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➤ TODAY'S VERSE

Matthew 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

➤ FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



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

➤ THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 The Indiana Department of Transportation announces a speed limit reduction on U.S. 136 between Pittsboro and Brownsburg. The speed limit change will be from 55 to 45 miles per hour beginning on or after **TOMORROW**. It is intended to enhance safety in the area. At this time, the work is not expected to cause delays or restrictions in the area, weather permitting. INDOT encourages drivers to be mindful of worker safety, with workers likely using ditches to replace the signs. This includes slowing down, avoiding distracted driving and being mindful of the potential for workers on the side of the road.

2 VMHMC is looking for volunteers for the Downtown Party Night on November 25. They will be located on the second floor of Fusion 54 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Feel free to drop off a donation, get a free candy cane and check out some reindeer games for the kids as well! For more information, please visit: vmhmc.org!

3 MCCF will award the final round of grants for 2023 on Thursday, November 30, 4 p.m., here at our building, second floor. We invite you to attend. I will have a press release ready that day listing the fifteen awards. We appreciate all you do to promote the good work of the grant recipients and the generosity of our donors.

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BTN

By The Numbers, a look at what's in the news . . . by the numbers. These are just numbers, not suggestions that they mean more or less than what they are. We do not suggest that one number is connected to another. These are simply facts with no extraneous details, bias or slanted reporting. To borrow (and perhaps mangle a bit) a quote from legendary fictional detective Joe Friday, it's just the numbers, ma'am!

\$7.1 Million

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.

\$507 Million

\$507 million coming to Indiana over the next 18 years — from the National Opioid Settlement with distributors AmericourceBergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson as well as opioid manufacturer Johnson & Johnson

\$107 Million

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.

81 Percent Of Abatement Funds

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.

\$45 Box of Narcan

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.

\$2,108

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.

\$9.10

"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."

\$7.5 Million Directly To State

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.

State Legislative Breakfast

The Crawfordsville / Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce is hosting a State Legislative Breakfast at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Hoosier Heartland State Bank Success Center, 1623 S. US Hwy 21.

The panel will consist of State Senators Brian Buchanan and Spencer Deery along with State Representatives Sharon Negele, Jeff Thompson, Mark Genda and Beau Baird.

The State Legislative Breakfast is sponsored by Lakeside Book Company and will include a light breakfast catered by Francis & Mount. The event is open to the public. The cost to attend the event with or

➔ See STATE Page A4

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 7:37 a.m.
SET: 5:29 p.m.

High/Low Temperatures
High: 51 °F
Low: 38 °F

Today is...

- Name Your PC Day
- National Peanut Butter Fudge Day
- World Children's Day

What Happened On This Day

- 1985 Windows 1.0 released. Nearly two years after it was announced, Microsoft released its first graphical operating system.
- 1959 Declaration of the Rights of the Child.
- 1945 Nuremberg trials begin. The trials were led by the International Military Tribunal to prosecute Nazis.

Births On This Day

- 1942 Joe Biden 46th President of the United States
- 1925 Robert F. Kennedy 64th United States Attorney General

Deaths On This Day

- 2006 Robert Altman American director, screenwriter
- 1910 Leo Tolstoy Russian author

➤ HONEST HOOSIER

How about this week taking a moment to be thankful for what we've got - and remembering those who don't have so much.



➤ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

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

➤ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Say Cheese!

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

➤ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Limit TV and computer time for kids - let them discover their imaginations. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Catch his column each week in The Paper and online at www.thepaper24-7.com.



➤ TODAY'S QUOTE

In celebration of our beginning our 20th year as a media company, we're sharing some famous quotations about newspapers this month.

"Newspapers are tutors as well as informers."
-Neil Kinnock

➤ TODAY'S JOKE

The husband was working the crossword puzzle in the paper and asked his wife, "what's a four letter word for a religious song?" "Hymn."
"Yeah," he replied. "It's a tough one alright."

➤ OBITUARIES
NONE

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



The Paper
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

56 SUNNY & MILD	38/51 SCT'D SHOWERS	45/55 RAINY, BREEZY	35/44 CLEARING AND COLDER	33/52 SEASONAL HAPPY TRANSFORMING	35/46 PARTLY CLOUDY	36/44 TURNING COOLER
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

OBITUARIES

James Harold Page Jr.

