⇒ TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 119:9-11 "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." (NIV)

FACES of MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own



Kerry Koehler 51 is gathering supplies to paint her bathroom when she smiled for The Paper. Thank you for your smile!

THREE THINGS You Should Know:

Are you dreading it too? According to several polls, a lot of Americans don't want to see a Trump-Biden rematch. According to sought-after politics and satire expert Dr. Sophia A. McClennen, the only way to cure this overwhelming political fatigue is through comedy, specifically satire. Dr. McClennen says "There is one antidote to the depression, anxiety, and frustration we feel in having to pay attention to the politicians and issues that exhaust us and that's comedy, especially satirical comedy. My groundbreaking new research proves that satire is the #1 most powerful political tool -it likely stopped Trump from being reelected in 2020, and the party that manages to use satire best will have a massive advantage in the 2024 election.".

The Indiana Department of Transportation announces State Road 47 will close on or after Monday, May 8 for culvert work near Thorntown. The road will be closed between County Road 650 N. and Co. Rd. 1000 W. It's expected to reopen at the beginning of June, weather permitting. The official detour follows S.R. 75 to S.R. 32 and back. Then, around late July, another section of S.R. 47 will close for culvert work. INDOT will alert the public prior to that closure. This contract was awarded to Olco. Inc. The entire contract is expected to be completed in June of 2024.

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CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA



Photo courtesy of Crawfordsville Kiwanis

Pictured are Kiwanis President Jacob Moore and Salvation Army Director Clay Adams.

Salvation Army Director Shares Touching Story

On April 27th, the Crawfordsville Kiwanis Club welcomed Clay Adams, Director of the Montgomery County Salvation Army, as their keynote speaker.

Adams spoke about a 19-year-old girl who was caring for her 11- and 9-year-old siblings. The young girl called Adams asking for help to pay their rent. She had most of it but needed \$24 more. Adams met with the girl at the apartment complex offices only to find out the girl only owed \$22 for her rent. The girl was working hard to provide for her and her siblings and had paid all but

\$24 this month. Adams was shocked that she had worked so hard to pay everything for her and her siblings and now only needed the small remainder to pay the rent. Adams asked her if she had any other bills to pay and the girl showed him her \$89 utility bill that was due in two weeks. The girl told Adams that she would get paid next week and could then pay that bill. Adams paid that bill also for the young family.

Adams explained that this is the kind of help that is needed by many from the Montgomery

See KIWANIS Page A5

Butch Teaches His Brother How To Ride A Bike...OOPS!



My brother Gary was born in 1952, four years after I came into this world, so

BUTCH DALE COLUMNIST

naturally I felt it was my duty to pass on a few skills that I had acquired in my "growing up" years...such as (1) how to climb onto the roof of our house, toolshed, and barns, (2) how to hide in the haymow from Dad when we were in trouble, (3) how to open the upstairs window and urinate through the window screen at night (so we would not have to

go outside to visit the outhouse), (4) how to act sick if Mom served liver for supper, and of course, (5) how to beg Dad for money when we rode with him to Darlington in the old Dodge pickup.

According to my mother, I began walking at 8 months of age, and shortly thereafter received my first tricycle, which I wheeled around the yard like a pro. When I was six, my cousin gave me his old bicycle, which I mastered in short time, and could therefore tour the countryside southeast of Darlington. It's doubtful that any of today's parents would allow their children to ride very far from home, but it was a different world back then. At

See BUTCH Page A5

INSIDE

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EDITION

Service Directory...A3

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Capital Chronicle..A6

That's A Wrap For Readers' **Choice 2023!**

Readers' Choice is wrapped up for another year, and once again, The Paper's annual promotion to recognize your favorites in a multitude of categories was a huge success.

Back when our company was founded, we created this fun and good-natured promotion that features local businesses, people, products and more and gives you, our readers, the opportunity to vote for your favorites. We often joke that this is like Chicago politics and encourage you to vote early and vote often.

You see, this has never been about the rigidity of the process. Instead, it is designed to be an absolutely fun and very positive way for our readers to cast a good light on their favorites. And oh, how you have responded! We annually see ballots that number in the hundreds of thousands.

As we have done in the past, rather than unveil all the winners at one time, we are revealing several categories a day. Today's categories can be found inside. When all categories have been revealed, we will compile everything into one keepsake edition that will stay posted on our website for the entire year. We hope that you find it handy when you are looking for goods and services.

Lastly, we encourage you to pay attention to the many businesses who are saying thank you with their ads. Without those supporters, local news and specifically your daily edition, wouldn't be here.

Want MORE?

The results for winners, runner ups and honorable mentions of the following categories;

- BANK
- BANQUET FACILITY
- BAR & GRILL
- BARBER SHOP
- BIKE SHOP
- CABLE COMPANY · CAR WASH
- CARPENTER CARPET CLEANERS and
- · CARPET STORE will be

inside on A6!

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

Today is... • Baby Day

• National Concert Day World Tuna Day

What Happened On This Day

- 2011 Osama bin Laden is killed by a U.S. commando.
- 1989 The Iron Curtain begins to crumble as Hungary dismantles its border fence. .

Births On This Day

- 1729 Catherine the Great Russian wife of Peter III of Russia
- 1975 David Beckham English footballer, coach, model

Deaths On This Day

- 1519 Leonardo da Vinci Italian painter, sculptor, architect
- **1972** J. Edgar Hoover American 1st Director of the FBI

New Market Elem 5th Six **Weeks Honor Roll**

Preschool

Character Counts (Caring): Sadie Daztman, Sloane Pearman

Kindergarten

Character Counts (Caring): Cole Ramsey, Kevin Cleary, Holly Hedge, Bella Lowe

1st Grade

Character Counts (Caring): James Wurtsbaugh, Elizabeth Emberton, Noah Fruits

High Honor Roll:

Olivia Clark, Hudson Hockersmith, Benson Jones, Ezra Mortara, Aunyssa Pyle, Paige Simpson, Ava Barclay, Delaney

See HONOR Page A5

HONEST HOOSIER

This from a reader: Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If Biden is gone before I wake, I pray to God the news ain't fake!

