

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

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CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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TODAY'S VERSE

John 1:1-5 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Darlisa Steele, owner of C'Ville Docs offered a smile to one of our roving photographers while received her Readers' Choice 2023 award! Thanks Darlisa!

THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 The Montgomery County Relay for Life is dedicated to helping communities attack cancer. Through funds donated, time given, or awareness raised, communities are teaming up to make a difference. The annual event is scheduled for Sept. 16, from 12 pm - 8 pm in Crawfordsville. You can participate by forming a team, raising money and celebrating at the event while honoring survivors and remembering lives touched by purchasing a luminaria. Please help spread the word to help them grow the success of this event! Click the button to visit the website to register a team and for more information.

2 Cailyn McRossie-Martinez and Brandon Martinez of Boulder, CO were married recently and, boy, did they have a wedding reception they'll never forget. For one thing, the day featured what was described as monsoon rains and then a bear showed up at their wedding reception. The newlyweds took it in stride, though. As Brandon put it, "It's not too often you go in to your dessert table and see a bear crashing it and eating all of it." Cailyn called it "the perfect Colorado wedding. Life doesn't always go to plan, but it's how you get through it together."

3 The Indiana Department of Transportation announces restrictions on State Road 75 starting on or after Monday, August 21 for bridge work near Jamestown. Traffic will be down to one lane over West Fork Big Walnut Creek and controlled by temporary traffic signals. The restrictions will be between W. County Road 1025 N. and W. Co. Rd. 900 N. through mid-September, weather permitting. This contract was awarded to Rieth Riley Construction for \$7.2 million. Crews will be performing a bridge deck overlay on S.R. 75 over Branch Ramp Run, an HMA Overlay between S.R. 234 and U.S. 136, and preventative maintenance from U.S. 36 to S.R. 234. The entire contract is expected to be completed in June of 2024. INDOT urges motorists to slow down, use caution, and consider worker safety when traveling through a work zone.

Oh That Common Name: Thomas



KAREN ZACH
Around The County

Have any common names in your family tree? Barker? Coleman? Helms? Morgan? Myers? Smith? Those are some of my own more common names but when I told

myself before I keel over or at least quit writing that I needed to write about a few from our area and I got a bingo on the Thomas family of the Pleasant Hill area in Montgomery County's early days. In the CWJ 4 June 1897 p 7 under the "Number 13 News," a very nice, informative, lengthy family article, entitled, "The Thomas" was just super amazing.

It seems in 1863 within a five-mile circumference near Pleasant Hill, there were 13 head of households - men whose last name was Thomas, all close relation. That's pretty amazing when ya' think on it. Sadly, at the writing of the 1897 article, only two were left. Loved the family history included, however, as I would have guessed the family hailed from England. According to the piece, however, the first of this particular Thomas family was Michael who came to America from Germany, living in Virginia until he passed "at a great age." His son, Abram was a Revolutionary Soldier going on to Ohio after the war. He was 88 at his death, many of the 13 (Abe, Asa, George, James, Joel, John, Ludlow, Michael, Robert, Silas, Smith, Sol and William), grandsons who lived and dwelled on #13 remembering him and telling their own children marvelous tales about the strength, courage and endurance of the early Thomas ancestors.

Most of the family members were upright, community-oriented, well-loved and appreciated, religious men. Most of the early ones were born in Miami County, Ohio but a few of the oldest hailed from Kentucky.

Very little questionable occurrences surrounded this amazing family but in the summer of 1866 Michael (with one of the best area attorneys, MD White) sued his (missing) wife, Eliza Jane for divorce. Also at least in two probate wrap-ups,

hard feelings and hearings hit the newspapers with this Thomas family as the center.

There were interesting occupations including the norm for the times: farmers, teachers, but several doctors (Keifer, Seth, John Milton, M. Cassius) and ministers (Joel, Adam) as well as several plasterers, a Justice of the Peace, Postmaster (John at Pleasant Hill in the 1860s) and county commissioners. Some of the reasons for deaths were pneumonia, heart troubles but mainly, old age. There was but one thing the Thomas family members didn't always agree on, that being politics, most being Democrats, although several changed their viewpoints after the Civil War. Speaking of the war, three Thomas men died in the Civil War and others fought in it and returned (Hiram; Zebia; Keifer and others).

