

Building new clean energy will lower Hoosiers' bills & protect grid reliability.

MORE LOW-COST ENERGY NOW

PAID FOR BY ADVANCED ENERGY UNITED



TODAY'S VERSE

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Meet Winnie



Winnie is a 5 year old male American Pit Bull Terrier available for adoption since 10/5/24. Winnie loves going out for walks/jogs, playing fetch, and will gladly sit for treats. Winnie is looking for his best friend. Could that be you? Winnie is available for adoption, to foster, or just simply going out for walks. Come say hi!! 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!

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.

The Paper OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper

50¢

CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA

WWW.THEPAPER24-7.COM

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 wrap up our look at the Christmas holiday season. Last week, we featured the jolly old elf, Santa. This week, a few more tidbits to put the bow on the splendor that is Christmas... By The Numbers!

70

Number of mall Santa applications who had criminal backgrounds. That's according to pre-employ.com, an employee screening service. That's also pretty darn scary... and discouraging!



No. 2

Is it true that Rudolph tries harder? Maybe.

Well, the song dedicated to Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is ranked second among the most popular Christmas songs of all time.



No. 1

It seems appropriate to us that the most popular Christmas song of all time is none other than White Christmas. We can just see Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney, Danny Kaye and Vera Ellen standing on stage singing it now!



0

The number of times that the three wise men are mentioned in the Bible. (No kidding!)

\$12

We've all seen the video of the wood-burning fireplace. Well, the original one that was a 90-minute videotape, complete with "real snap-crackling sounds" cost \$12 to make.



2,400

That's how many soldiers who took part in Gen. George Washington's famous crossing of the Delaware on Christmas Eve in 1776.

364

That's how many gifts you would have if you got every present mentioned in "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

\$49,263

According to the 40th annual PNC Christmas Price Index, that's how much those 12 presents would cost in 2023 dollars.



Butch's Suggestions for the New Year...



BUTCH DALE Columnist

As we celebrate the birth of Christ and enjoy the holidays with our friends and families this week, we also are looking forward to the new year. Most people would agree that 2024 will not make the "Top Ten List of Favorite Years." Crazy weather... including hot and dry spells in the summer and fall, zero wind chills in December, hurricanes, etc. etc. We can deal with those. But then there was inflation and high prices on just about everything... food, gas, housing, clothing and you

See BUTCH Page A3

John Frey Recaps, Says Thanks

What a beautiful day to be alive and living in West Central Indiana! My goal with this message is simple: to avoid embarrassing my mother. For those of you who know her, you understand the pressure that puts on me!



County Commissioner John Frey

I've started many speeches with those lines over the past eight years, and this will be my last opportunity as a county commissioner to do so. So, let's get to it!

See FREY Page A4

The Problem Isn't Guns; It's People



TIM TIMMONS Two Cents

It's been a week and the shock, the outrage are fading... or have faded entirely. Young people and a teacher were killed a week ago at a Wisconsin school. A second-grader made the 911 call to report that a shooting was going on.

We live in a world where a 6- or 7-year-old has to make that kind of call? Where they have to live with that kind of reality?

See TIM Page A4

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

It's a myth that older people need less sleep.

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Paper and online at www.thepaper24-7.com



TODAY'S QUOTE

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:8-14

TODAY'S JOKE

What did Adam say to his partner on Dec. 24? It's Christmas Eve! What did Adam say to her the next day? It's Christmas, Eve. (See how important commas are!)

THREE THINGS You Should Know

- 1 Our friends who make wonderful kitchen cabinets, Fabuwood, recently conducted a survey of 3,000 respondents to see which regional dish they would most like to see on their tables this Christmas day. Two quintessential Indiana Christmas foods were voted among the most popular this festive season: Pork Tenderloin with Zesty Cranberry Sauce and for dessert, what else but a Sugar Cream Pie! Ham was also high on the national list, with Kentucky's Bourbon-Glazed, Vermont's Maple-Glazed and Wisconsin's Honey-Glazed all in the top 10.
2 Dearborn and Wabash counties were recently named 2024 Stellar Pathways designated communities by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. The Stellar Pathways program is a multi-year, multi-million-dollar initiative led by OCRA. The program works with communities in a self-determined region on a shared vision for community and economic development. Stellar Pathways aims to promote local and regional partnerships and assists in implementing sustainable solutions to challenges Indiana's rural communities face.
3 Parents of a 10-year-old fourth-grader who was found dead by suicide in his bedroom this year in Greenfield have filed a wrongful death suit. Sam and Nicole Teusch described the terror their young son went through, and how the school failed to protect him. "Sammy's abusers urged him to hang himself; they chased him, stalked him, punched him, choked him - all while school officials for months callously dismissed and disregarded Sammy's pleas for protection," their attorney said. "This suit is about more than holding the Greenfield School Corporation accountable, it's about making sure no child ever experiences what Sammy experienced."



