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TODAY'S VERSE

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Meet China



Bookie is an adorable 2 month old grey/white female domestic shorthair kitten available for foster to adopt from The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 10/31/24. Bookie was found screaming in a bush outside of the Crawfordsville Public Library early Halloween morning. Bookie is playful, vocal, adorable, and SUPER snuggly. Bookie will gladly keep your lap nice and warm all winter long! Bookie is currently being fostered by an AWL staff member. If interested in adopting Bookie, please submit an adoption application (online, link below) and we'll be in contact shortly!! AWL is open Monday - Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p. Come say hi, snuggle cats, walk dogs, or lend a helping hand!

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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!

This week we continue our look at the Christmas holiday season. Last week, we shared Advent by the numbers. Today, it's a hodge-podge of facts and figures about Christmas . . . By The Numbers!

34M vs. 40.5M

The number of real Christmas trees (34,335,809) displayed during an average holiday season vs. the number (40,694,463) of artificial ones.



10 How many years on average it takes for a Christmas tree to grow to full maturity.



500

The average number of housefires caused annually in the United States by Christmas trees.

85 percent

That's the percentage of Americans who say that Christmas is too commercialized. Actually, we're surprised that 15 percent of us don't think so!



3 Number of states that feature a town specifically named "Santa Claus." Of course, we all know about our own in southern Indiana. But there is also a Santa Claus, Georgia and a Santa Claus, Arizona.

8,700

On average, the number of Americans treated each holiday season for injuries related to holiday lights, decorations and Christmas trees! The overriding message? Be careful out there!



41-50

According to our friends at the National Weather Service, those are the odds we're going to have a White Christmas here in Indiana. Tell the little ones not to worry though. Santa's sleigh has the ability to get through anything, snow, rain and even warm weather!



Foundation Awards Grants Totaling \$327K

Montgomery County Community Foundation gathered Thursday afternoon to award grant checks to 17 grant recipients in the final grant cycle of 2024. Awards totaled \$327,120.

MCCF Chief Executive Officer, Kelly Taylor welcomed everyone and thanked the nonprofit leaders for the work they do in our community. Fund owners in attendance were recognized and thanked, for without fund owners, the grants would not be possible. Listed by Area of Interest, the following grants were awarded:

Community Development Animal Welfare League, \$13,583

The original heating and cooling system, now 25 years old, will now be retired and a new system put in place to maintain a comfortable and healthy environment for the staff and the animals. Two new laptop computers will be purchased for staff use.

➔ See GRANTS Page A7

Butch Makes Final Decision in Stone



BUTCH DALE
Columnist

Now, now, don't get all flustered. Here's the deal...We have the Darlington High School class photos here at the library, framed and on display in the museum. When kids see my senior picture, I tell them that I was halfway decent looking then, but I have managed to go downhill ever since. But hey, I'm still here at age 76, so that should count for something. I am in excellent health, but one never knows. One fellow in my high school graduating class, who I had not seen in many years, came up here from his home in Florida to attend our 50th class reunion. He was still active and in good shape. A week after returning home, he was struck by a car and killed while crossing the street... As they say, **** happens.

I believe that I will live to be in my nineties. I might even make it to 100. But I thought it might be a good idea to have an epitaph ready just in case. If anyone decides to visit my grave, I want an epitaph that people will remember... something

➔ See BUTCH Page A3

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Kids need a minimum of 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily.

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



TODAY'S QUOTE

"The smells of Christmas are the smells of childhood"
Richard Paul Evans

TODAY'S JOKE

Did you hear about the new musical act at the North Pole Casino?
It's Elfis!

MONTGOMERY MINUTE

The Linden Depot Museum' 15th annual Christmas Open House runs through Dec. 29. The museum will be open from noon to 5 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday during these dates. The museum complex is located at 520 N. Main St. in Linden. Questions? Call (765) 427-3630.

THREE THINGS

You Should Know

- The Indiana Securities Division under the Indiana Secretary of State's Office is actively assisting the FBI's Indianapolis Division in an ongoing investigation into Rodney Grubbs, former owner of Pickleball Rocks. The FBI is seeking to identify individuals who may have been victims of fraud or financial misconduct related to investments made with Grubbs. If you or someone you know has been affected by Rodney Grubbs' actions, the FBI urges victims to complete a short victim information form. To report information, please visit <https://forms.fbi.gov/IPPickleballvictims/>
- Fourteen-year-old Swiss twins, Naemi and Alena Stump, earned not one, but two Guinness World Records recently. They set new records for the most synchronized tricks on inline skates in 30 seconds and the most synchronized tricks on inline skates in one minute. How did they do it? They say "you should know each other so well that you know what the other person is doing without having to communicate. The one who is better at the trick adapts to the other."
- The Bureau of Land Management recently posted photos of bats and asked the public to vote for the cutest one. Among the contestants is a big-eared bat by the name of Sir Flaps-A-Lot and a grayish white bat known as Hoary Potter. Bureau wildlife technician Emma Busk notes that "there's a lot of fear and misconceptions around bats." She says people have a tendency of associating them with rabies. But, in fact, she says: less than 1% of all bat populations actually carry rabies, and the bat-to-human disease transmission is actually really low." By the way, in the old world a bat was known as a "fittermouse."



