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## TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 127:1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

## FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



One of our roving photographers caught Cameron and Cooper outside and having fun and the boys were nice enough to offer a smile! Got a great photo of your loved one? E-mail it to [news@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:news@thepaper24-7.com) along with the pertinent info (and your contact information so we can reach you if we have questions).

## THREE THINGS You Should Know:

**1** Want to go to the massive Christmas Gift + Hobby Show at the Indiana State Fairgrounds - for free! Well, simply send us a photo with you and the front page of The Paper (online or print) and if we use that as our Faces of Montgomery County, you win tickets! It's that simple and easy! Just e-mail your photo to [news@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:news@thepaper24-7.com) and be sure to include your name and contact info. And hey, if you want to say something nice about The Paper, well, we always appreciate that! One more thing - supplies are limited and this is first come, first serve!

**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** It's a fact: you can get quite a headache if you drink too much wine. But balancing a bunch of wine glasses on your head can land you a page in the Guinness Book of World Records. In fact, Aristotelis Valaoritis, a native Cypriot, earned the coveted title recently when he managed to balance 319 wine glasses on his head while walking and dancing. It's a talent that, over the years, has earned him the title of "glass dancer." As he puts it, "I enjoy doing it. I see the spectators' faces full of tension and agony like they're watching a movie."

# The Paper OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

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CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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Photo courtesy of Athens Arts

Examples of cards that attendees can learn to make at the next Art on Thursday.

## Making Cards For The Holidays

Art on Thursday is scheduled to be on November 30.

There is nothing more personal than receiving a hand-made greeting card! Sending a card is a great way to show your love, care, and appreciation to your family and friends. Have you ever wanted to make your own holiday cards to send to your favorite people? This is the class for you!

After this class, you will have 3 stunning holiday cards to mail to the special people in your life with festive envelopes! Hoping this will

jumpstart your creative juices so that you may be inspired to make ALL your cards this 2023 season!

We will supply the materials, instruction and holiday cheer needed for you to create three seasonal greeting cards in this fun-filled class.

Class will be on Thursday, November 30 at Athens Arts, 216 E. Main Street, Crawfordsville, IN. Choose either an afternoon session (1-3 pm) or an evening session (6-8 pm). Class is open to anyone 12 years and older. The cost

is \$35.

To reserve a spot for the November 30 class, stop by Athens Arts Thursdays and Fridays 10 am to 6 pm or on Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm or call anytime 765.362.7455 and leave a voice mail anytime.

Come be pART of it! Activities are made possible in part by The Arts Federation (TAF), a Regional Arts Partner, Indiana Arts Commission (IAC), a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), a federal agency.

## National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week

By Gwynn Wills

The Humane Society of the United States founded National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week in 1996 to acknowledge and appreciate the role of animal shelters in communities all over the country. This holiday encourages the public to understand the level of work involved in caring for animals and to volunteer to help at their local animal shelter. The annual event acknowledges the hard-working people who support the shelters and help in keeping the pets healthy.

According to reports, there are about 70 million stray animals in the United States, with up to eight million ending up in shelters. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals reports that each year, only three million of these animals get adopted from the 3,500 animal shelters around the country. (<https://nationaltoday.com/national-animal-shelter-appreciation-week/>)

Each day this week, The Paper will be featuring a different member of the Montgomery County Animal Welfare League's staff as a way to honor them and show apprecia-



Photo courtesy of Gwynn Wills

**Dean Balaz**

tion for the hard work they do. Their commitment to serving the community through their dedication to the well-being of animals is exemplary as you will soon discover.

\*\*\*

**Dean Balaz**

Dean joined the Montgomery County Animal Welfare League shelter staff in January of 2014. After graduating from North Montgomery High School and obtaining an Associate's Degree from Ivy Tech, Dean held jobs

➔ See GWYNN Page A4



Photo courtesy of the Linden Depot Museum

## 13th Annual Christmas Open House At Linden Depot Museum

Linden Depot Museum is proud to announce our 13th Annual Christmas Open House. The museum is decorated for the holidays and ready for visitors. The 2023 Christmas Open House begins Friday November 24th and runs through Sunday, December 31st. We will be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

We have a limited quantity of our annual ornament, which is available for a donation. All donations are used to fund museum projects throughout the year. The museum is located at 520 N. Main Street, Linden, IN 47955. There is no admission cost during the Open House and

➔ See DEPOT Page A4

## The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset  
RISE: 7:21 a.m.  
SET: 5:41 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures  
High: 70 °F  
Low: 44 °F



Today is...

