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➔ TODAY'S VERSE

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

➔ FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



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 Looking for something to do on Dec. 9? Then you might want to head over to Russellville for the Second Annual Russellville Small Business Market Holiday Showcase. Things kick off at 10 a.m. and wrap up around 4 p.m. There will be more than 50 vendors offering a variety of items, as well as plenty of things to do for both grown-ups and little ones. Santa will even make an appearance and photo prints will be available for a low price.

2 Celebrate the holiday season with a treasured Wabash Valley tradition! The Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Artistic Director, David Bowden, will take the stage for its annual holiday concert, A Symphony Christmas, on Saturday, December 2nd at 7:30pm at Tilson Auditorium. Music-lovers of all ages will enjoy holiday favorites such as Sleigh Ride, Festive Sounds of Hanukkah, selections from The Nutcracker plus an audience singalong! The performance will feature Angela Brown, world-renowned soprano, singing Sweet Little Jesus Boy, O Holy Night, My Simple Christmas Wish and more. Tickets are going really fast, so make plans soon to attend this festive musical celebration! Additional tickets will be released for purchase after November 20...

3 MCCF will award the final round of grants for 2023 on Thursday, 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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Photo courtesy of the office of Jim Baird

Congressman Jim Baird And State Representative Beau Baird Hold Agriculture Roundtable In Crawfordsville

Congressman Jim Baird and State Representative Beau Baird held a roundtable discussion on agriculture with concerned stakeholders in Crawfordsville recently.

This meeting brought together local producers eager to learn more about developments at the state and federal levels that will impact their farming operations, especially as Congress completes its work on the Farm Bill.

"People are anxious to hear more about what's being done

at every level of government to support our farmers, ranchers, and growers," said Congressman Baird. "I'm pleased to report that Congress has extended many Farm Bill programs at the Federal level so our producers can continue to rely on them. But these extensions will not replace a full Farm Bill reauthorization. I'm incredibly grateful to everyone for attending this roundtable and sharing their thoughts as we continue our work on the Farm Bill."

"Farming is more than just

a job in west central Indiana. It truly is a deep part of our culture. Our producers need to know that we have their back and are always listening to their needs," said Rep. Baird. "Roundtable discussions like this aren't just about sharing information with my constituents. They're also about listening to their concerns so I can continue to bring their voice to Indianapolis. I'd like to thank everyone for joining us for this important discussion and making their voice heard."

Sports Flashback...CHS Athenian Team Of 1966



BUTCH DALE
COLUMNIST

Since basketball season is starting, let's take a look at some teams and players from years gone by... first off, the 1966 C-Ville Athenians. In 1958, with Dick Baumgartner as coach, the Athenians finished as runner-up in the IHSAA state tournament, losing to Fort Wayne South in the championship game. During the next two years, the CHS squads posted a combined regular season record of 29-11 and won the sectionals both years. Then the teams hit a dry

spell. From 1961 through 1965, under three different coaches, Baumgartner, Tommy Thompson, and Dick Haslam, their combined regular season record was only 39-58. Adding insult to injury, the Athenians lost the 1961 sectional championship game to New Ross and were defeated in a 1962 semifinal sectional game to Ladoga.

Dick Haslam, an outstanding player on the 1958 team, had taken over the coaching duties in 1964. His teams won the sectionals in 1964 and 1965, but could only manage a combined regular season record of 13-25. Dick was determined to have a winning season the next year in 1966. He needed another top-notch scorer to complement his two high scoring guards, Randy Frederick and Jim Krout...and

he found one...Joe Pierce, a Waynetown transfer, who could hit from long range with deadly accuracy.

The team had to play state ranked Lebanon...and yes, Rick Mount, in their first game, which was held at Hinkle fieldhouse. They lost 89-67, but then made a comeback and won their next game at home against Brazil 71-66. The Athenians were successful in all of their next home games until they went up against powerful Lafayette Jeff. With scoring help from Tom Burns, Jim Peacock, and Bill Terry, CHS finished the season at 12-8, the first winning season since 1960. It was a bittersweet ending, however, as they lost the first game of the

➔ See BUTCH Page A5

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 7:45 a.m.
SET: 5:25 p.m.

