

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

50¢

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

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TODAY'S VERSE

1 John 4:20 If a man say, "I love God," and hateth his brother, he is a liar. For he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?



Happenings

Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023

GOVERNMENT
Crawfordsville Board of Zoning Appeals at City Building, 7 p.m.
County Commissioners at Government Center (US 231 North), 8 a.m.
Special Solid Waste Management District Meeting at Government Center (US 231 North), 8:30 a.m.

NORTH MONTGOMERY SCHOOLS
North Montgomery H.S. Choir Concert at NMHS, 7 p.m.

WABASH
Wabash College basketball at Eastern University, 2 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 22, 2023

NORTH MONTGOMERY SCHOOLS
North Montgomery Schools, end of second semester

Monday, Dec. 25, 2023

GOVERNMENT
City, County buildings closed
CRAWFORDSVILLE SCHOOLS
Winter Break
NORTH MONTGOMERY SCHOOLS
Winter Break
WABASH COLLEGE
Offices closed

Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2023

GOVERNMENT
City, County buildings closed
CRAWFORDSVILLE SCHOOLS
Winter Break
NORTH MONTGOMERY SCHOOLS
Winter Break
WABASH COLLEGE
Offices closed

Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023

GOVERNMENT
Crawfordsville Historic Preservation Commission, City Building, 5:30 p.m.
CRAWFORDSVILLE SCHOOLS
Winter Break
NORTH MONTGOMERY SCHOOLS
Winter Break
WABASH COLLEGE
Offices closed

IRA Whiskey Investing \$5M Here

IRA Whiskey Co. is looking to invest in an exciting project in Crawfordsville, Indiana. The proposed new facility is planned to be approximately 26,000 square feet and will focus on whiskey storage and aging as well as an event space. The investment is estimated to be \$5 million and includes the creation of approximately 5-10 jobs at an average hourly range of \$17-\$72/hour. Subject to normal due diligence and local approvals as part of the decision-making process, IRA will seek tax abatement and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) incentives from the City of Crawfordsville. If approved by the City, this project will help to bring the city one step closer to rounding out the completion of the Crawfordsville Commerce Park. "IRA Whiskey is excited to

explore the opportunity to bring a state-of-the-art bourbon aging facility to Crawfordsville," said Bryan Fong, Director of IRA Whiskey Co. "The prospect of investing in local Indiana Whiskey and helping regional craft distilleries to scale their operations has been a key area of focus for us for some time now."

Crawfordsville Mayor Barton shared "We are excited that IRA Whiskey Co. has chosen to invest in Crawfordsville and we would like to welcome them to our community. Their work to further enhance products grown and processed in Indiana further diversifies our manufacturing business base, and the additional high-quality event space that is a part of their investment will serve as a regional draw."

Skipping Over the Rooftops . . . and Other Topics

Notes scribbled on the back of a Gene Autry album cover . . .

AS MY PAL Honest Hoosier might say, here's a tip of the seed corn cap to Wabash College! One of the faces of Wabash in our community - Jim Amidon, a truly good guy - helped lead efforts to secure a \$25 million grant from the great folks at Eli Lilly. I know, you might be thinking that it's money that will go inside the walls over there off Grant and Wabash. Not so, my friends! That money is going to be used in large part around our community - especially with kids. As Mayor Todd Barton said, the college and city are intertwined and this is a great example of how good that connection can be!

THANK YOU all so much for your feedback and your reaction so far to our decision to publish three days a week! We've already started making some changes - including adding



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

a calendar and a bit of a redesign. And more are coming! It has been said in this space that The Paper readers are the smartest, most involved readers around - and you keep proving it over and over!

SPEAKING OF changes - one of the changes . . . coming next week actually, will be movement of two of my favorite columnists. Butch Dale's wonderful

ELI LILLY? Is there another organization that does as much good in this state?

➔ See TIM Page A5

You are the gift: two causes

On Christmas, 2017, Isaac Weliver's mother died. Already a fraught holiday for him, that Christmas sealed itself as a disaster.



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.lwvmtncoin.org or message to LWV, PO Box 101, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

This year, as he chairs the annual community Christmas Dinner for the second year, he thinks of all those who face the holiday for the first time without a loved one, or those with fresh traumas, knotted up family situations or who are celebrating alone. Six years ago, Weliver had come back to Crawfordsville to care for his mom after cheffing and launching successful restaurants around the world. After his mother died, he stuck around Crawfordsville, opening Francis and Mount.

Life in the restaurant business is life lived on a thin margin. Restaurants, especially local ones, fight to exist. Food is temperamental, given to expiring, with tastes changing with trends and people deciding not to eat out when budgets are tight. Because it's a service industry, owners constantly balance paying staff well with keeping prices affordable. When the pandemic hit, Weliver's will to survive inspired him to create Feed the Fam (FaM). With donations, he served meals to front-line workers, so serving the community with Montgomery County's annual Christmas dinner came as a natural next step. Then in 2021, when the current chair Joyce Fitzwater was ready to relinquish her role, Weliver's cousin saw an ad

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset

RISE: 8:02 am
SET: 5:25 pm



High/Low Temperatures

HIGH: 46°F
LOW: 32°F



Today is...

