

**➔ TODAY'S VERSE**

*Psalm 37:4 Delight thyself  
also in the LORD; and he  
shall give thee the desires of  
thine heart.*



**➔ FACES OF MONTGOMERY**

*People who call our community their own.*

Rich Bell smiles for one of our roving photographers. Thank you for your smile, Rich!

**➔ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW:**

**1** The Indiana State Fire Marshal's office is looking to speak with any recent or former employees of the My Way Trading Warehouse in Richmond. The 14-acre warehouse for chipped, shredded and bulk plastics caught fire on April 11 and burned for several days, causing an evacuation of Richmond in a half-mile radius. Schools were canceled for several days while environmental experts tested the air quality in the area. Air Quality tests revealed asbestos in some of the debris, which was found several miles away from the site, including in parts of Ohio. No cause of the fire has been determined yet. Recent or former employees of the May Way Trading Warehouse are asked to contact Investigator Ross Keasling at 317-509-0381 or by email at rkeasling@dhs.in.gov.

**2** On April 20, SpaceX's Starship, the largest rocket ever built, took off from a launchpad in southern Texas. Around three minutes later, the rocket exploded midflight. Pourpoint says that it is important to keep in mind that this mission was considered a test launch and was never guaranteed to go perfectly. In the three minutes that the rocket was active, SpaceX recorded important data about Starship that will be used to improve future tests. For Pourpoint's students in the Maurice J. Zucrow Laboratories, failure is used as an opportunity to learn and improve. He says pushing boundaries, as SpaceX is doing, will propel humanity forward to the moon, Mars and beyond.

**3** The Department of the Interior today announced a \$35 million investment in fiscal year 2023 funding from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for 39 projects in 22 states that will address outdated or obsolete dams, culverts, levees and other barriers fragmenting our nation's rivers and streams. Today's announcement is part of the Department's five-year \$200 million commitment to restore free-flowing waters, allowing fish migration and protecting communities from flooding rivers and streams. It is also part of an over \$3 billion investment in fish passage and aquatic connectivity projects under the Investing in America agenda, which includes funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

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CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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## Boomer Bits



### Ask Rusty – Why Can't I Get Social Security Disability On My Own Or My Husband's Record?

*Dear Rusty: I am considered disabled by State of Washington doctors, but Social Security has turned me down three times when I applied for disability saying I don't have enough work points. I am the wife of a retired, disabled veteran who served over 20 years in the US Navy. I raised three children, one of which is disabled. How do I get Social Security to accept my disability? Signed: Frustrated & Disabled*

*Dear Frustrated & Disabled:* Social Security's criteria for disability eligibility are separate and distinctly different from any other authority such as the State of Washington. To be eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits, you must have earned a minimum number of credits on your own from working and contributing to Social Security, and that work must have occurred recently (you must have worked at least 5 of the last 10 years). If you did not personally earn the required credits through recent work, you cannot get SSDI benefits. I presume that is what Social Security has determined to be the case for you. And to clarify, you must be totally disabled (rendering you unable to work for at least one year) and that must be confirmed by your medical service providers,



ASK Rusty  
Social Security Advisor

**Social Security Matters**

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

who will be contacted by Social Security's representatives.

For information, SSDI is an individually earned entitlement, thus your husband's lifetime earnings history applies only to him, and his earnings record does not extend to you for SSDI purposes (in other words, he might be eligible for early SSDI benefits on his own, but his eligibility for those benefits does not make you eligible too). Nevertheless, if your husband is collecting SSDI benefits and you are caring for your child who became disabled before age 22, or if your husband is collecting SS and any of your children are under age 16, you may be eligible for "child-in-care" spousal benefits. Child-in-care spouse benefits are available at any age, but your husband would need to be collecting either SSDI or his regular SS retirement benefit for you to be eligible for those benefits. And if your husband is collecting SS of any kind, his disabled child (or any minor

children under 18) may also be eligible for dependent child benefits from him, subject to the Family Maximum.

So, to answer your specific question about how to get Social Security to "accept your disability," unless you meet the recent work test and have earned the needed credits on your own as described above, and are totally disabled, you cannot. You may wish to confirm this by discussing your situation with an attorney who specializes in SSDI matters. You can find such an attorney online by searching for "SSDI attorney near me" - just be sure to fully vet any firm you are considering. SSDI attorneys should not charge for an initial consultation, and they will only take your case if they believe you can win (they take their fees from any back SSDI benefits they can secure for you). SSDI attorney fees are also limited by federal law, and seeking such counsel should not result in any out-of-pocket expense for you.

### The U.N. Comes Under Fire For Suggesting Young Kids Have A Right To Engage In Sex

By John Grimaldi

Is the U.N. saying young children have a right to engage in consensual sex-- including consensual sex with an adult? It certainly appears to have officially announced that the world needs to adopt a kinder, gentler approach to what is commonly known as "Statutory Rape" in the civilized world. If not, what does the United Nations mean when it publishes a declaration that: "sexual conduct involving persons below the domestically prescribed minimum age of consent to sex may be consensual in fact, if not in law. In this context, the enforcement of criminal law should reflect the rights and capacity of persons under 18 years of age to make decisions about engaging in consensual sexual conduct and their right to be heard in matters concerning them."

