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TODAY'S VERSE

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Meet Eureka



Eureka is a 2 year old female black labrador retriever available for adoption from The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 12/2/24. Eureka loves going for walks, frolicking in a fenced yard, and playing fetch. Eureka is looking for her best friend. Could that be you? 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!



Miss me? Like the guy in the Night Before Christmas. I settled down for a long winter's nap . . . but I'm back and raring to go!

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Boomer Bits

Ask Rusty – Can Wife Claim Now and Get His Half Later?



ASK Rusty Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Dear Rusty:

My wife will reach her full Social Security benefit at 66.5 years of age which is just under 2 years away for her now. If she were to begin to get her monthly check now (i.e. early), would that prevent her from being eligible for the spousal benefit to receive half of what I am currently drawing?

Signed: Curious Husband

Dear Curious:

If your wife claims her own SS retirement benefit now (e.g., at 64.5 years), and you are already collecting your own SS benefit, then she will be automatically deemed to be filing for her spousal benefit immediately when she claims her own benefit (she does not have the option to defer claiming her spousal benefit until later). This is a change made by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which requires all

those first claiming SS to file for ALL benefits they are eligible for when they claim. What that would mean is that your wife's benefit now, including her spousal boost from you, would be actuarially reduced by the number of months early she claimed. Her own SS retirement benefit would be permanently reduced by about 15%, and her "spousal boost" (the additional amount she would get as your spouse) would be reduced by about 19%, yielding a combined benefit which is roughly 42% of your full retirement age (FRA) SS benefit.

The only way your wife can get half (50%) of your FRA benefit entitlement is by waiting until her own full retirement age (66 years and 10 months) to claim. Note too that

➔ See RUSTY Page A3

Medicare Advantage Open Now

The Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period (MA OEP) runs Jan. 1 through March 31 of each year. During the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period:

- You can switch to a different Medicare Advantage Plan.

➔ See OPEN Page A5

Medigap Plans Available With Medicare

A new bill, SEA 215 was introduced and passed in Indiana in Spring of 2024 that impacts Medicare.

As of Jan. 1, there will be guaranteed issue into medigap plans for people under 65. What does this mean? This means that after Dec. 31, 2024, any Medicare Supplement Plan (Medigap) that is available to those with Medicare will also have to provide that same plan, or an equivalent, available for those with Medicare due to disability or ESRD.

➔ See MEDIGAP Page A3

Hidden costs of Incarceration: Part One



EDITOR'S NOTE: The writer of this column from the League of Women Voters knows the subjects of this story through family and friendship. Paul is a pseudonym to protect his children.

Early in June 2023, police knocked on a door in an upper-class neighborhood in eastern Maryland, the kind of neighborhood where the low-end home is worth over half a million. They had a warrant for a father of two and a husband, but he was at work. Police served a search warrant and after several hours left with computers and phones. Later that day, they arrested Paul and charged him with 20 counts of cybercrime, charges that will haunt him for 20 years beyond his prison sentence, or longer, and have already impacted his relationship with his children.

Paul's kids were preteens, young enough not to understand the charges, old enough to feel the stigma should the news being passed on social media make it to their friends.

On the day the police booked Paul, none of his family and friends believed he could be guilty. He'd hidden his drinking and internet activity well. For most of their married life, Paul and his wife shared a home with in-laws, with his wife's sister and her husband for a decade. Recently, Paul and his wife bought her parents' home. His in-laws moved into the apartment in the basement. Paul had planted fruit bushes and built a woodworking shop. When he wasn't gardening, woodworking or hanging out with his kids, he traveled as a WWI reenactor or put together complex puzzles. He and his family attended church regularly, until the pandemic hit.

Being a frontline worker managing service stations increased his stress and isolation. Sometime in 2022, he dove into an internet rabbit hole and began a criminal double life. It lasted about five months.

In the first hours of incarceration, he sat in a holding cell, waiting to be booked. On the inside, he'd stay in isolation, to detox and quarantine. At the same time, on the outside, his wife, who

➔ See LWV Page A3

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

To improve sleep, keep your bedroom cool, dark and quiet.

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



THREE THINGS You Should Know

1 Holy Christmas Sells! It looks like Indiana is a big state for "regifting" Christmas presents. According to our friends at BadCredit.org, 3,000 people were surveyed to estimate the value of America's regifting economy. It turns out it's pretty significant: the regifting economy is worth a staggering \$11 billion for the whole country, with 43 percent of Americans (over 110 million people) admitting to regifting or reselling unwanted presents. California generates the biggest regifting economy, at \$1,377,846,471. Indiana's regifting economy also turns out to be substantial. A third (35%) of Hoosiers say they plan on profiting from gifts received this festive season, equating to 1,895,682 regifters in the state. This means that Indiana's regifting/reselling economy is worth \$198,098,819!

