

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

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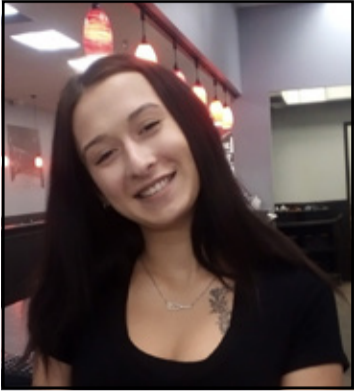
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TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 145:21 My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Our roving photographer was out early Wednesday and caught Lily Branshaw hard at work at a local diner. She still had time to give us a friendly smile though!

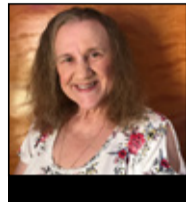
THREE THINGS You Should Know:

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 Franciscan Physician Network Primary Care & Sports Medicine Lafayette is now offering a walk-in clinic for middle and high school athletes with acute injuries occurring in the previous 72 hours. The clinic is offered on Mondays only thru Oct. 23, 2023 and check-in is from 7 to 8:30 a.m.

3 Please join The Farm At Prophetstown and help the promote their fundRAISE the Barn event at The Farm at Prophetstown. All proceeds from this event benefit the restoration and preservation of their historic Red Gambrel Barn. Event will take place at the Farm on September 23rd beginning at 6pm. Live music, Silent Auction, Square Dancing, Food and more! Flier attached! The barn restoration is currently underway, come out and see the progress!

One Hard Working Local Deere



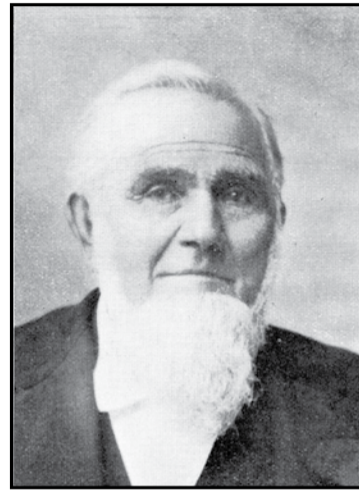
KAREN ZACH
Around The County

Sharon R. for sending me Joel Garnett Deere's biography written by one of the sons in 1912, who noted writing the family story was one of the "most sacred tasks of my life!" A nice job done!

Joel Garnett Deere received part of his mother and father in his name, his father being Joel and mother being Sarah "Sally" Garnett from the Boone County, Kentucky area where Joel Garnett was born March 29, 1828, the youngest (I believe) of their six children and four of Sally's from a first marriage with Elijah Rice. Not long after he was born, the family headed to MoCo, Joel riding on horseback in his mother's lap all the way. His father farmed but built Deere's Mill in the early 30s. Sadly, Joel lost his mother in 1842, at the crossroads into

adulthood, his father remarrying not long before Joel G did (April 1849). Joel, age 21 married Mary McGregg, just 19, after their courtship of two years and she was often noted to say that they did not step over the bounds of modesty!

They went to housekeeping in the what we all know as the Deer's Mill hill area, beginning in a small cabin, building a home as the children came along and eventually ending up at the very top of the hill, first house on left after the Shades turn-off on 234 (which they built late 1873 or early 1874). He farmed some but ran the mill and then the children arrived being: (Joel Thomas March 4, 1850; Sarah Elizabeth April 14, 1852; William Edmund Oct 22, 1853; Charles Henry May 13, 1857; Susan Anne Sept 21, 1860; Elva Jane July 15, 1863; Albert Maywood Oct 19, 1865; George Washington Oct 10, 1868; John Harvey August 31, 1871 and Stephen Ellis Feb 13, 1874). Another child was welcomed to their fold who was as much theirs as any of their birth rights, Ellen being the child of Joel's brother, Edmund, Ellen's mother, Susanna McGregg dying shortly after her birth and begging Joel and Mary to raise



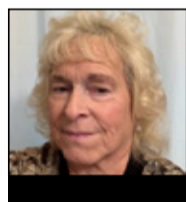
JOEL DEERE

her. They were thrilled. All their own children but Sarah grew to adulthood (died age 21 unmarried), all producing children of their own.

