

**TODAY'S VERSE**

Acts 2:38 Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

**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.mcawl.com](http://www.mcawl.com), or go there in person to 1104 Bif Four Arch Rd. in Crawfordsville.

**THREE THINGS You Should Know:**

**1** Statement from Spencer Deery: "Over the last month, I have worked to convey the level of concern felt by communities along the Wabash River to state officials and called for significant steps to ensure local residents have reliable access to water. "Some of the measures announced this week, like commitments to new water monitoring and additional studies, are helpful, but you typically study before you act, and significant work has already started at the LEAP Innovation District in Lebanon. This action to direct the Indiana Finance Authority to have oversight of the completion of the INTERA water study feels like two steps forward when we need three.

**2** Nature is always giving us something to ponder. This time it's a pretty pink pond that emerged in Hawaii due to a lack of rain. Actually the new color of Kealia Pond on the island of Maui is actually described as a combination of "pink and purple." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says it's the result of something called "halobacteria" - a salty condition resulting from drought conditions. The water is not believed to be toxic, but it is pretty.

**3** A leaping deer can be a sight to behold. But sometimes it can be a disaster in the making. It happened recently in New Jersey when a stag attempted to jump its way across a road. It soared with ease over a parked car but landed on a 2007 Chevy Silverado truck on the other side of the road. It turns out the owner of the truck was in the process of selling it. He completed the sale but had to drop his price by \$1,000 to cover the damage. As for the deer, it continued its crossing with ease.

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# The Paper

## OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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The Paper photo by Rick Mayotte

**Come on down to our office at 127 E Main St between the hours of 8 a.m. to 4p.m. and make a donation!**

**Operation Toybox Is A Go!**

Tuesday, Gary Behling of the Crawfordsville Kiwanis, dropped off an official Operation Toybox collection box at The Paper of Montgomery County. Operation Toybox is a donation program where the Crawfordsville Kiwanis ask businesses to showcase a collection box and to accept donations of New Toys for children 16 years old and younger. This is Operation Toybox's 30th Year.

The Paper of Montgomery County is proud to be a part of this wonderful program. If a person were wanting to donate, please bring a new, unopened, toy for a child 16 and younger to our office at 127 E. Main St. in beautiful downtown Crawfordsville. The Crawfordsville Kiwanis will be collecting the toys, along with the collection box, on Dec. 14 and 15.

**A New Character Joins The Cast?**



**TIM TIMMONS**  
Two Cents

One of the great things about my line of work is people. I get to work with, and meet, all sorts of folks. Some are fascinating characters, some become life-long friends, some not so much. Regardless, I consider myself blessed and fortunate to have come across so many of you.

The guy who shoots straight from the hip every day, Honest Hoosier, and my favorite sleuth MAC - the Montgomery Answer Connection. As my lovely wife told me, I just seem to attract a certain type. I told her thanks for the compliment. Her look suggested maybe that's not how she meant it. Anywho, they all might've been topped last week when a woman came up to me outside the coffee shop. I had just grabbed a cup of hot black coffee - none of that frilly foo-foo crap for me - and was checking email on my phone while I walked back to the office. "You're that newspaper guy, right?" a raspy voice asked. I looked up and saw a woman

➔ See TIM Page A6

**Price Selected As New Fusion 54 Director**

Mayor Barton and the City of C-ville announces Kelly Price as the new Director of Fusion 54, our city's collaborative co-working studio and hub for business and community growth.



KELLY PRICE

Price is a Crawfordsville native and she comes to the Fusion 54 role with over 14 years of experience working for the City of Crawfordsville, most recently having served as the Director of Recreation and Fitness for the Parks and Recreation Department.

"Fusion 54 is more than just a

**Is The Supreme Court Part Of The Problem?**



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.lwvmtcoinc.org](http://www.lwvmtcoinc.org) or message to LWV, PO Box 101, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

Fun fact for this week's cheap hook. Charles Ingalls, "Pa" in Little House on the Prairie, was in real life, a justice of the peace. In Pioneer Girl, the account upon which the fictional series is based, Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote about her father

presiding over local judicial proceedings in their living room in De Smet, Dakota Territory (now South Dakota). This humble judicial presence wasn't isolated to the territories. At the helm of the judicial branch of the U.S. government, which is supposed to interpret the laws written by the legislative branch and enforced by