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Montgomery Medicine: Neuropathic Pain



JOHN R. ROBERTS, M.D.
 Montgomery Medicine

Neuropathic pain, or neuralgia, is a challenging and often misunderstood condition that originates from the nerves themselves. A friend recently asked me to address sciatica, a specific form of nerve pain caused by compression or irritation of the sciatic nerve, leading to sharp, radiating pain down the back of the leg. While sciatica is a common form of neuropathic pain, this condition can occur for various other reasons, making it important to look at the broader topic of nerve pain.

many cases remain idiopathic, meaning there is no identifiable underlying cause. What makes neuropathic pain so unique is its heightened sensitivity to ordinary sensations. Everyday stimuli that shouldn't be painful—like clothing rubbing against the skin, the pressure of bed sheets, or even a gentle breeze—can trigger intense discomfort. For some people, the pain is constant and unrelenting, even without any clear external cause. This can make simple daily activities an overwhelming challenge.

Patients with neuropathic pain often describe their symptoms using vivid terms such as “burning,” “stabbing,” “pins and needles,” or “electric shocks.” Others compare it to the sharp, unrelenting agony of a severe toothache. The severity of the pain can sometimes lead to significant emotional distress, and in extreme cases, patients may feel hopeless or even contemplate suicide. This is because the brain struggles to process and interpret the nerve signals it is receiving. These signals often combine elements of pain and other sensations, such as temperature or touch, which makes the experience confusing and deeply distressing.

Nerve pain frequently arises from physical injuries, but it can also occur without a clear cause. The nerves may malfunction and send false pain signals to the brain, behaving as though they are injured even when they are not. Diabetes, which can damage the small nerves throughout the body, is a common cause of this pain. Herpes virus infections, such as shingles (caused by the varicella-zoster virus), can also lead to a painful condition called postherpetic neuralgia. Additionally, neuropathic pain may result from compression of nerves due to conditions like herniated discs, as seen in sciatica, or even from cancerous growths. Yet,

Coping with neuropathic pain can be an uphill battle—not only for the individual but also for their loved ones and healthcare providers. This condition can feel like a puzzle with no single solution, and successful treatment often requires a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach. Primary care physicians often play a central role, but neurologists, pain specialists, neurosurgeons, and other healthcare professionals like physical therapists and psychologists may all contribute to developing an effective care plan.

A wide range of treatments is available for neuropathic pain, but it's important to understand that no single approach works for everyone. Doctors commonly start with medications, including low doses of antidepressants. These medications have been shown to block pain signals in some cases, offering much-needed relief.

Anticonvulsants, which are typically used to treat seizure disorders, are also frequently prescribed. They work by calming the overactive nerve impulses responsible for this type of pain. When these measures aren't enough, stronger medications such as narcotics may be considered for severe, persistent cases, though these are used cautiously due to the risks of dependency.

In addition to medications, there are several non-drug therapies that can be highly effective. Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation, or TENS, is a treatment that uses electrical pulses to block pain signals from traveling up the spinal cord to the brain. Patients wear electrode patches connected to a small device that delivers these pulses. For those who need more sustained relief, a similar device can be

surgically implanted near the spinal cord to deliver continuous stimulation.

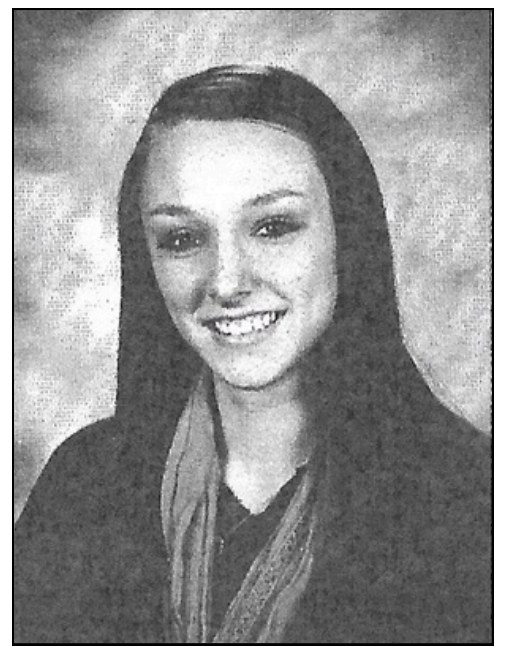
Other non-invasive treatments include local anesthetic injections, which can provide temporary relief, and therapies like biofeedback and behavioral therapy. These techniques help patients manage their response to pain, improving their ability to cope over time. Topical treatments, such as creams containing capsaicin – a compound found in chili peppers – can also provide localized relief by reducing nerve sensitivity. For diabetic patients, the nutritional supplement alpha-lipoic acid has shown promise in alleviating nerve-related pain.

Despite the many treatment options available, neuropathic pain remains one of the most challenging conditions to manage. Finding the right approach often requires months or even years of trial and error. For many patients, it's not a single treatment but rather a combination of therapies that eventually provides meaningful relief. This can require a great deal of patience and persistence from both the patient and their care team.

While neuropathic pain can feel overwhelming, it's important to remember that there is hope. Advances in medicine continue to offer new options for managing this complex condition. By working closely with a dedicated healthcare team and exploring various treatments, patients can often find strategies that improve their quality of life. Though the path to relief may be long, the effort is worthwhile, and better days are possible with the right care and support.

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

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do You Recognize This 2014 North Montgomery Graduate?

HINT: She was an honor student and after college became a nurse.

Answer on Page A3

Looking for a part-time job that does not involve the words:

Would You Like Fries With That?

The Paper of Montgomery County is looking for clerical help. This could be the perfect job for part-time students all the way up to Baby Boomers looking for something to do.

