

# The Paper

## OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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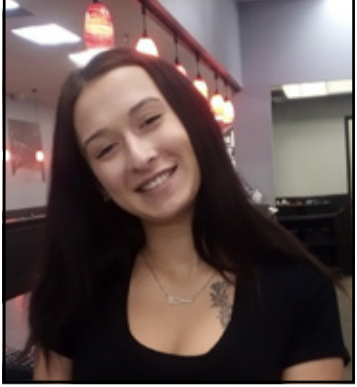
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### ➔ TODAY'S VERSE

Mark 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

### ➔ 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** All are invited to participate in the reading group for "Here, Bullet," an anthology of poems by veteran writer and musician Brian Turner. Wabash professor Agata Brewer and her students will moderate a discussion of Turner's poems. The event will take place at Crawfordsville Public Library on Thursday, Nov. 2, at 6:30 p.m. Sign up online at [cdpl.lib.in.us](http://cdpl.lib.in.us), or in person at the library. The first ten people who sign up for the discussion will receive a free copy of the book. Then, on Monday, Nov. 6, at 8 p.m., Brian Turner will visit Wabash College, read his poems, and answer questions from the audience in the Korb Classroom of the Fine Arts Center. This event is sponsored by the Wabash Veterans Fund and is open to the public. Book signing will follow.

**2** Tickets are available now for the Rotary Jail Museum Ghost Hunts. Please pay attention to the date and time you select, some events take place just before or just after midnight. The Fan Meet & Greet with the Fourman Brothers from Paranormal Nightare is a FREE event - we are only selling pre-purchase tickets for the Ghost Hunts on October 28 & 29. Night Tours on October 27 are \$10 at the door.

**3** Hot pepper fans have long declared that the Carolina Reaper is the world's hottest pepper. But the creator of the Reaper, Ed Currie, has officially outdone himself. He recently introduced a hotter than hot pepper - Pepper X - that both he, and the judges at the Guinness World Records, call the world's hottest Chili pepper. Currie, the founder of Puckerbutt Pepper Company and who calls himself a "pepper-aholic," says his creation is registered at a whopping 2.69 million Scoville Heat Units [SHU] - about a million SHUs hotter than the Reaper.



Photo courtesy of Crawfordsville Regional Airport

Lori Curless with National Business Aviation Association's 2023 Top 40 Under 40 award.

### Lori Curless Awarded 2023 Business Aviation Top 40 Under 40 Award

Crawfordsville Regional Airport (CFJ), Airport Manager, Lori Curless is a recipient of the 2023 Business Aviation Top 40 Under 40 Award from the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA). Curless attended the 2023 NBAA Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition this past week.

Each year, the NBAA Young Professionals Council selects the top 40 individuals that best

represent the business aviation industry. These individuals are unafraid of challenging norms, leading others, and breaking barriers to be the best in their field. For 2023, there were a record number of applicants, but our local Airport Manager, Lori Curless, stood out as one of the top recipients.

Curless pursued her child-

➔ See AWARD Page A6

### MBM Gallery Invites Public To View Work Of Peg Shearer

The Mary Bishop Memorial Gallery at the Crawfordsville District Public Library would like to invite the public to view the work of local painter, Peg Shearer. This exhibit is currently open and will be on display through the end of November. The public is welcome to visit the gallery during CDPL's regular hours of operation and we encourage you to view these beautifully rendered works of art.

Peg Shearer was born in 1917 as Margaret R. Davis of Chicago, Illinois. She moved with her family to Montgomery County (IN) when she was a child. She graduated from Crawfordsville High School in 1935 and from MacMurray College in Jacksonville (IL) in 1939. Peg taught for the Jacksonville Public School system for one school year and returned shortly thereafter to marry Dr. Warren Shearer, Jr. They moved to Madison, Wisconsin for a short time while Warren worked for the University of Wisconsin over



Photo courtesy of MBM Gallery

the summer following their honeymoon. They lived in several places over the course of their lives but Crawfordsville became their permanent home.

She met many people during her travels and this gave her the opportunity to learn from established artists and art organizers in Indiana, Maine,

➔ See MBM Page A6

### Around The County With Jennison



**KAREN ZACH**  
Around The County

Albert Cuning Jennison it seems was much like his father. Both saw the need for something and proceeded to git 'r 'dun! Jennison was born 17 August 1842 in

Crawfordsville, the son of Ozra Porter and Margaret McMasters Jennison. The family settled in C'ville in 1838, Ozra having been postmaster at Brookville, Scioto County, Ohio. An engineer, Ozro opened a school in 1859 for students to culture their work in advanced algebra, geometry and trigonometry in order to become surveyors or civil engineers but for only those great and capable. No half students! Also in 1859, Ozro, quite an arborist, owned amazing knowledge of all the varieties of fruits, evergreens and lumber trees (Oak, Cedar ...). He was also very against drinking and was on a committee in the late 1850s and early 60s called the C'ville Regulators whose prime goal was to remove all doggeries from the city.

