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TODAY'S VERSE

Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Meet Lena



Lena is a 2 year old female shepherd available for adoption from The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 9/2/24. Lena loves going out for walks, playing in a fenced yard, and will gladly sit for treats. Lena is looking for her best friend. Could that be you? Lena is spayed, dewormed, microchipped, and up to date on all of her shots! 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!!



Here's a tip of the seed corn cap to Jessica McClamroch and all her great work with the Strawberry Festival Queen and Junior Royalty programs!

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Butch Relates Story of Nice Boy Turned Bad



BUTCH DALE Columnist

As a deputy and later on as Sheriff, I was not too concerned with enforcing minor traffic violations, although that is one aspect of the job. I thought that solving serious crimes was much more important. Those whom I arrested for felony offenses came from all walks of life. When interviewing suspects, I noticed that their criminal activity usually stemmed from poor decisions as a result of alcohol abuse, family problems or being with the wrong people at the wrong time. How can a

likeable, well-adjusted person who has never been in trouble end up behind bars? Here is one example ...

Johnny was a precocious little boy who was loved by his parents. His father was strict, but not abusive. He had a very sweet teenage sister who enjoyed dressing him in handsome little suits for church and special occasions. Johnny's father owned a small grocery and the customers enjoyed talking to Johnny, who was a carefree, likeable youngster. But tragedy struck when Johnny was scarcely three years old when his mother suddenly passed away. During the funeral, Johnny disappeared and was found

sitting on a chair next to the casket, shaking his mother to try to awaken her. His mother's death affected him greatly, but his sister took over the maternal duties and provided great love and care, and the three of them attended church each week, where Johnny's dad was a deacon.

About the time that Johnny started school, his father remarried, with his new wife treating Johnny as one of her own with much love and affection. The family moved to the country, where Johnny's father took up farming. Johnny was not an exceptional student, but

See BUTCH Page A3

Hidden Costs of Incarceration, Part 3



The League of Women Voters, open to men as well as women, is a nonpartisan, multi-issue political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. For information about the Montgomery County LWV, visit: www.lwvmontco.in.org or message to LWV, PO Box 101, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933.

Like all League of Women Voters position statements, its Impact on Issues statement about incarceration is the result of national studies. (Read the

previous column from the first week of December on how studies are conducted.)

The statement looks "at the policies and procedures that apply to employees of and incarcerated individuals in local jails and state prisons." It calls upon "correctional systems to provide humane, dignified, non-discriminatory treatment of incarcerated people and personnel, including appropriate health care and access to community-based rehabilitation programs." It calls for the elimination of the practice of solitary confinement; to provide clear, safe and accessible ways to report abuse; and "to address recidivism with programs that focus on rehabilitation, education, mental health treatment, substance abuse recovery and transitional programs."

Such programs, the statement reads, "call for case management services to match education, behavior, job training, work, and mental health programs with the needs of incarcerated individuals; to provide sufficient psychological services, including training and evaluation." Because it helps with re-entry, the LWV believes "correctional systems should encourage family and community visitations and ways to maintain contact."

The LWV calls for the elimination of private prisons.

It doesn't name the private, for-profit services, including the communications and service contracts mentioned in parts 1 and 2 of this series.

In addition to providing monitoring, commissary fund services and communications, the nation's jails and prisons often contract with healthcare and food service providers. The contracts focus on the expertise and reduce the workload of the sheriff or commanding officer.

"It's a godsend, you know," says Montgomery County Sheriff Ryan Needham of their contract with Quality Correctional Health, which provides a nurse from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, with a doctor on call

See LWV Page A5

It's The World We Live In



TIM TIMMONS Two Cents

The world we live in now ain't what it used to be.

A recent national story supposedly detailed the difference between Biden and Trump, using the California fires and California Gov. Gavin Newsom. The writer's take was that Biden stood tall with Newsom and pledged the full weight of the federal government for assistance . . . while all Trump did was criticize.

human beings are going through hell on the left coast and yet the story is about Biden this or Trump that.

This is what our world going forward is going to look like.

Whether you sit on the left, the right, the woke, the frustrated . . . whatever, can't the vast majority of us agree things aren't where they should be? Can't we agree that our country could be - and should be - in better shape?

And can't we all agree that this continued finger pointing is getting us nowhere?