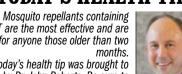


🗅 TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

DEET are the most effective and are safe for anyone those older than two

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







OBITUARIES

None



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



⇒ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

HUE Invites the Public to a Family Fun Event The local nonprofit organization Humans United for Equality (HUE) will host a Montgomery County Family Fun event on Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. at Pike Place. Hoosier Ice Queen will be on hand to sell shaved ice, and lawn games such as corn hole, giant Jenga, and giant Connect Four will be available to play for free. Those attending can learn about HUE's upcoming events and opportunities to get involved by visiting the Welcome Table or gathering for a brief information session at 2 p.m. If the weather is poor, that meeting will occur at Fusion 54, 4th floor, instead. More information can also be found at the Facebook

page for Humans United for Equality or on their website at www.hue-

TODAY'S QUOTE

moco.org.

"It is a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it." -W. Somerset Maugham

TODAY'S JOKE

If you are on a trampoline in May, what season is it? Why it Spring, of course!







PAGE A2

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023

Local Events In Recognition Of May As Mental Health Awareness Month

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Indiana is amplifying the voices of individuals living with mental illness through community presentations and partnerships, in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month.

NAMI Indiana is hosting a lived experience presentation, NAMI In Our Own Voice, at the Pike branch of the Indianapolis Public Library on Tuesday, May 16 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. This public education program features trained speakers who share compelling per sonal stories about living with mental illness and achieving recovery. This presentation is free, open to anyone in the community, and a complimentary dinner will be served.

With 16 local affiliates throughout the state, NAMI Indiana offers nearly 30 support groups for individuals with mental illness and their loved ones. NAMI Indiana affiliates also coordinate public education classes to help people and families better navigate their mental health diagnoses.

Upcoming free, NAMI Indiana education classes include a NAMI Family & Friends seminar in Terre Haute on Saturday, May 13 and a NAMI Peer-to-Peer class in Fort Wayne beginning Friday, June 2.

NAMI Indiana will also recognize Mental Health Awareness Month by partnering with Mental Health America Indiana (MHAI) and the Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers (ICCMHC) to light Monument Circle in Indianapolis green, May 10 through May 16.

The Circle is lit green for mental health thanks to the support of the following sponsors:

•May 10 – IU - Cancer Center

May 11 - BeldenMay 12 - 4C Health

May 13 - CareSource
 May 14 - InteCare,
 ac.

May 15 - Centerstone
May 16 - Aware Recovery Care

Mental Health Awareness Month has been recognized in the United States in the month of May since 1949. This

year, NAMI Indiana, MHAI, and ICCMHC hope to bring awareness and attention to the resources they offer for Hoosiers. 1 in 5 U.S. adults and 1 in 6 U.S. youth experience mental illness each year, and less than half of them receive treatment.

NAMI Indiana recognizes Mental Health Awareness Month to continue letting more Hoosiers know they are not alone. All people, no matter where they are on their mental health journey are deserving of support, resources, fulfillment, and a community that cares. For more information visit www.namiindiana.org/mental-health-awarenessmonth.

Young, Wicker Introduce TORNADO Act To Improve Severe Weather Forecasting

U.S. Senators Todd Young (R-Ind.) and Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) reintroduced the Tornado Observation Research Notification and Deployment to Operations (TORNA-DO) Act to improve the forecasting and understanding of tornadoes and other hazardous weather. The TORNADO Act would require the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to update its methods for predicting and communicating weather alerts to residents.

"In recent months, severe weather has tragically taken the lives of Hoosiers and devastated several Indiana communities. While we can't prevent these storms from occurring, the TORNADO Act would improve severe weather forecasting, notifying the public faster and allowing Hoosiers to find safety more quickly," said Senator Young.

"Even when tornadoes are well-forecasted, warnings do not always provide enough lead time to ensure the public can respond or seek appropriate shelter. The federal government has a vested interest in making sure Americans have as much notice as

possible of severe weather," said Senator Wicker.
"The TORNADO Act would improve the forecasting and understanding of these natural disasters so we can prevent future loss of life and property."

The reintroduction of the legislation follows a particularly active start to tornado season, which included a series of storms in Indiana.

The goal of the TOR-NADO Act would be to require NOAA to implement new technology and procedures that could help increase the lead times provided to the public in advance of extreme weather events.

Among other provisions, the TORNADO Act would:

•Require NOAA to prepare and submit an action plan for the national implementation of high-resolution probabilistic guidance for tornado forecasting and prediction.

•Encourage NOAA to evaluate the current tornado rating system and make updates.

•Mandate NOAA to coordinate with appropriate entities when conducting post-storm assessments to optimize data collection, sharing, and integration.

> Choice Winner!



ThePaper24-7.com

Day Of Prayer Set For Thursday

The National Day of Prayer has history that dates back to colonial times. However, in 1952, President Harry Truman set aside the first Thursday of May as a day encouraging all Americans to pray.

Locally, organizers Ken Clarke of Trinity Life Ministry, Ivan Brown, Pastor of New Ross Christian Church and Dave Peach, of WIMC WCDQ and WCVL are inviting the public to participate in the National Day of Prayer observance in Montgomery County. It takes place Thursday at noon on the steps of the Montgomery County Courthouse.

This year's theme is "Pray Fervently in Righteousness" based on James 5:16 which says " The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." for everyone to come together and lift up our government and community leaders in prayer

nity leaders in prayer.