Albert took after his father in many ways. One, he took advanced classes, then graduated from Wabash in 1865 after a liaison for service (Co I, 4th Indiana Cavalry 11 August 1862 - 7 March 1863) in the Civil War. He began his pension 3-30-1868.

The Jennisons had been in America since the mid-1600s when Robert Jennison arrived. Capt. John Jennison of New Hampshire was in the Revolutionary War under Lt. Benjamin Bellows - Cheshire County, New Hampshire and many others of the name fought for our country in various wars.

Upon graduation, AC's plan was to become a lawyer and that he did but because of health issues he carried for years, he saw a need for an abstract business. He worked very hard building up this livelihood increasing his reference materials having copies of all land sales, mortgages, liens and the like. Along the same line, his interest in real estate and advancing

➔ See KAREN Page A6

### The Daily Almanac

**Sunrise/Sunset**  
RISE: 8:08 a.m.  
SET: 6:54 p.m.

**High/Low Temperatures**  
High: 77 °F  
Low: 62 °F

**Today is...**

- National Pumpkin Day
- Vote Early Day
- National Mule Day

**What Happened On This Day**

• **2001** Patriot Act Comes into Effect in the US. Signed into law by President George W. Bush as a result of the September 11, 2001, attacks, the act is formally known as Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001.

• **1984** First Infant to Receive an Organ From Another Species. Born on October 14, 1984, with a rare congenital heart defect, Baby Fae received a heart from a baboon. The surgery was performed by Dr. Leonard L. Bailey at Loma Linda University Medical Center in California.

• **1863** The Football (Soccer) Association is Formed. The world's oldest governing football body was created at the Freemasons' Tavern in London. The foundation was instrumental in creating and formalizing rules of the game.

**Births On This Day**

- **1973** Seth MacFarlane American animator, voice actor, singer
- **1947** Hillary Clinton American politician, 67th United States Secretary of State, 44th First Lady of the United States

**Deaths On This Day**

- **1902** Elizabeth Cady Stanton American activist
- **899** Alfred the Great English king

### ➔ HONEST HOOSIER

I think for Halloween I'm going to trick or treat as former Colts QB Andrew Luck. That means I can get the neighborhood gang ready to go out and decide at the last minute to go off on my own.



### ➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Are you a "shoveler?" - put down your fork in between bites of food and chew your food thoroughly. Simplify large tasks into smaller ones. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Paper and online at [www.thepaper24-7.com](http://www.thepaper24-7.com).



### ➔ OBITUARIES

Harry Richard Flowers

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



**The Paper**  
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

### ➔ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

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

### ➔ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

**Athens Arts Annual Meeting:**

If you are an artist, an art enthusiast, an appreciator of art, thinking of volunteering, someone wanting to join our board, become a member or guest artist, or simply not sure about Athens Arts, please come and see what we are all about! Athens Arts is scheduled to host their annual meeting on Thursday Nov. 9 at the Crawfordsville District Public Library from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. There is a meet and mingle from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. beforehand. Learn about how your contributions have made Athens Arts grow! Learn about the wonderful organizations that partner with Athens Arts! Learn about committees and how you can #bepARTofit! Learn the needs of the gallery moving forward and how your continued support can assist Athens Arts in our mission and vision! Share your thoughts with us! We want to grow th arts with you!

### ➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"On Halloween, the parents sent their kids out looking like me." -Rodney Dangerfield

### ➔ TODAY'S JOKE

What did Frankenstein say when he woke up from his nap?  
I had a shocking dream.

**WTHR 13** 7 DAY FORECAST

61/77 CLOUDS, SOME SHOWERS, BREEZY	62/77 PARTLY SUNNY, SPOTTY SHOWERS	65/78 PARTLY SUNNY, 40% CHANCE	62/70 RAIN BECOMES LIKELY	56/65 WET & COOLER	43/50 CLEARING AND COLD	29/47 CHILLY HALLOWEEN
WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE

Happy Halloween!



