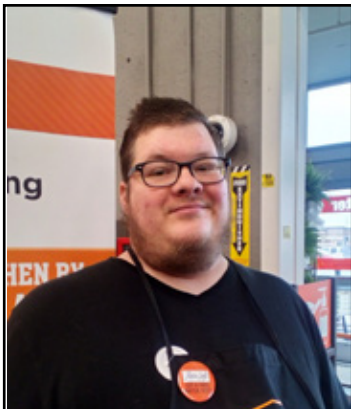


➡ TODAY'S VERSE

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

➡ FACES of MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Donald Hooten 33 smiles while offering a chance to win a home Depot gift card. Thank you for your smile! 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 It was a sight to behold at Skydive Perris in Orange County California when 101 freefalling 60-year-old senior citizens jumped from five airplanes in a record-breaking snowflake formation. The next day 95 of them broke another record when they leaped from their planes in a "sequential" formation. The organizers of these events are seeking recognition from the Guinness Book of World Records for these daring old men.

2 The Indiana Department of Workforce Development is accepting applications for DUA from individuals in Allen, Benton, Clinton, Grant, Howard, Johnson, Lake, Monroe, Morgan, Owen, Sullivan, and White counties whose employment or self-employment was lost or interrupted due to severe storms, straight-line winds, and tornados between March 31, and April 1. Applications for DUA must be filed by May 22.

3 Shortly after the turn of the last century, Frederick Miller first brewed his famed High Life beer and called it the Champagne of Beers. More than a hundred years later it is still promotionally compared to Champagne, much to the chagrin of the French brewers of their famous bubbly wine. Although Miller Beer is not exported to France, a shipment of more than 2,000 cans of it was making its way via Belgium recently, much to the chagrin of the French Champagne brewers who asked the Belgian Customs Administration to seize the shipment and destroy it, which they did. For sure, the Comité Champagne said Merci.

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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!

\$1.5B

Lawmakers get unexpected windfall in latest forecast to incorporate into two-year budget plan.

\$3 Million

IDEC faces a lawsuit for this amount over supposed fraudulent masks that were sent to Indiana.



Arial view of the Wabash College Campus.

Photo courtesy of Wabash College

2nd

Wabash college's rank for "Best Value" by Princeton Review.

\$7,500

Alex Litt, of Minnesota was awarded a scholarship of this amount annually for the Barry Goldwater Scholarship in mathematics, natural sciences and engineering.

1/3

When mowing you should only cut this amount off the top of your lawn. For example, if you set the deck to three inches, you should mow when it is four inches high.

\$136 Mil

Attorney General Todd Rokita continues Indiana's battle to help Hoosiers stop smoking and decrease the number of youth smokers throughout the state by holding tobacco manufacturers accountable. Last week Indiana received more than \$136 million from tobacco product manufacturers under the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.

700 Total Deaths Nationwide

Kids account for more than one in five all-terrain vehicle deaths each year, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Latest statistics show an estimated 100,000 emergency department-treated injuries annually. Indiana ranks consistently among the top 20 states for ATV deaths.



Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 6:45 a.m.
SET: 8:43 p.m.



High/Low
Temperatures
High: 49 °F
Low: 40 °F



Today is...

- CSS Reboot Day
- Frequent Flyer Day
- Law Day



What Happened
On This Day

- 1961 Fidel Castro declares Cuba a socialist nation and bans elections.
- 1945 Adolf Hitler's death is announced on German radio.
- 1840 The world's first adhesive postage stamp is issued in the United Kingdom.



Births On This Day

- 1923 Joseph Heller American author, playwright
- 1967 Tim McGraw American singer-songwriter, actor

Deaths On This Day

- 1904 Antonín Dvořák Czech composer
- 1994 Ayrton Senna Brazilian race car driver

➡ HONEST HOOSIER

May, what a wonderful month – flowers, moms and the Indianapolis 500! Let's go!



➡ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Chill out – people who are aggressive appear to be at greater risk for heart attacks and strokes.

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.