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Monks in the Morning



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

“There will be monks here tomorrow morning,” is what I figured Jorge was telling me. In Spanish, “monks” sounds like “monkeys” in English. But I was pretty sure we were not having monkeys over for breakfast.

from small villages every month. He sets up displays at the nearby fountain over Holy Week. He creates an enormous altar celebrating those who have died for All Souls’ Day. I was sure, whatever this was about, it was something kind that Jorge had volunteered to do.

The monks showed up early. They were Buddhist monks in orange robes. Jorge was nowhere to be seen, but every other staff person was in the kitchen preparing a huge breakfast.

Peter and I cautiously approached the monks. They spoke English, as it turned out.

“Are you enjoying your stay?”

“We are enjoying it very much.”

“How long will you be staying?”

“Five weeks.”

“It’s nice you get enough time to see the city.” Everyone smiled, and Peter and I returned to our apartment.

After breakfast, they began to chant.

At least two of the monks were doing “throat singing.” It is a low, growling harmonic sound that carried throughout the courtyard. (Our cat, Felix, did not like it at all, and hid under the bed.)

The procession of monks carried incense and bells up the outdoor stairs from the courtyard, past our apartment, and up to the roof. It appeared to be a kind of blessing, and one of the monks playfully splashed us with water as he passed. (Felix remained under the bed.)

And I marveled, as I so often do, how little of what happens I really understand. I don’t know half of what happens at this hotel. I don’t know why the monks came. I don’t know what they were doing or why they were doing it.

But I know I felt good, listening to them chant, and I know when they splashed water on us, they were wishing us well. And really, that’s all that matters.

Till next time, Carrie

Your Codes Don’t Match



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

Mary Ellen is always telling me to change. Not my sloppy eating habits. Not my occasional inappropriate jokes at book club. Or the way I make a mess in the kitchen.

She wants me to change my passwords. All 200 of them. Mary Ellen reads a lot about identity fraud and password theft. She told me that the most common password is the word PASSWORD. “How can people be that stupid?” I asked her. So, I then changed my bank account login to MYPASSWORD. Much better.

The process of changing passwords takes work. I never knew that because I hadn’t changed one in 30 years. When I acquired our stray Beagle in 1990, I used his name for many of my logins. Looking back, that was a really dumb decision because not only could thieves figure it out, but when Barney got loose, he started making monthly withdrawals at the ATM—and a few deposits.

Part of the process of making these changes involves knowing your old password, but there are so many automatic or facial log ins that you can forget your password just as you do your own phone number. So, to change my password, I needed my old password, which means I have to start with the prompt: FORGOT PASSWORD.

Then I got a new password, but I’m far from getting it done. First, I had to go through a verification process involving the website sending me a code, which never works the first time. Never. So, then they send a new code that works. Why don’t they send the second code first? I can’t be the first person to think of this. Maybe the second.

Now, I know Mary Ellen is going to panic, but I am going to share with you some of my favorite verification codes I received. Feel free to use them.

2jk3j47474
94888777722
8989727377?
975099780

I then enter the number twice to confirm I’ve done it correctly. Then it always says, “Your codes don’t match.” That sounded very familiar. I assume because Mary Ellen always tells me, “Your clothes don’t match.”

When I enter the code, it requires a two-step verification called an account recovery contact. I put down Mary Ellen’s cell number. As soon as I do that, they text my wife’s phone to give her another verification number, which she was supposed to provide me. But this was at midnight, and there was no way Mary Ellen was going to be awake for another eight hours. And by that time, about 34 verification codes would have expired.

One website asked if I wanted a three-step process, but I couldn’t think of a single friend who was up at that hour.

You also get password suggestions. I received one that read: Zengia and another was Xnajaz. So, I finally figured out how big Pharma decides on names for their drugs.

In the morning, Mary Ellen told me that all the passwords I picked had a problem. Either they were too easy to figure out, like my middle name and age, or too hard to enter correctly, like *%*^\$# (&^^%\$).

I’ve decided not to worry about this anymore. After reading this column, who would want to steal my identity?

– Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in *The Paper of Montgomery County*. E-mail Dick at Wolfsie@aol.com.

↓ BUTCH From Page A1

humorous on the stone. I have researched some books and the Internet, and here are a few that people have used previously:

...“The shell is here, but the nut is gone.”...“I’d rather be in Acapulco.”...“I’m dead. Other than that, I’m fine.”...“Final stats: No hits, No runs, No heirs.”...“He loved bacon. Oh, and his wife and kids, too.”...“I’ve finally kicked the smoking habit for good.”...“Dead, from not forwarding that text message to ten people.”...“Now I can finally rest without that incessant snoring.”...“Thank me. I never voted for a Democrat.”...“I was hoping for a pyramid.”...“Well, I finally found a place to park in this town.”...“Here lies an atheist. All dressed up and no place to go.”...“She always said her feet were killing her, but nobody believed her.”...“Damn, it’s dark down here!”...“Jesus called, and I answered.”...“Tha, tha, that’s all folks!”...“Here lies the second fastest gun in the West.”...“I made some good deals. I made some bad ones. I really went in the hole with this one.”...“See, I told you I was sick.”...“If you can read this epitaph, you are standing on my boobs.”

Now there are also some epitaphs that rhyme, such as:

...“Here lies Fred. A great big rock fell on his head.”...Here lies

Clyde. His life was full. Until he tried to milk a bull.”...“Ma loved Pa, but Pa loved women. Ma caught Pa with two a swimmin’. Here lies Pa.”...“Uncle Walter loved to spend. He had no money at the end. But with many a whiskey and many a wife, He really did enjoy his life.”...“Here lies the body of Mary Bent. She kicked up her heels and away she went.”...“Here lies Lester Moore. Four slugs from a 44. No Les, No more.”...“Here lies the body of Jonathan Blake. Stepped on the gas instead of the brake.”...“Here lies the body of poor Aunt Charlotte. Born a virgin and died a harlot. For 16 years she kept her virginity. A damn’d long time for this vicinity.”...“Here lies the father of 29. He would have had more. But he didn’t have time.”