## OBITUARIES

### Harry Richard Flowers

September 30, 1945, Thursday, October 19, 2023

Harry Richard Flowers, affectionately known as "Richard", passed away on October 19th, 2023 surrounded by family. He was born on September 30th, 1945 in Indianapolis, IN to the late Harry and Alma (McIntyre) Flowers. Richard married Sherry Harrison on July 24th, 1976 at Centennial Community Church in Kingman, IN.



Harry was a graduate of North Central High School in the Class of 1963. He attended Purdue University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Physics. He later earned two Masters of Science from Purdue University and Mississippi State University. While enrolled at Mississippi State University, he discovered a fascination with storm chasing.

He was a devoted high school teacher of physics, earth science, and mathematics at Pioneer High School, Fountain Central High School, and McCutcheon High School, collectively teaching for 45 years. He also held a real estate and auctioneers license, as well as owned and operated a successful tax business in Fountain County for several years. In his spare time, he greatly enjoyed traveling.

Throughout his teenage years and into adulthood, he embarked on numerous hitchhiking journeys across America. He loved storytelling and writing, especially about his hitchhiking adventures. He also enjoyed reading, learning, playing Scrabble, employing puns, and most-of-all spending time with family and friends.

He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Sherry Flowers; daughter, Jacqueline "Jackie" Connelly; son-in-law, James Connelly; soon-to-arrive first grandchild; and nieces, Jenney Nash (Richard Nash), Andrea "Betsy" Bentler and Amy Nash. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Alma Flowers; parents-in-law, Silas and Avalene Harrison; sister, Andrea Nash; and brother, Ralph Flowers.

Despite the challenging decline in his health prior to his passing, Richard displayed a loving affection and peaceful countenance towards all who knew him. He was deeply loved and will be missed dearly.

His visitation and funeral service will be held on Saturday, October 28th at Sanders Funeral Care, 315 South Washington Street, Crawfordsville, IN. Visitation will be held from 10 AM to 12 noon, funeral service will be held at 12 noon, and burial will follow at the Wallace Lutheran Cemetery. Share condolences at [www.Sanders-FuneralCare.com](http://www.Sanders-FuneralCare.com).

## Meeting Notes

### Board Of Public Works And Public Safety Meeting

October 25 at 10 a.m.

I. Approval of the minutes from October 18, 2023.

II. Approval of the claims for the week of October 23, 2023.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

A. 2024 Holiday Schedule for the Crawfordsville Fire Department

ment

B. An agreement between the City and Price Excavating - Northridge

C. Barry Lewis, Code Enforcement Officer, with a work order request for 601 Robinson Street, owned by Wiper Corporation

V. Departments Heads

VI. Adjournment



Photos courtesy of Wabash Theater Department

## Something Rotten! Musical Opens Theater Season

Audiences can return to the Renaissance and experience Shakespearean comedy with a modern twist as the Wabash Theater Department opens its fall season with the first musical to hit the Ball Theater stage in nearly a decade.

"Something Rotten!" opens Wednesday, November 1, and runs through Saturday, November 4, with performances at 8 p.m. each evening.

Tickets are free and can be reserved through the Fine Arts Center Box Office.

Written by Karey Kirkpatrick and John O'Farrell, "Something Rotten!" is set in the 1590s and follows brothers Nick and Nigel Bottom as they desperately attempt to write a hit play but are stuck in the shadow of that Renaissance rock star known as The Bard. When a local soothsayer foretells that the future of theater involves singing, dancing, and acting at the same time, the duo set out to write the world's very first musical.

Organizing one of the biggest productions in the College's history—which involved securing support and funding, enlisting a choreographer and vocal director, uniting an age-range of cast members, an orchestra, and stage crew, and much, much more—was a complex but exciting endeavor for Director and Theater Professor Michael Abbott.

"It's been a journey, easily one of the hardest things I've done," said Abbott, who started

working on bringing the satirical Broadway tale to campus nearly nine months ago.

"There's nothing like a musical to make all the things that we have available to create theatre all in play," he explained. "In the beginning, I tried to imagine all those things working at once, and it honestly seemed impossible. But after weeks of rehearsal and the crew understanding all the pieces that have to go into it, we have created something we're proud of."

"Something Rotten!" will be the first musical production at Wabash since 2014 when the theater department presented Tony Award-winning "Guys and Dolls." Abbott said it wouldn't have been possible without the help of Kathleen Hickey, a dance lecturer from Purdue University, and Colleen Pingel, a private voice teacher at Wabash.