- Games Day
- Go Caroling Day
- Dot Your I's Day



What Happened On This Day

• **2007** Queen Elizabeth becomes the longest-living British monarch. The previous longest living monarch - Queen Victoria - died on Jan 22, 1901, when she was 81 years, 7 months, and 29 days old. Queen Elizabeth, who was born on 21 April 1926, turned 81 years, 7 months and 30 days on this day.

• **1803** Louisiana Purchase completed. The United States was officially handed over the territory of Louisiana by the French. The French had regained control of the territory that spans over 15 present-day states and 2 Canadian territories in 1800. In 1762, Spain had taken over the territory.



Births On This Day

- **1976** Aubrey Huff - American baseball player
- **1966** Matt Neal - English race car driver

Deaths On This Day

- **1976** Richard J. Daley - 48th Mayor of Chicago
- **1812** Sacagawea - member of the Lewis, Clark Expedition

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Poor dental health can lead to an increased risk of heart disease. 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



THREE THINGS You Should Know

- 1 There will be a free jazz piano concert featuring Luke Gillespie at 10:30 a.m. on Christmas Eve at Freedom Baptist Church near Waveland. Gillespie, an acclaimed performer and educator of jazz piano, is a professor of jazz piano at Indiana University's Jacob School of Music. Freedom Baptist Church is located just minutes west of the intersection of US234 and US47, between Crawfordsville and Waveland. The program is free.
- 2 The Indianapolis Home Show is coming back to the Indiana State Fairgrounds for the 102nd time and guess who will have free tickets once again? That's right, your favorite Montgomery County newspaper! Mark the dates on your calendar - Friday, Jan. 19 through Sunday, Jan. 28. This Indiana tradition is the oldest home show in North America and to get your FREE tickets from us, all you'll have to do is send us a selfie with your smiling face, our front page (electronic or print) and your name and contact information. And hey, if you want to say something nice about us, we wouldn't object! Don't send it yet. Watch for the contest beginning in a few weeks.
- 3 'Tis the season to get jolly, big time -- especially in Texas where everything is bigger. Take the gigantic inflatable Santa that mysteriously showed up in a vacant lot in Tyler, TX in time for the holiday season. Resident Marsha Daugherty told KETK-TV, "Nobody lives on this lot, so we don't know who installed Santa. But isn't that fun?" Locals will tell you that whoever is responsible for the gigantic Christmas present made the holiday all the better. It's estimated that he or she who came up with the idea spent a thousand dollars or more to arrange the special holiday event.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection." Winston Churchill

TODAY'S JOKE

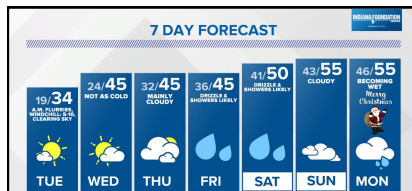
Knock knock!
Who's there?
Holly
Holly who?
Holly-days are here again!

THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Time is running out to contribute to this year's Montgomery County United Way fund drive. It wraps up Dec. 31 and is in its final hours. The goal is \$375,000 and will only be reached with your help! The money is needed to support 19 non-profit agencies serving Montgomery County and your help is important. Every penny counts - and can not only benefit those in need but can help you at tax time! Won't you please consider a gift where a gift is most needed? Go to www.uwmontgomery.org or mail a check to United Way in Montgomery County, PO Box 247 Crawfordsville, IN 47933.



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



Three Wabash College Students Earn Gilman Scholarships



Elijah Greene

CRAWFORDSVILLE, Indiana – Three Wabash College students have earned Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships to study abroad. Elijah Greene '25, Hunter Otto '26, and Olivier Tuyishime '25 earned scholarships to study in Thessaloniki, Greece, Heidelberg, Germany, and Kigali, Rwanda, respectively, for their international experiences. Twenty-nine Wabash students now have earned Gilman Scholarships since 2016.

A biology and Classics double major, Greene is the photo editor for The Bachelor, the school newspaper. He traveled to Greece in May 2023 as part of an immersion learning experience. "I never would have guessed the

importance and prestige that came with winning a national scholarship," said Greene, a native of Pine Village, Indiana. "As soon as I won, people stressed how incredible it was, and now I believe them. It's an honor and privilege to join this cohort. I can't wait to see what the Gilman has in store for me."

Otto, a PPE and German double major, currently serves as the philanthropy chair for the Independent Men's Association, president of the Bass Fishing Club, secretary of the Wabash Republicans, and is a member of the rugby team. Further, he begins ROTC training at Purdue University next semester. This will be his first trip abroad. "This is a nationally com



Hunter Otto

petitive scholarship and the opportunity gives me a sense of purpose to make the most of what I have been given," said Otto, a native of Normal, Illinois. "As a PPE and German major, I am excited at the idea of taking philosophy, politics, and economics classes in German. It is the opportunity of a lifetime to get an education while gaining a deeper appreciation of the culture."

Tuyishime, a political science major and Black Studies minor, currently is a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies. Previously, he traveled to Havana, Cuba, as part of an immersion learning experience. "I'm grateful for Susan Albrecht and my family and

friends for supporting me throughout the application process," said Tuyishime, an Indianapolis resident and native of Rwanda. "After applying for a Gilman last year, I was happy to hear the good news this year." Supported by the U.S. Congress, the Gilman Scholarship is an initiative of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and is aided in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE). The purpose of the Gilman International Scholarship program is to encourage participation in study abroad programs for under-represented students, particularly those who are studying in under-represented areas of the world and/or under-represented languages.