Well, it’s a difficult decision for sure. After some serious thought, and since I grew up during the first years of TV, I think I will go with this:

“Stay tuned. I will be right back after this brief commercial. Tell my little brother not to touch my autographed Eddie Mathews baseball card and my 1966 issue of Playboy magazine featuring Ann Margret.”

John “Butch” Dale is a retired teacher and County Sheriff. He has also been the librarian at Darlington the past 35 years, and is a well-known artist and author of local history.

Scouts At Festival of Trees

The newly formed Boy Scouting Venture Crew 1252 in Montgomery County is looking for some votes!

The youngsters have a tree at the annual Festival of Trees at the Masonic Cornerstone, 221 S. Washington St. in beautiful downtown Crawfordsville. If you have not been to the Festival before, it’s definitely worth a visit! Gorgeous Christmas

trees densely populate the main level and visitors are asked to vote for their favorites.

It takes place on Friday, Dec. 13 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Children under the age of 3 are free. Adults are \$8 and seniors over 65 and children ages 4-10 are only \$5. We hope to see you there and voting for Venture Crew 1252!

Butch Dale’s Flashback Trivia Answer: Shelby Delp

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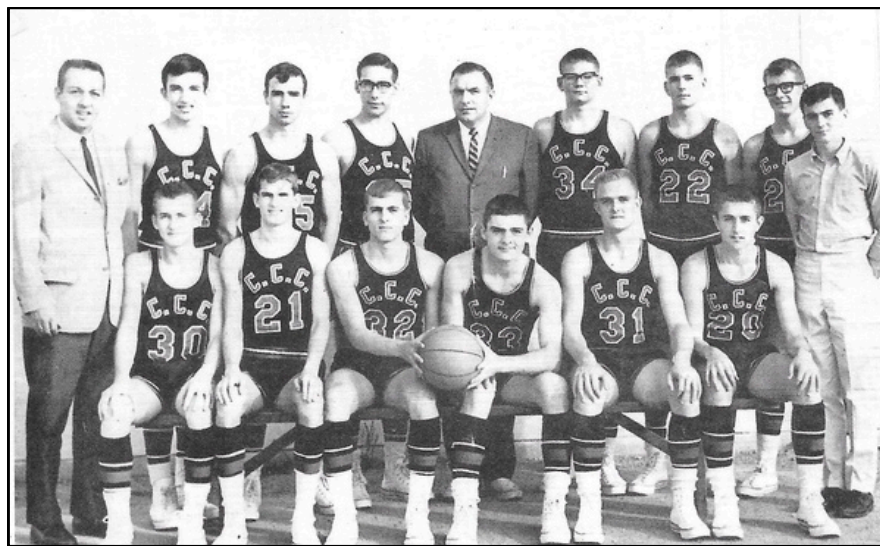
For The Record is a public service and regular feature in The Paper of Montgomery County. It is designed to tell you what is scheduled to happen and what actually does happen in meetings paid for with your tax dollars. The Paper encourages all citizens to take an active role in being involved in local government.

2023 SOUTHMONT SCHOOLS

Board of Trustees Regular School Board Meeting
 Corporation Board Room
 Monday, December 9, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.
 Public Meeting Agenda
 I. Call to Order
 II. Pledge of Allegiance - Student Athlete Group to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
 III. Roll Call
 IV. Welcome and Recognition of Visitors.
 -Addison Meadows - Student Athlete Recognition.
 -Southmont Schools Kitchen Recognitions.
 -Student and Staff Recognitions.
 V. Revisions to the Agenda
 VI. Public Comments
 VII. Consent Agenda:
 (minutes, monthly claims, field trips/facilities usage, contributions/gifts and personnel)
 Minutes from previous meetings
 Claims/Payrolls
 Personnel:
 -Leah Sinnet - Part Time Nurse - Ladoga/Walnut Elementaries.
 -Chelsea Cagle - Instructional Aide - Walnut Elementary.
 -Addison Monroe - Instructional Aide - Transfer from New Market Elementary to Southmont Jr. High School.
 -Bobbi Harden - Transfer to Front Office/Clinical Assistant from Instructional Assistant @ Southmont Jr. High School.
 -Rachel Rhoads - Instructional Assistant - Southmont Jr. High School.
 -Approve resignation of Sophia Sharkey - Instructional Aide - New Market - effective December 20, 2024.
 -Beth Binch - Elementary Theater Club - Walnut Elementary - \$1000.00.
 -Taylor Myers - Elementary Student Council - Walnut - \$1000.00.
 -Aaron Charles - 2024-2025 Corporate Sponsorship stipend - \$2560.00.
 -Scott Dove - Varsity Assistant Wrestling Coach - Volunteer.
 -Jud VanCleave - Varsity Assistant Wrestling Coach - Volunteer.
 -Emily Stewart - Varsity Gymnastics Coach - \$2236.50.
 -Maddie Shaver - Varsity Assistant Gymnastics Coach - \$2236.50.
 -Emma Bowers - Varsity Assistant Gymnastics Coach - Volunteer.
 -FFA Trip to Purdue Beck's Center for Area for Area Crops Contest - April 27, 2025 - May 3, 2025.
 -High School Wrestling Team - Calumet HS (Varsity) and LaPorte HS (JV) - Leave December 13, 2024 - return December 14, 2024.
 -High School Wrestling Team - Culver Academies - Leave January 24, 2025 - return January 25, 2025.
 -High School Wrestling Team - New Castle IHSAA Semi-State - Leave February 14, 2025 - return February 15, 2025.
 VIII. Items for Action:
 1. Approve Teacher Appreciation Grant stipends for 2023-2024 school year per approved board policy.
 2. Approve stipends for Appreciation Grant for those who fall outside of board policy.
 IX. Report from Superintendent:
 X. Items for Discussion by the Board
 XI. Adjournment

Future Meetings:
 January 13, 2025 - Regular Meeting - Corporation Board Room - 6:00 PM
 This meeting site is handicap accessible. Any person requiring further accommodation should contact the Superintendent at the School Corporation office.