➡ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

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

➡ TODAY'S QUOTE

'We have to continually be jumping off cliffs and developing our wings on the way down.' – Kurt Vonnegut

➡ 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!

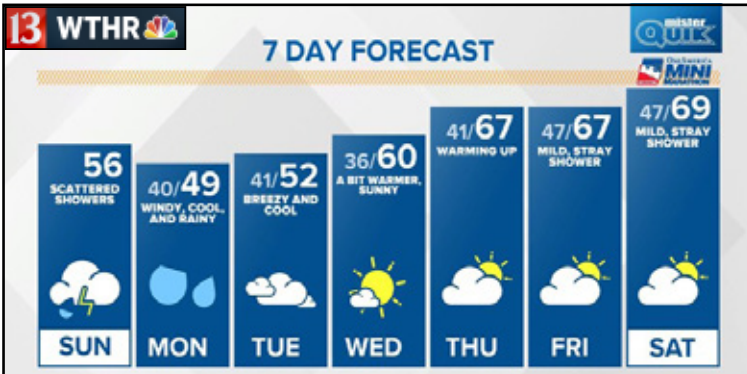
➡ TODAY'S JOKE

Which month can't make a decision? MAYbe

➡ OBITUARIES

NONE

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for subscribing!



“Fireworks in the Morning”



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

I start noticing the planes overhead when it's nearing the time to go.

Planes don't fly low over this small Mexican city. San Miguel de Allende doesn't have its own airport, so the few planes flying overhead are high in the sky, headed off to somewhere else. I rarely notice them at all—until it's time to leave.

Now I'm watching them leave a trail in the sky and wondering about the people inside. Are they happy to be going wherever they're going? Are they sad to be leaving wherever they were?

After almost three months here, in our little apartment in Mexico, everything we do in the last week takes on a new significance.

Will these flowers last until we leave? How many potatoes should I cook? Should we buy one more small jar of honey?

We wonder where we should go out to eat, and we keep using the expression “one last time,” as if we will never return. We plan to return. We even have tickets. But life is uncertain and leaving, even for a few months, feels momentous.

At 6 o'clock this morning, we heard fireworks. “Pop! Pop! Pop!”

My husband, Peter, mumbled something in his sleep.

“Fireworks,” I told him.

He went back to sleep. He doesn't mind. Peter is used to them now. Fireworks in the morning are not unusual. There are reasons for them, we are told, but they are complicated. They have to do with births and deaths and things we will never fully understand.

This morning, I was wide awake at 6 o'clock, listening to the fireworks and wondering how they ever could have bothered me in

the past.

I'm having a hard time remembering our home in the U.S.

I try to remember what pots and pans I use, and I can't quite picture them. It seems odd that my other life has grown so fuzzy in such a short time. I have forgotten how many houseplants we left to be watered. (Very few, is the answer.) I try to remember what vase I put my flowers in and what coffee cup I use. It seems important that I remember these things. Otherwise, it feels as if I will be flying into a void.

I wonder if winter is finally over. (Not really, is what I am hearing from my family.) I wonder if the crocuses will be coming up when we get back. Unlike the kitchen and my coffee cup, I can picture the crocuses with vivid clarity, scattered across the lawns, growing oblivious to property lines, spreading brilliant purple blooms everywhere for just a couple of short weeks, then disappearing again for a full year. I look forward to the crocuses.

And I miss my parents and spending time with my family. I will enjoy my walk through the old neighborhood. It will be fun to see spring finally arrive and meet all my old dog friends who will be eager to smell whatever was hidden beneath all that snow.

When you read this, I'll be back. And I'm sure I'll feel happier about it than I feel today. Today, I think I'll miss the fireworks.

Psychological studies report that, if I want to keep enjoying something, I need a little time away. I need to do something different for a while to keep the appreciation fresh. I believe this is true. But right now, I don't feel like going away.

Right now, I feel like taking in the brilliant colors and the warm sun and even the fireworks for at least one more day.

Till next time,
Carrie

Check out *CarrieClasson* Author on Facebook or visit *CarrieClasson.com*.

