

**➔ TODAY'S VERSE**

Luke 10:19 I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

**➔ FACES OF MONTGOMERY**

People who call our community their own.



Hey Montgomery County, meet Diamond! She is a 2-year-old female who will be fixed by the time you adopt her. She has a sweet temperament, is well-mannered, and interacts very well with other cats. She simply needs a home where she will be treated like the 'gem' she is! Interested? She's currently at the Animal Welfare League and you can apply to be her forever home at [www.mcawf.com](http://www.mcawf.com), or go there in person to 1104 Bif Four Arch Rd. in Crawfordsville.

**➔ 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 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** All veterans and active-duty military personnel, and everyone in their vehicle, will be admitted free to DNR state parks, reservoir properties, state forest recreation areas, and off-road state recreation areas on Veterans Day, Saturday, Nov. 11. Veterans and military personnel should simply let the gate attendant at the property they visit know that they are either a veteran or serving and on active duty.

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# The Paper

## OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper **50¢**

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA WWW.THEPAPER24-7.COM

### Finally, The Environment. Have We Made Progress?



The League of Women Voters, open to men as well as women, is a nonpartisan, multi-issue political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. For information about the Montgomery County LWV, visit: [www.lwvmont.com](http://www.lwvmont.com) or message to LWV, PO Box 101, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

As noted in the first LWVMC column of October, the petroleum industry knew in 1959 that oil and coal were radically altering the environment. The effect on the climate came clear in the mid-sixties when experts told industry leaders that

carbon would catastrophically warm the climate by 2050. By 1972, both the GOP and Democratic parties focused on the environment, the larger category into which climate fits. At present, the national

League of Women Voters' stance reads: "The preservation of the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the earth's ecosystem is essential for the maximum protection of public health and the environment. The interrelationships of air, water, and land resources should be recognized in designing environmental safeguards. The federal government should have a major role in setting standards for environmental protection and pollution control."

Both parties in 1972 agreed though the approach varied. The GOP hailed the Nixon Administration for turning "toward new paths for social progress - from welfare rolls to payrolls; from wanton pollution to vigorous environmental protection." The GOP pledged:

➔ See LWV Page A6

### National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week Part 3

By Gwynn Wills  
Animal Welfare League

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

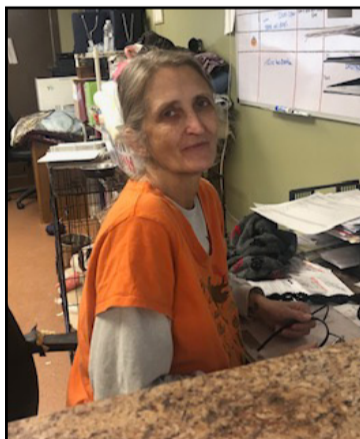


Photo courtesy of Gwynn Wills

**Sally Gooden**

Paper will be featuring a different member of the Montgomery County Animal Welfare League's staff as a way to honor them and show appreciation 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.

\*\*\*

**Sally Gooden**

➔ See GWYNN Page A6

### Crawfordsville / Montgomery County Chamber Of Commerce Christmas Auction

The Crawfordsville | Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Christmas Auction is on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 5:30 pm on the third floor of Fusion 54, located at 101 W. Main St. The Auction Fundraiser supports the community Chamber Christmas Parade and Chamber events throughout the year. An outpour of support from

➔ See AUCTION Page A6

### Community Workshop

Montgomery County invites the public to a Community Workshop as part of the ongoing process to update the county's Comprehensive Plan. There is great value in undertaking a comprehensive planning process, and often the process itself

➔ See PLAN Page A6

### When Did We Wake Up In The Twilight Zone?



**TIM TIMMONS**  
Two Cents

It's not unusual to get reaction after writing a column. Some of you share with me your thoughts on my heritage, my intelligence, my sanity . . .

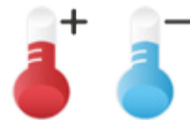
and a few of you actually like what I wrote. But last week brought a lot of you out of the woodwork.

And it appears - at least on the surface - that many of us are in the same boat. We're wondering where the sanity went, or as one person wrote - how did I wake up in the twilight zone?

➔ See TIM Page A6

### The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset  
RISE: 7:23 a.m.  
SET: 5:39 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures  
High: 76 °F  
Low: 54 °F

Today is...

- Cook Something Bold Day
- National STEAM day
- World Town Planning Day

What Happened On This Day

- 1939 Assassination attempt on Hitler. Johann Georg Elser, a German woodworker, attempted to kill Adolf Hitler and other high ranking members of the Nazi party during the 16th anniversary observances of the Beer Hall Putsch, a failed coup attempt by Hitler in 1923.
- 1923 Beer Hall Putsch. On this day, Adolf Hitler and other members of the Nazi party attempted to overthrow current government by marching to Berlin. They started the march at the Bürgerbräu Keller in Munich.
- 1895 First person to observe X-rays. German physicist Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen accidentally discovered X-rays, also sometimes called Röntgen rays while working on cathode rays.