The U.N. document, The 8

March Principles for a Human Rights-Based Approach to Criminal Law Proscribing Conduct Associated with Sex, is the handiwork of the International Committee of Jurists, the UN-AIDS [the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS] and the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

It goes on to state that "Pursuant to their evolving capacities and progressive autonomy, persons under 18 years of age should participate in decisions affecting them, with due regard to their age, maturity, and best interests, and with specific attention to non-discrimination guarantees." Although the report doesn't overtly suggest sex with minors should be legalized, it claims that children younger than 18 years of age are capable of willingly having sex with

### Foot And Ankle Safety Tips For The Summer Months

(StatePoint) From the beach to the backyard, taking care of your feet and ankles in summer is essential.

"Nothing ruins summer fun faster than a problem with your feet. However, a few smart precautions can help keep you healthy and safe," says Gretchen Lawrence, DPM, AACFAS, a board-certified foot and ankle surgeon and an associate member of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS).

To help you understand some of the most common summer risks to feet and how to avoid them, ACFAS is sharing these insights:

- Puncture wounds: Millions of Americans go barefoot every summer, and thousands will sustain cuts and puncture

### City Of Crawfordsville And Arbor Homes Announce Partnership For Residential Development

The City of Crawfordsville and Arbor Homes are pleased to announce a partnership to mitigate the challenges of housing availability in workforce attraction. Arbor Homes plans to develop a 173-home subdivision called Hawkview. This 60-acre development will be located south of the Woodcreek Shoppes in the 2100 block of US 231 South in Crawfordsville. The average home price will be \$285,000, and the average home will be approximately 2300 square feet. While this is their first project in Crawfordsville, Arbor Homes has been a leading home

➔ See HOMES Page A7

## The Daily Almanac

**Sunrise/Sunset**  
**RISE:** 6:54 a.m.  
**SET:** 8:30 p.m.

**High/Low Temperatures**  
**HIGH:** 54 °F  
**LOW:** 34 °F

**Today is...**

- April Showers Day
- Earth Day
- Record Store Day

**What Happened On This Day**

- **1977** Optical fiber is used for telephone transmissions for the first time.
- **1945** Adolf Hitler admits defeat.
- **1906** The 1906 Olympic Games begin in Athens.

**Births On This Day**

- **1870** Vladimir Lenin Russian politician
- **1899** Vladimir Nabokov Russian/American author

**Deaths On This Day**

- **1983** Earl Hines American pianist
- **1994** Richard Nixon American politician, 37th President of the United States

**➔ HONEST HOOSIER**

Happy 53rd birthday, Earth Day.



**➔ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION**

Service Directory...A3  
Faith.....A4, A5  
Classifieds.....A5

**➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

When you buy a plastic water bottle, make sure it's labeled "BPA-free."

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



**➔ OBITUARIES**

None

**➔ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

**Say Cheese!**

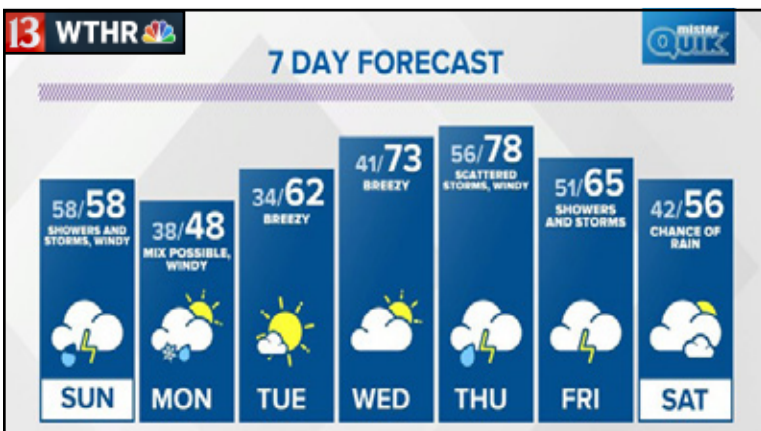
Are you a proud parent or grandparent? Got a great photo of your loved one? E-mail it to news@thepaper24-7.com along with the pertinent info (and your contact information so we can reach you if we have questions). C'mon, let's show off as many bright and smiling faces as we can and make clear exactly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

**➔ TODAY'S QUOTE**

"When strangers start acting like neighbors... communities are reinvigorated."  
-Ralph Nader

**➔ TODAY'S JOKE**

Why was the salad given a medal? It went above and beyond the kale of duty!



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



## Buchanan: Bill To Modify Definition Of A Homestead Goes To Governor's Desk

A bill authored by State Sen. Brian Buchanan (R-Lebanon) that would modify the definition of a homestead for the purposes of the homestead standard property tax deduction passed the General Assembly Thursday. Senate Enrolled Act 325 would allow a home, one attached or detached garage and one additional building not being used for commercial purposes on a one-acre parcel of land to be considered part of a property owner's

homestead and therefore eligible for the 1% property tax cap. "This bill could help make Indiana an even more affordable place to live, work and raise a family by aiming to lower the property taxes for many Hoosiers across the state who claim a homestead standard deduction on their property," Buchanan said. "I take lowering property taxes in Indiana very seriously and I am happy to see the bill receive approval by

the General Assembly. This bill will impact assessments beginning in 2024 and will not influence property tax bills paid in 2023. SEA 325 now heads to the governor for his consideration. As the 2023 session progresses, Buchanan encourages residents of Senate District 7 to contact him with any questions or comments they may have at Senator. Buchanan@iga.in.gov or 800-382-9467.