- Carrie Classon is a freelance writer and author and lives in New Mexico. Her columns appear each week.

In “Sneaky Move,” Indiana Lawmakers Revive Contentious Library Materials Language

By Casey Smith
Indiana Capital Chronicle

In the final hours of the legislative session, Republican state lawmakers resurrected a much-debated ban on materials deemed “obscene” or “harmful to minors” in school and public libraries.

Both the House and Senate voted largely along party lines to allow library language to be inserted into House Bill 1447. The measure now heads to the governor for final consideration. The House tally was 70-27 and the Senate vote was 39-10.

The underlying bill addresses third-party surveys and evaluations given to K-12 students. The new provision was cobbled together behind closed doors earlier this week in a conference committee.

The bill requires school libraries to publicly post lists of books in their collection and create a formal grievance process for parents and community members who live in the district to object to certain materials in circulation.

As part of that process, school boards must review those challenges at their next public meeting. An appeals process must also be established if officials don't agree with the request.

Language in the proposal also seeks to remove “educational purposes” as a reason that schools or district board members could claim legal protection for sharing “harmful material” with underage students. The charge is a felony.

Public libraries would not be affected, however, despite other proposals debated earlier in the session that would have expanded the language's reach. Additionally, the bill only applies to public and charter schools, not private schools.

Rep. Ryan Dvorak, D-South Bend, called the last-minute conference committee insert a “sneaky move.”

Under the bill, parents and community members can only request review of certain works that are alleged to be “obscene” or “harmful to minors”

— and current state law already bans such materials from being accessed by underage students.

Those terms also have very specific definitions in state code that a challenge would have to meet.

Obscene materials must, as a whole:

- describe or represent, in any form, nudity, sexual conduct, sexual excitement, or sado-masochistic abuse

- appeal to the prurient interest in sex of minors

- be patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable matter for or performance before minors

- lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors

“What concerns me is that this is just one of those bills that a lot of people have really strong feelings on ... and now we're sort of letting a conference committee that hasn't been able to take public testimony ... I really think this is kind of an example of the wrong way we want to do this policy,” Dvorak said Thursday during a House Rules Committee meeting. “If you want to bring this bill before the House and let us work on it, that's one thing. But shoving this through the backdoor sends an incredibly bad message to the public that's really, legitimately concerned about a lot of aspects of this.”

“This is part of what makes the public dissatisfied with the way business is conducted,” he continued. “I don't think there was a need to do it this way. And that's why we have the committee process set up. And when you pass bills that make half the state incredibly angry, in a way that doesn't allow the representatives who represent those people to actually offer amendments on the bill, it does a disservice to the institution.”

But Rep. Martin Carbaugh, R-Fort Wayne, emphasized that different versions of the library language were the subject of more than eight hearings of public testimony and

legislative debate earlier in the session.

“I can appreciate the process questions on this ... but I take a little exception with the ‘sneak’ comment, because this process is pretty open. This is being streamed live,” Carbaugh said, referring to the rules committee meeting.

Several hours later — as the final bill was debated in full chambers — Republicans maintained the language “will protect our children from sexually explicit and obscene material while they're in school.”

“Parents cannot access the school libraries — except for maybe at an open house. They do not have the ability to go to the library every time with their children. They cannot see the books in their children's desks. It is myopic, short-sided at best, to say otherwise,” said Rep. Becky Cash, R-Zionsville.

Rep. Matt Lehman, R-Berne, doubled down that the bill “is not about being different” or “banning ideas.”

“It's about one thing — and that is the indecency and the obscenity that we already defined in Indiana code, and we say if that is what's entering into the classroom, we need to have more transparency,” he said. “This is giving parents greater transparency with what's in their libraries.”

But Democrats pushed back, saying it's up to parents to monitor what materials their kids access.