Births On This Day

- 1966 Gordon Ramsay Scottish chef, television host
- 1900 Margaret Mitchell American author

Deaths On This Day

- 1887 Doc Holliday American gambler, dentist
- 1674 John Milton English poet

**➔ HONEST HOOSIER**

Just a heads up Montgomery County, no editions this weekend in honor of Veterans Day! I'll be here the rest of the week (don't forget to tip your waiters, waitresses and favorite cartoon) and then I'm off Saturday and Sunday.



**➔ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION**

Public Notices .....A4  
Classifieds.....A3

**➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

When you read a food label, make sure you determine how many servings are in the package.

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).



**➔ MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

**November Community Forum:**

Mayor Barton will be hosting his November Community Forum on Monday, November 13th from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Mayor's Office. This will be the Mayor's 126th community forum. This event is open to the public to come ask questions, discuss concerns, and learn more about anything regarding the city.

**➔ 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 cannot be defined by the second word - paper. They've got to be defined by the first word - news."  
-Arthur Sulzberger, Jr.

**➔ TODAY'S JOKE**

What blood type are newspaper editors?  
Typo negative!

**➔ OBITUARIES**

None

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



8 51246 00100 5



**13 WTHR** 7 DAY FORECAST

49/69 COOL START, MILD FINISH TUE	54/76 WEEKLY WIND SHOWER AT TIMES WED	53/59 PARTLY CLOUDY, COOLER THU	41/51 DECREASING CLOUDS FRI	34/52 SUNNY BUT COOL SAT	33/51 PARTLY CLOUDY SUN	33/50 SUNNY MON
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## JD Power Ranks Erie Insurance #1 In Claims Satisfaction

Erie Insurance is ranked highest in customer satisfaction among property and casualty (P&C) insurers in the J.D. Power 2023 U.S. Property Claims Satisfaction Study. ERIE led all P&C carriers in property claims experience, earning a score of 912 out of J.D. Power's 1,000-point scale, a 30-point jump over 2022.

Erie Insurance scored 38 points higher than the industry average in customer satisfaction with the home insurance claims experience in 2023, and was ranked #1 in settlement, claim servicing, first notice of loss and the estimation process – four of the five J.D. Power study factors.

The J.D. Power U.S. Property Claims Satisfaction Study measures satisfaction with the property claims experience among insurance customers who have filed a claim for damages by examining five factors: settlement; claim servicing; first notice of loss; estimation process; and repair process. The study

is based on responses from 5,343 homeowner insurance customers who filed a claim within the previous nine months. The study was fielded December 2021 through December 2022.

Derrick Clore, President of Clore Insurance Group, a local independent insurance agency representing Erie Insurance noted "The bottom line is that our clients are buying a promise that when things go south, and rest assured they will, we'll be there for them. This study offers an unbiased affirmation of what my team says every day, that Erie Insurance is the best in the business. And isn't that what you really want when deciding on a company to protect everything you have?"

Clore Insurance Group serves Carmel, Crawfordsville, and Brazil, Indiana. [www.cloreinsurance.com](http://www.cloreinsurance.com)



DERRICK CLORE

## Farmer Sentiment Rises As Producers Report Improved Financial Conditions On Their Farms

There was a slight uptick in agricultural producers' sentiment in October, as the Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer index rose 4 points to a reading of 110. The modest improvement in farmer sentiment resulted from farmers' improved perspective on current conditions on their farms as well as their expectations for the future. The Index of Current Conditions rose 3 points to 101 while the Index of Future Expectations rose 5 points to 114. This month's Ag Economy Barometer survey was conducted Oct. 16-20.

"Farmers in this month's survey were slightly less concerned about the risk of lower prices for crops and livestock and felt somewhat better about their farms' financial situation than a month earlier," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture.

Farmers' more optimistic view of their farms' financial situation was reflected in the Farm Financial Performance Index, which rose 6 points in October compared to September. This month's index value of 92 was the highest farm financial performance reading since April and pushed the index 7% above its reading from a year ago. The index's rise stood in contrast to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's forecast for 2023 net farm income to fall below 2022's income level.

