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**➔ TODAY'S VERSE**

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

**➔ FACES OF MONTGOMERY**

People who call our community their own.



Judi Kleine sent us here a smile from Grandpa Greg Kleine holding Granddaughter Phoebe on a recent hike at Turkey Run. Thank You Judi!

**➔ THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** What's that in the waters of Pawleys Island, South Carolina? Even the experts at the Marine Resources Research Institute in Charleston don't have an answer. They admitted that they are "stumped." But the news anchors at a local TV station appear to have determined it is a "sea slug" of sorts.

**2** How big is your zucchini? Henry D'Angela of Thorold, Canada has grown an 8-foot, 4.79-inch squash and he believes it is worthy of a page in the Guinness Book of World Records. As he put it, "when they open the farmer's market in Thorold next year, I should bring this as a novelty so Thorold can be known as having the biggest zucchini in the world."

**3** Pigs will be pigs, but a porcine party that lasted some two weeks in Sterling, CT had a neighborhood at a loss recently. It was a "boar war," if there ever was one, that destroyed lawns and gardens. As many as 22 black Mulefoot pigs were making their way into neighborhood properties on a daily basis. One neighbor, Michael Grenier, claims that the daily porker parties caused some \$23,000 in property damages.

# The Paper

## OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

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## Honoring Our Veterans



Photos courtesy of Penny Anglin

**Crawfordsville and Montgomery County honored our veterans with a moving ceremony this past Saturday with a parade. Every year Veteran's Day falls on the 11th day of the 11th month. Veteran's Day originated as Armistice Day in 1919 to signify and celebrate the end of fighting of World War I. This was later changed in 1954 to Veteran's Day.**

## Butch Needs A New Battery!!!



**BUTCH DALE**  
COLUMNIST

The weather was nice this past weekend, so it was that time again. Yes, time to haul horse manure! My son cleans the horse stables each morning and piles it up on a nearby concrete pad. Then each fall, after the crops have been harvested, we load it up and spread it on the fields for fertilizer.

I have a 1951 Farmall H tractor. Put a little water in... greased the joints...cleaned

the connections...made sure everything was in working order. Just could not get up and going...Well, that was ME. Then I did the same things for my tractor. It wouldn't start either! So...I had to make a trip to town for a new 6 volt battery. Success! I am three years older than my tractor. I wish I could buy a new battery for my 75-year body, because every morning I need a jump start. Oh well, I prefer to laugh at old age. As they say, "it takes both sunshine and tears to make a rainbow." How do we "old-timers" know when we have reached that point? Here are a few clues....

(1) You get up at night and

stumble in the dark to the bathroom. For some reason the bathroom light automatically comes on. The next morning your wife informs you that you peed in the refrigerator.

(2) You test drive a new car, and you accidentally touch one of the fourteen buttons on the steering wheel. The radio comes on, blasting at maximum volume. You have no idea how to turn it off. You then ask the salesman if any manufacturer makes a car with no buttons, no radio, a clock with hands, crank-style windows, manual air vents, and no seat belts. He informs you that they no longer

➔ See BUTCH Page A5

## Commissioners Make Changes On CR 400 N

After two fatal accidents on County Road 400 North -- as well as some other property damage and personal injury accidents in the last five years, Montgomery County Commissioners are diligently working to find better and safer answers.

"The commissioners have engaged engineers and reviewed accident reports in order to address any safety issues on that road," Commissioner John Frey told The Paper.

"We're trying to get the no passing lines painted on immediately," Frey added. However,

road crews have to work around the weather this time of year so there is no specific timetable yet.

Frey also said that the county is going to reduce the speed limit again in order to try to slow down vehicles on the road. Both fatal accidents involved high rates of speed.

Besides making the road a no passing zone and reducing the speed, Frey said commissioners are imposing weight limits in order to prevent large trucks from traveling on the road. He added that commissioners will

continue to study all available options to make other changes.