- Basketball Day
- Job Action Day
- National Nachos Day



What Happened On This Day

- 1999 Australians reject referendum to become a republic with a president as its head. The referendum was held to amend the Australian constitution, which would make the country a republic with a president as its head.
- 1962 United Nations passes resolution to condemn Apartheid in South Africa. The UN General Assembly asked its member states to stand up against apartheid and to cut off relations with South Africa in order to make a point.
- 1861 Jefferson Davis elected as president of Confederate States of America. The senator from Mississippi was the provisional president of the Confederacy since February 1861.

Births On This Day

- 1970 Ethan Hawke American actor, director, screenwriter
- 1814 Adolphe Sax Belgian musician, inventor of the saxophone

Deaths On This Day

- 1893 Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Russian composer
- 1836 Charles X of France

## HONEST HOOSIER

It's Monon Bell week. Let's go Wabash!



## INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

Casey Williams.....A3  
Classifieds.....A3  
Carrie Classon.....A4

## THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Say Cheese!

Are you a proud parent or grandparent? Got a great photo of your loved one? E-mail it to [news@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:news@thepaper24-7.com) along with the pertinent info (and your contact information so we can reach you if we have questions). C'mon, let's show off as many bright and smiling faces as we can and make clear exactly why Montgomery County is such a great place to raise a family!

## TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you don't buy it at the grocery, you can't eat it at home. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Catch his column each week in The Paper and online at [www.thepaper24-7.com](http://www.thepaper24-7.com).



## 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.

"A nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people."

-John F. Kennedy

## TODAY'S JOKE

The old-timer who was married to a much younger lady asked if he could borrow her copy of the paper. She sighed and said that newspapers were out of date and old fashioned and that everyone read everything online these days. With that, she handed him her computer tablet.

That poor fly didn't stand a chance!

## OBITUARIES

NONE

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



The Paper OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY



# New Market Elementary 1st Quarter Honor Roll And Character Counts

**Preschool Character Counts**  
Trustworthiness: Liam Hargis, Emilia Richardson  
Respect: Noah Flowers, Cora Keller  
\*\*\*

**Kindergarten Character Counts**  
Trustworthiness - Addy Peterson, Mavyn Highland, Maridyn Gentry  
Respect - Ryker Barnett, Zeke Lesko, Jordan Durbin  
\*\*\*

**1st Grade Character Counts**  
Trustworthiness-Kenzie Brown, Addison Smith, Rylee Mullis, Kordelia Maddock  
Respect-Holly Hedge, Cole Ramsey, Calli Dittmer, Jep Carrell  
\*\*\*

**2nd Grade Character Counts**  
Trustworthiness: Hadley Cornelius, Parker Bonilla, Alexia Abbott  
Respect: Enzo Carr, Frances Cotton, Kenna Lowe  
\*\*\*

**High Honor Roll:** Colten Billman, Enzo Carr, Hadley Cornelius, Isaac Steiner, Brecken Thomas, Ava Barclay, Leo Cox, Emma Datzman, Noah Fruits, Hudson Hockersmith, Benson Jones, Jason McNair, Michael Mobley, Caroline Nichols, Eliana Starceovich, Kerstin Wilson, Eli Hester, Harrison Melton, Paige Simpson, Kaydan Sims  
\*\*\*

**A/B Honor Roll:** Hadley Abell, Ainsley Anglin, Gracie Barnhart, Michael Bell-Grayson, Logan Carr, Cora Clos, Braden Ford, Nevaeh McMullen, Aunysa Pyle, Emma-Lee Wadley, James Wurtsbaugh, Alex Badertscher, Parker Bonilla, Frances Cotten, Ellie Emberton, Kaleb Griffin, Maverick Roach, Cayson Thomas, Jaxon Whitlow, Cole Boyd, Delaney Carr, Olivia Clark, Jackson Davis, Jadein Grayson, CJ Johnson, Kenna Lowe, Serafina Nowak, Laura-Belle Surber, Riley Ward, Jason Yeary  
\*\*\*

**3rd Grade Character Counts**  
Trustworthiness: Hudson McCandless, Sutton Cohee, Vera Carrell  
Respect: Azariah Hernandez, Calvin McCandless, Syllis Barnett  
\*\*\*

