

➔ **TODAY'S VERSE**

Revelation 19:9 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

➔ **FACES OF MONTGOMERY**

People who call our community their own.



Mindy Sparks offered one of our roving photographers a nice smile while working at one of our local pizza restaurants. Thank you for the friendly greeting, Mindy!

➔ **THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

1 The Bright family zoo in Limestone, TN says that its newborn giraffe is lucky to have been born "in captivity." Giraffes use their spots for camouflage and this baby female giraffe was born without spots and, in fact, is perhaps the only spotless giraffe on the planet. David Bright explained that "being solid colored, she may not be able to hide quite as well." Tony Bright told reporters "the international coverage of our pattern-less baby giraffe has created a much-needed spotlight on giraffe conservation. Wild populations are silently slipping into extinction, with 40% of the wild giraffe population lost in just the last 3 decades.

2 Kim Knor of Denver, CO learned how to skydive when she was 20 years old; that was in 1959. She became a member of the inaugural U.S. Women's Parachute Team two years later. To date, the 84-year-old daredevil has made 600 jumps and is determined to reach her goal of 1,000 jumps. As she told one news outlet, "I have a choice of watching TV or sitting in front of a computer or going out and jumping and traveling across the country." In an interview with CBS News, she had a suggestion for her fellow octogenarians: "I feel fantastic! I mean, this is what I live for. Anytime life gets too difficult or too sad just go make a jump and then everything's good!"

3 In that old yarn it was Goldilocks who broke into the home of the three bears. In the case of Brian of Kings Beach, CA it was a sleepy old bear that broke into his apartment, ate his food, wrecked his TV set and then took a nap on his bed. It was all caught on his Ring camera while Brian was out boating with friends on Lake Tahoe. Apparently the bears are out in numbers in the Lake Tahoe area; they have been visiting not only Brian's apartment but have been caught by video surveillance cameras in several stores in the area.

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Photo courtesy of United Way

Steven McLaughlin, VP at Tri-County Bank & Trust, uses the golf cannon

United Way In Montgomery County Golf Scramble

Calling all golfers! United Way in Montgomery County is holding their annual Golf Scramble on Friday, September 8 at Rocky Ridge Golf Club. Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8am with shotgun start at 9am. Highlights of the day will include an opportunity to shoot a golf cannon and on-course competitions including closest to the pin and longest drive. C&F Fabrication is the presenting sponsor.

Do not miss a fantastic opportunity to play a beautiful course, enjoy a day with friends, and support United Way in Montgomery County and the 19 local nonprofit organizations that are partner agencies. Together we can change lives.

Registration is available online at uwmontgomery.org or by contacting Gina Haile at 765-362-5484 or gina@uwmontgomery.org.

It's OK, The Hole In The Canoe Is On Other End



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

Forgive me, but this week is about us . . . the little newspaper industry that could . . . and you.

Let's start with an old saying: Only a fool

believes they're safe because the hole in the canoe is at the other end.

We got trouble in this country. I've borrowed that line from Robert Preston, AKA Prof. Harold Hill a few times over the years. Hard to believe A) we need to keep using it and B) things are worse, perhaps worse than ever? Certainly not

in recent memory anyways. A wise old buzzard observed that it hasn't been this bad since tanks and National Guard were in the streets in the late '60s, early '70s.

The left is fighting the right, the right is swinging away at the left and a lot of noses in the middle are getting bloodied. Think about this for a second. There is a distinct possibility that Donald Trump may be found guilty, sentenced and win the presidential election from inside a jail cell.

What would that say about our country? Can you imagine?

In the midst of this, a little newspaper in Kansas was raided earlier this month. I'm told that

➔ See TIM Page A6

What Simplifying May Save For Us



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 LWV, visit: www.lwvmont.com or message to LWV, PO Box 101, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

When was the last time you gazed at the night sky and could identify more than three constellations? There are 88 of them, 36 in the northern sky, 52 in the southern hemisphere. They're almost impossible to see in

Crawfordsville, many are difficult to see in the country these days, even if you have a keen eye to spot them. Such is light pollution, the topic of one out of two short films that wrapped up the Green Series film discussion season of 2023.

It seems funny to pen a retrospective on a film viewing and discussion when the Green Series is on hiatus until next summer. Why look back, if readers who missed out can't anticipate another film discussion in September? Not because of FOMO (fear of missing out), to be clear, but the two short films, which seemed wildly unrelated, actually had a throughline, and it starts with re-embracing a youthful passion for astronomy.

