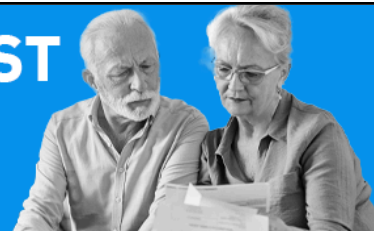


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TODAY'S VERSE

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." (NIV)

Meet Velma



Velma is a 1 year old female black Labrador retriever available for adoption from The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 9/3/2024.

VELMA IS LOOKING FOR A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!! Velma LOVES walks, playing fetch, and is dog friendly! Velma would make a great family dog and would thrive in a home that has time/attention to shower her with endless love.

Velma is a BIG TIME cuddle bug with LOTS of ENERGY! Velma is very food motivated and will gladly sit for treats. Velma is looking for her best friend! Could that be you? Velma is available for adoption, to foster, or just simply going out for walks.

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Butch and Gary Finally Behave!!!



BUTCH DALE Columnist

Guess what? When my brother Gary and I were little whippersnappers, we were not perfect. Our school

teachers pretty much had us under control, but at home on the farm we seemed to get into all kinds of mischief. Maybe we were adventurous and inquisitive. Maybe we ran wild and free without much supervision. Maybe we inherited our mischievous ways from our uncles ... Or, as more likely the case, maybe we were just young and stupid. And yes, we paid for our sins when our



folks discovered our errant ways. I'll say one thing for Dad ... he could sure unhitch his belt fast! "When are you two ever going to learn to act like you have some common sense?"

Well, I imagine a few of you readers had the same problem. And lo and behold, we all turned out OK, didn't we? But though trouble followed us around

most of the year, there was a big change in our behavior after the Thanksgiving holidays. We were told that Santa would not bring any presents to naughty little boys. It's time to shape up! It's time to be on our best behavior! One of my favorite poets, Edgar Guest, pointed out this yearly phenomenon in "The Approach of Christmas."

"There's a little chap at our house that is being might good ... Keeps the front lawn looking tidy in the way we've said he should ... Doesn't leave his little

See BUTCH Page A3

What's coming in '25 Legislative Session



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

Indiana's 2025 legislature will convene for a long session because this is a budget year. With a new governor's agenda needing to be resolved to state legislators, it's going to be a busy session. It will be worth following diverse sources such as the Indiana Capitol Chronicle, the IndyStar, Indiana Week in Review and your local paper.

Here's what you should know about the agenda and the budget.

At the LWVMC-sponsored legislative breakfast last Saturday, Sens. Brian Buchanan (R-7) and Spencer Deery (R-23) and Reps. Matt Commons (R-13), Jeff Thompson (R-28) and Beau Baird (R-44) provided a breakdown of where tax dollars are spent. Of the 44.6 billion dollars in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget, the bulk (47 percent) goes to educating K-12 children. Medicaid has climbed from about 10 percent to 18 percent in recent years. Other allocations include higher education (10 percent), health and human services (8 percent), general government (7 percent), corrections (4 percent), capital (4 percent) and public safety (2 percent).

According to the panelists, Medicaid is high on the agenda, since the number of recipients has risen by about 30 percent in the last four to five years, followed by property tax reform, water policy, economic development reform, rural teacher shortages, early childhood literacy education, utility rates, the nonprofit security grants program and animal health.

Two years ago, lawmakers from all 92 counties signed on to a major health initiative, which started with \$75 million and then rose to \$150 million in fiscal year 2025. Gov.-elect Mike Braun is advocating for aggressive measures to lower health care costs, though previous transparency efforts have stalled, and more drastic action faces uncertain support. Lawmakers will evaluate ongoing investments in public health, including whether to adjust the \$150 million allocation for county initiatives. The question will be whether Indiana continues to serve the most at-risk and takes public sentiment about healthcare coverage seriously. Regarding property taxes,

Timmons Touches on Hodge Podge of Items



TIM TIMMONS Two Cents

Notes found scribbled on the back of an autographed photo of Chuck Barris . .

WITH THE holidays coming, it's a good time to talk about our publishing schedule.

Since Christmas and New Year's fall on Wednesdays, we won't have a publication either day. Part of me likes to think you'll miss us terribly - but then I realize that faith, family, friends and just having a break probably take precedence over missing us.