So, let's take Silas A. Thomas as a representative of the family. He was born in Miami County, Ohio (son of Samuel and Elizabeth Gerhart who were Virginia natives) and was the oldest of their six children. Silas married Martha Gregory and two children (a small Thomas crew) were born to them: James and Mary.

Always a moral man at age 24 at a small prayer meeting in a log cabin, he confessed his faith and like the majority of this Thomas family, Silas remained as a devout Christian man. Small prayer meetings were always his favorite form of sharing religion calling them "his chief delight!" (CWJ 14 Jan 1898 p10). During the Civil War, the Pleasant Hill Church burned to the ground and he, especially (head of building committee) worked diligently to insure the church was rebuilt. Not a minister per se, Silas served his church members by praying with them, administering to them, talking with them on their death beds, just anything he was able to help with, especially popular in speaking at a funeral as he was "so full of sympathy and consolation," yet encouraging the bereaved in uplifting prayer. His "ability to speak and the warmth of his exhortations to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in which he was a firm believer" (CWJ 7 Jan 1898) made him an over-all perfect representative of this

➔ See KAREN Page A6

Wabash College Prominently Ranked In Princeton Review's Best 389 Colleges

Accessible Professors, Student Experiences, Value, And Aid Boost Profile

Driven by outstanding professors, Wabash College is featured prominently in The Princeton Review's listing of the best institutions nationally for undergraduate education in its annual college guide, receiving top-five rankings in eight categories.

Wabash professors ranked No. 1 nationally in accessibility and No. 2 for high marks, setting the pace for a robust rankings profile. Additionally, career services (No. 2), professor quality (No. 2), campus newspaper (No. 3), student government (No. 3), and financial aid (No. 5) each garnered top-five rankings.

Inclusion in The Princeton Review's Best 389 Colleges indicates that Wabash stands among the top-15 percent of more than 2,500 U.S.-based four-year colleges.

The review includes detailed accounts of the best schools with rating scores in eight categories. Wabash received an overall academic rating of 91 with scores of 96 and 98 in the categories associated with teaching, interesting faculty, and accessibility.

"The Princeton Review's Best 389 Colleges guide is among the very few that consider the student experience," said Wabash President Scott Feller. "It's a testament to our institutional culture of teaching

➔ See WABASH Page A6

Mayor Barton To Host Forum

Mayor Todd Barton will be hosting his August Community Forum on Tuesday, August 29 from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Southside McDonald's, 1508 S. Washington Street. The event will be open to the public to come ask questions, discuss concerns and to learn more about anything regarding the city.

This forum will be the Mayor's 123rd community forum.

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 6:59 a.m.
SET: 8:43 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
High: 80 °F
Low: 59 °F



Today is...

- National Nonprofit Day
- National Thrift Shop Day
- National Vanilla Custard Day



What Happened On This Day

- **2008** Michael Phelps Earns his 8th Gold Medal in the 2008 Olympics. The American champion swimmer won the medal in the 4x100-meter medley relay race in the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics. With this medal, he broke the record for the most gold medals won by a person in a single Olympic games, a record previously held by American swimmer Mark Spitz.
- **1978** Ben Abruzzo, Maxie Anderson, and Larry Newman become the first people to complete the world's First Transatlantic Balloon Flight.
- **1970** Venera 7 launched by the Soviet Union. Launched from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan Venera 7 became the first spacecraft to land on another planet, Venus, and send data back to Earth. It entered Venus' atmosphere in December 1970.

Births On This Day

- **1943** Robert De Niro American actor
- **1786** Davy Crockett American soldier, politician

Deaths On This Day

- **1935** Charlotte Perkins Gilman American sociologist, novelist
- **1786** Frederick the Great Prussian king

HONEST HOOSIER

I miss the old mall. And the Strand.