➔ See LWV Page A6

**The Daily Almanac**

**Sunrise/Sunset**  
RISE: 7:31 a.m.  
SET: 5:33 p.m.

**High/Low Temperatures**  
High: 65 °F  
Low: 34 °F

**Today is...**

- Steve Irwin Day
- Little Red Wagon Day
- America Recycles Day

**What Happened On This Day**

- **1988** State of Palestine created. The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) declared the creation of the state while in exile in Algiers, Algeria. The declaration designated eastern Jerusalem as the state's capital. Today, almost 70% of all UN members state recognize it as an independent country.
- **1956** Elvis Presley makes his movie debut. Love Me Tender, a black-and-white musical starred the American singer, who is also sometimes called the King of Rock and Roll. The movie was named after Presley's hit single by the same name.
- **1920** League of Nations meets for the first time. The general assembly of the international organization got together for the first time after being founded in January 1920. The League was created as a response to World War I and was entrusted by member states to maintain peace in the world.

**Births On This Day**

- **1887** Georgia O'Keeffe American painter
- **1886** René Guénon French/Egyptian author

**Deaths On This Day**

- **1978** Margaret Mead American anthropologist
- **1630** Johannes Kepler German astronomer

**HONEST HOOSIER**

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



**INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION**

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

**MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

**Be On The Lookout:** Around Crawfordsville the local Kiwanis Club is putting up the Operation Toybox boxes and poster for people to donate new toys for children ages 16 and younger! Be on the lookout for them and please, consider making a donation to the children in need during this holiday season.

**TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

Brush or rinse your teeth after eating sugary foods. 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).



**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.

"Whenever despotism abounds, the sources of public information are the first to be brought under its control. Where ever the cause of liberty is making its way, one of its highest accomplishments is the guarantee of the freedom of the press."

-Calvin Coolidge

**TODAY'S JOKE**

How long does it take for a publisher to learn how to spell? Nobody knows.

**OBITUARIES**  
Linda Carol (Riley) Busenbark



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



**7 DAY FORECAST**

TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
32/60 SUNNY	34/65 SUNNY	39/68 INCREASING CLOUDS	50/58 SHOWERS LIKELY	31/51 SUNNY & COOLER	32/54 SUNNY	43/52 CHANCE OF RAIN

## OBITUARIES

### Linda Carol (Riley) Busenbark

August 4, 1955, Sunday, November 12, 2023

Linda Carol (Riley) Busenbark, age 68 of Terre Haute and formerly of Kingman, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Sunday, November 12, 2023 at home while surrounded by her loving family. She battled cancer for 16 years after the doctor told her she had 1-2 years to live. She was born in Danville, Illinois on August 4, 1955 to the late Lowell M. & Lorene I. (Allen) Riley.



Linda graduated from Fountain Central High School in 1973. She worked as a sign installer and crew chief for Indiana Department of Transportation for over 20 years, retiring December 2013. She loved singing and was in a band, Western Storm for 3 years, showed horses for 25 years, mostly Arabian and other breeds, and used to grow and sell around 3,000 Iris bulbs a year. She was a member of New Century Church in Veedersburg, the Ladies Group at New Century Church, and the DAR Dorothy Q. Chapter in Crawfordsville.

On August 31, 2004 in Tucson, Arizona she married the love of her life, Kenneth Dean "Kenny" Busenbark. Linda said that Kenny was the most loving husband, from taking her to her doctor's appointments, to showers, to getting her whatever she needs. Kenny has gone above and beyond to care for her and she will be forever grateful for his love and care throughout her health battle.

She is survived by her loving husband of 19 years, Kenny Busenbark; a step son, Tyler (Kristin) Busenbark; two grandchildren, Natalie and Ella Busenbark; four brothers, Bruce Riley, Ronald (Martha) Riley, Brian (Becky) Riley, and Timothy "Tim" (April) Riley; and sister-in-law, Debra Riley.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Lowell Daniel "Danny" Riley.

Cremation was chosen with a Graveside Service at Centennial Cemetery, 3209 S US Hwy 41, Kingman on Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 4:00 pm. Sanders Funeral Care entrusted with care. Share memories and condolences online at [www.SandersFuneralCare.com](http://www.SandersFuneralCare.com).

## Meeting Notes

### Crawfordsville Community School Corporation Board Of Education Meeting

Regular Meeting Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Carnegie Museum - 222 S. Washington St.