"The County is one of five in Indiana to use a road evaluation and safety rating system," Frey explained. "We will continue to use this system and decide what further measures are appropriate for County Road 400 North and our other roads. Still, we need everyone traveling on the road to slow down and drive more safely."

Frey added that once the double yellow lines are painted on the road the speed limit will raise back to 40.

## The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset  
RISE: 7:30 a.m.  
SET: 5:33 p.m.



**High/Low Temperatures**  
High: 60 °F  
Low: 32 °F



**Today is...**

- National American Teddy Bear Day
- World Diabetes Day
- International Girls Day



**What Happened On This Day**

- 1971 First spacecraft to orbit a planet. NASA's Mariner 9 entered Mars' orbit after 167 days in space. Despite it being in Mars' orbit within 15 minutes, a dust storm on the planet made it impossible for Mariner 9 to take pictures of Mars until January.
- 1889 Nelia Bly sets out to go around the world in 80 days. The American journalist, whose real name was Elizabeth Cochrane Seaman, followed the footsteps of fictional character Phileas Fogg from Jules Verne's Around the World in 80 Days
- 1851 Moby Dick Makes its Debut in the United States. The epic novel by Herman Melville about Captain Ahab's quest to find and kill Moby Dick, a white whale had released in the UK in October under the name The Whale.

**Births On This Day**

- 1948 Charles III King of the United Kingdom
- 1908 Joseph McCarthy American politician

**Deaths On This Day**

- 1988 Haywood S. Hansell American general officer
- 1915 Booker T. Washington American author, educator

**➔ HONEST HOOSIER**

Let's try to be thankful for our government. Lord knows they're making it hard, but let's try anyways.



**➔ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION**

- Service Directory...A3
- Classifieds.....A4
- Slim Randles.....A5
- Earth Talk.....A5

**➔ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

**Work Session Meeting:**

Town of New Richmond is having a Work Session Meeting on November 17, 2023 at 5:30 pm at the New Richmond Town Hall.

**➔ 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.

"Most of us probably feel we couldn't be free without newspapers, and that is the real reason we want newspapers to be free."  
-Edward R. Murrow

**➔ TODAY'S JOKE**

If you threw a Publisher and a reporter off a cliff at the same time, who would hit bottom first? The reporter because the publisher would get lost on the way

**➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

Walking at least six miles per week can help reduce age-related memory loss. 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**

**Ethan Lee Whyde**  
**Robert Lee Robinson**

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



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**13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST**

36/62 SUNNY, WARMER	32/60 SUNNY, MILD	34/63 PARTLY SUNNY	39/64 PARTLY SUNNY	50/58 SCATTERED SHOWERS	35/54 CLEARING, COOLER	34/54 MOSTLY SUNNY
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

## OBITUARIES

### Ethan Lee Whyde

May 3, 1937, Saturday, November 11, 2023

Ethan Lee Whyde, also known as Mousey, age 86 of Kingman, passed away on Saturday, November 11, 2023 at Franciscan Health Lafayette. He was born in Cates, Indiana on May 3, 1937 to the late John "Casey" & Nellie (Allen) Whyde.

Ethan graduated from Kingman High School in 1957 and on November 6, 1959 he married the love of his life, Mary V. Richardson, who preceded him in death on December 8, 2016. Ethan was a machine operator at Mid-States Wire in Crawfordsville and retired after 38 years. He also worked at Woodrow Funeral Home in Kingman for over 40 years, Powers-Priebe Funeral Home in Crawfordsville for 17 years, and Sanders Funeral Care in Kingman for 10 years. He attended the Kingman Methodist Church and Prairie Creek Baptist Church.

Ethan raised rabbits for many years, loved mowing his yard, taking care of the kitties, and him and Mary would travel around and take pictures of different funeral homes. He was always that welcoming and comforting face opening the door for everyone at several different funeral homes in the area. He was loved by his community and will be missed by many.

He is survived by his brother-in-law, Raymond (Glenda) Richardson; sister-in-law, Becky Brooks; several nieces and nephews, and special friends, Harold & Robin Dowell.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Mary Whyde; a brother-in-law, Bob Richardson; and two sister-in-law's, Betty Hensley and Janet Ping.