2 The unemployment rate of the State of Indiana in November was recorded to be 4.4 percent, according to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. By comparison, the national unemployment rate reported for November was 4.2 percent. In addition, Indiana's labor force participation rate is 63.4 percent compared to the national rate of 62.5 percent. This rate is the percentage of Hoosiers 16 and older who are either working or actively looking for work. Indiana's total labor force stands at 3,442,250 and is at its highest on record.

3 A new study has identified which cities are most likely to produce NFL stars, and Indianapolis is tied for ninth in the country. The research, conducted by sports data experts Lineups, examined over 2,800 NFL players to find the most common birthplaces. Houston, Detroit, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Tampa, Jacksonville (Fla.), Atlanta, New Orleans and Charlotte were in the top. Indianapolis was tied with St. Louis and Memphis at nine. Mobile and Cincinnati were tied for round out the top 10.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals." Melody Beattie

TODAY'S JOKE

What do New Year's parades and Santa Claus have in common? No one is awake to see either of them.

MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Looking for something good to read? Well, you know the Library is the place to be! But did you know you can get a book at the Crawfordsville District Public Library and not have to worry about bringing it back? That's because on the second Saturday of every month the friendly folks at the Library have a book sale. It gets going at 10 a.m. and lasts until 4 p.m. on the Library's lower level. You may be surprised at what treasures you can find! Oh, and bring cash. These transactions are for cash only.

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

OBITUARY

Ivan Dale Thompson

July 17, 1951 - December 29, 2024

Ivan Dale Thompson, 73, passed away Sunday, December 29, 2024, at his home in Rockville, Indiana. He was born July 17, 1951, in Lebanon, Indiana. Ivan is the son of the late Carlos and Myrtle (Frederick) Thompson.



On November 21, 1972, Ivan married the love of his life, Doris Jean (Blakey)

Thompson; she survives. The couple raised their children for many years in New Ross, Indiana. Later, moving to Rockville. Survived by him, three children, Christopher Dale Thompson, Stacey Jo Baschwit, and Tynea (Jared) Porter. Affectionately known as "Papaw", Ivan leaves behind seven grandchildren, Bryant Paul, Breyton Dale, and Emily Jean Alsup, Jack Sarver, Silas & Audrey Porter, and Octavia Rose Thompson. Also, two great grandchildren, Elliana Alsup and Adalena Grace.

Ivan attended Granville Wells High School and served his country honorably in the United States Army from 1971 to 1976. Ivan was a jack of all trades and "could fix anything." He had many hobbies and delved into several interests, adventures and fun experiences throughout his life. Ultimately, he retired as a barber after being an instructor at the academy of Hair Design in Indianapolis for several years.

He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He was loved in abundance by his family and friends and his love for them is beyond measure. Ivan never missed a chance to tell you he loved you and how blessed he was in this life. There is no doubt, spending time with his family, kids and grandchildren was his favorite thing to do and he truly cherished those moments. Ivan enjoyed old cars and collecting Indian memorabilia in honor of his Native American heritage. Along with many other collections & hobbies he was known for his unique hats and was commonly recognized for his top hats. Ivan always carried himself with dignity and pride. He cherished his memories of playing in bands with his brothers (Thompson Brothers Band), as well as hunting & fishing trips with brothers, Carl (Andrea) Thompson, Alan (Corina) Thompson, Troy (Connie) Thompson, and his cousin, John Thompson. He loved all his brothers, sisters, cousins, nieces & nephews coming together for a good ol' fashioned family pitch-in of picking guitars and sing alongs. He is survived by sisters, Glenda (Hubert) Smith, Sandy (Gary) Trent and Jeannie (Jimmy Bower) Thompson.

Ivan was preceded in death by his eldest sister, Brenda (Richard) Butler.

To know Ivan was to love him. He treated everyone as family and welcomed others without judgement or prejudice. Ivan would take any chance to talk about the word of God and all that God had done for him. Though he will be missed greatly, he leaves a legacy of peace and excitement for the day his whole family will be reunited in their Heavenly home.

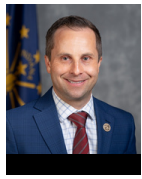
Funeral Services with Military Rites are planned for 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 4, 2025, at Porter and Hunt Funeral Home, 315 West Main Street, in Jamestown, Indiana.

Visitation will be held from 12:00 noon until the time of services. Interment will follow at Pispah Cemetery, Montgomery County, Indiana.

Memorials may be directed in his memory to DAV (Disabled American Veterans), Tunnel to Towers, or Wounded Warrior Project.

Online Condolences: www.PorterFuneralHome.us

Sen. Deery Previews '25 Agenda



SPENCER DEERY
 Guest Columnist

Over the last year, I have traveled to every corner of Senate District 23, attending county fairs and festivals, hosting open office hours, and speaking at legislative forums. I do this for many reasons, but perhaps the most important is that these events are a significant source of ideas for legislation.

This year, I intend to file nearly a dozen bills in the Senate, and I will sponsor others that originate in the House. All of them are intended to address issues I have learned about from my conversations with people in the district.