Many local pastors and believers participate in the event. Participants and Prayer Focus:

•Government: Pastor Steve Whicker, East Side Baptist Church

•Military: Pastor Mark Roberts, Crossroads Community Church of Nazarene

Media: Pastor Brian
 Campbell, First United
 Methodist Church
 Business: Pastor Jeff

Hoenshell, Rock Point Church •Education: Pastor

Dave Keesee, Calvary
Church
•First Responders: Paul
Miller, Division Chief of

EMSChurch: Trinity LifeMinistry Representative

•Family: Through the Gate Ministry Representative

Lunch With The League Focuses On Belonging

Dr. Ágata Szczeszak-Brewer, co-founder of Immigrant Allies and professor of English at Wabash College will speak at the next Lunch with the League event.

Lunch with the League is scheduled for Friday at noon at Fusion 54. It is titled Let's Foster Belonging.

Immigrant Allies, www.huemoco.org/immigrant-allies, co-founded by Kerri Warner and Brewer, is a sub-committee of HUE (Humans United for Equality). It was formed to build a bridge and foster understanding between our community citizens and our community's immigrants. Brewer was instrumental in applying for two grants which were awarded to support the work of this valuable orwas to start bringing new members of our community (immigrants) together with more settled members to talk about shared concerns; the second is to help immigrants with transportation.

Brewer will speak about the grant called Foster Belonging, which will provide \$7,000 to start developing an affordable ride-share program in Crawfordsville. The grant offers a unique opportunity to bring immigrant and non-immigrant populations together to solve a common problem. Her talk will focus on the immigrant population in town, volunteering needs, and the details of the Foster Belonging grant.

Please plan to join the League and gain valuable information you can use to help benefit our community members.







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Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Cello Ensemble Coheadlines IndyGo's 2023 "Music in Transit" Series

"Music in Transit," an award-winning concert web series created in partnership with Indy-Go, Square Cat Vinyl, and GANGGANG, will return for its fifth season in June, with filming taking place May 5-7 in Fountain Square. Audiences are in for a special treat as the entire cello section of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra co-headlines this year's line-up, including Austin Huntington, Rachel Ko, Nick Donatelle, Stephen Hawkey, Sam Viguerie, James Cooper, CJ Collins and Jonah Krolik. The public can expect fun and approachable arrangements of classical pieces and familiar tunes show-

casing programs from the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's regular season at Hilbert Circle Theatre.

The new season will be available on Square Cat Vinyl's YouTube channel, with the first video debuting on June 20. Additional music videos will be released every Sunday at noon following the season five premiere.

"IndyGo is excited by

the continued expansion of 'Music in Transit,' and the addition of the **Indianapolis Symphony** Orchestra to our lineup this year is a real bonus," said IndyGo President and CEO Inez Evans. "The fact that these many diverse, talented, local musical offerings are free

and easily accessible to all, further exemplifies the mission of our IndyGo Cares programming.'

Featured performers for the "Music in Transit" 2023 series include:

•Brother O' Brother rock n roll (Indianapolis)

•Inner Peace - hardcore rock (Indianapolis) (led by hip hop legend Drayco McCoy)

•Everything, Now! rock/pop (Muncie)

•Emmaline (co-headliner) – incredible Jazz singer (Anderson) •Hyper Tensions -

psychedelic rock (Bloomington) Indianapolis Symphony

Orchestra Cello Ensemble (co-headliner) – featuring musicians from Indiana's

world-class orchestra

•Robin Raps – quirky hip hop with brass band (Indianapolis)

As a special bonus this year, the first-ever "CHREECE IN TRAN-SIT" micro-series will feature six rappers backed by the legendary DJ Top Speed, in support of the Aug. 26 return of the CHREECE hip-hop festival in Fountain Square. Featured performers include:

- Ali Buckets
- •Keyze AriZona
- Foxdlegnd Stokes
- •4200 Kory
- •Jada Bell
- "I can't wait to work with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra,"

said "Music in Transit" Co-creator and Director Jake Huber. "I have always wanted to incorporate an act that has such prestige, not only locally but worldwide, into this amazing program.'

"The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra is thrilled to participate in the 'Music in Transit' series and introduce our incredibly talented musicians to new audiences far and wide," said James Johnson, CEO, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. "This dynamic program builds excitement around the performing arts and engages our community around shared musical experiences, which is the driving force behind the ISO. We are grateful

for the innovative work of IndyGo, Square Cat Vinyl and GANGGANG that makes this program possible."

"Music in Transit" was created in 2019 by Square Cat Vinyl, a coffee and record shop located along the Red Line in Fountain Square, with the support of the Indy Arts Council to celebrate the local arts community in tandem with the expansion of public transit. Since its inaugural season, the series has received seven NATAS Regional Emmy nominations with one win for outstanding audio in 2019. The series also received Indy Chamber's 2020 Monumental Award for public art.

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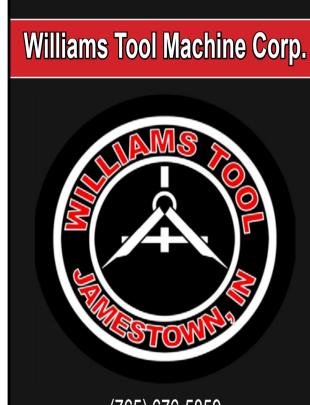
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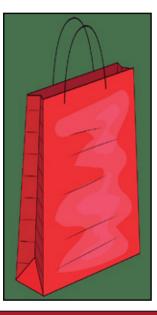




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After Tucker Carlson, It's Time ... For The Rest Of The Story



BRIAN HOWEY HOWEY POLITICS

That's how the most popular AM radio host in the nation back in the 1960s and 70s, Paul Harvey, would sign off on his popular mid-day show, before telling us "the rest of the story" later in the afternoon. It was a broadcast staple heard daily in countless Hoosier homes, farms, factories, business-

es and restaurants. In the early 1990s, we listened as Rush Limbaugh burnished his conservative broadcast brand across northeastern Indiana. There would be noontime Rush listening sessions at small restaurants in this part of the state, which became a precursor to Ross Perot's 1992 independent presidential bid. Perot would carry 19.7% of the Hoosier vote that year, compared to 42.9% for President George H.W. Bush, and 36.7% for Democrat Bill Clinton, who won the presidency with just 43%.