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



## Montgomery Medicine: Ovarian Cancer



**JOHN R. ROBERTS, M.D.**  
 Montgomery Medicine

Ovarian cancer is a particularly concerning illness because it is often diagnosed at an advanced stage, making it more difficult to treat effectively. By the time most women are diagnosed, the cancer has already spread beyond the ovaries into the abdominal cavity or nearby lymph nodes, which is considered stage 3. This delay in diagnosis contributes to a poor survival rate, with less than half of women surviving five years after their diagnosis. In the United States, there were approximately 20,000 new cases of ovarian cancer in 2022, and about 12,800 women died from the disease. While ovarian cancer accounts for less than 3% of all cancers in women, it is the fifth leading cause of cancer-related deaths, behind breast, lung, colorectal, and uterine cancers.

The risk of developing ovarian cancer increases with age, with an average age of 63 and peaking in the late 70s. Fortunately, the overall risk remains relatively low, with about a 1.3% lifetime chance of developing the disease. In fact, the incidence of ovarian cancer has been gradually declining since the late 1980s. Several factors increase a woman's risk, including infertility, endometriosis, polycystic ovarian syndrome, smoking, obesity, estrogen use, and a family history of breast or ovarian cancer. Women who test positive for the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene mutations are also at

higher risk. For those with one first-degree relative, such as a mother or sister, the risk rises to about 4-5%, and it increases to about 7% if there are two affected first-degree relatives. On the other hand, certain factors are associated with a reduced risk of ovarian cancer, such as having had a pregnancy, breastfeeding, using oral contraceptives, undergoing tubal ligation, or using an intrauterine device (IUD).

Ovarian cancer is often called a "silent killer" because its symptoms can be subtle or absent in the early stages. When symptoms do appear, they may include bloating, abdominal or pelvic pain, a sense of fullness after eating only small amounts, decreased appetite, urinary urgency or frequency, and changes in bowel habits, such as constipation. Unfortunately, these symptoms are nonspecific and can easily be mistaken for less serious conditions. Women who experience any of these symptoms for more than a few weeks should consult a healthcare provider for further evaluation.

Diagnosing ovarian cancer early improves survival rates, but there is currently no effective screening test for women at average risk who do not have symptoms. Routine screening in this group has not been shown to reduce mortality and is associated with a high rate of false positives. These false positives can cause unnecessary stress and expose women to potential harm from invasive procedures and surgeries. Occasionally,

ovarian cancer may be detected during a routine pelvic exam, but this typically occurs when the disease is already advanced. Women who are at higher risk due to genetic factors or family history, or those with persistent, unexplained symptoms, may benefit from additional testing. This could include a pelvic examination, pelvic ultrasound, and a blood test known as CA-125.

The CA-125 test is often discussed in social media and has been promoted in widely circulated messages, including emails, as a screening tool for ovarian cancer. Some versions of these messages have been shared for decades, claiming that women who do not have annual CA-125 testing are endangering their lives and accusing the medical community and insurance companies of withholding this test. However, these claims are misleading. While the CA-125 test is useful for monitoring women who have already been diagnosed with ovarian cancer to track their response to treatment, it is not an effective screening tool for detecting the disease in the general population.

The CA-125 test has significant limitations. It is not very sensitive, as it is only elevated in about half of women with ovarian cancer, and it often remains normal until the cancer has already spread. This means that a negative result does not rule out the presence of ovarian cancer. The test is also not specific, as CA-125 levels can be elevated for reasons unrelated to ovarian cancer, such as normal menstruation, pregnancy,

endometriosis, and benign uterine tumors. It can also rise in conditions like pancreatitis, appendicitis, and other cancers, including breast, lung, and colon cancers.

Given these limitations, the CA-125 test is not recommended as a routine screening tool for ovarian cancer. Instead, women should focus on recognizing symptoms and understanding their individual risk factors. If a woman experiences persistent symptoms, such as bloating, pelvic pain, or changes in bowel or urinary habits, she should consult her healthcare provider. A thorough medical history, physical examination, and additional testing, if necessary, can help determine the cause of her symptoms. For women at increased risk due to family history or genetic predisposition, a combination of risk-reducing strategies and careful monitoring may be appropriate.

Ultimately, awareness and early recognition of symptoms are key to improving outcomes for ovarian cancer. Women should be proactive in discussing their concerns and risk factors with their healthcare providers to ensure appropriate evaluation and care. While ovarian cancer remains a challenging disease, advances in research and ongoing efforts to improve early detection and treatment offer hope for better outcomes in the future.

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

## Rep. Baird Applauds Award for Hoosier Company



**Rep. Jim Baird**

Congressman Jim Baird (IN-04) released the following statement regarding the announcement that the U.S. Department of Commerce reached a direct funding agreement with SK hynix. SK hynix will receive up to \$458 million in incentives under the CHIPS and Science Act for SK

hynix's high-bandwidth memory (HBM) advanced packaging fabrication and research and development (R&D) facility in West Lafayette, Indiana.