In the coming weeks, I will describe these bills in detail in this newsletter and on my social media accounts. For example, I will share details about my plans to reform the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, making it more accountable and transparent without compromising its mission to advance the Hoosier economy. Additionally, I will author bills to protect our water and farmland and propose changes to the state's carbon sequestration laws to introduce more local control and enhanced safety precautions compared to current regulations.

Other bills will focus on improving our schools by making it easier to

recruit and retain teachers in hard-to-fill disciplines. I also plan to establish safeguards to ensure our young people are learning the universal principles of the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, plus several other bills too.

Not all of these bills will pass, but all of them are designed to be realistic policies that can get across the finish line. With every bill topic, I consider what I believe is the best policy and what I believe can earn the support to become law. I strive to balance my desire for bold, aggressive reforms with the pursuit of incremental victories.

I am proud of this agenda. It's bold. It's realistic, and it aligns with the needs of our state and district. I look forward to sharing it with you in the coming weeks and working full time during the legislative session in January to turn these ideas into law.

If you haven't done so already, I ask that you consider taking a few minutes to fill out my 2025 constituent survey.

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.

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Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia

Do You Recognize this 1968 CHS Graduate?

HINT: He has been a long-time farmer and businessman here in Montgomery County.

Answer on Page A3

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↓ LWV

From Page A1

works with a dual-diagnosis population - people with mental illness and addiction - tried to leverage her knowledge of the complex criminal justice system to find out what was happening.

The first 48 hours were a communication black hole. What should she tell her daughters about their dad's absence? That he was working and would be home later?

As the 48-hour marker approached, she received a message from his defender. He agreed to plead guilty to the serious cybercrime charges against him. Paul knew he'd need to take responsibility to heal from his addictions, rebuild his spiritual health and restore his relationship with his family. First, he'd face months of incarceration, through his kids' birthdays - it wasn't the same without Dad - and holidays. To communicate with their father, Paul's wife would have to pay for every text message and phone call, incoming and outgoing, while navigating what to reveal to the kids and scheduling the calls and visits.

Contact with prisoners is often obstructed. Lockdowns after fights, outbreaks of sickness in the post-COVID era and understaffing may impede the ability of visitors, including family and clergy, to contact the incarcerated. Prisoners scheduled for transfer out of local jails to other institutions may be moved without warning to prisoners, families or chaplains, resulting in an inability to visit, call or contact. These transfer procedures sometimes last weeks.

Furthermore, family members and clergy may show up for a scheduled visit and be turned away without warning, even during intake.

Leah Wang reported in a 2022 post for the Prison Policy Initiative, a non-partisan, non-profit research and advocacy organization, that "family contact can help incarcerated people cope with being locked up and reduce their chances of returning to prison." While recidivism, the likelihood of being reincarcerated, is

somewhat slippery, it's critical to note that age, type of crime and positive family and psycho-social networks contribute to reduced rates of re-incarceration. (Also, noteworthy are the gaps in research. This area is ripe for a larger body of research.)

The current body of evidence supports the need for social bonds between family and the incarcerated to break the cycle of broken systems contributing to incarceration.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' Survey of Prison Inmates, 47 percent of people incarcerated in state prisons had a child under 18, affecting about 1.25 million children in the most recent dataset from 2016. Yet, "millions of families and minor children throughout the country are punished emotionally, economically and otherwise by a loved one's incarceration."

The impact on children shows up in long-term patterns perpetuating the cycles of poverty and disadvantage. Those incarcerated in 2016 had one or more experiences with poverty and disadvantage, not causations of their crime but correlating factors. 17 percent spent time in foster care, 32 percent had an incarcerated parent, 11 percent experienced homelessness before turning 18, 19 percent lived in public housing, and 43 percent came from families needing public assistance at some point. In short, they had insecure systems of support. Incarceration further frays household finances. It stretches positive emotional and social connections while isolating them within networks of others with dysfunctional systems of support. The increased stressors and tension affect rates of recidivism - the likelihood of returning to prison.

A baby when her father went to prison, Ashley Ford traces the barriers for a child of an incarcerated parent to build a relationship in *Somebody's Daughter*. Her family didn't disclose her father's charges until after she turned 13, giving her a chance to build her own relationship with

her father. Within months of learning of her father's conviction, a man raped her. Her memoir captures the complexity of being raised poor in Indiana, with a father in prison, and trying to navigate the ups and downs of family relationships.

In her book, Ford traces the years and barriers that she faced in building a relationship with a parent in prison. This article is the first of a series, in which we'll explore the costs of incarceration, how these impact families, equity of jail services and the rights of the incarcerated. When it comes to privatization and costs, the LWV position statement seeks to

- Ensure that all correctional systems provide humane, dignified, non-discriminatory treatment of incarcerated people and personnel, including appropriate health care and access to community-based rehabilitation programs.
- Eliminate the practice of solitary confinement.
- Address recidivism by instituting programs that focus on rehabilitation, education, mental health treatment, substance abuse recovery and transitional programs.
- Encourage family and community visitations and ways to maintain contact.
- Eliminate private prisons. Until space in public prisons is available, ensure that private prisons comply with all of the standards for state-run jails and prisons.