SPEAKING OF said holidays, New Year's Day is the only one in 2025 that falls on a Wednesday. The other U.S. Post Office observed holidays are:

- MLK Birthday, Monday, Jan. 20
Washington Birthday, Monday, Feb. 17
Memorial Day, Monday, May 26
Independence Day, Friday, July 4
Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 1
Columbus Day, Monday, Oct. 13
Veterans Day, Tuesday, Nov. 11
Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 27

- Christmas, Thursday, Dec. 25

THE HOLIDAY schedule means this is the last time this year you'll be reading my scribbles. So Merry Christmas (Bah humbug on "Happy Holidays") and Happy New Year to one and all!

WITH THE year drawing to a close, that also means that some office holders will see their terms come to an end. This is always good news and bad. As written in this space on many occasions,

See TIM Page A3

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Here is a good resource that explains how the health care law affects you: Healthcareandyou.org

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

"You know you're getting old, when Santa starts looking younger." Robert Paul

TODAY'S JOKE

You believe in Santa
You don't believe in Santa
You are Santa
You look like Santa
You think all the Santas you see look young

MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Just a reminder, there will be no Paper of Montgomery County Print or Online Edition on Wednesday, Dec. 25 in observance of Christmas Day. There will also be no Paper of Montgomery County Print or Online Edition on Wednesday, Jan. 1 in observance of New Year's Day. The Paper will publish the regular Monday and Friday Online Editions both weeks.

THREE THINGS You Should Know

- 1 Incoming Indiana Governor (and current U.S. Senator Mike Braun gave his farewell speech last week on the Senate floor. "I've lived the American dream, and I want more Hoosiers to have that opportunity. Touring all 92 counties every year, I've met so many Hoosiers and heard their challenges and their victories large and small. It's a truly incredible state filled with the most goodhearted, hardworking people in the world. It was my honor to serve them here in this body, and I can't wait to continue the adventure back home again in Indiana as your next Governor." One of his colleagues, Florida Sen. Rick Scott added this: "I'm very appreciative of Mike's friendship, I'm very appreciative of their hard work. I appreciate his tenacity: I can tell you they're always going to live within their means because Mike will not waste a dime."
2 Indianapolis Airport Authority officials hit a historical record last week, with more than 10 million people traveling through the Indianapolis International Airport in 2024 to date. In the first half of 2024, more than 5.2 million people traveled through the Indy airport, setting the airport on course to track 11-percent higher passenger travel in 2024 compared to 2023 and 2019. Those first- and second-quarter numbers were driven by the NBA All-Star game in February, a busy Spring Break travel season, the Total Solar Eclipse, the Indy 500 and Memorial Day weekend.
3 Hoosiers, drive safe! A recent study conducted by personal injury attorneys Injured In Florida (https://injuredinflorida.com) has identified Indiana as the third-highest state for multiple-vehicle fatal crashes in the U.S. A total of 46.85 percent of the state's fatal crashes involved multiple vehicles. Indiana saw 4,090 fatal crashes during the study period of 2018 to 2022, with 1,587 involving two vehicles and 329 involving more than two. Only Nebraska and Delaware were higher statistically.



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

See LWV Page A5

OBITUARY

Janet Sue Whitecotton

August 3, 1950 - December 11, 2024

Janet "Jan" Sue (Keys) Whitecotton, age 74 of Crawfordsville passed away on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at her home in Brazil. She was born in Crawfordsville on August 3, 1950, to the late James E. and Betty "Jean" (Hester) Keys.



Jan graduated from Waveland High School, class of 1968. She married her high school sweetheart, Max Whitecotton, on February 9, 1969, in Browns Valley. He preceded her in death on December 26, 2001. Janet was a loving mother and farm wife and worked for South Montgomery High School as a bus driver. She was a member of Browns Valley Christian Church, Waveland Christian Church, and the Crawfordsville First Baptist Church. She served as a CASA volunteer (Court Appointed Special Advocate). Jan enjoyed loving others by sewing, quilting, cooking, and fellowshiping. She was a bright beacon for the love of Jesus for all people...friends, family, and strangers.

Jan will be lovingly remembered by her children, Lisa & John Richter and Gary Whitecotton; sister, Linda Chesterson; sister-in-laws, Deb Keys Parella and Lois Morgan; and many others.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Max; son, Kevin Whitecotton; and brother, Tom Keys.

Visitation will be at Sanders Funeral Care, 315 S Washington St, in Crawfordsville on Friday, December 20, 2024, from 4:00pm - 7:00pm. The Funeral service will be at First Baptist Church, 1905 Lebanon Road, in Crawfordsville on Saturday, December 21, 2024, at 11:00am. Cremation will follow the service with a graveside at Freedom Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be given to the CASA Program at the Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau, 808 W Pike St, Crawfordsville, IN 47933 or the Alzheimer's Association, 50 E 91st Street, Suite 100, Indianapolis, IN 46209. Share memories and condolences online at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

Missing Person and Son Found Safe

The Crawfordsville Police Department would like to report that Lindsey Cox and her 7-month-old son were located safe last week. Officers from the Boone County Sheriff's Office and the Lebanon Police Department met with Cox and confirmed her and her child's safety.