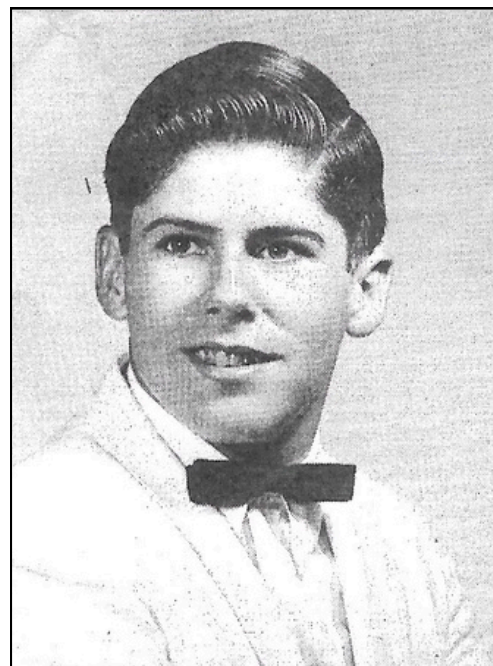
"I want to congratulate SK hynix on receiving this award from the U.S. Department of Commerce following my advocacy with the Indiana Delegation and following the preliminary agreement made in August," said Rep. Baird. "This funding was authorized by the CHIPS and Science Act, which I supported, to ensure the U.S. and Indiana continue to bolster domestic

innovation, boost our global competitive edge, drive job creation, and beat China. The process for awarding this grant has been thorough, with SK hynix submitting their full application in February 2024 and undergoing a rigorous review process from the Commerce Department. This award to SK hynix further secures Indiana and my district's place as a national leader in semiconductor manufacturing."

The award provides up to \$458 million in direct funding and up to \$500 million in loans from the CHIPS Program Office

for SK hynix. SK hynix and the U.S. Department of Commerce reached a preliminary memorandum of terms (PMT) in August 2024. SK hynix previously announced it will invest over \$3.8 billion to build an HBM advanced memory packaging plant for artificial intelligence (AI) products and an advanced packaging R&D facility in West Lafayette, IN that will create approximately 1,000 jobs. SK hynix plans to begin production in the second half of 2028.

## Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



**Do You Know This 1961 Coal Creek H.S. Grad?**

**HINT:**  
 He served as a volunteer firefighter for over 50 years!

**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**

**NEED EXTRA CASH ?**

**CLARK TRADING POST**  
**WILL BUY YOUR USED GUNS**  
 Most makes - Most models - Complete or parts guns

**We pay the highest prices around!**  
 Premium paid for certain older guns

**Call for free estimate**

**We also sell guns on consignment for a nominal fee**

**Contact John "Butch" Dale (765) 404-1354**

**The Paper**  
 OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
 An Independent Newspaper - Founded 2004

Vol. 20  
 Sen. Phil Boots, President  
 USPS Publication Number:  
 022-679

Issue 146  
 Tim Timmons, Publisher  
 Report address changes to  
 circulation@  
 thepaper24-7.com

Annual Print Subscription: \$89  
 Annual Online Subscription: \$42

To subscribe: circulation@thepaper24-7.com  
 To contact news: news@thepaper24-7.com  
 To submit legal notices: legal@thepaper24-7.com  
 For billing: business@thepaper24-7.com

**Interested in advertising in The Paper?**

**Contact us today at (765) 361-0100**



## Waiting for a Friend



My husband, Peter, told me about the unlikely friendship.

**CARRIE CLASSON**  
The Postscript

When we stay in Mexico, Peter walks the same route up to the environmental preserve every day. It's a steep climb to the park, which is filled with wildlife and rare plants. Because Peter walks the same streets daily, he has gotten to know a lot of the people who have homes on the way up.

The whole thing started with Reacher, an exuberant 75-pound Belgian Malinois, and his American expat owner, Anita. The Belgian Malinois is a dog often trained for search and rescue. You might have seen videos of them scaling walls. Peter never saw Reacher actually climbing any walls, but he never doubted his ability to do so if the need arose.

Reacher is less than two years old, and he is a handful. Peter would stop and talk to Anita while she was trying (with limited success) to curb Reacher's more enthusiastic impulses.

In Anita's neighborhood, there also lived a feral dog who did not have a name or a home. Peter would regularly see him as well. Peter thought he was part lab and part herding dog and probably a lot of something else. The dog stayed in the neighborhood, so Peter figured folks must have left food for him. Most days, he stayed in a shady spot in the dirt under a tree.

The dog was not aggressive, but he was very wary of people. He never made eye contact with Peter and would back off if Peter got too close when he walked by. People who lived in the area said he'd been there, under the tree, quietly staying out of the way, for a couple of years.

But then Reacher met him. Belgian Malinois are apparently known for the strong bond they form with other dogs (presumably that's an asset in the search-and-

rescue biz), and Reacher took an interest in this stray dog in his neighborhood.

I wasn't there, and neither was Peter, but according to Anita, Reacher tried to make friends with this dog. It was a slow process, but Reacher was determined and, eventually, the feral dog started cautiously following Reacher. One day, he followed Reacher home and walked right into the outdoor courtyard and stayed for a little while. Anita gave him some food. This continued and, finally, the dog (who Anita started calling Duke) followed Reacher all the way into Anita's house. And he stayed.