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Regular exercise fights fatigue, anxiety and depression. 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

Service Directory.....A3
Classifieds.....A4
Earth Talk.....A4

THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Get Another TASTE! Of Montgomery County:

The TASTE! of Montgomery County begins at noon on Saturday, August 26, and runs until 10 p.m. At the gate, admission is \$7 for adults and \$3 for students. Visitors can purchase advance sale Taste tickets at the Carriage House Interpretive Center of the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum, home of the Taste; the Montgomery County Visitors and Convention Bureau on the first floor of Fusion 54 at 101 West Main Street; Milligan's Flowers & Gifts at 115 East Main; Crawfordsville Parks & Recreation Community Center at 922 E. South Boulevard. Advance tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for students.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"If plan 'A' doesn't work, the alphabet has 25 more letters - 204 if you're in Japan."
Claire Cook

TODAY'S JOKE

Hey, where do sharks go on summer vacation?
Finland!

OBITUARIES

NONE

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



7 DAY FORECAST

57/78 SUNNY AND MILD WED	59/80 BREEZY, SLIGHT RAIN CHANCE THU	57/77 SUNNY FRI	56/83 SUNNY, WARMING UP SAT	62/90 SUNNY AND HOT SUN	66/91 SUNNY AND HOT MON	67/92 SUNNY AND HOT TUE
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Meeting Notes

Board Of Public Works And Public Safety Meeting Agenda

August 16, 2023 at 10AM

- I. Approval of the minutes from August 9, 2023.
- II. Approval of the claims for the week of August 14, 2023.
- III. Old Business
- IV. New Business
 - a. A request from Paul Barajas, China Inn, to close Green Street from Pike to Main for 'Groovin on Green' on Saturday, August 19th from 12p - 12a with the event taking place from 4-10 pm
 - b. Agreement with Midwestern Engineers for design services related to high school lift station
 - c. Discussion of a Services Agreement between the City and GreenCycle of Indiana, Inc.
 - d. Agreement with CivicPlus LLC for website design, hosting, and security
 - e. Consider an agreement for Appraisal Services - Real Estate Valuations
 - f. Consider an agreement for Appraisal Services - Don R. Scheidt Co. Inc
 - g. Agreement with OW Krohn & Associates LLP for completion of rate study for the Waste

Water Utility

- h. Agreement with Kleinpeter Consulting to conduct income survey required to apply for OCRA funding related to waste water projects
 - i. Agreement with Kleinpeter Consulting to conduct environmental review required to apply for OCRA funding related to waste water projects
 - j. Bid openings for Lincoln Park
 - k. Bid openings for Brickyard Nature Park
 - l. Barry Lewis, Code Enforcement Officer, with multiple work order requests
 - 301/303 W. North Street, owned by Dan Malek
 - 313 N. Grant Avenue, owned by Dan Malek
 - 1000 E. Market Street, owned by GS Investment Property, Inc.
 - 601 Robinson Street, owned by Wiper Corporation
 - 809 S. Walnut Street, owned by Shaun Pyle
 - 403 Covington Street, owned by Edward Robinson
 - 1500 Meridian Street, owned by Richard & Patricia Porterfield
 - V. Departments Heads
 - VI. Adjournment

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation Board of Education - Regular Meeting

Thursday, August 17, at 5:30 P.M.

Crawfordsville Middle School, 705 Wallace Ave

- AGENDA
- I. Roll Call
 - II. CHARACTER COUNTS!SM Corporation - Pillar of Caring
 - III. Pledge of Allegiance
 - IV. Consent Agenda:
 - Previous Meeting Minutes, Construction Accounts Payable Voucher, Payroll Claims Vouchers, Register of Accounts Payable Voucher, and Surplus Items
 - V. Spotlight on Excellence
 - VI. Old Business
 - A. Consider Policy 1305 - Board Meeting Participation (3rd Reading)
 - VII. New Business
 - A. Consider Revision to Board Meeting Locations
 - B. Consider Contract for Business Manager
 - C. Consider Student Dress Code
 - D. Permission to Advertise 2024 Budget
 - E. Consider Authorization of Signatory on All Deposit Accounts
 - F. Consider Authorization of Signatory on All Extra-Curricular Accounts
 - G. Consider Grants for 2023-2024 School Year
 - VIII. Personnel
 - A. Consider Resignation of Raeanne Walker - assistant at Hose
 - B. Consider Resignation of Ashely Fisher - Hose Aide
 - C. Consider Resignation of Danielle Newkirk - Hoover Assistant
 - D. Consider Resignation of Bartholomew Cassida - CHS Math Teacher
 - E. Consider Resignation of Kylene Simpson - West Central Administrative Assistant
 - F. Consider Resignation of Lexi Odum - Hoover Assistant Teacher
 - G. Consider Resignation of Megan Craig - Hoover 4th Grade Teacher
 - H. Recommend Kelsey Konkright - Hose Aide
 - I. Recommend Bradyn Barker - Hose Aide
 - J. Recommend Stephanie Endicott - Nicholson Aide
 - K. Recommend Amy Cox - Nicholson Media Center Adie
 - L. Recommend Kari-Ann