**High Honor Roll:** Lucille Fishero, Hudson McCandless, Derrick Ward, Paislie Barnes, Isla Beach, Ace Charles, Sawyer Cohee, Sutton Cohee, Reyna Hernandez, Stella Hughes, Beckett Jones, Henry Jones, Kyhia Larrance, Adelaide Lyndsay, Landen Marine, Samuel Newlin, Audrey Porter, Eva Rice, Tyberius Anglin, Levi Badillo, Vera Carrell, Peyton Doss, Tristan Stafford, Kaison Steiner, Nora Stetler, Gage Van Dorn  
\*\*\*

**A/B Honor Roll:** Roran

Alesi, Alden Bray, Elle Collins, Oliver Cook, Cale Cunningham, Jackson Gray, Maxine Hartman, Levi Rhodes, Charlotte Stull, Henley Surface, Gabriel Turner, Kynlee Cleary, Calvin McCandless, Brent Rector, Jackson Surber, Darryan Wade, Macy White, Katana Willhite, Syllis Barnett, Elijah Brown, Audri Cohee, Lucas Edwards, Lux Highland, Briley Malone, Mallory Morpew-High, Amariah Pyle, Nolan Rothrock, Zane Turner, Oliver Vice  
\*\*\*

**4th Grade Character Counts**  
Trustworthiness: Libby Stull, Evy Stephens, Mackenzie Bullock  
Respect: McCoy Gomez, Ezra Moody, Branch Blakley  
\*\*\*

**High Honor Roll:** David Mobley, Hadley Arnett, Quinn Badertscher, Emma Bonebrake, Baine Franklin, Jack Hall, Toby Lacy, Ezra Moody, Nevaeh Nelson, Isaiah Smith, Evy Stephens, Graham Wagner, Branch Blakley, Autumn Hunt  
\*\*\*

**A/B Honor Roll:** Noah Carr, Dorothy Cotten, McCoy Gomez, Paaije Guyton, Libby Stull, Caden Clark, Cyrus Cooper, Rowyn Cravens, Avalynn Gentry, Alexis Howard, Gwen Norman, Julien Ogle, Adelle Shannon, Arya Steward, Brax-

ton Whitlow, Marlaina Halstead, Cayson Hester, Maribelle Marine, Coree Perez, Avalyn Simpson, Riley Thompson  
\*\*\*

**5th Grade Character Counts:**  
Trustworthiness-Mercy Collins, Joslynn Gray, Addilynn Wood, Jacey Hoenshell  
Respect-Angel Waddell, Mila Barsotti, Thomas Fishero, Harrison Simmons  
\*\*\*

**High Honor Roll:** Karsyn Charles, Elouise McGaughey, August Ashment, Mila Barsotti, Aaleeah Carrell, Addilynn Edwards, Joslynn Gray, Anna Lindsay, Hope Smith, Addilynn Wood, Jacey Hoenshell, Jolene Kappel, Sully Roark, Harrison Simmons, Rayleigh Thomas  
\*\*\*

**A/B Honor Roll:** William Boots, Jett Cummins, Ryder Fruits, Ryan Gilliland, Haven Hernandez, Hillary McCandless, Lainey Sheldon, Angel Waddell, Ari Williamson, Ruger Foster, Adalyn Hood, Kaitlyn Burkhardt, Abigail Badillo, Summer Binch, Noah Faulk, Thomas Fishero, Tori Frazier, Aiyanna Haslam, Kinzlie Price, Logan Rosenbaum, Remy Stetler, Carson Barker, Phoebe Buckler, Leah Dankel, Remy Ferguson, Hadley Hedge, Raylan Hester, Karter Maddock, Tregan Sutton  
\*\*\*

# IDHS Launches Winter Weather Preparedness Week

Winter Weather Preparedness Week runs Nov. 5-11.

The amount of daylight gets shorter each day and temperatures are dropping. The winter season is coming and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is taking part in Winter Weather Preparedness Week to remind Hoosiers to act now to avoid surprises.

Hoosiers know Indiana has diverse winter weather. Average winter high temperatures range from the lower 30s in northern Indiana, up to the mid-40s in southern counties. Annual snowfall averages from 10 to 15 inches over far southwest Indiana to more than 70 inches in some areas near Lake Michigan according to the National Weather Service.

Throughout Winter Weather Preparedness Week, IDHS will provide valuable tips and guidance to help people prepare for the cold months ahead.