"I am so thankful for Kat and Colleen, and all the time and effort they have put in to make us better," Abbott said. "It's been amazing to watch them push actors outside of their comfort zone, especially those who aren't dancers or who haven't performed in a musical before. ... The audience is going to be surprised to hear a level of singing and to watch a level of choreography, musicianship, and professionalism they've never seen here before."

The cast includes Logan Weilbaker '25 as Nick Bottom; Luke Fincher '24 as Nigel Bottom; Tommy Oppman '25 as Shake-

speare; Alex Schmidt '27 as Nostradamus; Julia Phipps (academic administrative coordinator to the Fine Arts Center) as Bea; Jim Cherry (associate professor of theater) as Brother Jeremiah; Elizabeth Hutson (Crawfordsville native) as Portia; Thomas Bowling (Crawfordsville High School) as Minstrel; Hayden Kammer '24 as Lord Clapham and Max Hsu (language intern at Wabash) as Shylock. The male ensemble includes Bowling, Nathan Felix '24, Alex Kindig '26, Bennett Strain '26, and Carl Suba '25. The female ensemble includes Crawfordsville High School students Zoe Abbott, Paige Johnson, Elizabeth Turner, Katherine Novak, and Lisa Miellet (language intern at Wabash).

The production includes vocal director Colleen Pingel, choreography director Kathleen Hickey, orchestra conductor Scott Pazera, scenic and tech designer David Vogel, lighting designer Scott Olinger, costume designer Andrea Bear, and accompanist Cheryl Everitt.

Drew Johannes '23, a Wabash theater veteran actor who is working for the first time on the other side of production as the stage manager, admitted were many times he felt envious of the actors. "Some nights when actors weren't there and I got the opportunity to step in and read their parts, I really gave it my all," Johannes, who will be completing his coursework in December, said with a chuckle. "It's such

a fun show. I am bummed I can't be on stage as an actor, but I am even more happy to be able to learn everything that I have as stage manager. I'm thankful that Abbott trusted me to help put on a show this big with so many moving pieces."

Johannes said the cast of "Something Rotten!" became a tight-knit family that encouraged and learned from one another over the last three months of rehearsals.

He said that contagiously enthusiastic culture will be on full display opening night.

"Audience members can expect lots of laughs and energy," Johannes said. "They'll experience happy moments, sad moments, sexy moments—this musical has everything!"

Weilbaker echoed Johannes and said the musical will have something for everyone to enjoy.

"I think it's a great show for Wabash because it's so accessible," Weilbaker said. "The first lines that I say in the play are, 'Oh noble kinsmen that royal blood and love do bind. Seek now thy own succor ...' and then 'Who talks like this? Why can't we just write like we speak?' and I think everyone, especially people who aren't theater-goers, will relate to that. It's also a meta, a musical about making a musical, packed with fun references to other musicals that theater-goers will love."

"There's no way you come to this show and don't walk away with a smile on your face."

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# Large-Scale Solar: Are We Doing Enough?

## EARTHTALK

**Dear EarthTalk:** What are we doing to promote and advance the kind of large-scale development of solar and other renewables needed to transition away from fossil fuels?

We may not have any time to waste in our effort to wean ourselves off fossil fuels. Getting the United States to a place where our electricity needs can be met by renewables is going to take concerted effort on the part of a multitude of public and private entities.

According to the trade group, Solar Energy Industries Association, utility scale solar projects are few and far between in the U.S. right now, but represents the fastest growing sector of the domestic energy market. SEIA reports that there are more than 37,000 megawatts (MW) of utility-scale solar projects currently up and running across the country, and another 112,000 MW are under development.

According to the energy research firm Woods Mackenzie, converting the entire U.S. power grid to 100 percent renewable energy over the next 10 years—just in time to possibly avert cataclysmic climate change—is technologically and logistically possible, but would cost something like \$4.5 trillion. While that is a lot of money, how much money is too much

when it comes to saving humanity and the rest of the living planet's inhabitants?

And without some kind of vision or roadmap, there's no way we can make the transition quickly enough to save ourselves. That's why six large solar developers, land conservation and environmental groups, tribal entities, agricultural interests, community groups and investors came together in October 2023 to commit to furthering the build-out of large-scale solar infrastructure across the U.S. While it may seem like bad business for competitors to work together, the challenge is great enough that they all can benefit, especially if we can transition quickly. A rising tide lifts all boats.

This recent agreement reinforces efforts already underway at the local and regional levels across the country. The federal government's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has been working with large-scale farms from coast-to-coast in an effort to pair solar installations with agriculture—so called agrivoltaics—creating energy and providing space for crops, grazing and native habitats under and between photovoltaic panels. NREL is partnering with researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to investigate how to optimize both crop production and the generation of renewable

energy to maximize farm profitability while helping transition the nation away from fossil fuels.