High/Low Temperatures
High: 29 °F
Low: 17 °F



Today is...

- Giving Tuesday
- National French Toast Day
- Red Planet Day



What Happened On This Day

- 1967 First pulsar observed. Graduate student Jocelyn Bell and her advisor Antony Hewish at Cambridge University were the first people to observe and discover pulsars. Pulsars are rapidly spinning neutron magnetized stars that emit radiation.
- 1964 NASA launches Mariner 4. The first spacecraft to make a flyby of Mars, the spacecraft was the first one to send images of a planet back to Earth.
- 1943 Tehran Conference begins. The Tehran Conference between the US, the UK and the Soviet Union began at the Soviet Embassy in Tehran. The conference dealt with the Axis powers in Europe and Asia and made plans to open up a second front against the Germans in France during WW II.

Births On This Day

- 1962 Jon Stewart American comedian, actor, television host
- 1820 Friedrich Engels German philosopher

Deaths On This Day

- 2010 Leslie Nielsen Canadian/American actor
- 1954 Enrico Fermi Italian physicist, Nobel Prize laureate

➔ HONEST HOOSIER

Good gosh, it's almost a week and I am still full from Thursday - and thankful I had family and a meal. Too many others did not.



➔ INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

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

➔ THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Christmas Parade Sunday!!!!

Join our community for the Christmas Parade in Historic Downtown Crawfordsville on Sunday at 2 pm!! We can't wait to see your smiling faces! Thank you to our Christmas Parade Sponsors: Presented by Hoosier Heartland State Bank. Santa's Sleigh powered by Acuity Brands. Spirit of Christmas sponsor is Stevenson's Ace Hardware. Judge sponsors are Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power, Lakeside Book Company and Tri-County Bank & Trust. Sounds sponsor is Turn It Up Sound Productions.

➔ 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.

"Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets."
-Napoleon Bonaparte

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

If you get up before the newspaper is delivered, don't despair. You're ahead of The Times!

➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Getting up at the same time every day is very important to getting good sleep. 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.



➔ OBITUARIES

None

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



8 51246 00100 5



13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

32 WINDY, COLD	17/29 SINGLE DIGIT WIND CHILLS	20/46 WINDY, SUNNY	28/52 BREEZY, P.M. RAIN	43/45 RAIN LIKELY	32/46 GRADUAL CLEARING	37/53 CHANCE OF RAIN/SNOW
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

➔ Meeting Notes

Southmont Schools Board of Trustees Notice of Executive Session Board Meeting

Corporation Board Room
6401 US 231 South, Crawfordsville
Wednesday, November 29 @ 6:30 PM
The South Montgomery Community School Corporation Board of Trustees will meet in executive session on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m. at the Corporation's Administrative Office located at 6401 South US 231, Crawfordsville, Indiana

47933.
I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
AGENDA
To meet with Administrative Assistants to begin the search for a new Superintendent.
III. Adjourn.
Future Meetings:
December 11, 2023 - Regular Board Meeting - Corporation Board Room - 6:00 p.m.
January 8, 2024 - Regular Board Meeting - Corporation Board Room - 6:00 p.m.

Crawfordsville District Public Library Board of Trustees 2024 Board Meeting Schedule

The Library Board meets monthly on the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the library.

- January 11 (also Board of Finance)
- February 8
- March 14
- April 11

- May 9
- June 13
- July 11
- August 8
- September 12 (also 2025 budget hearing)
- October 10 (also 2025 budget adoption)
- November 14
- December 12

December Community Education And Support Group Classes Offered By Witham Health

- Diabetes Self-Management Class - Call the Diabetes Education Department at 765-485-8126 for individualized class, scheduling and pricing.
- Rock Steady Boxing 1 & 2 - held weekly at 9:00 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- Rock Steady Boxing 3 & 4 - held weekly at 9:45 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- Silver Sneakers - held weekly at 11:15 a.m. on Mondays for those 65 or older at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126

for more information on scheduling and pricing.
• Silver Sneakers Cardio - held weekly at 11:15 a.m. on Wednesdays for those 65 or older at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
• Silver Sneakers Chair Yoga - held weekly at 11:15 a.m. on Thursdays for those 65 or older at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
• Tai Chi for Health 2 - Tai Chi for Health 2 classes are cancelled in December.
• Tai Chi for Health 1 - In December, classes are FREE to the Community! Class is held every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. at the Witham Health Services