Last Friday, the Crawfordsville Police Department and Cox's family received information indicating that Cox had returned to the Crawfordsville area. CPD was able to verify this information. Shortly afterward, Cox left the area and was later located by officers in Boone County. While speaking with officers, she requested privacy for her and her son.

The Crawfordsville Police Department would like to thank the following agencies for their assistance in this investigation: Montgomery County Central Communications Center, Blackford County Sheriff's Office, Fulton County Sheriff's Office, Boone County Sheriff's Office, Lebanon Police Department, Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center, Indiana Clearinghouse, Broken Arrow, Okla. Police Department, Tulsa, Okla. Police Department, Oklahoma Highway Patrol and the Tulsa County District Attorney's Office. Their collaborative efforts were instrumental in ensuring the safety of Lindsey and her son.

Duke Energy Offers Energy Tips for Winter

As winter approaches, Duke Energy is offering some energy savings solutions for Hoosiers.

"Duke Energy is here to help our customers as the weather gets chillier," said Stan Pinegar, president of Duke Energy Indiana. "We want them to know that there are a number of tools available through the company, as well as simple solutions to manage their energy use."

Energy-saving solutions

- Duke Energy customers can sign up for a free in-person or virtual home energy assessment. Through the Home Energy House Call program, energy specialists help customers find ways to save energy and money by being more efficient. Customers will also receive a free energy efficiency kit, a customized usage report, low-cost tips and expert recommendations to help them see energy savings.
- Another way customers can save is through the Smart Saver® home improvement rebate programs. Insulating and sealing your home will help keep warm air in and cold air out to help manage energy and save money.
- Better predict what you'll spend on electricity by reviewing the Usage Alerts that arrive midway through a billing cycle. By having a smart meter and an email address on file, customers automatically are enrolled to receive a Usage Alert notification that shows how much electricity customers are using and how much it may cost in time to adjust. Customers can track energy usage down to the hour, day or week. The goal is to see when energy use is spiking and adjust habits that may be driving it up. Simply sign in to your online account or create one here.

Low- to no-cost energy-saving tips and projects

In addition to programs, incentives and rates, customers can also use these low- to no-cost tips to save energy this season:

- Reduce your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting. The closer you match your thermostat to outdoor temps, the lower you can make your bill. Even a couple degrees makes it easier on your heating systems and your wallet.
- Change your air filter and schedule regular maintenance for your heating systems. Maintaining your heating systems can help increase efficiency.
- Leave drapes or blinds open during sunny winter days to allow the sun's rays to warm the house and close them at night to help insulate your home.
- Seal cracks in windows, doors and vents with caulking and weatherstripping to save 10% to 20% in heating costs.
- Operate ceiling fans in a clockwise direction in the winter, which pushes warm air back down into the room. (Most fans have a switch that allows you to reverse the motor.) While fans move air and make people more comfortable, they do not provide heat, so remember to turn the fan off when you leave the room.
- Manage water heating. Set your water heater to 120 degrees or less. Water heating is typically the second biggest user of energy in your home.
- Replace standard bulbs with LEDs. LEDs are more efficient than regular bulbs, while giving off the same amount of light. Replacing just six of your most frequently used bulbs with LEDs can save up to \$480 over the lifetime of the bulbs.

Visit Duke Energy's Winter Energy Savings webpage for more information: duke-energy.com/SeasonalSavings.

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do You Recognize These Two Former Sports Radio Broadcasters?

HINT:
 The one on the left was associated with the Sportsman Shop, while the one on the right was a newspaper sports writer.

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.

Basic data entry skills are required. Experience with QuickBooks is a bonus.

E-mail jobs@thepaper24-7.com

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↓ BUTCH From Page A1

wagon when he's finished with his play ... On the sidewalk as he used to, now he puts it right away ... When we call him into supper, we don't have to stand and shout ... It's getting close to Christmas, and it's plain he's found it out ... He eats the food we give him without murmur or complaint ... He sits up at the table like a cherub or a saint ... He doesn't pinch his sister just to hear how loud she'll squeal ... Doesn't ask us to excuse him in the middle of the meal ... And at eight o'clock he's willing to be tucked away in bed ... It's getting close to Christmas, nothing further need be said."

dead mouse ... What's a fellow to do?