Olivier Tuyishime

The IIE seeks to support a cohort of American students studying abroad which reflects the true diversity of the nation. Scholarship recipients have the opportunity to gain a better understanding of other cultures, countries, languages, and economies, making them better prepared to assume leadership roles within government and the private sector. "This was a terrific application cycle for Wabash, as all three of our applicants were named Gilman Scholars," said Albrecht, Wabash College fellowship advisor. "All three gentlemen worked diligently on their applications, and it showed. Nationally, the success rate was around 30%, so I'm incredibly pleased with this outcome and am

excited to hear about the experiences the Gilman Scholarship will help facilitate for Olivier, Elijah, and Hunter." These Wabash students are among the many Wabash men who have earned highly competitive fellowships in the last decade, including the Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, Obama Voyager, Yenching, Goldwater, and Point Foundation Flagship Scholarships. Additionally, Wabash students have earned the Center for the Study of Presidency and Congress' Presidential Fellowship, U.K. Fulbright Summer Institute placement, and NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships, to go with 27 Fulbrights and 29 Gilman Scholarships.

Thank you for subscribing!

Terre Haute Mayor to Lead OCRA

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch announced that Terre Haute Mayor Duke A. Bennett will become the new Executive Director of the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). Bennett will begin in his new role at OCRA in Indianapolis on Jan. 8. "The next chapter in Indiana's history is quality of life, in large and small communities around the state, and Mayor Bennett understands this," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "As communities and cities strive to build economically thriving places where people want to live, work and grow, Mayor Bennett will spread the collaborative spirit he cultivated in Vigo County around the state. Indiana will be in good hands with Mayor Bennett leading the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs into the future."

Bennett, from Terre Haute, is finishing his last term as that city's mayor. He was first elected mayor in 2007, and his four terms ties him for second longest serving mayor in Terre Haute history. In addition to being mayor, Bennett has also served as a Special Deputy Sheriff with the Vigo County Sheriff's Department for more than 20 years. He sits on the board of Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM), which is an organization representing more than 460 cities and towns as members. AIM's goal is to help shape the dynamic municipalities of the future and make government work better for the benefit of all Hoosiers. "I am thankful and honored for this opportunity from Lt. Gov. Crouch," said Bennett. "As a four-term mayor, it's obvious I love the city of Terre Haute. But, I am equally passionate about the state of

Indiana, and I am excited I have the opportunity to work with mayors, township boards and local officials all around that state who all share a common goal of making their communities – and Indiana – the best it can be." Bennett graduated with an A.S. from Indiana Vocational Technical College in 1980 and earned his B.S. in Business Administration from Indiana Wesleyan University in 2006.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S
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FOR THE RECORD

Montgomery County Solid Waste Management District Board

AGENDA
 JOINT SPECIAL
 MEETING

Montgomery County
 Solid Waste
 Management District
 Board

Solid Waste
 Management District
 Advisory Committee

WEDNESDAY,
 DECEMBER 20, 2023

8:30 AM

Montgomery County
 Government Center
 1580 Constitution Row
 – Suite E109
 Crawfordsville, IN
 47933

CALL TO ORDER -
 Chairman Dan Guard

PLEDGE OF
 ALLEGIANCE

RECYCLING
 CONTRIBUTION
 DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

We appreciate our readers!

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FOR THE RECORD

Montgomery County Board of Commissioners

AGENDA

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2023 8 AM
1580 Constitution Row - Room E109
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

CALL TO ORDER
Board President John E. Frey
PLEDGE ALLIGENCE and PRAYER

Approval of Claims: AP & 12/15/23
Payroll Minutes: December 11, 2023
Accept 2023 Risk Management Report
Accept 2023 ADA Annual Report
Accept 2023 Title VI Annual Report
Adopt 2024 Meeting Dates & Time
MOU between Health Department and Youth Service Bureau
MOU between Health Department and Crawfordsville Fire Department

Public Hearing - Woodland Heights Property Re-Zone a Parcel of Real Property from Agricultural to Commercial

Ordinance 2023-37 Approving the Request of Woodland Heights Church and Rezoning a Certain Parcel of Land at 1200 North State Road 47 from Agricultural to Commercial

2024 Commission Board Appointments

NEW BUSINESS
Thrive West Central: Residential Market Potential Analysis

ORDINANCES

Final Ordinance 2023-32 Amending Internal Controls To Adopt Segregation of Duties Policy
Final Ordinance 2023-33 Amending Health Department Tattoo Parlor Fees
Final Ordinance 2023-34 Amending Health Department Retail

Food Establishment Fees
Final Ordinance 2023-35 Amending Health Department Swimming Pool and Spa

Operation Fees
Final Ordinance 2023-36 Creating Title IV-E Incentive Payment Program Grant Fund Introduction
Ordinance 2023-38 Amending Health Department Fees for Services

RESOLUTIONS
Resolution 2023-8 Resolution of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners Regarding Approval of Creation of Allocation Areas