March 23, 1943, Friday, November 17, 2023

James Harold Page Jr., age 80 of Crawfordsville, passed away on Friday, November 17, 2023, at Franciscan Health Crawfordsville. He was born in Tompkinsville, Kentucky on March 23, 1943, to the late James Edward and Eddie Mae (Norris) Page.



Jr graduated from High School in Tompkinsville, Kentucky in 1961. He retired from RR Donnelley after 53 years of service. He married the love of his life, Michele Maxine Smith, on April 2, 1965. Jr was a member of Southside Church of Christ. He enjoyed fishing, coon hunting, racing go-carts, IU Basketball, and gardening. He loved spending time with his family and singing. One of Jr's favorite things to do was mess with telemarketers when they called.

He is survived by his wife, Michele; three sons, Greg (Sandy) Page, Tony (Kelly) Page, Brent Page; ten grandchildren, CJ, Cameron, Reba, Peyton, Eli, Sam, Simon, Chanse, Collin, and Cayden; four-great-grandchildren; seven siblings, Eyvind (Shirley) Page, Doris Comer, Jackie (Linda) Page, Judie (Jr.) Pitcock, Jason (Kathy) Page, Randy (Chaney) Page, and Mike Page; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation will be at Sanders Priebe Funeral Care, 315 S. Washington Street in Crawfordsville on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm. The funeral service will be at the funeral home on Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at 11:00 am.

Burial will follow at Waynetown Masonic Cemetery. Sanders Priebe Funeral Care is entrusted with care. Share memories and condolences online at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

Holiday Gift Ideas That Make Learning Fun For Kids

(StatePoint) Want to deepen children's understanding of the world around them? The holiday season is the perfect time to do that. Educational gifts and toys can extend the learning fun throughout the year, and embolden them to make exciting discoveries every day.

- **Starry-eyed:** Bring the night sky closer to the little ones in your life. With the Magic Adventures Telescope from LeapFrog, fledgling astronomers can focus on the moon at night or nature during the day at up to 110x zoom, and even capture and save images of what they see. This real telescope is accompanied by twenty Cosmic Cards featuring images and fun facts about objects in space, and more than 100 videos and images courtesy of NASA and the European Space Agency on such topics as the solar system, the Moon, star life cycles, constellations, space discoveries

and more. A detachable tripod allows for steadier scientific exploration, and its adventure game will have kids dodging planetary hazards, powering on satellites and rebooting robots.

- **Coding building blocks:** Many of the newest hands-on coding kits don't even require a screen to get started. With block-based programming tools, young engineers can get problem-solving experience while beginning to develop the computational mindset needed to code. What's more, the featured games and challenges can make the learning process fun, versatile and interactive.

- **Tiny worlds:** Help kids realize just how cool science and the world around them can be with the Magic Adventures Microscope, which offers 200x magnification. Budding biologists can zoom in on flowers, animals, food, minerals and more using eight double-sided

smart slides that activate amazing BBC videos and images to discover answers to curious questions like: What do plant cells look like? What is sand made of anyway? Kids can then make their own discoveries by finding things around the house and getting a closer look using the reusable slides or large sample tray. This innovative take on a classic microscope allows kids to save on-screen images, and even features a quiz game to put their new STEAM skills to the test.

- **Mini masterpieces:** Inspire little ones to express themselves through the visual arts with a comprehensive, mixed-media art supply kit. Whether you buy a ready-made kit or stock it and package it up yourself, be sure it includes all the age-appropriate essentials: markers, crayons, colored pencils, paints, brushes, paper and pencil sharpeners. Pair this present with an easel,

so that kids will have a dedicated place to create and display their artwork.

- **Globe-trotting:** Young explorers can travel the world and see everything in it with the Magic Adventures Globe. Using the stylus, children can tap on the 10-inch interactive learning globe and experience new places, languages, cultures, animals, geography, habitats and more through high-quality BBC videos. Its integrated 2.7-inch video screen immerses kids in the curriculum through animations and live-action videos, providing a better understanding of the world. They can also play interactive games to explore the globe, challenge a friend and solve mysteries.

This holiday season, encourage a love of knowledge and self-expression. With so many fun learning tools and toys to choose from, you can make the jolliest season of the year a time to get inspired.