- VanCleave - Hoover Aide
 - M. Recommend Gabrielle Hochstetler - CMS Media Center Assistant
 - N. Recommend Tracy Robbins - Hoover Life Skills Teacher
 - O. Recommend Elizabeth Rooze - Nicholson Licensed Teacher Interventionist
 - P. Recommend Gwynn Wills - WCISCC Speech Language Pathology Assistant
 - Q. Recommend Emma Verhey - WCISCC Administrative Assistant
 - IX. Change of Position
 - A. Melynda Morehouse - aide at Hose to interventionist at Nicholson
 - B. Leanna Phelps - Pre-K Teacher at Willson to Kindergarten Teacher at Hose
 - C. Josh Perry - Bus Driver at P&T to Media Center Assistant at Nicholson
 - D. Jacqueline Voliva - 1st grade at Hose to Developmental Preschool Teacher at Willson
 - E. Maranda Patton - from licensed teacher interventionist to 2nd grade teacher at Nicholson.
 - F. Meredith Boaz - from teacher to Title coach at Nicholson
 - G. Joyce Musselman - from aide to Life Skills assistant at Hoover
 - H. Peyton Suiter - from CHS Special Education Assistant to Math Teacher at CHS
 - I. Tara Walters - from CHS and CMS ECA (Extra Curricular Account) Treasurer to Corporation ECA and Textbook Treasurer
 - X. Business Manager Report
 - XI. Assistant Superintendent Report
 - XII. Superintendent Report
 - XIII. Other
 - XIV. Board Member Communication
 - XV. Patron Comments
 - XVI. Adjournment
- Patron's Comments are limited to 3 minutes per spokesperson for a total of 30 minutes. The meeting site is fully accessible. Any person requiring further accommodations should contact the Superintendent at the School Corporation's central office.*

RT Insurance Welcomes Mike Utterback To Team

RT Insurance is proud to announce that Mike Utterback has joined the team as a Sales Executive serving the Crawfordsville and surrounding area.

"We're thrilled to add Mike to our RT family," stated Tim Congleton, Principal at RT Insurance. "He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in many areas of insurance and is a valued resource for his clients. And as an independent agency, it's important to create a team of local employees who are invested in our communities. Mike is a long-time resident of Montgomery County and we're excited about adding him to our RT family."

Utterback's experience

includes nearly 40 years in commercial, auto, home, and farm insurance. He lives in Montgomery County with his wife Tami and has two sons.

"I am looking forward to bringing my experience to RT Insurance and enhancing their impressive team," stated Utterback. "They have built a strong agency and I am excited to join the team and help them continue grow and thrive as the only locally owned, independent agency in our community."

Utterback can be reached at mike@rt-insurance.com.

RT Insurance is a multi-line locally owned, independent insurance agency which provides Commercial, Personal,

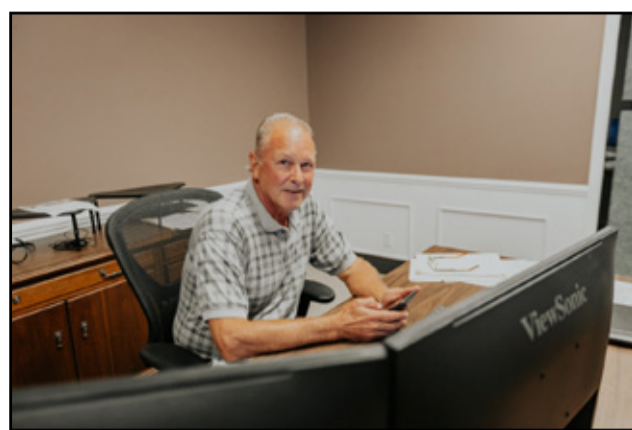


Photo courtesy of RT Insurance

Mike Utterback settling in at his desk.

