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**➔ TODAY'S VERSE**

Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

**➔ FACES OF MONTGOMERY**

People who call our community their own.



Lily, Doris (Owner) and Kimberly of the Breakfast Club offered one of our roving photographers winning smiles while accepting their Readers' Choice 2023 Award. Thank you for your smiles!

**➔ THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** State Sen. Brian Buchanan (R-Lebanon) will serve as chair of the Interim Study Committee on Pension Management Oversight and as a member of several other study committees in preparation for the 2024 legislative session. "I am honored to serve as chair of the pension management oversight study committee," Buchanan said. "These committees give lawmakers an opportunity to take in-depth looks into important issues impacting Hoosiers, and I look forward to discussing topics surrounding Indiana's pension programs so we can ensure we keep our commitments to the men and women who have faithfully served our state."

**2** Purdue University has once again attained international acclaim, earning a top-10 spot among the most prominent and recognized universities worldwide in the Global University Visibility rankings. In the rankings, conducted by the Washington, D.C.-based firm American Caldwell, Purdue is the only university from the state of Indiana to make the list, coming in at No. 3 among U.S. public universities and No. 10 globally, and ahead of institutions such as the University of Cambridge, Yale University and UCLA.

**3** A patent-pending method developed by Purdue University researchers brings the public one step closer to clothes with wearable electronics that don't affect the wearer's comfort. Wearable electronics that monitor bioinformation like blood pressure, body temperature and respiratory patterns have become prominent in research. Traditional wearable devices such as health-monitoring systems, however, are hard and inflexible, which makes them difficult to wear for extended periods of time.

# The Paper

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**Butch Says To Relax...You Have Finally Arrived!**



**BUTCH DALE**  
Columnist

I can't believe it. I just CANNOT believe it! I will soon be 75 years old. Three quarters of a century. My Lord, wasn't it just last week that

I pitched a game for the good ol' Darlington Indians? ...that I enjoyed a sawdust sundae at Arthur Friend's drug store? ...that I drove up north in Dad's old station wagon for a date with a cute gal from Clarks Hill? Did those things really happen 59 years ago? Well, numbers don't lie... (except in the last Presidential election) ...so I guess it's true.

I must now face the fact that I have reached "old-timer" status. Perhaps some of you are in the same category. But wait. Don't despair. Don't become depressed. Don't sit around and sulk. There are many benefits to reaching "old age" and beyond... for instance:

1. No one can tell you anything because you have already done everything and know all the answers.
2. You don't need to impress people because you don't give a hoot what they think.
3. You don't have to lie about your age because sometimes you can't even remember it.
4. You can wear whatever you want because young people expect you to dress goofy anyway. Who said white loafers, giant

gold medallion necklaces, leisure suits, platform shoes, and poodle skirts are out of fashion?

5. You can stay up as late as you want, and sleep whenever you feel like it...even when driving.

6. You can read a good book, drink a little wine, put on a party hat, blow your kazoo, give your soulmate a kiss, and go to bed at 10pm on New Year's Eve.

7. And... you can take your time when it comes to the romance department. After all, it may take a few minutes for those pills to work.

8. You can keep your math skills sharp by counting all of your prescription pills each morning and before bedtime.

9. You can do anything on the spur of the moment, and if your kids don't like it, tell them to mind their own business or you won't leave them anything in your will.

10. You can tell your family that you are going to buy a little moped or motorized scooter chair...but then go out and buy a Harley Davidson and a Corvette...Whoopee!

11. You can drive 30 mph down the middle of the road and make fifty cars back up behind you...and then you can look in the rearview mirror and smile.

12. You can order all of the stupid things you see on TV commercials... "My Pillow," "Super Beet" gummies, "Beach Blanket Bingo" DVD, "Neckline Slimmer," "WaxVac Ear Cleaner," and the "Donald Trump

Chia-Pet." Go ahead...use your kids' Visa card!