**Top tips:**

- Travel safe: Stay

informed about road conditions and have an emergency kit ready in your vehicle.

- Create an emergency kit: Assemble a kit for your household, including food, water, blankets, flashlights and other essential items.

- Bundle up outside: Understand the risks of cold weather exposure and take precautions to protect your family's health.

- Stay informed: Stay up-to-date with weather forecasts, advisories and emergency alerts to make informed decisions.

- "Winter Weather Preparedness Week is an opportunity for all residents to get ready and ensure their safety and well-being during the colder months," said IDHS Executive Director Joel Thacker.

Follow IDHS on Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter) and Instagram, and visit GetPrepared.in.gov and the IDHS website to get the latest updates and helpful tips throughout the week.



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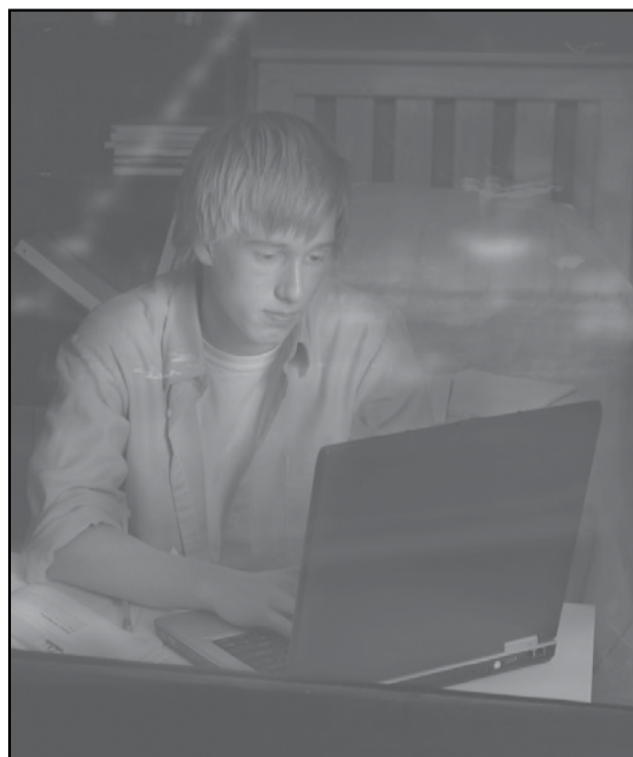
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Photos courtesy of Mazda

# 2024 Mazda CX-90 PHEV Looks Beautifully Upon Its Plug

My sister and I were recently discussing what car she and my brother-in-law should buy next. For the last two decades, they've been raising my niece and nephews in GM and Honda mini-vans, but the "kids" are off to college. They still want a vehicle large enough to get everybody to dinner comfortably, but also want something more upscale as they drive towards retirement. While most of their driving is to work and shopping, they still want to be comfortable on long drives. The 2024 Mazda CX-90 PHEV may be their next ride.

Having a good look in the driveway, the CX-90 is considerably more elegant than the average mini-van. Typical of Mazda, design is in subtle chrome and sculptural forms that lend an upscale yet understated style. It even looks German or Italian. Stylists tried to give the CX-90 a long hood for sportier

proportions, but from some angles it looks a little smooched and tall in the passenger zone. A wide rump and 21" wheels lend muscular attitude.

The luxury experience continues inside where passengers are greeted with plush stitched dash coverings, light woodgrain accents, and infotainment screen that appears shaved from thin glass. Flatscreen gauges and a head-up display put critical information front-and-center. I could do without Mazda's cumbersome joywheel controller, but it does connect devices wirelessly via Apple CarPlay or Android Auto.

That's only a start to the carnal luxuries. Crisp Bose audio, heated and ventilated front seats, and a panoramic sunroof with opening panel elevate the experience - as do heated second row seats, heated steering wheel, and tri-zone automatic climate control. Everything one

### 2024 Mazda CX-90 PHEV Seven-passenger, AWD Crossover

Powertrain: 2.5-liter I4, Li-ion batteries  
Output: 323hp/369 lb.-ft  
Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind  
Wheels f/r: 21"/21" alloy  
Brakes f/r: regen disc/disc  
Fuel economy: 56-MPGe combined  
Assembly: Hofu, Japan  
Base/as-tested price: \$49,945/\$58,920

sees or touches seems a level above the CX-90's price point. And, anybody riding inside should be safe given automatic emergency braking, front/rear cross path detection with auto brake, lane keep assist, and blind spot warning systems.