## Rep. Negele: Bill Expanding Hoosier Women's Access To Contraceptives Heads To Governor's Desk

Pharmacists throughout Indiana could soon be allowed to prescribe and dispense hormonal contraceptives as legislation co-authored by State Rep. Sharon Negele (R-Attica) heads to the governor's desk for consideration as a new law. Currently, Indiana law only allows primary physicians to prescribe hormonal contraceptives like birth control pills, skin patches, IUDs and rings. If signed into law, House Enrolled Act 1568 would allow pharmacists to also prescribe birth control as long as the woman is 18

years or older and completes a self-screening. "Women need access to safe birth control options and with this legislation they would be able to do so through their local pharmacist, Negele said. "These professionals are well-trained and pharmacies are often far more convenient and accessible." Negele said the bill would allow pharmacists to be reimbursed after prescribing birth control to Medicaid recipients, ensuring low-income Hoosiers are not left behind. Women who receive pre-

scriptions from a pharmacist would be required to consult with a physician within 12 months to ensure medical issues don't arise. The legislation continues to allow pharmacists to object to prescribing contraceptives based on ethical, moral or religious grounds. If signed into law, Indiana would join nearly half the states in the country that allow pharmacists to prescribe hormonal contraceptives. To follow this and other legislation considered for new laws by the governor, visit [in.gov/gov/newsroom/2023-bill-watch/](http://in.gov/gov/newsroom/2023-bill-watch/).

## Indiana Library Federation Troubled By Lawmaker's Assertion That Harmful Library Language May Be Revived In Conference Committee

The Indiana Library Federation is concerned by reporting that language from Senate Bill 12, Material Harmful to Minors, may find its way into another bill via conference committee, namely HB1447, Education Matters. HB1447 has been scheduled for conference committee on Monday, April 24th at 9:00am. ILF supports local challenge processes in both school and public libraries to create transparency for the community and for parents. ILF supports publicly-available policies by which a parent or guardian may submit a complaint about a book

in a school or library's possession. ILF does not support language that would remove the educational and scope-of-employment defenses in current code, which would allow for criminal prosecution of librarians without affirmative defenses. Jailing and criminally prosecuting librarians with no defense is an extreme response and is not balanced policy. At minimum, all Hoosiers deserve a right to First-Amendment-based defenses, which include literary, political, and artistic defenses. A defense for scientific material is

already in code. ILF is committed to protecting all Hoosiers' constitutional freedom to read. Libraries provide all sorts of information on a range of topics for everyone. Local challenge processes allow people the chance to make their voices and concerns heard in their communities. Libraries should be able to make diverse materials available for everyone without government interference. ILF strongly desires to work toward policy alternatives that protect our youth, preserve the First Amendment, and safeguard librarians from frivolous criminal prosecution.

## Gov. Holcomb Announces 2023 STEM Team Students

STEM Team Highlights Top Indiana Students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Governor Eric J. Holcomb and the Indiana Department of Education today announced the four members of the Governor's 2023 STEM Team. This prestigious award recognizes outstanding high school students who have demonstrated exceptional talent and accomplishments in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM).

"I continue to be impressed by the students selected for my STEM team, not only for their commitment to academic success but also their eagerness to make a positive impact on fellow Hoosiers, communities, and our state," said Gov. Holcomb. "As opportunities for STEM education continue to grow, I want to commend our students for seizing these opportunities to improve their future, as well as our passionate educators for their work to prepare students for all that lies ahead."

In addition to being selected as a member of the Governor's STEM Team, each student is awarded a \$1,000 scholarship deposited into an Indiana CollegeChoice 529 Direct Savings plan, administered by the Treasurer of State, and a letterman jacket identifying them as members of the Governor's STEM Team.

"As we continue to expand access to high-quality STEM education, these students exemplify the potential that exists for all Indiana students to unlock skills that will serve them throughout their life path," said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. "The skills they are learning today - from

problem-solving to critical thinking to communication - will be important regardless of the career they choose and will prepare them to be innovators and leaders who will help drive our state's future economy."

The members of the 2023 Governor's STEM Team are:

Science: Ethan Kiang, Bloomington High School South, Bloomington

Ethan has worked on research regarding climate and temperate forests at Indiana University's Novick Lab. His project aims to compare the effects of soil moisture and atmospheric drought stressors on temperate forest trees. He is currently working on his first authored paper about the subject. While Ethan is undecided on which postsecondary institution he will attend, he plans to major in Environmental Engineering or Biogeoscience.

Technology: Brinna Porat, Center Grove High School, Greenwood

Brinna's passion for robotics started at a young age. She has held leadership positions in FIRST Robotics and volunteers at several local, state, and national robotics competitions. Through this work, she has learned how to build, design, and drive robots and work with several technology programs, including computer-aided design (CAD) and Adobe products. Brinna plans to major in Health Sciences or Biomedical Engineering upon graduation.

