

**➤ TODAY'S VERSE**

1 John 4:20 *If a man say, "I love God," and hateth his brother, he is a liar. For he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?*

**➤ FACES OF MONTGOMERY**

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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** INFB has announced the results of the annual summer cookout survey, which reveals that Hoosier shoppers can expect to spend approximately 8% more this summer. Hoosiers are paying an average of \$69.47 for a cookout feeding 10 people, or \$6.95 per person. Indiana's market basket price is approximately 3% more, or 18 cents more, than the U.S. average price of \$6.77 per person.

**2** A recruitment agency had to take down its internet want ad that read: "Our returning client is seeking an exceptional and highly experienced Dog Nanny to provide top-tier care for their two beloved dogs. They are truly looking for someone at the top of their field who can ensure the overall well-being, happiness, and safety of their dogs." The agency said it was overwhelmed by applicants. Perhaps it was because there are too many dog lovers out there. Or, maybe, it was that applicants were moved by the offer of the tidy sum of \$127,000 a year.

**3** Although concerns about the future impact on jobs persist, it is undeniable that free AI technologies like ChatGPT and Bard have significantly benefited workers, particularly those who work mostly online. Gabriela Covay, Founder & Managing Director of California-based Bright Valley Marketing, believes that "momprenuers" will experience the most significant benefits, as AI advancements help save their most scarce resource: time. Consequently, she predicts a surge in mothers running their own businesses in the coming years.

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Photo courtesy of the Crawfordsville/Montgomery County Chamber

## Chamber Of Commerce Holds Ribbon Cutting For Franciscan ExpressCare

The Crawfordsville / Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce celebrated with Franciscan Health of Crawfordsville for the grand opening of their new ExpressCare clinic. For 145 years, Franciscan has cared for everyone that walks through their doors. They want to continue to be able to help improve the health of persons and communities.

This is the first Franciscan

ExpressCare clinic in Montgomery County and the 13th Franciscan urgent care in Indiana. This clinic is bringing 12 new jobs to the community while offering a more cost-effective and convenient option for the treatment of minor illnesses and injuries. Franciscan ExpressCare is strictly a walk-in clinic, but you can also reserve a time online. Virtual visits are also accepted on weekdays 8 am - 8 pm and on weekends 10 am - 6

pm. The Franciscan ExpressCare clinic is located at 1640 Crawfordsville Square Drive, Suite 100, in Crawfordsville. You are welcome to call them at 765-362-6374 or visit their clinic for immediate assistance 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For additional information regarding the chamber, visit the website at [crawfordsville-chamber.com](http://crawfordsville-chamber.com) or contact us at 765-362-6800.

## America Turns 237, But . . .



**TIM TIMMONS**  
Two Cents

Next week we'll be waving sparklers, rocking the red, white and blue and in general partying like it's 1999. Except it's not.

Things were a lot better in 1999. I've been writing these Happy Birthday America columns for some time, dating back to the 1980s. For the first time in four decades, I am no longer confident in whether or not the Republic will survive. Whether it's internal or external, we are setting ourselves up for a fall - and no one seems to care. Before you go blaming it on Biden, hold fast. The Republic

is just as much at fault. I mean c'mon - last week they brought up the tired and now over-used line about impeachment. Really? Since the Democrats used it to torpedo Trump, the Republicans have been chomping at the bit to get even. Kind of feels like the cacophony from the backseat of the station wagon on the family vacation . . . "He touched me." "Did not." "Did too." "Mom!" Far too many politicians - regardless of the flavor - seem to be in this for one thing . . . themselves. And the country, full of people asking what their country can do for them, rather than what they can do for their country, doesn't give a tinker's

dam. We're too busy debating why grown men can parade around in dresses, why guns are the problem instead of the idiots pulling the triggers and how the woke culture is giving the common sense crowd nightmares. You've all heard this story. Ben Franklin comes waltzing out of the convention and is asked whether we have a republic or a monarchy - to which Gentle Ben says "A republic, if you can keep it." Hate to tell you this, but we're doing a pretty poor job of keeping it. Thing is, I love this land - and so do many of you - and so do many folks you and I might disagree with. Sure, there's a crowd that doesn't, but it's not going to do much good finger

## The Daily Almanac

**Sunrise/Sunset**  
RISE: 6:19 a.m.  
SET: 9:22 p.m.

**High/Low Temperatures**  
High: 85 °F  
Low: 58 °F

**Today is...**

- INTERNATIONAL CAPS LOCK DAY
- Paul Bunyan Day
- Tau Day

**What Happened On This Day**

- 1967 Israel annexes East Jerusalem.
- 1914 Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie are assassinated.
- 1846 The saxophone is patented.