“All of us struggle with what children should be exposed to and when. And we particularly struggle with the fact that children can be exposed to — what you might consider to be rude behavior or disgusting behavior or maybe against your sexual beliefs — they're going to get that one way or the other,” said Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis. “The issue is how they're going to get it. On the street? Or are they going to get it in the school, in the classroom?”

Rep. Vernon Smith, D-Gary, added that the bill empowers parents

“who may be a victim of tunnel vision — an alarmist, a purist” to “impose what they think on others.”

“I think the problem is parenting,” he said. “I think there are parents who have poor communication with their children. They don't discuss things. ... Be a good parent ... protect your child, but don't try to determine how to raise another child in another household.”

A bill with library 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. There was no explanation on why not. That previously left the library provision abandoned from any moving legislation.

Many Indiana districts already have processes in place for parents to request review of books and other educational materials. School libraries also have the ability to prevent certain students from checking out particular books.

But some Hoosier parents contend their local school boards have rejected their challenges of certain materials. Republican state lawmakers agreed with those concerns, saying the current book removal process “isn't working” at the local level and now warrants statewide legislative action to require “transparency between schools, libraries and communities.”

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Photos courtesy of Nissan

2023 Ram 2500 Pickup Is A Heavy-Duty Rebel

I have long been a fan of the Ram Rebel, a truck that looks the part of an off-road commander and has the underpinnings to back them up. Head for a trail and enjoy fortified capability while riding in surprising comfort. But, for those with more heavy duty aspirations, you were out of luck in the light-duty Rebel. That changes with the 2023 Ram 2500 Heavy Duty Rebel...with the Cummins diesel. It's a hard-working truck that enjoys getting dirty.

The Rebel definitely has a sinister no-nonsense look that causes other drivers to move out of your way. The hood stands about neck high and is fronted by a full face of gray plastic, gleaming LED headlamps, and RAM lettering across the grille. Looking at the side, 20" wheels with off-road tires look like doughnuts beneath the raised crew cab body. All badging, including the Cummins name, are dark gray. At the business

- Likes:**
 - Sinister style
 - Off-road capability
 - Interior comfort
- Dislikes:**
 - High step-in
 - Rough ride
 - Beefy price

end, trailer pre-wiring and fifth-wheel plugs in the bed allow for quick attachments. Slide under to see skid plates protecting the sensitive bits.

It took arm stretching and leg straining to heave myself inside, but once planted, was quite comfortable. As with other Ram trims, the large tablet-style touchscreen with proper volume/tuning knobs and intuitive icons for audio, climate, phone, and navigation couldn't be easier to use. I also like the new flatscreen instruments. Heated and ventilated front seats, heated steering wheel, dual-zone automatic climate control, and drenching 17-speaker Harman Kardon audio add comforts. A dash-mounted trailer brake controller and

push-button 4x4 help busy pilots.

Keep this rig on-course is a full course of safety tech that starts with adaptive cruise control and extends to automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, blind spot warning, and rear cross path detection. Rain-sensing wipers and a 360-degree camera keep vision clear.

Beneath it all beats the heart of a Hoosier. The Ram's 6.7-liter turbocharged inline-six Cummins diesel generates just 370 horsepower, but a ground-stomping 850 lb.-ft. of torque. Routed through a six speed automatic transmission, because you don't need more than six cogs with all of that torque, the truck can pull 16,870 lbs. Put

2023 Ram 2500 Rebel Five-passenger, 4x4 Pickup

Powertrain: 6.7-liter I6 TD, 6-spd trans
Output: 370hp/850 lb.-ft. torque
Suspension f/r: Solid axles
Wheels f/r: 20"/20" alloy
Brakes f/r: disc/disc
Towing: 16,870 lbs.
Fuel economy: N/A
Assembly: Saltillo, Mexico Base/As-tested
Price: \$44,205/\$91,730

it into four-wheel-drive and owners can bang skid plates going almost anywhere.

Before thinking this is a luxury truck with a big engine, keep in mind Ram 2500s ride on sold axles front and rear. Even the off-road shocks can't quell all of the bumping and banging that comes from such a suspension system, but the long wheelbase does even out most of the harshness on the highway. Step into the engine and you won't care about the

suspension as you pull away on a deep magic carpet of all that turbocharged torque. It feels like it could pull a bulldozer – or a load of classic cars - through mountains and never slow its pace.