12. You can grab a bottle of whiskey and go to a Kid Rock concert. Since you paid for your kids' college, they can bail you out of jail.

13. If some whippersnapper tries to inform you that you don't know what you're talking about, you can tell him that you have forgotten more than he will ever know.

14. If a criminal approaches you with a gun and tries to rob you, hand over a quarter, give him a big hug, and tell him to go ahead and shoot.

15. If there is someone who did you wrong in the past, you can tell them that you forgive them and want to be their new friend. If they reject your offer, you can say, "Well, thanks...I never liked you anyway."

16. You can spoil your grandkids and tell them all of the stupid things their parents did... and then send them back home.

17. And finally...you can sit in your favorite easy chair after the evening meal, have a cup of coffee, read the paper, thank the Lord for all of your life's blessings...and then plan all of the fun activities, good deeds, and crazy things you can do tomorrow!

*-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 well-known artist and author of local history.*

**The Montgomery County Wellness Coalition Launches Free Veggie Libraries in Crawfordsville This Summer!**



**MONICA NAGELE**  
Purdue Extension Office



The Montgomery County Wellness Coalition is excited to announce the launch of free veggie libraries in C-Ville this summer, aimed at increasing access to fresh produce for residents throughout

the town. With the goal of promoting a healthier community, individuals are encouraged to take what they need and share some to feed others in need. The veggie libraries can be found at 2 convenient locations including the Free Clinic and the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. We plan to expand to additional locations when additional produce is ready.

Due to the dry summer season, many gardens have ex-

perienced a delayed start. We kindly ask for your patience as we initiate this important initiative. We encourage you to check back regularly for a variety of delicious produce.

Furthermore, the Montgomery County Wellness Coalition is seeking donations of fresh fruits and vegetables to stock the veggie libraries. This presents an excellent opportunity for gardeners to share the fruits (or veggies) of their labor and contribute to the betterment of our community. Additionally, it offers a convenient way to make use of any surplus zucchini or tomatoes. Feel free to select one or multiple locations of your choice and drop off produce at your convenience.

Whether you are seeking fresh, local, and free fruits and vegetables for yourself, your family, or your friends, the veggie libraries are open to everyone in the community. We encourage you to come and choose what you'd like. Together, we can ensure that nutritious food is accessible

to all.

In order to maintain the quality and freshness of the produce, we kindly request that if you come across any expired items, please dispose of them or inform us. For any inquiries or to report expired produce, please contact the Montgomery County Extension Office at (765) 364-6363.

If you would like to learn more or stay updated on this initiative, we invite you to get in touch with the Montgomery County Extension Office, the Health Department, or Purdue Extension.

\*\*\*  
**About the Montgomery County Wellness Coalition:**

The Montgomery County Wellness Coalition is dedicated to promoting collaboration and providing centralized access to community resources. Through shared value strategies addressing health equity, the coalition strives to create healthy connected communities that improve individuals'

**The Daily Almanac**

**Sunrise/Sunset**  
 RISE: 6:29 a.m.  
 SET: 9:17 p.m.

**High/Low Temperatures**  
 High: 90 °F  
 Low: 70 °F

**Today is...**  
 • Gummi Worm Day  
 • Orange Chicken Day  
 • Saint Swithin's Day

**What Happened On This Day**  
 • 1996 MSNBC is launched.  
 • 1983 Orly Airport attack.  
 • 1799 The Rosetta Stone is found.

**Births On This Day**  
 • 1950 Arianna Huffington Greek/American author, columnist, founded The Huffington Post  
 • 1606 Rembrandt Dutch painter

**Deaths On This Day**  
 • 1904 Anton Chekhov Russian physician, author  
 • 1521 Juan Ponce de León Spanish explorer, 1st Governor of Puerto Rico

**MoCo Legislators Spotlight New State Laws Now In Effect**

New state laws supporting Hoosiers and backed by local lawmakers during the 2023 legislative session are now in effect.