Visitation will be at Sanders Funeral Care, 203 S 1st Street, in Kingman on Saturday, November 18, 2023 from 11:00 am till the time of the funeral service 1:00 pm with Pastor Loren Stephens officiating. Burial will follow at Coal Creek Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to Western Indiana Community Foundation, Coal Creek Cemetery Fund, P.O. Box 175, Covington, IN. 47932. Share memories and condolences online at [www.SandersFuneralCare.com](http://www.SandersFuneralCare.com).

### Robert Lee Robinson

November 9, 1940, Saturday, November 11, 2023

Robert Lee Robinson, age 83 of Yeddo, passed away on Saturday, November 11, 2023 at home while surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Silverwood, Indiana on November 9, 1940 to the late Russell Robert & Leona Easter (Tunin) Robinson.

Bob attended Cates and Perrysville Schools and on July 25, 1963, Bob married the love of his life, Shirley "Peach" Lee Sanders, who preceded him in death on June 22, 2012. He worked for the State of Indiana for several years and was a logger. He attended Prairie Creek Baptist Church. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, mowing the yard, wood working, reading the bible and spending time with his family.

He is survived by a daughter, Charlotte Ann Robinson of Plainfield; a son, Robert Dale (Cindy) Robinson of Kingman; two grandchildren, Shae Bailey (Miranda) Robinson of Covington and Garrett Michael Robinson of Kingman; three great grandchildren, Braesyn, Nash, and Westin; a special friend, Margaret "Maggie" Sanders; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Shirley; two brothers, Richard Clyde Robinson Sr. and Marvin Dale Robinson; and nephew, Richard Clyde Robinson Jr.

Visitation will be at Sanders Funeral Care, 203 S 1st Street, in Kingman on Friday, November 17, 2023 from 11:00 am till the time of the funeral service at 1:00 pm with Pastor Loren Stephens officiating. Burial will follow at Centennial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to the funeral home to assist with the funeral services. Share memories and condolences online at [www.SandersFuneralCare.com](http://www.SandersFuneralCare.com).



## Meeting Notes

### Montgomery County Board Of Commissioners Meeting

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

CONSENT AGENDA Approved.

Approval of Claims Accounts Payable - \$2,602,069.22  
Payroll 11/3 - \$643,953.00  
Minutes - October 23, 2023

Agreement with Govolution - Online Payments - Treasurer's Office

Approved Treasurer Heather Laffoon request to enter into a Master Subscription Agreement with Certified Payments, an online payment vendor for property tax payments.

Service Fee Per Transaction: 2.50% for all Visa, MasterCard, Discover - \$2.00 minimum. \$2.00 fee for Electronic Check/ACH.

NEW BUSINESS  
Approve Letter of Engagement - Job Classification and Compensation Study

Approved Letter of Engagement with Waggoner, Irwin, Shee & Associates subject to approval by Council, as well.

The County received two proposals to complete a compensation study. The submittals were from Waggoner, Irwin, Shee & Associates and NFP.

Both firms were interviewed and references were checked. The recommendation was to proceed with a contract with Waggoner, Irwin, Shee & Associates for an estimated cost of \$62,840 plus travel expense reimbursement. The Council budget would be utilized to pay for the study.

Waggoner, Irwin and Shee & Associates is an Indiana based company and was established in 1979. Since their founding, they have been engaged by 80 counties and 70 Indiana cities and towns to complete compensation studies. Their references included the Counties of Dekalb, Hamilton, Harrison, Morgan, Owen and Shelby.

Addie Rooker will be the principal in charge of the project. Ms. Rooker has a bachelor's degree in human resources management and has been employed by Waggoner et al since 2001. She has supervised dozens of job classification and compensation surveys.

ORDINANCES  
Final Reading: Ordinance 2023-22 Creating the 2024 Justice Partners Addiction Response Grant Fund-\$50,000 Approved.