Perhaps when you were young, if you were fortunate, you lived or camped in a remote area, and around a crackling fire, you laid back and someone older than you began to point out images in the night sky that, if you stayed out there long enough, arced over you as the globe turned. The easy ones are Orion, the hunter; Ursa Major, the great bear, and Ursa Minor, the small bear; Andromeda; Perseus; Hercules; Cassiopeia, who sits on her throne and as the year progresses she is flipped on her head. Named for the vain-glorious wife of King Cephus of Ethiopia, this eight-star constellation also known as "the sitting queen" flips upside down half the year, a punishment for bragging about beauty. She claimed she was more beautiful than the Nereids, 50 sea nymphs fathered by a Greek Titan. Apparently, her entire family suffered from a bloated sense of their awesomeness because the gods banished her spouse, daughter and son-in-law to the heavens, though they fared better than her. For

➔ See LWV Page A6

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 7:12 a.m.
SET: 8:24 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
High: 76 °F
Low: 59 °F

Today is...

- Frankenstein Day
- National Beach Day
- Slinky Day

What Happened On This Day

• **1983** Guion Stewart Bluford is launched into Space. Bluford, a fighter pilot for the US Air Force and part of the crew of STS-8, the third flight of NASA's space shuttle Challenger, was the first African-American to go into space.

• **1967** First African-American justice is Appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. The United States Senate confirmed Thurgood Marshall to the country's highest court of justice. Marshall was also the first African-American to have held the post of Solicitor General of the United States.

• **1963** Telephone hotline Between Washington DC and Moscow is Established. The system of direct communication between the heads of the then Soviet Union and now Russia and the United States was set up during the height of the Cold War when the Cuban Missile Crisis almost led the two countries to the brink of an active war.

Births On This Day

- **1930** Warren Buffett American businessman, philanthropist
- **1893** Huey Long American politician

Deaths On This Day

- **2013** Seamus Heaney Irish poet, playwright, Nobel Prize laureate
- **2003** Charles Bronson American actor

➔ **HONEST HOOSIER**

At what age are we old enough to know better?



➔ **INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION**

Public NoticesA4
Classifieds.....A3

➔ **TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

Obesity in middle age can increase your risk of developing dementia.

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



➔ **OBITUARIES**
None

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



➔ **MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

Legislative Lunch:

The Crawfordsville / Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce is hosting a City / County Legislative Lunch at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, September 22, on the 3rd floor of Fusion 54, 101 W. Main Street, Crawfordsville. This event is open to the public. The cost for the event is \$10 for Crawfordsville/Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce members and \$15 for non-chamber members. Space is limited so please register to attend online at crawfordsvillechamber.com by Friday, September 15. For more information regarding the breakfast or the chamber, please contact Stacy Sommer at ssummer@crawfordsvillechamber.com.

➔ **TODAY'S QUOTE**

"We have a strategic plan. It's called doing things."
-Herb Kelleher

➔ **TODAY'S JOKE**

Want a hot date?
You're in luck. It's August!



Get Ready For Some Basketball In New Ross

New Ross is the place basketball players want to be on September 9th for the 9th annual "3 on 3 Basketball Tournament" and a "3 point shooting contest".

Registration for both events is from 9 to 9:45 am at the New Ross basketball court in downtown New Ross. The 3 point shooting contest begins at 10 am and the 3 on 3 basketball tournament begins immediately following the 3-point contest.

The registration fee for the basketball tournament

is \$25.00 with an 18 and under age group plus a 19 and over age group. The basketball tournament winning team and the runner up will receive a cash prize for each age group. The cash prize has been significantly increased this year.

The registration fee for the 3 point shooting contest is \$5.00. The 3 point shooting contest winner plus the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place receive a cash prize.

Call Gary Johnson at (765) 418-9269 for additional information.

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Ivy Tech Community College Named To 2023 Forbes America's Best State Employers

For the second year, Ivy Tech Community College was named in the annual Forbes America's Best State Employers.

Along with market research company Statista, Forbes' rankings identify the companies positively rated by their employees on a variety of criteria, including the safety of work environment, fairness of compensation, opportunities for advancement, openness

to telecommuting, and likelihood to recommend their employer to others. The final list ranks the 1,392 employers that received the greatest number of recommendations in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Indiana's list includes 73 employers, but only six institutions of higher education. Only seven community colleges nationally made the list.

"I am pleased that Ivy

Tech has been recognized by Forbes for the second straight year," Dr. Sue Ellspermann, Ivy Tech President said. "We understand our colleagues are our ambassadors to the communities we serve with their incredible commitment to student success and the mission of the college. We continue to focus on making Ivy Tech a great place to work to attract the best and brightest."



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.

September 16 - November 11, 2023

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

PLEASE PRINT

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 Arts will contact you to set up a time.

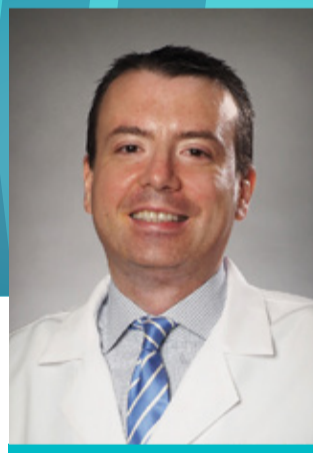
Please make checks payable to Athens Arts.

