

**➤ TODAY'S VERSE**

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

**➤ FACES OF MONTGOMERY**

People who call our community their own.



Stacey Cornett, Crossroads Furniture Owner, gave one of our roving photographers a winning smile while receiving her Readers' Choice Award. The Paper is always at the tip of your fingertips. All you have to do is get on your phone, tablet or whatever device you use and subscribe to our Online Edition. Just head over to [www.thepaper24-7.com](http://www.thepaper24-7.com)

**➤ THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** Ashrita Furman who, thus far, has won no less than 600 records, including the record for breaking the most Guinness Records. But Rush has broken more than 250 records thus far including the record for the most fist bumps, which he achieved with the help of Howie Mandel, the host of the America's Got Talent TV show. Together they racked up 380 fist bumps in 30 seconds on a recent episode of the show.

**2** Tim and Melinda O'Brien of Kansas City, MO were married 40 years ago and spent their wedding night at what was then known as the Muehlebach Hotel, which presented them with a gift certificate good for a free room for the night in any year on the month of their wedding anniversary. The certificate was lost some time ago but as their anniversary approached this year, they found it. The hotel was sold to the Marriott Hotel Chain in 1996 but Tim decided to contact the new owners to see if they would still honor the gift certificate. The folks at Marriott agreed and said that, of course, they would for the same rate they paid in 1983 – just \$38

**3** You can find a candy bar dispenser anywhere these days but you'll have to go to South Korea if you want to find a gold bar dispenser. GS Retail, which operates some 10,000 convenience stores throughout that country, has been fitting them out with gold bar vending machines since last September. To date, just 29 of their stores have been fitted with the machines, but they've produced some \$19 million dollars in revenues. People in their 20s and 30s appear to be the main buyers.

# The Paper

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## Telethon About A Month Away



**TIM TIMMONS**  
Two Cents

"Where do you guys get these ideas?" That's probably the biggest question I've been asked from folks around the community when we talk about The

Paper's first-ever telethon. If you've missed the details so far, it will take place on July 18 at the beautiful Masonic Cornerstone Event Center. It will kick off with the National Anthem (remember how TV used to always sign on with that?) bright and early at 7 a.m. and go continuously for 12 hours. The telethon will be broadcast live and in living color on the Internet and on our website, [www.thepaper24-7.com](http://www.thepaper24-7.com).

Some of you have pointed out that we've come up with quite a few things in the nearly two decades of service our community. One of the biggest was The Challenge. That was a community promotion that brought leaders and well-known individuals together with the challenge of losing weight. Each participant got people to sponsor them financially and the wonderful Denise Reese at Athena Sports & Fitness supplied the location and trainers. The great Matt Oates at Franciscan Hospital hooked us up with cardiologists and nutritionists. And for 10 long weeks participants sweated, toiled, dieted and in general, lost weight. The very first year saw TCU's Amy Wells win, and it was so much fun and successful

that we did it two more times – and raised more than \$30,000 for the community!

Of course, that's not all. We were one of the very first papers in the entire nation to create a paid, daily Online Edition – an Edition that today is FAR LARGER than our Print Edition. We were one of the very first to change from independent contractors delivering the paper, to delivery by the U.S. Postal Service – a move that enabled us to not raise subscription rates and one that greatly improved our service. We created the History-Mystery Tour – a one-mile walk around beautiful downtown Crawfordsville where we explore some of the eerie events of Montgomery County's fun and sometimes spooky past. We partnered with the talented Karen Zach and came up with the popular monthly magazine, Montgomery Memories. We've brought you some of the most talented (and award-winning) columnists around . . . and now Montgomery County's first-ever telethon.

But you know all that. After all, we are the only media in Montgomery County that is not owned by an out-of-state entity. Nothing against our newspaper and radio friends, but all their money heads south to other states while all of ours stays invested right here. And that has enabled us to be the community partner you expect. So far this year, we have donated more than \$55,000 in free ads and community support. That is a track record none of our competitors can match.

But let's get back to the telethon. We have scheduled time

each hour to bring you different things – some musical acts, some community leaders, some entertainment . . . and those slots are filling up fast. If you would like to take part, let us know . . . fast. What does that look like? Well, think about those old Labor Day Telethons with Jerry Lewis. We'll bring you multiple segments each hour for all 12 and let you enjoy watching some of the great entertainment in Montgomery County. But don't worry, we aren't allowing any blindfolded volunteers spinning on a large wooden board while a masked person throws knives!

So far we have a couple of pretty big names – the extremely talented Steve Trent has agreed to perform. And multiple Emmy-award winner Mike Haynes is flying in from Colorado to emcee the whole thing. Want to get in on the action? E-mail me at [ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com), but hurry!