South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
• Fight Smart - Designed to reduce the risk of any chronic disease you may be facing. Held weekly at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays and another class on Thursday's at 9:00 a.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Class is Free through the Community Foundation Grant.
• Restorative Yoga - is held weekly on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
• Flow Yoga - held weekly on Fridays at 12:30 p.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-

8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
• Breastfeeding Support Group - is held weekly on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in the VIP Dining Room. The meeting is cancelled on Monday, December 25.
• Individualized Breastfeeding Support is available with a Lactation Consultant. To schedule an appointment and for pricing, call 765-485-8411.
• Alzheimer's Support Group - Tuesday, December 19th at 6:00 p.m. in the Beck Room.
• Cancer Support Cooking for Wellness - Tuesday, December 19th at 6:00 p.m. in the South Pavilion Wellness Center.
• Cancer Support Group - Monday, December 18th at 6:00 p.m. in the North Pavilion Conference Rooms. Parking is Parking Lot and exterior door is marked 39.
• Grief Support Group - Tuesday, December 19th at 6:00 p.m. in VIP Dining Room

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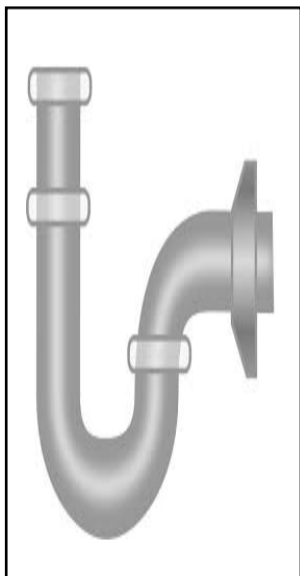
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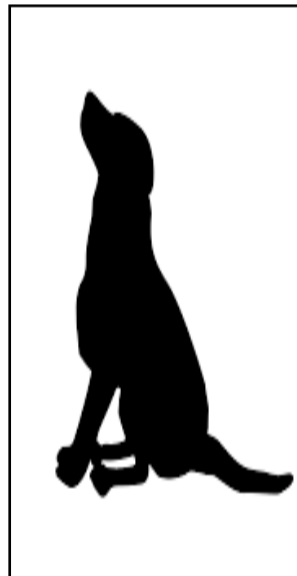


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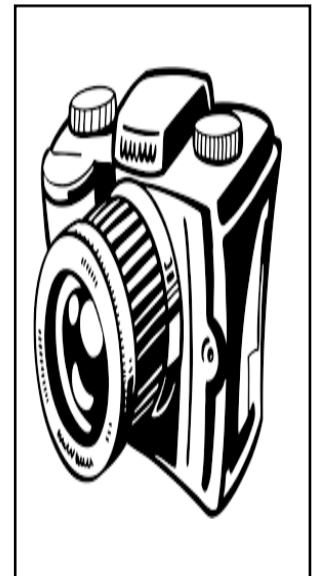
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Giant Sequoias: How To Save The Last Of The Biggest Trees

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: What is the status of California's giant sequoias trees and what's being done to save them from extinction?

Giant sequoias, which can grow upwards of 300 feet tall with circumferences of 90+ feet around at ground level, are among the largest and longest living species on the planet today. Some are over 3,000 years old. But climate change, human activities and wildfires are threatening their very existence in their native habitat on the western slopes of California's Sierra Nevada mountains.

Biologists estimate there are about 80,000 naturally occurring giant sequoias left there and worry that another bad wildfire year—like 2015, 2017 or 2020, when National Park Service biologists clad the lower flanks of the biggest trees with tin foil to deter the flames—could decimate those remaining trees.

