

# The Paper

## OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

50¢

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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### TODAY'S VERSE

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

### FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



Angela, Janeane, and Angela are always ready to greet you with a smile at Crawfordsville Audiology! Thank you for sending in your smiles!

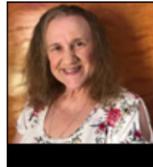
### THREE THINGS You Should Know:

**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 TONIGHT 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** 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!

**3** For sure, members of the "Old Timers United" club are cheering for 92-year-old Alfredo Aliaga who recently completed a grueling 24-mile Grand Canyon walkabout. It's believed that he is the oldest challenger to attempt such an event and he did it in 21 hours. Alfredo cares not whether the judges at Guinness World Records declare him a champion, he liked his "walk in the park" so much so that he's planning to do it again next year. "You cannot say, 'I am too old to do things.' I am healthy and happy."

## MoCo's Own Julius Caesar Celebrate International Games Month At CDPL



**KAREN ZACH**  
Around The County

What do you think of when you hear the words, Julius Caesar? Well, until I happened into the first couple of caesarian sections performed in Montgomery County, I,

like you probably, thought of the Shakespearean play when Caesar ruled and was murdered. Alas, I will now think of MoCo's first C-section, a much happier story!

But his story relates to our second C-section as well. Both were the same year, 1911, the first in April and second in October but both so very different.

Bessie Ann Babb married George William Simpson June 6, 1910 in Kenosha, Wisconsin but they returned here not long afterward where George had a machine shop in Waynetown and was said to "be able to repair anything!" (Waynetown Despatch 25 July 1930 p 9). At age 23 pregnant with her first and only child, Bessie boarded the train in Waynetown and headed to the city going to Cul-



Photo courtesy of Karen Zach

**Bessie Babb Simpson and baby Julius Caesar**

ver Hospital where a team of three doctors (Paul J. Barcus, surgeon, Dr. Austin Swope, assistant and Harvey Worth Sigmond, anesthesiologist) performed the Caesarian section. Because this was the first in the hospital and probably the first in the county (although I read Dr. B had delivered one earlier which may have been in Fountain since it was "west of Alamo") plus an unusual circumstance, Bessie being just seven months pregnant, there were 13 other physicians witnessing the affair.

Immediately upon arrival our little fellow at 1# 12 ozs was

➔ See KAREN Page A5

## Luke Completes CDPL Program For 4th Time!



Photo courtesy of CDPL

**Luke S., age 3 1/2, has completed the Crawfordsville District Public Library program "1000 Books Before Kindergarten" for the fourth time. He is the son of Bret and Jean. Luke's favorite book is What Will You Dream of Tonight? by Frances Stickely. Mom said, "We never thought in just under two years we would have read 4,000 books with Luke. The quality reading time together has been priceless. His love of books continues to grow. Luke looks forward to our frequent library visits for a continued fresh selection of books to supplement his own favorites."**

## Celebrate International Games Month At CDPL



**Susanna Howard**  
Fresh off the Shelf

Greetings, adventurer! The Crawfordsville District Public Library is celebrating International Games Month this November with the

American Library Association. After all, the library is not just a repository of knowledge, but a bastion of creativity and community! Will you rise to the challenge and play together?

Come in November for the first adventure of our Adult Dungeons & Dragons program! Your party has been hired by the dwarf, Gundren Rockseeker. He says he's found "something big" near the mountain town of Phandalin. Could it be the Lost Mine of Phandelver? We will be starting at Level 1 and learning the rules as we go. Patrons are invited to use the characters created in the aforementioned program but premade characters and blank character sheets will be available. This is a recurring program, so attend every session or jump in as your schedule allows. This adventure should take approximately 10 sessions to complete, with other stories to follow. Want to try being Dungeon Master? Let me know, and we can co-lead the adventure!

Our collection of D&D sourcebooks is on display now. Peruse the "Monster Manual" (793.93 Mon), if you dare, or "Xanathar's Guide to Everything" (793.93 Dun). See "The Adventure Zone" (GN FIC McE) and "Critical Role" (GN FIC Cri) graphic novels for stories other people have created with the medium of tabletop roleplaying games. In mid-November, this display will switch to video games and coding!

We have more going on than just Dungeons & Dragons. Spooky scavenger hunts are available at your convenience all through the month of October at the Reference Desk on the Second Floor. While you're

➔ See FRESH Page A5

## The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset  
RISE: 8:16 a.m.  
SET: 6:45 p.m.



**High/Low Temperatures**  
High: 52 °F  
Low: 30 °F

Today is...