For the 10 or 12 of you who follow these scribbles, you know I'm an old sportswriter - heavy emphasis on old. In a few days my Fighting Irish from Notre Dame will take on Ohio State for the national championship of college football. The Irish squeezed by Penn State in the semifinals on a last-second field goal. All of that is cause for my celebration. It's been almost 40 years since Notre Dame was this good (a fact IU basketball fans can relate to).

But no, in this new world, that's not the story.

See TIM Page A3

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Most back strains improve on their own in a week or two.

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

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity." Psalms 133:1

TODAY'S JOKE

Overheard between two office workers: I have an inferiority complex . . . but it's not a very good one.

MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Daryl Warren, Montgomery County's newest Basketball Hall of Fame member, will be at the Linden Carnegie Public Library on Saturday Jan. 25 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Richard Ward Community Room. Daryl and Coach Tom Speaker will be signing the book "The Last County Championship." The book, written by Coach Speaker, was first published in 2011 and is the story of the Linden High School Bulldog's 1971 basketball team and their victory in the last county tournament championship in Montgomery County.

THREE THINGS You Should Know

- 1 Don't forget that your favorite newspaper won't be published on Monday, Jan. 20 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. We'll be back on our normal scheduled Wednesday, Jan. 22.
2 Kroger and The Kroger Family of Companies are committed to raising \$1 million for families impacted by the devastating wildfires in the Los Angeles region. Kroger is making it easy for customers to support relief efforts through its "round up" opportunity, boosting purchases to the nearest dollar at checkout to help the Red Cross. Customers are also invited to donate online if that is more convenient. In addition to monetary contributions, Kroger is delivering food, water and supplies to local fire departments and evacuation centers.
3 Indiana Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch has been awarded the Sentinel of the Vault for her unwavering dedication to safeguarding Indiana's financial resources and advancing economic opportunities for Hoosiers. The Sentinel of the Vault is bestowed by the Office of the Indiana Treasurer and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exemplary stewardship of the state's assets and a steadfast commitment to fiscal responsibility.



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

Renovations Under Way at Lew Wallace Study & Museum



Photos courtesy General Lew Wallace Study & Museum

Thanks to a grant, donations and hard work, renovations have begun.

The museum and grounds are closed to the public while work continues.

Have you ever wondered what the staff at the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum does over the winter months?

TASTE of Montgomery County and the Holiday Tea, sufficient money has been raised to complete structural repairs to the building and upgrades to the paint and floor finishes. The project was designed by Ratio Architects and work is being completed by Brandt Construction. The goal is to complete the project by the end of March, but until it is completed the museum and grounds will be closed to the public. When it does reopen, the 2025 exhibit will look at the epic silent film version of Ben-Hur that was released in 1925. Often considered the first film blockbuster, the movie is given credit for saving MGM studios and changing the film landscape forever.

In an ordinary winter season, staff removes the annual exhibit, cares for the artifacts, does a deep clean of the museum and plans exhibit and programs for the coming year.

This winter, the museum and grounds are closed because they are doing an extensive renovation of the Lew Wallace Carriage House. This building was saved from demolition by the city and by dedicated volunteers more than 20 years ago. It was extensively restored and opened in 2005 as the Lew Wallace Museum Welcome Center, Lynne D. Hohlbein Education and Exhibit Display Space, office space, gift shop and artifact storage. Over the years, more than 100,000 people have come through or used the building. This attendance, combined with the other uses, caused some deterioration and structural issues.

In addition to the Carriage House renovation project, two of Lew Wallace's pieces of elaborate cast iron garden decoration have been sent off for restoration over the winter. Staff plans to reinstall these features later in 2025.

Thanks to a grant from the Montgomery County Community Foundation, a number of private donations and income from the

For more information call Larry Paarlberg at (765) 362-5769 or email lpaarlberg@ben-hur.com.



Please visit us online:
thepaper24-7.com

Want Free Tickets to Home Show?

The Paper of Montgomery County once again has free tickets to give away for the 2025 Indianapolis Home Show which runs from Friday, Jan. 17 through Sunday, Jan. 26 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds and Event Center.

All you have to do to win tickets (valued at \$15 each) is either send us a selfie of you and our front page (Print or Online Edition) or drop by our office at 127 E. Main St. and let Jacob take your picture!

