

Property taxes going to charter schools

Mishler noted that while the education budget shrunk from 50% in the last biennium to 48% in both the House and Senate proposals, Medicaid expenses had increased from 15% to 17%.

As part of negotiations in previous sessions, senators agreed to implement House-proposed income tax cuts so long as economic fortunes held and lawmakers sent an additional \$1 billion to an outstanding debt obligation.

In their budget proposal, the House accelerated the tax cuts but didn't include \$1 billion for the Pre-1996 Teacher Retirement Fund. The Senate reverted back to the original tax cut plan and \$1 billion payment.

Spending on the healthcare assistance program would total \$7.5 billion in the budget and includes the federally required equalization between programs while maintaining a 90% reimbursement rate from the House proposal.

Senate Democrats signaled their support for the Senate version of the budget over the House voucher expansion but were concerned about new funding language for charter schools.

That new language would allow eligible charter schools to receive a portion of property tax collections starting in 2024 but only incremental, or new, revenue. The base would still go to traditional schools.

"We know many of our school populations are in impoverished areas. They're struggling with assessed value and they still struggle with a variety of funding issues," Sen. Eddie Melton, D-Gary, said. "We do not support the House version... (but this) is a new model that hasn't been fully vetted and discussed."

The property tax could not be distributed to virtual, adult or distressed charter schools. For schools that qualify, the property taxes would eventually replace the charter school grants, which Mishler said would be phased out.

According to the budget presentation, the Charter and Innovation Network School Grants will decrease from \$1,250 per average daily membership (ADM) in fiscal year 2024 to \$937 in fiscal year 2025 – though the property taxes start in calendar year 2024.

Charters would receive an estimated \$313 per

student from property taxes in 2025 as the grants decrease.

Public health, mental health funding TBD

Mishler said the Senate GOP plan also commits the same as the House budget — \$225 million — for public-private partnerships meant to increase public health services across the state. That's still only two-thirds of Gov. Eric Holcomb's ask for the statewide program, and less than half what the Governor's Public Health Commission originally proposed.

And while Senate Bill 1, which shores up the state's crisis response system, finally got an explicit amount of funding — \$35 million over two years — legislators still haven't come to an agreement on a phone fee for 988.

The hotline, designed to be a mental health counterpart to the public safety services under 911, would connect Hoosiers to resources that could include short-term crisis stabilization centers.

Federal law allows states to charge a phone fee up to \$1 monthly for 988 — though the highest state-implemented tax is \$0.27. Indiana already has a \$1 cell phone fee per month for 911 but hasn't set a dollar amount for 988.

"We agree; we didn't fully fund it. We just put some general fund dollars and there's got to be something else in there," Mishler said. "But I think we need to decide — what is that going to be?"

Mishler said a fee could be implemented to supplement the fixed appropriation dedicated to mental health services.

Senators in the Appropriations Committee did not implement a cigarette tax increase, despite support from House Republicans and some senators.

Senate Republicans have long resisted increasing the state's cigarette tax, though all three other caucuses seem to approve of one. Melton said Thursday that increasing the tax could help fund mental health and public health priorities.

"We're going to continue to push that on the Senate floor and hopefully we'll come to the conclusion there," Melton said. "It's a piece of the puzzle. I think the cigarette tax increase in addition to the 988 solution... will fully address the issues."

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