- All Souls' Day
- International Stout Day
- National Men Make Dinner Day

**What Happened On This Day**

- 1982 Ronald Reagan signs a bill to create Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The day, observed every year on the third Monday of January, commemorates the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. a leader of the African-American Civil Rights Movement.
- 1938 Canadian Broadcasting Corporation established. Officially known as CBC/Radio-Canada, the network is Canada's public radio and television broadcaster.
- 1917 Balfour Declaration. Originally sent as a letter on this day to Baron Rothschild from British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour, it declared BRitish support for a Jewish state in Palestine. The letter was eventually added to Sevres peace treaty.

**Births On This Day**

- 1865 Warren G. Harding American politician, 29th President of the United States
- 1755 Marie Antoinette Austrian wife of Louis XVI of France

**Deaths On This Day**

- 1966 Peter Debye Dutch/American physicist, chemist, Nobel Prize laureate
- 1950 George Bernard Shaw Irish writer, Nobel Prize laureate

### HONEST HOOSIER

Snow! I saw snow. How many ways can you say yuck!



### TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Make a grocery list and only buy what's on it. 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

None

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



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### INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

Service Directory.....A3  
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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!

### TODAY'S QUOTE

In celebration of our beginning our 20th year as a media company, we're sharing some famous quotations about newspapers this month. "Newspapers are to the body politic what arteries are to the human body, their function being to carry blood and sustenance and repair to every part of the body." -Henry Ward Beecher

### TODAY'S JOKE

Why are all the reporters hanging out at the ice cream shop? They're looking for the scoop.

**WTHR 13** 7 DAY FORECAST

26/45 SUNNY BUT CHILLY	30/52 BRIGHT AND BREEZY	36/60 BREEZY, NOT AS COLD	44/63 MILD, STRAY SHOWERS POSSIBLE	53/67 BREEZY AND MILD FALL BACK	52/58 TURNING RAINY	43/56 COULD BE WET START
WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE

➔ Meeting Notes

**Board Of Public Works And Public Safety Meeting**

November 1 at 10 a.m.  
I. Approval of the minutes from October 25, 2023.

II. Approval of the claims for the week of October 30, 2023.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

A. 2024 Holiday Schedule for the Crawfordsville Police Department

B. Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Montgomery County Health Dept. Regarding Provision of Nursing Support during Nursing Shortfall

C. Open Quotes for a Portable Grinder - Crawfordsville Street Department

V. Departments Heads

VI. Adjournment

**Witham Health Services Offered For November**

Witham Health of Lebanon offers several services each month and the following are for the month of November:

- Breastfeeding Support Group – is held weekly on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in the VIP Dining Room.
- Individualized Breastfeeding Support is available with a Lactation Consultant. To schedule an appointment and for pricing, call 765-485-8411.
- Alzheimer's Support Group – Tuesday, November 21st at 6:00 p.m. in the VIP Dining Room.
- Cancer Support Cooking for Wellness – Tuesday, November 21st at 1:00 p.m. in the South Pavilion Wellness Center.
- Cancer Support Group – Monday, November 27th at 6:00 p.m. in the North Pavilion Conference Rooms. Parking is Parking Lot and exterior door is

marked 39.

• Grief Support Group – Tuesday, November 28th at 6:00 p.m. in the VIP Dining Room.

• Diabetes Self-Management Class – Call the Diabetes Education Department at 765-485-8120 for individualized class, scheduling and pricing.

• Rock Steady Boxing 1 & 2 – held weekly at 9:00 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.

• Rock Steady Boxing 3 & 4 – held weekly at 9:45 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.

• Silver Sneakers – held weekly at 11:15 a.m. on Mondays for those 65 or older at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.

• Silver Sneakers Cardio - held weekly at 11:15 a.m. on Wednesdays for those 65 or older at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.

• Silver Sneakers Chair Yoga - held weekly at 11:15 a.m. on Thursdays for those 65 or older at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.

• Tai Chi for Health

2 - Seven week sessions, held weekly at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.

• Tai Chi for Health 1 - Seven week sessions, held weekly at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.

• Fight Smart – Designed to reduce the risk of any chronic disease you may be facing. Held weekly at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays and another class on Thursday's at 9:00 a.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Class is Free through the Community Foundation Grant.

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# Is Ebony Going Extinct & What Can Be Done?