If you send us a selfie, email it to news@thepaper24-7.com and be sure to include your name, where you live (city or town, not specific home address) and a little bit about yourself. Then all you have to do is wait and watch. If you see your smiling face in The Paper – you win!

But wait, as the TV guy says, that's not all! If you come by our office – you don't have to wait at all! Jacob will get your photo and then hand you free tickets. Yes, it's that easy!

And what a year to win Home Show tickets! The Indianapolis Home Show returns for its 103rd year! An Indiana tradition, the oldest home show in North America offers the

latest in decorating landscaping, construction and remodeling ideas. Visitors to the Indianapolis Home Show can talk to hundreds of home and décor experts for advice and explore thousands of the newest home products.

The opening day of the show is special because visitors can pay honor to all our heroes! All active and retired military, police and fire personnel get FREE ADMISSION for the day, plus FREE PARKING at the State Fairgrounds. Just bring a valid ID, and come enjoy the Home Show on opening day!

And on Sunday, Jan. 19, the Home Show, as a thank you to those who help teach our little ones, is giving teachers and school staff FREE ADMISSION. Just bring a valid ID!

The show opens at 10 a.m. each day and on Monday through Wednesday closes at 7 p.m. Closing time for Thursday through Saturday is 8 p.m. and Sundays wrap up at 5 p.m.

Regular admission prices are \$15 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6-12 and free for children 5 and under.

Sen. Deery Continues Look at Priorities



SPENCER DEERY
 Guest Columnist

Last week, I announced my legislation to protect our water and our farms, and to reform the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. This week, I am announcing several proposals to strengthen our schools, support our best teachers, and prepare the next generation of Hoosiers for self-government. I have filed three education bills to address the following priorities:

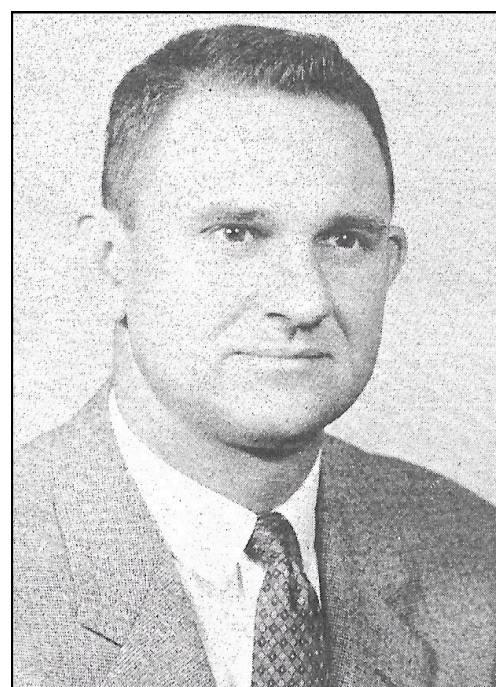
Making it easier for students studying STEM to become trained teachers. In 2022-23, Indiana issued just 17 new teaching licenses in chemistry, five in engineering, and 15 in physical science. This shortage led schools to request emergency waivers, filling positions with individuals who often lacked classroom training. For example, in chemistry, the state issued 412% more emergency permits than new licenses. To address this, my bill would create a pathway for STEM students to graduate college with a teaching certificate if they pass a subject matter test, complete nine specific education

credits, and gain field experience in the classroom.

Paying teachers in hard-to-fill positions more. Schools face challenges recruiting and retaining teachers in subjects like special education, STEM and English as a Second Language. Factors such as job stress and specialized skills contribute to this problem, but another is the unreasonable expectations from teachers' unions that

➔ See DEERY Page A3

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do You Know this 1939 Alamo H.S. Grad?

HINT:
 He became a teacher, coach and principal . . . and then later on a well-known banker.

Answer on Page A3

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ARMY VETERAN

↓ BUTCH From Page A1

he loved reading all of the books he could get his hands on, and he was always immaculately dressed and had a neat and clean appearance. He was a little mischievous at times like most youngsters, but never got into any serious trouble. However, farming was not very profitable, and wanting to earn some money, as a teenager Johnny dropped out of school and began working in a veneer factory. The work was hard and entailed heavy lifting, but Johnny was strong and even helped the other workers who were less physically fit. Johnny was generous and often loaned money or gave it freely to his fellow workers who were in financial straits. Johnny liked to hike in the woods with his dog. He enjoyed hunting, but mostly just enjoyed being by himself out in nature. He also developed a fondness for the game of baseball, and joined a local team. He played second base, and eventually became the team's leading pitcher. He fell in love with a local girl and attended a Quaker church. Life was good.