**Births On This Day**

- 1926 Mel Brooks American actor, director, producer, writer
- 1491 Henry VIII of England

**Deaths On This Day**

- 1975 Rod Serling American screenwriter, producer, created The Twilight Zone
- 1836 James Madison American politician, 4th President of the United States

## A Discussion Of Tree Sweat



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.lwvmontcoin.org](http://www.lwvmontcoin.org) or message to LWW, PO Box 101, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

Several members of the community gathered on June 21 to watch the League of Women Voters / Wabash College Green Issues movie, Reflection: A Walk with Water (Bullfrog Films). The narrative of the film was a group of people walking the 200-mile length of the Los Angeles aqueduct,

➤ See TIM Page A6

➤ See LWW Page A6

**➤ HONEST HOOSIER**

Only six days until our nation's 247th birthday. God bless America, long may she stand!



**➤ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION**

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

**➤ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

Water exercises are very helpful for people with back and joint pain. 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**

None

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



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**➤ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

**COMMUNITY SMOKE OFF**

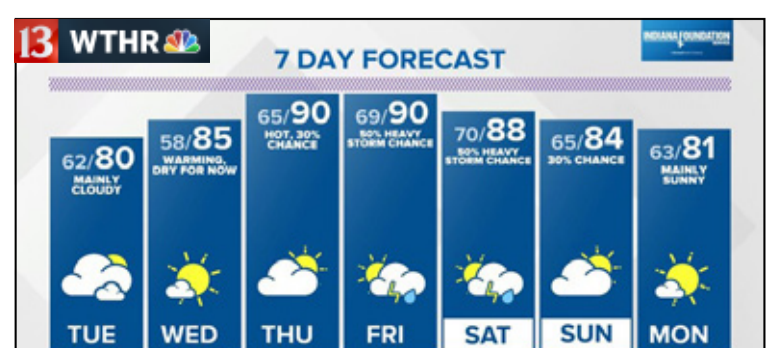
Isaac Weliver of Francis and Mount is hosting the Montgomery Co First BBQ Smoke Off contest. July 2 from 4-9 pm at Pike Place Plaza Crawfordsville. Entertainment, family activities food and drinks Residents from around the area signed up to smoke meat all day then to be judged later that evening; Along with other local residents.

**➤ TODAY'S QUOTE**

"It is by the goodness of God that in our country we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either of them."  
-Mark Twain

**➤ TODAY'S JOKE**

Did you hear that a battery and a firecracker were arrested? Yup, they charged one and let the other one off.





## Pittsboro Teen Selected As Second Runner-Up In National Scholarship Competition

On Saturday, June 24, Madison Parker of Pittsboro was selected as the second runner-up in the Distinguished Young Women National Finals competition and was presented with a cash scholarship of \$15,000. Parker earned preliminary competition awards in the fitness category for \$1,000 in additional cash scholarships.

Following a selection process that began in her home state of Indiana, Parker began preparing for the 66th annual scholarship competition. The competition was held at the Mobile Civic Center in Mobile, Alabama, Thursday, June 22 was the first night of preliminary competition and Friday, June

23 was the second night of preliminary competition.

Parker is a graduate of Tri-West Hendricks High School. In the fall, she will attend the Rose Hulman Institute of Technology with plans to become a biomedical engineer. She is the daughter of Lori and William Parker.

Carrington Hodge of Helena, was selected as the Distinguished Young Woman of America for 2023 and presented with a \$40,000 cash scholarship. Maggie Haimelin of Tennessee was selected as first runner-up and Megan Tandar of Utah was selected as third runner-up. \$155,000 in total cash scholarships was awarded during the three-day competition.

## Franciscan Health Donates Office, Property To Habitat For Humanity

With an eye toward expanding its mission of building affordable housing, Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette has accepted a donation of property and office space from Franciscan Health.

The property at 920 N. 14th Street at the Franciscan Health Lafayette Central building in Lafayette was donated on May 31 after approval of the transfer by Bishop Timothy Doherty of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana and Franciscan Health's executive committee.

The official donation followed a one-year lease of the property to the organization to make

sure the space would be appropriate for its long-term needs. Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Bob Anderson first toured the property in August 2021 with Franciscan Health Western Indiana Vice President of Administrative Services Sister Aline Shultz, OSF, to discuss the possibility of using the office space.