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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Food Finders, Bread For The World, And Lafayette Urban Ministry Kickoff Hunger Action Month With Documentary Screening

Food Finders Food Bank, Bread for the World, and Lafayette Urban Ministry (LUM) are kicking off Hunger Action Month by cohosting a free viewing of the Emmy-nominated documentary *The Working Hungry*. This 30-minute film tells the story of three families struggling with food insecurity in Indiana. It explains why systemic solutions are needed to ensure no family experiences hunger in our communities.

- The Working Hungry screening
- Thursday, August 31, 6:30-8:00 PM EST (Doors open at 6:00 PM)
- Long Center for the Performing Arts
- 111 N 6th St, Lafayette, IN 47901 Register

here: <https://go.bread.org/page/54718/survey/1>

Following the screening, Bread for the World will lead a community discussion around systemic responses and solutions to hunger with a group of panelists including Michael Budd, CEO of Indiana United Way, Feeding Indiana's Hungry President Emily Weikert-Bryant, Executive Director of Feeding Indiana's Hungry, Dr. Joe Balagtas, Ag-Econ Professor at Purdue University, Araceli Martinez, Student Leader of ACE Food Pantry at Purdue University, and Kier Crites Muller, President/CEO of Food Finders Food Bank.

This September, people across our 16-county service area in north central

Indiana can get involved by listening, acting, and inviting others to speak up about ways to end hunger.

- Volunteer, donate, and advocate to end food insecurity
 - Raise awareness by wearing orange on Hunger Action Day, Sept. 15
 - Take part in Hunger Hike's virtual Challenge Week from Sept. 10-17, we encourage you to set a personal fundraising goal and share it with your supporters. <https://fund-raise.givesmart.com/join/lum/HHIKE?vid=10d-k1m>
- On Sept. 17, join Food Finders and LUM at Riehle Plaza at 1 p.m. to celebrate Hunger Hike 2023.
Join Food Finders on Sept. 28 at 12 p.m. We

will end the month with a presentation on SNAP Myths by Emily Weikert Bryant, Executive Director of Feeding Indiana's Hungry, at the Katy Bunder Resource and Education Center. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/snap-myths-presentation-tickets-698983166467>
According to Kier Crites Muller, President/CEO of Food Finders Food Bank, "We are excited to launch Hunger Action Month this year with this collaboration between our friends at Bread for the World and LUM, it truly takes a village to tackle the issues around food insecurity. I hope you'll join us for one or all of these events throughout September. Our latest data released

this spring for the 16 counties served by Food Finders reported 65,000 people experiencing food insecurity in 2021. However, those numbers no longer reflect our reality, they show a snapshot of a year in the pandemic when the government, public, and charitable sectors worked in tandem and threw all available resources at hunger relief to mitigate the fallout from COVID-19 - and it worked, we saw the needle move from 12.4 percent of our area neighbors facing hunger to 11.1 percent - a difference of 10,000 people. This means change is possible, so keeping this conversation going is important."
Hunger Action Month will highlight the impact

of food on people's lives and show how a meal goes beyond solely nourishing our bodies. When people are fed, futures are nourished, and individuals go from just living to truly thriving. Our collective voices, actions, and commitment will help ensure every community has the food it needs to flourish.
Hunger Action Month is a time for everyone nationwide to act against hunger collectively. You can choose to donate or advocate. You can choose to volunteer or raise awareness. You can choose to help end hunger. Learn more about how you can take action by visiting: <https://www.food-finders.org/>; <https://www.bread.org/>; <https://www.lumserve.org>

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

Notice is hereby given the Taxpayers of Montgomery County, Indiana, that the proper legal officers of Montgomery County will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the 2023 Budget Order from the DLGF at the regular Council meeting on September 12, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Community Meeting Room, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana.

Fund	Fund Description	Dept #	Department Description	Account	Account Description	"Additional Amount Requested"
2500	County User Fee Fund	0235	Probation	21919	Incentives	\$120.67
2500	County User Fee Fund	0235	Probation	21919	Incentives	\$739.00
2500	County User Fee Fund	0235	Probation	21919	Incentives	\$1,100.00
1222	Statewide 911	0303	MCCCC	11403	Dispatcher	\$15,800.00
1222	Statewide 911	0303	MCCCC	11406	Dispatcher	\$15,800.00
4900	MCCCC	0303	MCCCC	30050	Contractual Services	\$9,600.00
7304	Innkeeper's Tax	0000	Convention & Visitors Commission	41519	Program Grants	\$5,000.00
7304	Innkeeper's Tax	0000	Convention & Visitors Commission	41515	Event Grants	\$4,500.00
7304	Innkeeper's Tax	0000	Convention & Visitors Commission	30079	Legal Services	\$2,500.00
1168	Local Health Maintenance	0610	Health	11220	Environmental Health Clerk	\$16,569.50
1159	Health	0610	Health	44523	Vehicle Purchase	\$33,763.25
TOTAL:						\$105,492.42