Engineering: Katie Essex, Southport High School, Indianapolis

Katie has a passion for aviation and recently completed a physics internship through IUPUI to expand her knowledge. Along with flight, Katie

also has a passion for her community. She created Mini-Movers, a program that provides modified ride-on cars to young children with disabilities so they can move independently. By graduating a year early, Katie can continue her flight certifications and attend Purdue University for Professional Flight Technology.

Mathematics: Katherine Yu, Carmel High School, Carmel

Katherine volunteers at an assisted living facility near her home, and that helped her realize the lack of independence caused by chronic illnesses. Her research efforts in glaucoma and Alzheimer's disease using CRISPR inference sparked a passion for improving health for all. Katherine plans to study Biomedical Engineering so that she can give people who suffer from chronic illnesses their freedom back.

In addition to the four members selected for the Governor's STEM Team, eight students received honorable mentions:

- Science
  - Luke Reynolds, Marian High School, Mishawaka
  - Isabella Bradburn, Shelbyville Senior High School, Shelbyville
- Technology
  - Alexandra Tauriainen, Lawrence Central High School, Indianapolis
  - Sarah O'Farril, Hanover Central High School, Cedar Lake
- Engineering
  - Chelsea Gonzalez, Pike High School, Indianapolis
  - Hailey Huser, Martinsville High School, Martinsville
  - Benjamin Myers, Washington High School, Washington
- Mathematics
  - Corbin Dowden, Huntington North High School, Huntington

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May 1-15	\$52.68
May 16-31	\$49.39
June 1-15	\$46.10
June 16-30	\$42.81
July 1-15	\$39.52
July 1-31	\$36.23
Aug. 1-15	\$32.94
Aug. 16-31	\$29.65
Sept. 1-15	\$26.36
Sept. 16-30	\$23.07
Oct. 1-15	\$19.78
Oct. 16-31	\$16.49
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# 11th Annual Darlington Bed Race To Kick Off Summer

Race will be held on Friday, June 2nd, on the Square.

The event that has historically been the 'kick off to summer on the square' returns again this year. Supporting the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville and Noblesville Parks & Recreation, the 11th annual event will raise funds to support youth programs that take place during out-of-school times. The Bed Race will also serve as June's First Friday event for Noblesville Main Street. "Last year the Bed Race raised over \$20,000 to fund scholarships for our youth programs," stated BGCN Director of Club Operations, Abby Stutesman. "These scholarships provide positive, engaging activities for local kids

and are needed now more than ever. Youth are needing the freedom and social connections that our organizations offer, and families are needing the financial assistance that events like the Bed Race make possible."

Since its inception, the annual Bed Race has been generously title sponsored by Darlington Snacks.

Matteo's will once again sponsor the event with their Trackside VIP Race Dinner, which will expand this year to provide the ultimate Bed Race experience to more guests with their three-course meal and upclose seating. Other local businesses are invited to sponsor the downtown event and showcase their support to more than 1,000 onlookers over the

course of the evening. "Kicking off summer and putting school to bed has always been our motto," stated Stutesman.

"Providing an exhilarating, free of charge, family-friendly atmosphere downtown on the first Friday of summer is our goal. This year's competition is sure to be just as intense - especially with our new rivalry between the Police and Fire Departments!"

Sponsorship and partnership opportunities to support the event are now available, and teams are able to reserve their spot in the 11th annual event at BGCNI.org. For information, questions and requests, contact BGCN Director of Club Operations, Abigail Stutesman, at astutesman@bgcni.org.



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June 1-15	\$24.50
June 16-30	\$22.75
July 1-15	\$21.00
July 1-31	\$19.25
Aug. 1-15	\$17.50
Aug. 16-31	\$15.75
Sept. 1-15	\$14.00
Sept. 16-30	\$12.25
Oct. 1-15	\$10.50
Oct. 16-31	\$8.75
Nov. 1-15	\$7.00
Nov. 16-30	\$5.25
Dec. 1-15	\$3.50
Dec. 16-31	\$1.75

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**Service times:**  
10:02 am on Sundays

Wednesday night prayer meeting  
at 6:30 pm.

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CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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Worship Service: 10:30 AM

Youth Group Wednesday at 6:30

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Service: Sunday 10:30 am

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# FAITH

**INCLUDE YOUR INFORMATION** The Paper of Montgomery County is asking churches to send us church news by noon on Thursday. Information can be e-mailed to: [news@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:news@thepaper24-7.com)

The following is a listing of church services and various programs that organizations around Montgomery County have sent The Paper. If you would like to have your church information included in this free listing, simply e-mail it to [news@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:news@thepaper24-7.com) by Monday for the Wednesday Print Edition.

## FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday's schedule will include Sunday School at 9:30 and morning worship at 10:30 followed by a pitch-in dinner. After dinner there will be a special service in which Pastor Roe will step aside and Bro. Keith Harris will become the pastor. Meetings will continue with the Danfords Monday through Thursday at 7 each evening.  
The public is invited to all the services anytime but especially during our revival with the Danfords. The location is 5113 S 200 W, Crawfordsville. Or just five miles south of Crawfordsville on State Highway 47. For more information call 866-1273 or visit [www.faithbaptistville.com](http://www.faithbaptistville.com).