#### AGENDA

##### I. Roll Call

##### II. CHARACTER COUNTS! Corporation - Pillar of Respect

##### III. Pledge of Allegiance

##### IV. Consent Agenda:

Approve Previous Meeting Minutes, Construction Accounts Payable Voucher, Payroll Claims Vouchers, Register of Accounts Payable Voucher, and Surplus Items

##### V. Old Business

a. Consider 5051 Selection of Media Center Material - Second Reading

##### VI. New Business

a. Consider Ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Crawfordsville Education Association

b. Consider 5051 Selection of Media Center Material - Second Reading

c. Consider Eclipse Arrangements for April 8, 2024

d. Consider Classified Salary Schedule

e. Consider Resolution

Authorizing the Issuance of Temporary Loan Tax Anticipation Warrants

##### VII. Personnel

a. Consider Katie Compton Resignation - Hose Title I Reading Specialist

b. Consider Leah Sizemore Resignation - Hose Teachers Aide

c. Consider Corey Warren Resignation - Nicholson Speech Language Pathologist

d. Consider Andy Craig Retirement - CMS Physical Education Teacher

e. Recommend Kaylee Fletcher - Hose Library Assistant

f. Recommend Jami Booker - Hose Reading Interventionist

g. Recommend Ivy Balenger - Hoover Special Education Assistant

VIII. Business Manager Report

IX. Assistant Superintendent Report

X. Superintendent Report

XI. Other

XII. Board Member Communication

XIII. Patron Comments

XIV. Adjournment

### City Of Crawfordsville Board Of Zoning Appeals Meeting

November 15 at 7 p.m. Common Council Chambers

#### I. Call to Order & Roll Call

#### II. Presentation of Minutes

A. October 18, 2023

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

A. (UV 0087) Mandeep K. Baidwan requests a use variance from the schedule of uses of the City Zoning Ordinance to operate a self-storage business in an R-2, residential zoning district at 605 W Market Street (Parcel No. 54-07-31-443-001.000-030)

V. Miscellaneous

A. Informational Update by City Administration

B. Next regularly scheduled meeting: December 20, 2023 at 7:00 PM

VI. Adjournment

### City Of Crawfordsville Planning Commission Meeting

November 14 at 5 p.m. Common Council Chambers

#### I. Call to Order & Roll Call

#### II. Presentation of Minutes

A. October 17, 2023

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

A. (RZ 0021) Consider a request to rezone 30.208 acres northeast of Purple Heart Parkway and

US 231 S, south of 150 S from R-1, residential to R-3, residential for a multi-family residential development (30.208 acres of Parcel No. 54-10-08-300-087.001-029)

V. Miscellaneous

A. Informational Update by City Administration

B. Next regularly scheduled meeting: December 19, 2023 at 5:00 PM

VI. Adjournment

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Photo courtesy of the office of Beau Baird

State Rep. Beau Baird presides as co-chair of the Drainage Task Force in the House Chamber Wednesday, Oct. 11, at the Indiana Statehouse.

## Rep. Baird To Continue Work On Improving Drainage Laws, Supporting Property Owners

State Rep. Beau Baird, co-chair of Indiana's Drainage Task Force, said he plans to craft legislation during the 2024 legislative session to help property owners who are being negatively impacted by Indiana's overly strict and complex drainage laws, and how the state and locals handle floodplain matters.

The Drainage Task Force, which was charged with diving into the issues and recommending policy changes, recently wrapped up its final meeting. Baird said testimony mostly revolved around issues with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' floodplain maps, which were released in 2018 and went into effect in 2022.

"Numerous landowners, including many farmers, have made it clear to lawmakers that they have concerns about the state's new floodplain maps negatively impacting their property," Baird said. "Some properties that were not previously located in a flood zone, are now in a newly designated state floodplain. This means property values can go down, insurance costs can go up, and property

owners can struggle to sell their property, build on it or obtain a loan."

Prior to the state maps being adopted, Baird said local floodplain administrators would make decisions regarding building permits after consulting the less restrictive Federal Emergency Management Agency's floodplain maps. Once the state adopted DNR's maps, Baird said some property owners were shocked as they were denied permits by local officials because they're now located in a state-designated floodplain.

This concern spurred the state legislature to pass a law in 2023, sponsored by Baird, to allow Hoosiers applying for building permits the option to use the state's maps or have their own survey done. The new law also allows a property owner to request DNR review the mapping data for their property at no cost.

Baird said FEMA is in the process of updating its federal maps and is looking to adopt the state's mapping data in the future, but he believes the state should press pause on the new maps until concerns can be

addressed.