So that's kind of the whole thing in a nutshell – oh! Where do we come up with these ideas?

Truth to tell, they just pop up. When your goal is to be the biggest and best media partner in the county, it doesn't exactly thrill aforementioned competition. So you best be doing stuff like this and being quick about it. After all, it's harder to hit a moving target!

*-Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically on Wednesdays in The Paper. Timmons is the publisher of The Paper and can be contacted at [ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com).*

## The Daily Almanac

**Sunrise/Sunset**  
RISE: 6:17 a.m.  
SET: 9:21 p.m.

**High/Low Temperatures**  
High: 82 °F  
Low: 64 °F

**Today is...**

- First Day of Summer
- National Selfie Day
- National Smoothie Day

**What Happened On This Day**

- 2004 SpaceShipOne completes the world's first manned private space-flight.
- 1985 The body of Josef Mengele is identified.
- 1963 Cardinal Giovanni Battista Montini becomes Pope Paul VI.

**Births On This Day**

- 1982 Prince William, Duke of Cambridge
- 1905 Jean-Paul Sartre French philosopher, writer

**Deaths On This Day**

- 1527 Niccolò Machiavelli Italian historian, philosopher
- 1377 Edward III of England



Photo courtesy of John Oilar

Ink on paper by John Oilar.

## John Oilar Included In Who's Who

By Rick Mayotte  
[news@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:news@thepaper24-7.com)

John R. Oilar, a local artist, received a letter on April 17 informing him that he would be featured in the latest edition of the prestigious Marquis Who's Who. This particular publication is a thick volume that showcases artists who have made significant contributions to their individual mediums.

Oilar's specialty is "ink on paper" and offers a signature style rooted in realism. Oilar was born in Lafayette and first studied art at Sister M. Rufina,



The Paper photo by Rick Mayotte  
John and Dianne Oilar.

OSF in Lafayette. After graduating from Klondike High School, outside of West Lafayette, Oilar studied art and history abroad in Europe, but mostly in Italy. Oilar then graduated with honors from Western New Mexico University with a major in art. Oilar is also a scholarship graduate of 1971 from Art Instruction Schools of Minneapolis.

Oilar's works can be seen all over Crawfordsville, as he has donated more than two dozen

➤ See OILAR Page A6

## Government Directory Hits The Stands



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

it lists every elected officeholder and those who have been appointed to serve the public as members of boards and commissions in our county. It gives locations and phone numbers for all government services, boards and commissions.

Do you have a question for one of your school board members?

(All the names and numbers for each school district are listed.) Maybe you want to know about a ditch in your neighborhood (Call the Drainage Board.) Maybe you have a question for the Alcoholic Beverage Board or for our Convention and Visitors Commission. (Look on page 7.)

Daily our major news outlets barrage us with issues about our state and national governments – usually with what's going wrong. The stories often lean toward what a political party thinks about x, y and z. This tendency will only become more intense as we approach election year, 2024. Such "them vs us" thought processes regarding policies that shape our lives can be harmful. If we see public issues as an IU / Purdue game where we choose sides and root for a winner, we all lose. Easy-to-make black/white contrasts tend to make us forget the invaluable underpin-

➤ See LWW Page A6

## ➤ HONEST HOOSIER

Hardly remembered on this date in 1942, a Japanese submarine shelled Fort Stevens in Oregon near the Columbia River.



## ➤ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

Public Notices.....A4, A5  
Capital Chronicle.....A3  
Statepoint.....A3  
Classifieds.....A3

## ➤ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Treat burns by immediately soaking the area in cold water for at least five minutes and cover any open areas with antibiotic ointment. 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](http://www.thepaper24-7.com).



## ➤ OBITUARIES

Gregory Don Spragg  
John O. Marlowe



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



## ➤ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Local Dinner Theatre

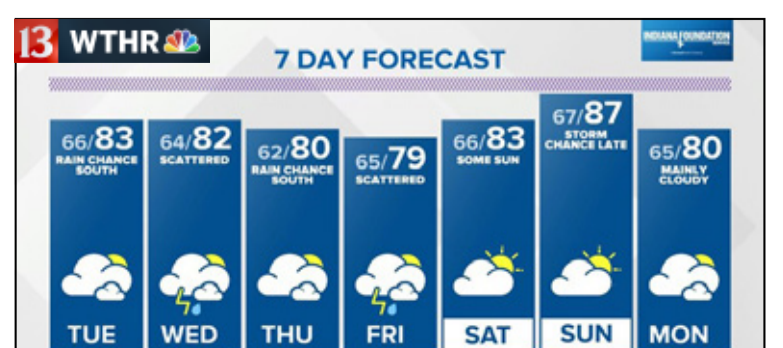
Myers Dinner Theatre is excited to continue their 2023 Main Stage season with the beloved rock 'n' roll love story of Grease. This show, full of great music and high-energy dancing, opened last week, with seating for dinner at 6 p.m. ET and the meal at 6:30. This play, directed by Brett Mutter, will run through Saturday, July 29th.