Meanwhile, municipal, county and state governments across the U.S. are showing increased interest in implementing large-scale solar projects in their own locales. To this end, the American Planning Association recently published its free guidebook, Solar@Scale, designed to help local government practitioners—including planners, economic development professionals, local government managers and elected and appointed officials—make decisions that improve large-scale solar development outcomes that result in the creation of local jobs and power while boosting energy security and reducing communities' carbon footprints.

**-CONTACTS:** Solar Dialogue Agreement: <https://woods.stanford.edu/research/solar-landconservation/>; Utility-Scale Solar, <https://www.seia.org/initiatives/utility-scale-solar-power/>; Solar@Scale, <https://www.planning.org/publications/document/9222548/>; Agrivoltaics, <https://www.nrel.gov/solar/market-research-analysis/agrivoltaics.html>.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).

# BBB Tip: Shop Safe And Shop Smart This Holiday Season

The 2023 holiday shopping season promises to be an unpredictable one. High inflation rates and increased prices of consumer goods are already throwing a wrench into holiday shopping. Electronics, toys, and other products will be (or already are) in short supply, and retailers are struggling to staff up as the shopping season nears.

Just like in 2022, people plan to start their holiday shopping early. Watch out for deals well before Black Friday sales. Retailers are also expecting to see even more people shopping online.

Product shortages and increased online shopping will likely result in more online purchase scams this year. These scams accounted for nearly a third of all scams reported to BBB Scam Tracker in 2022, according to the 2022 BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report. Shortages are likely to make purchase scams even more common as desperate shoppers turn to shady websites in hopes of finding this year's must-have gift.

BBB recommends the following tips to "Shop Safe, Shop Smart" this holiday season:

**Research before you buy.** Use BBB.org and shopper reviews to do your homework before paying.

**If the deal looks too good to be true, it probably is.** The price was the top motivating factor

for people who made a purchase and lost money. Don't shop on price alone.

**Beware of fake websites:** Check the URL, watch for bad grammar, research the age of the domain, and search for contact information.

**Professional photos do not mean it's a real offer.** Respondents reported that website photos motivated them to engage with scammers, especially for pets/pet supplies, clothing/accessories, and vehicles.

**Make sure the website is secure.** Look for the "HTTPS" in the URL (the extra s is for "secure") and a small lock icon on the address bar. Never enter payment or personal information into a website with only "HTTP" - it is NOT secure.

**Be careful purchasing sought-after products, especially during the holiday season.** The risk of online purchase scams rises during the holidays because more people are making online purchases, and scammers offer the most popular products for the season at great prices.

**Beware of making quick purchases while scrolling through social media.** Scammers have access to tools they need to learn about your buying behaviors, offering exactly what you want at enticingly low prices.

**Look for the BBB seal.** BBB Accredited Businesses

pledge to uphold the BBB Standards for Trust and to deal fairly with consumers. If a business displays a BBB seal, verify it by going to BBB.org.

**Use secure and traceable transactions and payment methods.** According to BBB's research, those who paid with a credit card were less likely to lose money. Be cautious when using digital wallet apps, prepaid money cards, or other non-traditional payment methods.

**Shipment tracking information can be faked.** Look closely to make sure it is a legitimate business. Avoid clicking on the tracking link; go to the shipper's website and type in the code to see if it is real.

**Report unsatisfactory purchase experiences to BBB.** If you are unhappy with a purchase, file a complaint at [BBB.org/complaints](https://www.bbb.org/complaints). If you never got what you paid for, consider reporting it to BBB Scam Tracker to help other consumers avoid being scammed.

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](https://www.bbb.org/scamtracker) and the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.reportfraud.ftc.gov). Your story can help protect consumers from similar scams.

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Photo courtesy of the office of Brian Buchanan

**State Sen. Brian Buchanan chairs the final 2023 meeting of the Interim Study Committee at the Statehouse on Pension Management Oversight on Tuesday, Oct. 24.**

## Pension Management Oversight Committee Holds Final Meeting Of 2023

The Interim Study Committee on Pension Management Oversight approved a report during the committee's final meeting of 2023 Tuesday, Oct. 24, said State Sen. Brian Buchanan, chair of the committee.

In preparation for 2026-2027 state budget, the committee studied cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increases for retirees who participate in the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS) and the fiscal impacts of these increases to state and local units of government.