Then began a downward spiral. The parents of Johnny's girlfriend did not approve of him, and they successfully ended the relationship. Heartbroken, Johnny joined the Navy, but soon tired of the military discipline, and feeling homesick, deserted and made his way back to the farm. Now 20 years old and on the rebound from his first love, he married a 16 year old girl and started hanging around with an older fellow who had served time in prison. The two men spent quite a bit of time in the local pool room, and often went on drinking bouts together, with Johnny leaving his new wife alone at home. He began to get in a few scrapes with the law and enjoyed his new "wild life."

Late one night, after Johnny and his buddy had spent an evening of heavy drinking, on impulse they accosted a local businessman, struck him over the head and robbed the man of \$50. The two were arrested a short time later. Johnny had no recollection of what had transpired. He did not hire an attorney and was told that if he pled guilty, he would receive a light sentence of probation. Johnny's father agreed to the deal offered by the judge and prosecutor. Johnny was not yet 21 years of age, was married, came from a respectable family and had no previous criminal record . . . and the crime had been committed while he

was under the influence of alcohol and with an older individual. Yet when sentencing occurred, Johnny received the maximum . . . 10 to 20 years in prison. He and his father were stunned, "I just didn't have the money to hire a lawyer for my boy." The older accomplice hired a lawyer and got off easy.

This was Johnny's first crime. It was also the turning point in his life. While in prison, his wife divorced him. He worked in the prison shirt factory and became acquainted with several other violent felons. After serving several years, Johnny was finally granted parole and decided to come back home and help his father farm. But on the day of his return, Johnny's stepmother, who he loved dearly, suffered a stroke and died. He cried tears of sorrow at her passing. Johnny tried to be neighborly to the local townspeople when he returned home, but they looked down on a convicted felon.

Times were tough. Jobs were scarce. Many people hated the banks, as families had lost their money when the banks had closed at the beginning of the economic depression. Johnny, along with the buddies he had met in prison, decided that they would get even with the banks and the law. They began a long string of robbing banks at gunpoint and making fast getaways. The gang even robbed police stations just for fun and to obtain firearms. Many people considered this gang of robbers and killers as heroes, and Johnny was the modern day Robin Hood.

In my law enforcement career, I learned that one or two silly mistakes or bad decisions, or sometimes fate . . . can change a person's life . . . just like Johnny. When I was Sheriff, one day in 1997 I checked the crimes and backgrounds of all the jail inmates. Three-fourths of them were there because of alcohol related circumstances. Today I would wager that three-fourths of the inmates in jail are there because of drug related circumstances. Some change and get their life back together. Some never change. But the majority of these people do not end up like "Public Enemy Number One" in 1934 . . . John "Johnny" Dillinger.

John "Butch" Dale is a retired teacher and County Sheriff. He has also been the librarian at Darlington the past 36 years, and is a well-known artist and author of local history.

↓ TIM From Page A1

The coaches in Notre Dame's semifinal game, Marcus Freeman and James Franklin, are minorities. Franklin is black and Freeman's mother was Korean and his father black. ESPN mentioned over and over that of 134 NCAA FBS schools, only 16 had black head coaches.

Only 16!

What ESPN didn't mention is that 16 equals about 12 percent. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 14 percent of this country's total is black.

The number doesn't seem so disparate now, does it?

Immediately after the game – did I mention my Irish won? – ESPN's very first question to Freeman was how it felt to be the first black coach to reach the championship game. What did you expect from ESPN? The once-great cable company is owned by the Walt Disney Company – the folks who reportedly vowed to make half their characters going forward representative of the LGBTQ community.

Let's not forget what movies Disney makes. Their target audience tends to go to elementary school. ESPN would do well to avoid sex education. (Heck, I'm not OK with them including cuss words in their movies.) I know, I know, I'm wrong. Today's world just can't let little kids be little kids, perfectly content with dolls, playgrounds and all the things that make up the innocence of youth.

I digress. Back to the game.