"The discrepancies in the restrictive state floodplain maps must be identified and resolved," Baird said. "We must take a step back so that we can ensure the data is accurate and property owners' rights are protected. It's also clear that we need a better notification process to alert Hoosiers of these changes, so that they know if they're in a flood zone and, if so, they have an opportunity to appeal."

While the task force did not reach a consensus on making legislative recommendations for the 2024 session, Baird said he supports several proposals including requiring the DNR to notify property owners if they are located on a state floodplain, and updating Indiana's Drainage Handbook, which was written in 1996 and last updated in 1999.

Baird encourages Hoosiers to continue offering input on Indiana's current land drainage laws and floodplain mapping by contacting his office at 317-234-9028 or h44@iga.in.gov. Hoosiers can visit floodmaps.in.gov for more information and access the state's floodplain mapping data.

## Governor Orders Immediate Action On State's Water Studies

Indiana Finance Authority to lead state water study efforts

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb announced major actions to provide the necessary and reliable data needed for future short- and long-term water policy and planning in Indiana – including taking a look at Montgomery County.

Holcomb has directed the Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) to begin exclusive oversight of the completion and validation of the INTERA water supply study currently under way along the Wabash River in Tippecanoe County expected to be completed and peer reviewed in January 2024. This study was originally commissioned and overseen by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) to operate at the speed of business and market demands positioning Indiana for further capital investment.

Holcomb has also instructed IFA to accelerate the start of a planned comprehensive regional water study for north-central Indiana that will exam-

ine watersheds covering Tippecanoe County and at least 12 other area counties, including Montgomery, Benton, Cass, Carroll, Clinton, Fountain, Howard, Parke, Tippecanoe, Vermillion, Warren, White with potentially more being invited to be participate.

This comprehensive study, which will take into account future population and economic growth for the region, will be completed in Fall 2024.

Its results will incorporate the INTERA findings on overall water supply in the area to provide a complete picture of in-depth data needed to properly determine the amount of water that can responsibly be used to support all projected growth needs in the region and throughout the state.

This study will be the fourth such comprehensive regional water study that IFA has conducted since 2017.

Finally, Holcomb has asked IFA to add new water monitoring devices

in the area to support this regional study while providing the public assurance that water use and availability will continue to be tracked accurately and in real-time.

"I am confident that these new efforts led by IFA will provide the necessary data to gain a greater understanding of the amount of excess water that is truly available to support all the surrounding region's growth prior to any action being taken that could inadvertently jeopardize this needed resource," Holcomb said. "No entity is better suited to lead this overall pursuit than the IFA which will approach this study in the same methodical, collaborative, and transparent manner the organization has conducted in the past. This is the natural next step to the data collection and will allow us the time to fully understand the region's resource in order to continue our state's unprecedented momentum in attracting employers that create high-wage careers."

## Duke Energy Partners With North American Utilities To Protect Customers From Scams

Threatening phone calls, fake webpages and bogus QR codes are among the growing list of tactics used by scammers, and while the methods may differ, the motive is always the same, which is to deprive customers of their money or personal information.

These expanding and increasingly sophisticated scam methods are why Duke Energy is partnering with utilities across North America to highlight Utility Scam Awareness Day on Wednesday, Nov. 15.

Recognized annually, Utility Scam Awareness Day was created by Utilities United Against Scams (UUAS), a consortium of more than 150 electric, water and natural gas companies and their respective trade associations.

In recent years, utilities have seen increased reports of their customers being contacted by scammers who pose as utility workers in an attempt to access their financial information or to obtain immediate payment by threatening service interruptions. These are known as utility impostor scams. The theme of this year's campaign is "Screen the Search," which reflects the rise in utility impostor scams through digital methods, including search engine-related scams.

So far in 2023, more than 400 scam attempts have been reported in Indiana to Duke Energy.

In response to scammers targeting customers and calls received from concerned customers, Duke Energy launched the Scam Reporting Tool in March 2023. This tool allows customers to share their experience regarding attempted scams, with the information provided being used to help protect other Duke Energy customers.

"Just like the scammers

who are constantly adapting, we must do so as well to protect our customers," said Larry Hatcher, Duke Energy's senior vice president for Customer Experience and Services. "The information we receive from our peer utilities, our call centers and online tool is vital in detecting rising trends and new techniques of those looking to scam our customers."

Duke Energy will always offer a variety of ways to pay a bill, including online payments, phone payments, automatic bank drafts, mail or in person.

Duke Energy will never:

- Specify how customers should make a bill payment.