The additional appropriations as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). The DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action taken.
This will be considered a work session for the Board of Commissioners in conjunction with the scheduled Council meeting.
Dated this 08/25/2023
Mindy Byers
Auditor, Montgomery County

PL4713 8/30 1t hspaxlp

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of Superior Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No. 54D02-2206-MF-000449, wherein Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper was Plaintiff, and Michael Reinken, et al., were the Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and costs, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the 11th day of October, 2023, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, 600 Memorial Dr., Crawfordsville, IN 47933, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana:

LOTS 42 & 43, AS THE SAME ARE KNOWN AND DESIGNATED ON THE RECORDED PLAT OF SHERWOOD FOREST, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, INDIANA, AS THE SAME APPEARS OF RECORD IN DEED RECORD 182 PAGE 413 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, INDIANA

More Commonly known as: 2946 W Shore Dr, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 Parcel No. 11-35-222-060.000-025

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

"Subject to all liens, encumbrances and easement of record not otherwise extinguished in the proceedings known as Cause 54D02-2206-MF-000449 in the Superior Court of Montgomery County, Indiana,"

Plaintiff Attorney: Brian K. Tekulve
ATTORNEY NO. 30882-49
Law Office of Gerald M. Shapiro, LLP
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Norwood, OH 45212
(513) 396-8100 Fax: (847) 627-8805
btekulve@logs.com
Sheriff of Montgomery County
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Street Address

The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein.

PL4712 8/30 9/6 9/13 3t hspaxlp

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Red Cross: Prepare For Worsening Extreme Weather During National Preparedness Month

Red Cross responds to nearly twice as many large disasters in U.S. as a decade ago.

During National Preparedness Month in September, the American Red Cross Indiana Region urges everyone to prepare for worsening disasters affecting communities in our region, which has experienced several tornadoes and other weather-related events this year.

Severe weather like this is part of a worsening national trend in which the American Red Cross has responded to nearly twice as many large disasters across the country as it did a decade ago.

As rapidly intensifying, weather-related events pose serious challenges to its humanitarian work and the people it serves, the Red Cross has announced an ambitious national plan to take urgent action. With more climate-driven disasters upending lives and devastating communities, the organization is racing to adapt its services and grow its disaster response capacity across the country, while also funding new international programs on climate response and preparedness, as well as minimizing its own environmental footprint.

As the frequency and intensity of disasters grow, more people need help more often. Yet as fast as our volunteers are working to help, the needs are escalating faster. That's why it's critical to not only prepare yourself for risks like tornadoes in our community, but to also help families in need — both locally and in other parts of the country. Join us by becoming a volunteer or making a financial donation to support our disaster relief efforts.

For National Preparedness Month, take three lifesaving actions — get a kit, make a plan and be informed — to help protect yourself against local emergencies. Follow safety tips now at redcross.org/prepare. You can also deliver relief and care to families facing disasters

by becoming a Red Cross volunteer at redcross.org/VolunteerToday.

MOUNTING U.S. DISASTER RESPONSES In the first half of 2023 alone, the nation experienced an above-average 15 billion-dollar disasters. That's all on top of extreme heat in the Midwest and other communities — which have made July the country's hottest single month on record. What's more, the U.S. is just now entering its typical peak time for hurricanes and wildfires.

ADAPTING TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS As extreme weather disasters increase, more people need help from the Red Cross in the U.S. Nationwide, the organization is taking bold and thoughtful actions to adapt its services and grow its capacity by:

- Enhancing large-scale disaster response services by bolstering the aid provided in emergency shelters and extending casework support to help people with the most recovery needs.

- Expanding financial assistance to help more families with unmet needs and bridge the gap between immediate disaster relief and long-term recovery assistance.

- Strengthening local partner networks in targeted areas that face a high risk of extreme weather and existing societal inequities with a focus on increased access to health and mental health services, nutritious food and safe housing for local families. The Indiana Region is one of 15 U.S. communities participating in this innovative Red Cross disaster resilience program to strengthen the capability and capacity of select local partners — both before and after disasters strike.

- Growing its disaster workforce — comprised of 90% trained volunteers — to deepen its disaster readiness. This includes fortifying the critical infrastructure and technology that enables 24/7 response

to disasters across the country.