ESPN not only couldn't wait to play the race card, it did so in the most racist manner possible – it discriminated against Asian Americans.

Did they ask Freeman how it felt to be the first coach of Asian descent to reach the title game? Nope. Not a word. I guess ESPN only cares about some minorities.

And hardly mentioned by the mainstream folks in the media world was Freeman's reaction. The coach could not have handled it much better.

"I've said this before, I don't ever want to take attention away from the team," Freeman said on the podium minutes after the biggest win of his coaching career. "It is an honor and I hope all coaches - minorities, black, Asian, white, it doesn't matter, great people continue to get opportunities to lead young men like this. This ain't about me, this is about us, and we're going to celebrate what we've done, because it's something special."

Good for Freeman, who is in his third year as head coach at Notre

Dame. (BTW, did you know that of the five Notre Dame coaches who have won national championships, all except for Knute Rockne won one in their third year . . . sorry, I digress again.)

This is the world we live in now . . . and I hate the fact that the things many of us were taught growing up no longer matter. Hard work, honesty, fairness, manners, compassion, competition and so many other traits instilled in us by parents, teachers, coaches, clergy have been replaced.

And that old sports writer in me absolutely hates that the one place where color doesn't matter is under ESPN's assault. What? Am I forgetting Jackie Robinson and others who broke color barriers? Absolutely not! But since the white men who were in power back then got their heads out of their posteriors, sports has been about who proves themselves better on the court, the field, the arena . . . well, OK, WNBA and Caitlyn Clark haters aside.

This is the world we live in now.

Truth to tell, dear friends, we are a flawed country. Always have been. We have presidents who lie, cheat and steal – ditto members of Congress. And if one side of the aisle or the other tries to tell you the other side is worse, add them to the list of liars.

We conveniently forget facts, or worse, we make up whatever best helps our side.

It's nothing new. This crap has been going on far longer than you and I have taken up space on God's green earth.

Our history as a nation is that we have long tried to be better, to improve. From tossing a King's tea into the harbor to fighting a Civil War to defying an idiot governor who tried to keep a young black woman from entering a university . . . we have tried. Sometimes we failed. Sometimes we didn't. But we kept trying, and more often than not, got some things right and continued growing, improving. We're still not there yet, but until recently, we trudged on – understanding that together we are better than apart.

Sadly, a lot of folks are now trying to undo that. It's the world we live in now.

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.

Baird presents Veteran, Hero John Hall Sagamore



Photo courtesy Indiana House Republicans

State Rep. Beau Baird (R-Greencastle) (fourth from right) is joined by U.S. Rep. Jim Baird (R-IN) (far right) to present John Hall (seated) with the Sagamore of the Wabash and an official Congressional Record.

State Rep. Beau Baird (R-Greencastle) recently presented a Sagamore of the Wabash to World War II and Korean War veteran John Hall of Crawfordsville.

Baird presented the award to Hall, 99, in Crawfordsville.

"John Hall's remarkable service during both World War II and the Korean War stands as a testament to his profound commitment to our nation," Baird said. "From enduring the hardships of being a prisoner of war to earning a Bronze Star, Hall's service exemplifies the highest ideals of courage and dedication. It's an honor to recognize him with the Sagamore of the Wabash award."

Baird was joined by U.S. Rep. Jim Baird (R-IN) for the award presentation ceremony, where Congressman Baird also presented Hall

with an official Congressional Record.

Hall served with distinction in both World War II and the Korean War. During World War II, he fought in the Battle of the Bulge, was captured as a POW and remained in captivity until General Patton's army liberated him. After his service in World War II, he was recalled for duty during the Korean War, where he was wounded in combat. Hall was awarded a Bronze Star for his service in Korea, further demonstrating his unwavering dedication to our country.

Dating back to the 1940s, the Sagamore of the Wabash award was created by former Gov. Ralph Gates. It is the highest honor the governor can bestow and is presented to distinguished Hoosiers who have made significant contributions to the state of Indiana.

↓ DEERY From Page A2

all educators with the same experience should be paid the same. This one-size-fits-all approach doesn't reflect the realities of the job market and isn't fair to teachers or students. My bill would empower administrators to offer higher salaries to educators in shortage areas.