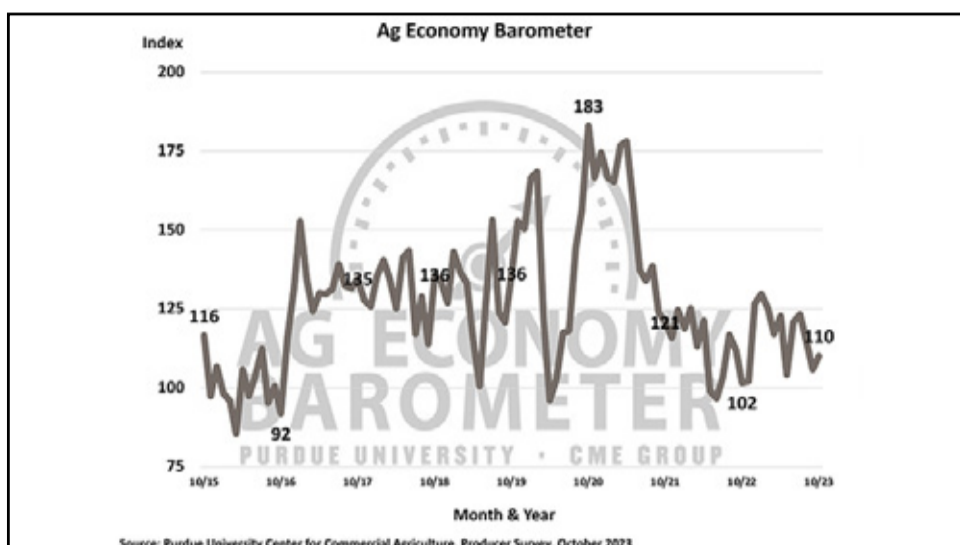


Photo courtesy of Purdue/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer/James Mintert

"Reports of higher-than-expected corn and soybean yields in some Corn Belt locations, along with a modest rally in corn prices, likely contributed to this month's rise in the financial conditions and the barometer indices," Mintert said.

Despite the perception that financial conditions were stronger than a month earlier, the Farm Capital Investment Index fell 4 points in October to a reading of 35. This was the lowest reading of the year for the investment index. In October, nearly 8 out of 10 (78%) respondents said it was a bad time to make large investments in their farm operation, while just 13% of farmers said it was a good time to make large investments. Among those who said it's a bad time to invest, the most commonly cited reason was rising interest rates, chosen by 41% of respondents, up one percentage point from September. Of those who said it is a good time to make large investments in

their farm operation, 24% stated "strong cash flows," down from 32% who felt that way in September, and 20% pointed to "expansion opportunities" up from 6% in September.

Just over one-third (35%) of producers in this month's survey said they expect farmland values to rise in their area in the upcoming year, while nearly two-thirds (65%) of survey respondents expect farmland values to rise over the next 5 years. As a result, the Short-Term Farmland Value Index changed little, dropping just one point compared to a month earlier, while the Long-Term Farmland Value Expectations Index rose three points. Key reasons cited by producers for optimism about farmland values over the next five years continue to be non-farm investor demand, followed by inflation.

Dry weather this past spring and summer stimulated discussions among producers about shifts in long-term weather patterns. This month's survey

asked corn and soybean producers if they have explicitly made any changes in their farming operation in response to changes in long-term weather patterns in their area. Nearly one out of four corn/soybean farmers (24%) in the October survey indicated they implemented changes in their farm operations to better deal with shifting weather patterns. A follow-up question posed only to farmers who said they've made changes asked them to identify the biggest operational changes they've made to date. Responses indicated farmers are choosing from among a broad mix of technologies and capital investments to adapt to changing weather patterns, including: increased use of no-till (25% of respondents); changed mix of crops planted (23% of respondents); planted more drought-resistant varieties (20% of respondents); installed tile drainage (9% of respondents); and installed irrigation (9% of respondents).

### PUBLIC NOTICES

54D02-2308-EU-00069  
 STATE OF INDIANA ) IN MONTGOMERY SUPERIOR COURT 2  
 )  
 MONTGOMERY COUNTY ) CAUSE NO. 54D02-2308-EU-00069  
 IN THE MATTER OF THE )  
 UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF )  
 ARLEN K. BUSENBARK, Dec. )  
 NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION  
 Notice is hereby given that on 8/14/2023, 2023, Karen Flynn was appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Arlen K. Busenbark, deceased, who died on July 26, 2023, in Marion County, Indiana.  
 All person having claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.  
 Dated at Crawfordsville, Indiana, this 24th day of October, 2023.  
 Karyn Douglas  
 Clerk of the Montgomery County Courts  
 Counsel for Estate: William A. Goebel  
 GOEBEL LAW OFFICE  
 118 East Main Street, Ste. 300  
 Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
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 PL4759 11/8 11/15 2t hspaxlp

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 (USPS 022-679)