Duke was still very shy around people, but he trusted Reacher and soon he started to trust Anita and her husband. Duke started letting them pet him and make eye contact. Anita took him to the vet to be fixed. The vet said he thought Duke was about five years old. Duke was bathed. He had his teeth cleaned. He started sleeping on a couch. And now Duke is Anita's second dog and lives with Reacher.

Peter now sees Reacher and Duke and Anita on their walks together. Duke is very submissive and laid-back. Reacher is as exuberant as ever. "I think I could pet Duke now, if I wanted to," Peter told me.

Duke has bonded with Anita, and he is obviously Reacher's best friend. And none of it would have happened without Reacher.

I love this story so much. It seems to me that everyone made a lot of assumptions about Duke—the kind of assumptions I make every day—and all of those assumptions turned out to be wrong. It took someone like Reacher to see that Duke was just waiting for a friend.

*Till next time,  
Carrie*

## Unitarian Church Lady



**DICK WOLFSIE**  
Funny Bone

This past weekend, our church had its annual auction, a big fundraiser where I always have the honor of being the emcee. As we were cleaning up, I couldn't find my cell phone. I knew I had used my phone earlier to cheat when the congregation played trivia. (I'm kidding, I'm kidding. I really did know the first country to give women the right to vote. It was New Zealand in 1893. You're welcome.)

When I couldn't find my phone, I panicked. My wife, as always, was a calming influence, explaining to me that the cell had to be somewhere in the room. I asked my son to call on his phone to see where the device was hiding. No ring was heard, but...

"Hello, this is Amy."

"Amy, this is Brett Wolfsie, Dick's son. You were sitting with us all evening tonight. You must have taken my dad's cell phone home by mistake."

"I don't think so, Brett."

"Well, you're talking on his cell now. Turn it over and look at the back."

The back of my cell clearly directs what to do if found. I always debated whether the instructions should read: IF FOUND CALL... or IF LOST CALL. Both make sense, but my initial mistake was listing my own number to call. That person would just be calling me on my phone, which he had in his hand. What an Einstein, I am. But back to the story...

I took Brett's phone and explained to Amy that she would have to answer my phone that evening and pretend she was Mary Ellen. Otherwise, people would wonder what I was up to when a mysterious woman answered the phone at 11 pm. I also told Amy that I get a lot of calls late at night because I have several friends on the West Coast who like to chat before they go

to bed at 8 pm (their time). It's an older crowd.

"Dick, this was an honest mistake I made. I'll tell whoever calls that I have your phone because we spent the night together."

"Amy, please rephrase that."

The next morning, I was lost without a phone. I always check the weather and time before I get out of bed. I asked Alexa twice, but there was no response. The internet was down temporarily, but I knew Mary Ellen was in the kitchen having coffee...

"What time is it?" I screamed out from the bed.  
No answer.

"WHAT TIME IS IT?"  
Louder, this time.

No answer again.

Wait, I forgot the most important part. With Alexa, it has to be personal to work. I tried again.

"MARY ELLEN! What time is it?"

"Good morning, Dick, it's 8 am. Now, leave me alone, please. I'm having my coffee."

Well, at least she was connected and working.

Later that morning at church, Amy returned my phone and said she only got one call. It was from my sister who was visiting her daughter in California.

"I pretended I was Mary Ellen," said Amy, "but I'm not sure it worked."

"I guess she didn't recognize your voice?"

"She also didn't recognize my hair, nose, and eyes. She was using FaceTime."

— 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](mailto:Wolfsie@aol.com).

## ↓ BUTCH

From Page A1

name it. Then of course there was the national news, very little of which was encouraging. We had to worry about crime, illegals, race problems, woke fanatics, fake news, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Hamas and men in women's sports and restrooms ... and to top it off ... the Presidential election, which thank the Lord is finally over! As one of my political science professors once said, we might be better off with a benevolent dictator ... I hereby volunteer.

On Jan. 1st, we can start over! Let's hope that President Trump and his appointees can straighten out the mess of the last four years. Maybe he can ... maybe not. Keep your fingers crossed. There's not much that we can personally do to help resolve the national problems, so I suggest we just concentrate on ourselves, our families and our local communities. Here are my suggestions:

You made a resolution last year to improve your health and get back into shape, didn't you? We know how that turned out, so this coming year turn off the TV and go for a walk. Take your dog with you. Eat a balanced diet with healthy foods. You know the routine. Just do it ... before it's too late.

Refrain from thinking about, or talking about, politics. If someone else starts in on the topic, change the conversation. If you are retired and are bored, get a part-time job. And if you don't want to do that, be sure you find an enjoyable hobby to keep yourself busy. How about becoming a volunteer at a needy organization, or helping out your town or community in some way? And be sure to

head to the library and select a good book ... and read at least an hour each day to keep your mind active.