- Threaten immediate service interruption. Customers with past-due accounts receive multiple advance notices, typically by mail and in their regular monthly bill.

- Ask for personal information or credit or debit card numbers over the phone, by email or in person – for either a payment or a refund.

If you need to make a payment online or via phone, refer to your most recent energy bill for the company website and contact information. Duke Energy customers are encouraged to download the Duke Energy app in the Apple or Google Play store for added security and convenience.

Know what to look for: **Threat to disconnect** – Scammers often threaten immediate service disconnections. They ask for personal information or demand payment to prevent service interruptions.

**Request for immediate payment** – Scammers may instruct customers to make payments via prepaid cards, digital payment apps, cryptocurrencies or

direct transactions with banking institutions. Duke Energy does not accept payments through the Cash App, Venmo or Zelle apps. (Customers can make payments directly via Duke Energy's website, duke-energy.com, or mobile app.)

**Promise of a refund or discount** – Scammers prey on households with tight budgets. They will inform customers of impending refunds due to overpaid utility bills; however, they need banking information to process the refund. They also may claim that immediate bill payment will result in a discount or that a charitable donation can be made in exchange for a lesser bill payment.

**Personal information** – Scammers promise to mail refund checks for overpayments on a customer's account if they can confirm their personal data, including birthdays and, in some cases, Social Security numbers.


**Digital scam tactics** – Sponsored ads on search engines that lead to identical – but fake – utility bill payment pages are on the rise. Scammers are also using QR codes that falsely claim to link to a utility payment page and texts pretending to be from a utility representative with a link to an impostor payment page.

If customers suspect someone is trying to scam them, they should hang up, shut the door or delete the email or text. They also should contact the utility immediately at the number on the most recent monthly bill or on the utility's official website, not the phone number the scammer provides. If customers ever feel in physical danger, they should call 911.

More information is available at duke-energy.com/StopScams.

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# Indiana Finance Authority To Take Over IEDC's Innovation District Water Study

By Leslie Bonilla Muniz  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The Indiana Finance Authority (IFA) will assume oversight of a water supply study connected to development of a massive — and controversial — high-tech park, Gov. Eric Holcomb's office announced Monday.

The news comes as several communities have pushed back against a proposed pipeline from Tippecanoe County to Boone County. The most common criticism is that the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) paid for a study to support its own project.

Holcomb also asked the IFA to start a broader study of north-central Indiana's water supply sooner, and bring in more water monitoring devices. "I am confident that

these new efforts led by IFA will provide the necessary data to gain a greater understanding of the amount of excess water that is truly available to support all the surrounding region's growth prior to any action being taken that could inadvertently jeopardize this needed resource," Holcomb said in a news release.

The quasi-public IEDC originally commissioned and oversaw the study.

The agency hopes to pipe 100 million gallons of water daily 35 miles from the Wabash Alluvial Aquifer in Tippecanoe County to the LEAP Lebanon Innovation District in Boone County.

Initial results in the multi-phase study — by Texas-based environmental consulting firm INTERA — showed "abun-

dant" water availability.

But it drew skepticism from Democrats and Republicans alike over the study's independence. Some of those lawmakers also plan to bring legislation regulating large withdrawals of water — which the state currently lacks — according to the Indianapolis Business Journal.

The IEDC's leader, Commerce Secretary David Rosenberg, said in a statement that he supported Holcomb's decision.

"I'm proud of the work the IEDC team has done to identify and begin the study on what has shown to be one of the most productive water assets in the state," Rosenberg said. "The IFA has been a partner from the very beginning, and as we move into the execution phase,

they are the right experts to continue the INTERA water supply study and incorporate its findings into their comprehensive regional water study."

"This work helps keep Indiana's foot on the gas as we continue the historic economic momentum of the last two years with a focus on growing Indiana's population and attracting industries of the future," Rosenberg added.

IFA manages the state's wastewater and drinking water revolving fund loan programs. It often completes regional water supply studies; the study Holcomb instructed IFA to accelerate will be its fourth since 2017.

The regional study will integrate the INTERA study's findings. The news release said it would "provide a com-

plete picture of in-depth data needed to properly determine the amount of water that can responsibly be used to support all projected growth needs in the region and throughout the state."

It will include Tippecanoe County and at least 12 others, but more could be invited into the study, according to Holcomb's office. The study will take population changes and economic growth into account.

Holcomb additionally asked IFA to add new water monitoring devices in the area to track real-time supply and support the larger study.