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the paper



Photos courtesy of Jeep

Jeep Grand Cherokee Takes Families The Long Way

It's getting that time of year when we gather our loved ones and hit the road to see more of our loved ones. My family and I had that experience last weekend when we traveled four hours round-trip to visit my adopted in-laws. It's an easy drive with hours on the Interstate book-ended by narrow city streets. A twisty-two lane to lunch and tight parking further tested the 2023 Jeep Grand Cherokee Altitude L's skills as we took our ride the long way.

Flexible Positions

Unlike in the past, the Grand Cherokee comes in short-wheelbase five-seat or the L edition like ours with three rows of seats and available center captain's chairs. We didn't need the tight third row for little ones, but my daughter lounged like a lazy lizard in her own middle-row throne. Easier to keep the kids - or arguing grandparents - separated. I'm liking

the Altitude package that gives all the luxuries you really want without much you don't.

Outside, that means dark grille trim, black 18" wheels, and black badging on the sides and rear, but Jeep's trademark seven-slot grille is front and present. So are LED headlamps and smoked taillamps. From the curb, it's obvious this is an L edition with its ample broadsides, but the floating roof and sleek sheetmetal looks appropriately upscale.

Same inside where seats are all-day supportive upholstered in leatherette and suede that can be easily wiped after kids and adventure. Heated front seats, heated steering wheel, power single-pane moonroof, and tri-zone automatic climate control add comforts. There's no MacIntosh audio system, which I would love, but the six-speaker system in our vehicle sounded fine enough. Devices connect wirelessly through Apple

2023 Jeep Grand Cherokee L Six-passenger, AWD Crossover

Powertrain: 3.6-liter V6, 8-spd trans
Output: 293hp/260 lb.-ft. torque
Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind
Wheels f/r: 18"/18" alloy
Brakes f/r: disc/disc
Towing: 6,200 lbs.
Fuel economy: 18/25 mpg city/hwy
Assembly: Detroit, MI
Base/as-tested price: \$36,495/54,565

CarPlay and Android Auto. They charge wirelessly too. While the touchscreen is super intuitive to use, connecting devices wirelessly was not easy.

Safety, a priority of all of us who carry kids and need to get home to them, is enhanced by adaptive cruise, automatic emergency braking, blind spot warning, and rear cross path detection. It's every-

LIKES

- Upscale style
- Comfortable interior
- Intuitive touchscreen

thing you need to keep your family safe wherever you roam.

Ample Performance

On paper, our Grand Cherokee doesn't seem to have an overabundance of power for a large three-row crossover. Stepping into the 3.6-liter V6 summons 293 horsepower and 260 lb.-ft. of torque - all routed to the four-wheel-drive system through an 8-speed automatic transmission. I never felt like I needed more power, but there's a 357-horsepower V8 available for those who want more, but even a properly equipped V6 can tow 6,200 lbs. of boat, RV, or classic car. Fuel economy is rated a respectable 18/25-MPG city/highway, especially considering isn't a hybrid.

DISLIKES

- Cumbersome device connections
- Basic stereo
- Tight third-row

Parked next to my in-laws Ford F-150 Super Crew it was nearly as long, but the Grand Cherokee shrinks on the open road. Steering and chassis responses are sharp for a large crossover and it is very comfortable on the highway. Where some of its breed can bounce off bridges and road humps, the GC remains poised on its four-wheel independent suspension system. The basic architecture is derived from the Alfa Romeo Stelvio and it shows. A load leveling rear suspension keeps it straight and level no matter how many passengers are aboard.

If you're planning to hit the road for the holidays, or everyday on the way to school and back, the Jeep



CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

Grand Cherokee L would be a good choice. I'd gladly drive it a thousand miles and look forward to the return journey. It's also a fair deal. Base two-row Grand Cherokees start at \$36,495. L editions rise from \$43,130 to our Altitude's \$54,565. Competitors include the Subaru Ascent, Honda Pilot, Toyota Highlander, Chevy Traverse, and Kia Telluride.

Storm Forward!

Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey.

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Neuropathic Pain, Otherwise Known As Neuralgia



JOHN R. ROBERTS, M.D.
Montgomery
Medicine

I received a request from a reader to address sciatica. He has been suffering severe chronic pain from this condition. Rather than address just sciatica, I thought I would address the broader topic of neuropathic pain or "neuralgia."