The rest of my suggestions can be found in Robert Fulghum's classic book, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." I don't care if you are 5 years old or 95 years old, here are a few things from his list that you should do:

"Live a balanced life – learn some and drink some and draw some and paint some and sing and dance and play and work everyday some ... Take a nap every afternoon ... When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands and stick together ... Be aware of wonder ... and remember that warm cookies and cold milk are good for you ... I believe that imagination is stronger than knowledge. That myth is more potent than history. That dreams are more powerful than facts. That hope always triumphs over experience. That laughter is the only cure for grief. And I believe that love is stronger than death."

I would like to add one more suggestion, which I learned from my grade school teachers – Marian Couger, Tessie Stwalley, Naomi Peterson and Audrey Cox ... "Tell someone how much you appreciate them, and give them a big hug." And remember what Scarlett O'Hara said near the end of "Gone With the Wind" ... "After all, tomorrow is another day." Have a great 2025!!!

*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.*

**Butch Dale's  
Flashback Trivia  
Answer:  
Judd Meharry**

*Renew your  
subscription today!*



[thepaper24-7.com/subscribe](http://thepaper24-7.com/subscribe)



*Please visit  
us online:  
thepaper24-7.com*

*The Paper*  
OF  
MONTGOMERY  
COUNTY  
SERVICE  
DIRECTORY

*Cooper's* CCH  
Custom Hardwoods



[www.cooperscustomhardwoods.com](http://www.cooperscustomhardwoods.com)

Custom Sawing & Drying  
Flooring & Trim  
Made to Order

765-918-1039



*"The Tire Professionals"*

**\$15 OFF**  
OIL CHANGE SPECIAL  
Complete visual inspection & air pressure check - No other discounts apply. Not valid with any other offer. Expires 12/31/24

114 N. Water St. • Crawfordsville  
(765) 364-0584  
Weekdays 7:30 am - 5pm  
Saturday 8 am - Noon  
[pompstire.com](http://pompstire.com)



## ↓ FREY

From Page A1

For years, we've talked about what we needed to do to grow our community – encouraging people to see the potential of our future and inviting them to join in the effort. Now, it's incredibly exciting to see that vision transforming into reality.

Success like this doesn't just happen. It's the result of preparation, teamwork, and a commitment to investing in our future. Having a team of elected officials and community leaders who understand the importance of investment – and the long-term returns that come with it—is critical to our success.

Today, inspiring action is easier because we have something tangible to show for our work. The dirt is moving, the projects are progressing, and the impact is real.

Let's take a look at a few of the milestones we've achieved together:

- Tempur/Sealy's \$150 million investment
- Nucor Steel's \$300 million commitment to a new steel coatings complex
- Towers and Structures' \$120 million facility, a downstream user of Nucor steel
- New residential construction along US 231 on the south side of town, with more to come
- Many more of our existing businesses are consolidating, strengthening, and investing for long-term sustainability. All in all, nearly \$1 billion in new investment, and 1,000 high-paying jobs created

These successes are no accident. They're the result of careful planning and preparation. We've worked hard to create an environment that businesses and industries want to be part of.

As Shane Parrish aptly put it: "What looks like talent is often good positioning, and the best way to put yourself in a good position is with good preparation. A good position allows you to think clearly rather than being forced by circumstances into a decision."

This quote perfectly reflects our approach as a community. We've invested millions in infrastructure, prioritized key projects, and managed our cash flow to ensure we're always moving forward.

Let me share a few examples of our hard work in action:

### Big Projects, Big Returns 1. Water Tower and Main Expansion

- A \$13 million project in partnership with Indiana American Water
- Funded with a mix of ARPA dollars (\$3.7M), a SWIF grant (\$3M), TIF revenues, and negotiated rate increases with IAW

### 2. Comfort Drive Paving

- Transformed 1.5 miles of gravel road into a paved corridor with shoulders and ditches
- A \$7 million project funded by industrial TIF revenue

### 3. Sewer Collection System Expansion

- Extended over six miles with lift stations and forced mains
- A \$5 million project fully funded by growth and new business investments

### 4. Purple Heart Parkway Extension

- A \$5 million project connecting US 231 and Ladoga Road
- Funded through READI grants, ARPA dollars, and collaboration with the city

### 5. Nucor Road Overpass

- A \$20 million project eliminating a dangerous grade crossing
- Funded with \$16 million from an INDOT grant and TIF revenues

### The Road Ahead

Looking ahead, we have even more transformative projects on the horizon:

- Expanding our wastewater treatment capacity
- Adding turn lanes at Comfort Drive and Nucor Road
- Extending water lines to new areas
- Connecting Comfort Drive to Purple Heart Parkway
- Building a truck route to divert semis from downtown

Our goal is simple: shovel-ready sites and infrastructure. Developers don't have the luxury of waiting for a community to catch up. We must continue investing proactively, staying ahead of the curve.

### Thank You

None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of so many individuals. To our team of officials, community leaders, and partners: thank you.

We've built the right team, and today, we can all take pride in what we've accomplished together.