"At the time our offices were in three different building locations, and this simply wasn't the best scenario for a team that must work together," Anderson said. "The new office space has allowed our Habitat team to be more efficient, and because of that, we are

able to better impact our community with affordable housing. We are a growing team, so the extra offices allow for our team to grow under one roof."

Franciscan Health Western Indiana President and CEO Terry Wilson said, "Franciscan is always happy to apply our resources in the communities we serve, especially in the neighborhood around our Central Campus where our Sisters started their healthcare ministry in 1876. Habitat is a wonderful asset in this community, and many others, and a great fit with our Franciscan mission."

Anderson says the location allows greater visibility in the Lincoln neighborhood, where four projects are underway. "Our Habitat affiliate covers six counties but most of our work happens in Tippecanoe. We are so thankful to Sister Aline and all those at Franciscan for their generosity. The impact of this facility will pay it forward for many years to come as Habitat for Humanity makes an impact on affordable housing. We believe that everyone should have a decent place to live, and this gift of an office space will help us as we continue to deliver on that vision," he said.

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THE PAPER OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
 (USPS 022-679)

April 19, 2023 Volume 20 Number 16

Published Wednesdays (except for holidays)  
 Subscription price: \$44/6 mos.; \$79/1 year.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Crawfordsville, Ind.  
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Paper of Montgomery County, 127 E Main St. Suite 103, Crawfordsville, IN 47933

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**Thanks for reading The Paper!**



# INDOT hosts ribbon cutting for I-65 / State Road 267 and I65 / County Road 550 Diverging Diamond Interchanges Near Whitestown

Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner Mike Smith was joined by state legislators, local officials, and industry partners at a ribbon cutting ceremony for two new diverging diamond interchanges (DDI) on Interstate 65

near Whitestown in Boone County. "The Whitestown area is one of the fastest growing communities in Indiana and nationally," said INDOT Commissioner Mike Smith. "These interchanges will increase the safety and ef-

iciency of traffic flow for residents and businesses as both the population and economy continue to grow in this part of the Hoosier state." The \$62.9 million project constructed by E&B Paving, Inc. included the redesign and recon-

struction of the existing interchange at I-65 and S.R. 267/Albert S. White Drive from a traditional diamond interchange to a DDI and construction of a new DDI approximately 1.5 miles at I-65 and County Road 550 South. DDIs are designed to

be safer, more efficient, and more cost effective than traditional diamond interchanges. DDI's improve traffic flow at interchanges by briefly shifting traffic on the route intersecting the interstate to the opposite side of the road reducing

conflict points between through traffic and traffic entering and exiting the interstate. When entering a DDI, drivers cross over to the left side of the road, guided by signals, signs, and pavement markings to ensure safety.



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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

STATE OF INDIANA IN THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURT  
 COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY CAUSE NO. 54D02-2305-DN-000380  
 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:  
 Tonya Siler  
 Petitioner  
 v.  
 Gerald L Siler  
 Respondent.

**SUMMONS**  
 [For Dissolution of Marriage Cases Only]  
 The State of Indiana to Respondent: Gerald Siler  
 815 N 12th street  
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You have been sued by your spouse for dissolution of marriage. The case is pending in the Court named above.

If this Summons is accompanied by an Order Setting Hearing, you must appear in Court on the date and time stated on the Order Setting Hearing. IF YOU DO NOT APPEAR, EVIDENCE MAY BE HEARD AND A DECISION MAY BE MADE BY THE COURT. If a Temporary Restraining Order is issued, it is effective immediately upon your receipt or knowledge of the Order.

If you wish to retain an attorney to represent you in the matter, it is advisable to do so before the date stated on the Notice of Provisional Hearing.

If you take no action in this case after receipt of this Summons, the Court can grant a Dissolution of Marriage and/or make determinations that may include but not limited to any of the following: paternity, child custody, child support, maintenance, parenting time, property (real or personal), and other distribution of assets and debt, attorney fees and costs.

Dated: May 1, 2023

Karyn Douglas  
 Clerk, Montgomery County  
 PL4674 6/28 7/5 7/12 31 hspaxlp

**Reconstruction of Richard Virts #560**  
 Per IC 36-9-27-52, on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 the Montgomery County Drainage Board determined that the costs, damages and expenses of the proposed reconstruction are less than the benefits accruing to the owners of lands benefited by the reconstruction. The Board adopted the reconstruction report of the county surveyor and the schedule of damages and assessments including annual assessments for periodic maintenance into its findings.