Neuropathic pain is just that – pain that originates in the nerves themselves. This pain is usually related to some type of physical injury to nerve(s) but sometimes the nerves can just malfunction and act as though they have been injured. Common causes of neuralgia other than physical trauma include diabetes, herpes virus infections such as shingles or Zoster, nerve compression, and cancer. Many cases are "idiopathic," meaning there is no identifiable cause.

The pain can be precipitated or worsened by things such as touching or rubbing the skin, wearing clothing over the affected area, pressure from things such as bed sheets, or just having air blow over the skin. Some people just have constant pain with no apparent precipitating factors.

Neuropathic pain is perceived quite differently from the pain one experiences when

touching something hot or hitting one's thumb with a hammer. Patients usually describe it using one or more of the following: "burning," "pins & needles," "electric shocks," or a "severe toothache." The pain can be so severe that patients may contemplate suicide. The brain has difficulty sorting out this type of pain because the nerve messages it receives not only involve typical pain pathways but also the non-pain sensations of touch, temperature, etc.

This pain can be extremely debilitating and frustrating for the patient, their family, and even their doctor(s). It's a very complex disorder that often doesn't improve with one particular treatment and may require a multidisciplinary pain team approach. This team might include doctors (primary care, neurologists, neurosurgeons and pain management specialists) as well as other health professionals (physical or occupational therapists, psychologists, etc.).

There are numerous treatments available for neuralgia. Traditionally, physicians have used various types of medications including antidepressants, and anticonvulsants (medications to treat seizures). Antidepressants are often used in low doses and appear to block the movement of pain messages to the brain. Anticonvulsant medications reduce the rapid-fire nerve impulses that are often charac-

teristic of neuropathic pain. Some patients with unrelenting pain may also need narcotics to get relief.

Non-drug treatments can also be quite helpful. One such modality is TENS, which stands for "Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation." This consists of wearing one or more pairs of electrode patches on the skin attached to a box that generates electrical pulses. The box is worn on the belt or in a pocket. The electrical impulses generated by the TENS unit serve to block the pain messages going up the spinal cord to the brain. A more permanent way to deliver these pulses is to surgically implant a nerve stimulator next to the spinal cord.

Other treatments that have been shown to be effective include anesthetic injections, behavioral therapy, and biofeedback. Creams containing capsaicin can be helpful. The nutritional supplement alpha lipoic acid has been shown to have some benefit in treating diabetic neuropathy.

Neuropathic pain remains a very complex problem and one that is often not responsive to one single treatment. It may take months or years of trying various different modalities, either singly or in combination to obtain relief.

- Dr. John Roberts is a retired member of the Franciscan Physician Network specializing in Family Medicine.

Holcomb Makes Water Moves But Will It Be Enough?

By Nikki Kelly
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The feud over water is heating up, and Gov. Eric Holcomb this week tried to tamp it down by shifting a water supply study from the Indiana Economic Development Authority to the Indiana Finance Authority.

Is it too little, too late? For months momentum has been building against a proposed pipeline and Holcomb's actions late Monday seemed urgent after relative silence for weeks as lawmakers, gubernatorial candidates, local government and Hoosiers spoke against it. The pipeline would run about 35 miles from the Wabash Alluvial Aquifer in Tippecanoe County to the LEAP Lebanon Innovation District in Boone County. About 100 million gallons a day could be pumped through the pipeline.

Intera is conducting a \$2.9 million study and initial results show plenty of water. Not surprisingly, people concerned about the project are suspect of a contract paid for by the IEDC that reinforces their grand plan. And they have a lot of the line. The agency has already spent more than \$200 million buying up land in Boone County with hundreds of millions more to come.

Indiana Secretary of Commerce David Rosenberg, who leads the IEDC, said the district currently has all the water needed for the ongoing Eli Lilly development and most other possible projects.

"Only if Indiana is selected by a company with a large water need would

a pipeline be considered," he said in a recent op-ed.

In June, the state confirmed it is a finalist for a \$50 billion semiconductor company. A decision is expected late this year.

Which might be why Holcomb suddenly jumped in the fray. Perhaps the plant wants to sign on the dotted line but needs assurance on the water front.

Next steps

So, let's look at what he did.