Building an American identity rooted in our founding documents through better civics and history instruction. Nationwide, only 39% of young Americans are grateful for America's founding. Over half favor writing a new constitution, and at least a third view our Founding Fathers as villains more than heroes. My bill aims to ensure history and civics education cultivate an appreciation for the universal principles enshrined in the U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence. It also would create a local mechanism to resolve concerns when instruction fails to meet this standard.

Prioritizing parental communication in bullying investigations. In 2023, I helped strengthen our laws to prevent bullying in schools, but we need to fix a major shortcoming that remains. When schools investigate

bullying incidents, they currently do not need to inform the parents for five days. I believe whether a child was the victim, the perpetrator or it's not yet clear, parents should know of their child's involvement so they can better meet the child's needs. My bill would require schools to make a reasonable effort to notify parents by the end of the calendar day if their child is the subject of a bullying investigation.

These priorities are packaged into three different education bills that will be posted online in coming days.

PASSING A
Balanced Budget

Last week, lawmakers gathered at the Statehouse for the start of the 2025 legislative session.

As always, one of my top priorities is to pass a balanced two-year state budget.

Why it matters: Every dollar the state takes in was first earned by a hardworking Hoosier, so it's important to ensure that money is invested wisely. Passing a balanced budget allows our state government to

➡ **See DEERY Page A6**

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia
Answer:
John Bowerman

↓ LWV

From Page A1

24/7. These professionals put protocols in place and ensure that staff are trained to dispense medication.

“She’s not my employee,” said Needham. “I’m not a doctor. I have no business supervising a nurse, you know?” His predecessor, Mark Casteel, had previously supervised health professionals. “I know when Mark was sheriff, the nurse was a county employee, and Mark was responsible for her. And he was like, ‘I am a police officer. How am I supposed to know?’”

Casteel and Needham both kept in-house food service, along with commissary.

“Our kitchen goes well above and beyond,” said Needham. “Our menus are approved yearly by a licensed dietician, and I believe we exceed the recommended calorie intake on every meal. I know several facilities have begun outsourcing their kitchen and meals but we have not. I have no doubt that some facilities probably do cut corners but this is not something we do. Our food is very good, and I believe most of the inmates would agree with this.”

Casteel was the first sheriff to set up any contract, the one with the communications that now gives inmates access to tablets, including the free libraries, and the fee-based texting, music and video services.

Outsourcing these services in prisons tracks with trends across other industries. Outsourcing allows prisons – like hospitals – to focus on their mission. Still, it reveals some of the vulnerabilities in achieving the best outcomes, those called upon by the LWV and other prison policy reform groups.

Consider the experience of Paul (introduced in Part 1 of the series), whose experience was typical.

“The county jail here is a much easier jail than a lot of other Maryland jails,” said Paul. “Still my first week was 100 percent the hardest time you could ever imagine. And not even having to deal with other inmates, just mentally getting acclimated to it.” He spent his first day in holding, the first stop after arrest. It’s the long wait where the charges, mug shots and figuring out where to put a new prisoner are sorted. “So you spend your first whole day just kind of shuffling around the system and not knowing what to expect.”

“The way my county jail works is they have a quarantine system.” This is a new step since COVID. It remains policy in eastern Maryland, where the population is more dense. It could be three to five days and ensures a new prisoner won’t be introducing a serious communicable disease to a close community.

“Because I was detoxing off of alcohol, I got a 14-day quarantine with supervision. And then also got the privilege of spending some time in the segregation or solitary unit, because they thought I was suicidal.”

It’s not unusual.

“Statistically speaking, I mean, if you are going to harm yourself over being distraught or being arrested, the humiliation and all that, if you’re going to attempt suicide, you are going to do that within the first 48 hours,” said Needham, explaining the isolation.

Locally, Needham says intake may be shorter, depending on how busy it is. It may also be lengthened if an inmate is under the influence.

“We have two padded cells that are full every day,” said Needham. “Whether you’re violent, whether you’re suicidal, whether you’re having a mental breakdown. It’s not right, but there’s nowhere else to put them.”

“That is probably one of the top five biggest aggravators in my law enforcement career, especially the last 10 years. We talk and talk about mental health, and nothing’s done. It’s a catchphrase, but I don’t think we’re any better off today than we were five years ago.”

Needham noted that there is nowhere to take people with complex mental health issues.