"No entity is better suited to lead this overall pursuit than the IFA, which will approach this study in the same methodical, collaborative, and

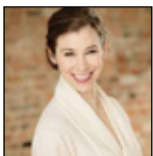
transparent manner the organization has conducted in the past," Holcomb said.

He called the move the "next natural next step in the data collection" and said it would allow Indiana to "fully understand the region's resource in order to continue our state's unprecedented momentum in attracting employers that create high-wage careers."

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

## Lifelong Fellowship Funds Awarded To Three Artists In North-Central Region

The Arts Federation is happy to announce that Region 4 artists Audrey Johnson, Claire Lacy, and Rebecca Rayls were recently selected as members of the Lifelong Arts 2023 Artist Training Cohort. They are all receiving Lifelong Fellowship Funds to support their efforts in offering arts learning experiences for older adults. This opportunity is made possible via Lifelong Arts Indiana, a partnership between the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) Division of Aging and the Indiana Arts Commission. This is a learning opportunity for artists and aging services providers to develop their skills to provide creative experiences for older adults.



AUDREY JOHNSON

ing material preparation for a week-long musical project in collaboration with a senior services organization, featuring songs about the history of gender equality in America. Guided by teaching-artist Audrey Johnson, a group of participants will learn, compose, and present a program of songs which will be presented to the Greater Lafayette community." \*\*\*

### Claire Lacy Monticello, Visual Arts

Claire Lacy is a third generation artist and designer who takes great pride in being a passionate color enthusiast! Leading different kinds of workshops and acting as a consultant she provides herself as a facilitator of color conversations. Lacy wants to help people of all ages become "color-literate" and "color-aware". Below is her Fellowship Description.

"Lacy will lead "Art Harmony: Connecting with Your Loved One Through Art" through the fellowship. The goal of the program is to bring caregivers together to show them how to better connect with their loved ones through art. Sessions include demonstrations, discussions, and sharing experiences, meditation. The program concludes with tips for continuing



CLAIRE LACY

the art journey at home and a reflection on the profound impact of art in enhancing the quality of life for both caregivers and their loved ones." \*\*\*

### Rebecca Rayls Kokomo, Crafts

Rebecca Rayls has been a visual artist for more than 30 years beginning in floral design. In 1997 she began to venture into other forms of visual art and design. She began to teach herself at home and then later she decided to go the academic route of learning by attending Herron School of Art, and taking classes at the Indianapolis Art Center. Her medium of choice is clay but she also enjoys painting with acrylics, rug-hooking, relief printing and so much more. Rayls plans on using the Fellowship Funds for a workshop called "Expressive Threads: A Textile Mixed-Media Collage workshop" Below is her Fellowship Description.

"In "Expressive Threads: A Textile Mixed-Media Collage workshop," participants will explore basic embroidery and mixed-media techniques to create their own expressive fiber collage tote bag. Participants will form a stitching community as the group, together, explores texture, color and repetition."



REBECCA RAYLS

### Audrey Johnson Lafayette, Opera/Music Theatre

Audrey Johnson is well known in the Greater Lafayette area for her dedication and tenacity for the theatrical arts in her community. Her performances usually have historical ties and allow people of any age to learn through the art of immersive theatre. Below is Johnson's Fellowship Description:

"Johnson's fellowship will fund the artist fees and costs of accompany-

## Registration For Happy Little (Virtual) 5K Opens

Registration is open until March 1 for the return of the Happy Little (Virtual) 5K, which the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation (INRF) welcome back after last year's Indiana debut.

Race participation is open to everyone, and registrants can complete their 5K anywhere outdoors — on foot, or by bike, skate, paddle or using a mobility device — anytime between Earth Day and Arbor Day, April 22 and 26, respectively.

For \$36 per person, each participant will receive a keepsake Happy

Little T-shirt, a commemorative bib number and a Bob Ross-inspired finisher's medal. All race proceeds will again support tree planting and other healthy-forest initiatives in Indiana State Parks. In 2023, the virtual race raised more than \$16,000.

"This is a great way to celebrate Indiana State Parks and Indiana's connection to Bob Ross, and get some exercise at the same time," said Ginger Murphy, deputy director for stewardship for Indiana State Parks. "We are grateful for all those who sign up to participate and support the management of our parks' natural resources."

Ross filmed his iconic television show, The Joy of Painting, in Muncie for more than a decade. The program was aired on public television stations around the world. The virtual event was first created by the Michigan DNR in partnership with Bob Ross, Inc. in 2020. Nine states have since joined the Happy Little 5K, including Indiana.