"This session we focused on Hoosiers' priorities and that included making sure they keep more of their hard-earned money through additional tax relief," said State Rep. Beau Baird (R-Greencastle), a member of the House Ways and Means Committee. "We also built on our efforts to expand mental health access and affordability, because there's growing demand for these services across our state."

Most legislation passed during the recent session took effect at the beginning of the state's new fiscal year on July 1.

Under the state's newly passed state budget, authored by State Rep. Jeff Thompson (R-Lizton), taxpayers are expected to save an estimated

➔ See EXTENSION Page A5

➔ See LAWS Page A5

**➔ HONEST HOOSIER**

Here's an idea. Celebrate Halloween now, because when you show up at someone's door in a mask this month, you'll get better stuff.



**➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

Kindness is contagious - surround yourself with giving people. 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.



**➔ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION**

Kenny Thompson.....A3  
 Classifieds.....A3  
 Dick Wolfsie.....A4

**➔ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE**  
**School Lists And Registration**

Be on the lookout for those school registration emails and be sure to look on the school websites or our website to find lists of school supplies!

**➔ TODAY'S QUOTE**

"Misers are no fun to live with, but they make great ancestors."  
 -Tom Snyder

**➔ TODAY'S JOKE**

The grumpy old man told his wife he was like a fine wine in that he got better with age.  
 So she locked him in the cellar.

**➔ OBITUARIES**

None

The Paper appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank **WILLIAM BARTLEY** for subscribing!



**13 WTHR** **7 DAY FORECAST**

69/86 HUMID, STORM CHANCE	70/90 HUMID, STORM CHANCE	70/86 SCATTERED	68/86 MAINLY SUNNY, SLIGHT CHANCE	66/86 STORM CHANCE	66/83 CHANCE EARLY	64/86 MAINLY SUNNY
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED

## Gov. Holcomb Announces 4th Round Of Next Level Connections Broadband Grants \$80 Million Available For Local Communities To Increase Broadband Coverage.

Governor Eric J. Holcomb announced today the fourth and final round of Indiana's Next Level Connections Broadband Grant Program is now open for applications.

The NLC grant program, which seeks to bridge the digital divide by bringing high-quality, reliable broadband to unserved and underserved parts of Indiana, began as part of Gov. Holcomb's Next Level Connections initiative, a \$1 billion statewide infrastructure program announced in 2018.

"As a state, since 2018 we have made unprecedented investments in connecting Indiana residents to their neighbors, schools and the rest of the world like never before in our history," Gov.

Holcomb said. "This final round of Next Level Connections Broadband Grant Program funding will be yet another critical component of the transition to the recently announced \$868 million of additional funding from the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program to connect more Hoosiers to begin being implemented next year and beyond."

With \$80 million remaining in state funds and federal Capital Project Funds appropriated by the Indiana General Assembly for Next Level Connections Broadband Grant Program, this round will provide a maximum of \$5 million per grant to fund projects by telecommunications providers and utility cooperatives. Service providers must

provide a minimum 20 percent match of the total allowable project costs. In Round 4 of the NLC program, local governments will inform the State of unserved or underserved areas in their communities.

Since 2019, the Next Level Connections Broadband Grant Program awarded more than \$249 million to 187 projects, for a total investment of \$547 million with local matching funds. These previously awarded projects will bring broadband infrastructure to more than 69,154 homes, commercial locations, and anchor institutions, such as schools, universities, hospitals or major employers, in 81 counties.

"Whether I'm meeting with realtors in Allen

County or farmers in Montgomery County, access to affordable and reliable high-speed connectivity is the number one priority around Indiana," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "As a state, we are aggressively closing the gap between Hoosiers who have broadband and Hoosiers who do not. This grant money, combined with the matching funds required by the providers, will get Indiana closer to complete broadband saturation.