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT



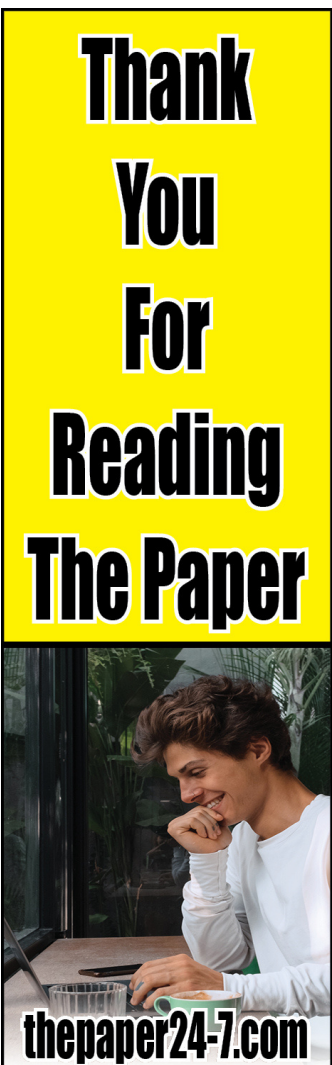
Sitting In Judgment



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

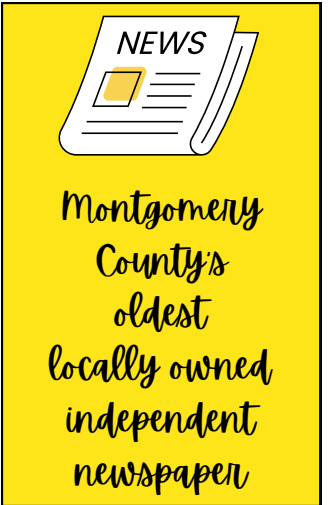
The children were in the pew in front of me. We had not arrived early enough at my sister's church for the Christmas Eve service to secure a seat in the back, so we were in the fourth row. The first row is never used by anyone; the second row is only for people who arrive impossibly late. The third row is, for all intents and purposes, the front row, and that's where these two wild-looking children were. The children were provisioned with colored pencils and drawing paper but, other than that, looked rather neglected. Neither one had seen a comb in a long time. Both were dressed in a combination of outdoor wear and pajamas. Neither was actually sitting on the pew. The girl was sitting on the floor, using the bench as a drawing table. The boy was sprawled out across the bench, arms and legs akimbo. I felt myself making judgments. I get that way sometimes. "Seriously," I thought, "is getting out of their pajamas too much to ask?" The children paid no attention to the service. When the congregation rose to sing, the children remained where they were. When the other kids went up for the children's sermon, the boy disappeared outside, and the girl remained where she was. "Where has he gone?" I wondered. These children seemed feral to me. "Probably raised by wolves," I said to amuse myself. "He's gone out to hunt squirrels," I conjectured. "Likely he is eating one now." The boy returned and lay back down on the pew. "Why are they even here?" I wondered. I looked at the skirt I had put on for the occasion, the good coat I had brought for

wearing to church, the time and effort the other parishioners had taken before leaving their homes. These children (and whoever had transported them to church) had clearly missed the memo. I was surprised when, as the service was about to end, a man joined the children. The boy suddenly snapped out of his lethargy and went to the man, who wrapped him in a hug. The boy and the man remained that way for a long time, oblivious to the service, enfolded in a hug. "Did you see the organist's kids in the front row?" my sister asked her husband after we got home. "Yeah," he said. I was about to make some snappy remark about their lack of grooming when my sister continued. "Her husband left them just a couple of weeks ago. He won't even answer his phone when the kids call. Her son is autistic, and she is just beside herself." "The husband was there," my brother-in-law told my sister. "He came into church at the very end." "Really?" my sister said and shook her head. I realized what a colossal ass I was. There are so many troubles I have never known. There is a world of pain I have never experienced. While I was dwelling on a couple of hastily dressed kids with messy hair quietly doodling in the front pew, there were wells of pain and loss and confusion right in front of me that I could not imagine. I do not like that prissy woman in the nice skirt who sits in judgment of those poor kids. I do not like her, and I don't want to be her. While I was focused on grooming and decorum, a tired, lost man took his child in his arms and—right in front of me—a Christmas miracle occurred, a miracle I was too blind to see. Till next time, Carrie



Holcombs Lose Their Dog Henry

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb and First Lady Janet recently lost their pet dog Henry, a 13-year-old miniature schnauzer. "Henry brought so much joy to Hoosiers young and old, two-legged and four-legged alike," the governor said in a statement. "He was more than a family pet to me and Janet as he gifted us daily with his funny, loving ways that we'll treasure forever. We thank everyone for embracing Henry and following his journey as the First Dog of Indiana. It warmed our hearts as we travelled the state to be met with the question, 'How's Henry?' Henry's exuberance for life will be missed, and his place in our hearts never replaced." His wife agreed. "Henry, we were so lucky to be your humans. You will always be our very good boy,"



Tippecanoe County Visit Puts Spotlight on Water Issues

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb, Speaker Todd Huston and Senate Pro Tem Rodric Bray each made the following statements following a productive visit with local stakeholders in Tippecanoe County to discuss water issues. Participants included city and county elected officials as well as representatives from the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and Purdue University.