## EARTHTALK

**Dear EarthTalk:** I hear that ebony is going extinct in the wild. Is there anything we can do to conserve what's left and are there alternatives we can use instead?

Ebony wood is frequently used in furniture and musical instruments because of its exceptional hardness, density, fine texture and extremely dark hue. The immense demand for this valuable hardwood has led to overexploitation and illegal logging. Meanwhile, the culling of the biggest trees has meant successive generations are smaller and smaller—and ebony trees are slow growers to begin with. Regenerating an ebony forest after it's been cut could take upwards of a century.

Ebony grows mainly in central Africa and south-east Asia, and is critical for economies heavily reliant on natural resources. Insufficient environmental regulations make it disturbingly easy for illicit logging groups to operate in remote forests. Without proper management, loggers typically target physically superior trees, leading to the weakening of the genetic pool of the remaining trees. On a larger scale, the loss of ebony trees carries adverse consequences for local ecosystems. These trees provide sustenance

to wildlife; their fruits feed monkeys and apes, while their leaves support animals like elephants.

If you decide to buy a product containing ebony, look for certifications from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or the Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). Wood that is certified by these groups is sourced from forests that are managed in a manner that safeguards biodiversity, supports the well-being of local communities and laborers, and maintains economic sustainability. Fraudulent certification labeling is on the rise among ebony vendors trying to deceive eco-conscious consumers into purchasing their products. To verify the authenticity of a certification, search the FSC and PEFC databases.

Above all else, abstaining from purchasing ebony is the most effective way to prevent your contribution to its overexploitation. Fortunately, there are many other types of wood that may suit your color, durability and texture preferences.

Katalox, or Mexican Royal Ebony, is a non-threatened species with natural dark hues ranging from reddish-brown to nearly pitch black. It has a medium-fine texture and actually surpasses ebony in hardness. Black palm, another non-threatened species, has a speckled appearance with light-

er-brown streaks amidst its dark coloring. It's another species that is unthreatened, making it especially sustainable. It is less dense and more susceptible to insect attacks, so for projects needing resistance, exploring other materials might be wise. A third option, black-dyed wood veneers, offers customizability and affordability. Typically, the base panels are made of a common lighter-colored hardwood, such as maple, oak or beech, that have undergone a dyeing process to replicate the deep black color of ebony.

Understanding the ecological implications of ebony wood and exploring sustainable alternatives is essential for responsible consumer choices and the protection of our natural resources.

**-CONTACTS:** Forest Legality Initiative: Ebony, <https://forestlegality.org/risk-tool/species/ebony>; Ebony: Dark Outlook For Dark Woods, <https://www.wood-database.com/ebony-dark-outlook-dark-woods/>; Rare Woods USA: Katalox, <https://www.rarewoodsusa.com/species/katalox/>; Wood Database: Black Palm, <https://www.wood-database.com/black-palm/>.

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).

# Attorney General Todd Rokita Cautions Hoosier Parents Of Child Identity Theft

Attorney General Todd Rokita is warning Hoosiers that child identity theft is on the rise. 1.3 million children have their identities stolen every year. This crime occurs when a hacker steals a child's personal information and uses it to receive services or benefits.

"Having your identity stolen, as an adult or a child, is devastating financially and mentally," Rokita said. "Our children do not typically have credit reports, which presents a blank slate for criminals to apply for credit and take out loans in their name. This type of theft can go undetected for years until they apply for a car loan or their first credit card."

Scammers often use children's Social Security number, name and address, or date of birth to apply for services, like health care coverage or nutrition assistance, open a bank or credit card account, apply for a loan, sign up for a utility service, or even rent a place to live.

"The effects of identity fraud are not only a hindrance or an annoyance – they can also destroy the future of children who are navigating into adulthood," Rokita said. "As they apply for college loans or apply for a credit card, they can be completely denied due

to unprotected data and greedy hackers."

Rokita and the Federal Trade Commission, offer the following tips to protect your child from identity theft:

Ask questions before giving anyone your child's Social Security number - even if it the child's school, ask these questions:

- Why do you need it?
- How will you protect it?
- Can you use a different identifier?
- Can you use just the last four digits of the Social Security number?

### Protect documents with personal information

If you have documents with your child's personal information, like medical bills or their Social Security card, keep them in a safe place, like a locked file cabinet.

When you decide to get rid of those documents, shred them before you throw them away. If you don't have a shredder, look for a local shredd day.

Delete personal information before disposing of a computer or cell phone.

Your computer and phone might contain personal information about your child. Find out how to delete that information before you

get rid of a computer or a cell phone.