Applications and more information can be found at [www.ocra.in.gov/nlc](http://www.ocra.in.gov/nlc). For questions on grant applications, contact [nlc@ocra.in.gov](mailto:nlc@ocra.in.gov).

## Indiana Chamber Scores Legislators On 2023 Voting Records

The Indiana Chamber of Commerce has released its 39th annual report scoring state legislators on how they voted on important business legislation in the recent General Assembly session. The overall marks are slightly higher than last year – ranging from 44% to 93%.

"The Legislative Vote Analysis serves as an essential guide in keeping track of Hoosier legislators to ensure they are putting forth measures that will continue the positive economic trajectory of our state and keep us atop business rankings in the Midwest and beyond," says Indiana Chamber President and CEO Kevin Brinegar.

"It was a welcome sight to see support for small business tax relief and workforce development initiatives. However, this was the third rather challenging session in a row with a variety of new, business-hostile legislation introduced with a continued influence of the populist, anti-establishment factions in the Legislature."

Bills included for examination in the Legislative Vote Analysis can be traced back to the Indiana Chamber's economic development initiative, Indiana Vision 2025. The plan contains 37 goals in the four driver areas of Outstanding Talent, Attractive Business Climate, Superior Infrastructure, and Dynamic and Creative

Culture. Among the legislation included in the new report: the state budget; tax relief for pass-through entities; state pension investments and environmental social governance matters; auto-enrollment in the 21st Century Scholars program; and mandatory completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for high school students.

"On a positive note, several measures with broad support in areas such as tax relief and workforce development seemed to raise the scores overall, particularly improving those among legislators with otherwise so-so support for Chamber issues," Brinegar shares.

The document also designates the following lawmakers as "legislative champions" for their respective work on pro-business legislation in 2023: Rep. Robert Behning (R-Indianapolis); Sen. Rodric Bray (R-Martinsville); Sen. Liz Brown (R-Fort Wayne); Rep. Matt Lehman (R-Berne); Sen. Linda Rogers (R-Granger); and Rep. Craig Snow (R-Warsaw).

In total, the success or failure of 37 key pro-economy, pro-jobs policies – introduced in bills or amendments – was used to determine lawmakers' scores, which are available on the Indiana Chamber's web site at [www.indianachamber.com/lva](http://www.indianachamber.com/lva).

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# Walters Determined To Bring Change To Purdue Football



**KENNY THOMPSON**  
Columnist

Nearly 100 years ago, these were the excuses given as to why Purdue football wasn't on par with Big Ten

brothers Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio State and Wisconsin.

1. The enrollment at Purdue is one-third to one-half of the enrollment of the big state universities like Illinois, Michigan, Ohio State, Minnesota and Wisconsin. "That is a huge handicap to Purdue in athletics. To have only one man eligible for varsity competition against schools that have two or three is a ratio that makes Purdue's hope of many conference championships slim."

2. Purdue has only two classes of students, those in the college of agriculture and those in the college of engineering. "Purdue has no liberal arts department, no school of commerce or business, which is one of the biggest departments in most of the middle west universities, no law school or school of medicine."

3. The male students are nearly all from small rural centers where they have had little or no high school competition and have never had the opportunity of having good coaching in even the fundamentals of sports.

(For example, my wife's grandfather and starting end at Purdue - R.C. (Cooper) Kerr - attended Richland Township in Fountain County and the high school did not have a football team.)

4. The engineering scholastic schedule is an unusually heavy one. It is not uncommon for students to be in the shops, laboratories and class rooms from eight in the morning until four or five in the afternoon. Getting the football team together for the necessary amount of practice is a difficult thing to accomplish.

5. Almost none of the high schools in the state of Indiana have played football for any length of time. (Lafayette Jeff resumed its football program in 1921 after a long hiatus).

"The troubles of an athletic director and football coach at Purdue are almost too obvious for comment but these facts are known to very few people outside of the state of Indiana."