Giant sequoias have evolved to withstand moderate fires, but the recent infernos, exacerbated by climate change, have been catastrophic. Not only do these fires destroy the trees directly, they also hinder the natural reproduction process by killing young sequoias and preventing seeds from germinating.

While fire has been the most immediate threat in recent years, climate change in general is altering the trees' environment—and may be the final nail in their coffin. Rising temperatures, prolonged droughts and erratic precipitation patterns have weakened the trees, making them more susceptible to pests and disease, and disrupting the natural fire regime that they have depended on for regeneration for millennia.

To mitigate the impacts of climate change, researchers and conservationists are studying how these trees respond to changing environmental conditions. They are also implementing measures like controlled burns to mimic natural fire cycles and create a more suitable habitat for the sequoias.

Human activities, such as logging, urban development and recreation further exacerbate the challenges faced by giant sequoias. Urbanization around these groves disrupts their ecosystems, and recreational activities can harm their shallow root systems. Efforts are also being made to limit human impacts in sequoia territory. Strict regulations on logging, urban expansion and recreational activities near these groves aim to preserve the natural ecosystem and minimize disturbances to the trees.

Moreover, collaborative

initiatives between government agencies, conservation organizations, and local communities are crucial for the long-term protection of these ancient giants. Public awareness campaigns, educational programs, and eco-tourism practices that emphasize responsible visitation also play a vital role in ensuring the survival of these magnificent trees. Whether or not our grandchildren will get to visit these giant sequoias may well depend on our ability to rein in carbon emissions here and around the world in time to stave off cataclysmic climate change. Indeed, the fate of these giant trees, as well as thousands of other plants and animals, hangs in the balance.

-CONTACTS: Helping or hindering? US scientists debate how to save giant sequoias, <https://phys.org/news/2023-09-hindering-scientists-debate-giant-sequoias.html>; Save The Giant Sequoias, <https://www.savetheredwoods.org/redwoods/fire/save-the-giant-sequoias/>; The race to save 'awe-inspiring' giant sequoias, <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2023/08/the-race-to-save-awe-inspiring-giant-sequoias/>.

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.

Training Animals Is Not So Hard



Slim Randles Home Country

The secret to training any animal is simply timing, says the former cowboy who was unable to teach his horse to jump a two-by-four. But that was long ago, of course, and today, the wisdom age gives us makes these training secrets available to those who will accept them.

Just take our beagle, Minnie. To be fair, she lives in a one-dog house. But she also lives with three cats. It's not that Minnie is intimidated. When she is approached by a cat who isn't sufficiently awed by her wonderfulness, what she's doing isn't cringing, she's

merely practicing her third-grade atomic attack position in the middle of the living room.

And we recently went through yet another of our famous Albuquerque hot air balloon fiestas. I'm sure you know about our fiesta, where hundreds of migratory birds are frightened out of their minds, the locals make millions selling champagne and propane, and the restaurants try to see who can kill the most tourists with their special mix of green chile.

Now Minnie, who can view millions of miles of sky from our yard, has a very simple solution to the balloon problem: shoot them down and kill them all. Why? Because these aren't balloons that are fun, or kind to dogs. If you listen closely, the translation is

clear ... " I SEE YOU, YOU BLOATED FIRE BREATHING DOG EATER! Come down here and show me your permit to fly over our house! Or come down and fight like a dog!"

Multiply that by 840 balloons, and the message makes it all the way up to the invading pilots.

Grandchildren deserve to be impressed by an ancestor's animal training abilities as well. Just ask mine about Fluffy. Fluffy is my well-trained lizard in the back yard.

In summer, I'll often look at him on the concrete block wall and order him to do push-ups for the kids. He's good at it, too.

-Brought to you by a novel of the Southwest, Sun Dog Days, by Slim Randles. www.betterworldbooks.com/go/mission

State Accepting Applications For Teaching Scholarships

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE) is now accepting applications for the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship, which offers future teachers up to \$40,000 in financial aid, said State Sen. Brian Buchanan.

The scholarship is open to current high school seniors and college students who plan to teach in Indiana for at least five years after graduating from college.

"I encourage anybody considering a career in teaching to apply for this scholarship program," Buchanan said. "Our state's future depends on having quality educators

at the front of our classrooms, and this scholarship program offers financial assistance to the best of our next generation of teachers."