Back in the Day with Butch Dale



The 1966 Coal Creek basketball team had great success, finishing the season with a record of 16-5 and winning the Sectional tourney. Front Row: Denny Mennen, Stan Whitehead, Don Hopper, Larry Lidester, Pat Cunningham, and Steve Linton; Back Row: Asst. Coach Roger Newnum, Frank Pickel, Tom McCormick, Richard Stonebraker, Coach Phil Miller, Chuck McKnight, Lee Fouts, Steve Swick, and Mgr. John Oppy

Rep. Genda Supports Veteran and Their Families



MARK GENDA
 Guest Columnist

With the holiday season upon us, it's important to remember that some veterans and their families may face financial challenges in meeting basic needs. Fortunately, assistance is available.

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs' Operation Holiday Program offers much-needed support to eligible veterans and their families who are facing financial hardship. Through this

program, veterans can receive \$200 to help cover the cost of a holiday meal, as well as \$300 for each dependent child in the household. Applications for support are being accepted now through Dec. 13.

The Military Family Relief Fund plays a vital role in providing emergency support to veterans and their families. Hoosiers can show their support by donating.

For veterans and their families in immediate need of assistance, the 211 helpline is available 24/7. This confidential, free service connects

individuals with local resources for food, financial support, utilities, housing and more.

I want to personally thank all veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice for our country. As we celebrate this holiday season, I encourage every Hoosier to spread the word and show their support to our veterans.

Rep. Mark Genda represents House District 41 which includes portions of Montgomery, Clinton, Boone and Tippecanoe counties.

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Multi-Talented 2024 Subaru Solterra is Short on Range, But Much Quicker at the Plug for More Enjoyment Behind the Wheel



CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

It's been two and a half years since I first drove the then-new Subaru Solterra electric crossover at its press preview in California. It was quiet on city streets, peppy on the highway, and proved its off-road chops on Catalina. But it has taken all that time to get one back in Indiana. It was short on range, long on recharge times, and a bit pricey, but charming. It's appreciably better for 2024.

If you think it looks like a Toyota RAV4 and Subaru Outback had relations, you're not loco. The Solterra was co-developed with Toyota, which offers the similar bZ4X. Styling is more Toyota than Subaru with roof and pillars reminiscent of the RAV4, but Subaru clearly influenced final details.

The front fascia outline echoes Subaru's trademark grille, black wheelwell cladding is pure Subaru, and the roof rack supports 700 lbs. of tent and campers. Check the 20" wheels and Wilderness-style black patch on the hood.

There's a lot of Toyota inside, but it works. The intuitive 12.3" widescreen infotainment system could have come from a Camry, but the flatscreen gauge cluster is placed high and deep for a heads-up effect. Seats come in cloth or StarTex vegan leather, but I prefer the latter for their stylish two-tone gray and easy cleaning with kids and outdoor endeavors. Storage abounds with the flybridge console, door cubbies, and roomy luggage compartment, but don't look for a glovebox because

there isn't one.

Our car was loaded like a Lexus with heated and ventilated front seats, heated steering wheel, Harman Kardon audio, panoramic sunroof, and wireless phone connections. While the glass roof has power shades, it does not open. Bummer. A full suite of crash avoidance systems includes automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, and safe exit assist to keep passengers from stepping into traffic. Drivers can relax a little with adaptive cruise and Traffic Jam Assist that allows hands-off driving at low speeds.

Big drawbacks for the Solterra were 222 miles driving range and needing an hour to charge 80%. Given those numbers, sales were not exactly brisk. To truly compete, it needs close to 300 miles range and

ability to recharge 80% in under 30 minutes. Range hasn't improved for 2024, but a re-engineered charging system brings the 10-80% replenishment down to 35 minutes. That's considerably more livable.

Fortunately, the Solterra is a joy to drive between stops. Its electric system routes 215 horsepower and 249 lb.-ft. of torque through dual electric motors all-wheel-drive. It glides through the city and whooshes onto freeways with total grace. Subaru claims 0-60 mph in 6.5 seconds, but it feels faster. One-pedal driving engages regeneration early and often to maximize range and ease city driving.

One expects an EV to be efficient and serene, but the Solterra is also a Subaru. At its California introduction

on Catalina, we abolished miles of unpaved roads and drove straight-up rough trails. Class-leading 8.3" of ground clearance is no match for a Crosstrek Wilderness, but Dual Function X-Mode with Grip Control used all of the electric torque to scurry up trails and creep down the other side. Apply power whenever and wherever you want with zero drama.

It may not be your first choice for a long-distance road trip, but the Solterra would be super convenient and

a joy to own with a home charger. Charging time is about half what it used to be, which is greatly appreciated. Prices start at \$44,995, rising to \$54,558 as-tested. Competitors include the Kia EV6, Ford Mustang Mach-E, Chevy Equinox Electric, Hyundai IONIQ5, and similar Toyota bZ4X.