These "woe are us" laments were published two days before the dedication game at Ross-Ade Stadium by the hometown Lafayette Journal and Courier on Nov. 20, 1924. Even more peculiar, this story was part of a 32-page edition celebrating the event.

Since 1924, Purdue has had 17 head coaches - excluding interims. Seven compiled winning records but not since James

Phelan (1922-29) and Noble Kizer (1930-36) has Purdue had back-to-back successful coaches.

Ryan Walters is determined to change that.

"When I got here and got to see the facilities, got to see campus and got to go out in the community ... every day I've been blown away by the support, by the family atmosphere," Walters said. "It really does feel like a brotherhood here. The campus is beautiful."

"What I've found is there's no excuse why this place can't have sustained success and compete and win championships at the highest level. It is nice to be at my age (37) and where I'm at in this profession and feel like I landed a destination job."

Purdue was never the destination job for Jeff Brohm. To his everlasting credit, Brohm rejected the first overture from his dream job - Louisville - to rebuild the Boilermaker program to the point where it won the Big Ten West Division championship in 2022.

When Scott Satterfield unexpectedly bolted Louisville for the University of Cincinnati last December, there was little doubt Brohm would get the call to come home to the city where his family is as regarded as the Mannings are in New Orleans.

The search was not a long one for Purdue athletic director Mike Bobinski, with the support of former school presi-

dent Mitch Daniels and Board of Trustees chairman Mike Berghoff. Less than a week after Brohm departed, Bobinski chose Walters.

For a school known for its offensive-minded hires, Walters is a 180-degree departure. As Illinois' defensive coordinator, his unit ranked first in the nation in scoring defense (12.3) and second in yards allowed per game (263.8).

Three Illinois defensive backs were taken in the first three rounds of the 2023 NFL Draft: Devon Witherspoon (5th overall to Seattle), Jartavius Martin (2nd round to Washington) and Sydney Brown (3rd round to Philadelphia).

"From an early point in the search process, coach Walters stood out because of the energy, passion and intelligence he displayed as a defensive coordinator in both the Big Ten Conference and Southeastern Conference (Missouri)," Bobinski said. "His meteoric rise in the coaching profession is in large part due to his unique ability to connect with his student-athletes as both a coach and mentor."

Before looking into the job, Walters knew little about Purdue other than it played in the same division as Illinois, was a good academic institution and that Drew Brees was a Boilermaker.

"The opportunity to interview for this job, what attracted me to it was the conversations



Photo courtesy of Purdue Athletics

**Ryan Walters**

with Mike Bobinski and (deputy athletic director) Tiffani Grimes throughout the interview process," Walters said. "The way their vision aligned with mine and how passionate they were about this place excited me."

Upon meeting Walters, two impressions immediately were formed. One, he is a young-looking 37. Second, he is a confident person. Not arrogantly so but Walters' belief in himself is why he has a large office in the Kozuch Football Performance Complex.

This is what Walters said when asked why he will break the long Purdue string of successful coaches followed by losing ones:

"I know this place is not a rebuild job. They've had success. So my job is to find areas where we can improve and do whatever I can to improve those areas. The areas that have been successful, make sure those stay successful and try to elevate that standard."

"I've always operated with a chip on my shoulder because of my age and my football background. My dad is not a coach. I didn't have a long career in the NFL. I didn't play at a "logo school" per se. So I've prided myself on my work ethic, my ability to enhance my talent in this profession. I think that my competitive spirit will continue to influence this building and the people that are coaching and playing, the support staff and all those areas to continue the success that Purdue has seen in recent years."

Next week, more from Ryan Walters and his path from a converted quarterback at the University of Colorado to the fourth-youngest head coach in major college football.

- Kenny Thompson is the former sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier and an award-winning journalist. He has covered Purdue athletics for many years.