## NEW MARKET CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Church News for Saturday, April 15, 2023

The Sanctuary as well as the Drive-in Parking Lot are open for Worship held at 10 a.m. Tony Thomas will speak on "The Type of Man God Changes". His text is from Acts 9:1-9.

SUNDAY SCHOOL begins at 9 a.m. COFFEE & DONUT FELLOWSHIP is at 8:30 a.m. the first Sunday of each month. The next fellowship is May 7. The worship service and Sunday school are open to everyone.

## NEW MARKET FIRST BAPTIST

New Market First Baptist Church will be open this Sunday with fellowship with Holy Grounds starting at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and donuts. Sunday School classes begin at 9:00 a.m. with classes for all ages. At 10:00 a.m. Pastor Todd will bring our message. Our monthly business meeting will follow the service. We are a small church trying to grow, and help others find Jesus and put Him in your life. Come and see what we offer. We are located at 206 S. First St in New Market.

## YOUNG'S CHAPEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

If contemporary worship is not your preference, then you might want to visit us. A small country Bible based church made up of very friendly, compassionate, loving people. A church where everyone knows everyone's name. You will be warmly welcomed here. Why not try us out? 4527 North 200 East, Crawfordsville Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.

## FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH


Sundays: Worship (Casual Traditional/Family Friendly/Childcare) - 10:15 am, Adult Faith Learning/Sunday School - 9:15 am, Good News Cafe - 9:15 am, Wednesdays: WOW! - Mid-week Youth Program (Grades 1-12) - 4:30 - 7 pm, Faith Learning and Dinner, Rev. Darla Goodrich, We are located at: 211 S. Walnut St. Crawfordsville IN 47933 Telephone: 765-362-4812

## WOODLAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

468 N Woodland Heights Drive  
Crawfordsville IN 47933-9689  
Telephone Number: 765-362-5284  
Fax Number: 765-362-6641  
Lead Minister: Tim Lueking  
Worship Minister: Wayne Wilkinson  
Youth Minister: Bryson Feese  
Worship Service Times for Sunday:  
Traditional service at 8:15a.m. & Contemporary service at 10:30a.m. All Sunday School classes at 9:30a.m., Children's classes for birth to 5th grade at 10:30a.m. All services will be streamed live on our live whcc.us platform, Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter.  
Person of Interest  
"Jesus Christ: The Author of Truth" - John 8:31-32

## NEW MARKET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Reverend William "Bill" Pike Office: 765-866-0703 email: [bill.pike@in-umc.org](mailto:bill.pike@in-umc.org). Please come join our small town church for a friendly church service using hymnals and the rituals of church that you grew up with. 101 East Main Street, P.O. Box 326, New Market, IN 47965. Office Phone: 765-866-0703 [www.newmarketumc.org](http://www.newmarketumc.org) Facebook.com New Market United Methodist Church Indiana Open Hearts--Open Minds--Open Doors Sunday School 9:30 and Worship Service 10:45




**Southside Church  
of Christ**

153 E 300 South • Crawfordsville  
[southsidechurchofchristindiana.com](http://southsidechurchofchristindiana.com)

**Sundays:**  
**Worship at 10:30 am**

**Wednesday Night Bible Study 7 pm**



**One Way  
Pentecostal  
Apostolic Church**

802 Mill St. • Crawfordsville

*Pastor Steve Lee and his wife, Tamara,  
invite you all to their spirit-filled church*

**Services**  
Sunday at 2 pm

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study  
7 pm**

**Saturday evening  
(speaking spanish service)  
at 7 pm**

**Hickory Bible Church**  
104 Wabash • New Richmond

**Sunday Services:**



**Breakfast and Bible - 9:30**  
**Church - 10:30**

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**Christ's United Methodist Church**

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# Indiana Lawmakers Suggest A Likely Revival Of "Obscene And Harmful" Library Materials Ban

By Casey Smith  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana lawmakers are largely mum about the revival of a much-debated ban on materials deemed "harmful to minors" in school and public libraries. A bill with such language advanced from the Senate but died in the House earlier this session without a hearing. The House Education Committee instead seemed intent on reinserting similar language from that measure — Senate Bill 12 — into another bill. Although House legislators heard more than four hours of mostly-oppositional testimony on the amendment, a vote was never held. That has left the library provision abandoned from any moving legislation — so far. But Republican House Speaker Todd Huston said Thursday his caucus is still considering a last-minute addition in conference committee. "I think we'll talk about that early next week," he

said of the harmful material language. "But I think ... if you want to do it, you've got to find the right bill, where it's appropriate." The stage is already set for that to happen in House Bill 1447, which addresses third-party surveys and evaluations given to K-12 students. Rep. Donna Schaibley, R-Carmel, was removed last week as the conferee on the bill and replaced with Rep. Martin Carbaugh, R-Fort Wayne. He sits on the House Education Committee and has supported similar legislation in the past. Sen. Jim Tomes, R-Wadesville, who authored Senate Bill 12, along with Sen. Jeff Raatz, R-Richmond — chair of the Senate Education Committee — were added as bill advisors. The switches are part of end-of-session politics that play out during conference committee negotiations. Those temporary committees are formed in relation to a specific bill and tasked