And that 1992 presidential contest would signal an ominous slide for the GOP, which has lost the popular vote in seven of the last eight elections (President George W. Bush was the lone Republican to win the popular vote during his 2004 reelect - 50.7% to 48.3% for Democrat John Kerry). Bush43 in 2000 and Donald Trump in 2016 would lose the popular vote, but

win the Electoral College. This conservative radio movement spawned Network Indiana's Mike Pence Show and WOWO's Charly Butcher and a gaggle of rightward talk shows on WIBC.

Fast forward to the 21st century. Whether it's a high school principal's lobby, or a waiting room in a doctor's office, tire store, or a bar, restaurant or the Antelope Club, if there's a TV on, most likely it is tuned to Fox News. A significant portion of Indiana gets much of its news from Fox.

This has had compelling ramifications in Indiana, which is devoid of Democrats representing any rural district in Congress and the General Assembly. Democrats are still competitive in recent gubernatorial and U.S. Senate races, but we're now in the midst of an unprecedented fifth consecutive General Assembly super majority. While the reapportionment maps of 2011 and 2021 have helped create these vast competitive electoral deserts, Fox News, Limbaugh, Pence and Butcher helped alter the political landscape.

When Pence was broadcasting, he would often invite Democrats like Evan Bayh, Andy Jacobs, John Gregg and journalists like Harrison Ullmann and me on his show. Pence would tout conservative positions, but they were not based on outright lies

and vile propaganda. That would be the forte of Fox hosts like Glenn Beck, Bill O'Reilly and from 2016 until last Friday, Tucker Carlson. All three would be axed by the Murdoch hierarchy, with Carlson vanishing

a week after Fox settled its Dominion defamation lawsuit for an astounding \$787 million. It faces a similar \$2.6 billion suit from Smartmatic. Tucker Carlson was last seen eating interstate pizza Friday night, cheerily signing off with, "We'll be back

Monday!" On Monday morning, Fox News issued this terse statement: "FOX News Media and Tucker Carlson have agreed to part ways. We thank him for his service to the network as a host and prior to that as a contributor." Sources are now saying Carlson was terminated for bad-mouthing Fox management and using vulgar terms in the newsroom.

Carlson drew about 3 million viewers a night, feeding the conservative echo chamber. But in a nation of 332 million people, that's a statistical drop in the bucket. What Carlson and his brand of propagandists have done is help push the GOP into the disastrous Trump era, as well as promoting extreme positions on abortion, gun reform, Ukraine and the despot Putin that are far, far out of the American mainstream. That's a big reason the Republican Party is facing a dire future on the presidential stage.

What the Dominion case depositions demonstrated was that Tucker Carlson and Fox News were airing untruthful rubbish, like

"Sidney Powell is lying," Carlson told a Fox News producer in a Nov. 16, 2020 exchange before using expletives to describe Powell, an attorney representing Trump. "You keep telling our viewers that millions of votes were

changed by the software. You've convinced them that Trump will win. If you don't have conclusive evidence of fraud at that scale, it's a cruel and reckless thing to keep saying."

Addressing Trump's four years as president, Carlson said: "We're all pretending we've got a lot to show for it, because admitting what a disaster it's been is too tough to digest. But come on. There really isn't an upside to Trump.'

A day after the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol insurrection that killed seven people and injured 140 cops, Carlson and producer, Alex Pfeiffer, lamented how the rioters had believed Trump's election lies they helped propagate (and still were when Carlson interviewed Trump earlier this month). "They take the president literally," Pfeiffer said. "He is to blame for everything

that happened today." "The problem is a little deeper than that I'd say," Carlson replied. He later described Trump this way: "He's a demonic force, a destroyer. But he's not going to destroy us. I've been thinking about this every day for four years."

It's impossible to ignore the Janus duality aspect of Fox News, saying things in cryptic fashion internally, and airing blatant lies to its viewers at the same time.

But, as Paul Harvey would put it, that's "the rest of the story." Good day!

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

Cowboys In Mensa



SLIM RANDLES Home Country

Down at the sale barn Saturday, the think tank had coagulated there with coffees to go to celebrate spring. Doc and Dud had their dogs with them, while Bert and Dewey and Steve went stag.

Dud tried to start a conversation, but the loudspeaker soon drove them outside, where they arrayed themselves on dropped tailgates and waited to hear what Dud had in mind.

"I thought about it a lot," Dud said, "and I wondered what the favorite part of my job was, and wondered if you fellas ever gave that any thought,

They nodded. Yes, by mutual consent a worthy subject.

"With me," Dud continued, "it wasn't so much my job as it was my hobby. You know, writing that book. I'm claiming it as the best part of my job, anyway.'

The assembled were still waiting to read "Murder in the Soggy Bottoms," as it had yet to see print, and was really a work in progress.

Then Bert picked up the conversation thread. "Of course I'm retired now," he said, "but when I was running the pawn shop, my favorite part of the job happened when a customer found something in there he really needed

and ended up paying much less for it than he thought

he'd have to." Doc laughed "And you made more on it than you thought you would, too,"

"Yep. That was good too. And you, Dewey?"

Bert grinned and nod-

Our accident-prone pharaoh of fertilizer got a serious look on his face. He finally said, "The best part of the fertilizer business is seeing the difference it makes in the flower gardens around town. Now maybe it's just my imagination, but I kinda like to take a little credit for a prettier town."

"You deserve it, Dewey," Doc said kindly. "Well now ... with me it's a little different. I have doctoring skills, of course, and it's good when I can help someone, but these days the most satisfying part of my job is to check someone out thoroughly and find there's absolutely nothing wrong with them. Now that's special."

They all looked over at the tall cowboy, Steve.

"Digging postholes," he said.

"What?" they said. "You know," he said, "the favorite part of my job.'