The full statement can be read on page 120 of the full LWV Impact on Issues.

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



Mail was once delivered on horseback, but then along came motorized vehicles. The three rural carriers shown above decided to use motorcycles, which at that time, had very small engines and baskets to carry the letters.

↓ RUSTY

From Page A1

your wife's spousal benefit will be based on your FRA entitlement, so if you claimed earlier or later than your own full retirement age, her spousal benefit will still be based on your FRA entitlement.

Also, your wife should be aware that anyone who claims early is subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much can be earned while collecting early benefits. Thus, if your wife is working, she will be restricted on how much she can earn before Social Security takes away some of her benefits. FYI, the earnings limit changes annually, but for 2025 it is \$23,420 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit. And, FYI, the earnings limit goes up a lot during the year FRA is attained, and the

earnings test no longer applies once full retirement age is reached.

I hope this answers your question, but if you have need additional information, please feel free to contact us directly at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org, or call us at 1.888.750.2622.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. Russell Gloor is the, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

↓ MEDIGAP

From Page A1

Anyone on Medicare under the age of 65 prior to Jan. 1, 2025 will have a six month window to sign up for a Medigap Plan, guaranteed. This would be Jan. 1 - June 30, 2025.

Anyone enrolling into Medicare under the age of 65 AFTER Jan. 1, 2025 will be granted their own six month guaranteed enrollment window starting from the first day of the month their Medicare begins.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2025, the following rules will apply to health insurance providers:

- Issuers may not deny or condition issuance of Medicare supplement policy because of health status, claims experience, receipt of health care, or medical condition of an individual.
- Issuers may not charge a premium rate for Plans A, B, or D that exceeds the premium rate an issuer charges to those age 65 for same Medicare supplement policy.
- Issuers may not charge a premium rate for any other

standardized letter Medicare supplement policy that exceeds 200% of premium charged to those age 65 for the same Medicare supplement policy.

• Issuers may not issue policy that contains a waiting period or preexisting condition limitation or exclusion. If you have questions about the SEA 215 bill or anything else related to Medicare, contact SHIP for free, impartial assistance.

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) is a free and impartial health insurance counseling program for people with Medicare. SHIP does not sell insurance. SHIP is provided by the Administration for Community Living and the Indiana Department of Insurance. We are part of a federal network of State Health Insurance Assistance Programs located in every state. All of our services are free.

Follow SHIP on social media for informative Medicare related videos, updates, and announcements. Find us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia

Answer:
Larry Davis

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As we age, our health becomes more and more important. Dr. John Roberts, a well-respected physician, gives us great information on the things that matter to our well-being, as well as how to live healthier. Taking care of ourselves is vital and Dr. Roberts can give you the inside track on how to do exactly that.

Catch Dr. Roberts every Monday in The Paper!

The Paper

Winter Officially Here: Are You Ready?

Winter officially began at 4:21 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 21. We know we'll see freezing rain, snow and plummeting temperatures. Families should prepare now to stay safe, warm and protect their homes with guidance from FEMA's #WinterReady campaign.

"It's never too early to think about what you would do if stranded on the side of the road or stuck at home without power during a snowstorm," said FEMA Region 5 Regional Administrator Tom Sivak. "Taking steps today—like making a plan and assembling emergency kits with essential items like food, water, medications and pet supplies—can make all the difference when winter weather strikes."

Here are a few things to keep in mind as winter rolls in:

- 1. Wear a coat and dress in layers if you work outside or participate in outdoor activities.** This will help regulate your body heat and keep you warm. Be sure to keep your skin covered by wearing a hat, scarf and mittens. Hats help keep the body warmer and mittens are more effective than gloves.
- 2. Know what to do if**

you experience frostbite or hypothermia. If the cold causes pain in your body, numb or tingling skin, slurred speech, or shivering, go indoors immediately. Remove wet clothing, wrap up in a warm blanket and if you can, sip on warm fluids to stabilize your body temperature.

3. Gather supplies for your emergency kits. It's important to keep an emergency kit in your home. This kit should include nonperishable food, a can opener, water, blankets, prescription medications, a weather radio, a flashlight with extra batteries, a portable cell phone charger, kid-friendly activities, and pet food. It's also a good idea to make sure everyone in the family has the phone numbers for emergency contacts. It's also important to keep an emergency kit in your vehicle in case you are stranded in the cold. This kit should include an ice scraper, jumper cables, a small shovel, blankets, nonperishable food, water and a portable cell phone charger.

4. Heat your home safely. If you use a space heater, remember to keep it at least three feet away from items

like curtains, rugs, furniture, bedding and other items that can burn. The heaters should be plugged directly into the wall and the cords should not be frayed or damaged. Never use a gas stovetop or oven to heat your home. This can release carbon monoxide into the air and cause serious health risks, even death.