This ordinance creates a fund for the funds awarded by the Indiana Office of Court Services for Justice Partners Addiction Response. The grant funds may only be used towards costs related to recovery and substance abuse treatment. The fund is a non-reverting fund.

Final Reading: Ordinance 2023-23: Creating the FY2024 DOC Drug Court Grant Fund - \$80,441 Approved.

This ordinance creates a fund for the funds awarded by the Indiana Department of Corrections from the FY2024 Community Corrections & Justice Reinvestment Grants. The grant funds may only be used towards costs related to Drug Court Programs. The fund is a non-reverting fund.

Final Reading: Ordinance 2023-24: Creating the FY2024 DOC Probation Grant Fund - \$164,890 Approved.

This ordinance creates a fund for the funds awarded by the Indiana Department of Corrections from the FY2024 Community Corrections & Justice Reinvestment Grants. The grant funds may only be used towards funding the Probation Office. The fund is a non-reverting fund.

Final Reading: Ordinance 2023-25 Creating the 2024 Family Recovery Court Grant Fund- \$106,388 Approved.

This ordinance creates a fund for the funds awarded by the Indiana Office of Court Services from the FY2024 Family Recovery Court Grant Fund to the Montgomery Circuit Court. The grant provides funding for the Family Recovery Court Program. The fund is a non-reverting fund.

Introduction: Ordinance 2023-27 Amending Chapter 70 of the County Code for Road Regulations

Approved on 2nd reading after the suspension of rules.

Ordinance amends the regulations on the type of vehicles that can travel on CR400 North from County Road 400 West to State Road 231. The amendment will allow school buses to travel on this section of road and will allow service trucks to travel on the road to provide services to residences that live along that section of road.

## Crawfordsville Council Meeting

November 13 at 6 p.m.

I. Pledge Presenter: Jennifer Lowe

II. Prayer Presenter: Andy Biddle

III. Roll Call

IV. Approval of Minutes - October 9, 2023.

V. Acknowledgment of receipt of the monthly Financial Reports

VI. Roll Call for additions to the Agenda

VII. Public Hearing

A. An Ordinance Making Additional Appropriations for the Year 2023 (Crawfordsville Street Department Post-Barn Construction Project)

B. An Ordinance of the Crawfordsville Common Council Making a 2023 Additional Appropriation (Crawfordsville Fire Overtime/FLSA)

VIII. Fiscal Affairs

A. A Declaratory Resolution Designating an Economic Revitalization Area and Approving Tax Abatement for International Paper Company

B. First reading of an Ordinance Making Additional Appropriations for the Year 2023 (Crawfordsville Street Department Post-Barn Construction Project)

C. First reading of an Ordinance of the Crawfordsville Common Council Making a 2023

Additional Appropriation (Crawfordsville Fire Overtime/FLSA)

IX. Ordinances & Petitions

A. Second reading of an Ordinance Amending Section 150.26 of the Building Code of the City of Crawfordsville

X. Traffic, Parking & Safety

A. Second reading of an Ordinance Amending Parking Restrictions to Add One Disabled Parking Space located directly in front of 709 E College Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana

B. First reading of an Ordinance Designating Multi-Stop Intersection(s)

XI. Annexation

A. Third reading of an Ordinance to Annex Property Known as approximately 100 acres located north of the planned extension of Purple Heart Pkwy and the associated right-of-way

B. A Resolution Approving Proposed Annexation Fiscal Plan

C. First reading of an Ordinance to Annex Property Known as approximately 46.46 acres located at 429 W. 150 S. and the associated right-of-way

XII. Miscellaneous

XIII. Adjournment

## Romance In November



Slim Randles Home Country

There's just something about falling in love in November, thought Steve. Something ... timely. Something ... special. Steve's incredible shaving-brush-like moustache is gray now. It's lasted a long time, there at the ranch and up at Steve's cabin, and it deserves to be such an elegant gray.

Falling in love, Steve said to himself, just couldn't be all that terrific. November ... the Native American's hunger moon. The month of storms and danger, when smart outdoorsmen practiced being even smarter indoorsmen.