## ➤ TODAY'S QUOTE

"And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer."  
- F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby

## ➤ TODAY'S JOKE

Where do basketball players go on summer vacation?  
No where. They would get called for traveling!



## OBITUARIES

### Gregory Don Spragg

March 28, 1954, Saturday, June 17, 2023

Gregory Don Spragg, age 69 of Kingman, passed away on Saturday, June 17, 2023 at St Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis. He was born in Crawfordsville on March 28, 1954 to the late Donald Dean & Lucille Oveta (McCloud) Spragg.



On November 6, 1971 Greg married the love of his life, Esteleen Lighty. He graduated from Fountain Central High School in 1972. Greg owned and operated Spragg Auto Body for 42 years. He loved music and was the bass player in the Hwy 341 Band. He loved spending time with his family and watching his granddaughter play basketball.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Esteleen; a son, Eric (Crystal) Spragg; mother, Mary Lou Spragg; a granddaughter, KayLee Spragg; five siblings, Mark (Jeannie), Jerry (Brenda), Darla (Scott), Darrin (Michelle), and Dale; sister-in-laws, brother-in-laws; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and four nephews.

Visitation will be at Sanders Funeral Care, 203 S 1st Street, in Kingman on Friday, June 23, 2023 from 4:00pm - 8:00pm.

The funeral service will be at the funeral home on Saturday, June 24, 2023 at 11:00am with Pastor Robert Keck officiating. The service will be recorded which can be viewed on his obituary page at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

Burial will follow at Wallace Lutheran Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be given to the Bradley Fishero Memorial Scholarship Fund, Western Indiana Community Foundation, PO Box 175, Covington, IN 47932. Share memories and condolences online at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

### John O. Marlowe

July 8, 1957 - June 13, 2023

John O. Marlowe, 65, of Clayton, passed away June 13, 2023.

He was born on July 8, 1957, to Chuck and Ann (Mitchell) Marlowe.

John was a 1975 graduate of Cascade High School, and a 1979 graduate of Wabash College. He was a member of Wabash's 1977 NCAA Division III National Runner-Up football team. John was a sports writer and columnist for The Paper of Montgomery County and the Noblesville Times.



He was an award-winning scribe, winning six writing awards from the Hoosier State Press Association in the last five years, including three best columns in the state. For many years, he co-published the Indiana Basketball Handbook.

John served on the Hendricks County Community Foundation Board, as well as the Clayton / Liberty Township Library Board. He was an elder in the Clayton Presbyterian Church. He was a kind and gentle spirit, an immediate friend to all people he met, and a devout loyalist to his family and "his peeps."

Survivors include his brother Todd (Cyndi) Marlowe, of Houston, Texas; half-brothers Ben (Erinn) Marlowe of Whitestown; David (Cadie) Marlowe of Indianapolis; and step-mother Marian Marlowe of Indianapolis.

Funeral services are scheduled for Thursday, June 22, at 7 p.m. in Hazelwood Christian Church. Friends and family may pay their respects from 4 p.m. until the time of service. Please enter through the east-side doors of the church.

Memorial donations may be made to the Hendricks County Humane Society 3033 E. Main Street, Danville, Ind. 46122.

Hall-Baker Funeral Home, Plainfield is handling arrangements. Please visit [http://www.bakerfuneralservice.com to leave a condolence.]

http://www.bakerfuneralservice.com to leave a condolence.

## Two Wabash College Students Earn International Fellowships

Opportunities await in Latvia and Germany for natives of Gary, Indiana, and Billings, Montana.

Two current or former Wabash College students have accepted international fellowships to Latvia and Germany.

Paul Haesemeyer '21 earned a Fulbright open study/research award to Latvia, while Ethan Brown '24 claimed a Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship to study in Germany.

Haesemeyer will be based in Riga, Latvia, with the goal of completing a book that explores the histories, traditions, and people involved with Latvian knitting. The book, "Adišanas stast," will feature knitting patterns inspired by interviews with local craftspeople. He will work closely with the Latvian National Centre for Culture to spotlight knitting's place in Latvia's culture and its impact as both craft and art.

A native of Billings, Montana, Haesemeyer majored in theater and minored in art. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and found his home at Wabash working in the costume shop. He was involved in many Wabash College Theater Productions onstage and behind-the-scenes, as well as the Glee Club and Knitting Club. He received the Celebration of Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Award for The Haze Collection, a line of clothing he designed and created, as well as the Kenneth W. Kloth Design and Technical Theater Award.