Storm Forward!

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

Likes

- Sleek style
- Tech-laden interior
- Off-road capability

Dislikes

- Short range
- Fixed sunroof
- No glovebox

2024 Subaru Solterra

Five-passenger, AWD Crossover
Powertrain: Li-ion batteries/motors
Output: 215 hp/249 lb.-ft
Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind
Wheels f/r: 20"/20" alloy
Brakes f/r: regen disc/disc
Driving range: 222 miles
0-60 mph: 6.5s
Economy: 102 mpg-e
Base/As-tested price: \$44,995/54,558

Looking for a part-time job that does not involve the words:

Would You Like Fries With That?

The Paper of Montgomery County is looking for clerical help. This could be the perfect job for part-time students all the way up to Baby Boomers looking for something to do.

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Thank you for reading The Paper

Montgomery Murder Mysteries

You Must Pass Over a Judgment

EDITOR'S NOTE: Karen Zach, a 50-year-local history writer, presents her Montgomery Murder Mysteries – historical fiction, based on fact – of the first 13 or so murders in our county. Karen has written a weekly column for The Paper of Montgomery County and was the editor of Montgomery Memories, a monthly publication from The Paper for many years. Now that she is retired, she is sharing these stories and The Paper is very pleased to continue working with Karen and her talented writings.



Tuesday
July 19,
1859
Crawfordsville Review
– Trial of
Jonathan S.
Owen
charged

KAREN ZACH
Montgomery
Murder
Mysteries
with poisoning his wife.
Kizziah Owens, Hon.
John Cowan presiding
– Robert C. Gregory,
Lew Wallace, MD White
and Prosecuting
Attorney Robert H.
Harrison for the state –
Joseph E. McDonald,
SC Wilson, DH
Voorhees, BW Hanna
and James Wilson for
the prisoner.



me and chased after me with a broom. Father sent me to McDonald's where I was hired out. That wouldn't be so bad if I got to keep the money and could save it up for some more schooling, but it goes directly to my father. Pa is one brilliant man, too; that is why he has so many houses, animals, money and all. He's always been looked up to in our community until the death of my stepmother, that is.

It all began when Winnie Huffman came to live with us. She rented a room from us with her two children, a boy my age and a girl a couple of years younger. I never liked Winnie but her son and I became close and her daughter was one fine looking young lady. Didn't trust the daughter any more than Winnie, though. She had sent some pretty suggestive looks my way, so I tried to stay away from the younger Huffman. Winnie came in and took over all our lives. Pretty much sent Kizziah packing, so to speak. Kizziah did nothing. Winnie just took charge. She's just that way. In looks, she nary held a candle to my mother or stepmother, though. Nor in figure as Kizziah had had more than twice as many children and was ten years older than Winnie. Winnie was 34 and my stepma was 44. My father was immediately drawn to Winnie. I even once saw them in the barn holding each other. Father saw me and wacked me hard across the shoulders, telling me if I ever told

anyone, he'd make sure I was sorry. I never told. I was happy that at the trial I was not asked about their relationship, as I was under oath and I could not lie. Several did make hints that Winnie and Father had walked out and one man even said he'd heard Father promise to do my stepmother in if Winnie'd marry him. Father was heard telling Winnie that both his marriages had been sour and that she'd have to be a good wife if he did do something about Kizziah. She promised, and that made me wonder just what happened to my mother, Elizabeth, father's first wife, though I'm not sure of exactly all the details of Kizziah's death, either.

We're sure that Kizziah died from a large dose of strychnine. We even know where it came from, because I was with my father when he bought it at Doc Miller's. Another vial a neighbor had picked-up for father as we did have lots of rats. Yet, no one not even the great lawyer, Lew Wallace himself, could prove or disprove if mother took it or Father gave it to her in a drink.

Truly, I'm not sure where to begin telling you about this awful mess. Probably when I was six and Father married Kizziah would be a good start. As I said, no one really knows what happened to my mother, she just up and got sick then died. Kizziah was around a lot then. She lived with us to help my ma with all the work. Young and pretty, Kizziah played with us children a lot in those days. That was before her own children came along. The more responsibility piled on Kizziah, the more sharp she became. Some people said she drove my older brother and sister away, but I don't think that's at all true. She was fairly mild-mannered when they lived with us, and it was