Eligible students can receive up to \$10,000 per year over their four-year collegiate career. Applications must be submitted by Jan. 31, 2024 to ScholarTrack.in.gov.

During the 2023 legislative session, Buchanan sponsored House Enrolled Act 1637, which increased the amount of money the CHE can award a recipient each year from \$7,500 to \$10,000.

"This legislation was aimed at attracting talented young Hoosiers into

the teaching profession," Buchanan said. "I am happy to see the bill start to make its intended impact on our state's future educators."

HEA 1637 also established the Next Generation Hoosier Minority Educators Scholarship, which will award up to \$10,000 to an applicant who is a member of a minority group.

To qualify for one of these two scholarships, applicants must rank in the top 20% of their high school graduating class, have a top 20th percentile score on the ACT or SAT, or have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Thanks for reading The Paper!

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DCS Annual Staffing Report Nearly 100% Statewide But one county in southern Indiana met just 53% of the need

By Whitney Downard
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Staffing levels for family case managers meet 99% of the need statewide, according to the annual staffing and caseload report from the Department of Child Services (DCS), but some areas of the state face a greater need than others.

“Some of the most integral among the agency’s staff members are family case managers (FCMs). FCMs are the state’s front line against child abuse and neglect. Maintaining management caseloads for staff members is critical to ensuring the agency provides the best service possible to those in need,” DCS Director Eric Miller said in a report recently submitted to the Indiana State Budget Committee.

The agency compiles an annual report documenting its staffing needs following a series of scandals triggered by the resignation of Miller’s predecessor, Mary Bonaventura. In a scathing letter, Bonaventura claimed children would die following state funding cuts and subsequent, independent reviews found that DCS had a staffing crisis.

Legislative reform dictated that the agency “shall” meet certain goals when it came to FCMs, requiring more manageable caseloads and reducing the number of children overseen by individual staff.

Staffing details

DCS, the state’s third-largest agency, has 4,100 staff members and a little more than half of those are FCMs. But of those 2,100 FCMs, just 1,637 employees have an active caseload with another 158 FCMs in training. The remaining FCM staff oversee hotlines and licensing services within the agency.

However, the agency needs 24 additional FCMs to meet the required Child

Welfare League of America standards limiting staff to:

- No more than 12 cases (families) per month for caseworkers conducting child protection assessments
- No more than 17 family cases for caseworkers providing ongoing support to families involved in child protective services
- No more than 12 cases if caseworkers are conducting family-centered casework
- No more than 12 to 15 children in out-of-home care

The report calls FCMs “some of the most integral” to the agency’s mission, whose “dedication helps prevent future maltreatment as families rebuild and learn to provide a safe environment for the loved ones in their care.”

Of the agency’s 19 regions, 10 meet staffing standards and an additional four have at least 90% of the staff they need. The statewide staffing level is 99%.

The report details staffing by region and county, with several areas in southern Indiana below the ideal range. Region 14, which covers Bartholomew, Jackson, Jennings, Johnson and Shelby counties had the biggest staffing shortage, with just 74% of FCM need met.

However, two counties in the area — Jackson and Jennings — were fully staffed. Bartholomew had just over half, 53%, while Johnson had 64% and Shelby had 70%.

With 12-weeks of training, replacing staff isn’t as easy as hiring a new person — especially since recent graduates don’t immediately handle a full caseload. And DCS, like other employers, has had difficulty retaining and recruiting employees in a tight labor market with a historically low unemployment rate.

In Fiscal Year 2023 —

a period of time from July 1, 2022 to June 31, 2023, which is the calendar for the state budget — DCS reported losing 739 FCMs and hiring another 890.

One factor the agency cited was low pay, something noted in the 2022 State Personnel Department compensation study. Prior to that initiative, pay started at \$35,776 and increased to \$40,092 after the 12-week training period. Following the study, pay started at \$47,320.

Increasing salaries helped with retention but “challenges remain(ed) due to the difficult nature of the work.”