April 19, 2023 Volume 20 Number 16

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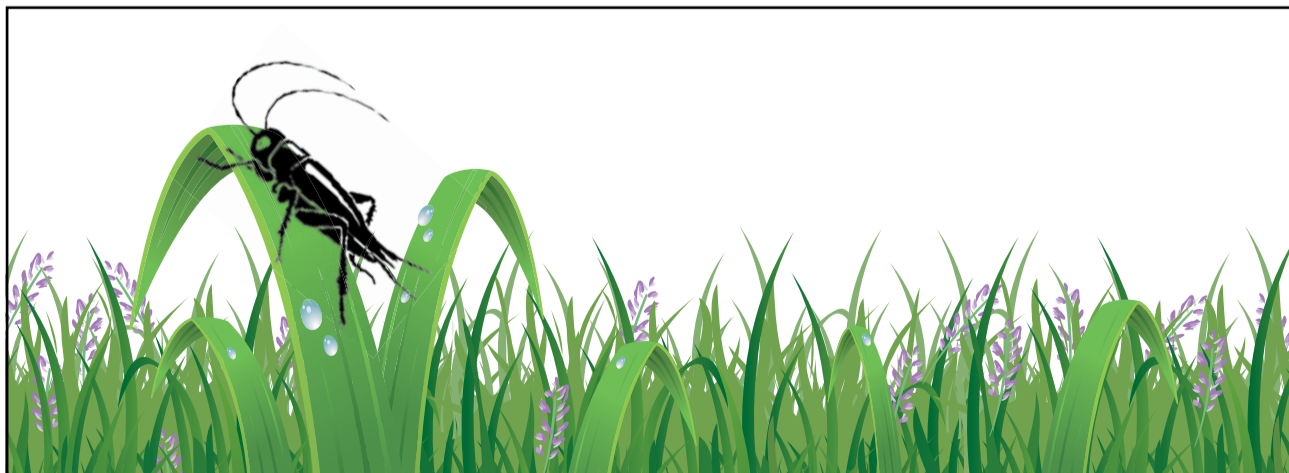
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MARKETPLACE | EVENTS



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# Ten Agencies Spent Over \$5M On Spot Bonuses

By Whitney Downard  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation doesn't have the largest headcount, but the relatively small state agency spent an outsized amount of taxpayer dollars on spot bonuses totaling \$1.2 million over two years for a department with 114 employees.

For comparison, the state's largest agency — the Indiana Department of Correction — has 5,149 employees and spent a total of \$1.7 million over the two years analyzed. Combined, 10 of the state's largest agencies spent over \$5 million in bonuses, with average payouts ranging from an IEDC high of \$2,973 to a low of \$231 at the Department of Environmental Management.

Out of the 10 agencies analyzed by the Indiana Capital Chronicle, the IEDC stood out for its hefty, repeated bonuses, including a total of \$52,700 over two years to David Rosenberg, formerly the chief operating officer and chief of staff and now the head of the agency.

Gov. Eric Holcomb defended agency spot bonuses overall, which were revamped as part of his 2022 approach to address low state employee retention, and praised the quasi-public IEDC for superseding its goals.

"The IEDC, being a quasi, has a somewhat different mission in the sense that they're out trying to bring in jobs and capital investment and they have certain goals that we go over in the beginning of every single year and track every single day," Holcomb said during a media scrum on Wednesday. "... Specifically with the IEDC, we set a goal to break records every single year in terms of wages, in terms of new jobs, in terms of

capital investment. "We set a record (in 2021) at \$8.7 billion," Holcomb continued. "Last year, they did \$22.2 billion in capital investment. So not only did they surpass ... they far exceeded it."

The IEDC is a quasi-governmental agency, which means it has greater autonomy and less public transparency.

### More on IEDC bonuses

Through a spokesperson, the IEDC shared its 12-page compensation plan and detailed how spot bonus data obtained from the Comptroller's Office actually included three different categories of bonuses: traditional spot bonuses recognizing job performance, incentive compensation bonuses tied to biannual performance reviews and sign-on bonuses used to "recruit top talent."

According to Erin Sweitzer, the agency's vice president of external communications, spot bonuses for 2022 totaled \$10,175 and \$131,850 for 2023. Sign-on bonuses totaled \$6,000 and \$11,500, respectively, while the bulk of the bonuses fall under incentive compensation — \$619,250 for 2022 and \$422,177 for 2023 so far.

Bonuses are tied to the agency's performance, Sweitzer said.

"In conjunction with the IEDC board, our executive team sets aggressive annual goals for our agency to achieve. In 2022 and so far in 2023, our team has greatly exceeded these goals, which have generally been related to committed capital investment, average committed wages, as well as targets related to community investment, entrepreneurship and external engagement," Sweitzer said.

Data showed bonuses from the agency generally went out in waves, includ-

ing \$292,250 in June 2022, \$327,250 in early November 2022 and \$418,177 in July 2023. Sweitzer said the second biannual bonus for 2022 went out in November, instead of December, because the agency hit its goals early.

The shared compensation guide included the agency's calculation for determining bonuses, which considered a hiring date, whether that goal was exceeded and weighed the goal based on its strategic importance.

"Based on the unprecedented success of the IEDC — record levels of new committed capital investment; growing new future-focused industries like energy, semiconductors and electric vehicles; investing \$1 billion in quality of place initiatives across the state through READI; and creating countless new job opportunities for Hoosiers with record-high average wages that are above the national average wage — these agency goals have been exceeded, and employees have received standard performance-based bonuses as set by the agency guidelines," Sweitzer continued.