During his collegiate career, Haesemeyer



PAUL HAESEMAYER

interned at the Williamstown Theater Festival, the Metropolitan Opera, and New Light Theater Project. After graduation, he apprenticed at the Santa Fe Opera in the costume shop. For the last two seasons, Haesemeyer has worked for the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery, Alabama. Recently, knitting patterns he designed were published in Vogue Knitting and in Radam, a Latvian knitting magazine.

"Paul is a rising star in the worlds of knitting and costume design," said Susan Albrecht, Wabash College Fellowship Advisor. "When he decided to pursue this Fulbright Study/Research award, I was over the moon. I knew that he had an amazing vision for the project, and his talent is undeniable. The Latvian cultural emphasis on storytelling through knitting, especially with mittens, was tailor-made for Paul's talents. It seems appropriate that Paul is Wabash's very first creative arts Fulbright award recipient."

Previously, he made immersion trips to New York City, Taiwan, and the Czech Republic.

"Winning a Fulbright feels incredible," said Haesemeyer. "I am excited to pursue knitting

full-time and provide an exciting opportunity to knit, write, and explore. Knitting brings people together and I can't wait to see where it will lead me."

An English and German double major from Gary, Indiana, Ethan Brown is a member of the Wabash Pep Band and has previously completed an immersion experience to Heidelberg, Germany, in May 2023.

"A Gilman Scholarship is a big deal," said Brown. "In a competitive process, it's a surprise to find out that you've won and it is a wonderful opportunity. I look forward to living with a host family and the program's excursion to Berlin. I also hope to visit the town of Ansbach, Germany, just southwest of Nuremberg, where my grandfather was stationed during the Vietnam War."

While abroad with the Gilman program, Brown will be based in Heidelberg, Germany.

"Ethan's application was very strong, and I was thrilled he received this recognition," said Albrecht. "He was already in Germany with a Wabash immersion course and Gilman funding made it possible for him to extend this first-ever international experience with a summer study abroad program. This extended study has made it possible for Ethan to add German as a second major, which was a wonderful bonus."

The Fulbright open study/research award program allows recipients to design their own projects and work with mentors at foreign universities,



ETHAN BROWN

non-profits, cultural organizations, or other research institutes. The study/research awards are available in approximately 140 countries.

Administered by the Institute of International Education on behalf of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and funded by Congress, the purpose of the Gilman International Scholarship program is to encourage participation in study abroad programs for under-represented students, particularly those who are studying in under-represented areas of the world and/or under-represented languages.

Haesemeyer and Brown are among the many Wabash men who have earned highly competitive fellowships in the last decade, including the Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Obama Voyager, Yenching, Goldwater, and Point Foundation Flagship Scholarships. Additionally, Wabash students have earned the Center for the Study of Presidency and Congress' Presidential Fellowship, U.K. Fulbright Summer Institute placement, and NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships, to go with 27 Fulbrights and 26 Gilman Scholarships.

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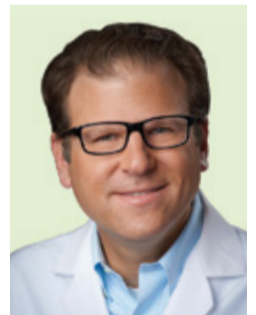


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# Leadership Change For Office Of Medicaid Policy And Planning

Indiana Medicaid Director Allison Taylor will be resigning later this summer after serving eight years with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, including six years leading the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning through historic changes and events.

"Allison has led Medicaid through its most transformative time," FSSA Secretary Dr. Dan Rusyniak said. "The positive impact she has made will benefit Hoosiers for decades to come. We will miss her."

Taylor first served as general counsel of FSSA and then became Indiana Medicaid director in 2017. During her tenure, she was also selected among her peers nationwide to serve as president of the National Association of Medicaid

Directors.

"Allison served with great distinction as president of the NAMD Board of Directors, elevating states' best practices and liaising with federal partners," said Kate McEvoy NAMD executive director.

"The Indiana Medicaid team is unlike any in this nation, moving mountains to serve Hoosiers, and I will enthusiastically work to ensure a smooth and successful transition," Taylor said. "This work has been the honor of a lifetime."