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# Keeping Things Funny



**DICK WOLFSIE**  
Funny Bone

Over the years, I have written about 1,200 columns. I find that people are curious about the humor writing

because it would jeopardize her femininity as evidenced by other women in the neighborhood who were outside grunting and sweating as they pushed their mowers. I got a lot of nasty notes from the ladies on our street. My wife said I had to go apologize to each of them. had a better idea. We moved.

"Do people ever take what you say seriously?"

Yes, and when I tell them that it is a humor column, they say: "Sorry, I didn't know that." That really hurts. I once wrote a column about my eye floaters, tiny black spots that bounce around in the corners of your eyes. I thought it was flies. Several people (including more than a few doctors) wrote to say I needed to see an ophthalmologist or a neurologist immediately. But I also got lots of other emails from physicians who said this was generally not something to worry about it. It's nice to have your own column. I got 35 second opinions.

"You make fun of your wife, Mary Ellen. Is she okay with that?"

The truth is that in most of my columns I make fun of myself, not her. Self-deprecating humor is the best form of comedy. About 75% of Barack Obama's jokes at the 2012 annual White House Broadcasters Dinner were mocking himself. Trump

only managed self-deprecation 30% of the time when he had his turn. Even Biden has now started to parody his advancing age. I recently wrote a column about all the dumb questions Mary Ellen asked me about baseball. Truth is, I couldn't answer any of them myself. I was poking fun at myself for pretending I was an expert.

"The last line of your story is my favorite part. What's the key to a good ending?"

I once had a newspaper (no name) whose copy editor chopped off my last several sentences when he needed the space. That's when I started believing in capital punishment. People were telling me they liked my columns but didn't understand the endings. The last line or two of a humor column are crucial. It ties it all up, and goes back to something I may have mentioned maybe 400 words ago. I work really hard on that. I hope you like the ending to this one.

"Do you ever run out of funny ideas?"

I did this week. That's why you are reading this column.

*- Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in The Paper of Montgomery County. E-mail Dick at Wolfsie@aol.com.*

process. So, this week and next will not be humor columns; they will be columns about humor.

Here are some of the most common questions I get.

"Do you write about things that really happened, or do you make all this stuff up?"

You know how sometimes a movie begins with this phrase: **INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY.** That's pretty much like my column. The idea is always based on something real. A week or so back, I fell out of a small bed at a downtown inn where we were staying for our anniversary. That was 100% true. As soon as my head hit the floor, I knew I had a column. And a headache. Did I exaggerate the story just a bit? Of course.

"Have people ever been angry at you for a column you wrote?"

Yes. Here's an example: Several years ago, I wrote about why my wife never mows the lawn. In the piece, I suggested that I didn't want her to mow

# Young, Colleagues Introduce Bill to Boost Career and Technical Education

U.S. Senators Todd Young (R-Ind.), Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), and Tim Kaine (D-Va.) introduced the Data for American Jobs Act of 2023, bipartisan legislation to support career and technical education (CTE) and expand pathways to good-paying jobs. The legislation ensures that federal education data and research incorporates CTE to help improve states' career readiness programs, meet the needs of the economy, and expand the skilled workforce.

"Investing in effective education research can significantly improve the outcomes and opportunities of students across America. However, current data collection systems exclude career and technical education (CTE), an important tool for workforce readiness. The Data for American Jobs Act would expand educational data collection to include CTE, ensuring our workforce is equipped with the right skills and knowledge for the jobs of tomorrow," said Senator Young.

"A technical education is a proven pathway to a good-paying career in high-demand industries that are vital to our Made in Wisconsin economy. But, too often, technical education is left out of the conversation when we talk about routes to family-supporting jobs and we need to change that. I am proud to work with my Democratic and Republican colleagues on this vital step for our skilled workforce by ensuring technical education is not left behind in federal data," said Senator Baldwin.