We made out our lists in anticipation of a bountiful supply of toys awaiting us on Christmas morning. Well, we got a few things ... socks, shirt, board game, baseball, candy, an orange, a pack of B-Bs and a Magic 8 ball. Not sure what happened ... Maybe he didn't find our wish lists. Or Santa's elves may have been on strike ... And it's possible that eleven months of misdeeds and onerous antics outweighed one month of being good. We shook the Magic 8 ball and asked, "Will we get a lot of toys next years if we behave better and don't get into trouble?"

At age 7, it was difficult for me. No more rock throwing. No more truck driving on my own. No more firing off Dad's shotgun. No more climbing on top of the barns. No more shooting my B-B rifle at the lightning rod bulbs. No more operating Dad's power saw. No more lighting firecrackers in cow poop. No more swimming in the hog wallow. No more peeing out the upstairs window. No more chasing brother with a

The Magic 8 ball's answer, "Outlook not so good." So we shook it again. "My sources say no." Hmmm, oh well, forget it. Let's go back to our old ways and have some fun!

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.

Job Fair with Students April 10

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:
 7:30-8:30 a.m. - Set Up
 8:45-9:45 a.m. - AM CTE Students
 9:45-10:45 a.m. - School #1
 10:45-11:45 a.m. - School #2
 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. - Lunch (on your own)
 12:45-1:45 p.m. - School #3
 1:45-2:45 p.m. - PM CTE Students
 2:45-3:45 p.m. - School #4
 3:45-4:30 p.m. - Tear Down

West Central Indiana CTE will be hosting a Student Job Fair and Community Expo on Thursday, April 10 from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Crawfordsville High School.

participate. Each employer or organization will be provided a 8' table and two chairs. We ask that you plan to bring your own table covering and any other promotional items for your booth. This is an all-day event, and we gently remind participants of the importance of being present for the entire day. Full-day participation ensures equal access for all students to meet with you and learn about your organization.

More than 1,000 students from Crawfordsville, North Montgomery, Southmont and Western Boone High School – current juniors and seniors – will be attending. Many of these students are actively exploring opportunities for full-time or part-time employment, internships, apprenticeships, seasonal work, and training opportunities.

Please complete the form to register your participation by Friday, March 14. More logistical information will be provided after registration.

We will again be hosting the Community Expo, where local organizations can promote volunteer opportunities and ways for young adults to get involved with non-profits in the area. There is no cost to

To register for the April 10 Student Job Fair at CHS, go to this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16gl7gmEqjWkbBcCh0X5skODnAZcFUH4cTBthISEGzbc/vie wform?edit_requested=true

**Butch Dale's
Flashback Trivia**

Answer:
Ed Campbell and Jack Hess

Rep. Genda Encourages Participation



MARK GENDA
Guest Columnist

With the 2025 legislative session right around the corner, I encourage Hoosiers in House District 41 to share their opinions on important issues through my online survey.

The 2025 legislative session will begin Jan. 8 and must conclude by April 29. Hoosiers can follow session at iga.in.gov, where they can find proposed legislation and watch livestreams of committee hearings and session.

To complete the survey, Hoosiers must be a resident of the district and submit it by the Dec. 31 deadline. Constituents can check which House district they reside in by visiting the Indiana General Assembly's website at iga.in.gov, clicking on "Find Your Legislator" on the homepage and entering a home address.

I would also encourage Hoosiers to stay in touch as we head into the next legislative session by visiting my website or calling (317) 232-9600.

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

↓ TIM From Page A1

we need term limits. So I can't say I'm especially sad to see some folks who have been in office a LOOOOOONG time leaving . . . but then again, there are some awfully good folks holding office locally.

in the NCAA basketball tourney. But football – and IU? This is new ground!

Can I waffle a little and push for term limits at the state and national levels?

I only wish the Hoosiers and Fighting Irish of Notre Dame weren't pitted against each other. On the good side, that means at least one of them will make it to the next round. But with the seasons they had, and depending on the draw, there was a decent chance both of them might've.

SPEAKING OF one of those folks, County Commissioner John Frey will be out of office when the clock strikes midnight on his final term. Jake Bohlander will be taking his place and good for Jake. He seems to be an up and comer and we wish him all the best. That said, I'll miss John Frey.

ONE LAST sports note – can you hear Duke Tumatoo? His wonderful version of Lord Help Our Colts sure seems appropriate.

Yeah, yeah, I know. A lot of people won't. That's the deal with politics . . . AND media. You have your fans and boy do you have your haters! (Why is it we have SOOO many haters in today's world?)