Among the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning's achievements under Taylor's leadership:

- Indiana received a first-of-its-kind 10-year renewal for the Healthy Indiana Plan
- A multi-pronged effort was launched to reform long-term services

and supports founded on industry-leading Medicare integration

- Telehealth services were expanded for Hoosiers
- A Medicaid provider reimbursement rate matrix was established to ensure a sustainable, predictable reimbursement structure going forward
- Substance use disorder and serious mental illness treatments were expanded and a continuum built for better behavioral care delivery
- Indiana became a national leader in managed care alignment, compliance and oversight

"We focus every day on serving Hoosiers and helping them live their best lives, in fully integrated communities," Taylor said. "During the pandemic, Medicaid flexed and did what it does best - served individuals and communities

in need."

The executive director of the National Association of Medicaid Directors commended Taylor's service.

"Allison served with great distinction as president of the NAMD Board of Directors, elevating states' best practices and liaising with federal partners," Kate McEvoy said.

Dr. Rusyniak also announced that Cora Steinmetz will be the next director of Indiana Medicaid. Steinmetz and Taylor will work closely during the weeks ahead to ensure a smooth transition later this summer for employees and all initiatives underway.

"No leader is better positioned to continue this important work than Cora Steinmetz," Dr. Rusyniak said. "Her knowledge of Medicaid finance, policy and regu-

lation combined with her communication and team management skills will assure that the critical work we are doing seamlessly continues."

Steinmetz has been Gov. Holcomb's senior operations director for health-related state agencies, including FSSA, Department of Child Services and Indiana Department of Health, since 2021. She has been deeply involved in developing policy and strategy and guiding the state's work related to the Governor's Public Health Commission, the long-term services and supports reform, the delivery of mental health services and the evolution of early childhood learning services.

"I am deeply grateful for my time in Governor Holcomb's office and the faith he and Dr. Rusyniak are placing in me as

I move into the Medicaid director role." Steinmetz said. "Over the last two years, I have been fortunate to work side-by-side with the Medicaid team and other agency leaders on a number of key health strategies and initiatives. This has given me a firsthand view of the incredible impact this team has on our state and I look forward to continuing the important work underway."

Steinmetz, a licensed attorney, previously worked as a program director for government programs and revenue cycle compliance for Indiana University Health and was an attorney for the Indiana Department of Revenue and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. She is also a board member for Music for All, a national organization focused on music education.

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**City of Crawfordsville, Indiana**  
**Notice to Taxpayers of Additional Appropriation**  
 Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Crawfordsville, Montgomery County, Indiana that the Crawfordsville Common Council will consider the following additional appropriations more than the budget for the current year at its regular meeting place, Council Chambers, 2nd floor, City Building, 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana, at 6 o'clock P.M., on the 10th day of July, 2023.

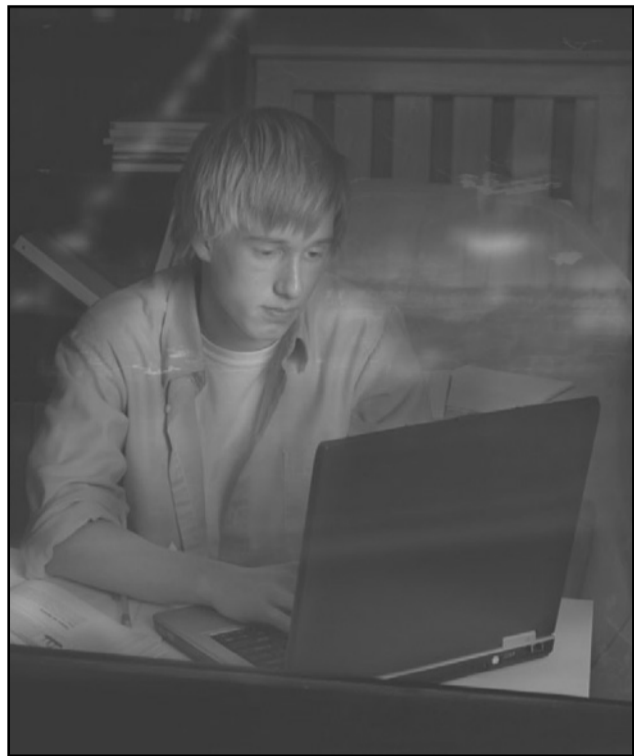
Amount	From	To
\$20,000.00	Fund 2235 Riverboat Unappropriated 2235.999.	2235 Riverboat Appropriated 2235.000.310 Professional Services

Taxpayers appearing at the meeting will have a right to be heard. The additional appropriations as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance. The Department will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within 15 days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action taken. If you require accommodations to this meeting, please call 364-5152.  
 Dated: 13 June 2023  
 /s/ Terri Gadd  
 Terri Gadd, City Clerk-Treasurer  
 PL4667 6/21 1t hspaxlp