Thank you for trusting me with the reins over these last eight years – and for believing in the future of West Central Indiana!

# Back in the Day with Butch Dale



School children love to have class parties to celebrate the holidays. It has been a tradition for many, many years. Shown above is a second-grade Christmas party in the early 1920s. The children decorated the tree with ornaments that they made themselves.

## ↓ TIM

From Page A1

In the wake of the most recent – AND FAR TOO OFTEN – school shooting, we all heard and watched the politicians, including our president, call for more gun control laws.

"It's shocking and unconscionable," Pres. Biden said. "It is unacceptable that we are unable to protect our children from this scourge of gun violence . . . Congress must pass commonsense gun safety laws: Universal background checks. A national red flag law. A ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. "My administration has taken aggressive action to combat the gun violence epidemic. We passed the most significant gun safety legislation in nearly 30 years, I have taken more executive action to reduce gun violence than any other President in history, and I created the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention."

According to CNN, Madison was the 83rd school shooting this year – breaking the record of 82 from the year before –which broke the record of 79 from the year before that – which broke the record . . .

83 school shootings.  
38 dead  
115 wounded  
Just this year.  
Just! This! Year!

How's that gun control thing working out, Mr. President?

School shootings are increasing, not decreasing. We're averaging more than one a week. One a week!

I ask again, how's that rhetoric working out for you?

Could we shut down the damn political talk just this once?

38 dead.

What else do we need to know?

Will taking guns away really solve this problem?

Will taking cars away solve drunk driving?

Will taking No. 2 pencils away solve poor test scores?

Will taking my fork away solve my weight issue?

The problem is not a gun. The problem is people.

People who don't parent their children. People who abdicate parenting to video games. People who don't crack open the door to a church. People who don't crack open their heart to God. People who value power over legislating. People who think talking solves problems.

Guns. Cars. Pencils. Forks.

Not. The. Problem.

People. People. People.

How do we solve that? How do we step back from the abyss we're staring into in today's world?

I can't tell you the long-term answers, but I can tell you where they start. At home. At church. It really isn't that complicated.

*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](mailto:ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com).*





Whether you are selling your existing home or moving to your dream home, you need a real estate professional you can depend on. Clark Dale is a life-long Montgomery County resident, a graduate of Texas Tech and Indiana State universities, and a U.S. Army veteran. Clark is trained in all aspects of buying and selling a home. You can count on him to help meet your real estate needs.

**CLARK DALE**  
[www.exp Realty.com](http://www.exp Realty.com)  
PHONE: (765) 918-1773





*Please visit us online:*  
[thepaper24-7.com](http://thepaper24-7.com)

*Renew your subscription today!*




[thepaper24-7.com/subscribe](http://thepaper24-7.com/subscribe)

Building new clean energy will lower Hoosiers' bills & protect grid reliability.

**MORE LOW-COST ENERGY NOW**

PAID FOR BY ADVANCED ENERGY UNITED





# 2024 FIAT 500e is the Electric City Car Inspired by Beauty and a Heap of Heritage



**CASEY WILLIAMS**  
Auto Reviews

Let's take a little trip back to Post-War Europe. We're talking the big war that left the ruins and its industries tattered. Enamored with the Vespa scooter, FIAT designers set about to create a four-wheeled version ideal for city life.

## Iconic Heritage Advanced

Introduced in 1957, the 500 endeared drivers with cute round headlamps, two-cylinder rear-mounted engine, and enough space for four and their wares. Over 3.5 million were built 1957-1975, transcending mere automotive mortality to drive with the gods. Keep all of this in-mind for a moment because there's a new 500 that channels the original's spirit.

While it clearly has a family resemblance to its grandfather, let's think of the 2024 500e as more of a luxury four-wheel Segway scooter

aimed less at poor city folk and more at affluent urban fashionistas. Like the original, it looks the part with sparkling round LED headlamps, short hatchback body, and oval rear taillamps – all riding over 17" wheels. It's a car that's big enough to absorb traffic, but small enough to park almost anywhere.

Inspiration beyond storied heritage is key to the 500e's style. Ours is "Inspired by Beauty", which I suppose explains its Rose Gold paint. Others are "Inspired by LA" with an urban vibe and "Inspired by Music" with an edgier rock attitude. Choose what theme you want because the 500e is an open canvas.

Interiors channel the 500's ancestors' simple gauge pod and controls while greeting the EV age with flatscreen instrument cluster, 10.25-inch touchscreen on the dash, and wireless phone connections through Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. There's a

wireless charging pad in the dash too.

Heated cream-colored seats look suave with FIAT stitching, but are faux leather for easy cleaning and better wear. Two passengers fit better than four, but kids can fit in the rear and the seats fold down to increase luggage space. Automatic climate control and rain-sensing wipers add convenience while safety is enhanced by automatic emergency braking, lane departure warning, blind-spot warning, and cross-path detection.