But Steve always thought there was a slice of flavor inside a November romance because of the month's hardships. Some of the longest lasting and happiest marriages began with a November romance. He silently recited several November bondings that appeared to be happily headed for eternity.

Women are truly wonderful, even in November. They're soft and warm and cuddly. If a guy finds himself in need of a snuggle, a woman is at the top of the list.

Oh, a dog is okay, he thought. But a woman ... when it works right ... is the best.

Maybe someday, Steve thought. Have to think about that kinda hard this winter.'

After November. Nothing serious should be planned in November.

Unless, of course, the right woman should come along .....

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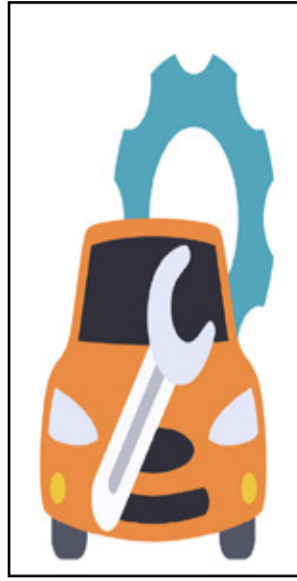
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# Softbotics Provide New Lens On Biological Evolution



**Dear EarthTalk:** What are softbotics and how can this emerging field help us better understand animal evolution and achieve our conservation goals?

Soft robotics, AKA softbotics, an emerging field of robotics, is revolutionizing how we design and build machines. Unlike traditional rigid robots, soft robots are inspired by the flexibility and adaptability found in nature, such as in the movement of animals like octopi and worms. These robots are made from pliable materials that let them mimic the dexterity and agility of living organisms. This innovative technology is not only changing the landscape of robotics but also providing valuable insights into animal evolution.

At its core, soft robotics aims to replicate and harness the qualities of soft, living organisms to create robots that are better suited for complex, dynamic environments. Traditional hard, rigid robots are often limited in their ability to navigate and interact with unpredictable surroundings. Soft robots can bend, stretch, and deform, making them better equipped to handle real-world challenges.

In 2023, researchers at Carnegie Mellon University's Department of Mechanical Engineering, along with paleontologists from Spain and Poland, used fossil evidence to create a robotic replica of pleurocystitid, a marine

organism that lived 450 million years ago and is thought to be one of the first echinoderms able to move using a muscular stem. "We are building robot analogues to study how locomotion has changed," says lead researcher Carmel Majidi of Carnegie Mellon. "Many fundamental principles of biology and nature can only fully be explained if we look back at the evolutionary timeline of how animals evolved."

The connection between soft robotics and animal evolution is evident when we consider how these robots are designed and built. Scientists and engineers draw inspiration from nature, studying the movement and behavior of animals to inform the design of soft robots. For example, an octopus' ability to squeeze through tight spaces and manipulate objects with its flexible tentacles has inspired the development of soft robots that can perform similar tasks, such as search and rescue missions in collapsed buildings.

Animals have evolved over the millennia to develop structures and behaviors that optimize their survival and reproduction. Soft robotics seeks to emulate these evolutionary solutions, creating machines that can perform tasks with a level of versatility and efficiency that was previously unattainable. Studying the biomechanics of animals like snakes, which move gracefully despite their lack of legs, has inspired the creation of serpen-

tine soft robots that can navigate tight spaces and uneven terrain.

Soft robotics is not merely an attempt to mimic nature but a way to explore the principles that underlie the remarkable adaptations found in living organisms. This exploration can lead to breakthroughs in a wide range of applications, from medical devices to environmental monitoring and even space exploration.

One particularly exciting area of research is developing soft robots for use in ecological and wildlife studies. These robots can be designed to mimic specific animals, enabling researchers to observe and interact with wildlife in their natural habitats more unobtrusively. This has the potential to revolutionize our understanding of animal behavior and ecology by providing unprecedented insights into their lives.