"Friday's meeting provided the opportunity to have an unfiltered conversation around the issue of water and a chance to reiterate what has been said all along, and that is the data - yet still to be gathered - will drive any or all future decisions. By joining Speaker Huston and Senator Bray in Tippecanoe County, it is my hope we demonstrated the close working partnership we share and our commitment to making sure we have the right

statewide water policy in place to support the entire state's economic growth and needs. Finally, it was especially nice to hear directly from local leaders as they shared their individual perspectives and discussed how we can all best cooperate and share data as the Indiana Finance Authority continues its work on its regional water study." -Gov. Eric Holcomb

"I want to thank Representatives Sharon Negele and Mark Genda for working tirelessly to ensure the voices of local residents remain top of mind, and I appreciate them taking leadership roles in this process as we look not only at Tippecanoe County, but water policy for the entire region and state. We are all committed to having a data-driven water study, and even if the results of the water study and independent review are favorable, any large projects will require

additional legislative review and approval before moving forward." - House Speaker Todd Huston

"While the IEDC is tasked with the important role of attracting business investment to the state, the many associated aspects of a major project like LEAP, including environmental impact, infrastructure development, tax and appropriation implications and workforce policy are the joint responsibility of the executive branch and the legislature. The IEDC has been a vital and successful driver of Indiana's job growth, but they are not and will not be the final decision maker on water issues related to the LEAP project. Sens. Deery and Alting have been my eyes and ears on this matter in the Senate, and I will be working closely with them as this study moves forward." - Senator Rodric Bray

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CALL NOW! 866-641-0141
COPAYS AND DEDUCTIBLES MAY APPLY

CPD Visits Cub Scout Pack 909 State Announces \$700 million settlement with Google



Assistant Chief Teeter of the Crawfordsville Police Department recently visited Cub Scout Pack 909. He shared the duties of a police officer and explained the different gear he uses. The Cub Scouts had a chance to ask questions and sit in the police car.

The pack meets on Wednesdays at American Legion Post 72. More information can be found on their Facebook page: Cub Scout Pack 909.



The state announced Tuesday a \$700 million agreement with Google in a lawsuit over Google's anticompetitive conduct with the Google Play Store. "When companies unlawfully monopolize markets, they cause real harm to Hoosiers," Attorney General Todd Rokita said. "They rob consumers of the ability to choose from a wider array of product options that would otherwise be available, and they artificially inflate the prices of the choices that remain available. This settlement demonstrates our commitment to protect consumers and hold companies accountable." A bipartisan group of 53 attorneys general sued Google in 2021 alleging that Google unlawfully monopolized the markets for Android app distribution and

in-app payment processing. Specifically, the states claimed that Google signed anticompetitive contracts to prevent other app stores from being preloaded on Android devices, induced key app developers who might have launched rival app stores, and created technological barriers to deter consumers from directly downloading apps to their devices. The states announced a settlement in principle on Sept. 5, 2023, and today released the finalized terms of that deal. Google will pay \$630 million in restitution, minus costs and fees, to consumers who made purchases on the Google Play Store between August 2016 and September 2023 and were harmed by Google's anticompetitive practices. Google will

pay the states an additional \$70 million in penalties. People eligible for restitution do not have to submit a claim. They will receive automatic payments through PayPal or Venmo, or they can elect to receive a check or ACH transfer. More details about that process will be forthcoming. The agreement also requires Google to reform its business practices in the following ways:

- Give all developers the ability to allow users to pay through in-app billing systems other than Google Play Billing for at least five years.
- Allow developers to offer cheaper prices for their apps and in-app products for consumers who use alternative, non-Google billing systems for at least five years.
- Allow the installation of third-party apps on Android phones from outside the Google Play Store for at least seven years.
- Revise and reduce the warnings that appear on an Android device if a user attempts to download a third-party app from outside the Google Play Store for at least 5 years.
- Maintain Android system support for third-party app stores, including allowing automatic updates, for four years.
- Not require developers to launch their app catalogs on the Play Store at the same time as they launch on other app stores for at least four years.

➔ See GOOGLE Page A6

Gubernatorial Candidates Answer Questions

By Casey Smith
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana's Republican gubernatorial candidates continued to carve out their own policy paths while speaking at an Indianapolis legislative conference Wednesday, where they fielded questions about public safety, school choice and taxes.

The five hopefuls, who took a few shots at each other, are vying for the GOP nomination in the race for the state's top elected seat in 2024.

The candidates did not debate against one another during the forum, instead introducing themselves and responding to four questions from a moderator.

Participating candidates included former Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Fort Wayne businessman Eric Doden and former Attorney General Curtis Hill. U.S. Sen. Mike Braun was missing from the group — away in Washington, D.C. alongside other federal lawmakers — but his pre-recorded video responses were played for each question.

Braun changes stance on qualified immunity

The GOP contenders were first asked about their plans to improve public safety

and where they stood, specifically, on qualified immunity — a controversial standard that protects police officers and other government officials from being sued for alleged misconduct.

Hill cited his career spent as a local prosecutor and maintained that, if elected governor, he would ensure law enforcement has the "resources, training and protection" they need "to protect our public and our safety." He did not, however, address qualified immunity head-on.

Crouch said there would be "no discussion" or action limiting qualified immunity at the state level. She also emphasized the importance of addressing mental illness and addiction — as well as providing regular mental health checkups for first responders.

Doden, on the other hand, vowed to protect qualified immunity: "You should not be able to be sued, personally, for doing your job."

"We have to make sure we support those who protect us," he continued, adding that Indiana's governor should play an active role in recruiting young people to join law enforcement.