with negotiating a proposal that can be agreed to by both chambers. GOP Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray said lawmakers aren't intending to be secretive about their plans, noting that — should they decide to revive the library language — "it's going to be like everything else." "It'll come out, and there will be a conference committee report, if that happens. It certainly is a conversation to try and bring that forward. And then the House and the Senate will both debate it and vote on it publicly," Bray said. Still, Tomes did not respond to a request for comment. House Education Committee chairman Rep. Bob Behning, R-Indianapolis, also did not comment about the library language when asked Thursday by the Indiana Capital Chronicle. He said last week that the issue "is not done yet." Hours of testimony — but no House committee

vote. The proposed amendment that stalled earlier this month in the House Education Committee intended to create a new process for parents to request the removal of books alleged to be obscene or harmful to minors from school and public libraries. Language in the amendment would have additionally removed "educational purposes" as a reason that public schools and libraries could claim legal protection for sharing "harmful material" with underage students. School officials and librarians pushed back against the proposal, arguing that such a policy would open them up to criminal charges and create a "chilling effect" on book selections. Democrats echoed those concerns, saying the amendment could lead to the removal of anything one parent deems to be unsuitable over the objection of other parents. Proponents of such lan-

guage pointed to Hoosier parents who say their local school boards have rejected their challenges of certain materials — leaving books some deem to be "obscene" and "objectionable" accessible to kids in school libraries. Republican lawmakers agreed, saying the book removal process "isn't working" at the local level and now warrants statewide legislative action to require "transparency between schools, libraries and communities." A years-long debate But there was no GOP push on the House floor to bring any part of the amendment back after the underlying bill advanced from the education committee without any library provisions. Bray said last week that lawmakers have tried "several iterations" to "find a space" for the language. "Right now, it's probably palatable for our caucus. So there's a good possibility to see that find a home somewhere," he

said. "This issue has come up for a few years now, and there is some will to try and find a way to resolve it." Tomes has filed similar bills in years past to take away schools' defense to the state's "harmful materials" law. A similar proposal failed in the 2022 session after K-12 librarians and educators argued they would be unfairly criminalized. The senator said his bills are about "parents, their children, and books — really, really, really bad books." He maintained he wants to eradicate "raw pornography" from school libraries. - Indiana Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Indiana Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Follow Indiana Capital Chronicle on facebook.com/IndianaCapitalChronicle and twitter.com/INCapChronicle

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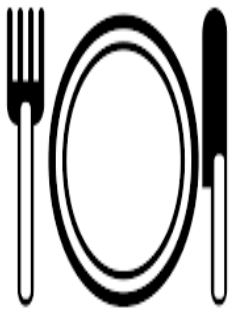
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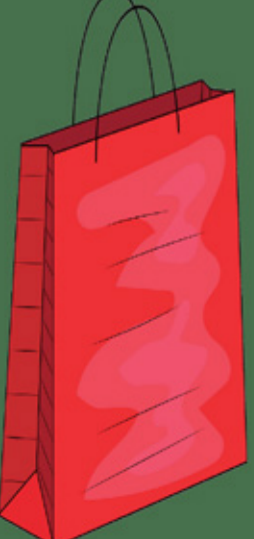


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## ANKLES

From Page A1

wounds. To prevent injury and infection, wear shoes whenever possible and get vaccinated against tetanus. If you do get a puncture wound, see a foot and ankle surgeon within 24 hours and don't swim until it's healed. Bacteria in oceans and lakes can cause infection.

- Pool problems: Always wear flip flops or other footwear in locker rooms and on pool decks to prevent contact with bacteria and viruses that can cause athlete's foot, plantar warts and other problems.

- Sun damage and skin cancer: Don't overlook your feet during your sun protection routine. Feet get sunburned too, and melanoma on the foot or ankle is more likely to be misdiagnosed than on any other part of the body. A study published in "The Journal of Foot & Ankle Surgery" reported the overall survival rate for melanoma of the foot or ankle is just 52%, in sharp contrast to the 85% survival rate for melanomas on other areas of the body. Apply sunscreen to the tops and bottoms of feet and limit sun exposure. Dr. Lawrence notes, "If you spot abnormal moles or pigmented skin, including under toenails, visit a foot and ankle surgeon. Early detection and treatment could save your life."

- Pains and sprains: Summer sports can lead to arch pain, heel pain, ankle sprains and other injuries. Proper footwear with heel cushioning and arch support is essential, particularly on uneven surfaces, such as sandy beaches or hiking trails. If injury occurs, use the RICE approach: rest, ice, compression and elevation to ease pain and swelling. Any injury that doesn't resolve within a few days should be examined by a foot and ankle surgeon.

- Mower risks: Some

25,000 Americans sustain injuries from power mowers annually, according to the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission. Many of these injuries are preventable. Always cut the grass in protective shoes or work boots and keep children away during this chore. Never mow a wet lawn or pull the mower backward, and always mow across slopes, not up or down them.