"Digging postholes?" "Sure," he said, grin-

"That's the only job a cowboy has where he can start at the top and work down.'

Read what might be the shortest book ever published, "Cowboys In Mensa." Inquire at your nearest mental health facility.

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U KIWANIS

County Salvation Army. So far in 2023 the Montgomery County Salvation Army has helped more than 100 people throughout Montgomery County and has provided more than \$6,200 in funds to help these families.

Adams stated that their funding for services like these comes from their annual Red Kettle Drive that you may see at local businesses in November and December around Montgomery County.

"The Salvation Army's mission is to serve others, and we can't do that alone," Adams said. "We rely on the support of volunteers, donors, and community partners to make a difference in the lives of

From Page A1

those we serve." Some of those volunteers are the bell ringers you may see during the holiday season. If you would like to be a volunteer for the Army during their season please contact Adams at New Hope Christian Church.

Adams' message of hope and community service resonated with the audience and left a lasting impression on all in attendance.

The Crawfordsville Kiwanis Club is a community service organization that aims to improve the lives of children and families in Montgomery County. For more information, visit their website at crawfordsvillekiwanis. club

O BUTCH

From Page A1

the age of seven, I pedaled my bike to town. which was three miles from home, on several occasions in the summer of 1956. Munching on an ice cream cone, sipping a cherry phosphate, and opening a pack of Topps baseball cards, while sitting on the bench in front of Arthur Friend's drug store, was pure heaven for a 7-year old. When you have your own "wheels," you are a free man!

Well, a couple of years later brother Gary wanted to learn how to ride my bike. I had the perfect suggestion. Our enclosed barnlot ran downhill approximately 120-150 feet to a large gate which led to Dad's corn bin lot. I stationed the bike at the top of the hill, and opened the gate at the bottom of the hill. I instructed Gary to get on the seat, let the bike start rolling down the hill, and then start pedaling so that the momentum would keep him upright. When he reached the gate, I would be there to grab the bike and bring it to a halt. Simple!

On my command, Gary began rolling down the hill, coasting...and then pedaling like a trooper, with a big smile on his face. However, as he approached the gate opening, I jumped in front of him and waved my arms, blocking his path. Evidently the devil made me do it. He panicked, swerved to the right, and

steered the bike...yes, straight into a barbed wire fence. All tangled up, crying and screeching like a banshee, his shirt ripped to pieces...brother Gary was in a lot of pain. Dad was in the barn, heard his screams, and hurried over to survey the damage. Gary had three blood-oozing deep gashes across his stomach from the barbed wire. Dad carried him to the house and placed him on his back on an old table on the back porch... then instructed me, "Grab that bottle of turpentine over there!"

I don't know what it feels like to have turpentine poured over fresh cuts to the flesh, but judging from Gary's howling cries of terror, I have a good idea. I hightailed it to the haymow and covered my ears, praying I would not face the wrath of God...or even worse...Dad's belt.

Well, no stitches were required and the cuts eventually healed, but little brother Gary had three scars on his abdomen for several years...thanks to me. But at least he learned how to ride a bike...albeit the hard way. And do you know what? He never did thank me! How's that for gratitude?

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



Carr, Leo Cox, Elizabeth Emberton, Elijah Hester, Nevaeh McMullen, Maverick Roach, Kaydan Sims, Isaac Steiner, Brecken Thomas, Jaxon Whitlow, Kerstin Wilson, Ainsley Anglin, Alex Badertscher, Cole Boyd, Enzo Carr, Hadley Cornelius, Noah Fruits, Caroline Nichols, Raelynn White

A/B Honor Roll:

Hadley Abell, Maddison Bacchus, Gracie Barnhart, Parker Bonilla, Logan Carr, Frances Cotten, Emma Datzman, Braden Ford, Kason Hall, Serafina Nowak, Emma Wadley, James Wurtsbaugh, Kinley Archer, Finley Fisher, Zoey Jones, Ainsley Kight, Jason Yeary, Michael Bell-Grayson, Cora Clos, Kaydence Lambka, Jason McNair, Chaseten Scheurich, Eliana Starcevich, LauraBelle Surber

2nd Grade **Character Counts** (Caring):

Kaison Steiner, Henry Jones, Lakevion Powell, Gage Van Dorn

High Honor Roll:

Sylis Barnett, Alden Bray, Eli Brown, Maxine Hartman, Revna Hernandez, Kyhia Larrance, Hudson McCandless, Eva Rice, Kaison Steiner, Tyberius Anglin, Ace Charles, Lucille Fishero, Landen Marine, Charlotte Stull, Gabriel Turner, Paislie Barnes, Vera Carrell, Peyton Doss, Beckett Jones, Mallory Morphew-High, Ellie Poole, Jackson Surber, Roran Alesi, Elle Collins, Oliver Cook, Lux Highland, Addie Lindsay, Audrey Porter, Nora Stetler, Gage Van Dorn, Derrick Ward

A/B Honor Roll:

Stella Hughes, Briley Malone, Oliver Vice, Macy White, Katana Willhite, Levi Badillo, Isla Beach, Sawyer Cohee, Sutton Cohee, Jackson Gray, Henry Jones, Elyse Langevin, Calvin Mc-Candless, Henley Surface, Harmony Cheesman, Audri Cohee, Creed Newkirk, Lakevion Powell, Amariah Pyle, Nolan Rothrock, Zane Turner, Kynlee Cleary, Cale Cunningham, Azariah Hernandez, Elayna Johns, Carley Meseraull, Samuel Newlin, Levi Rhodes, Darryan Wade, Colton Watson

3rd Grade **Character Counts** (Caring):

Fable Helsel, Dorothy Cotten, Avalynn Gentry

High Honor Roll:

Rowyn Cravens, Trevor Largent, Maribelle Marine. Ouinn Badertscher. Branch Blakley, Emma Bonebrake, McCoy Gomez, Cayson Hester, Tobias Lacy, Evelyn Stephens, Libby Stull, Mackenzie Bullock