5. Check on elderly friends and neighbors. Older adults often have a harder time regulating body temperature, so they are at a higher risk of experiencing cold-weather related injuries. Be sure to check in on them to see if their heat is working properly and they have what they need to make it through the cold.

To learn more about how to prepare for extreme cold and severe winter weather, visit #WinterReady | Ready.gov. The #WinterReady campaign also offers messaging, graphics and resources to help educate the public on the risks of winter weather, promote fire safety and urge caution when travelling in winter weather. Access these tools by visiting #WinterReady Partners Toolkit.

Witham Health Services Offers Education, Support Groups

Witham Health Service, located in Boone County, offers many different educational and support programs, supporting people to live healthy, active lives and helping them heal in times of injury and illness.

Witham has offices in Zionsville, Lebanon, Whitestown, Crawfordsville and other locations.

Here is a list of January programs. To learn more, visit www.witham.org.

- **Diabetes Self-Management Class** – Call the Diabetes Education Department at 765-485-8120 for individualized class, scheduling and pricing.
- **Restorative Yoga** – is held weekly on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- **Rock Steady Boxing 1 & 2** - held weekly at 9:00 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- **Rock Steady Boxing 3 & 4** - held weekly at 10:00 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call

the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.

- **SilverSneakers** – held weekly at 11:15 a.m. on Mondays for those 65 or older at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- **SilverSneakers Cardio** - held weekly at 11:15 a.m. on Wednesdays for those 65 or older at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- **SilverSneakers Chair Yoga** - held weekly at 11:15 a.m. on Thursdays for those 65 or older at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- **BeMoved Dance** will be offered on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center
- **Tai Chi for Health** – Will be held weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information. Cost is \$5.00 per Class.

- **Indoor Cycling** – This FREE indoor cycling and stretching program is designed to reduce the risk of any chronic disease you may be facing or help manage your weight. Held weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursday's at 10:00 a.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center.
- **Flow Yoga** – held weekly on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. at the Witham Health Services South Pavilion Wellness Center. Please call the Wellness Department at 765-485-8126 for more information on scheduling and pricing.
- **Breastfeeding Support Group** – is held weekly on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in the VIP Dining Room.
- **Individualized Breastfeeding Support** is available with a Lactation Consultant. To schedule an appointment and for pricing, call 765-485-8411.
- **Alzheimer's Support Group** – Tuesday, January 21st at 6:00 p.m. in the VIP Dining Room.
- **Cancer Support Cooking for Wellness** – Tuesday, January 21st at 1:00 p.m. at the Boone County Cancer Society, 1208 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon, Indiana.
- **Cancer Support Group** – Monday, January 27th at 6:00 p.m. at Boone Co. Cancer Society, 1208 N. Lebanon St., Lebanon, Indiana



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Vacant Church Destroyed in Fire

A vacant two-story church on Mill Street was destroyed by fire last week.

The building, previously home to the One Way Pentecostal Apostolic Church, was declared a total loss, with damages estimated at \$150,000, according to the Crawfordsville Fire Department. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

Around 1:30 on the afternoon of Dec. 26, the Montgomery County Emergency Communication Center dispatched Crawfordsville Fire Department units to 802 Mill St. for a report of smoke coming from a window and an audible smoke detector sounding. Battalion 1 arrived on the scene within four minutes, reporting

smoke visible from the structure. The incident was declared a working structure fire.

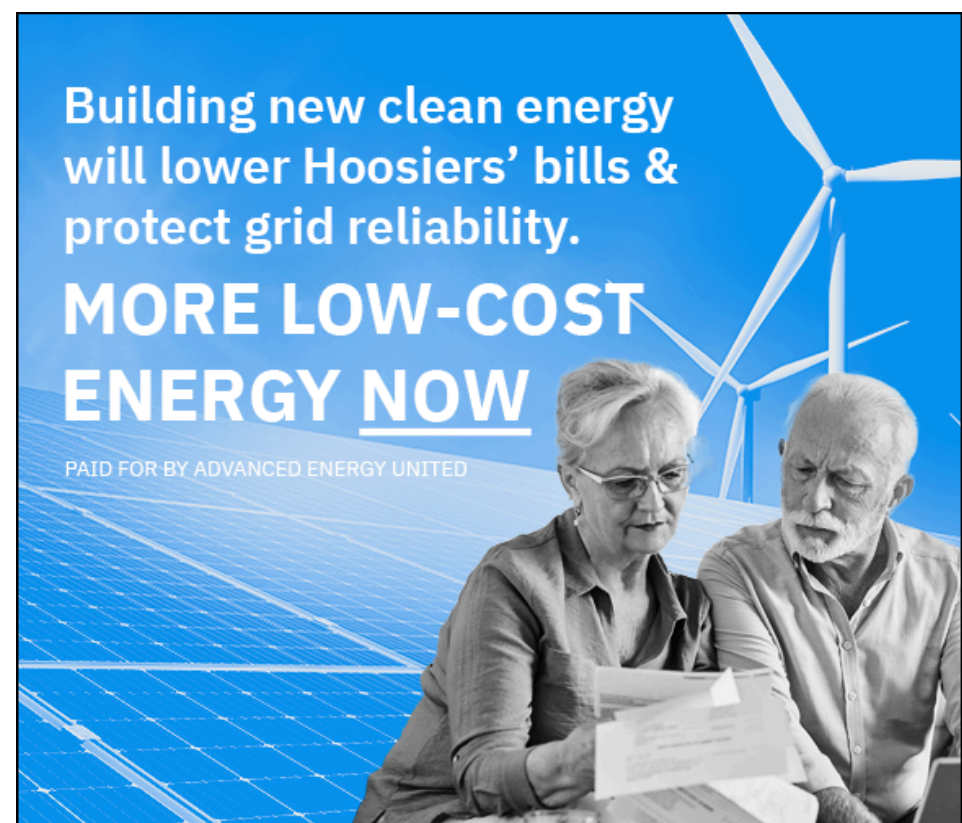
Fire crews entered the building, encountering moderate smoke conditions on the first floor and basement, and also discovered a fire in the basement. Within five minutes of arrival, water was applied to the fire while other crews conducted a thorough primary search of the basement and first floor. No one was found inside the structure.