"I grew up working in my dad's ironworking shop, where I saw the essential role trade professionals play in our communities. Especially right now, when we're making historic improvements to America's infrastructure, it's crucial that we do all

that we can to support our talented workforce by increasing access to the most effective types of job training programs. This bipartisan legislation can help us identify those programs, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us in getting it done," said Senator Kaine.

CTE connects learners to in-demand skills and helps prepare tomorrow's workforce for good-paying jobs. Federal policy, however, often neglects to include CTE and career-readiness concepts in meaningful ways, leading to missed opportunities for research and collaboration for the benefit of both students and employers.

The Data for American Jobs Act addresses this problem by ensuring that the Department of Education's Institute for Education Sciences appropriately incorporates CTE into its research and data collection agenda and empowers states to better use data to inform education and workforce development policy. The Data for American Jobs Act would enhance the mission of the Department of Education's Institute for Education Sciences to include:

- Research relevant to career and technical education including, research on which methods are most effective for CTE learners;
- Sharing of CTE research to inform the development of effective curricula for students and faculty;
- Data collection on the CTE teacher workforce to address training, recruitment, and retention;
- Examining the workforce and labor market outcomes to help CTE programs better meet the needs of local employers.

The legislation would also support state efforts to more effectively use education and workforce data to inform education and workforce development policy.

The Data for American Jobs Act of 2023 is supported by Advance CTE, the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), and the National Association of Workforce Boards.

"Achieving career success for every learner through CTE requires actionable, transparent and trustworthy data. Advance CTE is pleased to support the Data for American Jobs Act, which takes important steps to leverage national research efforts and resources to promote a better understanding of CTE and advances modernized and interconnected data infrastructure for states. Through this legislation, state CTE leaders will be able to more effectively communicate the value and impact of CTE and ensure CTE programs are designed and delivered in ways that help every learner achieve their education and career goals. We thank Senators Baldwin, Young, and Kaine for their work on this legislation and look forward to its enactment," said Kate Kremer, Executive Director of Advance CTE.

"ACTE is pleased to support the Data for American Jobs Act to empower learners with more and better information to make education and career choices that lead to success. Better aligning data across K-12 education, postsecondary education and the workforce will help students, families and policymakers see the potential impacts of different education pathways and programs. In addition, this bill would devote additional resources to research how students benefit from CTE programs and how they are delivered. We look forward to working with Senators Baldwin, Young, and Kaine in support of this legislation," said LeAnn Curry Executive Director of Association for Career and Technical Education.

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## EXTENSION From Page A1

quality of life through prevention, education, awareness, and partnership. To learn more or get involved, please contact the Health Department or Purdue Extension.

Join us in making a positive impact on our community's well-being.

Together, we can foster a healthier and more vibrant Crawfordsville!

*- Monica Nagele is the County Extension Director and educator of health and human science for the Montgomery County Purdue Extension.*

## LAWS From Page A1

\$430 million over the next two years via tax relief passed during the legislative session. Thompson, chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, said thanks to the acceleration of individual state income tax cuts, hardworking Hoosiers will have one of the lowest rates in the nation by 2027. Indiana's K-12 spending makes up about half of the state's \$44.6 billion budget, and lawmakers supported increasing student funding by 10% over the next two years. In addition, parents will no longer pay textbook and curricular fees.

"Our state's next budget is a big win for families, students, K-12 education and mental health," Thompson said. "We were able to responsibly cut taxes, pay down debt and wisely invest in our future."

Local lawmakers also highlighted the following new laws:

**Providing Tax Relief for Homeowners**

Property tax dollars are collected and spent locally, and help pay for schools, police and fire protection, and other local government services. To help counter the rise in local property tax bills, Thompson authored a law to provide about \$100 million in property tax relief for homeowners beginning next year. Hoosiers can expect a temporary increase to the supplemental homestead tax deduction and additional limits on property tax levy growth.