The name Joel continued somewhat, Joel Thomas parenting nine children, one being Joel Leroy; Albert Maywood having two daughters and four sons, one being Joel. Then, I absolutely love this - Elva Jane married William Tyre Whittington, mothered two daughters but wanted her daughter Mary to carry her father's name as her middle (she married George Durham Manson, grandson of

➔ See KAREN Page A5

Preparing For 'The Journey', An Inevitable Part Of Life



DeANTHA WRIGHT THORNBURG
Guest Column

There is a road we all will travel on at one time or another in our lifetime. It may be an awkward walk if you fail to prepare. All will walk the same path to the end. It's called 'The Journey.'

In the past four weeks I personally have gone from planning a 90th birthday party for a dear friend to attending his funeral. Today my sisters and I watched as a Hospice nurse introduced herself to my 89-year-old mother. For some reason I am numb, there is a hollow feeling of trying to understand death and its final passage. It's something none of us are ever ready for. But watching our loved ones embrace the journey leaves many of us trying to define our own mortality. I'm sitting here tonight writing at my mother's bedside. With every breath she takes we wait

to see if there is one more. Her journey awaits . . . all I can do now is pray, as we wait for the Lord to tell her it's time for her to go and be with daddy.

While we wait to begin our journey, I wanted to share what it means to be a caregiver to a loved one. And how our own aging population has grown. The number of caregivers increased from 43.5 million in 2015 to 53 million in 2020. In the last 20 years we have seen a dramatic shift of numbers by 2030 it is estimated 73 million people in the United States will be 65 or older. Many will require elder care at home, assisted living, or primary nursing care. This doesn't include those with long-term care policies. LTC is an insurance policy purchased to cover memory care or private pay primary nursing care, or assisted living facilities.

Forty-eight percent of today's caregivers care for an elderly parent. Only 11 percent care for a spouse. Ten percent care for grandparents. In 2023 unpaid caregiver statistics shared that 89 percent of unpaid

caregivers are related to their care recipients by either blood or marriage.

Recently Medicaid announced a Freedom Care program. If you are a Medicaid recipient and your caregiver lives with you, they can be paid. The guidelines are simple you must be on Medicaid, live in Indiana, need help with daily activities and are able to direct your own care / services. If not have an individual representative appointed. As a caregiver you must be a citizen of the U.S., over 65 or have a recognized disability and meet the requirements of the Aged and Disabled Waiver.

Because of government regulation, Medicare is NOT enough.

Medicaid funding is shared by states and federal government with the guarantee to states for federal matching payments with no pre-set limit. Medicare is a federal program whereas Medicaid is primarily supported by State Funding. As a federal program, Medicare

➔ See DeANTHA Page A5

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 7:19 a.m.
SET: 8:11 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
High: 75 °F
Low: 65 °F



Today is...

- National Beer Lover's Day
- Salami Day
- Superhuman Day



What Happened On This Day

- 1978 Georgi Markov is murdered. The Bulgarian writer and dissenter had left Bulgaria in 1969 and was working at BBC in London during the time of his murder. His murder, which is popularly known as the Umbrella Murder took place while he was crossing the Waterloo Bridge in London.
- 1940 Germans Begin the Blitz over London. The Germans began strategically bombing the United Kingdom and London on this day. For 57 days, the German Luftwaffe aerially bombed London, killing over 20,000 people and destroying over a million homes in the city.
- 1936 The Tasmanian Tiger Becomes Extinct. The last surviving Tasmanian Tiger - a carnivorous marsupial, died in captivity at the Hobart Zoo, Tasmania, Australia. Called Benjamin, the thylacine, as the species was called, is believed to have died due to neglect

Births On This Day

- 1908 Paul Brown American football coach, executive
- 1533 Elizabeth I of England

Deaths On This Day

- 1978 Keith Moon English drummer, songwriter, producer
- 1566 Suleiman the Magnificent Ottoman sultan

HONEST HOOSIER

What is it with the pumpkin spice everything? When did that become a thing?



INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

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

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

It's a myth that older people need less sleep. 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
Heavenleigh Dream Weed

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



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THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

2nd Annual Montgomery County Kids Color Fun Run:

The 2nd annual MoCo Kids Color Fun Run is scheduled to be on Saturday. The fun run will be at the Leland Cornett Nature Park in New Ross. Enjoy Breakfast from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the New Ross Christian Church followed by the lunch at the Walnut Township Fire Department starting at 11 a.m. with concessions nearby. Registration at 9 a.m. and the run is from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Pre-registration is closed. Registration is \$13 per child and/or \$35 per family. COLORS GALORE! Art can be seen everywhere! YES! Artistic exploration can be exhibited in so many forms, including face painting, balloon creating, and color blasting a t-shirt! All proceeds go to Walnut Elementary PTO.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"I play to win, whether during practice or a real game."
-Michael Jordan

TODAY'S JOKE

What's more impressive than a talking bird?
A spelling bee

7 DAY FORECAST

85 HUMID WITH SCT'D STORMS	65/75 LESS HUMID, SOMEWHAT POSSIBLE	60/75 PARTLY CLOUDY, MILD	60/76 MOSTLY SUNNY	59/80 SUNNY, WARMER	60/82 PARTLY CLOUDY, SEASONAL	59/78 SCT'D SHOWERS
WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE

➤ Letters

Resident Thanks Police For Arrest

Dear Editor,
No one is going to believe this one . . . but Fairlane Drive has never been this busy on a week night. Hats off to Crawfordsville Police Department and Montgomery County Sheriff Department.

This evening near 5 p.m. officers stopped a suspect on Fairlane Drive. He was wanted on several felony charges. The subject ran west toward Englewood. Officer Deputy Robby Hechinger and K-9 Officer Titan and Officer Michael Plant and K-9 Officer Inka were in pursuit. The search went on between the houses. More and more officers arrived and assisted with the search for the suspect. Crawfordsville, Montgomery County and Darlington officers assisted with the search.

The search continued through several backyards in the area. The dog Inka hit on my fenced yard.

I have a five-foot fence around the house. The officers requested to enter the yard. Inka hit on a sweat shirt tossed by the suspect in the garden. The dog continued to move toward the back of our house all the way to the garage door. Officers opened the door and sent in Inka to do a search. Officers heard the subject yelling from inside the garage. The suspect had entered the garage and climbed into our SUV. He surrendered peacefully once the dog was recalled. The found him hiding in the back seat of our SUV.

I was about to leave the house for a city council meeting downtown. I would've had a big surprise waiting for me if not for the officers of our community. Great job gentleman . . . that's one more bad guy you have gotten off our streets.

DeAntha Wright-Thornburg
Crawfordsville

Dividing Perennials Class On September 21

The stores are stocked with bulbs, trees, shrubs, and more; if only the weather would finally decide to cool down, we all get some serious lawn work done! But do you need to buy new bulbs? Could you just divide your existing plants to expand some landscaping projects? You might have the opposite problem that your perennial flowers are overcrowded and overtak-

ing your landscape. It is important to know when you can move your perennial landscaping plants, and when to divide them for their best growth.