Chambers agreed, saying police officers "don't do it for the money — they do it to serve." He said qualified immunity "needs to be

codified in state law." Braun said he wants it codified, too. Doing so will help "get rid of frivolous lawsuits" filed against law enforcement officers.

Although Braun said he prefers to see such a policy enacted at the national level, that's a change from his previous statements in 2020, when the senator said the interpretation of the qualified immunity standard was "overly broad" and "allows law enforcement in many of the high-profile excessive force and abuse of power cases to avoid civil suits."

A previous bill he introduced in the U.S. Senate would have allowed qualified immunity to be used as a defense only if the officer's conduct is already protected by law or a previous court ruling.

At the time, Braun said "... it straddles that balance between eliminating frivolous lawsuits" while allowing people whose rights have been violated to make a case.

He later backed away from the proposal.

"Axe" the tax? A bold proposal from Crouch to eliminate Indiana's personal income tax was also discussed — and critiqued — by the gubernatorial slate. Crouch's mantra holds that the tax can be "axed" completely without raising any other taxes on Hoosiers. Crouch's

plan calls for a "reasonably necessary" reserve fund, along with identifying and eliminating "wasteful government spending," but other specific details remain scant.

Even so, she doubled down Wednesday that tax dollars saved by Hoosiers would go back into the state economy. The move would also incentivize workers and companies to move to Indiana, Crouch said.

Chambers said he agreed with a plan to reduce taxes over time, but not in a single, extreme swoop. He said at least some personal income tax proceeds should be invested into "needs of the state," like health care and education.

Chambers additionally said reducing income taxes could cause property taxes to go "too high."

"I hear from Hoosiers right now about property taxes, not income taxes ... we don't want to cut muscle," he said.

Hill said he liked the sound of income tax elimination, but making it happen "will take a lot of maneuvering — and time." The candidate alternatively supports reductions to gas and corporation taxes. He's also proposed a personal income tax elimination for young people and seniors.

Braun was more targeted, saying

Crouch's plan "was probably done without thoroughly thinking through that it's one-third of our state revenue."

"Obviously, you cannot axe the tax," he said, noting he is committed, though, to curbing state agency spending.

Doden was also skeptical.

"I cannot in good faith tell you we're going to axe the tax unless there was a replacement tax or revenue source," he said.

Doubling down on 'school choice' All five candidates support ongoing Indiana GOP efforts to expand "school choice" options for parents, including the state's near-universal private school voucher program.

Chambers said Hoosier parents "need to be front and center in their kids' education."

"We've made progress on choice, and we need to make more progress," he said, adding that education statewide needs to better prepare students to fill Indiana's growing skilled workforce demands.

Doden said although some have criticized Indiana's voucher and charter school options, Hoosier educators he's talked to say "the competition" public schools face "has actually made them better."

Crouch said she would "continue to be a big proponent of school choice" as governor, but cautioned that "choice" will look different in the future, given that the K-12 experience in Indiana is shifting now toward more hands-on and work-based learning options.

Hill said "choice is vital," but focused more on what kids are taught. The candidate said he opposes "gender ideology programs and social justice" in the classroom, and that "we need to teach children how to think critically."

Along similar lines, Braun said "parents need to be the main stakeholders in their own kids' education," noting, too, that K-12 instruction "needs to get back where basic education is taught to our kids."

He further echoed the other candidates' calls for expanded career training for high schoolers, as well.

"Some things need a four-year degree, two-year degree — most of it needs a better high school education," Braun said. "I'll make that a number one priority."

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LWV

From Page A1

calling for a new leader. He called Chef Ike, as Weliver is respectfully and fondly called and told him, “This is your destiny.” Knowing he’d like to turn the Christmas season around, Weliver responded. Now in his second year, he credits the former chairs who’ve built the dinner and left their mark on the event, each in a unique way, expanding it to serve well over 1,200 meals. This year, the team of more than 70 volunteers plans to deliver 1,000 meals, about 90 percent of the meals they’ll serve along with pickup for those who have transportation and another 250 locals will sit down to enjoy the meal together. For years, churches provided the site for preparation and service. Most recently First Baptist hosted the dinner, but it’s outgrown those sites. Because Arnis is helping to prepare the turkeys donated by Lithonia Lighting and Francis and Mount is close by, the meal site is the Masonic Temple. Weliver notes it’s the best site to prepare well over a thousand meals due to size and location. Delivery volunteers can line up their cars easily without disrupting traffic. Weliver hopes to leave a “cheffy” legacy along with a logistical one. Starting the week before Christmas, they’ll activate the kitchens, smoking the turkey breasts. For the delivery meals, they’ll prepare turkey and gravy, smashed potatoes, green beans almondine, rolls with butter and all the cakes, pies and desserts donated by community members. He’s planning a special menu for the volunteers and attendees.