SUPPORT OUR DISASTER RELIEF WORK Help people affected by disasters big and small by making a gift to American Red Cross Disaster Relief. Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from disasters in the U.S. Visit redcross.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

CLIMATE AND WEATHER IMPACTS TO THE NATIONAL BLOOD SUPPLY The Red Cross has seen a significant shortfall in blood and platelet donations over the last month, making it hard to keep pace with the need for blood products. Blood and platelet donations that go uncollected due to climate-related events, such as hurricanes, wildfires and extreme heat, can put further strain on the national blood supply. As extreme weather events are worsening, the Red Cross is seeing that translate into more blood drive cancellations. In 2022, over 1,300 blood drives were canceled due to weather — about 23% higher than the average of the prior nine years.

In thanks for helping ensure the nation's blood supply is prepared for all emergencies, from disasters to medical emergencies, all who come to give blood, platelets or plasma Sept. 1-18 will receive a limited-edition Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last. Those who come to give throughout September will also receive a coupon for a free haircut by email, thanks to Sport Clips Haircuts. Details are available at rcblood.org/racetogive. Donors can schedule an appointment to donate using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, by visiting RedCrossBlood.org or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). If you are unable to give blood you can volunteer to support blood collections. Visit redcross.org/volunteer to learn more.

Delta-8 In Dispute: Following Attorney General's Guidance, Industry Files Suit

By Leslie Bonilla Muniz
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Matt Wall estimates that he's got a month left in business.

He owns Wall's Organics, a retailer of delta-8 and other hemp-derived products that, until this year, had encountered "no problems" legally.

That was until August 4, when Evansville Police Officer Nathan Hassler entered one of Wall's four stores and told him to get such products off his shelves in 10 days — or face arrest on charges of selling marijuana.

And Hassler handed him a document: an advisory opinion from the state's chief legal officer.

When Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita issued the opinion in January this year declaring that the products are illegal, law enforcement around the state took note — and some members of the industry promptly filed suit.

Wall is among them. "It's killing our business," he told the Capital Chronicle.

Delta-8 and the other products accounted for 90% of sales, and since mid-August, he's dropped from \$2,000 days to \$300 days. Now, he's facing staff layoffs, store closures and angry customers — some of whom, he said, are returning to more dangerous substances.

Manufacturer and distributor 3Chi and the Midwest Hemp Council originally filed suit on June 26 against Rokita's Office and the State of Indiana, in the U.S. District court for the Southern District of Indiana. Wall joined in an amended complaint filed August 16, which also added several local law enforcement defendants.

Opinion issued Hemp-derived products have for years occupied a legal gray area, the 14-page stack of paper Hassler brought to Wall's store reads. And it offers a definitive interpretation.

Rokita opined that Indiana law designates all natural and synthetic forms of tetrahydrocannabinol — the major psychoactive component in the cannabis plant — as Schedule I controlled substances. That designation means a substance has no accepted medical use but does have a high potential for abuse.

That's although, on the federal level, such hemp-derived substances are generally considered legal and unregulated — as long as they are below 0.3% delta-9 THC. Above that, hemp or hemp products are considered banned marijuana.

Following 2018's federal Farm Bill, which removed hemp from the definition of marijuana, Indiana legalized the industrial hemp industry. And the state used the same 0.3% delta-9 THC cutoff in legalizing "low THC hemp extract" products.

"Indiana law does make exceptions for hemp and hemp products, as well as low THC hemp extracts, but delta-8 THC does not appear to fall into any of these named exceptions, either," Rokita's office wrote. It said Indiana's list of Schedule I substances "applies to all cannabis plants" and "clearly includes derivatives" with

similar chemical structures and effects.

"The plain language of the statute and the legislative history indicate a clear intent to declassify hemp so it could be used for agricultural purposes, not 'as a backdoor way to legalize THC,'" the office continued.

The opinion was a direct response to a request by Indiana State Police Executive Director Doug Carter and Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council (IPAC) Executive Director Chris Naylor.

The document explicitly says, "The OAG cannot opine on the charging or prosecution of individual cases and defers to the prosecuting attorneys and law enforcement officers for those decisions."

Spokespeople for the entities didn't provide comment. IPAC noted it hadn't provided guidance to counties, but said each was aware of the opinion.

Some take action

Law enforcement and prosecutors were reading Rokita's opinion — and acting on it.

"I am writing to inform you that if you continue to possess and/or sell these products, you ... could be charged with dealing in a controlled substance," reads a letter from Wayne County Prosecutor Michael Shipman to Low Bob's Tobacco, in an exhibit for the lawsuit. Shipman's office didn't return a request for comment.

"We are aware of ongoing civil litigation regarding the legal status of certain THC products and look forward to more clarity in the future," wrote Huntington Police Chief Cory R. Boxell. "For now, we are requesting that our local businesses cease all purchase, sale, and possession of any substance containing THC, with the exception of strictly delta-9 products with a concentration below 0.3%."