*-CONTACTS: 450-million-year-old organism finds new life in Softbotics, <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2023/11/231106202936.htm>; Carnegie Mellon Softbotics, <https://engineering.cmu.edu/softbotics/index.html>; This Skin-like Robot Can Heal Itself, <https://www.sciencefriday.com/segments/self-healing-robot-softbotics/>.*

*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).*

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# State, Localities Start To Spend The \$507 Million From National Opioid Settlement

By Whitney Downard  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Almost a year after distributions started from the National Opioid Settlement, only \$7.1 million has been put to use so far in Indiana as local units of government wrestle with how to make the most of the payments.

Over the next two decades, tens of billions of dollars will flow into state coffers nationally from the National Opioid Settlement, a court agreement between companies deemed responsible for the deadly, life-disrupting impact of the addictive drug and the localities bearing the brunt of the devastation.

On average, four Hoosiers die each day from a drug overdose and three-quarters of those deaths involved an opioid, according to a 2021 updated drug overdose report from the Indiana Department of Health. More than 15,000 Hoosiers have died since 1999 and thousands more have been incarcerated for drug-related offenses due to their addiction. As with mental health services, jails remain one of the few places to receive treatment in a state with a shortage of options.

But the \$507 million coming to Indiana over the next 18 years — from the National Opioid Settlement with distributors Americ-sourceBergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson as well as opioid manufacturer Johnson & Johnson — has the potential to change that.

In contrast to its predecessor, the 1998 Tobacco Master Settlement, funds are flowing to local units of government — a move meant to target areas with high numbers of overdose deaths and opioid proliferation.

Payments started going out in December of 2022, with more than \$107 million in the first wave to the state and 648 local units of government.

A Fall 2023 report presents the first look at where funds have gone and how localities chose to spend them, falling into a handful of approved uses for funds that include: treatment, prevention and catch-all strategies designed to strengthen local responses.

But, so far, many are being cautious with the money they've received or spending their dollars on long-term projects that haven't yet come to fruition. Where is the money going locally?

Just 606 cities, towns and counties of the 648 reported their spending to NextLevel Recovery, part of the state's Office of Drug Prevention, Treatment and Enforcement. Of those, 81% of abatement funds hadn't been expended, encumbered or designated. Even fewer had opted to spend unrestricted funds — 87% of cities, towns and counties hadn't touched those dollars yet.

Though there isn't yet a

dashboard of spending, the office's executive director, Douglas Huntsinger, hinted at a Nov. 3 meeting of the Indiana Commission to Combat Substance Use Disorder that one is coming and current reports are available at [in.gov/recovery/settlement](http://in.gov/recovery/settlement).

Huntsinger told the Indiana Capital Chronicle that individual town, city and county spending reports will be available in December and as more funds are spent, "the reports will get more complex in the future."

Confusion erupted for the smallest towns and townships receiving paltry amounts — some too small to purchase a \$45 box of Narcan — as recorded in final comments submitted to the state.

"The funds have not been spent because what can you do with \$9.10?" wrote Terry Craig, the Clerk-Treasurer of Milton, a town of just over 450 in Wayne County. "We got short changed on this."

Craig's disbursement was one of 157 under \$1,000 — all of which were clawed back and combined with a county allotment this year.

In Hancock County, Clerk-Treasurer Yvonne Jonas found herself flummoxed at the new duty thrust upon her in a community of 2,744 Hoosiers. Her town, New Palestine, received \$2,108.

"The opioid money is a very small amount. It can't be used by our small community to start any kind of significant program," Jonas wrote. "I am not equipped to fix the opioid crisis. The burden of this detailed reporting takes me away from more important things. I wish our town had not been burdened with this task/money."

Jonas and 289 other towns or townships won't receive such funds in the future. They were part of the 48% of grantees with funds below \$5,000 and after July this year their portions will also be absorbed into county coffers instead.

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## State dollars spent on grants

In contrast to smaller subdivisions of government, the state spent nearly \$19 million of its \$53.7 million share, or 35% of its total funds.