For more information and to sign up for the event, visit [runsignup.com/happylittletrees](https://runsignup.com/happylittletrees). Participants should select Indiana on the registration to support Indiana State Parks.

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**LWV** From Page A1

the executive branch, sits the Supreme Court, which originally had only six justices and held sessions in windowless chambers from 1819 to 1860. The Supreme Court took such a backseat in government operations from 1791, when it heard its first case, until almost 1900 that it didn't warrant its own building until 1935.

Now nine justices sit on the Supreme Court and it hears nearly 75 cases annually, about 40 "merits" based cases where the whole court will hear arguments and write decisions. But what about those other 35 or so cases? Between these emergency cases and the increasing number of "merits" cases that the public considers political, it's worth learning about the Court and evaluating whether the three branches of government are operating within their boundaries, or superseding them for some unhealthy reasons. If that's the case, why?

In his book *The Shadow Docket: How the Supreme Court Uses Stealth Rulings to Amass Power and Undermine the Republic*, historian Stephen Vladeck calls attention to a potential imbalance in the role of the judicial branch. When initially coined, the term "shadow docket" simply referred to the many emergency cases kicked up to the Supreme Court, most often stays of execution, which exploded the Court's workload after the U.S. resumed state-sanctioned executions - capital punishment - in 1976.

To best understand this, it's helpful to know that the Supreme Court accepts two kinds of cases - merits cases, heard by the entire court, with majority decisions and dissenting statements - and other cases, which Vladeck defines as "the negative space in which the court does everything else." A hundred or so years ago, Vladeck reports, the Supreme Court operated at the behest of Congress, "The court heard every case Congress told it to and no case Congress told it not to." In short, Congress "dictated what the court did. Congress would use its power over the court to intimidate and leverage the court all the time." For instance, it canceled the Supreme Court's entire 1802 sitting because the Jeffersonians were mad at the Federalists and removed the court's jurisdiction in cases it didn't want the Court to decide, which controlled its workload. When that started to change in the 1880s, the Court had more than 1,800 cases in front of it.

So the Court gets the power called "writ of

certiorari" that allows it to control and balance its caseload, which as Vladeck explains, "begets the shadow docket because that creates this first-step process where the court is going to cull all of the appeals that come before it in ways that it's not going to explain." It didn't happen fast. From 1925 to the early 1980s, a lot of the cases were mandatory still. From the 1940s to the 1960s, decisions were largely in step with public opinion and Congress still had sway to push back on the Court's discretion. In that era, a single justice might hear arguments on an emergency case in his or her chamber, "but no one ever confused a single judge's decision as a matter of the full court's majority opinion."

The impact of how the Court operated stayed limited through the 1960s, when the court would maybe get three or four emergency applications a year in death penalty cases - the U.S. suspended capital punishment from 1972-76, then in 1983, the Court got an overwhelming 83 appeals. This, says Vladeck, is when the Court's behavior changed.

It stops having individual justices resolve most applications and starts a procedure where, if a case is remotely divisive or if there's a chance that any two colleagues might disagree, justices are supposed to refer the application to the full court. So we have a full-court decision instead of a single-justice decision - they can still decide some cases with a single judge - either way, they're still not going to explain themselves."

It wasn't stays of execution but decisions in challenges with larger implications that the Court's quiet decision-making power superseded its boundaries. Over the 16 years of Bush Jr. and Obama, the executive branch requested eight emergency relief decisions. Then, Trump asked for 41 interventions from 2016 to 2020 on decisions about a travel ban, the border wall and the transgender military ban followed by issues related to COVID and abortion. Instead of Congress handling decisions, the Court made calls on legislation. Each of these decisions should have been the responsibility of Congress, mandated to follow the will of the people they represent. Instead, the judicial branch uses the writ of certiorari procedure, and to amplify matters, the executive branch leans on executive orders when Congress deadlocks over issues.

Here's the truth of systems: when one begins

to fail, others begin to overcompensate. Whether it's a national crisis like the Great Depression or the years when Congress stalemates and resorts to gamesmanship, the executive branch has resorted to action by executive order. Statista shows that FDR averaged 307 such executive orders per year, followed by Woodrow Wilson who governed during WWI. Calvin Coolidge is a cool third, then Teddy Roosevelt, Truman (WWII), Taft, Harding, Eisenhower, Reagan, Clinton, Nixon, Johnson, Carter, George W. Bush, Obama, Trump, Grant (post Civil War) and JFK, in that order.