The Huntington Police Department, Huntington County Prosecutor Jeremy Nix and the Evansville Police Department — named in the lawsuit alongside two individual law enforcement officers — did not return requests for comment.

Vanderburgh County Prosecutor Diana Moer's office said it had sent out letters but hadn't yet filed any cases.

They are among numerous law enforcement entities throughout the state that have mass-mailed letters to businesses selling products containing delta-8 THC and other variants.

Some businesses received surprise visits, like Wall's. Some were even raided, the lawsuit alleges, and their products seized.

In the lawsuit, 3Chi alleges that its previous Indiana-based bank told it to either stop selling its products or switch banks, forcing a transition. The Midwest Hemp Council alleged that its members have been turned down for financing and other banking services, and that they're at risk for criminal prosecution.

The plaintiffs argue that Rokita's opinion violates the 2018 federal Farm Bill and provisions in Indiana law by "unilaterally reclassify(ing) low THC hemp

extracts as Schedule I controlled substances." They also request an injunction to halt enforcement.

Still, Rokita's office stands by its opinion.

"We were asked by law enforcement for our legal advice on Indiana law as passed by the elected General Assembly. We are confident in that opinion, which notes the exception for Delta-9 THC under 0.3%," Rokita said in a February statement. His office directed the Capital Chronicle to the statement when asked for comment.

"... Those concerned with the current law can contact their state legislators and senators," he continued.

What lies ahead Wall has little left to sell without delta-8: blue lotus flower vapes, mushrooms, products of less 0.3% delta-9 THC, and the like.

There are ripple effects. The sale restrictions, Wall said, have forced him to halt orders from vendors, and the financial hit has led him to pull advertisements from billboards and radios. Lower revenue also means less in taxes — at one point, Wall said, he was paying over \$20,000 a month in taxes, which fund public services.

Customers are also affected. "People come into our stores mad," Wall said. "You know, 'You've got it in there somewhere!' ... No, we don't, sorry. You're going to have to complain to the state about that."

"And all these people are going mad because nobody can get their delta-8 ... or all the other stuff that would help them," he said. "You know, (they're) going back to using drugs again, or going back to the street. I mean, we've heard it firsthand."

There are several thousand retailers of delta-8 and similar products across Indiana, estimated Midwest Hemp Council President Justin Swanson. But enforcement thus far, he noted, has been markedly county-by-county.

That's something Rokita acknowledges.

"Businesses who sell synthetic products or products with a higher concentration of Delta-9 THC could be in jeopardy at the discretion of their county prosecutor," he said.

Wall, meanwhile, is pursuing a move: to Henderson, Kentucky, which lies just across state lines from Evansville.

It's close by, he said, requiring no staff relocations. And it'd remain accessible to much of his current customer base.

Walls wants to open in the next month — the same amount of time he estimates he can afford to run his Hoosier locations.

Note: This story has been corrected to include the Indiana State Police executive director's name. He is Doug Carter.

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LWV From Page A1

all eternity, she spends half the year ostensibly with the blood rushing to her head.

Maybe she's relieved we cannot gaze upon her shame, but if you want to find her, look for a W shape, with five bright stars and three dimmer ones in the northern sky. Do a quick Google search to verify what Cassiopeia's formation looks like, grab a sleeping bag and some bug spray then head out where there's almost no light pollution, far from the glow of cities and steel mills, the street lights and cheerfully persistent twinklies or Edison bulbs we string up outside nowadays.

While you are out there, see if you can spot a satellite gliding across the sky between the dots of stars. Should you succeed, claim two achievements: one for escaping light pollution, the second for an act of simple living.

Light pollution, we learned from the film "Into the Dark" (not the horror series) is not merely a matter of nostalgia, wherein we say, "remember when it was dark enough to spy constellations" or "when the earth had polar ice caps." One of the team members in the film notes that his kids will never experience the polar caps as he did. Nature Communications projects that by the 2030s, we will reach "blue ocean events" in the summer. There will be virtually no polar ice in the warm months. Ice shields deep sea creatures key to the food chain.

"Into the Dark" - watch it here <https://www.newday.com/films/into-the-dark> -- follows scientists curious about what photosynthetic responses artificial light in the Arctic trigger. The microscopic creatures at the start of the food chain have a natural rhythm that has been disrupted since the advent of the light bulb and the exploratory "conquer the planet" campaign of humans. (It's been labeled the "Anthropocene" era.) Creatures that once lay dormant in then polar winter now wake up early because of false light. Their early flourishing is followed by early death or overproduction, depending on conditions.

Hapless in the environment being manipulated by human artifice, life explodes into existence when the artificial light switch is flipped on. It's reminiscent of cancers, many of which are triggered when one part of a cell's reproduction switch is flipped by a chemical or condition, and it just reproduces in a frenzy.