She noted that spot bonuses alone "generally adhere" to guidelines from the State Personnel Department (SPD), which caps such awards at \$1,000 and doesn't include multiple perks per year.

Sweitzer said such bonuses were at the discretion of the department's executive team and employees received multiple awards at times when they had "earned a promotion and/or pay increase" but salaries couldn't be adjusted at the same time due to "financial and administrative constraints."

"We occasionally use spot bonuses (sometimes multiple in a year) as a tool to make those employees' compensation 'whole' until

their pay increase can take effect," Sweitzer concluded.

\*\*\*

### Big bucks at state agencies

The ICC's analysis of 10 key state agencies' spot bonuses covered 69% of all state employees, not including 2% of state employees from a previous investigation into spot bonuses at offices led by elected officials.

10 of the state's largest agencies gave the following spot bonuses over 2022 and 2023:

- Department of Correction: \$1.7 million
- Indiana Economic Development Corporation: \$1.2 million
- Bureau of Motor Vehicles: \$997,009
- Department of Child Services: \$649,258
- Department of Transportation: \$585,050
- Family and Social Services Administration: \$327,251
- Department of Health: \$121,450
- Department of Natural Resources: \$87,624
- Department of Environmental Management: \$32,050
- Department of Education: \$10,500

In terms of average bonus, IEDC led the pack with an average award of \$2,973 over 404 bonuses followed by the Department of Education, which averaged \$2,625 across just four bonuses.

The IEDC also had the highest maximum bonus at \$11,700, again followed by the Department of Education, which doled out one \$5,000 bonus.

Though the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) has just 1,449 employees, the agency gave out 5,990 bonuses — spending a total of \$997,009 but averaging just \$167 per bonus.

Similar to the IEDC, the BMV clarified that it had

several bonus programs all lumped under the 'spot bonus' designation at the Comptroller's Office. Totals for each category included: \$67,208 in traditional spot bonuses; \$528,438 in branch operations quarterly bonuses; \$400,863 for kiosk bonuses; and \$500 in referral bonuses.

Melissa Hook, the BMV communications and media relations director, said the branch operations quarterly bonus program specifically helped recognize "outstanding performance" for two of the department's most challenging roles: customer service representatives and team leaders. Kiosk bonuses include branch team members and regional managers and is based on the percentage of transactions processed at a BMV Connect kiosk.

Of the 10 agencies analyzed, just two adhered to the SPD suggested maximum of \$1,000 — the Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Management.

Two agencies with long-standing recruitment challenges, the Department of Child Services and the Department of Correction, both stood out for having higher maximum awards (\$2,289 and \$3,098, respectively) and high overall spending.

DCS, in a statement, said it awarded bonuses bigger than \$1,000 to offset withheld taxes and as part of a SPD-approved recruitment initiative for family case managers.

\*\*\*

### Party heads weigh in

The awarding of bonuses was left largely up to agencies, Holcomb said.

"It's really left up to the individual agency head to recognize staff that (go) above and beyond the normal call of duty and we have approached it that way," the governor said.

Holcomb acknowledged that his own office abided by guidelines from the SPD, which caps bonuses at \$1,000, but not all departments fell under its purview — including his own and others led by elected officials.

"Other agencies that may be outside or maybe quasi have their own kind of measurement of who's excelling (and) what have they brought in, in terms of the mission or the goals that were set at the beginning of the year and how they got to them or, in some cases, below by them," Holcomb said. "I would recommend everyone, unless you're a quasi, but everyone to follow the SPD guideline because they've worked for us."

But the Indiana Democratic Party observed that the embattled IEDC had much of its activity obscured from public scrutiny and spent "millions of taxpayer dollars in the dark."

"Hoosiers play by the rules every day, and they expect their government to do so as well," said Indiana Democratic Party Chair Mike Schmuhl.

"This is another example of big government bureaucracy ... It's clear Hoosiers cannot trust the excessive Republican supermajority to provide the critical oversight needed to ensure agencies stay within the rules. We can bring more balance back to our state government by ending the total one-party control at the Statehouse."

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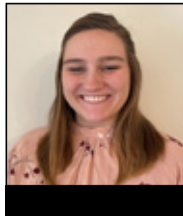
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## Upcoming Programs And Opportunities



**TRICIA HERR**  
Purdue Extension Office



There are three upcoming opportunities for Private Pesticide Applicators and Commercial Applicators to obtain their continuing credits that Montgomery County's Ag and Natural Resources educator, Tricia Herr is hosting. Applicants need to come to these meetings to learn about new OISC updates and rules to follow.

**Montgomery County PARP:**  
On November 13th, at the 4-H Building on

the Montgomery County Fairgrounds Tricia Herr, and Adam Tyler from Montgomery County and Fountain County Purdue Extension, respectively, are hosting a PARP with CCH and RT credits available. (Cat: 1, 2, 11 & 14) The meeting will start at 9-11:30 AM ET.