“The last place they need to be is here, but this was the only place,” Needham said. “Coast to coast, we’re all fighting that issue. We have mental health as part of our medical contract, but it’s minimal. I mean, we have it. But if you’re truly having a mental breakdown or mental issues that need chronic care, you’re not going to get them in jail.”

Paul’s account concurs. “One of my biggest issues with the jail system, even being in one of the easier jails in Maryland is that they do nothing for mental stability. They have a counselor or a therapist there. You go in and see her and her whole objective is to figure it out or not, whether you’re going to kill yourself. And that’s it. They offer you no therapy. They offer you no guidance, especially somebody that’s not ever dealt with the prison system before.”

“And there’s no kind of structure for that. They do this five-minute interview with you and they say, oh, suicidal. They take your clothes; they take everything you have. They put you in what we call the turtle suit, but it’s a big giant Velcro suit thing. And you get to sit alone in the cell with nothing for a week and a half.”

Paul’s local jail had three levels. “Initially you’re on level three, which means they come and check on you every hour. You get

nothing. That’s my biggest problem with having to deal with all of this. And I understand they have to cover their butts on things like that. But I also think they could offer some sort of mental structure for people who are going through it. Because that’s a trauma that just builds on everything else that I think is not needed.”

Compounding psychological stress, isolation from positive social networks – church and family – and sequestering inmates with others in similar situations often have the undesirable effect of increasing recidivism. It cuts inmates off from resources that will help them reintegrate without repeated arrests.

Prisoners with long sentences spend their first weeks in a local jail before being transferred to a state prison. The transfer includes a stop in a facility not unlike Paul’s intake.

Zach (from part 2 of the series) was sent to the transfer facility a week before Christmas. His mother Trudy received no warning because jails don’t communicate with families and inmates in the facility do not have tablets, visits, texts or phone calls. Only able to write letters, Zach wrote of being in lockdown 23 hours a day, of a lack of fruits and vegetables, of bologna as a constant meat source. He will remain there indefinitely until the state determines where to place him.

Zach’s experience can be somewhat understood by watching the Netflix documentary Unlocked, in which an Arkansas sheriff experiments with ending similar 23-hour lockdowns, encouraging self-governance in a unit and allowing all calls to be free. Such experiments aim to build skills that better prepare inmates for a more successful life outside of prison and to achieve “correction.”

Final note: The Indiana Department of Corrections (IDOC) did not respond to a request for an interview, nor did it provide responses to questions about contracts, kickbacks, health and food concerns as well as the impact on families. They did provide the following statement via email:

The Indiana Department of Correction contracts with ViaPath (also known as Global Tel Link(GTL) for incarcerated individual communications services, Aramark for food services to the population, and Centurion for medical services. Money collected from the IDOC’s contractual partners is allocated in a variety of ways that include funding rehabilitative programming for the incarcerated population. These contracts are available for public viewing on the Indiana Transparency Portal at in.gov/itp/. The IDOC

Back in the Day with Butch Dale



One of Crawfordsville’s most famous citizens was Will Hays, Jr. He was an attorney, Hollywood TV script writer, best-selling novelist and served as Crawfordsville mayor from 1964 to 1971.

holds each contractual partner accountable for these agreements. If the standards agreed upon in the contract are not maintained, the IDOC will terminate the agreement within the agreed upon terms of the contract. Visitor lists for each incarcerated individual are maintained to ensure continued safety and security within the facility and to the general public.

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.lwv-montcoin.org/; or, visit the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, [Indiana Facebook page](#).

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↓ CVILLE From Page A4

Johnson, Paige
Johnson, Kaydee Kelso,
Aailyah Keys, Litzy
Luna, Franco Marcelo
Robles, Scarlett
Martinez Castellanos,
Eagan McCann,
Sebastian McCann,
Andrew McCoy, Kaya
Money, Sabella Moore,
Sarah Moore, Soren
Olofson, Pujan Patel,
Claire Peacock, Kyann
Poppaw, Reese Price,
Jovanny Rodriguez,
Jazmen Russell,
Alexandra Sanchez
Hernandez, Josmary
Sanchez Huesca,
Tryston Sauer, Alayna
Schroeter, Jaimee
Simpson, Clairissa
Stacey, Hope Taylor,
Jaelynn Thompson,
Adyson Tinsley, Emerie
Venis, Makayla
Whitecotton, Amelia
Wilkinson, Zachary
Wingate, Chang Kuai
Yeung