An order declaring the proposed reconstruction is established. The findings and order of the board have been filed and are available for inspection in the office of the surveyor.

Unless judicial review of the findings and order of the board is requested under IC 36-9-27-106 within twenty (20) days after publication of this notice, the findings and order are conclusive.

PL4673 6/28 1t hspaxlp

**Reconstruction of Charles McFarland 545**  
 Per IC 36-9-27-52, on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 the Montgomery County Drainage Board determined that the costs, damages and expenses of the proposed reconstruction are less than the benefits accruing to the owners of lands benefited by the reconstruction. The Board adopted the reconstruction report of the county surveyor and the schedule of damages and assessments including annual assessments for periodic maintenance into its findings.

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Unless judicial review of the findings and order of the board is requested under IC 36-9-27-106 within twenty (20) days after publication of this notice, the findings and order are conclusive.

PL4672 6/28 1t hspaxlp

**Reconstruction of James Wilson**  
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PL4671 6/28 1t hspaxlp

**54D02-2306-EU-000047**  
**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION**  
 In the Montgomery Superior Court 2 of Montgomery County, Indiana Notice is hereby given that Jeffrey D. Stuckey was on June 16, 2023, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Randall A. Stuckey, deceased, who died on the 11th day of May, 2023, and authorized by the Court to proceed with unsupervised administration of said estate.

All persons having claims against said estate, whether or not now due, must file the same in said court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or said claims will be forever barred.

Dated: June 16, 2023

Karyn Douglas, Clerk  
 Montgomery Superior Court 2 for  
 Montgomery County, Indiana

Robert S. Laszynski, Attorney  
 For the Personal Representative  
 LASZYNSKI & MOORE  
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PL4670 6/28 7/5 2t hspaxlp

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power**  
 PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to 170 Ind. Admin. Code 1-6-6, that on or about on or about June 15, 2023, the City of Crawfordsville, Indiana, by its municipal electric utility, Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power ("CELP"), expects to file with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission ("IURC"), under its 30-day filing procedure, a request seeking Commission approval of an increase in its Green Power Rider. This Rider is applicable to all participating CELP customers, and will be increased from thirty cents (\$0.30) per 100 kWh block, to one-half cent (\$.005) per kWh (which is equivalent to fifty cents (\$.50) per 100 kWh) designated per month for Green Power. Approval of this filing is expected by July 15, 2023, but no sooner than 30 days after receipt of the filing by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. Objections to the filing should be made in writing addressed to:

Dana Kosco  
 Secretary to the Commission  
 Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
 PNC Center  
 101 W. Washington St.  
 Suite 1500 East  
 Indianapolis, IN 46204

William I Fine  
 Indiana Utility Consumer Counselor  
 Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor  
 PNC Center  
 115 W. Washington St.  
 Suite 1500 South  
 Indianapolis, IN 46204

Allison S. Huenemann, Manager  
 Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power  
 808 Lafayette Rd.  
 Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
 765-362-1900

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**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE**  
 By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of Montgomery Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No. 54C01-2212-MF-001099, wherein Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC was Plaintiff, and Stacia L. Hiller and PNC Mortgage, a division of PNC Bank, National Association were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 9th day of August, 2023, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 600 Memorial Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana.

PART OF THE WEST HALF OF LOT NUMBERED SEVEN (7) AS THE SAME IS KNOWN AND DESIGNATED ON THE ORIGINAL PLAT OF THE TOWN OF LONGVIEW, NOW A PART OF THE CITY OF CRAWFORDSVILLE, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT 50 FEET SOUTH OF THE NORTH WEST CORNER OF SAID LOT AND RUNNING THENCE EAST 150 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A POINT IN THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST HALF OF SAID LOT; THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE EAST LINE OF WEST HALF OF SAID LOT 50 FEET; THENCE WEST 150 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A POINT TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT; THENCE NORTH 50 FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, INDIANA.

More commonly known as 204 S Barr St, Crawfordsville, IN 47933-2303  
 Parcel No. 54-07-31-334-098.000-030

Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.

/s/ Matthew S. Love  
 MATTHEW S. LOVE, Plaintiff Attorney  
 Attorney # 18762-29  
 FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C.  
 8415 Allison Pointe Blvd., Suite 400  
 Indianapolis, IN 46250  
 (317) 237-2727  
 Ryan Needham, Sheriff  
 Union Township  
 The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein.