Ram had the 2500 Power Wagon for those wanting something special, but I like the dark trim and off-road capability of the Rebel – especially with the Cummins diesel underhood. I'd just make sure you actually need a heavy duty truck before purchas-

CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

ing one because those solid axles, ride height, and massive size are not for everyday use. But, out on the road working away, the truck is dreamy.

Ram 2500 starts at \$44,205, but our Rebel came to - clutch your pearls - \$91,730. Competitors include the GMC Sierra HD AT4 and Chevrolet Silverado HD Z71 Sport.

Storm Forward!

-Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @ AutoCasey.

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Causes And Treatment For Shoulder Pain, Part 2



JOHN R. ROBERTS, M.D.
Montgomery Medicine

Welcome back to part two of my series on shoulder pain. First, I want to do a quick review of shoulder anatomy (refer to the diagram of the right shoulder looking from the front). The upper arm bone (humerus) joins to the scapula at the glenoid and is held in place by two structures: (1) a rim of cartilage (glenoid labrum) that forms a shallow cup for the head of the humerus to sit in, and (2) the rotator cuff which is made up of four tendons that wrap around the head of the humerus. As I described last week, in order for the shoulder to move in so many directions, it has to be inherently unstable. Since it is so unstable, two of the most common injuries are subluxations and dislocations. A subluxation is less severe than a dislocation. The ball does not completely come out of the cup. Subluxations are usually brief events with the head of the humerus returning spontaneously to its

normal position. However, the shoulder can feel unstable afterward. Dislocations result when the ball of the head of the humerus is forced out of its normal position in the glenoid cup and remains there. This usually happens when a person's upper arm is hit from behind when the arm is raised to the side and the shoulder is cocked and ready to throw. Dislocations sometimes reduce spontaneously, but often require manipulation by a doctor to get the head of the humerus back in position. Subluxations and dislocations can result in damage to various shoulder structures. The connective tissue capsule around the joint can be torn. One or more tendons in either the rotator cuff or attached to other muscles may be stretched or torn. The glenoid labrum may be torn as well. When these structures are disrupted, it makes the shoulder even more unstable and more likely to cause additional damage and repeated subluxations or dislocations. Treatment for subluxations and dislocations usually involves rest, bracing, and strengthening the shoulder muscles with physical therapy. Surgery may also be required to repair a torn labrum or tendons. Bursitis is another common cause of shoulder pain. Most of our joints are surrounded by

fluid-filled sacs that pad the structures around the joint, particularly tendons. These sacs are called bursae (singular bursa). Bursae can become irritated, inflamed, and sometimes infected. Repetitive motion of the shoulder can irritate and inflame bursae resulting in an "overuse" injury. Weekend warriors frequently suffer from this malady. It's not just the folks participating in throwing sports, but also those participating in other repetitive arm motions like painting their house, trimming trees, or shoveling snow. Treatment of bursitis can be difficult. Standard treatment consists of rest and anti-inflammatory medication as well as icing. Doctors usually recommend non-steroidal medications (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen (Advil® Motrin®) or naproxen (Aleve®). If those conservative treatments fail, we may recommend more potent steroids, either taken orally or injected into the bursa. Impingement is the final condition I want to review. This term refers to structures in the shoulder coming into contact with one another resulting in pain. Impingement can be bone-on-bone or bone pinching or rubbing a tendon or bursa. While this happens more commonly in people who have suffered shoulder injuries, it can also occur in an uninjured shoulder where