As chair, he’s already tapped all the walk-in freezers and fridges of nearby food service providers who are involved. The sacrifice of everyone involved is significant, Weliver says. This meal is a feat considering how food sourcing is more challenging for independent and small restaurants. “A business of our size is not slotted for that level of volume,” Weliver said. He credits everyone involved for making a sacrifice, of time and talent regardless of skill set. Kitchen staff, working with volunteers who lack professional kitchen experience, will coach the inexperienced. “The volunteers are the most dedicated beautiful attitudes you can imagine,” he says, “even if they don’t have the kitchen vernacular.” Everyone’s motive for serving, attending, or just receiving meals varies. Most of the delivery recipients cannot travel. They’re already ordering extra Meals on Wheels for the holiday week, when other meal services are shuttered for the holidays. Pickup recipients choose to eat at home for a host of reasons, Weliver noted. They may not want to be social or hang out with strangers. They, like some volunteers, have struggled with the holidays. As volunteers gather, he hears stories that resonate with him, some have a reason to dread or lament Christmas. Some are multi-generational volunteers – parents who want to show their kids how to give back. The greatest gift is ourselves. In this present moment, when most of us are trying to get along, when volunteering has been on a decline, volunteers know how life-giving it can be –

redefining trauma and connecting people across experiences. It requires nothing more than showing up and giving of one’s self. Our local organizations often rely on volunteers – Trinity Mission, FISH Food Bank, the Animal Welfare League, League of Women Voters, churches and Pam’s Promise to name a few. Elizabeth Zuk began her role with Pam’s Promise as a volunteer because its mission to provide transitional housing for homeless women and children hit close to her life. She and her mother spent several years homeless, couch surfing, sleeping in a car and sheltering in less-than-desirable conditions. Now she facilitates the program, which “encourages faith and family rebuilding as it works side by side with women to teach life skills and provide necessary tools to end homelessness.” Pam’s Promise operates with a slim staff and relies on volunteers. Presently their greatest needs include pie makers – mark your calendars for each November if you’re passionate about pastries. The annual pie sale raises substantial funds for Pam’s Promise. They utilize 65 volunteers regardless of baking skill set, they’ll teach volunteers how to roll the perfect pastry crust. This year, two young men from Evonik, a nearby medical industry, volunteered eight hours of their day to help make pies. Neither had ever made a pie (or dessert for that matter). When they finished their day, they had made almost 50 pies all on their own! Volunteers serve in many capacities. One volunteer regularly came to clean and

organize bedrooms after clients graduated. Incoming women found beautifully made beds, decorated walls and personal touches. Because their homes require upkeep, Pam’s Promise is looking for plumbers and cement masons. Finally, they’re looking for board members who have a heart for housing women and children. Like many community-centered people, Zuk works with other organizations. She helps the Vita program, which provides free tax filing for low to moderate-income individuals and families. Knowing there’s a gap for men in our community, Zuk cooks a large meal for Trinity Mission men twice a year, “I’ve seen the benefit Trinity has on the men who enter their program. I know how hard they work and I like to take the task of cooking off of them, even just a few times,” Zuk said. Like Pam’s Promise, Trinity accepts donations of meals and funds year-round. Volunteering transforms us. As Dr. King said, “The surest way to be happy is to seek happiness for others.” And it’s simple. Tennis champ and AIDS activist outlined the formula. “Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”

-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; or, visit the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, Indiana Facebook page.

TIM

From Page A1

Tuesday column is moving to Wednesdays! And are you Print Edition readers in for a treat! Karen Zach’s outstanding looks into our history is moving from Thursday to Friday! By the way, Karen told me a while back about a website called findagrave.com. If you want to know about your family history, it’s a great resource. I was on there last week and found relatives I had lost track of up in Rensselaer!

JIM AMIDON was mentioned as being a good guy in our community. Another one is Chief Operating Officer of Franciscan Health in Crawfordsville, Terry Klein. And I just got word that Terry is retiring soon. Terry has done a great deal for this community and his involvement will be missed. Godspeed, my friend!

A FEW of you have asked where John Hammer has been. The big guy has been kind of quiet lately, hasn’t he?

ARE YOU going to watch A Charlie Brown Christmas? Me, too. It and White Christmas with Bing Crosby are my most favorite Christmas shows. And I will have the Kleenex handy when Charlie Brown throws up his hands and yells, “Isn’t there anyone . . . who knows what Christmas is all about.” And here comes Linus to so simply explain the true meaning of Christmas. God bless Charles Schulz!

AS WE enter the final days before Christmas, please remember that there won’t be a Paper on Monday as all of our folks take some time to celebrate Christmas with families. And of course the new schedule will be in place so after Christmas, so we’ll next see you on Wednesday.

A LOT OF you remember the Singing Cowboy, Gene Autry. When I was a little guy, I used to play his Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Christmas album over and over. You may not know this, but early in his life he worked as a telegraph operator in Texas or Oklahoma somewhere. He would occupy his downtime with his guitar and singing songs. One guy who heard him was none other than Will Rogers – who encouraged Gene to take his show on the road. Good thing, too. Apparently the telegraph bosses didn’t appreciate Gene doing anything other than work and canned him! Gene had some great Christmas songs – but my favorite was Here Comes Santa Claus. My Mom and Dad and I would sing it together. Isn’t Christmas a great time to remember!

Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically in The Paper. Timmons is the publisher of The Paper and can be contacted at ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com



State Ramps Up Entrepreneurship Support

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb and Indiana Secretary of Commerce David Rosenberg announced key updates to the state’s focus on innovation and entrepreneurship this week, outlining venture development funding increases and programmatic changes designed to cultivate startup activity and fuel Indiana’s \$1 billion venture market.