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# Tuition Hikes On The Way For Indiana's Public Colleges And Universities, With Fewer Students Going

By Casey Smith  
 Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana's public colleges and universities are slated to increase tuition and fees over the biennium — up to 4.9% per year — despite pushback from some state lawmakers and budget officials.

Representatives from Indiana's Commission for Higher Education (CHE) told the State Budget Committee last week that if tuition and fees must go up, the increase should be no greater than 3.5% each year.

Price hikes at six Indiana institutions will be at or below CHE's target. Ivy Tech Community College is expected to increase its attendance costs by up to 5.9% by 2026, however.

CHE commissioner Chris Lowery emphasized that at Indiana's public four-year colleges, in-state tuition and mandatory fee rates fell by an average of 2.1% annually over the last decade — the sixth largest decline in the nation.

"Indiana's public institutions have been doing a good job in keeping tuition and fees at a reasonable rate for consumers," he said. "We have great institutions, and they're holding the line on costs."

But Seth Hinshaw, associate commissioner for finance and operations, noted "just how dramatic the increase in inflation has been," specifically in the last two years. State schools have seen a nearly 26% increase in inflation from 2013, Hinshaw said. About 14% of the inflationary increase has occurred just since 2020.

### Students face higher college costs

Tuition and fees at Ball State University and across the Indiana University system are slated to increase by 3% over the next two years. Indiana State University will raise costs by about 2.67% each year, while the University of Southern Indiana will go up 3.26%. Vincennes University approved 3.5%-per-year increases.

Purdue University's West Lafayette campus will continue a decade-long freeze on tuition and fees at \$9,992 per year. But the Purdue Northwest and Fort Wayne campuses will see 3% increases over the biennium.

In addition to tuition, mandatory fees are paid by all students at a college or university, including for health services, campus transportation and technology use. CHE does not track other non-mandatory fees imposed by schools, though, such as those for individual classes or student activities.

Key in Indiana's next two-year budget are funding increases for the state's higher education institutions — up 4% in the 2024 fiscal year and 6% in 2025 compared to appropriation levels in the last budget. That's equal to \$130 million in new money over the biennium.

But how much each state school gets will be determined by a new outcomes-based funding formula that is based on school-specific goals, rather than blanket recommendations.

At the heart of the current funding model, Indiana's public higher education institutions are rewarded for growth, all based on the same five metrics. The model also uses averages over the last few recent years for various factors — such as on-time degree completion — to calculate the state's fiscal responsibility moving forward.

CHE officials and state lawmakers agreed that Indiana should move away from that type of funding approach, and the new model will instead provide flexibility for institutions to work towards more individualized growth targets.

### New goals for state schools — with some hesitation

The goal is to make Indiana a top-10 state for enrollment in post-high school training and education for both youth and adults. The changes also intend to increase degree completions and overall graduate retention. Prospective funding for post-secondary institutions — meaning the additional funding a college or university can earn on top of its base funding — will be gauged by each school's progress toward those goals.

So, if a college meets 80% of its degree completion goal, the school gets 80% of the additional funding it qualifies for. Whatever is earned in the first year of the biennium is guaranteed in the second, with the opportunity to earn the remaining 20% of extra dollars in year two.

But after Ivy Tech Community College spoke out against the new outcomes-based funding model late last year, the state's largest public post-secondary institution will have its own formula.

Legislators carved out a separate funding plan in the state budget that allows Ivy Tech's goals to continue to center around employer needs, as well as increased wage outcomes and stackable credentials for students.

The community college previously maintained that — under the funding model for all other higher education institutions — recent progress made by Ivy Tech wouldn't be rewarded, which could mean millions of dollars were no longer guaranteed.

"By breaking out each institution into being measured only against themselves, it allows us to provide more variety in the weighting that we provide to each of these institutions and each of these metrics categories," Lowery said. "I'm convinced — we're convinced — that Indiana has what it takes — has the institutions, has the

people — to be top 10 in these areas, and that it's going to benefit individual Hoosiers, our employer partners around the state, and frankly, our communities, too."

Still, Sen. Chris Gerten, R-Charlestown, who sits on the State Budget Committee, said he has "a really hard time" dedicating 15% of high education funds to enrollment-boosting efforts. Additionally, he questioned whether the award-based model has forced institutions to raise tuition because some of their prospective funding is unknown.