A lot of people are learning what the Indiana Finance Authority is this week. It's an agency that oversees State-related debt issuance and provides financing solutions to facilitate state, local government and business investment in Indiana.

It has been involved with other transformational projects, like leasing the Indiana Toll Road and overseeing financing of the new Indianapolis Colts stadium.

They have studied water issues since 2017 and all of their studies can be found here.

I don't quibble with their abilities and expertise. But in the end, the water study is still part of an IEDC contract — despite Holcomb suddenly bequeathing "exclusive oversight" of it to another agency. And the IFA is still a state agency controlled by Holcomb, just like the IEDC.

The state should have moved for a truly independent contract first, perhaps a local research institution. And it should have split the cost between state and communities impacted — Lebanon and Lafayette as well as Boone and Tippecanoe counties

— then everyone would feel like they have some ownership.

And by the way, no one seems to be rallying around the Boone County residents fighting against it. Only the concerns of the Lafayette area whose water is being raided seem to have captured sympathy from the public. Boone County's elected officials seem to be all in despite local concerns.

Holcomb's pipeline move doesn't appear to be allaying fears so far.

Sen. Spencer Deery called for a pause in "any action or contract that would push the state even further down the path of this pipeline proposal" until an independent study was done and state lawmakers could consider pipeline costs, regulations on water withdrawal and even reforming the IEDC.

Sen. Ron Alting said he continues to have concerns for the overall project.

And they are both Republicans from the Lafayette area.

The project should have been laid out in detail first with the full scope and costs stated up front — before the state started buying up land. Now they are stuck moving forward even if the project doesn't attract the investment they were hoping for.

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That One Perfect Cup



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

It's important to have a good coffee cup.

My husband, Peter, makes the coffee, and has since

we were married. We will be celebrating nine years of marriage this spring, so you might not be surprised to hear that I no longer remember how to make coffee. This is called "learned helplessness" in psychology circles, and it is certainly true in my case. Peter makes the coffee, and I drink it. This seems to me like a fair division of labor. And having the proper cup is essential.

I am reminded of this every time I return to Mexico, because I do not pack a coffee cup.

Our little furnished apartment has a perfectly fine selection of matching white ceramic coffee cups sitting on the shelf. But none of these cups is my cup. And so, usually on the first day, I will head out to the market where handcrafted items are sold in search of a perfect cup.

Walking through the market, it is surprising how relatively few coffee cups I see. I suppose most people do not have a cup

sitting beside them all day, or at least for the first six hours of every day. I don't think this is nearly as common in Mexico as it is in the U.S. But still, there are a lot of nice cups and, eventually, I find my new cup.

"What do you think?" I ask Peter when I triumphantly return with my new perfect cup.

"Isn't that the same cup you had before?" he asks.

Peter does not understand. He drinks his coffee from a white ceramic cup. He does not realize what a wonderful feeling it is when I find my new cup. I do not take my new cup for granted for a moment. I admire it as I drink my coffee. My cup is usually colorful and always hand-painted and, once my new cup is sitting on my green Formica desk, all is right in my little world.

In six weeks' time, I will have formed a bond with my new coffee cup. And when we return to the U.S., I cannot bear to leave the cup behind. Because this cup holds more than my coffee. This cup holds the memories I am making, day by day, sip by sip, as I sit at my desk in Mexico. It holds the bright markets and the feel of the round cobblestone streets beneath my feet and the smiles of the

countless friendly people I meet every day.

So, when it is time to leave, I take the new coffee cup with me, and I use it every day I am in the U.S. until we leave for Mexico again. Then I put my new cup away in the cupboard, and when I arrive back in Mexico, I start the process all over again.

Some people (people like Peter) might detect a potential flaw in this routine. Over time, my cupboard in the U.S. is becoming filled with beautiful Mexican coffee cups.

But it seems to me there are worse problems a person could have. Every time I open my cupboard, I am reminded of markets and streets and smiles.

Today, I am enjoying a beautiful new cup I bought just days ago. It is several shades of blue, and I already know there is no possibility I could leave this cup behind. Because this perfect cup holds things I want to keep forever. And I know for certain my coffee always tastes a little better when I drink it out of a perfect cup.

Till next time,
Carrie

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

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without breakfast is \$10 for Crawfordsville / Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce members and \$15 for non-members.

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