"The Indiana pension system is reputable for being strong and reliable, and the General Assembly is committed to guaranteeing retirees' hard-earned money is managed

responsibly," Buchanan said. "I believe this report and its recommendations will not only maintain INPRS' strength but helps the system better manage public employees' retirement money."

The report recommends the General Assembly consider legislation that would provide an annual 13th check for public employees who retire before a yet-to-be-determined date and an annual COLA for those who retire after that date. Both recommendations are subject to the budget process.

The committee also recommends legislation be introduced that would require the Indiana State Police to maintain a reserve account to pay postretirement benefits.

## Take The Challenge: Buckle Up Phone Down

The Indiana Department of Transportation is challenging Hoosier drivers to buckle up and put their phones down. Wednesday, Oct. 25, is Buckle Up Phone Down Day, a day dedicated to encouraging motorists to rethink every trip they make in a vehicle, with the goal of improving safety on roadways. INDOT is joining other states in a larger movement that tackles two of the most impactful actions a driver can take to prevent crashes – or survive if one occurs.

"Unfortunately, 980 people lost their lives on roadways in Indiana last year," said INDOT Commissioner Mike Smith. "My personal goal and a goal of the agency is to reduce fatalities and severe injuries on Indiana roadways by 25 percent over the next decade. INDOT is consistently looking at ways to improve safety on our network, but we know that changing driver behavior will be a huge challenge. Getting on board with Buckle Up Phone Down is a step toward progress."

First, Hoosiers can buckle up each and every time they get in a vehicle, as a driver or a passenger. Of the 980

people killed on Indiana roadways last year, 253 were unrestrained. Second, drivers can put their phones down when they get behind the wheel. Indiana enacted its Hands-Free Law in 2020, however distracted driving is still a leading cause of crashes. Indiana State Police reports that mobile devices were involved in more than 7,000 crashes in 2022 alone. Many times distracted driving leads to crashes involving roadway departures. Last year 468 fatalities and more than 11,000 injuries were related to vehicles leaving the roadway in Indiana.

Statistics show that these two actions can have an impact on highway incidents and fatalities. The Buckle Up Phone Down Challenge is trying to change these numbers. Follow INDOT and other state Departments of Transportation across the country on social media to take part in the challenge. Like, share and use the official hashtags, #BUPD and #BUPDDay to show your support. Drivers can also watch for specialized messages on Dynamic Message Signs on interstate routes across Indiana.

## Congresswoman Houchin Introduces 21st Century Dyslexia Act To Help Overlooked Students Succeed

Congresswoman Erin Houchin, a member of the House Education and the Workforce Committee and the bipartisan House Dyslexia Caucus, introduced the 21st Century Dyslexia Act. The bill would modernize Dyslexia identification to avoid the chance of the learning disability going unidentified in students.

As a mom to a now-high schooler with Dyslexia, Houchin has been contending on behalf of students with learning disabilities since her son's diagnosis in the third grade.

"I've been continually disappointed in how students with Dyslexia are left to fend for themselves in our education system. I remember the years of sleepless nights and wrong information that delayed my own son's diagnosis, and ultimately delayed his ability to receive appropriate accommodations. Our family's story isn't unique, which is why the 21st Century Dyslexia Act is necessary," said Houchin.

Houchin introduced this legislation alongside Senator Bill Cassidy, who introduced the same legislation in the Senate today, making the bill bicameral.

"We know how to teach a student with dyslexia and help them reach their full potential. Unfortunately, a student is often not screened for dyslexia until after they have already fallen behind, if at all," said Dr. Cassidy. "This legislation brings a 21st century approach to dyslexia based on science that allows children with dyslexia to achieve their God given potential."

In addition to Senator Cassidy, the legislation is

cosponsored by Representatives Julia Brownley, Larry Bucshon, and Bruce Westerman.

"Students with dyslexia face unique challenges and should have access to the resources and supportive learning environments they need to live up to their fullest potential," said Rep. Julia Brownley, co-chair of the Congressional Dyslexia Caucus. "By reclassifying dyslexia as its own category within the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, this legislation raises the much-needed awareness of the most common learning disability among American students and provides the proper accommodations and services for these students. As the mother of a child who struggled with dyslexia when she was in school, I know the importance of this issue all too well. That is why I am committed to continuing to work with my colleagues of the Congressional Dyslexia Caucus to ensure that all individuals living with dyslexia can thrive and succeed."