"To me, if I relate this to the private sector, this is a business model that's compensating a salesperson on cold calls that create no outcome," Gerten said. "I do find it a little bit ironic that this is an outcomes-based formula that we're dedicating 15% of the monies to that has nothing to do with outcomes."

"I don't think enrollment outcomes are related," he continued. "I think if we're more heavily focused on the completions, that will drive enrollment organically — it has to."

Hinshaw maintained that the outcomes-based performance funding formula "is a large sum of money, but it is larger to some institutions than to others." The formula was created to ensure that whatever each institution earns in year one of the biennium is also earned, at minimum, in year two.

"I feel pretty confident in saying that — while absolutely institutions have the responsibility to set their tuition and fees ... that new funding that's at risk is, frankly, probably less substantial than even a 1% enrollment change for that institution," he said.

### College-going rate 'not improved'

Lowery also indicated that Indiana's already dismal college-going rate has declined by roughly another half-percent.

Data released last year showed that only half of Indiana's 2020 high school graduates pursued some form of college education beyond high school. The drop marked the state's lowest college-going rate in recent history, but the decline has been ongoing for the last five years.

Of those high school graduates who attend college, only two thirds are on track to complete a degree.

Official numbers for 2021 are expected to be released in the coming weeks.

"The fact of the matter is, the college going rate for youth ... it's not improved," Lowery said, adding that the adult going rate has declined at almost the same rate. "It hasn't declined as much ... but while the improvements have been good, they're just not good enough. We're expecting to see improvements based upon the actions that are being

taken and have been taken the past year.

State lawmakers made efforts in the most recent legislative session to get more Hoosiers educated. That included automatic enrollment for 21st Century Scholars — a statewide grant program that funds lower income student attendance at two- and four-year schools — and a requirement for all high school seniors to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

A new partnership between CHE and many of Indiana's higher education institutions will also ensure that rising high school seniors statewide gain "pre-admission" letters from at least three schools.

"Short term certificates through associate degrees, bachelor's, master's, doctorate degrees — we need all of those things," Lowery said.

Sen. Fady Qaddoura, D-Indianapolis, also on the budget committee, called for CHE to further investigate why Hoosier students aren't pursuing degrees. That way, state officials can better address the college-going decline more directly.

"I think we've reached a point that we cannot continue to do things the same as over the last 30 years. And we need to truly invest in understanding the why, because otherwise, next session, we're going to come back with five pieces of new legislation, thinking that the decline is going to be a little bit less than the year before," Qaddoura said. "If you ask me about the one major policy that keeps me up at night, it would be the state's difficulty of not being able to improve these statistics, because our economy is dependent on those students graduating."

Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, said lowering tuition is still the best answer.

"We have declining enrollment. I understand math — we lost about 25,000 students from our public higher education in the last five or six years. In normal market thoughts, we would be lowering the tuition," he said. "And if we're going to have incentives, they ought to reach the customer, not the intermediary. Telling a parent that if more kids enroll and more kids complete on time, the university will get more money. It's not going to sell them anything. They're not going to see that. So what's wrong with lowering tuition? I think we have great schools, and our customers aren't showing up."

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Photo courtesy of Purdue University/John Underwood

**Andrew Whelton, a professor at Purdue University, is helping communities to more quickly decontaminate water systems following wildfires.**

### Expert: How Wildfires Contaminate Drinking Water

As wildfire season continues, a Purdue University professor is sharing his expertise on how fire damage can impact drinking water.

Andrew Whelton, a Purdue professor of civil engineering and environmental and ecological engineering, has traveled numerous times to the sites of wildfires, where he and his students collect water samples to help guide a community on the best way to restore its water systems.

This research is expected to lead to the first national recommendations on the roles and responsibilities of utilities and federal and state agencies for addressing drinking water contamination caused by wildfires. Later this year, the recommendations will be published as a

“concept of operations plan” written by Whelton and funded by the Water Research Foundation.

Whelton also provides assistance from afar to communities experiencing post-wildfire drinking water contamination and regularly speaks with disaster response groups across the world to increase awareness of the problem.

This spring, Whelton traveled to Europe, where he met with public health groups and researchers who were seeking to better understand drinking water contamination after witnessing Europe’s second worst wildfire season last year.