On September 21st at 6:30pm I will be hosting a demonstration class on How to Divide Your Perennials. The class will be outside, if there is poor weather, the class will move inside the 4-H Building. Those that

attend will gain knowledge on when it is best to divide perennials, and how to do it. There will be a demonstration of dividing and replanting iris and hostas, and more! This free class on September 21st is free and open to all. Please email triciaherr@purdue.edu if you need reasonable accommodations. This class is part of the Crawfordsville Seed Library's September Program

Series, and hosted in preparation of the Master Gardeners Annual Fall Plant Exchange.

On September 30th the Master Gardeners are hosting their annual Fall Plant Exchange. It is a great place to share your excess bulbs, cuttings, house plants, and gain some new ones. All plants at the Exchange are free! No invasive plants are allowed.

➤ Meeting Notes

Board Of Public Works And Public Safety Meeting Agenda

September 6, 2023 at 10AM

I. Approval of the minutes from August 30, 2023.

II. Approval of the claims for the week of September 5, 2023.

III. Old Business

a. Discuss the bids received for the US 231/Purple Heart Parkway sewer expansion project

IV. New Business

a. A request from Fawn Johnson to close Pike Street at Pike Place for the Oktoberfest on October 7th and parking space requests related to the event

b. Barry Lewis, Code

Enforcement Officer, with multiple work order requests

•418 S. Washington Street, owned by Sandra Huddleson

•701 S. Washington Street, owned by Austin Davis

•807 Shady Lane, owned by Patcon Properties, LLC.

•413 Wilson Avenue, owned by Tammy Neier

•108 W. Franklin Street, owned by Stephanie Pool

•304 Wayne Avenue, owned by Roberta Brock

V. Departments Heads
VI. Adjournment



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Buy. Sell. Rent. Lease.



THE PAPER classifieds.

BBB Tip: 10 Tips To Avoid Buying Flood Damaged Cars

Flooding problems may lead to scam artists attempting to pawn off flood-damaged vehicles as standard secondhand cars. These vehicles typically show up at auto auctions, used car dealerships, and classified ads. Unsuspecting consumers, particularly those living in regions of the country unaffected by hurricanes or flooding, are often fooled by fresh upholstery, new carpeting, and bargain prices.

Once the owners of damaged cars settle with the insurance companies, the vehicles are sometimes refurbished and resold. Flooded cars are often transported well beyond the original region where the flood or major storm occurred to locations where consumers may be less aware of the damage and what warning signs to look for. Some-

times, a middleman buyer intentionally hides a car's history as a flood-damaged vehicle through a process known as "title washing" and sells it to an unsuspecting buyer in a state unaffected by the disaster. Among many possible mechanical problems faced by flooded cars, corrosion can take years to surface eventually, when it can cause electrical and mechanical problems. By the time the issues become apparent, the seller is gone, and the new owner is left with an unreliable vehicle and no recourse against the seller.

Better Business Bureau (BBB) strongly recommends used car buyers to be cautious of unscrupulous businesses and individuals who may try to sell flood-damaged cars as standard secondhand

cars without revealing the vehicles' history. When importing a motor vehicle into Canada -- whether it's from an area affected by flooding or not -- check with the federal Registrar of Imported Vehicles before you purchase a vehicle.

BBB has the following tips for car shoppers to determine if a used car is flood-damaged:

- **Ask to see the title.** Check the date and place of transfer, verifying where the car came from. Ask questions if the title is stamped "salvage" or arrived from a recently flood-damaged state. Consider purchasing a vehicle history report, which includes information if the car has ever been tagged as "salvage" or "flood damaged" in any state.
- **Carefully check the**

dashboard. Examine all gauges to ensure they are accurate and there are no signs of water. Look for indications that the dashboard may have been removed.

- **Check the electronic components.** Test the lights, windshield wipers, turn signals, cigarette lighter, radio, heater, and air conditioner several times to ensure they work. Also, flex some wires under the dash to see if they bend or crack since wet wires become brittle upon drying.

- **Check the interior spaces.** Look in the trunk, glove compartment, and beneath the seats and dash for signs of mud, rust, or water damage. Check for open drainage holes in the bottom of the vehicle.