Over \$18.8 million of those dollars went to grant funding while \$110,000 went to Hope Academy Recovery High School, a tuition-free, public charter high school in the Indianapolis area.

The state used other funds streams to bolster grants, awarding \$25 million with an explicit goal to increase treatment options and programs.

Efforts have increased the number of treatment beds by 432, according to Huntsinger, who said recipients have until September 30, 2024 to complete their awarded projects.

Huntsinger, in a statement, said residences "must be completed,

apply to become certified by (the Family and Social Services Administration's) Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA) and apply to become a Recovery Works provider" by that time.

"Since 2017, we have spent a lot of time trying to address quality at existing recovery residences, ensuring evidence-based practices are followed and that all forms of medication for opioid use disorder are accepted," Huntsinger continued. "Due to the restrictive nature of other funding streams, the National Opioid Settlement grants us the first opportunity to fund capital costs, allowing for the creation of new beds."

But a firm number of necessary beds couldn't yet be calculated.

"This is in many ways a pilot to better understand the need for more capacity," Huntsinger said.

Other efforts include Harm Reduction Street Outreach (HRS) Teams, for which the agency is currently accepting proposals to expand the state's current ten teams. Between January 2022 and August 2023, existing teams have distributed 41,973 harm reduction kits and served Hoosiers across 102 zip codes.

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## Lessons learned from tobacco settlement

Repeated national audits of the landmark 1998 tobacco master settlement revealed that less than 3% of those dollars went to prevention and cessation.

Indiana is no exception. Though fund totals for the Tobacco Master Settlement Trust Fund regularly top out over \$210 million, budget writers divert just \$7.5 million directly to the state's prevention and cessation program between 2021 and 2023 — roughly 3-3.5% of total funding for each of those years.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Indiana should be spending \$73.5 million annually on tobacco control programs.

For more details on Indiana's spending over time — and the legislature's role in it — please read this National Library of Medicine article from 2012.

Nearly all of that funding goes to local community-based partnerships and grants, according to the agency's annual report.

The largest singular appropriation goes to the administration of the Department of Health, which oversees the fund, at \$23 million. Overall, the agency gets over \$90 million — much of it dedicated to other worthwhile causes, such as prenatal substance use and prevention, community health centers, the Safety PIN Program and even donated dental services.

FSSA received \$74 million in 2021 but its share fell to \$23 million in 2022 and 2023. It spent around \$250,000 each of those

years for Youth Tobacco Reduction Support programs but the bulk of its share of settlement funds goes to CHIP (a children's health insurance program) and community mental health centers.

A smattering of others get a slice of the pie, including the Attorney General's Office, which gets \$818,916 a year, and various medical board residency programs and grants.

According to the fiscal closeout for 2023, plans for spending the money will be the same for the next fiscal cycle — even as many counties have turned to the new public health program to fund local tobacco prevention and cessation efforts.

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## Applying that to opioid settlement

The opioid settlement, on the other hand, specifies that 70% of funds must be spent on narrowly defined opioid-related expenses — while 15% of monies go to administrative costs or past opioid-related expenses. Only 15% of the dollars are totally unencumbered.

"The National Opioid Settlement is fundamentally different from the tobacco settlement. The opioid settlement requires that a majority of funds be used for treatment, education, and prevention programs for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health issues," Huntsinger said. "Similarly, the legislature is treating these dollars differently, with transparency at the forefront."

But those funds do still have limitations set by the national settlement agreement — notably, nothing for the hundreds of thousands of Hoosiers who've lost a loved one to an opioid overdose or the grandparents raising grandchildren in the absence of their parents.

"Understanding that children with a loved one with (substance use disorder) are susceptible to greater risk factors, we are working with (the Division of Mental Health and Addiction)'s prevention bureau to understand how we can provide additional prevention services and programming for both children and the whole family," Huntsinger said. "We are also having conversations with our counterparts in other states to learn how they are serving families within the parameters of approved uses."

The full, annual Next Level Recovery Progress Report will be released at the end of the month.