Whelton and his students have published several milestone papers since testing water samples from the sites of the

most destructive wildfires in California and Colorado over the past few years. These studies provided some of the earliest evidence suggesting that chemicals called volatile organic compounds enter drinking water when wildfires degrade plastic pipes. Whelton’s research group also was the first to publish on how wildfires contaminate private drinking water wells, a study his team conducted based on samples from Colorado’s 2021 Marshall Fire.

The team recently published a paper with findings on how benzene, a chemical leached from heat-degraded pipes, contaminates water softeners. Other upcoming papers look at how wildfire contamination affects plastics used for soda fountains and appliances.

## State Farm Provides Storm Recovery Tips And Early Insurance Claims Count In Indiana

Following the tornado and hail storms that impacted many communities in Indiana on Sunday, State Farm has begun deploying resources to help residents begin recovery efforts. To assist customers with the claims process, State Farm has several options that includes filing online ([www.statefarm.com/claims](http://www.statefarm.com/claims)), State Farm mobile app, contacting your State Farm agent, or calling 1-800-SF-Claim (1-800-732-5246).

State Farm has received approximately 755 home and auto claims in Indiana as a result of the storms. Because of power outages and damage as a result of the storms, we expect the claim count to increase over the next few days.

Please consider sharing these important tips with viewers to help recovery efforts or filing a claim. Please let me know if you have any inquiries or a request for an interview.

People can begin the clean-up process but don’t forget the proper safety gear, such as goggles, hard hats, masks, and heavy gloves.

Don’t discard or repair anything prior to report-

ing the claim.

- Examine the area for hazards: Before any cleanup, survey the property. If there are any unusual odors, water near electrical appliances or outlets, the structure of the building is questionable or you see any chemicals in the water, check with your local authorities and utilities to make sure it’s safe to return.

- Document and photograph everything: To assist with the insurance claim process, be sure to document items that are damaged. You can do this by providing purchase receipts for the damaged items, photographing the items and by making a room-by-room inventory of missing or damaged goods.

- Start the cleanup: Keep track of the time and money you spend protecting your property. If you decide to use a contractor, get a receipt for the cost of labor and materials to give your claim representative. Don’t have any repair work done until you discuss them with your claim representative.

\*\*\*

#### Avoiding Contractor

**Fraud:** Before installing a new roof or having repairs made, consider the following:

- DO NOT PAY UP-FRONT. Do not sign any contracts or place a deposit for work before speaking to your insurance claims adjuster.

- Get multiple quotes from local established businesses.

- Verify references: Look into professional affiliations and Better Business Bureau reports, and follow up on references from previous clients. Seek an established, licensed, or bonded roofer and request references.

- Check for up-to-date licenses, and verify insurance protection. Ask to see certificates of liability and workers compensation insurance coverage to help ensure it is current and will be in force during the time roofing work is being completed.

- Insist on written estimates and a contract that includes contact information, important dates, and a breakdown of costs.

- Use caution (ask questions) before accepting a bid substantially lower than other bids covering the same repair work.



## 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.  
No payment will be due at the time of registration.

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# The Paper of Montgomery County

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**TIM** From Page A1

pointing today. If we are to survive – and there’s no law that says we have to – we better find some common ground, or at the very least agree to disagree – and find a way for us all to live with that instead of gearing up for a fight.

Why? Married? Think of it like a terrible, terrible fight with your spouse – a fight that goes about as bad as it can and then one of you wins and the other loses.

How’s that working out for the one on the short end?

A school teacher once told me that honors and advanced classes were created not just to help the best and brightest, but to ensure that the students who struggled the most – you know, my group – didn’t get left behind. Teachers at all levels could concentrate on helping students succeed, and grow, and advance.

That’s kind of the way our country used to be. We clearly valued the best and brightest – setting them up as role models, putting them in positions of leadership . . . But now it’s gone the other way. We almost shun the best and brightest. If someone does everything right and builds a good future for themselves, they become the enemy. Doesn’t matter if it’s as simple as diet and taking care of themselves (body shaming) or if they build a business and wealth, they are no longer to be looked up to, to be a shining example.

Instead, under the concept of inclusion, we put others on the pedestal. We no longer aim high. We don’t want to offend anyone, so we’ve lowered our standards. Greatly.

We celebrate spending more than we earn – following our government’s lead. We completely devalue life, whether it’s in a womb or on a street waiting to be gunned down. We pooh-pooh law and order, going so far as to make things legal that just a few years ago were unthinkable. We have thrown away decades of improving relations – between races, between sexes, between lifestyles – and drawn harsh lines that clearly leave deep, deep

divisions.