**Improving Mental Health Services**

To increase access and availability of quality

care, Indiana will launch a new statewide infrastructure for mental health services through House Enrolled Act 1001, including expanding the number of behavioral health clinics. The 988 Suicide Crisis Lifeline will expand through Senate Enrolled Act 1, which Baird and State Rep. Sharon Negele (R-Attica) co-sponsored, to ensure Hoosiers in crisis have someone to call, somewhere to go and someone to respond during an emergency.

"These new laws will make Indiana a better place to live, work and raise a family," Negele said. "We worked hard to address a wide range of issues like increasing mental health treatment options and supporting a diverse energy plan that looks out for Hoosier consumers."

**Supporting a Diverse Energy Plan**

Indiana's new statewide energy plan, co-authored by Negele, is based on five pillars, including reliability, resiliency, stability, affordability and environmental sustainability. To ensure the dependability of future energy sources, utilities will also have to increase their electric generating capacity to cover demand within their territory even in extreme weather events.

"This session, we were able to tackle many of the issues that matter most to our communities," said State Rep. Mark Genda (R-Frankfort). "From accelerating income tax cuts to investing in mental health services, these new state laws will make Indiana stronger."

# Be Alert While Booking Summer Vacations

Attorney General Todd Rokita warns Hoosiers to avoid scams as summer heats up. If you are preparing for an out-of-town trip, make sure your time away is as safe as possible by using caution to avoid crafty scammers.

"Summer is a time to spend with friends and family – not a time to be the target of a scam," Rokita said. "Remember, anyone can fall victim to

a scam, regardless of their age, race, or location. Keep in mind – if a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is."

Rokita shared the following list of tips to avoid common vacation scams:

- Avoid high-pressure sales pitches before you book a trip.
- Be extra cautious when booking through an unfamiliar company. Check the Better Business Bureau rat-

ings and research the name online to see if there are any allegations of scams.

- Read the fine print in the contract before you sign it. It will tell you about the conditions under which the operator can change or cancel the trip and the rules and penalties for cancellation.
- Pay by credit card. It gives you more protection than cash or checks.
- Use good judgment

when sharing about your trip on social media. Consider changing your online privacy settings while on your trip.

• Lock your valuables, including personal information, in your trunk or hotel safe.

If you believe you have been the victim of a vacation scam, file a complaint at [www.indianaconsumer.com](http://www.indianaconsumer.com) with Attorney General Rokita's office.

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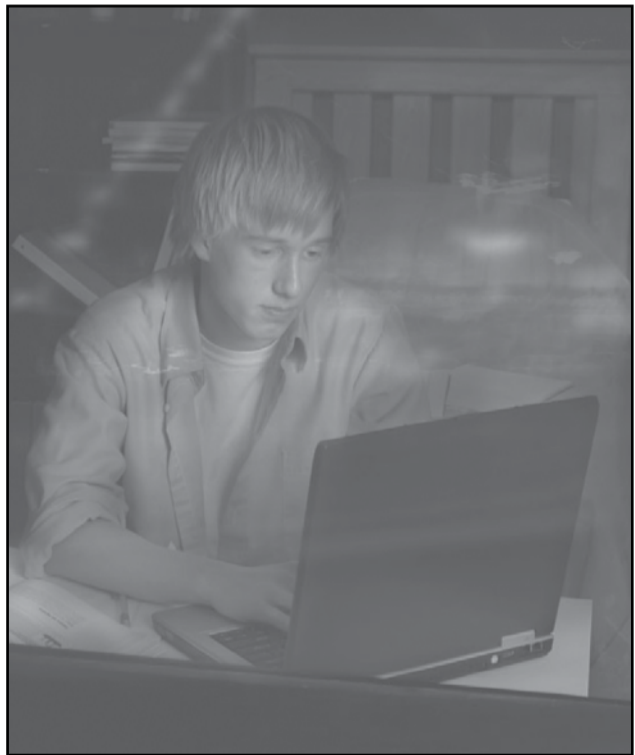
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