"My experience as a father of a child with dyslexia has taught me that despite its commonality, this condition is often difficult to detect and treat," said Dr. Larry Bucshon. "I'm honored to cosponsor the 21st Century Dyslexia Act, which aims to provide the proper support to children with dyslexia, allowing them to overcome the challenges they face to succeed in school and in their professional careers. This legislation will help emphasize the valuable contributions individuals with dyslexia can make, brightening our nation's future."

"For far too long, students with dyslexia have faced a mountain of obstacles to learn in a way that's best suited to them. Educators weren't properly trained and parents often felt powerless to help their children who struggled with dyslexia. I've been honored to meet many of these students and parents during my time as the co-chair of the Congressional Dyslexia Caucus, and I know that their futures are bright when we equip them with the tools they need for success. I'm proud to once again lead this important legislation alongside Houchin and Dyslexia Caucus Co-Chair Brownley, and I hope it serves as a roadmap for raising dyslexia awareness and giving schools across the country the right resources to educate the next generation," said Chairman Bruce Westerman, co-chair of the Congressional Dyslexia Caucus.

Sally Shaywitz, the co-founder director of the Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity said, "With this new act, dyslexic boys and girls are truly and finally able to enjoy the benefits of 21st century science – somethings they unfortunately have been deprived of for far too long. Beginning with the evidence-based definition of dyslexia as unexpected, dyslexic students can now know their condition has a name "dyslexia," that they are part of a community and importantly, they can be very smart. At last, scientific evidence is leading the way for educating--screening, identifying and teaching--students who are dyslexic, resulting in a better, much deserved

future for these dyslexic boys and girls. We possess the knowledge. Now, we must act to translate this knowledge into policy and practice. The critical issue now is acting on this knowledge – what we have is an Action Gap!! Our children have waited long enough, we must ACT!!"

"I've been working with Sally and Bennet Shaywitz, the co-founders directors of the Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity, since my time in the Indiana General Assembly on universal screening laws and drafting our state definition of Dyslexia in Indiana. I'm grateful for their support of this legislation and their continued fight for our students," said Houchin.

Currently, Dyslexia is included as one of many neurocognitive differences under "Specific Learning Disabilities" (SLD) in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Despite Dyslexia being the most prevalent neurocognitive difference within SLD, students are rarely tested. This prevents them from getting the services and accommodations necessary to assist dyslexic students learning to read. When children are not identified with Dyslexia, evidence shows lifelong harm can occur, including lower career wages, reduced graduation rates, and increased rates of incarceration.

This legislation helps students by pulling Dyslexia out of the overly broad definition of SLD and including it in the list of disabilities that define a "child with a disability," thus classifying Dyslexia as its own category within IDEA.



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## AWARD

From Page A1

hood dream of being in aviation after watching her pilot father and grandfather. She holds a dual degree in aviation management and flight. Her time in college helped her focus her career goal on airport management, especially within a small airport community.

"The Crawfordsville Regional Airport has experienced significant growth and improvement under Lori's leadership. Her in-depth knowledge, and passion for aviation is displayed in everything she does," said Mayor Todd Barton. "Thanks to

Lori, our airport will be in a strong position for many years to come, and it is truly exciting to see her achievements recognized nationally with this award."

The Crawfordsville community is lucky to have someone as passionate and driven as Curless. She has a passion for educating the community, especially the kids in our community. Hosting field trips, giving tours of CFJ, and planning the local Airport Day are some of the most rewarding parts of Curless' job.

"You are your own

author. Live in the moments. Fly the extra lap in the pattern. Enjoy the sunrise and the sunset. Check in on your friends. Give yourself grace and always say goodbye," says award winner Lori Curless, CFJ Airport Manager. "Take the adventure. Embrace the journey. Life's too short for regrets. Make the memories," said Curless as she is celebrating 16 years in the business aviation industry and she hopes to continue to foster the importance of aviation in our next generation of professionals.

## NAME

From Page X

Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Paris, France. She joined The Art League of Montgomery County in 1942, and later served on the executive board as president. She exhibited with the Hoosier Salon Association and studied with well-known artists, including our very own Fritz Schlemmer.

Peg considered herself a traditional colorist more so than a contemporary artist. Categorically, she was an Abstract Expressionist painter and was active from the 1940's through the 1980's. She was heavily influenced by artists like Vincent van Gogh and Willem de Kooning, and was inspired by the natural landscapes found in everyday life as well as the interesting faces she met along the way.

She was an active

person who put the needs of her family first and she served her community as a volunteer. She always found time to research unfamiliar art processes, look for the perfect muses, and create intriguing paintings. She has a fascinating history and was highly respected by the people she met. The purpose of this exhibit is to celebrate her and her life's work as well as give future artists an honorable, local role model.