- **Check the condition of the fabrics.** Look

for discolored, faded, or mildewed upholstery and carpeting. Recently shampooed carpets may be cause for concern. Carpeting that has been replaced may fit too loosely or not match the interior color.

- **Get a vehicle history report from a database service.** The National Insurance Crime Bureau's (NICB) free database lists flood damage and other information. But note that NICB reports are only helpful if the car is insured. If an uninsured flood-damaged car owner tries to sell it on the open market and you're the buyer, you may never know there's a problem until things like the electrical system go bad.

- **Remember to check under the hood.** Look for standing water, mud, or grit in the spare tire

wheel well or around the engine compartment under the hood.

- **Do a smell test.** A heavy aroma of cleaners and disinfectants is a sign there may be a mold or odor problem.

- **Research the dealer.** Always check out the BBB Business Profile of the dealer at BBB.org.

- **Get an inspection.** Before buying any used car, consider having a pre-purchase inspection by a trusted mechanic.

For more information and to learn how to protect yourself, Google "BBB 10 Steps to Avoid Scams". If you spot a scam, whether you have lost money or not, report it to BBB's Scam Tracker at BBB.org/ScamTracker and the FTC at Report-Fraud.ftc.gov. Your story can help protect consumers from similar scams.

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**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

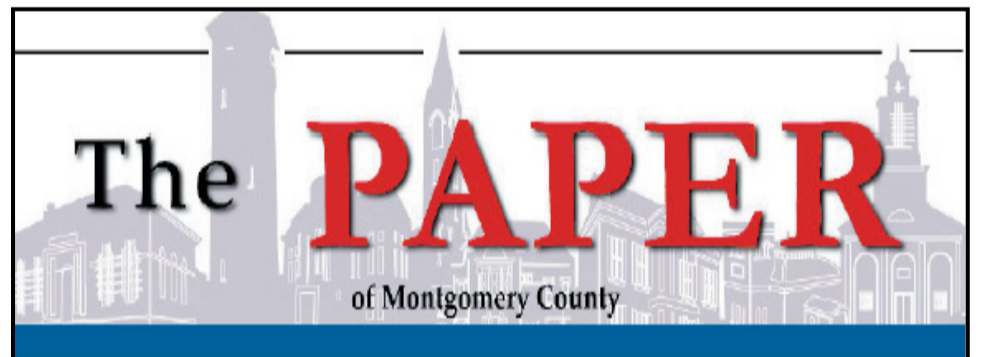
PLEASE PRINT

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 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



Classifieds

765-361-0100 ext. 15 | class@thepaper24-7.com Deadlines for next-day publication:
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<p>Denied Social Security Disability? Appeal! If you're 50+, filed for SSD and denied, our attorneys can help get you approved! No money out of pockets! Call 1-855-995-4758</p>	<p>SERIOUSLY INJURED in an AUTO ACCIDENT? Let us fight for you! Our network has recovered millions for clients! Call today for a FREE consultation! 844-517-6414</p>	<p>Guaranteed Life Insurance! (Ages 50 to 80). No medical exam. Affordable premiums never increase. Benefits never decrease. Policy will only be cancelled for non-payment. 833-535-1043</p>	<p>FREON WANTED: We pay \$\$\$ for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient. Certified Professionals. Call 312-313-9840 or visit RefrigerantFinders.com</p>		



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☪ KAREN From Page A1

General Mahlon Manson) thus Mary Joel!

The biography continues by giving each marriage and number of children (although most weren't named) but the next part is truly my favorite of the little pamphlet. "Physically, the father of us all bore the marks of his German extraction. He was about 5'9", bulky built, with a short neck, high forehead and honest face (fits the photo from the biography quite well). Nature lavished strength upon this pioneer son, equal to the tasks of the farm, store, mill and the thousands of miles he covered during the many years of his daily journeyings."