No pre-registration is required.

**Bi-State Crops Conference:**

Farmers across two states can get a jump on next year's growing season by drawing knowledge from experts in Illinois and Indiana at the annual Bi-State Crops Conference happening December 5 at the Beef House in Covington, Indiana. Boasting an impressive panel of speakers discussing topics from nutrient loss to weed control, this year's meeting promises to ex-

tend new ideas and detail exciting research from the University of Illinois and Purdue.

The cost of \$30, including the entire conference and a delicious meal, will be collected at the door on the event day. Registration is limited to 75 participants this year, so don't wait to get your name on the list. Visit [go.illinois.edu/BiStateCrops](http://go.illinois.edu/BiStateCrops) for more information and to get signed up.

**Americus PARP**  
2-4 pm ET @ Roberts Americus Restaurant, 7460 Old SR 25, Lafayette, IN  
CCH and PARP credits will be awarded. More details to come

*- Tricia Herr is the Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator for the Montgomery County Purdue Extension Office. She can be reached at [triciaherr@purdue.edu](mailto:triciaherr@purdue.edu)*

## Witham Health Services Hosts Annual Holiday Open House

The Waterfall's Edge Gift Shop and Pavilion Boutique at Witham Health Services Hosts Annual Christmas Holiday Open House

On Friday, November 17, 2023 the Waterfall's Edge Gift Shop and Pavilion Boutique at Witham will host their annual Christmas Holiday Open House. Shoppers may enjoy Christmas music and a Christmas cookie while they shop. There will be giveaways throughout the day, and shoppers can sign up for the drawing to win an elegant Christmas Basket filled with all kinds of beautiful items donated by our local community merchants.

Both stores have a wide assortment of women's apparel (including plus sizes), home décor, jewelry, women's and men's spa items, purses and handbags, and much more. We have a little something for everyone - to find just the right gift for that special someone and meet all your holiday shopping needs. Gift cards also available for purchase, and we can gift bag items with beautiful Christmas bags and tissue paper, upon request.

The open house will be held at both locations from 9a-4p at Witham Health Services in Lebanon, located at 2605 North Lebanon Street. The Waterfall's Edge

Gift Shop is in the main entrance of the hospital and the Pavilion Boutique is in the North Pavilion, Entrance A.

Amy Mitchell, Director of the retail shops stated "we have a lot of unique gift items that you cannot find anywhere else in town." "We are local retail shops and want to be known as preferred locations to shop." "We always appreciate the support of our community." Cash, credit/debit card and local checks accepted. For more information about the event or for information about volunteering at Witham, contact Amy Mitchell, (765) 485-8175 or [amitchell@witham.org](mailto:amitchell@witham.org).

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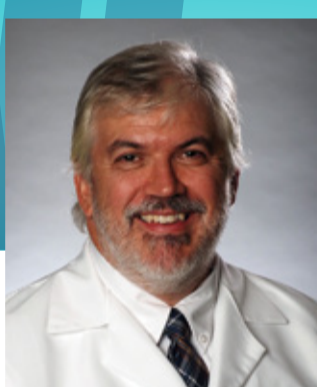
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**LWV** From Page A1

- To protect the international environment.
- To establish programs for small firms “to comply with consumer, environmental and other new government regulations without undue financial burden.”
- Establish realistic environmental standards which safeguard wise resource use, while avoiding undue burdens on farmers.
- To make our towns and cities places where Americans can once again live and work without physical or environmental hazard.
- To set aside 36 new wilderness areas, adding another 3.6 million acres to the National Wilderness Preservation System.
- To make tough new proposals to protect endangered species of wildlife.
- To develop additional water supplies by desalination, the discovery of new groundwater stocks, recycling and wiser and more efficient use of the waters we have.
- To develop flood control.
- To research and develop clean energy and energy resources on Federal lands, to supply nuclear fuels, to use energy more efficiently, balance environmental and energy needs and better organize Federal efforts.
- To tap shale resources, which came into fruition in the early 2000s and has resulted in groundwater problems as well as minor earthquakes.

Claiming that “there is nothing inherently incompatible between an adequate energy supply and a healthy environment” the GOP saw a way to grow the energy industry and its huge profits through “the work necessary to clean up our air and streams” and “reducing unemployment and poverty and enhancing the American standard of living.”

Notably, they focused on energy, including to “accelerate research on harnessing thermo-nuclear energy” as well as “the production of energy from the sun” – industrial solar, in fact – and geothermal steam.

In keeping with the old GOP’s money / economic-development-first philosophy, all environmental protection would fit, hand-in-glove, with

what it called “prudent social and economic development.” When it came to oceans and land, the conservation of marine mammals must be balanced with the fishing industry. Land could be protected with controlled mining. Danger to the climate, that interplay of meteorological elements, now sits at the forefront of environmental concerns.