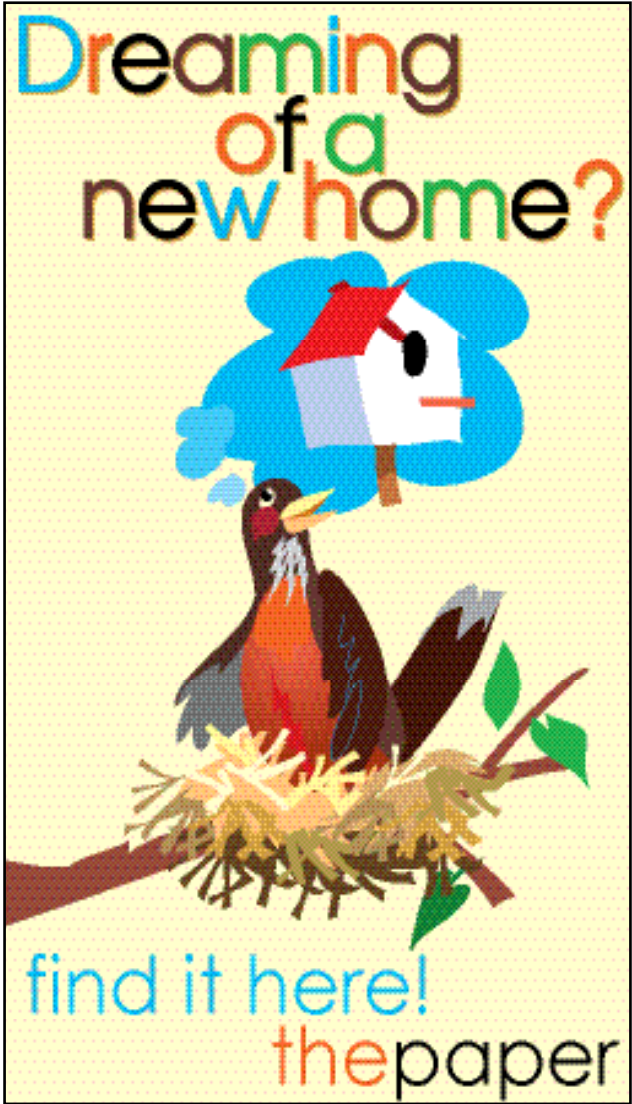
anatomic structures are naturally close together. Tendons that have been injured can swell, making them more likely to be pinched or rubbed with shoulder movements. The bones in the shoulder may also develop arthritis with bony overgrowth as a result of injury or natural aging. These overgrowths can also result in impingement. Treatment of impingement varies based on the structures involved. Swollen, inflamed tendons or bursae are treated like bursitis. Occasionally, surgery is necessary to make more room for the structure(s) being rubbed or pinched. This can usually be accomplished through small incisions using a surgical tool called an arthroscope. As always, prevention is the best medicine. If you participate in sports or work activities that involve a lot of shoulder motion, get involved in a fitness plan to keep your shoulder muscles strong, particularly your rotator cuff. Exercise programs are readily available on the Internet by searching for "shoulder exercises," or "rotator cuff exercises." You can find an excellent resource from the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons here: bit.ly/3xMPBz7.

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

Senior Golf Results For Last Week Of April

The weather may have been cool, but the scores were sizzling in the Montgomery County Senior Golf League. The four-man team of Denny Wilson, Gary Moore, Pat Henry and Dale Wilson shot 8-under-par to take first place in weekly play. Steve

House, Gary Duncan, Bill Sheldon and Steve Snyder were only two shots back at 6-under. Jay Fumia and Bill Sheldon won proxys on Nos. 3 and 13 respectively. And the Long Drive by an 80-year-old honor went to Fred Phelps.



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Montgomery County Veterans Stories And Records



DELLIE CRAIG
Fresh off the Shelf

Once called Decoration Day, from placing flowers and wreaths upon the graves of fallen soldiers, Memorial Day has become a day of remembrance of those who have served our country. The exact origins of the day are unknown, but it does date back to the 1860s. Some have claimed the 1863 dedication of the Gettysburg, Pennsylvania cemetery by President Abraham Lincoln as the official start. Others claim the first widely observed date happened in 1868. Back then it was known as Decoration Day and commemorated the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers. The beginnings really aren't important; what is important is the tradition of remembering our country's heroes and keeping their stories alive for future generations.