Not only do small creatures respond unnaturally to light pollution; so do other creatures, including humans. Artificial light at night, - blue light from phone, computer and tv screens, but also incandescent light - interferes with the body's natural cycle of releasing melatonin in the dark, resulting in sleep deprivation, fatigue,

headaches, stress and anxiety among other health problems, reports the National Geographic. Johns Hopkins University reports that melatonin disruption - which is acute in night or swing shift workers - increases the chances of cancer. Multiple studies indicate that melatonin is an active cancer fighter because it is an immune regulatory agent, a powerful antioxidant and prevents healthy cells from dying when undergoing chemotherapy and radiation.

While each cancer is unique, many cancers are the product of human-introduced toxic chemicals. The cause-effect of smoke on lungs is easily proven. Colo-rectal and pancreatic cancer appear to have relationships to highly processed foods. Once again, the complexity of the Anthropocene demonstrates its insidious effects. The obvious response is to return to simple and clean living, as the second film of the series, a short film by MoCo resident and theology professor Derek Nelson urges. You can view "Framing House and Home" on Vimeo (<https://vimeo.com/798504995>), and it will only take 10 minutes.

During the pandemic, Nelson felled trees on his property and obtained other locally sourced wood to build his portable, timber frame home. Because it uses older, more sustainable methods of building and because it's compact, it is more energy efficient than traditional homes.

Smaller homes may be in our future. They're financially more sustainable, as the Wall Street Journal reported this week, which is why U.S. new home starts shrank by 10 percent since 2018 to an average of about 2,400 square feet. Homes were once far smaller. Apartment Therapy reported in 2019 that the average home in the U.S. was 2,300 square feet. Compare that to Denmark's 1,475 sq. feet, France's 1,216, Spain's 1,044, Ireland's 847 and the U.K.'s 818 square feet. They require less stuff, less energy and less lighting. With one-fifth of Americans paying to store excess, unused goods in storage units, it seems we're paying twice for our excess. As J.R.R. Tolkien wrote, "If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world."

Enjoying the simple things in lieu of owning them may guide us back to the nostalgic joy of our past and reap higher dividends for our health as well as the planet's.

-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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TIM From Page A1

the local government was upset about questions the paper was asking. How dare it! So a judge issued a search warrant and the search and seizure that followed went way beyond norms. Computers, databases and cell phones were taken by people who may as well have been wearing brown shirts.

It's a long story, but the important takeaways are that our government shouldn't be able to basically shut down a newspaper because they don't like something that newspaper is doing. Most importantly, the elderly owner of the paper died of a heart attack the next day. Five days later, everything was returned to the paper . . . like nothing had happened. A person died and freedom of the press was flushed down a toilet.

Like. Nothing. Had. Happened.

Let's look at our national political scene. Love him, hate him or don't care about him, Donald Trump probably isn't deserving of being the target of almost 100 indictments.

Hey, to be clear - Even some Trump supporters have been on record for a long time saying he's an arrogant, pompous, blowhard. It's hard in historical terms to paint him as the greatest president. The facts show that he did not drain the swamp like he said he would, and in fact, added a few trillion to our national debt. Before anyone goes nuts, let's be more specific. He grew the national debt by 40 percent.

We should not be OK with that.

But we should also not be OK with the guy being the target of an investigation from before he took the oath of office - an investigation that everyone now agrees was made up as a campaign tactic against him. We should not be OK with multiple politicians lying that they had personally seen the evidence (hello Adam Schiff, Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer) against Trump that he was an agent of a foreign government. We should not be OK with the constant witch hunt that ran throughout his entire presidency. We should not be OK with Trump's constant lies or over exaggerations or whatever you want to call them. Nor

should we be OK with how he treats women - or his idiotic mugshot.

If Trump and Biden are the best we can offer as a country . . . well, is there a sadder statement?

Lastly, we should not be OK with a government that tries to silence its enemies - enemies who are Americans, we might add - not a foreign power.

So, what does the newspaper in Kansas, the crummy presidential contenders and the war between the left and the right have to do with each other?

Us. You've all heard the definition of insanity - keep doing the same thing and expect a different outcome. Well, we - as in we the people - have to stop doing the same thing. If you are a Biden or Trump fan, how about hopping off the crazy train to nowheresville for a minute and admit neither did or are doing a good job? How about instead of ripping the guy or gal across the aisle from your political bent we try to see if we can find some common ground? How about if we all acknowledge that our government ain't what it used to be?

How about if we work together to demand better? Hell, I'll vote for a Democrat if they have a decent plan and seem to be at least halfway honest. I'll do the same for a Republican if they meet those standards.

I'll start trusting our government again when we band together and fire those in power who are only about power.