Life and Health insurance products. The agency has a strong agricultural emphasis and offers personal and commercial insurance products for volunteer fire department risks and municipal risks as well. With RT Outdoors and RT Emergency, the agency offers insurance specializing in outdoor and emergency services insurance respectively. For more information or to schedule an interview, contact Robb Williamson or Tim Congleton at 765.362.4660.

AUGUST 26
NOON - 10 PM

Lew Wallace Study & Museum
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If you would like to display your art please contact:
Linda Weaver (Art Walk Chair) at
CrawfordsvilleArtWalk@gmail.com by September 10.

Learn more on Facebook by checking out
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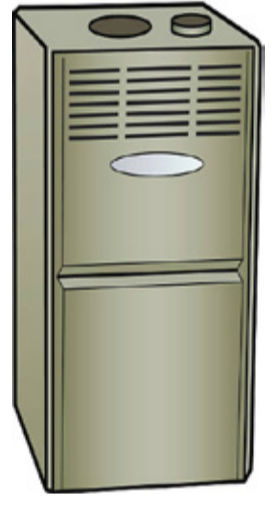
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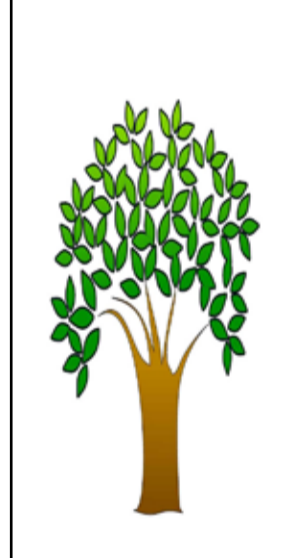
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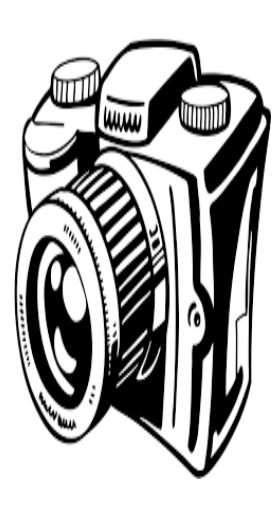


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Stemming The Tide Of Marine Fiberglass Pollution From Boats

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Is there any way to stem the tide of fiberglass pollution from aging and discarded boats fouling marine ecosystems?

It's summer vacation and you're ready to let loose on the water. Time to head out to the lake house, bring the boat out of the driveway, and cruise around the lake. Now imagine that same vessel 10 years from now, rotting away and destroying the local marine ecosystem. Nobody wants to kill off Nemo and Dory when boating on the bay, but sometimes innocent pastimes have unintended consequences. The fiberglass in these watercrafts has a rippling wave of destruction on our marine friends, damaging aquatic organisms' organs and leaching toxic chemicals into public soils and seas, affecting life even on land. Okay fiberglass is pretty harmful, we get that, but then why is the boat industry still chock full of it? For one, fiberglass is much stronger compared to boat material alternatives like aluminum. Fiberglass simply resists adverse weather conditions better than other materials. Boats are more flexible than aluminum, giving them more maneuverability and versatility. The fiberglass allows for better hydrodynamics, increasing efficiency when venturing into the open water. In addition, boats made out of

fiberglass allow for more surface area actually inside the vessel, a favorable advantage for fishermen and families alike.