The Crawfordsville District Public Library and The Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County collect and preserve stories, letters, photographs, and memorabilia from local veterans and their families. The library is working on digitizing records so they are easily accessible from the library's website. Some records include interviews, both audio and video, with local veterans. The Montgomery County Historical Society recorded these interviews between 1990 and 1999. You can view or listen to them from home by accessing the library's webpage at cdpl.lib.in.us

The Marian Morrison Local History Collection at the Crawfordsville

District Public Library is home to bound copies of newspaper clippings, magazines, and microfilm of local newspapers full of information on local veterans. These have been indexed thanks to community volunteers that generously donate their time. Another project was the Veterans Graves Registration Project by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), in 1940. Each of Montgomery County's eleven townships is included in an Atlas of Cemeteries with the graves of veterans denoted on maps. These maps are listed by townships on the library's Local History and Genealogy page of the website. A list of sixty-four Confederate veterans buried in Montgomery County is also located on our website. The library also holds the roster, ledgers, and minutes from the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Founded in 1866, the GAR was a fraternal order composed of veterans of the Union Army, Navy, and Marines who served during the U.S. Civil War. GAR Commander in Chief, General John A. Logan, declared May 30th to be Memorial Day in 1868. Six books from the GAR have been digitized and may be downloaded from the library's Local History and Genealogy page.

Please visit the local history area of the library for help researching the veterans in your family. In addition to print materials and microfilm, the library has access to fold3 which is part of the Ancestry genealogy database. You do not need a library card to access fold3 or Ancestry when using the computers allocated for genealogy research. If you would prefer to research from home you can create a free account with Famil-



MICHELLE OGDEN
Fresh off the Shelf

ySearch, another genealogy database. Once you are logged into FamilySearch click the "Search" button in the upper left toolbar and select "Records". Select "Browse All Collections" in the lower left corner. On this next page, you can type "military" into the "Collection Title" field and all the military records will be listed. Select the appropriate collection and search for your family member. You can also do a general search for family members and begin creating your family tree. The library has books available for checkout on beginning genealogy research and using these databases. If you prefer to hone your research skills with others, the Genealogy Club of Montgomery County meets at the library monthly and is accepting new members.

Would like to learn more about genealogy research or how you can help preserve local history? Please contact our Local History Specialist, Dellie Craig, at 765-362-2242 ext.119. The Crawfordsville District Public Library is open on Mondays-Thursdays from 9 am-9 pm, Fridays and Saturdays from 9 am-5 pm, and on Sundays 1-5 pm. Stop by and let us assist you in finding more information about your family ancestors.

-Dellie Craig is a Local History specialist and Michelle Ogden is a Reference Library Assistant. Both work in the Reference and Local History Department at the Crawfordsville District Public Library.

Latest Update From Sen. Deery

Passing a Balanced Budget That Invests in Education and Health While Cutting Taxes

The Indiana General Assembly concluded this week, and Senate Republicans continued our commitment to strong fiscal discipline by passing a balanced two-year state budget for 2024-2025 and providing tax relief for Hoosiers.

As with any budget this complex and large, there are portions I love and parts I would have done very differently if it were entirely up to me. But as a whole, I am proud of what we accomplished with this budget.

As your state senator, I want to do my part to make sure our tax system is working for Hoosiers. Though property tax rates are set at the local level, I supported a package that will provide a projected \$109 million in property-tax relief for homeowners in the coming year. In addition, our budget provides a projected \$117 million in income-tax cuts for Hoosiers in the next year.

Below are some highlights from the budget.