## Fun Urban Driving

When it comes to driving, let's start with the positives. It's smooth, quiet, and peppy, employing 117 horsepower and 162 lb.-ft. of torque to run 0-60 mph in 8 seconds. Drivers can fast charge 10-80% in 30 minutes or fully recharge in 6.2 hours on a 240-volt home charger. Not bad, but you'll be doing that frequently given a scant 141 miles range if

driven in-town, but more like 125 miles if the freeway is involved. If you're looking for a long-distance EV, this isn't it, but it makes a great little city car.

City streets become your personal autocross circuit. It's fun to drive even if its chassis isn't all that complicated. An independent front, torsion beam rear suspension is normal fare for a compact hatchback, but it does a much better job of soaking up rough pavement than the last 500. It's 2-inches wider to better accommodate its lithium-ion batteries, but that also translates into more stable handling. It feels less tipsy than before.

As with the last-generation gas-powered Fiats, the 500e's trial is less about its merits and more about its competition. For about the same money, you can buy a five-seat Nissan Leaf with greater range. A next-generation Chevy Bolt

arrives in 2026 with close to 300 miles range. As with the original, though, there's nothing like the 500e. If you want exquisite classic style brought forward with modern luxuries and ease of maneuvering over city streets, you'll be hard-pressed to beat the 500e.

The car's base and as-tested prices are the same: \$36,000.

Storm Forward!

Send comments to Casey at [AutoCasey@aol.com](mailto:AutoCasey@aol.com); follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey.

<p><b>Likes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chic style</li> <li>Interior comforts</li> <li>Urban driving</li> </ul> <p><b>Dislikes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small interior</li> <li>Limited range</li> <li>Price tag</li> </ul>
--

<p><b>2024 Fiat 500e</b> Four-passenger, FWD Hatchback Powertrain: Li-ion batteries/motors Output: 117 hp/162 lb.-ft Suspension f/r: Ind/Torsion beam Wheels f/r: 17"/17" alloy Brakes f/r: regen discs Driving range: 141 miles Fast charge: 30 minutes Home charge: 6.2 hours 0-60 mph: 8.0s Assembly: Mirafiori, Italy Base/As-tested price: \$36,000</p>
--



## 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.*

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**  
Governing Board Meeting  
Monday, December 23, 2024 9:30 a.m.  
Montgomery County Government Center  
1580 Constitution Row – Room E9  
Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
CALL TO ORDER  
APPROVE MINUTES: November 25, 2024  
ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF FINANCIAL REPORT  
OTHER BUSINESS  
ADJOURNMENT

**BOARD OF AVIATION COMMISSIONERS**  
2025 Regular Meeting Dates  
January 15, 2025  
February 19, 2025  
March 19, 2025  
April 16, 2025  
May 21, 2025  
June 18, 2025  
July 16, 2025  
August 20, 2025  
September 17, 2025  
October 15, 2025  
November 19, 2025  
December 17, 2025  
All meetings are held at the Crawfordsville Regional Airport Terminal at 4 p.m.

**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](mailto:jobs@thepaper24-7.com)**

**Thank you for reading The Paper!**

## \$3.6M in Federal Grants Coming to Indiana

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs announced 20 Indiana communities will receive more than \$3.6 million in Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Grants and Planning Grants through the Community Development Block Grant program.

Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation grants will be used to empower these communities to directly fund homeowners of low-to-moderate income to make needed repairs on their homes. While communities awarded Planning Grants will use the funding to develop plans for long-term planning efforts.

"Each of these grant programs will contribute to improving the lives of Hoosiers across our state," said Lt. Gov. Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "I am grateful to the 20 awardees who are committed to investing more into their residents and community development."

Communities awarded an Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Grant will establish a program to help fund low- and moderate-income homeowners make repairs on their homes. Eligible repairs include roof repair or replacement, ADA accessibility, heating and cooling replacement,

lighting and electrical upgrades, and water heater replacement.

Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Grants are awarded to the following communities:

- The Town of Bloomfield is awarded \$350,000
- The City of Mitchell is awarded \$350,000
- The City of North Vernon is awarded \$350,000
- The City of Tell City is awarded \$350,000
- The City of Martinsville is awarded \$350,000
- The City of Bedford is awarded \$300,000
- The City of Seymour is awarded \$350,000
- Henry County is awarded \$500,000

"Congratulations to the communities receiving these important grants, these funds are vital to improving the quality of life throughout the Hoosier state," said OCRA Executive Director Duke Bennett. "I look forward to seeing how these improvements will benefit our rural cities and towns and encourage others to apply when the next round opens."

The Planning Grant program encourages communities to plan for sustainable community development with the aid of subject matter experts and community input. The applications being funded this quarter address comprehensive planning efforts, water utilities, downtown revitalization and broadband readiness.

Comprehensive Planning Grants are designed to aid communities in evaluating assets and

identifying opportunities to address current needs in the following areas: land use, government capacity, public services, placemaking, economic development, housing, transportation, agriculture, natural resources and historic resources.