My sister is used to hauling three rows of full-size humans plus luggage

### LIKES

- 26 miles EV range
- Luxury interior
- Sculptural style

behind the third row. She'll have to adjust expectations because there's very little space behind the third row and nobody will want to ride back there much further than dinner. For all practical purposes, this is a four passenger car with a large trunk...or a two-passenger car with a cavernous cave behind them.

Sis should add smiles behind the wheel. For daily errands, the CX-90 PHEV goes 26 miles all-electric before firing up the 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine to drive on until the tank runs dry. Owners can charge 20-80% in about 90 minutes on a 240v charger or over six hours on household current, the latter easy overnight. Fuel economy rates a frugal

### DISLIKES

- Infernal joywheel
- Tight third row
- Measly cargo space (seats up)

56-MPGe total system or 26-MPG on gas alone. Towing their camper presents no problem given 3,500 lbs. capacity.

And, true to Mazda heritage, the CX-90 would be a fun drive on two-lane backroads to local parks. Quick steering and a tight four-wheel independent suspension belie the vehicle's size. A combined 323 horsepower and 369 lb.-ft. of torque feels peppy underfoot. Other CX-90s run with a turbocharged inline-six engine, but the hybrid seamlessly sends its power to the all-wheel-drive system through a crisp eight-speed automatic transmission. Going near or far, my sister's family should be set.

Forgoing a luxury badge nets a pretty affordable



CASEY WILLIAMS  
Auto Reviews

price. The CX-90 starts just under \$40,000. Plug-in hybrids begin under \$50,000, coming to \$58,920 as-tested. That's venturing into luxury pricing, but is very competitive against the Toyota Highlander Hybrid, Kia Sorento Plug-in Hybrid, Hyundai Santa Fe plug-in hybrid, and Chrysler Pacifica plug-in hybrid. Storm Forward!

-Send comments to Casey at [AutoCasey@aol.com](mailto:AutoCasey@aol.com); follow him on YouTube @ AutoCasey.

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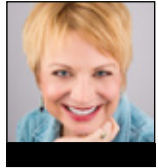
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# Some Seriously Fancy New Gloves



**CARRIE CLASSON**  
The Postscript

My Auntie Jo gave me a beautiful pair of gloves yesterday. They are elegant, with embroidery on the top, and

I immediately did what I usually do—I put them away for safekeeping.

“I’ll wear these to something special!” I told myself.

I have a date to go with my niece to see “Peter Pan” in December. I decided I would wear those gloves when I go out with my beautiful 20-year-old niece before she heads out to Spain to study for a semester in Madrid. That will certainly be an occasion worthy of these gloves, I thought.

“I might need a hat to wear with these gloves,” I got to thinking.

Winter hats, to be brutally honest, are usually one of two things. They are fashionable, or they are warm. I know there are a few that straddle the gap between the two, but it is rare. I went browsing online, looking for a hat that might be worthy of these gloves. I thought how nice it is to have things to look forward to.

My husband, Peter, and I will be returning to Mex-

ico for a few weeks before Christmas, and I am looking forward to that. I look forward to seeing our friends down there and finding out what changes there have been at the hotel. Peter already has his suitcase out and is steadily popping things into it. I know he enjoys this. He enjoys the process of planning his trip, one item at a time. I usually wait until a day or two beforehand and stuff everything in at once.

But I have other things to look forward to as well.

Yesterday, I went to church with my Auntie Jo and my sister. My sister’s husband is a newly ordained minister, and he just began work at his first church. It is a late-in-life new career, and he is very good at it. His congregation was warm and welcoming, and he preached a great sermon. Afterward, my sister and my aunt and I went out, had a cup of coffee and split a couple of pastries at a Mexican mercado. My sister told us about her gardening plans. I talked about our planned trip to Mexico. My aunt told us both how much she enjoyed spending time with us.

“We have to do this again!” Auntie Jo said.

“When I’m back in December, for sure!” I answered.

When they dropped me

off at home, my aunt gave me the little gift bag with the gloves inside.

“What is this?” I asked. “It’s for your birthday,” she told me, which was surprising, since my birthday was three months ago.

Time passes so quickly. We will be in Mexico soon and back before we know it. Another Christmas will come, and a new year will be here.

I thought of how quickly the months go by. Then I went to the coat closet, reached up on the shelf, pulled down those beautiful gloves my aunt had just given me, and I put them on.