The report details recruitment efforts such as increasing the number of job fairs from 15 to 25, visiting colleges and universities, and hosting interview events at offices with five or more openings.

The importance of FCMs, families

High FCM turnover, according to the report, “can” result in: longer foster care stays for children, delays in timely assessments of allegations of abuse and neglect, disruptions in child placements and increased rates of repeat maltreatment.

“Supporting family case managers is paramount to ensuring the best service for the children in DCS’ care,” the report said.

The agency uses a six-month caseload average but “strives to hire 120% of its six-month average need of family case managers during October, November and December of each year to be prepared for one of the busiest times each year, which is March through May.”

Case numbers trended down in fiscal year 2023, with a total of 14,163 children interacting with DCS through informal adjustments, collaborative care or “child in need of services” (CHINS) compared to 15,838 the previous year — a decrease of

over 10%.

Between months caseloads also fluctuated from a low of 6,797 in July 2022 to a high of 9,651 in September 2022.

The agency highlighted several areas where it said it succeeded, including: fewer families in need of formal intervention, fewer children in residential care, fewer children who experienced repeat maltreatment and improved ratio of supervisors to case managers.

One effort potentially having an impact and decreasing the number of children in DCS’ system: kinship care, or family members raising children when their biological parents are unable to do so.

In the latest budget cycle, DCS pushed to add a \$300 monthly stipend for kinship caregivers, who are typically unlicensed and don’t qualify for foster care payments.

Additionally, calls to Indiana’s 24-hour Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline were down in the last year.

“While the hotline has historically seen an increase in reports year over year, there has been a recent plateau and reduction in the number of reports generated ...” the report said, listing calls per year. “From (fiscal year) 2016 to (fiscal year) 2019, the hotline received a 14% increase in reports. This is believed to be due in large part to increased awareness of the hotline.

“In (fiscal year) 2023, the hotline saw a 4% reduction in reports since the previous year.”

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BUTCH

From Page A1



Photo courtesy of Butch Dale

Varsity Basketball Team Left to Right: Jim Krout, Tom Burns, Larry Grimes, Randy Frederick, Joe Pierce, Kelly Cochran, Roger Elledge, Bill Terry, Jim Zach, Jim Peacock, Ted Lynch, Dan Sommers, Tom Hall. Center: Manager Ron Fyffe, Coach Dick Haslam, Manager Bill Burkett.

sectional to Coal Creek Central, led by Lee Fouts, Rich Stonebraker, Larry Lidester, Chuck McKnight, and Denny Mennen. During that 1966 season, Pierce, Frederick, and Krout combined for an average of 42 points per game.

The future looked even brighter though, as Pierce, Frederick, Jim Zach, Tom Hall, and Roger Elledge would return in 1967, along with very promising sophomore subs Kelly Cochran and Larry Grimes. Pierce, Grimes, and Cochran all averaged 18 points each that next year, with Randy Frederick tossing in an additional 12 points per game. Haslam’s crew finished 13-7 in 1967 and 16-5 in 1968, defeating some very good teams. Surprisingly, the Athenians lost the 1967 sectional to New Ross, who had a record of 11-8, but came back the next year in 1968 to beat Waveland, who had the county’s leading scorer Mike Mitchell, in the sectional final. The CHS fans were happy again! In those days, if any small school county team beat Crawfordsville, it was considered an upset, and the fans were ecstatic. The Athenian players and fans

did NOT like to lose to the county schools!

Darlington had the best team in their school’s history in 1969, but were sent to play in the Lebanon sectional. In a stunning turn of events, Darlington, which was undefeated at 21-0, won the Lebanon sectional by defeating Speedway in the championship game 56-54. Crawfordsville, with a record of 9-11, won the local sectional by beating Coal Creek in the final game 72-63. The two teams then had to play against each other in the regional contest at Frankfort. The Athenians, led by their two top scorers, Kirk Links and Steve Templeton, were thrilled when they ended the Indians’ winning streak, defeating them 70-66. However, next year in the 1970 sectional, Crawfordsville lost to Waynetown, coached by former Linden standout Fred Johnson, 74-69 in the final game.... the ups and downs of basketball!!!

- 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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