- Travel concerns: Sitting for long stretches can increase the risk of dangerous blood clots. "Whether road tripping or flying, regularly stretch your legs and pump your feet to circulate blood. Wearing compression socks for longer travel is also a good idea," says Dr. Lawrence.

- Diabetes complications: If you have diabetes, prolonged hot and humid weather can lead to numerous foot woes. Any type of skin break has the potential to get infected if it isn't noticed right away, and exposure can cause dry, cracking skin. Inspect your feet daily and wear closed shoes whenever possible. Swelling is another hot-weather risk, potentially making shoes fit tighter which can cause blisters. Compression stockings may not sound appealing in hot temperatures, but they can reduce swelling and help prevent poor circulation. Finally, never go barefoot in summer. Impaired nerve sensation can make it hard to detect just how hot surfaces are. Just a few minutes walking barefoot on pavement to grab the newspaper can cause third-degree burns.

For more information and to find a foot and ankle surgeon near you, visit FootHealthFacts.org, the patient education website for the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons.

## HOMES

From Page A1

builder for over 25 years in Central Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio.

Total development costs for land acquisition and infrastructure construction, such as streets and utilities is expected be \$13.9 million. The City plans to utilize Residential Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to assist with financing infrastructure costs associated with the development. Residential TIF is a new tool established by the state legislature in 2019, and allows for the capture of future taxes from homes located in the new development for use in financing the infrastructure needed to serve them. Residential TIF is a tool only available to communities in which new housing starts have remained below an established threshold and has been unable to meet demand. The multi-step local approval process of the Residential TIF for Hawkview is expected to begin in May.

"Our biggest challenge in attracting the workforce needed to ensure the success of our local businesses is the lack of available housing. We've experienced a housing shortage at all price points for some time now, and this project is a significant step forward in address-

ing that challenge," said Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton. "We are fortunate to have unprecedented employment opportunities and a great quality of life. Increasing the availability of housing is the next step in attracting and retaining the talent needed for success. I am very excited to welcome a strong partner like Arbor Homes to our community," Barton concluded.

As part of their project analysis, Arbor Homes conducted a housing market study of Crawfordsville in 2021 to determine both the need for more quality housing and the price range buyers would consider. Of the 250 respondents, 31% were searching for homes and preferred a price range between \$200,000 to \$299,000.

"We're very excited about the Crawfordsville market and recognize the need for attainable housing in the area," said Ben Watkins, Chief Marketing Officer. "Mayor Barton and the city have been great to work with. At Arbor we believe wealth accumulation for families happens through homeownership and in working with the city of Crawfordsville, it's clear the city has its residents best interest in mind."



## JOHN

From Page A1

older individuals, according to the Washington Free Beacon.

The paper goes on to quote Grace Melton, who served as a public delegate on the U.S. delegation to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, led by former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley and who told the Free Beacon, "this document advocates for a lot of troubling ideas and bad policies. Not only does it suggest that minors may be mature enough to consent to sexual activity, but it also asserts that 'criminal law may not in any way impair' the so-called right to abortion or to 'gender-affirming care.' [It] illustrates some of the consequences of the progressive left's expansion of what constitutes 'human rights'."

As one observer put it, "Worse yet, the UN report effectively and insidiously provides adults

who engage in sex with underage children an affirmative defense against committing statutory rape ... Indeed, the report, in effect, suggests it is no longer criminal conduct and detracts from the protections accorded an under-age girl or boy against intimidation to say it was consensual."

The reaction to the "The 8 March Principles" came under fire on the social media site, Twitter, says Fox News. In its coverage of the report, Fox quoted a Twitter post by women's rights activist Michelle Uriarau of Melbourne, Australia, who wrote "This hideous UN report ... seeks to decriminalize sex — even between children and minors. Evil." The report also quoted Canadian Olympic gold medalist Theo Fleury who succinctly declared, "The UN is full of pedophiles!!!!"

## Light hed Indiana Hospitals Urge Meaningful Medicaid Relief In State Budget

New report underscores the rising financial challenges for hospitals.

Indiana hospitals are calling on lawmakers to provide Medicaid relief in the state budget bill, HB 1001. This comes as policymakers in neighboring states like Kentucky and Illinois are advancing policies to address their hospitals' Medicaid shortfalls. Indiana hospitals have experienced their most difficult financial year since the beginning of the pandemic last year, according to a February analysis by Kaufman Hall.

A new report by the American Hospital Association (AHA) details the extraordinary financial pressures continuing to impact hospitals nationwide. The report found that hospitals across the U.S. saw double-digit increases in 2022 compared to pre-pandemic levels, including for workforce, drugs, medical supplies, equipment, and other essential operational services. These factors led to the most financially challenging year for hospitals since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving over half of hospitals in the nation operating at a financial loss at the end of 2022, and with negative operating margins continuing into 2023.

"Urban and rural safety net hospitals throughout Indiana are at their breaking point. Rising expenses for labor, drugs, and medical supplies coupled with sicker patients, longer hospital stays, and low Medicaid reimbursement rates that cover only 53% of the cost of care have created

an unprecedented financial strain on hospitals," said Indiana Hospital Association (IHA) President Brian Tabor. "Lawmakers have prioritized lowering health care costs for consumers and businesses, but this requires addressing the costs that are shifted to private insurance because of insufficient state Medicaid payments. There is an urgent need to address this in the state budget, HB 1001."