There is no need to save these gloves for a special day.

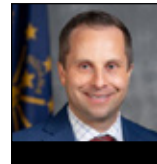
Because this day—this going to church together and having coffee and sharing pastries and plans day—was as special as any day could be. I don’t know how many more days I will spend with my sister and Auntie Jo. I hope there will be many. But I don’t know. None of us do.

So I put on my fancy new gloves with my jacket and my walking shoes, and I headed out the door.

Till next time,  
Carrie

- Carrie Classon is a freelance writer and author and lives in New Mexico. Her columns appear each week.

# Adoption Awareness Month



**SPENCER DEERY**  
Guest Columnist

All children deserve a loving home, a family that cares for them and the assurance that there is someone in

their corner. November is Adoption Awareness Month, making it an ideal time to remember that while last year Hoosiers adopted more than 1,900 children, too many are still waiting to find their forever home.

As we mark this occasion, I invite you to consider with me ways to encourage more adoptions, and to better support and appreciate the families who have welcomed adopted and foster children into their homes.

Our state continues to be one of the most adoption-friendly states in the nation, especially after the General Assembly helped make adoption more affordable by passing a

law in 2022 that created a \$3,000 income-tax exemption for each adopted dependent. The law also doubled the adoption tax credit and made it refundable so recipients can still receive a full return even if it exceeds their tax liability.

All children deserve love and care, and it is up to our community to protect these children and support them in finding families that will treasure them.

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## Drive Away Hunger Gets Underway

Food Finders kicked off its annual Drive Away Hunger food drive this week in preparation for the upcoming holiday season.

Food insecurity has increased in recent years as inflation continues to negatively impact Hoosiers. The goal for this year’s food drive is to provide 700,000 meals to folks in need.

If you are able, please donate nonperishable food items, money or your

time to Food Finders.

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## Improving Internet Access

Broadband access is an infrastructure necessity for Hoosiers in every corner of the state, which is why the Next Level Connections Program has invested more than \$248 million to help bring broadband access to over 68,000 homes and businesses throughout Indiana.

Home or business owners in an area without broadband access can notify the state and request access through the Next Level Connections portal here.

Hoosiers are also encouraged to report their internet speed to help ensure the state has accurate, up-to-date broadband data.

- Spencer Deery is an Indiana State Senator serving District 23 which includes Fountain, Parke, Vermillion, Warren and portions of Montgomery and Tippecanoe counties

## GWYNN

From Page A1

working as a Town Marshall and an electrician at various companies. Then one day, an ad in the paper caught his eye; Animal Control Officer for the local animal shelter. Dean applied for the position and almost ten years later, he’s still an integral part of the Animal Welfare League’s shelter staff.

In addition to daily care of the animals, Dean is on rotation with two other ACO’s to go out on calls to tend to animals that may be injured or in need of assistance. Just this morning, he received a call to pick up a deceased dog out in the county who had been struck and killed by a car. As he was moving the animal, which weighed upward of 75 pounds, the dog’s owner drove up with a friend in tow to help move the animal. After hours, the ACO’s take calls from the Sheriff’s office in the event of an animal emergency. It is not uncommon for Dean and the other officers to go out in the middle of the night to retrieve a dog confiscated from a traffic stop turned into something more serious.

For Dean, one of the toughest aspects of his job is dealing with

animal neglect. “It’s hard when people don’t treat their animals like family,” he says solemnly. And when he first started the job back in 2014, the euthanasia rate was nearly 80%. “It wasn’t uncommon for me to put down several dogs and cats per day,” he states. Thankfully, that has changed and the Montgomery County AWL has received the distinction of a “no-kill” shelter with a save rate reaching well over 80%.

When asked what Dean would like to see happen to support animal welfare in the county, he replied, “Homes for all animals but also a way to provide shelter and foster care temporarily until a suitable home can be found.” Dean would also like to see a well-organized volunteer program at the shelter. There are some wonderful volunteers, but more are needed.

If you are out riding around and see the red AWL truck, you may spot Dean in the driver’s seat. Give him a honk and a wave in appreciation for all he has done to improve the lives of Montgomery County’s four and two-legged residents. Thank you, Dean! You are a real hero!

## DEPOT

From Page A1

we will have refreshments each day - join us for the Christmas holidays.

We are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions about the Open House, please contact Gary A. Vierk 765-427-3630.



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