A/B Honor Roll: Caden Clark, McKaley

Gibson, Stella Livingston,

From Page A1

Nevaeh Nelson, Gwendolyn Norman, Eliazabeth Parker, Jackson Parrish, Dylan Simpson, Brogan Blakley, Noah Carr, Dorothy Cotten, Baine Franklin, Jackson Hall, Autumn Hunt, Coree Perez, Avalyn Simpson, Elijah Van Dorn, Graham Wagner, Vivian Wilson, Koltan Collins, Marlaina Halstead, Alexis Howard, Alex Langevin, Ava Largent, McLaren Mason, Conner McMullen, Bradleigh Nelson, Holly Priddy, Riley Thompson

4th Grade **Character Counts** (Caring):

Virginia Thomas, Anna Froedge, Hunter Bonebrake, Rachel Reimondo

High Honor Roll: Karsyn Charles, Addilynn Edwards, Jacey Hoenshell, Abigail Badillo, Presley Lesko, Ari Wrede, Raylan Hester, August Ashment, Mila Barsotti, Ryan Gilliland, Joslynn Gray, Jolene Kappel, Anna Lindsay, Elouise McGaughey, Rayleigh Thomas

A/B Honor Roll:

Aaleeah Carrell, Ruger Foster, Colby Kessler, Charlie Moore, Lainey Sheldon, Tregan Sutton, Virginia Thomas, Carson Barker, Kellan Dittmer, Ava Eubanks, Thomas Fishero, Ryder Fruits, Rich Hens, Hillary Mc-Candless, Hope Smith, Addilyn Wood, Phoebe Buckler, Rylie Cornelius, Hadley Hedge, Haven Hernandez, La'Kiya Powell, Harrison Simmons, William Boots, Adrien Cohee, Jett Cummins, River Eller, James Ethington, Adalyn Hood, Kinzlie Price, Sully Roark, Remy Stetler

5th Grade **Character Counts:** (Caring):

Jack Cripe, Tracy Long, Kendall Willhite, McKinzie Stoner

High Honor Roll:

Keiarra Archer, Lea Gregg, Kailyn Howard, Ryder Kessler, Ryder Newkirk, Kenzie Turner, Ailise Bradshaw, Maddox Clark, Jordanna Troutman, Andrea Allen, Delilah Amstutz, Calista Hale, Emery Light, Luke Light, Kam Maddock, **Emily Needham**

A/B Honor Roll:

Hudson Beach, Harper Cornelius, Jack Cripe, Cole Fullenwider, Carter Harshbarger, Lorelei Hoskins, Carter Kessler, Ethan Langevin, Taylor Sering, Judah Smith, Shawn Smoot, Gunnar Williams, Molly Cregger, Elijah Endicott, Tracy Long, Hunter Tallman, Addison Anglin, Arabella Jackson, Allison Largent, Abigail Thomas, Ayden Thomas, Kendall Willhite, Grant Albertson, Brolin Burris, Elin Cooper, Cole Edwards, Maci Épps, Bolten Hagenow, Oliver Pattengale, Marilyn Prado, David Rhodes, Sequoya Roark, McKinzie Stoner, Alexa Whitlow



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Crawfordsville Country Club

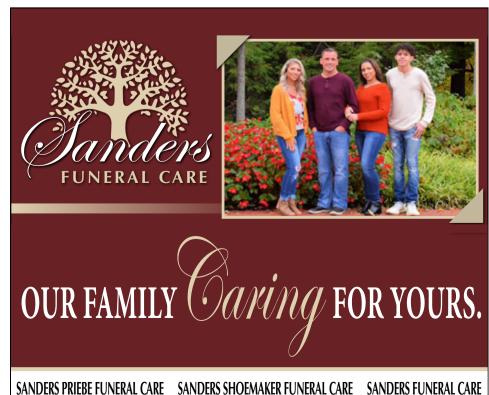








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Runner Up: Tri-County Bank and

Honorable Mentions:

- Chase
- •First Merchants
- PNC •First Financial
- **Banquet Facility** Winner:

Stone Creek Lodge

- Runner Up:
- Hidden Hollow Farms **Honorable Mentions:**
- •Old Normal
- Cochran's Eagles
- Allen's Country Kitchen
- •Best Western

- •Darlington Conservation
- •Crawfordsville Country Club
- Crawfordsville Municipal Golf Course
 - •Hampton Inn & Suites Moose Lodge

Bar & Grill

Winner: Francis & Mount Runner Up: Applebee's

- **Honorable Mentions:**
- Canning Factory
- Barefoot Burger Waveland Pub
- •Backstep Brewing Co.
- •Station 308
- Creekside Lodge
- •Crash McClains
- Buffalo Wild Wings Corner Café

•Indy Road Pub

Barber Shop

Winner: **Runner Up:** Carpenter's Barber Shop The Queen and I Runner Up: Hairport His Harvest Home

- **Honorable Mentions:** Great Clips
- Andy Biddle •Lavender & Hops
- Bill Carpenter
- Dan Carlson •Fantastic Sams
- •KM Studio Nogginz
- Esquire
- Hair Loom Serenity
- •Steve Power Dapper Dudes
- •Beauty Bar on The

Boulevard

Bed and Breakfast Winner:

Cabins and Candlelight **Honorable Mention:**

Bike Shop Winner:

Red Hawk Choppers **Runner Up:** Larry's Motorcycles **Honorable Mention:** Rotten Robbie's

Cable Company Winner:

Comcast

Runner Up: Metronet

Honorable Mentions:

•AT&T U-Verse

Car Wash

Winner: Soft Cloth Runner Up: Great Details

- **Honorable Mentions:** Laserwash
- •Jiffy Lube
- Morris Neal Detailing

Carpenter Winner: Keesee & Sons

Runner Up: Jim Biddle **Honorable Mentions:**

- •Town & Country
- Homecenter Woodkey
 - •Hard Hats & Hammers
- •Jim Ratcliff
- Anglin

Carpet Store Winner: Zahn's

McMurry Humphreys

•Hemphill

John Rose

Winner:

Service Master

Runner Up:

•Sierra Builders

Carpet Cleaners

Menard's Carpet Care

Honorable Mentions:

•Rainbow International

May's Carpet Care

Runner Up: Town & Country

Honorable Mentions: •Home Depot

•Flooring Gallery Plus

The Big Wins — And Some Losses — Of Indiana's 2023 Legislative Session

Of the 1,154 bills filed, Indiana lawmakers approved 252 of those in the 2023 legislative session, with many still waiting for a final signature from the governor.