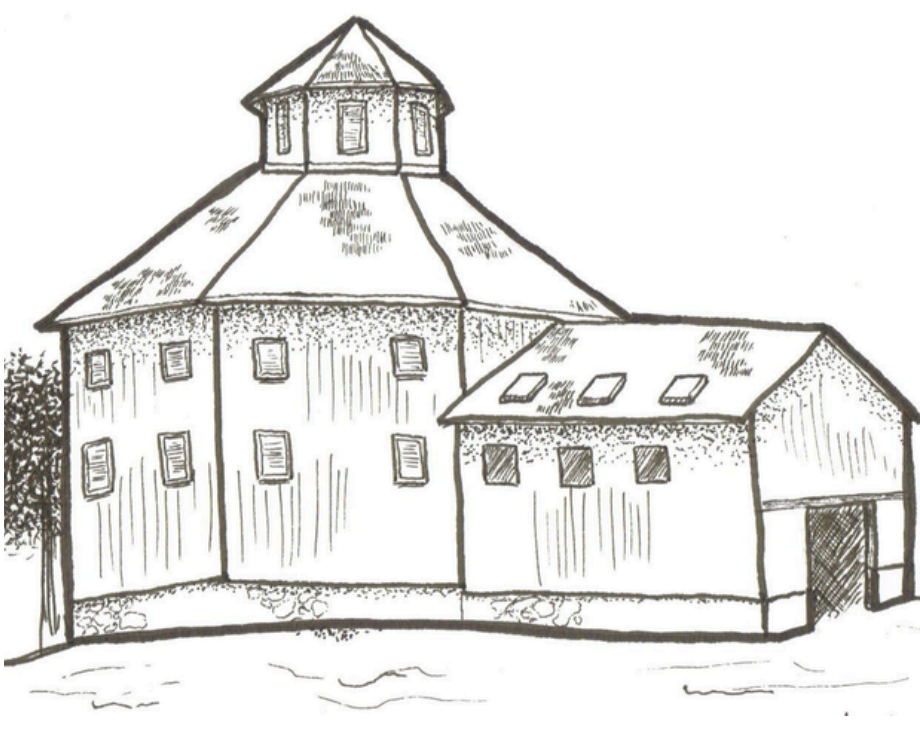
simply their time to move on. During the trial, it was brought out that she was mean to my brother Will and I. That, too, is not true. Honest truth was that Will and I both loved to rile Kizziah. One time I told her that she had blood stains on the back of her favorite yellow, polka-dotted dress. It weren't true! I'd lied so she took after me with a broom. In the trial, it was made out to look like she was beating me, but I deserved it. Looking back, I didn't make Kizziah's life any easier and for that, I'm ashamed.

It was I guess a fairly volatile situation early on, but honestly, it wasn't as bad as came out in the courthouse. Sure, it wasn't perfect with we original children and then those of Kizziah's added but all-in-all, we'd done fairly well at getting on. Will and I certainly didn't help Kizziah any. We'd get mud caked on our clothes on purpose just to watch her struggle to wash 'em. Never did we offer to watch the little ones or help with the heavy work. Kizziah came to help us when Mother died and Winnie Huffman came to aide Kizziah. That bothers me in my mind that Father added a new woman to his life before his other woman had gone on.

At first, Winnie seemed to ease the strain of the household by cooking and such, plus giving Kizziah a little free time to unwind. Yet, the real tenseness making me nervous began as I noticed the looks pass between she and Father over Kizziah's head. They were looks of hunger and desire. I don't think Kizziah ever had suspicions of something going on between them, but I had thought so and long before Kizziah's death.

One incident in particular bothered me. Only part of the event came out in the trial.

To Be Continued...



Not long ago, before she died, my stepma, Kizziah, got upset with

Building new
clean energy
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Hoosiers' bills
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GRANTS From Page A1

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Fuzzy Bear Ministry Preschool & Daycare, \$17,315

This Paths to Quality Level 3 program will install a new, more secure main entry door. They will also add new equipment to the infant transition room. High chairs will be replaced with infant dining equipment that encourages independent feeding skills and social interaction. Special strollers will be purchased so that infants can enjoy more outdoor time safely.

New Beginnings Child Care, \$78,800

NBCC is housed in the former John Beard School. While the majority of the roof was replaced in recent years, one portion was not. This grant will fund that replacement and allow for the purchase of a commercial refrigerator.

New Hope Christian Preschool, \$8,141

This local preschool program recently earned its Paths to Quality Level 1. Indoor play features such as a small climbing wall, riding toys, balancing tools, and materials for creating obstacle courses will be added to encourage the development of gross motor skills.

EDUCATION

Educational Foundation, \$30,000

The Montgomery County Educational Foundation's objective is to encourage teachers to motivate their students by making learning fun and relevant. To accomplish this, they offer grants to teachers for projects and activities to enhance the educational experience. The grants are open to K-12 teachers in the three local school districts.

Crawfordsville Adult Resource Academy, \$9,500

CARA is an adult education program that help adults improve their lives by furthering their education and career skills. With funding from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, adult education programs are mandated to administer pre and post tests for all students starting next year. The grant funds will be used to purchase the state mandated test materials as well as a new Promethean Activ Panel Smartboard.

HEALTH

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation, \$10,000

With 66 percent of the student population on the Free or Reduced Cost Lunch program, family needs extend beyond food. These funds will be administered by the school nurses (k-12) to assist students with dental, vision, medial,

and mental health needs as well as for drug testing supplies, Epi Pens, Rx medication, etc.

North Montgomery School Corporation, \$7,935

The free / reduced meal rate has increased from 19 percent in 2001 to 41 percent this year. With that increase, needs around student health, wellness and mental health needs have also increased resulting in expenses many families cannot afford. In addition, this will support requirements associated with training and maintenance of AED (Automated External Defibrillator) equipment.

South Montgomery School Corporation, \$10,000

About 44 percent of the student population receives some form of meal assistance. These same students often require additional assistance beyond meals. The funds will be used to cover expenses such as medical, dental, vision, mental health needs, etc.

Women's Resource Center, \$13,900

According to the Indiana Department of Health, about a third of pregnant women in Montgomery County do not receive prenatal care in the first trimester. Women's Resource Center offers free pregnancy testing, and obstetrical ultrasounds conducted by a nurse, who also refers patients to medical and social services, helping them access quality and early prenatal care. This will fund medical supplies and other equipment to ensure babies are off to a great start.

HISTORICAL

Historical Society, \$16,000

The Historical Society is housed in the 19th-century Henry S. Lane antebellum mansion. Preservation and maintenance of the Lane Place and the grounds are among their priorities. These funds will be used to replace the roof of the north porch and to remove three dead and dying trees and limbs of two other trees.