We've fallen and I'm not sure we can get back up. But get up we must, and the only way we can do that is by working together. If anyone hasn't learned by now that the federal government doesn't have the answer, they never will. Keep electing good people at the local level and demand more from inside the Beltway.

I hate to break it to you, but it's one of the very few answers that has a shot at a happy ending.

-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.

Solar Energy Innovator Launches US Headquarters, Manufacturing In Indiana

Bila Solar to power North American solar energy with new module manufacturing plant in Indianapolis.

Bila Solar, a solar energy startup, launched today, announced plans to establish its U.S. headquarters and a state-of-the-art solar module manufacturing facility in Indianapolis, creating more than 240 new jobs in the coming years.

"Indiana's entrepreneurial ecosystem is strong, and we're excited to welcome Bila Solar to our growing network of innovators advancing products that power the world," said Governor Eric J. Holcomb. "With Bila's new Indianapolis manufacturing operation, Indiana's skilled workforce will be making solar energy more accessible and powering our growing clean energy sector to new heights."

Bila Solar will invest more than \$35 million in its new headquarters and manufacturing facility, renovating and equipping an existing 150,000-square-foot space just south of downtown Indianapolis at 1249 S. White River Parkway East Drive. The new factory, which is expected to begin production in the summer of 2024, will produce a yearly capacity of one gigawatt (GW) of innovative glassless, frameless solar modules - an output akin to crafting around 5,000 high-capacity modules daily.

Bila's debut product will increase opportunities for solar power where traditional glass modules cannot be used, accelerating the transition to clean energy.

"We are thrilled to begin the Bila Solar journey in Indianapolis," said Mick McDaniel, vice president and U.S. general manager of Bila Solar. "We're bringing to the U.S. market ultralight modules that go where traditional solar panels can't go. In Indianapolis, we found a central urban location, a diverse workforce and an entrepreneurial spirit - ideal for our out-of-the-box approach to making clean energy attainable for all."

Bila's new operations

will help power Indiana's clean energy storage and production industry, which ranks No. 4 in the U.S. for the cleanest energy capacity in development by Canary Media.

The company's debut product is a lightweight solar module that combines the reliability and high efficiency of crystalline silicon solar cells with the lightness of specialty designed and patented aerospace composites. Weighing just 30% of regular glass panels and 95% slimmer, these modules can be employed in various challenging applications, including low load-bearing commercial and industrial roofs, waterproof membrane roofs, integration into vehicles for solar power and off-grid energy utilization.

"We are excited to welcome Bila Solar to Indianapolis," said Mayor Joe Hogsett. "This partnership not only bolsters our shared commitment to power greener solutions, but also underscores the importance of good-paying jobs in Indianapolis neighborhoods. Just recently, Indianapolis was ranked one of the top cities in the Midwest to launch a startup, and Bila Solar's \$35 million investment and creation of 240 new jobs in Indianapolis is a testament to that."

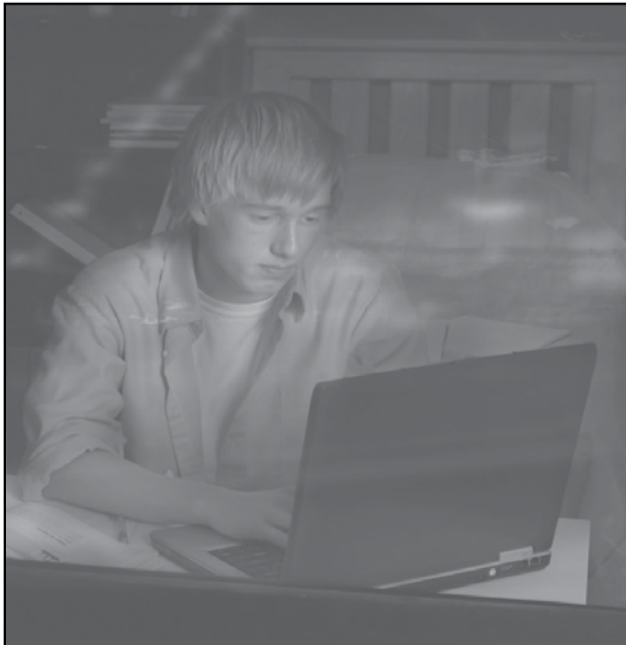
Pending approval of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) board of directors, the IEDC will commit an investment in Bila Solar of up to \$4.2 million in the form of incentive-based tax credits and up to \$300,000 in workforce training grants, based on the company's investment and job creation plans. The IEDC will also commit an investment of up to \$2 million in Hoosier Business Investment tax credits and up to \$200,000 in Manufacturing Readiness Grants, which are designed to help companies invest in smart manufacturing and new technologies. These tax credits are performance-based, meaning the company is eligible to claim incentives once Hoosiers are hired. The city of Indianapolis will offer additional incentives.

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