The Republican-controlled General Assembly convened for 110 days, during which education, health care and taxes dominated much of the discourse.

The highlight, however, was the passage of Indiana's new, \$44 billion

biennial budget plan. Here's a recap of the issues — some big, some small — and a look at what prevailed and what didn't quite come together before Sine Die" brought the

2023 session to a close. Holcomb agenda meets

success Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb's 2023 legislative agenda highlighted proposals for several major funding increases in the next two-year state budget, including paying for all K-12 textbooks, salary increases for state police troopers, and millions more for public health services in all 92 counties. A massive private school voucher expansion was the sticking point in the final hours of the session although vouchers weren't part of Holcomb's prior-

ities. Still, the governor got most of what he wanted saying he will "gladly sign" the final budget draft — and praised lawmakers for their work an hour

after the session's end. He said the budget "contains unprecedented levels of commitment and investment in public education, public safety and public health — both mental and physical - workforce development and economic development, and community development, and numerous quality-of-life and quality-of-place initiatives that we are eager to get to

work on." K-12 textbook fees Indiana's governor rallied hard to eliminate textbook and curricular fees for Hoosier kids. Figuring out how to fund the ask proved less straightfor-

ward, though. Holcomb's proposed budget explicitly included a line item for textbook fees — separate from the school funding formula — directing funds to the state education department, which would then be responsible for dishing out textbook dollars to schools.

But House budget writers originally took a different approach, seeking to require schools to dip into their foundational funding to fully pay students' curricular materials costs.

Pushback from public school officials prompted changes to that funding mechanism in the final budget plan.

Now, \$160 million annual line item — added by Senate Republicans — ensures that Hoosier families will not have to pay student textbook fees in K-12 public schools. Private school students who qualify for free or reduced lunch will also see their textbook fee waived, according to the budget.

21st Century Scholars The Holcomb administrations' push to get more Hoosiers educated included a move to automatically enroll eligible Hoosier students into Indiana's 21st Century Scholars Program — a statewide grant program that funds lower income student attendance at two- and four-year schools.

A bill doing just that advanced to the governor's desk last week.

House Bill 1449 requires the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE) to work with the state education department to identify kids who qualify for the program, and then notify students and parents about their eligibility. Students must agree to participate in 21st Century Scholars and can opt out at

any time. Big pay raises for some In his initial budget request, Holcomb stressed the importance of increasing the state's compensation for its employees, citing high turnover rates during the pandemic. The typical state employee saw a 5% boost to their salary, though lower-paid employees saw slightly more of a raise while higher-paid employees received a slightly

smaller increase. The final budget kept those increases, but gave the state's highest elected offices their own boost — including a 48% raise for the governor's office. Leaders said those offices were "woefully" underpaid and needed to grow in order to keep up with

comparable positions. Support for Martin

University Also part of Holcomb's agenda was a proposed \$10 million for Martin University — the state's only predominantly black institution — specifically to help the low-income, minority and adult-learner populations served by the

university. The House GOP budget plan matched that request, but Senate Republicans opted to give every higher education institution in Indiana access to that \$10 million over the biennium for minority, first-generation and low-income

students. The final budget landed somewhere in between, appropriating \$5 million to Martin University, and creating another \$5 million pot for all other Hoosier colleges and universities to use for minority student financial aid.

Feat of imagination: more kids reading

Country music icon Dolly Parton's book program mails over 2 million books monthly to children across the country — and elsewhere — monthly, according to its website. Now, the Imagination Library is set to be available statewide in Indiana.

Launching the program was a priority for Holcomb, as well as some lawmakers — and they saw success in the final version of the state's twoyear, \$44.5 billion budget. It's one line item in the 249-page document: a \$6 million appropriation.

In a news release, Holcomb said it's part of the state's goal of getting 95% of third-grade students reading proficiently by 2027.

Culture Wars

Lawmakers said just weeks before the start of the legislative session that the 2023 General Assembly would avoid so-called "culture war" issues.

That was not the case, however. Multiple contentious bills targeted LGBTQ+ rights, especially transgender youth, and which drew hundreds of oppositional ralliers to the Statehouse throughout the session.

Ban on gender-affirming

The Indiana Youth Institute estimates that roughly 3,350 Hoosier children identify as transgender, but that small number fell under the spotlight repeatedly during the legislative

session. In particular, lawmakers targeted the estimated 1,000 children seeking gender-affirming care at the state's only pediatric hospital, Indianapolis' Riley Hospital for Children. Care includes assistance with social transitioning, access to puberty blockers and hormone replacement therapies – all of which are generally considered to be reversible, time-tested

treatments. Repeated, hours-long testimony failed to find any instance of a minor receiving a surgical intervention,

which is not reversible. Just hours after Holcomb signed the ban on gender-affirming care, the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana filed a lawsuit to block the measure, representing a handful of children whose care would be disrupted by

the prohibition. Pronouns in classrooms A controversial bill mandating that Indiana schools notify parents when a student asks for name or pronoun changes is now awaiting a signature from

the governor. House Bill 1608 also bans human sexuality instruction to the youngest

Hoosier students. The proposal is reminiscent of Florida's "Don't Say Gay" law that has been described by some as one of the most "hateful" pieces of legislation in the

Supporters say parents have the "right" and "responsibility" to control what their children learn and are called — when at

But critics of the bill which was pared down in its final iteration — have argued that it's part of a nationwide wave of legislation "singling out LGBTQ+ people and their families." More specifically, they say that the legislation could put transgender children at risk of harm if they're outed to unsupportive or abusive parents.