As crews worked to contain the fire, it was determined that flames had spread through void spaces within the building, likely a result of renovations that created concealed areas. These void spaces allowed the fire to move undetected through the structure, reaching the roof and

worsening smoke conditions. Heavy smoke was soon observed escaping from all eaves of the roof.

Approximately 15 minutes into the interior attack, the incident commander deemed the structure unsafe and ordered all firefighters to evacuate. Crews transitioned to a defensive attack, utilizing hand lines and elevated water streams to combat the fire from outside.

Mutual aid was provided by Waynetown Fire Department, Madison Township Fire Department, Crawfordsville Police Department, the Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office, CEL&P, Indiana American Water Company and CenterPoint Energy.



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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.

CRAWFORDSVILLE COMMON COUNCIL— COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Crawfordsville Common Council will meet for its committee meetings in 2025 at 6:00 pm on the following dates at the at the Crawfordsville City Building’s Council Chambers, located at 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933:

- January 6, 2025
- February 3, 2025
- March 3, 2025
- April 7, 2025
- May 5, 2025
- June 2, 2025
- July 7, 2025
- August 4, 2025
- September 2, 2025
- October 6, 2025
- November 3, 2025
- December 1, 2025

CRAWFORDSVILLE COMMON COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETINGS

The Crawfordsville Common Council will hold its regular meetings in 2025 at 6:00 pm on the following dates at the at the Crawfordsville City Building’s Council Chambers, located at 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933:

- January 13, 2025
- February 10, 2025
- March 10, 2025
- April 14, 2025
- May 12, 2025
- June 9, 2025
- July 14, 2025
- August 11, 2025
- September 8, 2025
- October 14, 2025
- November 10, 2025
- December 8, 2025

CRAWFORDSVILLE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY

The Crawfordsville Board of Public Works and Safety will meet for its regular meetings in 2025 at 10:00 am on the following dates at the Crawfordsville City Building’s Council Chambers, located at 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933:

- January 8, 2025
- January 15, 2025
- January 22, 2025
- January 29, 2025
- February 5, 2025
- February 12, 2025
- February 19, 2025
- February 26, 2025
- March 5, 2025
- March 12, 2025
- March 19, 2025
- March 26, 2025
- April 2, 2025
- April 9, 2025
- April 16, 2025
- April 23, 2025
- April 30, 2025
- May 7, 2025
- May 14, 2025
- May 21, 2025
- May 28, 2025
- June 4, 2025
- June 11, 2025
- June 18, 2025

- June 25, 2025
- July 2, 2025
- July 9, 2025
- July 16, 2025
- July 23, 2025
- July 30, 2025
- August 6, 2025
- August 13, 2025
- August 20, 2025
- August 27, 2025
- September 3, 2025
- September 10, 2025
- September 17, 2025
- September 24, 2025
- October 1, 2025
- October 8, 2025
- October 15, 2025
- October 22, 2025
- October 29, 2025
- November 5, 2025
- November 12, 2025
- November 19, 2025
- November 26, 2025
- December 3, 2025
- December 10, 2025
- December 17, 2025
- December 23, 2025
- December 30, 2025

CRAWFORDSVILLE PARKS & RECREATION BOARD – REGULAR MEETING

The Crawfordsville Parks & Recreation Board will meet for its regular meetings in 2025 at 4:00 pm on the following dates at the Crawfordsville City Building’s Council Chambers, located at 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933:

- Wednesday, January 8, 2025
- Wednesday, February 12, 2025
- Wednesday, March 12, 2025
- Wednesday, April 9, 2025
- Wednesday, May 14, 2025
- Wednesday, June 11, 2025
- Wednesday, July 9, 2025
- Wednesday, August 13, 2025
- Wednesday, September 10, 2025
- Wednesday, October 8, 2025
- Wednesday, November 12, 2025
- Wednesday, December 10, 2025

FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

The Crawfordsville Fire Merit Commission will hold a meeting on the following dates at 6:30 pm in the Crawfordsville City Building’s Council Chambers, located at 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

- Monday, March 24, 2025
- Monday, June 23, 2025
- Monday, September 22, 2025
- Monday, December 15, 2025

CRAWFORDSVILLE FIRE PENSION BOARD

The Crawfordsville Fire Department Pension Board will hold its regular annual meeting for 2025 at 10:00 am on Monday, 3 February 2025 at the Crawfordsville City Building’s Council Chambers, located at 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

If you have any questions, please call Mayor Barton’s office at 765-364-5160. Also, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if anyone wishes to attend, hear or speak at the public meeting and is in need of reasonable accommodation, please contact the Crawfordsville Department of Planning & Community Development so accommodation can be made. The Department may be contacted at 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, Fax No. 765-364-1140, Telephone No. 765-364-5152. Brandy Allen, City of Crawfordsville, ADA Coordinator; ballen@crawfordsville-in.gov.

CPD Investigating Armed Robbery

Crawfordsville Police are investigating a report of an armed robbery at a local truck stop.

On Dec. 26, a little after 2 a.m., Crawfordsville Police responded to a report of an armed robbery at McClure’s Oil, a truck stop located at 1900 Smith Ave.

According to initial reports, a male suspect of medium height and build entered the business while displaying a handgun. The suspect demanded cash, which the employee complied with, handing over an undisclosed amount.

The suspect’s face and head were covered, making it difficult to determine age or race. The suspect was

described as wearing gloves, a large flannel-style coat, brown pants and light-colored shoes. No vehicle description is available at this time.

After obtaining the money, the suspect fled the scene. Officers conducted a search of the area and checked in with nearby businesses but did not locate the suspect.

CPD Det. Geoff Payne is leading the investigation. Anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to contact Detective Payne at (765) 362-3762, ext. 215. The Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office is assisting in the investigation, which remains ongoing.



OPEN

From Page A1

• You can drop your Medicare Advantage Plan.

• You can return to Original Medicare.

• You can add a standalone Part D Plan, but only if you dropped your Medicare Advantage Plan and returned to Original Medicare.

To change your drug coverage during this period, you must disenroll from your Medicare Advantage Plan and join a different Medicare Advantage Plan with prescription drug coverage or Original Medicare with a stand-alone Part D plan.

Changes made during the Medicare Advantage OEP will take effect the first of the month following the month you enroll. If you want to keep your Medicare Advantage Plan, you should not use the MA OEP to change drug coverage.

Keep in mind, if you go back to Original Medicare now, you may not be able to buy a Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policy without being

underwritten. This means you could pay higher premiums and have a waiting period for pre-existing conditions or be denied coverage.

The Medicare Plan Finder can help you find, compare, and enroll in a new Medicare Advantage plan, www.medicare.gov/plan-compare.

SHIP has more than 75 sites throughout Indiana. Look for a SHIP site near you at www.in.gov/ship/find-anindiana-ship-location/. Our counselors can assist you in person, by phone, or virtually. SHIP offers presentations and educational events throughout Indiana. Check out our list of state-wide events at www.in.gov/ship/ship-presentations-and-events/. You can also contact our Helpline at (800) 452-4800.

Follow SHIP on social media for informative Medicare related videos, updates, and announcements. Find us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

Notice is hereby given the Taxpayers of Montgomery County, Indiana, that the proper legal officers of Montgomery County will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the 2025 Budget Order from the DLGF at the regular Council meeting on January 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the Community Meeting Room, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:						
Fund	Fund Description	Dept #	Department	Account	Account Description	Additional Amount Requested
1170	PS LIT	0005	Sheriff	21000	Fuel/Oil	\$100,000.00
1170	PS LIT	0005	Sheriff	30100	Vehicle/Equipment Repair	\$46,121.00
1170	PS LIT	0005	Sheriff	44523	Vehicle Purchase	\$85,000.00
1235	PSAP LIT	0303	MCCCC	44500	Equipment	\$185,685.00
9109	Community Crossings Matc	0529	Highway	20016	Bituminous	\$2,726,454.00
8174	FY25 SIM Grant 93.788	0235	Probation	11025	Salary	\$33,000.00
8174	FY25 SIM Grant 93.788	0235	Probation	30002	Training & Travel	\$25,000.00
8174	FY25 SIM Grant 93.788	0235	Probation	24205	Barrier Busters	\$3,000.00
8174	FY25 SIM Grant 93.788	0235	Probation	30180	Substance Abuse Treatment	\$14,000.00
8174	FY25 SIM Grant 93.788	0235	Probation	44500	Community Outreach/Equipment	\$7,500.00
XXXX					TOTAL:	\$3,225,760.00

The additional appropriations as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). The DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action taken.