Truth to tell, I haven't really understood the pundits who got all excited about the Denver game and maybe making the playoffs. The Colts are mediocre at best and their wins – which usually are squeakers – are against teams that are, well, in a word, awful. Why did anyone think they could beat a good team.

Anyways, say what you want about John, but you would be hard pressed to find someone who spends more time on the business of Montgomery County or who cares more about it.

A lot of changes are in order in the off season. But that's been true the last few years. Will anything be different this time?

Do I always agree with his stances? Heck, I don't always agree with mine. But he has a quality that I wish more politicians had – he believes in what he is doing. For me at least, that's an easy position to respect.

A LOT OF US remember the Gong Show and the goofy host Chuck Barris. Never did figure out if the rumors about him working for the CIA were true or not. Then again, didn't really matter. He will go down in history as the host of maybe one of the weirdest (and dumbest?) shows in TV history. It was so weird and bad it was kind of like a car wreck. You didn't want to look, but you just couldn't help yourself.

Will this be the last time we see him? Oh heck no. I suspect John will stay involved in various ways. Much to the delight of some, and chagrin of others.

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

KENNY THOMPSON

With decades of experience as an award-winning sports writer and sports editor – most of it covering Purdue athletics – Kenny Thompson has a perspective and inside knowledge that few others have. Whether it's putting what's going on in the Big Ten in historical perspective or shooting straight from the hip on what's happening today, no one has a better take on Purdue and sports than Kenny!

Catch Kenny every Friday in The Paper of Montgomery County!

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Sen. Deery Shares Update



SPENCER DEERY
Guest Columnist

Students from across Indiana visited the Statehouse last week for Statehood Day, celebrating

our state's 208th birthday.

This included students from the Tippecanoe School Corporation's Mintonye Elementary School. I answered their questions in the Senate Chamber let them cast hypothetical votes on the same machines we use during the legislative session.

The imaginary scenario they voted on was whether to extend the school day by 25 minutes to give them an extra recess. We talked about how if the scenario was real, they would then need to go back home and explain their reasoning to their constituents.

I told them that I cast votes knowing not everyone will agree but always using my best judgement to do what is right for the state and the communities in our region, and I always remain eager to be available to explain my votes.

As I've often stated here before, interacting with students is one of my favorite parts of the job because I truly believe we need to do more to prepare the next generation to preserve and guide our republic.

As always, I am grateful for the educators for doing their part in preparing these future leaders, and I will offer my support in any way I can!

PREPARING FOR

Session I recently received my committee assignments for the 124th Indiana General Assembly.

Why it matters: Committees are the first stop for a bill during the legislative process. In committees, members of the public, industry experts and lawmakers all have the opportunity to properly discuss and thoroughly examine public policy proposals

before they move to the full Senate for further consideration.

During the upcoming session, I will serve on the following Senate committees.

- Commerce and Technology
- Education and Career Development
- Health and Provider Services
- Utilities

Senators have the most opportunity to shape public policy through the committee process.

I am honored to have been asked to bring my judgment and expertise to these four committees that will consider bills on some of the most important issues facing Hoosiers. My goal in each is to preserve our liberties and to keep state policies from impeding or neglecting Hoosiers in their personal efforts to live healthy, fulfilling lives.

Committee hearings can be viewed online by visiting iga.in.gov. Legislative calendars, agendas, vote tallies and proposed legislation can also be found on this site.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and opinions on issues facing our community and state. Please feel free to contact me online or by calling my office at (317) 232-9400.

HELPING HOOSIERS this Holiday Season

For many people, the holiday season is filled with joy and happiness, but for some Hoosiers, it can also cause stress and increase financial burdens.

That's why Indiana offers many resources for those who may need a little extra help during the holiday season.

State Sen. Spencer Deery (R-West Lafayette) represents Senate District 23, which includes Fountain, Parke, Vermillion and Warren counties, and portions of Montgomery and Tippecanoe counties.

FOR THE RECORD

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.

MEETING CANCELLATION

The City of Crawfordsville Redevelopment Commission did not have a meeting as scheduled on Tuesday because of a lack of an agenda. The next regularly scheduled Redevelopment Commission meeting: Jan. 21, 2025

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

AGENDA
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18, 2024, 10:00 AM
1580 CONSTITUTION ROW
CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN 47933
I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2024 minutes

III. NEW BUSINESS:
1. MEETING DATE AND TIME SCHEDULE FOR 2025

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

V. ADJOURNMENT

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 23,2024

The Montgomery County BZA met on Wednesday October 23, 2024. Those members present were Steve Canfield, Seth Howell and Tom McClamroch. The staff present were Marc Bonwell and Darren Chad.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM. Seth Howell made a motion to accept the previous meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Tom McClamroch. Motion passed 3-0.