To call degrading fiberglass damaging is an understatement, as the material's effects have had astounding impacts globally. The microplastics present after fiberglass breaks down over time silently enter the bodies of aquatic organisms. These microplastics can disrupt their biological organs, like the endocrine system which is responsible for regulation of hormones. Toxic chemicals like lead and copper dilute in the water and break apart precious, coastal ecosystems like estuaries and coral reefs. These same heavy metals can stay in the soil and leach into clean groundwater, contaminating healthy resources. Amplifying the problem is the difficulty of disposing of fiberglass boats. It is complicated, costly and, time-consuming. A lack of education about the true severity of abandoning vessels further contributes to a carefree release of fiberglass toxicity into our marine ecosystems.

Thankfully, the ship of environmental remediation hasn't fully sunk. Ships in good condition can be sold used, and others can be reused piecemeal as parts. Organizations can help as well. Groups like the Vessel Disposal and Reuse Foundation, U.S Coast Guard and others can help organize the recycling process.

The federal government, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has collaborated with organizations like the Lynnhaven group and has granted almost \$2 million in debris removal initiatives. There is still hope for optimism that we will solve the fiberglass issue. It is crucial to educate ourselves and our neighbors about the harsh dangers of fiberglass to really emphasize the magnitude of the issue. We can speak our minds to local legislatures for tighter regulations on the disposal of boats. While the issue of fiberglass pollution is still plaguing our waterways, we have many tools at our disposal to fight back.

-CONTACTS: The Environmental Hazards of Fiberglass Boat Disposal, partsvu.com/blog/the-environmental-hazards-of-fiberglass-boat-disposal/; Fiberglass Pollution: Abandoned Boats A Growing Problem In VA, chesapeakebaymagazine.com/fiberglass-pollution-abandoned-boats-a-growing-problem-in-va/; Nautical not nice: How fiberglass boats have become a global pollution problem, .theguardian.com/environment/2020/aug/06/nautical-not-nice-how-fiberglass-boats-have-become-a-global-pollution-problem.

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Ivy Tech Community College Employee, Andrew Muffett, Honored With 2023 Maury Cotter Leader Of Change Award

Ivy Tech Community College Lafayette's Director of Strategic Operations was a recipient of a 2023 Maury Cotter Leader of Change Award last month from the Network for Change and Continuous Innovation (NCCI), an international professional association that promotes innovation and collaborative networking in higher education among its more than 1,000 members worldwide. Andrew Muffett was recognized at NCCI's annual conference, July 12-14 in Baltimore, Maryland.

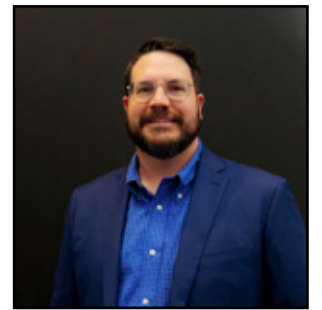
Created in 2013, the recognition program identifies leaders of change throughout higher education, recognizes them for their accomplishments, and helps link them with their peers to leverage further the impact of their good work. This esteemed accolade recognizes Muffett's outstanding contributions to fostering innovation, driving positive change, and exemplifying leadership within the realm of

higher education.

Leaders of change exist in each institution of higher education, however, given the diversity of roles that leaders play within the institutions, they often go unrecognized. The Leaders of Change Recognition Program identifies and celebrates these exceptional individuals whose efforts have resulted in significant impact in their institutions and beyond.

Upon receiving the award, Muffett expressed his gratitude, stating, "I am truly honored and humbled to receive the 2023 Maury Cotter Leader of Change Award from NCCI. Change is the cornerstone of progress, and I am fortunate to work in an institution that values and encourages innovative solutions to the challenges we face in higher education. This recognition is a testament to the collective efforts of the Ivy Tech community."

Muffett has been with Ivy Tech Community College since 2007. As



ANDREW MUFFETT

Director of Strategic Operations, he serves as a strategic partner to leadership by providing updates and recommendations on critical initiatives and projects. He has served as the Lafayette campus Change Agent on a statewide team since 2018. He has been the campus lead for implementing the Four Disciplines of Execution (4DX) since 2022. "Andrew's award is a testament to his transformative leadership, driving positive change across our campus," said Aaron Baute, Ivy Tech Lafayette chancellor. "Through his exemplary 4DX efforts, he embodies a commitment to innovation and excellence."