It's fair to point out that no president used anywhere the number of executive orders near what FDR used, but when one branch compensates for another, it's a symptom of dysfunction.

The two-party Congressional system has deadlocked increasingly over even procedural legislation like national budget bills. Some representatives take an "all or nothing" idealistic approach to legislating, instead of a democratic compromise approach.

Maybe those elected officials feel morally obligated to buck public opinion over issues like capital punishment or the Second Amendment, perhaps they feel ethically bound to remain loyal to their affiliations, but when they fail to legislate, the executive branch is pressured to take action. It's inevitable. The president is a figurehead, a concentrated point of attention, a president may feel the tyranny of opinion and take action. Now, it seems the Supreme Court has been drawn into this.

What's to be done? Perhaps we Americans are at an inflection point. We need to call on Congress to take action and acknowledge that democracy doesn't operate well in a winner-take-all approach. By the way, one can monitor each of these lesser cases at <http://shadowdocket.net/>, but not all of these last-moment decisions are appeals to save a life - even fewer are handwritten by informed and desperate humans as Carlos Martinez did on Oct. 4. Primary source information is a powerful tool.

*-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.*

**TIM** From Page A1

who could have been anywhere from 45 to 65. She had really dark hair that maybe wasn't her original color. It was chilly out and she had on slacks, a loose sweater and a light jacket. Her oversized sunglasses did not hide that she was wearing a bit too much makeup and her eyebrows were heavily penciled in and gave her a look between surprise and exasperation. She held a cigarette in one hand and a purse in the other. Truth to tell, she could have stepped out of a time machine from 1965.

"I am," I replied. "Tim Timmons." And I held out my hand.

"Patina," she said with a firm grasp. Even if I hadn't seen the cigarette, her voice and the mixture of heavy perfume and stale smell of smoke would've given her away. "Patina Woody. Nice to meet you."

Like I said, I'm lucky in that I get to meet a lot of nice folks - and someone stopping me and telling me they like my columns isn't all that unusual.

"Do you write for the newspaper," she asked. So much for my columns.

"I do," I said. "How did you know I was with the newspaper though?"

"Your shirt," she said pointing to the paper's logo. "Kind of a giveaway, don't you think?"

Oh. "Listen," she went on, "I've got an idea that I'd like to get to someone. Know how we can make that happen?"

"It depends," I answered. "What's it about?"

"I heard the debate in the House the other day on more aid for Israel," she started. "And I liked the idea that they were going to take money out of the IRS and send it to Israel."

She paused to cough, a deep, jarring cough.

"First off, I don't like the IRS - no one does," she continued. "But more than that I really liked the

idea that instead of printing more useless money on paper, that they were not going to spend more - just reallocate."

I had to agree. That was one of the first positive things I had heard out of our government in some time.

"That got me to thinking," she said, blowing a thick cloud of smoke over her shoulder. "Why not create a cabinet position that is the secretary of waste? The job would be to find ways to not just cut spending, but if money has to be spent, take it away from some bloated department somewhere . . . just like they did with the IRS."

It's a great idea, I thought. It also has no chance of success.

"Tell you what, Pat, I -" "Patina," she snapped. "Sorry?"

"Patina. My name is Patina. I don't go by Pat."

"Oh, I apologize. Listen, I think it's a great idea, but you have to know it'll never happen, right?"

"That's the trouble with the world today," she said between puffs. "We find the answers and then we toss them aside because we say the hired hands in Washington will never go along. If we keep doing that, then nothing will ever change. We need to tell them what the right answers are and then hold them accountable when they go back to business as usual in the swamp."

What could I say? She was right.

"Listen newspaper guy, if you want to know how to fix this quit talking to them. Ask a woman. They know how to get things done."

She walked away. I really do meet the most interesting people.

*-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).*

**PRICE**

From Page A1

building; it's a beacon of possibilities within our community. I am genuinely excited about the potential it holds and the impact we can create together," says Price. "This space is not just a resource; it's a catalyst for collaboration, innovation and growth."

Owned and operated by the City of Crawfordsville, Fusion 54 incorporates city and county growth entities - including the Crawfordsville/Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery County Visitors & Convention Bureau and the Montgomery County Leadership Academy. The building opened in September of 2018 and serves as a central meeting location for a variety of non-profit community groups.

For more information on the Fusion 54 co-working studio, visit [fusion54.com](http://fusion54.com)

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