Also, the notation that had Joel been given scholastic opportunities, he'd have been a cut above any of his local fellow men. Certainly, "his honest nature, broad sympathies, dry wit, strong mentality" took him a great way nonetheless. Joel made sure his children were given what he was missing offering each \$1000 for college or another choice of \$1000 to get them started in their marriage.

A Republican, he wasn't much into running for office, although he did serve as county commissioner one term due to pressure to get honest Uncle Joel signed up. Impressive that he was known to give the other the advantage, his honesty known all-around. Never would he have been accused of taking advantage and he abhorred those who would. My kind of man!

Joel Deere loved his family and the best joy to him was those gathering around the fireplace with a cheerful fire relishing a bucket of apples or munching on hickory nuts. A fairly quiet man, he did enjoy his Masonic life, serving as his lodge's treasurer for many years. He planned the very first Deere reunion, making a reservation at the Shades for the noon meal, so that the women would not have to toil. Another joy was resting with his beloved on their porch or gathering garden vegetables, or in the shade of a tree, reading and just being together. They were married more than 50 years and he gave her the credit for their success.

Both were extreme hard workers and members of Freedom Baptist Church along with most of their children. His faith was not of the boisterous kind but of the quiet, never-failing kind.

As Joel passed, his beloved dog was in the yard near his window, moaning in thought of losing his master and one of the sons was with him. He called his son to him and resting his hand on his rapid-beating pulse asked him, "What does this mean?" The son said, "Father, isn't it fine to be a Christian?" Feeble Joel answered YES and on February 9, 1903, "he closed his eyes on the scenes of earth!" His thoughts rested with Victor Hugo, "The tomb is not a blind alley - it is a thoroughfare!" That said, Rest In Peace, Joel Garnett Deere!

- 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.

☪ DeANTHA From Page A1

relies on the federal government for nearly all its funding. The funding primarily comes from general revenues (46 percent), payroll tax revenues (34 percent) and premiums paid by beneficiaries (15 percent).

What is happening is our larger nursing home facilities and assisted living homes are required to have a certain number of beds for Medicaid recipients. If a patient goes to the hospital, Medicare picks up the bill. But when the patient is discharged from the hospital and more than seven days have passed, those individuals' risk being told their bed has been taken. Most of the time the bed is taken because of a private pay recipient.

Thus, pushing the Medicaid patient onto the street all because of the dollar.

Being a Caregiver' and staying in one's home is the best medicine of all. But knowing when to reach out and ask for help is the most important part of being a 'Caregiver.' Defining the role of the individual is a support worker paid, or unpaid member of the individual's family.

Being a 'Caregiver' isn't an easy job. For a family member it is a stressful, demanding job, it can lead to PTSD for even the most experienced individuals. The issue we are seeing is the lack of support from family members. The lack of a positive support network as a caregiver can lead

to major depression, self-imposed isolation or burnout. The positive side of being a family caregiver is compassion, and the ability to translate to empathic feelings for all involved.

Knowing when to ask for help is the most important part of 'The Journey'. For those family Caregivers, Medicaid has joined forces with Medicare and has established a program called Hospice. I will define its purpose and the benefits of asking for Hospice and why. Thus the 'Journey' begins.

-DeAntha Wright-Thornburg worked for the Indiana Department of Transportation for more than 30 years and is also a freelance journalist.

Rokita Files Lawsuit Against MV Realty

Attorney General Todd Rokita has filed a lawsuit against MV Realty in an effort to stop the company from negotiating contracts that violate Indiana law. The company is based out of Florida, but it operates in Indiana and several other states.

"Hoosier working men and women go through enough," Rokita said. "Using more than 10 million robocalls to solicit customers and then deceiving them is not a business model that should be tolerated in Indiana."

The lawsuit alleges that the company purports to offer "loan alternatives" in exchange for consumers agreeing to use MV Realty as their exclusive real-estate listing broker.