In the coming 25 years, the fiscally minded might support plans for carbon reduction and sequestration as well as sustainable energy industries, which also create jobs that future-proof businesses and industries. Based upon ESG (environmental & social governance) policies employed in large companies, industry leaders already see the value in this. It would be nice if they had the support of congress people and candidates, lest, in dragging the Fed’s feet in this necessary pivot, our political leaders create a scenario where the U.S. follows rather than leads.

In what ways did the Democratic Party differ? They asserted that “every American has the right to live, work and play in a clean, safe and healthy environment. We have the obligation to ourselves and to our children. It is not enough simply to prevent further environmental deterioration and the despoilation of our natural endowment. Rather, we must improve the quality of the world in which we and they will live.”

The Dems wrote that “inadequate enforcement, uncertain requirements, reduced funding and a lack of manpower” had led to “poorer health, lessened recreational opportunities, higher maintenance costs, lower land productivity and diminished beauty in our surroundings.” Then they too asserted that they could reconcile “any conflicts among the goals of cleaner air and water, inexpensive power and industrial development and jobs in specific places.”

The Dems supported:

- Enforcing the strict emission requirements on all pollution sources set under the 1970 Clean Air Act.
- Supporting a policy of no harmful discharge into our waters by 1985.
- Staffing and funding of

all regulatory and enforcement agencies and departments to implement laws, programs and regulations protecting the environment, vigorous prosecution of violators and a Justice Department committed to enforcement of environmental law.

- Establishing strict interstate environmental standards for pollution.
- Regulating drastic alterations to ecology for the sole purpose of profits, such as “clear cut” logging, strip mining, the indiscriminate destruction of whole species, creation of select ocean crops at the expense of other species and the unregulated use of persistent pesticides.

Fifty years later, the environment still needs significant international and federal intervention. In 2023, National Geographic reports that 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic debris fill our oceans, with 269,000 tons floating on the surface, while some four billion plastic microfibers per square kilometer litter the deep sea. The NY Times and Tippecanoe County news sources are reporting on water poaching due to a patchwork of laws that fail to protect aquifers.

“People are shopping around for where they can exploit groundwater,” the Times quoted Reba Epler, a lawyer who works on water rights cases in Wyoming and New Mexico.

Not to mention that the oceans and atmosphere have warmed so rapidly that the Arctic will have ice-free summers by 2030. Fires, unpredictable rainfalls, surprising droughts, increasingly unpredictable hurricanes and typhoons, as well as flooding, will increasingly displace people. The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration is warning us, urging us, to get on the boat, make and support large-scale changes, which requires our national party leadership.

–The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, multi-issue political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government. For information about the League, visit the website [www.lwvmontcoin.org](http://www.lwvmontcoin.org); or, visit the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, Indiana Facebook page.

**GWYNN** From Page A1

She is likely to be the first person greet you as you walk through the doors of the Montgomery County Animal Welfare League. An eight-year volunteer at AWL, it’s easy to see why AWL Board President, Rich Stevens, nominated Sally for Volunteer of the Year through the Montgomery County Community Foundation. Prior to moving to the Crawfordsville area, Sally was involved in animal transport, taking animals from one place to another pending adoption. She became familiar with AWL by fostering a three-legged German Shepherd mix named Chance. He finally got the home he deserved and Sally found a place as a permanent fixture at AWL. Her love of animals, especially black Labs, is what has kept her as a mainstay, much to the benefit of the Shelter.

Sally is the wheel that keeps things moving. If you are looking for something or need a question answered, the refrain from almost everyone is “Ask Sally.” She admits her job is to keep things “running

smoothly” even though there is no such thing as a typical day at the shelter. Sally is also in charge of arranging transport to the various spay and neuter clinics in the area.

She also does office work, answers the phone, opens mail, writes thank-you’s and posts adoption notices on AWL’s Facebook page.

It is not out of the ordinary to catch Sally on the phone, trying to educate the public on animal welfare. She laments that sometimes people grow impatient when trying to place their animal at the shelter. Sally recounts the times she has had to “talk people down” when they become frustrated with how the system works. While surrendering an animal is not an easy decision, Sally cites “moving, no time to care for the pet, having a baby and evictions” as the most common reasons people give for surrendering their animals. Many times, folks will call at the last minute and with the shelter being extremely overcrowded, it is hard to accommodate

owner surrenders.

With that in mind, Sally wishes for more space and more funding to maintain the high standards she has seen in other places. She has visited shelters across the country and while AWL is a vital part of the community, the Board and staff are always seeking ways to improve services. She would also like to see a more organized volunteer program to assist the regular staff in their efforts to socialize the animals and make the shelter a clean and comfortable space.