\*\*\*

### Security Freeze

As a parent or legal guardian, a security freeze is one tool you can use to restrict certain access to your minor dependent's credit report. Should you request a security freeze be placed on your minor dependent's credit report, a credit report is created for the minor and then frozen.

Once a security freeze is placed on your child's credit report, it restricts certain access to it, including by fraudsters who may be trying to open a new account using the child's ID.

Security freezes are free but must be placed separately with all 3 national credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion). You'll need to provide copies of documentation that verify your ID; the minor dependent's ID; and your relationship to them.

If your child's identity is hacked, report and close the fraudulent accounts, freeze your child's credit, and contact Rokita's office by visiting [gov.attorneygeneral.gov](http://gov.attorneygeneral.gov) or calling 1-800-382-5516. You also may report suspected cyber-criminal scams to the FBI at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov) or [IdentityTheft.gov](http://IdentityTheft.gov).



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## KAREN

From Page A1

dubbed Julius Caesar Simpson. I was off many centuries as I thought a C-section was fairly new just dating back to the late 1880s! Although new to MoCo, at this birth on 14 April 1911, the C-section actually dates back to when Julius Caesar ruled and made a law that all women would give birth by being cut-open, thus the name was quite appropriate. Some sources say Caesar was born in this manner as well but this is likely erroneous. On Julius Caesar Simpson's birth certificate Dr. Barcus wrote, "1# 12 oz - will live!" (underlined, bold lettered). Julius was later known as JC to most and Caesar to some. When he went home, his bed was in a shoe box for some time, safe and warm near the stove! He was a small man (5'6", 125# on his WWII registration card) and worked with his 6' father who lived to be 84. Sadly, Bessie died young, at age 40 and was never really in good health.

JC was married to Mildred Underwood and they were the parents of at least two children, William Eldridge and Janet Lee. They lived at 408 W. Walnut in Waynetown. He passed away (at age 81) of a stroke as well as a mass in his lung plus anemia. Buried of course at the Waynetown Masonic Cemetery, he was a graduate of Waynetown HS and besides working with his dad, he did work for International Harvester until retiring.

Now, our second C-section was quite a different affair. Full-term, in labor over 24 hours with all means of natural birth failing, it was decided to take Mayme Tankersley, age 27 (wife of Frank Cottrell,

age 52 - he died the next year) by car to Culver for the operation in order to save her and the baby's lives. Dr. Barcus was again the surgeon, this time without the fanfare! Clara Evelyn Cottrell was born 25 October of 1911 and weighed in, healthy at 10 1/2#. Mayme and Frank had married October 7, 1908 and after Frank passed away, she remarried Joseph Warren Crane who raised Clara. Mayme and Joe are buried at Greenlawn Cemetery at Wingate, Mayme passing away 2 Nov 1971. Clara married Wiley Robbins in December 1939 and a son Wiley Cottrell Robbins was born the next year.

Dr. Paul J. Barcus was one of our own, born near Linden July 13, 1862 to John and Katie Ebrite Barcus and married local gal, Susan Kirkpatrick. He went to DePauw and studied medicine at the Cincinnati Medical School, graduating in 1887, but he desired more, thus he attended the University of Berlin to obtain more knowledge. A well-known and trusted surgeon, he practiced for 33 years in MoCo, performing an operation just a couple of days before he had a stroke and passed away at age 62 (obit - thanks Jina and for the super pic of JC and his momma!). Thanks to Dr. Barcus' amazing surgical skills, our two C-section babies and likely several more went forth and prospered.

- 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).

## FRESH

From Page A1

there, lend a hand with the community crossword, play a game of chess, or borrow one of our jigsaw puzzles. We also have free Print and Play games for you to take home, courtesy of the ALA.

Check out what's happening on our website

at [www.cdpl.lib.in.us](http://www.cdpl.lib.in.us) or call us at 765-362-2242. The library is open Monday-Thursday 9a-9p, Friday-Saturday 9a-5p, and Sunday 1-5p.

- Susanna Howard is a Library Assistant in the Reference and Local History department at CDPL.

## State Treasurer Daniel Elliott Announces Massive Investment In Israeli Bonds

Indiana State Treasurer Daniel Elliott announced today that he has authorized the largest known purchase by a State in the USA since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war.

"Israel is our most important ally in the world. This investment reflects the confidence that I have in the Israeli people and the Israel economy," said Elliott. "Israeli bonds have provided high rates of returns for investors, even outperforming their American counterparts. Historical data and suggests that this is a great opportunity for Hoosier taxpayers."