Peg never wanted her work to collect dust in a closet. She wanted her art to be shared with the communities she loved the most. The Gallery Coordinator stated, "I was extremely impressed by the diversity of painting styles and her interpretation of subject matter. She was able to express a feeling, capture a moment in time,

in color and form. I am thankful the gallery has the opportunity to share the work of this amazing local artist with the next generation artists and art lovers."

For more information about CDPL's hours of operation, please visit our website at <http://www.cdpl.lib.in.us/>. If you are an artist or a member of an artists' group and are interested in displaying your work at the Mary Bishop Memorial Gallery in 2024-5, please contact Toni, the Gallery Coordinator at (765) 362-2242, or email her at [twoodall@cdpl.lib.in.us](mailto:twoodall@cdpl.lib.in.us) for more information.

Toni Ridgway-Woodall is a Library Assistant in the Reference and Local History department and the Mary Bishop Memorial Gallery Coordinator at CDPL

## KAREN

From Page A1

the city was early on and high priority immediately as in as early as Jan 1866 (Cv Review) his list of "lots for sale" including some in the College, Canby, Thompson AND Jennison additions were available. Each ad listed him selling in different additions (Jan '71 Connard, Elston, Kennedy, Graham and McClelland for example).

With so much time promoting his business, he was 41 when he married Mary Cumberland, age 34. Mary was loved by EVERYONE. Her father, Jesse came with his mother and two siblings in 1828 after the tragic demise of Jesse's father, Martin who had come here earlier (from their Ohio home) to ready a place for his family (CWJ 5 Nov 1897). One cold morning he followed the trail of a deer since he was in need of meat in order to start back home to get his family after entering his 160 acres. Sadly, he lost his way back, and while struggling with a flint to start a fire, he froze to death. Jesse's mother, Ann French was even more determined than her husband, came here and made a good life. Jesse married Margaret Speed born in Edinburgh, Scotland coming to Crawfordsville with her father, our well-known Underground Railroader, John Speed. Four children were born to the Cumberlands, Margaret was sick for a long time but was a gentle, patient, helpful soul to all. Think Mary took after her. Jesse opened the first hardware store in Crawfordsville and introduced the first reaper to Montgomery County. Later, he manufactured tile, was in the Hotel business, served

as a Justice of the Peace, and became a real estate magnate. He, his two sons and son-in-law, AC also made a stab at mining in the West but not sure how that panned-out!

AC was much like his father, being anti-drinking. Fairly cool-headed as was Mayor Fred Bandel in mid June 1895, AC got pretty worked up on this hot topic. AC asked Bandel why in the world would he be in favor of the local bar keepers? Evidently AC didn't like the answer and the Sheriff happening in, stopped the argument that was about to head to fisticuffs!

AC was active in the Center Presbyterian Church; at the time of his death a Deacon and had spent 30 years as secretary of the Oak Hill Cemetery Board.

Mary really had a story all her own, at first studying to become a doctor but found music and the young as her calling. One of the few women here at the time having attended college, she taught music and headed a literary course in CHS always loved by students. Dr. Joseph Tuttle, Wabash president noted of Mary that "from childhood she was gifted with a most gracious and winning manner, united to mental gifts of the highest order" (CWJ 8 April 1898).

Mary and AC produced two wonderful boys: AC Jr and John Butler. In December 1894, just before Christmas John got sick and passed away suddenly at age 5 1/2. He and Jr had been so happy helping each other get ready for Christmas. A devastating tragedy for the family, four years later, Mary passed away as well.

While Junior grew-up,



Photo courtesy of Karen Zach

active in the community as his parents were, he spent a summer in Europe and attended Wabash. Just one week before he was to graduate, (June 1908), he was called to Madison, WI where his father and his second wife, Anna Pickert had gone to confer with various doctors. His health had been failing for some time, but after an operation at Madison that revealed a serious case of hardening of the liver, there was no hope. His body was returned to Crawfordsville and rests with his John, parents and beloved Mary. Sadly, a bit over three years later, Jr. joined them. He and a friend from Wabash, James Donald Adams were working for Foley-Welch-Stewart Construction Company near Tete Juana Cache, British Columbia, Canada and while on the Peave River, their boat capsized, drowning them both (10 August 1911). His body was not recovered for some time and don't believe Adams' ever was as it was a treacherous area.

Such are more Montgomery County lives, filled with joys, sorrows and great folks!

- 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](mailto:karen.zach@sbcglobal.net).

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