For what? Are we a better country on the cusp of birthday 237 than we were say at 220? 225? 200? I think we all know the answer to that.

Let’s be clear though. The answer is still inclusion. It always has been. We need to embrace our fellow citizens, regardless of our differences. We simply need to stop cramming those differences down throats that don’t want to be crammed.

We need to do that because America has given us so much. So very much . . . and it all started with a small group saying they were fed up.

Sound familiar? Again, how?

Where do we go from here? Armed rebellion sure isn’t the answer. Do you want to be the guy bringing a gun to an F-16 fight? The answer can’t be violence. It has to be much smarter than that. It has to effect real change.

We have to.

Our current model is unsustainable. It’s not sustainable internally. We’re going broke. Parts of our society – our brothers and sisters – hate each other. It’s not sustainable externally. Did you hear the news that China is looking to establish a military presence in Cuba? In 1962, the idea of the Russians doing that with nuclear missiles brought the world to the brink of unthinkable war. How well will you sleep with China 90 miles from our border?

Like my friend John Hammer said, we’re fixing to come up a bad cloud. Whether it us, wokeism, Biden, Trump, the Chinese, Russians . . . we need to find some answers . . . and quickly.

Next week, we turn 237. Does anyone believe that unless something changes America won’t last another 237? Even 7? If not, then the overriding question is this: When are we going to do something about it?

*-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 timmons@thepaper24-7.com.*

**LWV** From Page A1

from Owens Valley east of the Sierra Nevada mountains to Los Angeles. Interludes about water conservation, rain generation, soil health and water ecosystems tutor viewers to be able to see and reflect on the fragility and centrality of rainfall and water retention in all of our lives.

The L.A. aqueduct was opened in 1913, but by the 1920s it had drained Owens Lake. As of 2013 (according to Wikipedia), Owens Lake is the largest single source of dust pollution in the U.S., despite a 2004 court order for the L.A. Department of Water and Power to mitigate the dust (which they have worked on).

As revealed in the film, L.A. receives 10 to 15 inches of rain per year, adequate to meet the needs of all of the residents. But two-thirds of the city is paved, so most of the rain runs off into the L.A. aqueduct and runs into the Pacific Ocean. Prior to a legal change about a decade ago, L.A. residents (as with much of the southwest) did not have the water rights to the rainwater that landed on their roofs. Thus it was illegal to capture rainwater. Now, however, this water can be recaptured and reused, rather than letting it run into the ocean.

The movie contained a number of interesting facts. Inland rain is mostly from tree and other plant sweat (eew?). (Ocean rain is from evaporation from the ocean.) This also means that if inland areas dry up (such as Owens Lake) and the vegetation dies, there is nothing to produce rain, and the environment spirals into a desiccated landscape.

Another interesting fact is that if soil is hotter than air it repels water, rather than letting it seep in. Healthy soil, containing bacteria and fungi, holds onto water. Tillage of fields kills the soil, which then requires the nutrients to be replenished by spraying; one specialist interviewed in the film referred to this as chemotherapy. Instead, leave the root beds. Cut off the previous crop of veggies at the level of the soil, leaving

the roots. Then plant the next crop on top of these. Tree roots also provide an ecosystem for critters and fungi, to act as a sponge to soak up water, purifying it in the process.

In one scene people built a lakebed. When the rains came and filled up the lake, microorganisms proliferated, birds came, the variety of birds expanded, and the water wicked up into the surrounding landscape, greening it, similar to how a napkin placed in a glass of water will wick up the water. Healthy soil allows for this system to function well.

As one of the specialists interviewed in the film said, “a flood is having more water come down than can be absorbed by the ground.” Healthy trees and healthy root beds lead to healthy soil that can act as a sponge and absorb the water, filtering it down to replenish the aquifers, rather than letting it become a flood.

We invite others to join us for viewing and discussion, for one or both of the remaining 2023 Green Issues movies, sponsored by Wabash College and the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County. On Wednesday, July 19 we will show The Plastic Cup: The Official Story of the Plastic Pirates (a race with boats made from found plastic bottles). Wednesday, Aug. 9, we will have a double-header with Into the Dark (an expedition into the darkest regions of the Arctic) and Evergreen (a documentary on the building of a timber house by Wabash Religion Professor Derek Nelson, who will be present for the showing). Both movies are at Korb Recital Hall, Wabash College Fine Arts Center on Grant Avenue, at 7 p.m. We hope to see many of you there!

*-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*

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