As Indiana's Chief Investment Officer, Elliott oversees the investment of nearly 17 billion dollars

of state assets and sits on the boards of multiple state agencies that oversee state funds.

"October 7th remains one of the darkest days in the history of the world. Yet, I remain confident that Israel will prevail over the forces of evil. This bond purchase reflects the confidence we have in Israel's victory and the strength of their marketplace."

Indiana currently holds \$65 million dollars in Israel Bonds. After today's purchase, the state will hold \$100 million dollars in Israel Bonds. This is an increase of nearly 55%.

The Treasurer of State is authorized by statute to invest in Israeli bonds by the General Assembly.

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## New IU Study Highlights Billions In Annual Losses From Untreated Mental Illness In Indiana

By Casey Smith  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Untreated mental illness in the Hoosier state comes at a cost of more than \$4 billion a year, according to a new Indiana University study.

The research published by the IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health found that one in five Indiana residents with mental illness do not receive the treatment they need. Hoosiers who do not receive such treatment are also more likely to experience other chronic health conditions, such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, researchers said.

The economic burden of untreated mental illness in Indiana is estimated to be \$4.2 billion annually, including \$3.3 billion in indirect costs — like unemployment and caregiving — \$708.5 million in direct health care costs, and \$185.4 million in non-health care costs.

The largest cost attributable to untreated mental illness was premature mortality, at over \$1.4 billion. Productivity losses were estimated to cost \$885 million each year.

"These costs represent a significant public health and financial challenge for our state," said Heather Taylor, lead author on the study and assistant professor at the Fairbanks School, in a news release. "When you measure this across the state, every year there is a loss of over \$600 for every person, or nearly \$1,600 per family. Untreated mental illness is a hugely consequential cost for Hoosiers."

**The study**  
The findings were published Oct. 13 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Researchers worked with the Indiana Behavioral Health Commission to perform their analysis. The research was used in support of Senate Enrolled Act 1, which passed during the 2023 legislative session.

The sweeping legislation will create a new mental health care system in Indiana, fortifying the relatively new 988 crisis response center and hotline

with funding for mental health emergencies. It hinges on three concepts: someone for Hoosiers to call, someone to respond and somewhere for Hoosiers to go.

The IU study population consisted of more than 6.1 million individuals of whom an estimated 429,000 had untreated mental illness in 2019, according to the research paper.

Researchers derived survey responses given by those individuals in the 2018 to 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, as well as the National Survey of Children's Health.

The analysis determined that in 2019, costs were more than \$4 billion, making the economic burden of untreated mental illness in Indiana 1.2% of the state's gross domestic product in the same year.

For context, researchers emphasized that corn — the leading agricultural commodity for Indiana which accounts for nearly 30% of agricultural production — had \$3.8 billion in sales in 2018.

Considering the average wage in Indiana, \$4 billion represents approximately 100,000 jobs. Spread across all residents, that equals a loss of more than \$600 annually for each state resident or nearly \$1600 for each family annually.

Other factors include direct health care costs, incarceration, homeless shelter costs and caregiving, totaling:

- \$142 million to Medicaid.
- \$567 million to private insurers.
- \$106 million to Indiana's criminal justice system.
- \$9.9 million to Indiana through homeless supports.
- \$566 million for caregiving.
- \$407 million in unemployment for those unable to work.

Individuals who do not receive treatment for their mental illness are also more likely to experience other "debilitating physical health conditions," which can be exacerbated by untreated mental illness. Those other conditions can

also be associated with higher overall medical care costs and a greater likelihood of hospitalization.

"Thus, there is a need for better patient management, early recognition, and continued insurance coverage of mental health treatments," researchers said.

Telehealth was another method mentioned to expand access and treatment within Indiana and elsewhere.

Noting that Indiana recently enabled Medicaid reimbursement for telehealth services to deliver intensive outpatient treatment for psychiatric services, researchers doubled down that "these measures of intervention may encourage better long-term outcomes and overall cost savings to health care systems and society as whole."

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**Significant losses**  
Researchers said the findings help shed light on the "societal burden" associated with untreated mental illness. Specifically, the lack of sufficient treatment for mental illness was associated with "sizeable losses in productive human capital."

"Given the cost of premature mortality, unemployment, and absenteeism in the workplace, it is evident that employers bear substantial costs associated with untreated mental illness," the IU paper said. "Thus, there is a business case for employers to support screening for early identification, counseling, and access to and use of mental health services and treatments."