Carnegie Museum, \$7,000

The Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County, a department of the Crawfordsville District Public Library, is the county's only free, public museum. Montgomery County Then and Now project is a collaboration with both Crawfordsville Main Street and the Visitors Bureau. It will have two components, a physical exhibit inside the museum and an interactive walking tour. The funds will primarily support the design of the online exhibit and walking tour brochure and related expenses.

HUMAN SERVICES

Abilities Services, Inc., \$6,480

Abilities Services has provided services to clients with developmental disabilities and their families for over 45 years. This summer they moved to a new building to better accommodate their needs. While parking space is ample, the parking lot lighting is lacking. This will allow them to add an additional pole with dual 185 watt LED lights, making the area safer for consumers, staff and visitors entering

Grace & Mercy Food Pantry, \$10,000

With food insecurity still on the rise, Grace & Mercy is expanding their pantry space to become more accommodating and efficient. Funds will be used to purchase a new commercial refrigerator, freezer, and additional food.

Through the Gate, \$19,000

Through the Gate provides a safe and supportive environment as an eight-month residential program for women, 65% of whom are Montgomery County residents. In addition, they also have a Transitional Home that houses their graduates and interns so that they can receive additional care and support as they work towards rebuilding their lives. This will provide a new roof for the Transitional Home.

Trinity Life Ministry, \$34,166

Trinity is dedicated to transforming the lives of men affected by addiction. In supporting them, transportation is a great need. Many do not have reliable transportation and in many cases, a valid driver's license. However, they need to get to medical appointments, legal appointments, volunteer opportunities, jobs, etc. This will be used toward the purchase of a new or pre-owned van for this purpose.

YOUTH

Youth Service Bureau, \$35,000

Youth Service Bureau's mission is to "Empower children/youth to become responsible citizens through delinquency prevention, youth advocacy, community education, direct services and referrals." These funds will support their work, particularly with the CASA program, Child Abuse Prevention, Inspire, and the Alternative High School which provides high school students the opportunity to continue their education through credit recovery and support services.



Photo courtesy Montgomery County Community Foundation

The representatives from the 17 organizations receiving grants were all smiles after CEO Kelly Taylor and the Community Foundation handed out awards totaling more than \$327,000.

The grants were made possible by the following MCCF Field of Interest Funds

Crawfordsville Housing Fund, Preston and Anne Bost Early Childhood Education Fund, Maude Dockins Trust Fund, Darlene Harmon Early Childhood Education Fund, Richard and Nancy Inskeep Fund, Paul and Irmingard McKinney Fund, Faye O. and Anna Winter Schenck Fund, and the Karl B. Taylor Mental Health Fund, Youth Are Our Future Fund.

And from these MCCF Unrestricted Funds:

Heather Barajas Fund, Thomas and Mary Beth Harmon Fund, Missie Bickel No Hill for a Climber Fund, Phil and Farzaneh Boots, Samuel L. and Eva Fern Boots Fund, Harold and Linda Carpenter Fund, Chase Bank Fund, Richard F. and Elaine S. Chase Fund, Community Fund, Hank and Nancy Coyle Fund, Thomas & Dolores Crews Fund, Dr. Fred and Elizabeth Daugherty Trust Fund, Irwin Lee Detchon Fund, Ron & Trudy Dickerson Fund, Directors Fund Dr. William and Nancy Doemel Fund, Ron

Eden Fund, Leland and Dolores Epperson and Family Fund, FAITH Alliance Fund, Bob and Bill Fell Fund, Barbara and Larry Frye Fund, Jack & Joyce Grimble Fund, M. Gaidene & Stan Hamilton Fund, Carl F. and Margaret Henthorn Fund, Dennis and Dee Hohlbein Fund, Hoosier Heartland State Bank Fund, Larry D. Servies and Wanda R. Hopkins Fund, John and Roberta Hudson Fund, Walter F. Hulet Fund, Max W. Johnson Fund, to honor Mary Francis Fran" Johnson, " Brian & Cheryl Keim Family Fund, Lincoln Legacy Foundation Fund, Inc, Mag & Lil Fund, Hubert and Martha Massing Fund, Amy McFerran Fund, Steve and Diane McLaughlin Fund, Phil & Judy Michal Fund, Mike and Rhonda Mitchell Family Fund, Nucor Fund, Morris and Barbara Odle Family Fund, Gloria and Marvin Oliver Fund, Dale and Linda Petrie Fund, Montgomery County Physicians Fund, Marty Pool Fund, Torey and Bethany Rauch Fund, William and Amy Roth Fund, Anita Rupar Fund, Coach Rick and

Debbie Schaviatello Fund, Florence Schultz Trust Fund, Clark and Nancy Sennett Fund, James G. and Susan Smith Fund, Kathleen and John Steele Fund, Max Tannenbaum Trust Fund – Unrestricted, John T Taylor Charitable Fund, Bobbye and Claude Thompson Family Fund, John and Sandy Tidd Fund in Memory of Ernest and Anna Tidd, Beverley J. Turner Fund in memory of John C. White, Tom Warren Fund, Leonard and Louise Winchell Fund, Damon C. and Bernice Seaman Wray Fund, Roland Brooks and Helen Johnson Wynne Fund.

To learn more about MCCF Grantmaking visit <https://www.mccfin.org/unrestricted-grant-cycle> to review the eligibility guidelines and learn about the application process. 2025 Grantmaking will be announced in January. Direct questions to Cheryl Keim, Grants & Community Relations Director at (765) 362-1267 or cheryl@mccf-in.org.



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