September 16 - November 11, 2023

On Saturday, September 16th, Athens Arts will host the opening of:

[untitled]3
a national juried exhibition

The evening will be an art, music, and culinary pleasure event!
We will celebrate the artists and announce the award winners of the juried exhibition.

Athens Arts is a tremendous asset to downtown Crawfordsville, the county, and the community bringing vibrant opportunities to engage the community in art and celebrating creativity! We appreciate your support and advocacy for the arts in our community. The national exhibition needs monetary award donors. **This is where you come in!**

Your monetary support is vital in keeping the gallery open for local artists to share their talents, sell their art, and bring visual arts to the community. We thank you! For this special exhibition, we would like to extend the opportunity for you to be pART of the [untitled]3 celebration! Athens looks forward to allowing you to choose the award winner within levels. Athens Arts' board and artists appreciate your continued support. This prize money will go a long way to celebrate the artists!

Kindly fill out this form and return to be received no later than September 6, 2023.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Amount of award donation*:
 \$35* \$50* \$100 \$250 \$500

*Donations may be combined with other awards - award would be listed as: award given by ZXY company and CBA family

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1. How business/individual to be listed on the program: _____

2. Is this in honor or memory of someone?
HONOR of: _____
MEMORY of: _____

3. (circle) YES NO
Do you want to come to the gallery and choose the art piece for your award? (date/time TBA, Sept 14 or 15) A representative of Athens will contact you to set up a time.

Please make checks payable to Athens Arts.
Mail this completed invoice with the check to:
PO Box 207, Crawfordsville, IN 47933. Attention: Diana McCormick, Director.
If you prefer to pay by card, please contact the Director.
Deadline to be included in the program is September 6, 2023

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KAREN From Page A1

family. Silas and wife are buried in Pleasant Hill cemetery (Wingate) with many close relatives (photo by Lesa Epperson FindAGrave). Yet, some of this family returned to Ohio, several went to Illinois and Kansas and still others farther to California with a few in other Indiana counties. Imagine there are still others yet here in our midst. Bless them all

- this was a wonderful and enjoyable perusal of a local common-named family! Hope you enjoyed, as well!

- Karen Zach is the editor of *Montgomery Memories*, our monthly magazine all about Montgomery County. Her column, *Around the County*, appears each Thursday in *The Paper of Montgomery County*. You can reach her at karen.zach@sbcglobal.net.

NAME From Page X

and learning that Wabash is ranked so highly for the quality and accessibility of our professors and the excellence of the classroom experience. And, of course, our alumni network, career center, and rigorous internship program continue to be ranked among the very best in the nation."

Now in its 32nd year of recognizing outstanding colleges and universities, The Princeton Review offers 50 ranking lists, each identifying the top-25 colleges nationally (of the 389 profiled) in those specific categories. The colleges included on these lists are those with a track record of student satisfaction since The Princeton Review surveys more than 160,000 students who rate and report on their own campus experiences through an 85-question survey.

The surveys address a range of topics that prospective students might find interesting or ask about on a campus visit, from academics and administration to amenities, politics, and social life. Each ranking is based solely on student survey responses.

On average, The Princeton Review surveys more than 400 students per campus in an on-line format. Surveying is a continuous process where students submit surveys online from all schools included in the book. Those surveys can be completed at any time, though the system only accepts one survey from a student per academic year per school.

Wabash appeared in

40% of the 50 lists and ranked in the top-10 in 10 of those, including:

- #1 Most Accessible Professors
- #2 Best Career Services
- #2 Professors Get High Marks
- #2 Top 20 Best Alumni Networks (Private Schools)
- #3 Best College Newspaper
- #3 Most Active Student Government
- #4 Top 20 Best Schools for Internships (Private Schools)
- #5 Great Financial Aid
- #7 Students Love Their School Teams
- #8 Lots of Greek Life
- #12 Best College Theater
- #13 Best Health Services
- #13 Everyone Plays Intramural Sports
- #14 Best Classroom Experience
- #15 Best Run Colleges
- #21 Lots of Race/Class Interaction
- #22 Best Student Support and Counseling Services
- #24 Best Athletic Facilities
- #26 Top 50 Best Value Colleges (Private Schools)

In April, The Princeton Review rated Wabash as No. 2 nationally in Best Alumni Network for private schools, No. 4 in Best Internship Opportunities, and No. 26 in Best Value Colleges for private schools in its publication, *The Best Value Colleges*.