Through the researchers' work, they developed a framework that allows Indiana to prioritize key areas in mental health services and treatment. The framework also provides Indiana with a baseline for tracking progress toward improvement efforts.

Eliminating barriers to seeking and accessing treatment should be prioritized, including offering "culturally responsive care and recognizing populations stigmatized or discriminated against for seeking treatment," researchers concluded.

They said, too, that investing in interventions that improve access to and delivery of mental health services will reduce the need for social services — and decrease the economic burden to the state. Cost savings could come from:

- Strengthening the mental health provider workforce.
- Improving access to mental health services.
- Ensuring that policies enable providers to use the full range of treatment options.
- Reducing barriers to treatment initiation such as transportation challenges.
- Increasing awareness and reducing stigma around mental illness.
- Encouraging employers to support mental health initiatives.

Still, Taylor said the report is not meant to be a cost-effectiveness analysis: "Indiana will need to invest in mental health services to realize financial returns."

The researchers additionally said that other states could benefit from the proposed framework, especially for tracking and evaluating state policies or interventions, expanding treatment options and organizing clinician reimbursements.

"One of the most significant impacts of this research is that other states can use this framework to understand the financial burden in their state," said Justin Blackburn, associate professor at the Fairbanks School. "There is a scarcity of data on the costs incurred by each state — especially by individuals, families and communities — from untreated mental illnesses in the United States. Policymakers, clinicians and employers need this sort of data to determine how we should allocate our societal resources."

- *Indiana Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Indiana Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Follow Indiana Capital Chronicle on [facebook.com/IndianaCapitalChronicle](https://www.facebook.com/IndianaCapitalChronicle) and [twitter.com/INCapChronicle](https://twitter.com/INCapChronicle)*

## Food Finders Food Bank Kicks Off Its 13th Annual Drive Away Hunger Fall Food Drive

### Food bank calls on community to raise 700,000 meals!

Food Finders Food Bank is launching its 13th annual Drive Away Hunger fall food drive on November 1st, with the effort continuing through December 1st. We are calling on the community to unite in helping to stock the food bank's supply to ensure that our neighbors facing hunger have enough resources to provide for their families this winter. Last fall, the food drive crushed the original meal goal of 650,000. For 2023, we have increased this goal and hope to raise enough food for 700,000 meals.

President/CEO Kier Crites Muller states, "Food Finders and our partners across the charitable food network have been sounding the alarm for the last two years about the increased demand we are facing and the USDA's Household Food Security in the United States in

2022 report released last week confirms this; the number of individuals living in food insecure households in the U.S. in 2022 increased to 44 million, including 13 million children. This is an increase of 31% since 2021 and 44% since 2020, the highest rate since 2014 and the largest one-year increase since 2008. The report parallels what we are seeing locally." Crites Muller adds, "The good news is that, so far, we've been able to meet this increased need, but we cannot continue alone. We need ongoing support from our community to assist our neighbors facing hunger."

Several community-minded area businesses are sponsoring the 2023 food drive, allowing Food Finders to increase awareness about food insecurity in our community. Pre-

senting sponsors include Cargill, Indiana Packers, Kroger, and Primient, in partnership with Neuhoff Media Lafayette; Key sponsors are Tate & Lyle and Soller-Baker Funeral Home; Engine sponsors include Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Caterpillar, and Evonik; Van Gorder Janitorial is a Green Light sponsor; and Two Men and A Truck will be an In-Kind sponsor.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events: Now - November 18 - Classroom Superstars, presented by Primient Local elementary, junior high, and high schools compete to win the coveted "Golden Spork" by raising the most food donations through Nov. 18.

Wednesday, November 22 - 14th Annual Feed the Need Day

Neuhoff Media will host its annual food drive at all

four area Pay Less Super Markets to raise food and funds for Food Finders Food Bank.

Thursday, November 23 - Fleet Feet's Gobble Wobble 5K

The Thanksgiving Day run starts at 9:30 a.m. at Cumberland Park, West Lafayette

November 29 - Giving Tuesday

Cargill and Kroger will offer a dollar-for-dollar match for the first \$20,000 raised. Double your donation on Giving Tuesday!

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Drive Away Hunger food donations: Please bring all food donations to Food Finders' Warehouse: 1210 N. 10th Street, Lafayette. Monday - Friday 8 am - 4 pm.

For complete event details and to learn how you can participate and make a difference, visit: <https://www.food-finders.org/dah>

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