Improving Health Care

- \$225 million for an optional local public health grant (SEA 4)
- \$100 million for community mental health initiatives (SEA 1)

Funding K-12 Education

- \$2.9 billion increase in state funding
- Eliminates textbook fees for families
- \$1.5 billion increase in tuition support
- Increases number of families who can utilize school choice

Improving Public Safety

- \$95.3 million to increase pay for state police, conservation and excise officers
- \$10 million for Regional Mental Health Facility Grants

Supporting Hoosier Veterans

- \$2 million in new funding for veteran suicide prevention
- \$4 million for veterans career and relocation assistance

Cutting State Debt

- Eliminates \$700 million in pension liabilities
- \$1.8 billion paid up front for capital projects, avoiding future debt for taxpayers

My 2023 Legislative Accomplishments

Along with passing the next state budget, my colleagues and I also worked to pass a number of bills to help address key issues facing our state.

This first session has been a daily reminder of how much more I have to learn as a Senator as well as how much more work we have to do as a state. But it also has been a

reminder of the impact one Senator, even a freshman, can have as a force for good.

Sometimes that was in the form of bills I passed and votes I took, but it also was in the form of colleagues I persuaded, debates I forced, and bad legislation I made better.

Those feats are rarely noticed, but they are what I am most proud of as I reflect on my work in this first session.

As a new Senator I knew much of what I wanted to accomplish would need to wait for future years, but I am proud of what I was able to win support for in this first session, including language that will make our tax bills more transparent and District 23 counties more financially stable.

I also passed bills that will allow more Hoosiers to earn a college degree and more businesses to access the workers they need.

- Senate Enrolled Act 404 will lead to more Hoosiers finishing a college degree by limiting the scenarios in which public Indiana colleges may refuse to distribute a transcript to current and former students. SEA 404 was signed into law by the governor and goes into effect July 1.
- House Enrolled Act 1046 would allow Tippecanoe County and any of its adjacent counties to enter into an interlocal agreement to expand public transportation across county lines, as long as the county commissioners and county council agree. This gives counties more flexibility to remove a hurdle that keeps some local residents from attaining higher paying jobs across our region and businesses from accessing more labor. This is also the bill I tried to make The Rise in Vermillion County eligible for more state grants, but we were not able to get that language out of the Senate. I will continue to work to find other ways to support economic development in Vermillion County and other rural parts of the district.
- House Enrolled Act 1499 includes language from my Senate Bill 243 that would require the Indiana Department of Revenue to make available to taxpayers an electronic receipt that clearly explains how their tax dollars are used. This would improve transparency and help voters make more informed decisions.
- House Enrolled Act 1454 includes provisions that would gradually reduce the amount of tax revenue that is taken from Tippecanoe County and given to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. No other county must send 10% of its innkeeper's tax to DNR, and thanks to my language, Tippecanoe County



SPENCER DEERY
Guest Columnist

will not have to anymore. The current language unwinds the payments over ten years, but I'll be back next year to try and speed that up.

I also included language in this bill that would allow Parke County, if county leaders choose to, to raise its innkeeper's tax from five to eight percent. The county receives millions of tourists each year, but the county fails to capture sufficient revenue from those visitors to cover some of the costs those tourists bring to emergency services.

Now my attention turns to the next session and the issues that matter most for our state and our people. I continue to welcome and invite input from all.

The needs of Senate District 23's residents are a top priority of mine, and I believe these actions, as well as passing a balanced budget, will ensure Indiana remains a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Welcoming Local Students to the Statehouse

I was fortunate to welcome several local students to the Statehouse who served as Senate pages in March and April.

- Emery Allen, from Crawfordsville, attends Indiana Connections Academy
- Julia Bessebacher, from West Lafayette, attends Benton Central High School
- Ian Krekeler, from Lafayette, attends McCutcheon High School
- Katie Linville, from Otterbein, attends Benton Central High School
- Morrigan Richmond, from Otterbein, attends Benton Central High School
- Andralyn Yao, from West Lafayette, attends West Lafayette Junior-Senior High School

Pages spend a day at the Statehouse touring the historic building, observing debates from the Senate floor and interacting with their state senator. Meeting with students from around the district and teaching them about the Senate has been one of my favorite parts of the job.

This is an experience unlike any other, and I applaud these students for taking the time to learn about the legislative process.

-Spencer Deery is a State Senator that serves in Senate District 23.



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Check back daily for updates!