“Indiana’s entrepreneurial ecosystem is experiencing unprecedented momentum, earning recognition as the best state in the U.S. to start a business – and we’re not slowing down yet,” said Sec. Rosenberg. “Alongside our ecosystem partners like Elevate Ventures and the Applied Research Institute, we’re continuing to expand and modernize our suite of funding and support resources for Hoosier innovators, entrepreneurs and small businesses, helping turn dreams into reality.” These updates, which are highlighted below, will increase funding and support for Indiana’s entrepreneurs, innovators and

startups – particularly for the state’s earliest-stage firms – and make investment capital more accessible. The IEDC estimates that these efforts and modernizations will double the number of state-supported venture development investments each year, further accelerating Indiana’s growing venture development activity.

Indiana increases annual funding for venture development by 40%

The IEDC renewed its agreement with its venture development partner, Elevate Ventures, increasing annual funding to the organization by 40% as the state aims to build on recent momentum and record-breaking years for both Indiana’s venture activity and Elevate Ventures’ investments. Indiana surpassed the \$1 billion mark for venture activity in 2021 and 2022, ranking No. 4 in the U.S. and No. 15 in the world for venture growth between 2017-2023 according to Pitchbook. Additionally, Elevate Ventures marked a record year in 2022, funding \$22.8 million to Indiana startups

(+34.75% from 2021).

In order to better leverage this increased funding, Elevate Ventures will narrow its focus to making, maintaining and managing investments, realigning certain grant programs (including the state’s Innovation Voucher Program and SBIR/STTR matching grants) to the Applied Research Institute (ARI) and enabling the organization to more strategically catalyze venture investment opportunities for startups and scaleups.

Indiana to launch new \$3 million pre-seed fund, unlocking new opportunities for early-stage firms

As part of Elevate Venture’s focus on increasing venture development activity, the organization is launching a new, \$3 million pre-seed fund designed to fuel Indiana’s earliest-stage companies. This fund, which will replace current activities through the Community Ideation Fund and Nexus Pitch Competitions, effectively doubles the annual investment allocation for early-stage companies and reduces a number of

timing constraints of previous programs, allowing companies to access critical funding when it is needed most. Investments from the new pre-seed fund will be made in amounts of \$20,000 to \$100,000 and, unlike the rest of Indiana’s venture funds, will not require matching investment dollars, making this funding more accessible to innovators and early-stage firms.

New Indiana matching grants available for innovation and technology transfer activity

The state will expand its support for innovative entrepreneurs and small businesses through its Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) matching grant program, making phase two matching grants – in addition to phase one matching grants already offered – available to ideation-stage Indiana companies. These matching grants, which will now be managed by ARI, are available to recipients of research and technology development

grants through 11 federal agencies. ARI will also take over management of the Small Business Innovation Voucher Program – a program designed to help leverage Indiana’s research and higher education institutions, as well as approved non-profit research organizations to provide small businesses access to industry experts and research leaders.

Indiana modernizes regional model for fostering entrepreneurial and startup activity, commits another \$2 million to growing localized support for small businesses

The IEDC and Elevate Ventures are working together to serve Indiana’s regions more efficiently and cultivate entrepreneurial and startup activity across all Hoosier communities. Elevate Ventures will modernize its support for regional ecosystems, eliminating the requirement for local communities to complete a fund raise in order to access investment opportunities and expand its footprint

to cover the entire state. This change will carry on the regional collaboration efforts made in recent years while making investment capital, particularly pre-seed funding, and local points of contact more readily and more quickly available throughout the entire state.

In addition to Elevate Ventures’ localized experts to support each region, the IEDC allocated \$2 million to growing its network of 10 Indiana Small Business Development Center regional offices earlier this year – adding more business advisors and ecosystem navigators to help entrepreneurs, innovators and startups leverage ConnectIND and get connected with the right resources at the right time. These initiatives are just one part of Indiana’s recent increased focus on investing in the growth and success of the state’s entrepreneurial ecosystem. Most notably, the IEDC launched ConnectIND, a digital portal available in 11

➡ See STATE Page A6

STATE From Page A5

languages, in July to increase support for entrepreneurs and founders. This first-of-its-kind statewide listing of resources, programs and services for entrepreneurs is designed to connect current and aspiring entrepreneurs to the right resources at the right time, providing visitors with curated connections to Indiana's robust network of support organizations, mentors, accelerators, capital opportunities and more. Since launching in July, ConnectIND has registered 1000 users and garnered 7,000 unique site visitors, over 30,000 site views, and over 11,000 sessions.

Indiana recently ranked as the No. 1 State to Start a Business by Forbes and as the No. 11 Emerging Ecosystem in the U.S. by Startup Genome while six of the state's cities were named among the 2022 Best Startup Cities in the Midwest with Indianapolis ranking No. 3. In September, the Global Entrepreneurship Network announced Indiana as the host for its Global Entrepreneurship Congress in 2025, recognizing the state's growing leadership in cultivating entrepreneurship.

GOOGLE From Page A4

Not require developers to launch their app catalogs on the Play Store at the same time as they launch on other app stores for at least four years. Submit compliance reports to an independent monitor who will ensure that Google is not continuing its anticompetitive conduct for at least 5 years. For much of this case, the attorneys general litigated alongside Epic Games and Match, two major app developers. Match announced a separate settlement earlier this year, while Epic Games took its case to trial. Early last week, a jury unanimously found that Google's anticompetitive conduct violated federal antitrust laws.

Attorneys general from all 50 states participated in this lawsuit — along with attorneys general from the District of Columbia and the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

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