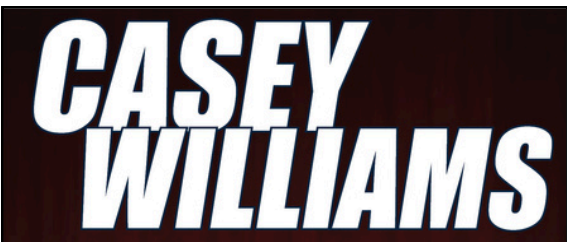
This will be considered a work session for the Board of Commissioners in conjunction with the scheduled Council meeting.
Dated this 12/30/2024
Mindy Byers
Auditor, Montgomery County

PL5011 1/3 1t hspaxlp

Public Notices Deadline:
11:00 a.m.

2 Business Days Prior to Publication:
legals@thepaper24-7.com

Private Party Notices Submitted After Deadline May Be Subject To
\$25.00 Fee In Addition To The Cost Of The Advertisement



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Jeff Kiger Celebrates 5 Years With HHSB

HHSB is pleased to announce the 5-year work anniversary of Jeff Kiger, Assistant Vice President / Ag & Commercial Lender.



Jeff Kiger

ability to serve our customers, and his unwavering commitment to our community and shared values make him an invaluable asset to Hoosier Heartland State Bank.”

Jeff lives in northern Putnam County with his wife Jeana and enjoys working on their hobby farm, fishing, flying, and spending time with their family and friends. He holds an instrument rating and a commercial pilot's license and enjoys flying when possible. Jeff is the President of the Mary Allison Children's Trust of Putnam County and the Bainbridge Lion's Club.

Contact Jeff Kiger at jkiger@myhhsb.com.

Jeff joined HHSB as an Ag/Commercial Lender in January 2020. He has worked in banking for the last 15 years and has been involved in various customer service and sales positions throughout his career. He graduated from Western Governor's University and the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin. Jeff loves his role at HHSB and enjoys meeting and talking with new and current customers about their farming and business operations in Parke, Putnam, and Montgomery counties.

"We are thrilled to have had Jeff on our team for the past five years," stated Trent Smaltz, Chief Lending Officer. "His well-rounded banking experience has consistently strengthened our

Zach Hockersmith Celebrates 15 Years at HHSB

HHSB is pleased to announce the 15-year work anniversary of Zach Hockersmith, Chief Financial Officer.



Zach Hockersmith

to our mission, vision, and values make him an invaluable part of our team. We're thrilled to celebrate this milestone and look forward to his continued contributions in the years to come."

Zach and his wife, Casey, are lifelong residents of Montgomery County. They have been married for 14 years and live in Crawfordsville with their two sons, Hudson and Camden. Zach enjoys spending time outdoors, being with family, golfing, and working on home projects. He also helps coach Southmont youth football and baseball.

In addition to coaching, Zach is actively involved in the community. Zach

serves as a board member for the Montgomery County Medical Care Trust and the Montgomery County Community Foundation and is a part of the MCCF Bridge Inc., where he helps support the Early Learning Center project. Zach is also involved with the Indiana Bankers Association, serving on the Future Leadership Division advisory board.

Contact Zach Hockersmith today at zhockersmith@myhhsb.com.

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CRAWFORDSVILLE DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY

SAT/SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
28 WINTER READING ALL MONTH!	30	31 CLOSED	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR CLOSED	2 Winter Break Science at CMMC Lego Club: 4p	3 Winter Break Science at CMMC
29	6 1st Grade Book Club: 4p Kindergarten Book Club: 4p Drop-in Resume Help: 5:30-7p	7	8	9 5-8 Grade Book Club: 4p CDPL Board Meeting: 4p	10 Book Sale 10a-4p Sale
4 CMMC's Fluffy Slime: 2-4p Winter Break Scie at CMMC	13 2nd Grade Book Club: 4p Drop-in Resume Help: 5:30-7p	14 Baby Story Time: 9:30a	15 Toddler Story Time: 10a Kindergarten Book Club: 4p	16 Preschool Story Time 10a	17 Wiggle and Giggle: 10a Carnegie Colors with The Golden Girls: 7p
5	12 Full Moon	18 Naturalist Series Winter Wellness Hike: 10a	21 Baby Story Time: 9:30a Dungeons & Dragons for Beginners: 5p	22 Toddler Story Time: 10a Kindergarten Book Club: 4p	24 Wiggle and Giggle: 10a
11	20 3rd Grade Book Club: 4p Drop-in Resume Help: 5:30-7p MLK DAY	25	28 Baby Story Time: 9:30a Mystery of History Club: 6p	29 Toddler Story Time: 10a Kindergarten Book Club: 4p New Moon	31 STAFF ONLY CLOSED
18	27 4th Grade Book Club: 4p Drop-in Resume Help: 5:30-7p	28	29	30 Preschool Story Time 10a	
25	26				

JANUARY 2025

Adults All ages
 Teens Children