ZV2407: Petitioner, Demi Cullison

Marc Bonwell introduced the variance request. The petitioner requests variance from 2.10 Uses, for a residentially zoned property. The small business fits inside the Commercial classification in 2.10. The property exists with a single-family dwelling and accessory structures. The petitioner requests variance from the Montgomery County Zoning code for a commercial building. The small business building will be a microblading business with 1-3 clients per day.

The access to the property is off of 450 E and currently exists. The petitioner proposes a second entrance to the property for the proposed use. The property is zoned residential. The new addition to the property will be served by a private well and septic.

The staff recommend approval of the variance requested with the following conditions:

1. Petitioner is required to secure septic and building permits for building.
2. Right-of-Way permit required for second entrance to property.
3. Any exterior lighting for planned improvements is required to be directional and shielded to prevent light trespass on property to the south.
4. A landscape buffer be required between business building and south property line per 18.09 of chapter 159.

The public hearing was opened at 10:04 AM. There being no comments, the public hearing was closed at 10:04 AM.

Seth Howell made a motion to approve with the above-mentioned conditions. The motion was seconded by Tom McClamroch. Motion carried 3-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Indiana-American Water Announces Changes

Quick Facts about Indiana American Water

- 1.4 million Indiana Customers
- Providing water and wastewater services to over 50 communities
- Over 400 employees statewide
- 38 Surface and Groundwater Treatment Facilities
- 4 Wastewater Treatment Facilities
- 5,400 miles of water pipe
- Over 32,000 fire hydrants

American Water (NYSE: AWK), the largest regulated water and wastewater utility company in the U.S., announced today a number of state leadership changes and the development of a key customer strategy role.

Lynnae Wilson will join American Water as Senior Vice President, Customer Strategy, a new role that will focus on the effective strategic coordination of customer service and technology. In today's world of virtual interaction and communication, the effective utilization of technology in all aspects of providing a superior customer experience is vital. American Water's Customer Service and Information Technology (IT) organizations will be led by Wilson, as Matt Prine, currently President of Indiana American Water, has been named Chief Customer Officer, and Deb Degillio, has been named Chief Technology and Information Officer.

Wilson has more than 20 years of extensive operations experience in the utility space. Most recently responsible for all aspects of electric operations at CenterPoint Energy, her proven expertise includes leading an integrated technical and operational team serving millions of customers in multiple states.

Prine has led Indiana American Water since 2019, and his state operational experience will enhance the connection between customer service and operations. Degillio has been working with American Water's IT team to implement many technology-supported customer service systems. She will bring her deep knowledge of customer service processes to IT.

Barry Suits, currently President of Maryland and Virginia American Water, will replace Prine as President of Indiana American Water. Laura Runkle, currently serving as Vice President of Operations for Iowa American Water, will replace Suits as President of Maryland and Virginia American Water. Suits has led Maryland and Virginia operations since 2015 and has been with American Water since 1999, starting out with Illinois American Water. Runkle has been with American Water since



Barry Suits



Matt Prine

2010 in various roles with increasing responsibility in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Iowa. To allow for adequate transition of the various roles, particularly in state leadership, all of the changes will be effective January 13, 2025.

"This is an exciting day for our company to be able to promote highly experienced, long-time American Water employees as well as bring on someone like Lynnae, who has deep utility and operations knowledge," said Cheryl Norton, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of American Water. "All are fully committed to our purpose of delivering safe, clean, reliable and affordable water and wastewater services. They know how to build teams effectively and they understand the importance of putting our customers first while making the communities we serve stronger."

About American Water American Water (NYSE: AWK) is the largest regulated water and wastewater utility company in the United States. With a history dating back to 1886, We Keep Life Flowing® by providing safe, clean, reliable and affordable drinking water and wastewater services to more than 14 million people with regulated operations in 14 states and on 18 military installations. American Water's 6,500 talented professionals leverage their significant expertise and the company's national size and scale to achieve excellent outcomes for the benefit of customers, employees, investors and other stakeholders.