Comprehensive Planning Grants of \$50,000 each are awarded to the following communities:

- The City of Aurora
- The Town of Brookville
- The Town of Goodland
- The Town of Lewisville

Utility Study Planning Grants provide a summary of potential issues and opportunities across drinking, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. By completing this planning, communities will be able to make decisions regarding their most urgent water needs while understanding how each system works in context with other utility systems.

Utility Study Planning Grants are awarded to the following communities:

- The Town of Carthage is awarded \$90,000
- The Town of Dana is awarded \$60,000
- The Town of Dayton is awarded \$86,000
- The Town of Kewanna is awarded \$58,320

- Fayette County is awarded \$60,000
- Rush County is awarded \$87,000

Downtown Revitalization Planning Grants aim to provide a comprehensive strategy for revitalizing the downtown area in rural communities by addressing demographic, economic and social aspects, as well as physical and cultural conditions. The plan serves as a roadmap for leveraging current assets, securing funding sources, and building community engagement to revitalize the downtown business district area and promote economic growth.

A Downtown Revitalization Planning Grant of \$30,000 is awarded to the Town of Oxford.

Broadband Readiness Planning Grants are put into place for communities to develop a plan that will educate, create and identify ways to improve broadband speeds in their areas.

A Broadband Readiness Planning Grant of \$50,000 is awarded to Pulaski County.

Funding for OCRA's CDBG programs originates from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant program and is administered for the State of Indiana by OCRA. For more information, visit [in.gov/ocra/cdbg/](http://in.gov/ocra/cdbg/).



# Montgomery Murder Mysteries

## Murder Unavenged - Based on the True Story of the Murder of Nehemiah Ham

*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.*



**KAREN ZACH**  
Montgomery Murder Mysteries

The turkey buzzard swept down upon its prey in a pasture one mile north of the little burg of

Alamo, Indiana. It was a normal June day in the year of 1866 for we three farmers, herding our cattle into the field. We were laughing, me (Tom Patton), Isaac Davis, and friend Monroe Watson. Noticing the buzzard, we thought it might be after one of the sheep that had been grazing nearby. Total disbelief smacked our hearts and souls as we discovered a man's beheaded body. Large portions of his skin had been carted-off by either the buzzard or his friends. The body's eyes had been desocketed. We soon discovered this poor soul was Nehemiah Ham, a friend and neighbor.

Miah had been missing since that April 28th. Local merchants were called to see if they knew the clothes he wore. His unusual boots were identified as well by his long-time boot maker. None of us desired his wife, Cassie, to observe the atrocity, nor any of their nine children, some of whom were just youngsters yet. Reportedly, Miah Ham had sold valuable property the day he went missing and had carried with him something near \$1,000.



It was obvious that murder was the crime and robbery the motive. Newton McConnel, local sheriff, didn't seem to work too hard finding the culprits in this horrendous deed. I was approached by several of our Alamo area Horse Thief Detectives to aide them in finding the murderers. My brother-in-law, Isaac Thomas Davis, who had been with me in that field was quick to join with us men. We rounded-up five individuals in all, men who had been around Miah that day and who had no particular justification after having talked with Miah Ham.

Very careful to protect these five while in jail, we patiently hoped for some concrete evidence or that someone would make a confession. Luckily, it wasn't long until Joe Ingersoll gave the sheriff the much needed information and we let the other three men go. Implicating Joseph Wert as the right hand man, Ingersoll was insistent that murder

was never the plan while Wert as emphatically noted total innocence.

It seems that the deal was to get Miah Ham intoxicated enough so that the duo could manage to abscond with the majority of the thousand dollars that Miah had received from the sale of his property that same day. It saddens me that these men didn't just go home and forget the whole affair. Instead when Miah refused to drink but a little they hit him with brass knuckles. This only stunned him long enough for the men to take \$400, the only money left after Miah had paid several bills. As the men began to leave

the field where they had taken Miah, they heard the injured man moaning. I guess it was those sounds that lured the pair back to slice completely through Miah's throat and finish him off.

This story seemed right according to what little evidence that was found and was a so-called true confession, yet Wert continued to deny every bit of it. Not long after the confession, Ingersoll somehow made an escape. Let me go on record here that I wasn't on duty that night. Unbelievably, when Wert went on trial shortly thereafter, he was acquitted as the only real proof against him was Ingersoll's story. It is said that Ingersoll died in Mississippi. Wert I know stayed around here. In fact, I see him occasionally but I cringe when I do because five years later to the day when Monroe Watson, Isaac Davis and me found the stomach-turning body of my friend, Nehemiah Ham, his murder continues to remain unavenged!



Building new clean energy will lower Hoosiers' bills & protect grid reliability.

# MORE LOW-COST ENERGY NOW

PAID FOR BY ADVANCED ENERGY UNITED



**VISIT US ONLINE**  
**THEPAPER24-7.COM**



And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field,  
keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord  
shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold,  
I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in  
swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly  
host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace, good will toward men.

*Luke 2:8-14*  
*King James Version*



*From the Staff and Shareholders,  
Merry Christmas to all our customers*