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## 🔪 BUTCH From Page A1

make 1947 Buicks.

(3) When you go into another room to get something, you can't find your glasses, and then after you locate them on top of your head, you can't remember what you were looking for to start with.

(4) While your wife is fixing dinner, you watch the evening weather report. She asks you what the forecast is, but you have no idea. You just tuned in to see the weather girl in her skin tight dress.

(5) You are as bald as billiard ball. When you try on a turtleneck sweater at a department store, some kid yells out, "Look, Mommy, that old man looks like a bottle of Ban-Roll-On!"

(6) Your bank calls to tell you that your account is overdrawn. Why? Because you ordered a case of Preparation-H, 100 tubes of Ben-Gay, a year's supply of Folgers K-cups, six golf cart batteries, and an extra pair of white patent leather loafers.

(7) When choosing a breakfast cereal at the grocery, you select the brand which has the most fiber content. While eating this cereal, which tastes like oatmeal infused with granite, you chip a tooth, throw the cereal in the waste basket, and call the dentist.

Here are a few other signs that I found on the Internet:

Your knees buckle, but your belt won't... Your back goes out more than you do... You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there... You fall asleep in your easy chair and everyone

thinks you're dead...

You have a dream about prunes... You wear black socks with sandals... You constantly talk about the price of gasoline... You enjoy hearing about your friends' operations... You are proud to show off your lawn mower... You consider coffee the greatest product ever made... You consider a piece of Marie Callender peach pie your daily portion of fruit... You have too much room in the house and not enough in the medicine cabinet... You know all the answers, but no one asks you the questions... Your heart pacemaker makes the garage doors go up when you see a pretty girl.

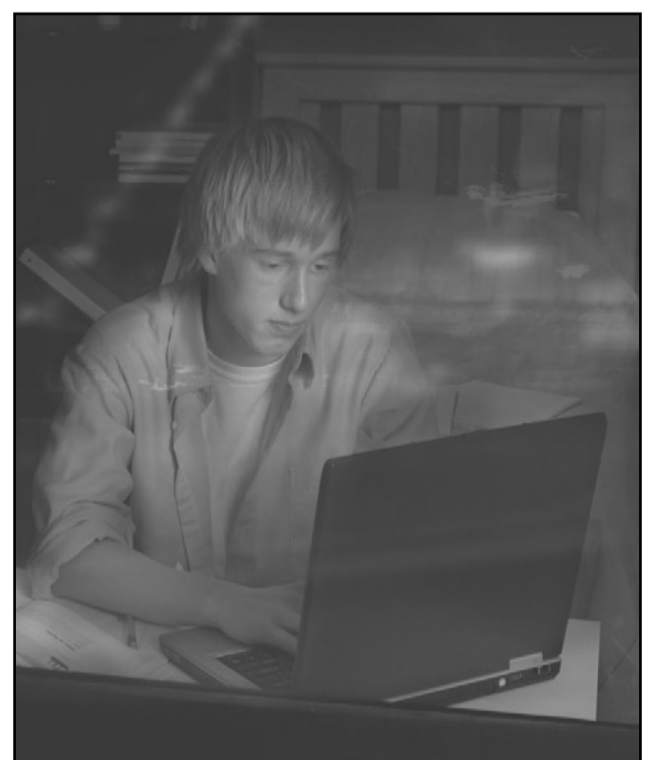
But fellows, don't worry. Your wife had her "silver-age" moment, too. She went to her doctor for a vaginal exam and Pap smear. During the exam, the doctor laughed uncontrollably. "My, aren't we fancy today!" Instead of using her feminine deodorant spray before her visit, she accidentally used her silver glitter-sparkle hairspray.

So folks, don't worry and fret about any problems during "old age." Might as well laugh about it. And guys and gals, if you decide to retire, don't worry that you might become bored. Taking care of each other will be a full-time job!

- John "Butch" Dale is a retired teacher and County Sheriff. He has also been the librarian at Darlington the past 32 years, and is a well-known artist and author of local history.

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