For more information, visit amwater.com and join American Water on LinkedIn, Facebook, X and Instagram.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of City of Crawfordsville Traffic Ordinance Amendment
The City of Crawfordsville gives notice of and publishes that on 9 December 2024, the Crawfordsville Common Council adopted Ordinance 27-2024, an ordinance amending the City's Traffic Code to establish a speed limit on the new eastern section of Purple Heart Parkway in the City of Crawfordsville, Indiana. Section 71.30 of the City of Crawfordsville Code of Ordinances allows the Common Council to regulate the speed of vehicles under its Traffic Code. Section The Common Council also amended Schedule X Chapter 76 of the Code of Crawfordsville:

Street	Description	Speed Limit (mph)	Ord. No.	Date Passed
Purple Heart Parkway	From U.S. 231 South to Eastern City Boundary	30	27-2024	12-09-2024

All other provisions of Section 71.30 and Schedule X of Chapter 76 that are not expressly amended or modified by this ordinance remain in full effect. This ordinance is effective as of the date of its passage, approval, and publication. The Crawfordsville Street Commissioner will erect appropriate signs designating this established speed limitation. Violations of this traffic regulation are subject to penalty under the City Traffic Code and other City Code provisions. The City's Traffic Code applies throughout the City of Crawfordsville. Copies of Ordinance 27-2024 are available at the office of the City Clerk-Treasurer, 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.
This notice dated 10 December 2024.
/s/ Karyn Douglas
Crawfordsville City Clerk-Treasurer
PL5009 12/18 1t hspaxlp

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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↓ LWV From Page A1

most Hoosiers are more concerned with the 7 percent sales tax than property taxes, according to results from the annual Hoosier Survey conducted by Ball State's Bowen Center for Public Affairs.

As James Briggs writes in the *IndyStar*, "30.7 percent of adults responding to the survey said Indiana's property taxes are already either fair or very fair; another 25 percent said they're neither fair nor unfair. Just 38.9 percent perceive them as either unfair or very unfair. Interestingly, Hoosiers have stronger feelings about the state's sales tax. On that issue, 48.3 percent of respondents said Indiana's 7 percent tax is either unfair or very unfair." Briggs notes that property tax assessments rose with housing prices after 2020 and points out that reductions in property tax revenue will particularly reduce local government budgets. Nevertheless, the panelists said there's some desire to reform the property taxation structure so that rate increases mean people's property taxes go up accordingly and, similarly, rate decreases mean people's property taxes go down.

Locally, County Manager Tom Klein asked the legislators to continue support and funding for roads, including READI grants and Community Crossings grants. In the wake of water transfers from Tippecanoe County to Boone County, water policy is a priority, including concerns about groundwater data monitoring, protection of water quality without hindering economic development and the impact of upstream Wabash River use on downstream rural areas. Les Zimmerman, former supervisor at Vermillion County's Soil and Conservation District, encouraged the legislators to keep an eye on conservation and water quality, as well as quantity.

The controversy surrounding water in the LEAP district is one degree separated from added scrutiny on economic development, both per se and regulatory reform to improve accountability and transparency within Indiana Economic Development Corporation. As *Indiana Capital Chronicle's* Niki Kelly notes, the money the Legislature gave to the IEDC included extras like \$500 million for a deal-closing fund, another \$500 million for regional development grants and \$150 million for land acquisition. "But there has been pushback against IEDC's focus on large corporations and wild spending on the Boone County innovation park, which still has only one tenant," wrote Kelly.

According to the panelists, education agenda items include addressing rural teacher shortages and early childhood literacy education, but they will also need to address Braun's intent to make vouchers universal. Already accessible to 95 percent of Hoosier families, universal vouchers are likely to see unpredictable increases. The program is now estimated to cost \$600 million in fiscal year 2025 and is predicted to climb.

In terms of higher education, Chip Timmons and Scott Feller from Wabash College raised concern about recently announced cuts to Frank O'Bannon financial aid grants and urged that legislators act to ensure that current students, including Wabash students from 33 households in Montgomery County, who receive these grants, be shielded.