**City of Crawfordsville, Indiana**  
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Amount	From	To
\$421,318.96	Fund 2244-355 (Local Road & Bridge) Unappropriated.	Fund 2244.000.360 (Local Road & Bridge) Appropriated

Taxpayers appearing at the meeting will have a right to be heard. The additional appropriations as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance. The Department will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within 15 days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action taken. If you require accommodations to this meeting, please call 364-5152.  
 Dated: 13 June 2023  
 /s/ Terri Gadd  
 Terri Gadd, City Clerk-Treasurer  
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# Indiana GOP Rep. Jim Lucas Seen Smiling, Laughing In New Police Footage After DUI Arrest

**By Casey Smith**  
 Indiana Capital Chronicle

Republican state Rep. Jim Lucas was cooperative — even joking, at times — with police after he was arrested in May for driving under the influence, new body camera footage shows.

Lucas, of Seymour, pleaded guilty last week to two misdemeanors — operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated and leaving the scene of an accident — after he struck a guardrail and drove the wrong way on an interstate entrance ramp while intoxicated.

The latest body and dash camera footage obtained by the Indiana Capital Chronicle from the Indiana State Police captured multiple failed sobriety tests performed by Lucas, who struggled to walk in a straight line or balance himself on one leg. A portable breathalyzer test showed his blood alcohol concentration (BAC) at .097 — higher than the .08 legal limit in Indiana.

After he was placed under arrest, Lucas was cooperative and chatty with officers.

“I’m on your side,” he tells state trooper Clayton Saltzman, who offered to loosen the lawmaker’s handcuffs before transporting him to and from the hospital for a blood toxicology test. Per ISP policy, Lucas sat in the passenger seat of the patrol car.

\*\*\*

**What happened after the wreck**

At multiple points during the drive from the hospital to the Jackson County Jail — where he was booked in the early morning hours May 31 — Lucas smiled and laughed, including as he explained what happened to his wrecked truck.

As Saltzman listed Lucas’s charges, Lucas

asks why he was “nailed” with leaving the scene of an accident.

“I was at the scene — I was walking to get help,” Lucas says, chuckling. “I thought a deer ran out in front of me. How’s that?”

The officer responds, “if that’s what you want to go with.”

During the conversation, a raccoon ran across the road in front of Saltzman’s patrol vehicle, causing him to swerve.

“See ... you did swerve ... a deer’s bigger, man,” Lucas said.

“I didn’t hit a guardrail, though,” Saltzman replied, smiling.

Lucas at one point asks who has his guns, before delving into politics. Lucas was armed with a gun and a knife, and a second gun was in his vehicle.

“I’m pretty much an absolutist when it comes to the Second Amendment, but also with gun rights and gun responsibilities,” he said, adding that, “I’m as pro-cop as you can get.”

“When you get prosecutors and judges who play catch and release ... I’ve talked to enough city and county cops — they know who the troublemakers are,” he continued. “It’s the same (expletive) 2 percent committing all the crimes, and (the anti-gun crowd) uses that to take away the ability of the lawful person to defend themselves.”

Before he walked into the jail, Lucas said “this was obviously a (expletive) up on my part. I own it — pay the price and move on.”

Previous body camera footage released by Seymour police — who interacted with Lucas before ISP arrived — showed the lawmaker misled police by saying repeatedly that he was simply on a walk when found by officers in the middle of the road. Lucas also focused on an

officer’s questions about a crashed van, insisting he did not drive that type of vehicle. It was actually a Toyota Tundra.

Later, he tells police there is a Glock with “one in the chamber” in the center console of his truck.

“The law is not a barometer of reality,” Lucas said on the video while wearing a “Grateful Dude” shirt. He then sat in the grass on the side of the road, appearing cooperative, while talking to police for nearly 30 minutes about a variety of topics, including social media, Hunter Biden, firearms, knives, Anne Frank, the weather and the law enforcement profession.

\*\*\*

**Consequences for Lucas**

Lucas received a 60-day suspended sentence on the OWI charge, and a 180-day suspended sentence for leaving the scene.

As part of his plea agreement, he will spend one year on probation — although that could end in as few as six months once he pays court and probation fees, completes an alcohol and drug program, and pays nearly \$4,000 for crash repairs and restitution to the Indiana Department of Transportation. He faces substance abuse screenings and must attend a victim impact panel, too.

Lucas faces jail time if he violates probation.

His driver’s license is additionally suspended for 60 days, but Jackson County Superior Court Judge Bruce A. MacTavish granted Lucas specialized driving privileges in eight Indiana counties “for the sole purpose of conducting business” for the lawmaker’s Seymour-based company, The Awning Guy, Inc., between 7 a.m. and 7

p.m. Monday through Friday, according to an order issued Monday.