Wabash has been featured in every edition of *The Princeton Review's* college guide since the service was established in 1992.

Indiana Attorney General Seeks Info About Gender-Affirming Care With Subpoena-Like Demands

By Casey Smith
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita's office has issued at least three civil investigative demands to medical providers as he continues to seek out information regarding gender-affirming care practices across the state.

Eskenazi Health, Indiana University Health and Mosaic Health and Healing Arts are now asking a judge to quash the demands, although court proceedings are under seal.

The move by Rokita's office comes after just three medical providers responded to a March 6 request for details on care for transgender minors. He laid out more than a dozen questions, including requests for data on hormone treatments, surgeries and consent.

The letters were sent to a medical practice, a university, four hospitals and Planned Parenthood's 11 Indiana locations. Eskenazi, IU Health and Planned Parenthood responded, though some with little detail. The others did not.

Spokespersons for IU Health and Eskenazi Health were unable to provide the Indiana Capital Chronicle with additional details because the matter is under seal.

Another spokesperson for the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana, which is representing Mosaic in Goshen, also declined to give additional details, noting the private nature of the court proceedings.

What is a civil investigative demand?

Rokita's office has previously said civil investigative demands "act as subpoenas."

One provision in state law dictates that if the attorney general or the inspector general has reason to believe that a person has "documentary material or information relevant to an investigation involving a false claim," that state officials can issue a civil investigative demand before initiating a formal civil proceeding.

According to the law, such demands can require a person or entity to:

- produce the documentary material for inspection and copying.
- answer an interrogatory in writing concerning the documentary material or information.
- give oral testimony concerning the documentary material or information.

In a separate section in the Indiana Code specific to the attorney general, the office is granted authority to demand documentary material and written interrogatories given under oath, as long as there's reasonable cause to believe that a person has information that is relevant to an investigation of a statute enforced by the attorney general.

Last year, for example, Rokita's office served six major U.S. banks with civil investigative demands, seeking documents related to the companies' involvement with the United Nations' Net-Zero Banking Alliance.

The Indiana Capital

Chronicle has filed a public records request for the latest civil investigative demands sent to medical providers.

But in the past, the office has declined to provide the demands and even tried during the legislative session to insert language making the demands confidential.

That's despite an opinion from the Indiana Public Access Counselor, who last year said the attorney general is required by Indiana law to disclose investigative demands. Answers to those demands, as well as the documentary materials obtained in response, are not required to be made public, though.

Seeking more details on transition-related care

Transition-related genital surgeries are considered a permanent method of sterilization, but hormone blockers — used for decades to delay puberty — are generally considered to be reversible. Hormone replacement therapies are somewhat reversible, depending on the length of time someone has used them.

Rokita's office previously appeared unsatisfied with the results of its request earlier this year.

A spokesperson for the attorney general's office told the Capital Chronicle last month that the responses didn't answer the questions posed, and that "legal costs will undoubtedly increase as we implement more formal mechanisms to extract the information (medical providers) are apparently

hiding."

His initial letter asked clinics to document their gender-affirming care, including prescriptions and surgeries, and also asks about parental consent — something already required for a minor undergoing a surgery in Indiana — and the "revenue" generated by these treatments.

Rokita's questions also went beyond medical care, including into whether providers suggest "the use of or provide access to mechanical devices such as "chest-binders" or "genital tucking underwear" to minors. He also asked how many such devices were distributed to children in each of the last three years.

During the 2023 legislative session, state lawmakers passed a controversial medical care ban for transgender minors that no longer allows parents to authorize gender-affirming care for their children, including puberty blockers, hormone replacement therapy or surgical interventions.

Indiana's ban on a range of transition-related procedures for minors partially took effect in July while a lawsuit plays out in federal court.

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