Legislating 'anti-woke' pension investing Indiana's public re-

tirement system and its external investment managers will begin operating under new scrutiny — after House Republicans successfully pushed through "finances-first" priority legislation.

House Bill 1008 is Indiana's take on the national backlash brewing to "ESG" investing, when environmental, social and governmental factors are considered in investment decisions. Hours of discussion pitted some pension members and finance leaders against industries claiming ESG-based "financial discrimination."

The legislation empowers a supportive state treasurer with investigating asset managers he suspects are engaging in ESG investing, and forces the retirement system to divest from violators unless it can't find "comparable" replacements.

School library book

restrictions 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.

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 re-

Language in House Bill 1447 also removes "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. Some bills fell short Republican lawmakers touted big wins across the board at the conclusion of the legislative session, but several big-ticket items didn't make it across the finish line. Some bills failed to make it through the process due to a lack of GOP consensus, while others were put to rest

after public pushback. Many of the measures are expected to be reworked and introduced

again next year. Wetlands

Controversial language that would have further weakened Indiana's wetlands law did not advance in the 2023 session, despite a quiet GOP attempt to insert such language in a residential sewage bill.

A House environmental committee last month approved an amendment to Senate Bill 414 that tightened restrictions on which wetlands could receive state protections. Republican lawmakers

claimed the provision would "clarify" definitions in the state's wetlands statute. But in the final week of the session, lawmakers

stripped that language from the bill, saying the wetlands issue was found not germane — meaning the language was not relevant to the underlying bill, per legislative rules. School board elections

A bill that would have let Hoosier communities decide if local school

board elections should be partisan died in the House in February. Although similar language could have been inserted elsewhere, lawmakers did not return to the issue before the end of the session.

That means school board races will stay non-partisan — at least for now. Similar bills have circulated around the Statehouse in years past, and GOP leadership said others are likely to come up again in

the future. With this year's House Bill 1428, specifically, Republican lawmakers could not find consensus over whether school board candidates should have to be nominated by party primaries or only be listed by political party on the November general election ballot.

Health care Several major health care bills were watered down in their final versions, whether doctor non-compete agreements or price caps for Indiana hospitals. Those that did pass also didn't get the full funding advocates request-

ed. But leaders called it a win, saying that dozens of meetings with stakeholders convinced them more Indiana-focused data was needed, which House Bill 1004 will incentivize moving forward.

That language will also require a review of Medicaid reimbursement rates in Indiana, which hospitals say significantly lag behind other states.

Lawmakers opted to fund roughly two-thirds of Holcomb's ask for public health, or \$225 million over the biennium. But House Speaker Todd Huston said that legislators will return in the next few years to see what the results from that investment are

and reassess funding. Sen Pro Tem Rodric Bray also emphasized that mental health funding was just a start and not the end of state monies. Though a fall report requested more than \$130 million annually for the state's burgeoning mental health crisis system, the state budget will dedicate just \$50 million

each year. Child care

Something that didn't get too much attention through the 2023 session was child care and early childhood education. Though legislators expanded eligibility for On My Way Pre-K from 127% to 150% of the federal poverty limit, roughly \$41,625 annually for a family of four, they

didn't add more funding. Leaders said that current expenditures left money behind, including in the Child Care Development Fund. However, families and businesses alike bemoan the shortage of quality child care available in communities, saying it hampers economic growth.

High tax bills vs. government service costs

Property tax bills shot up this year, as the pandemic's high-priced home sales and subsequent rise in assessment values. But even before the legislative session began, lawmakers were urging caution in any relief efforts.

House Bill 1499 went through numerous transformations: several dilutions. followed by a final version with several key provisions resuscitated. It expands multiple deductions, and temporarily limits growth in school operating referendum taxes and local unit

property tax hauls. Kratom stays outlawed State lawmakers will also have to wait to take another crack at a bill that would once again make kratom legal in Indiana.

House Bill 1500 would have permitted the sale of the plant substance touted as a natural painkiller, "energy booster" and even a treatment for opioid withdrawal. In Indiana, kratom is currently listed as a schedule 1 narcotic — the

same as heroin or cocaine. Bill author Rep. Alan Morrison, R-Terre Haute, said he wants lawmakers to keep looking at the issue — and that he could make another attempt next year

to legalize kratom. Local bans on pet store

sales Lawmakers this session failed to supersede local ordinances barring pet stores from selling pets like

cats and dogs. Stores in those municipalities can only collaborate with animal care or rescue organizations to show adoptable cats and dogs — in an effort to prevent inhumane sourcing and ease shelter overcrowding. But lawmakers and pet store chains said they should be able to sell

animals from reputable breeders. Two such bills expired in legislative deadlines. One author said his proposal had "too many loose ends" but indicated he'd make edits and try again another

session. No state sandwich — or

nickname Indiana didn't get any closer to making the breaded pork tenderloin an

official state sandwich.

That's despite support from Gov. Eric Holcomb, who said earlier this that he wanted to settle the state sandwich question "once and for all. Senate Bill 322 specifically intended to honor

Nick's Kitchen, home to the first Hoosier breaded

pork tenderloin. It's locat-

ed in downtown Hunting-

ton and has been serving

up the famous creation since 1908. "I did not get my breaded tenderloin sandwich, but I'm going to put that aside for now — I've got executive orders. We'll deal with that later," Holcomb said, lightheartedly,

on Friday. Another proposal, House Bill 1143, additionally sought to establish "The Hoosier State" as Indiana's official nickname. But it died in a House government committee after historians raised questions about the "Hoosier" origin story outlined within the proposal.

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