There were no exemptions for legislative-related travel, though the General Assembly is not in session.

GOP Gov. Eric Holcomb emphasized earlier this month that it’s up to the General Assembly to decide whether Lucas should continue to serve as a legislator or face other repercussions, separate from any criminal penalties.

Afterwards, Indiana’s GOP House Speaker Todd Huston said he’s “obviously disappointed” but that he hadn’t even read the plea agreement yet.

“I haven’t had really a chance to talk to him,” Huston said. “I’ll take a look at it and see what we do moving forward.”

Lucas represents District 69 in Indiana, which covers portions of Jackson, Bartholomew, Scott and Washington counties. Jackson County is roughly 70 miles south of downtown Indianapolis.

He was first elected in 2012 and most recently championed House Bill 1177 during the 2023 legislative session. The measure creates a state-funded gun training program for school staff.

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# White House Overdue To Declassify Lab Leak Intel As Blinken Meets With Xi

Senator Mike Braun released the following statement on the White House's failure to declassify all COVID origins and Wuhan lab leak intel within the 90 days required by the law President Biden signed in March.

The White House passed the 90-day deadline as Secretary of State Blinken met with President Xi Jinping in China, whose regime has covered up the origins of the COVID pandemic.

"The White House is now overdue to declassify their COVID lab leak intel, and there is no 'Sec-

retary of State is meeting with Xi Jinping' exception in the law President Biden signed," Senator Braun said. "We need to know the truth about how this pandemic started and China's role in covering it up, and the White House must respect the text of the law passed unanimously in both chambers by the people's representatives."

Last week, Senators Braun and Hawley sent a letter to President Biden demanding he implement the COVID Origins Act of 2023, and declassify and release all information related to the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Their COVID Origins Act of 2023 was signed into law by President Biden in March. The legislation requires the Biden administration to declassify intelligence related to any potential links between the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the origins of the Covid pandemic within 90 days, which expired on Sunday.

Last week, reporters Michael Shellenberger and Matt Taibbi reported the names of the three Wuhan Institute of Virology researchers who were the first to contract COVID, as sourced from multiple government officials.

# Young Recognizes Hoosier Students Who Completed Summer Internship

U.S. Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) recognized Hoosier students who participated in the first session of his summer internship program in Washington, D.C. The students assisted with daily activities and special projects related to legislation, communications, and constituent services.

The intern class included (from left) Catherine Zortman, a junior from


Carmel attending the University of St. Andrews; Adam Akan, a sophomore from Dyer attending the University of Notre Dame; Ashley Morford, a senior from Greensburg attending Indiana University; and Aldo Medina, a senior from Indianapolis attending Harvard University.

Senator Young's office offers internship opportunities year-round, in both his Washington, D.C. and

Indianapolis offices. The internship program offers students the opportunity to experience the legislative branch of government and serve Hoosiers.

Students interested in applying can visit Senator Young's internship webpage or call 202-224-5623 to learn more.

Senator Young released a video to provide more information about the internship program.



## Register for Southmont Schools!

We offer online and on-site registration for parents of incoming students for the 2023-24 school year.

**New Students:**  
Families of new students (including kindergarteners) need to schedule an appointment ASAP to register. The following documents are required at the time of registration:

- Copy of student's birth certificate
- Immunization record
- Proof of residency
- Any custodial or guardianship records

**Returning Students:**  
Returning families, please register online through the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

**Do you need help registering?**

To schedule an appointment or receive assistance with PowerSchool please contact Mrs. Melissa Norman at (765) 866-0203.  
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**LWV** From Page A1

nings of democracy that we all depend on daily, namely that many voices deserve to be heard, that compromise among political positions is achievable, and is to be sought. As a country, we have been working on that process for almost 250 years now.

How does easy derailing into political camps affect our lives here? And, what does this little blue book have to do with addressing it?

Nowhere is our democratic process more visible to us than at the county level. "Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" is taking place for you right now in Montgomery County whether you are a citizen, a resident or a new immigrant. The work of democracy that makes this possible is overwhelmingly peacefully pursued day by day: your police and sheriff's departments are on the alert, roads are repaired, people (mostly) stop at stop signs; you can call the Animal Shelter to report your lost dog. In election years, a whole bunch of your neighbors volunteer to make sure we can all vote safely at our vote centers. You can take a yoga class at Park and Rec. We take for granted that these practices will go on. The pieces it takes to make this well-oiled democratic machine operate even at the county level can boggle the mind. . . But, fear not, you have a guide.

Open the LWVMC Government Directory, 2023-24 soon. Pick one up at your public library, your public school, your township office, your police station, the airport - you get the idea. Directories are being distributed during the next two weeks. This little booklet is your reminder that in Montgomery County we are deeply engaged in democracy in action.