Indiana hospitals operated on a -2% median operating margin last year, declining 22% compared to pre-pandemic levels. The median hospital operating margin for the state of Indiana was at or below the national median each year, the report found. As a result, Indiana hospitals saw significant declines in days cash on hand—a key measure of cash reserves. In 2022 alone, Indiana hospitals experienced a nearly 20% median decline in their number of days cash on hand compared to 2021.

"Despite these challenges, Indiana hospitals remain committed to reducing health care costs in a sustainable manner," said Tabor. "This cannot be achieved without addressing Indiana's low base Medicaid payments for hospitals, which have not been raised in over 30 years."

According to Tabor, Indiana hospitals face a \$1.2 billion Medicaid shortfall just to achieve parity with federal Medicare rates, which would still cover less than the actual cost of serving patients.



## Working For You At The Statehouse



**SPENCER DEERY**  
Guest Columnist

There are many responsibilities of a State Senator, but I believe one of the most important is to be an advocate for the counties and communities in District 23. That's why I added language to House Bill 1499, which passed out of the Senate Tuesday, that would allow Tippecanoe County to keep more of our tax dollars under the control of local elected officials rather than state bureaucrats. Specifically, the bill would change how revenue earned from the Tippecanoe County innkeeper's tax is allocated. Currently, 20% of the tax revenue goes to Prophetstown State Park with 10% of that amount controlled by the county and 10% controlled by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Tippecanoe County is the only county in Indiana which allocates a portion of its innkeeper's tax money to DNR and the money is accumulating in a DNR account. The annual contribution is about \$500,000 each year. HB 1499 would gradually reduce the amount the county gives to the DNR by 1% each year starting in 2024 until Tippecanoe County is distributing no money into DNR's pocket in 2033. Frankly, I believe 10 years

is too slow of a decrease and am still fighting to speed up the clock, but I'll take the win for now.

Transparency for Taxpayers I also added language to HB 1499 that would require the Indiana Department of Revenue to provide taxpayers who paid adjusted gross income taxes with a receipt that explains how their taxes are used. This would give added transparency for taxpayers so they could see how their money is spent. This is legislation I worked on this session and I am happy to see it added to this bill so it could benefit Hoosier taxpayers. Both provisions still have to get approval from the House, but I'm pleased to see they are moving toward law.

### Increasing Workforce Transportation Options

A bill I sponsored that would support workforce transportation opportunities passed the Senate this week with bipartisan support.

House Bill 1046 would allow a public transportation corporation in one county to cross into an adjacent county to transport individuals, as long as the county commissioners and county council agree.

This change could allow residents in rural counties to use public transportation to travel to a neighboring county for work.

Senate District 23 is home to both rural and urban communities that could benefit from the ability to extend public transportation across county lines.

With large employers like Caterpillar and Subaru

in Tippecanoe County, the region has a lot to offer the surrounding area if we can remove the hurdles that keep more from joining the workforce and gaining access to high-paying jobs.

Because the bill was amended in the Senate, it will now return to the House of Representatives for further consideration.

### Protecting the Public

**The Indiana Constitution** currently requires all criminal suspects to be offered bail unless they are charged with murder or treason. Unfortunately, our society is seeing more and more instances of dangerous suspects released on bail, only to commit more violent crimes.

That's why I'm supporting Senate Joint Resolution 1, which would allow a court to deny bail for certain dangerous suspects.

It is common for federal courts to deny bail to dangerous individuals charged with federal crimes, and there are currently 22 states that allow courts to deny bail to arrestees in some circumstances, and nine states don't guarantee bail to any arrestees.

In order to protect Hoosiers from violent crime, SJR 1 seeks to give Indiana's criminal justice system the flexibility to use a policy that most of the country already uses.

If added to the Indiana Constitution, SJR 1 would make clear to Indiana judges that there are circumstances when it is acceptable to hold a suspect without bail because releasing them poses a substantial risk to the public.

### Local Communities Awarded Infrastructure Grants

Communities in Senate District 23 will receive nearly \$6 million to improve roads and bridges through the Community Crossings Matching Grant Program.

The CCMG, established by the Indiana General Assembly in 2016, aims to advance community infrastructure projects, strengthen local transportation networks and improve Indiana's roads and bridges. Since its enactment, the program has awarded more than \$1.27 billion in state matching funds for local construction projects.

In Senate District 23, the following communities received grants:

- Fountain County received \$1 million;
- Hillsboro received \$70,511.25;
- Kingman received \$152,058.75;
- Otterbein received \$322,500;
- Parke County received \$803,326.79;
- Rockville received \$596,505.10;
- Shadeland received \$562,518.75;
- Tippecanoe County received \$376,792;
- Universal received \$74,987.69;
- Vermillion County received \$993,455.90;
- Warren County received \$885,119.04; and
- West Lebanon received \$74,709.90.

- State Senator Deery serves Montgomery County and others and sits on several committees