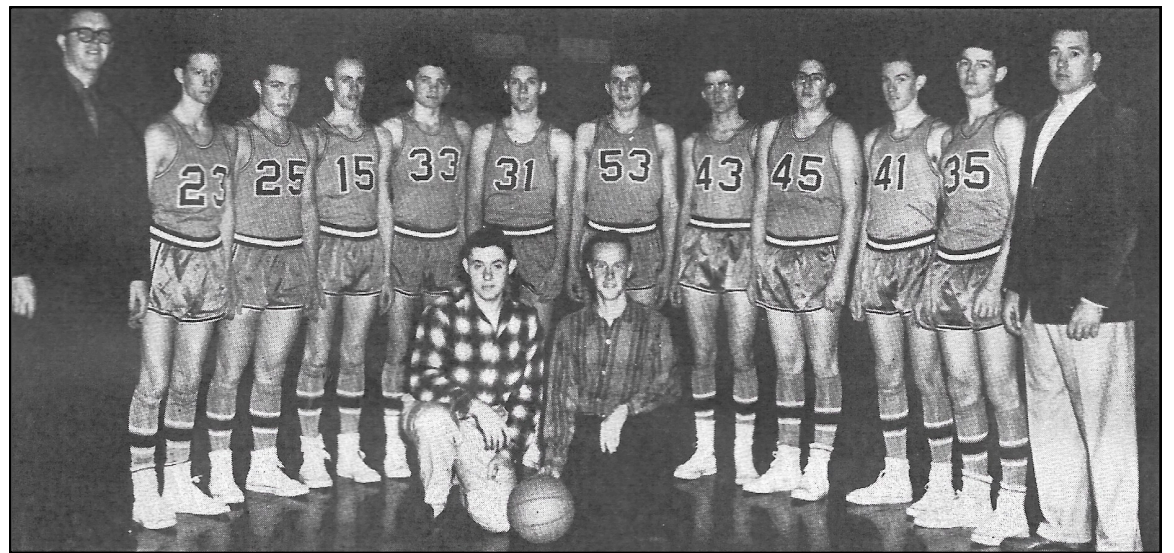
Rising utility costs tied to the transition from coal to renewables are under scrutiny, with legislative and regulatory interventions expected to slow or block these changes. Kelly wrote that Republicans believe that moving away from coal to renewables is the cause of the spike. With the pressure to move toward cleaner sources of energy, the question will be if legislators respond and how they handle Braun's hint at nuclear power.

The panelists also mentioned nonprofit security grants program and animal health. Other active bills and legislation showing up in representative surveys include legalization of cannabis, infrastructure and childcare. The state's road funding plan, hindered by inflation and improved fuel efficiency, will receive attention following recommendations from a study on funding needs. With costs exceeding in-state college tuition and staff turnover high, lawmakers will revisit childcare reforms, potentially considering tax subsidies long championed by Democrats.

As Indiana's economy slows, this legislative session promises to be a challenging balancing act between addressing immediate needs and maintaining fiscal prudence.

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.

Back in the Day with Butch Dale



The 1960 New Ross Blue Jays basketball team were a force to be reckoned with, finishing the season with a record of 19-2 under Coach Keith Greve. Mike Whitecotton led the county in scoring that year. Front: Mgrs. Bill Barnett and Gary Fruits; Standing left to right: Asst. Coach Joe Kelly, Ronnie Youngs, Bill Evans, Jim Huffman, Gene McAnulty, Mike Whitecotton, Bob McAnulty, Dave Vos, John Norman, Danny Isenberg, Phil Haffner, Coach Keith Greve.

CenterPoint Energy Creates Customer Assistance Fund

CenterPoint Energy is introducing the Customer Assistance Fund, a new initiative focused on providing bill assistance to eligible customers in Indiana, to benefit customers in need.

The new fund replaces the Share the Warmth weatherization assistance program. With other weatherization programs now widely available, the CAF will address customers' needs by offering direct support to those facing financial challenges.

"CenterPoint is committed to supporting programs that meet the evolving needs of our customers," said Mike Roeder, CenterPoint's Senior Vice President for External Affairs. "This new fund gives our customers another option to better manage their energy bills."

The program is available to income-qualifying CenterPoint customers. Customers can apply once during the calendar year (January 1 to December 31) and may reapply at the start of each new calendar year.

The CAF expands eligibility to include customers who may not qualify for state and federal low-income assistance programs but still face difficulties managing their energy costs. Previously, under the STW program, eligibility was limited to natural gas customers who owned their residences; the CAF now extends support to eligible electric customers in southwestern Indiana, as well as those who

rent their residences.

Customers eligible for state and federal low-income assistance programs are encouraged to apply for those resources first before seeking assistance from the CAF. The fund complements existing CenterPoint tools, tips and programs available to help customers manage their bills and save energy.

The Salvation Army to assist with program facilitation in Indiana Administered in partnership with The Salvation Army Indiana Division, the program offers an easy and accessible application process. Customers can apply online at tsautilities.org.

The CAF will be supported by CenterPoint shareholder contributions, employee donations and voluntary customer contributions.

The launch of the CAF is part of CenterPoint's ongoing effort to enhance communications and strengthen relationships with customers. Building on the recently announced Customer Experience Collaborative in southwestern Indiana, the company remains focused on incorporating customer feedback to shape its programs and services.

For more information about the CAF, including detailed eligibility requirements and how to apply, customers are encouraged to visit CenterPointEnergy.com/CAF or visit tsautilities.org.

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