Here's a bit of our Government Directory by the numbers: our county has 11 townships and 10 small towns along with county seat, Crawfordsville. MoCo and the City have 32 active governance boards (pp. 6-14). You can learn who serves on each and their contact information, when their terms expire. Learn where each board meets and how frequently. Remember - in a democracy like ours all of these meetings are open to the public by law (IC 15-14-1.5). This is the Open Door

Law. Maybe you would like to serve on one of these boards? In a democracy all have a voice and many need to be active and help govern.

Officials and citizens alike count on the LWVMC Government Directory to keep our network of government / citizen connections clean and strong. They routinely give the Directory high praise. "I'm really pleased with the colored maps at the back of the Directory showing our new Indiana State Senate and House Districts," said a local citizen. "This is so helpful." (Montgomery County was redistricted after the 2020 Census, so all of us need good visual information like this.) See pages 23-24.

"It is beyond valuable to have this resource," notes a city employee who has lived and worked in other counties. "We are so grateful to have this quick reference. We use it nearly every day at work. Most counties don't have such a valuable tool."

A Crawfordsville City Councilman stopped at my table in a downtown Crawfordsville coffee shop while I was scribbling out notes for this column. He exclaimed, "Oh, wow! The 2023- 2024 League Directory is out! May I have this copy?" (I gave it to him.)

The "little blue book" is the result of lots of volunteer hours by LWVMC members spent compiling, checking, and readying text for printing. LWVMC Government Directory, 2023-24's coordinating team was Sylvine Marabotto (chair), Myra Dunn Abbott, and Elizabeth Zuk. If you see them around town, thank them for their active citizen work. If you can't readily find a copy after July 1, please contact the LWVMC via our Facebook page or our website (lwvmontcoin.org). The costs of the LWVMC Government Directory, 2023-24 were paid for by donations to LWVMC's Education Fund.

*-The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, multi-issue political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government. For information about the League, visit the website www.lwvmontcoin.org; or, visit the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, Indiana Facebook page.*

# Broadway Star Ben Crawford To Host Rhe 2023 AES Indiana Yuletide Celebration

The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra is pleased to announce that Broadway star Ben Crawford will serve as host of the 2023 AES Indiana Yuletide Celebration, December 1-23, at Hilbert Circle Theatre downtown. Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly will serve as music director and MOIPEI returns as featured artists after their debut performance with the ISO in 2022.

Ben Crawford started his Broadway career when he covered the roles of Jean Valjean and Javert in the Broadway revival of Les Misérables at the Broadhurst Theatre. Since then, he's played the titular character in Shrek, been a big bully in Big Fish, ran around like a sane lunatic in On the Twentieth Century, fathered a spoiled brat in Charlie & the Chocolate Factory, and was blessed to have been the final Phantom in Broadway's Phantom of the Opera, which closed in April after 35 years on Broadway. Ben's other credits include 110 in the Shade, Hello, Dolly!, Assassins, Merrily We Roll Along, South Pacific, and Oklahoma! He served as the host of Yuletide Celebration in 2012 and

2014. "The holidays are all about spending time with family, so I'm absolutely looking forward to spending time with my ISO family," says Crawford. "I hope you will join us as we help make your season merry and bright!"

The incredibly gifted MOIPEI, comprising triplets Mary, Maggy, and Marta, will once again join the AES Indiana Yuletide Celebration cast of singers, dancers, and friends from the North Pole. These sisters made their Yuletide Celebration debut in 2022 and charmed audiences with their amazing harmonies and lively performances. They have performed to sold-out audiences in Tanzania, Uganda, Canada, Venezuela, China, and the United States.

Tickets for the 2023 AES Indiana Yuletide Celebration will go on sale August 21 at 10 a.m. EST. Those wishing to gain access to the presale can purchase a subscription to the 2023-24 season or donate \$500 to the ISO.

More information about the 2023 AES Indiana Yuletide Celebration will be posted on the ISO's website later this summer.

**OILAR** From Page A1

works to various businesses, offices and non-profits. Some locations that include Oilar's works are Franciscan Health and Fusion 54. Oilar has also created logos and other designs for businesses across the globe.

In 2006, Oilar was chosen for the worldwide edition of Manchester Who's Who, a similar publication to Marquis. Oilar was also one of 20 artists

chosen nationally for the IUPUI National Sports Art Museum invitational. Oilar has received more than 70 awards in ink drawings.

Oilar attributes his success to the support of his wife Diane.

For a full biography, as well as some insights into Oilar's works, look for the Who's Who in America 2022, A Marquis Who's Who Publication.



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