Montgomery County is full of wonderful people who jump at the opportunity to bring food and supplies, walk dogs or bring treats to the folks who work every day at the shelter. Sally is always the first to give a big thank you to everyone who offers their gifts and time to helping make AWL a better place. Sally, who should be permanent Volunteer of the Year, deserves a heartfelt thank you from everyone in the community for her dedication to AWL.

**TIM** From Page A1

No doubt we live in an upside-down world. If you have the audacity to believe there are two sexes, you are clearly misguided. If you think parents have more responsibility for children than the school, you aren’t thinking clearly. If you think Israel is right in its attempt to eradicate Hamas, you are a war-monger.

But those are not the biggest problems.

That, my friends, is the complete hypocrisy in which each one of those points exists.

A few years ago, most of us were told to be tolerant – to respect the rights of those who wished to think, believe and act differently than what we did. For the most part, we went along. That is not to say we agreed, but we were raised to be respectful, to not cram our opinions down the throats of others.

Today, that courtesy is not returned.

Society is venturing further and further from what we once called the norm. Except as it ventures, it also draws lines between “us and them.” And either you go along with the new us, or you are one of them – them being backward, biased, xphobes (replace x with your choice of precedents).

There is no tolerance of traditional, biblical views any more. There’s no tolerance of varying opinions. There’s not even much room for facts in disagreements. That’s hard to believe but it’s true – in many cases facts simply don’t matter.

Thing is, that toothpaste is already out of the tube and try all you want, it ain’t going back.

The only question left, in this reporter’s humble opinion, is where do we go from here?

First off, shame on me and shame on any of us who allowed respect and tolerance to turn into disregard for our duties as parents, siblings and friends. When did some of us decide that as parents it was more important to be warm and fuzzy rather than a teacher of our children?

I get the fact that every generation has their own Dr. Spock – an expert who shares thoughts on how we ought to raise our young’uns. And Lord knows new parents need all the help they can get. Those kiddos don’t pop out with an instruction manual, do they?

But somewhere along the way, somebody told the newer generation of parents how to raise children in a way that didn’t involve discipline – at least not the sort of discipline many of us grew up with.

Reason replaced rigidity – and to some degree, that wasn’t all bad. Then again, most 6-year-olds aren’t deeply gifted with sound reasoning ability and a lot of lessons have gone flying over their heads – much like good behavior went flying out the window.

But hey, we’re not supposed to say anything, right? What were the two things we were told not to discuss in mixed company, politics and religion? (Ac-

tually the country might be better off if we all cut back on the political debates.)

But not so on religion.

God hasn’t just been pushed out of our schools. Tell someone you believe in God today and you are as close to an outcast as lepers were in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John’s time.

Think not?

What traditional biblical world view is still accepted without question today? Matrimony? Please. Sex? Are you kidding? Evil? Look around.

Look, I don’t typically write about religion. The eight or nine of you who regularly read these scribbles know that. But our nation was founded by people who believed in God. The idea of separation between church and state wasn’t to boot God out – but that is exactly what is happening.

Just one man’s opinion, but I think more and more of us need to speak up – to make sure that God and those traditional biblical views are still very much part of the public square.

Twilight zone indeed? The crazier times get, the more important right and wrong become. And for those viewpoints, the answers are pretty clear.

–Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically on Wednesdays in The Paper. Timmons is the publisher of The Paper and can be contacted at [ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com).

**AUCTION** From Page A1

the community with over 70 donations appealing to men, women, and children including event venue rentals, events and a security system for the silent and live auctions. It’s going to be a fun evening with live music by Adam Moody, hors d’oeuvres by The Juniper Spoon and a cash bar.

The Chamber appreciates the support of the sponsors for the Christmas Auction. The event sponsor is FC Tucker West Central. The hors d’oeuvres sponsors are The Juniper Spoon, Nucor, Surb’s Tire, and Tri County Bank & Trust. The Silent Auction sponsor is Shop Small Shop Handmade. The drink sponsors are Morgan’s Glass & Paint, Farm Credit Mid America, Stevenson’s Ace Hardware, Wonderfully Simple HR, and Ken’s Liquor.

The fundraiser is open to the public. Registration is \$20 / 1 person or \$30 / 2 people.

Registration for the Christmas Auction is open on the Chamber website: [crawfordsvillechamber.com](http://crawfordsvillechamber.com). or you can pay at the door on the evening of the event. Questions can be directed to [ssommer@crawfordsvillechamber.com](mailto:ssommer@crawfordsvillechamber.com) or call 765-362-6800

**PLAN** From Page A1

is as informative as the final document.

The current Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2019 and communicates our county’s goals and objectives, provides a blueprint for future land use, and serves as the basis for zoning, and the guide for a vibrant future. The Montgomery County Commissioners appreciate that our county has evolved since 2019 and we need to evaluate and update our current comprehensive plan to address changing priorities and needs.

Join us on Tuesday, November 14th from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the County Government Center’s Community Meeting Room E103 at 1580 Constitution Row in Crawfordsville.

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