In addition, the state alleges that MV Realty's Indiana brokerage license has expired and they are unable to engage in the practice of real estate in Indiana.

The agreement signed by Hoosier homeowners is the equivalent of a high-interest mortgage, backed by the recording of the contract against their real property. Rokita and his team are seeking a permanent injunction against MV Realty to 1) stop them from continuing to illegally solicit Hoosiers on the Indiana Do Not Call List and the Federal Do Not Call Registry and 2) to force them to discontinue collection activities. The Attorney General's Office is also seeking an order to

discharge all liens recorded against homeowners' properties.

Indiana currently has approximately 366 households in at least 65 counties, including Montgomery, affected by MV Realty's dubious practices. These long-term agreements not only affect the homeowners who sign them but also the homeowners' heirs. When owners pass away, the heirs of the estates are also on the hook to deal exclusively with MV Realty.

Hoosier consumers who may have been affected by a contract with MV Realty are encouraged to file a complaint with the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division.

Is NYC Really Sinking?

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Is New York City really sinking? If so, is it a problem and is it a natural or human-caused phenomenon? Can anything be done about it?

The sea level surrounding New York City (NYC) is nine inches higher today than it was in 1950. Put differently, while it took 48 years for the sea level around NYC to rise by six inches, the next three inches took less than 20 years. Scientists forecast that in the next 14 years the waters around NYC will rise another six inches. With all five boroughs of the city surrounded by water, the sinking of NYC puts its 8.4 million residents, its economy, and its property worth billions of dollars at risk.

The sinking or settling of Earth's surface is known as subsidence—a geological process that can be either natural or human-caused. For NYC, the main cause of subsidence is the sheer weight of the more than one million structures built on it. The United States Geological Survey estimates that structures in NYC weigh 1.68 trillion pounds—the equivalent of 1.9 million Boeing 747s. The pressure exerted by this extraordinary weight causes NYC to sink 0.04 to 0.08 inches every year.

There are other reasons, too, that NYC is sinking. Global warming, caused

by the high level of human-made carbon emissions, is steadily increasing sea levels. Warmer temperatures melt ice sheets and glaciers, adding water to the oceans. And as ocean waters warm up, it causes oceans to expand. Climate change is also contributing to NYC's sinking by increasing the frequency of hurricanes. As the world heats up, more evaporation from water bodies takes place, causing heavier precipitation and more flooding along the shores. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has found that because of climate change, coastal flooding has become 40 percent more likely and 10 percent more intense.

Yet another human-made contributor to the sinking of NYC is the extraction of groundwater from underground aquifers, which is used to supply a third of the city's drinking needs. Years of pumping these aquifers has caused the soil to compact by reducing the size and number of open pores in the soil that previously held water. This, too, has led to subsidence in NYC.

This is not to say that all causes of NYC's sinking are human made. The natural erosion and deposit of sediment can cause soil to shift from one area to another leading to uneven subsidence. Volcanic activity beneath the ground can force tectonic plates to move in ways that also make the land above it sink.

To minimize subsidence, NYC could halt the construction of new buildings. But this is unrealistic given the needs of its growing population. It could limit extraction of groundwater, but that would threaten the availability of safe drinking water. NYC could build defenses such as seawalls and flood gates. These can be helpful, but they are expensive to construct and do not address the source of the problem.

Alternately, the NYC government could adopt more creative urbanization plans that build away from areas vulnerable to subsidence, and consider the construction of new pipe systems to transport water from regional aqueducts instead of extracting local groundwater. And most important, they can support policies that mitigate global warming, such as carbon taxation, and provide incentives for clean energy adoption.

-CONTACTS: New York State Climate Action Scoping Plan, <https://climate.ny.gov/resources/scoping-plan/>; New York's Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act, <https://climate.ny.gov/>; New York City Mayor Eric Adams, <https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/mayor-contact.page>.

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