10th Grade Honor Roll
Aries Aguilar Perry,
Sebastian Alvarez Mejia,
Emily Anderson,
Shoniece Banks, Kirsten
Biery, Gabriella Breaks,
Jakub Brewer, Jason
Briones, Ethan
Campbell, Diego
Castilla, Hullen Coffey,
Landyn Combs,
Caroline Cox, Ella Cox,
Brittany Crew, Lluvia
Cuevas Ronquillo,
Nataly Diaz Perez,
Eteban Dominguez,
Melanie Dowd, Konner
Ellsbury, Vivian Ewoldt,
Shylah Hall, Macy
Halstead, Abigail
Homsher, Charles

Hutchison, Olivia Jett,
Jayden Jimenez,
Bradley Johnson,
Dylan Kiger, Grace
Knee, Jaden Leap,
Jacob Lee, Josajany
Marin Zavaleta,
Madison Martin,
Jaiden McMullen,
Brian Melgar Tirado,
Justin Mendel,
Jackson Miles, Jason
Minnette, Susan
Montero, Armando
Munoz Gutierrez, Het
Patel, Princy Patel,
Lilly Peebles, Talon
Pike, Anthony Quijado
Alvarado, Rolando
Riano-Guerra, Blayze
Robbins, Maddox
Ronco, Youssef Salah,
Alejandro Sanchez,
NaHomi Sanchez,
Jacqueline Sanchez
Vazquez, Owen
Tomamichel, Laura
Viveros, Damian
White, Alyvia Wilhoite,
Carissa Wills, Quinn
Winter, Jaxon
Wireman, Zoey
Witherspoon

11th Grade High Honor Roll
Zoe Abbott, Kenneth
Adair, Rowan Asher,
Aliyah Brost, Rylee
Brown, Ashley
Callejas, Jayden
Callejas, Breseith
Carretero Morales,
Colten Custer, Tran
Duong, Victoria Flores,
Rowan Gambrel, Myca
Garrett, Alayna Hall,
Olivia Hedrick, Marie
Hesler, Maesa Horton,
Ian Hurt, Maxximo

➡ See CVILLE Page A6

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North Montgomery Middle School Semester 1 Honor Roll

All A Honor Roll

6th

Meya Bauer, Ada Bonwell, Caroline Brooks, Hunter Burge, Kaybrie Carpenter, Nolan Catlin, Hunter Delp, Corah Edwards, Ethan Fruits, Jaxson Hayes, Easton Horton, Kaybree Hughes, Matthew Hunsberger, Alaina Hunter, Jozlyn Hyams, Leston Jones, Christian Lagunes Gonzalez, Kalisa McComas, Alexander Nielsen, Charles Powell, Jessica Riehle, Aaron Welch, Lucas Woolwine.

7th

Harper Allen, Santiago Amigon, Luke Arthur, Easton Barker, Cash Cole, Westin Craig, Will Dark, EmmaRae Davis, Kinley Deener, Brynlynn Fitch, Easton Fried, Danielle Fulford, Reese Fultz, Mason Grimes, Maranda Higgins, Trevor Hintz, Madison Horton, Nolan Jeffery, Ethan King, Haleigh King, Lorelei Leaming, Carson Neal, Olivia Nuppnau, Kayden Page, Savannah Ratcliff, Strom Schenck, Ellie Shirar, Addison Stephens, Graham Swyers, Alice Templeman, Aidan Todd

8th

Dawson Bell, Abigail Cain, Austin Campbell, Preslee Claycomb, Colee Cunningham, Reagan Hernandez, D'Let Herrera, Annie Hess, Garrett Hudson, Addison Johnson, Bridgette Laws, Danielle Martin, Kinley McCoy, Erin McKinney, Gracelyn Neal, Mary Katharine Patterson, Hattie Patton, Kendra Pulley, Jetta Rexing, Delilah Stone, Haydee Viveros, Nolan Warren.

A/B Honor Roll

6th

Autumn Blythe, Skyler Bolgren, Rachelle Brackman, Ora Brooke, Christian Brown, Qwinton Carey, Paola Carrion, Adalyn Caswell, Jaxon Cohee, Hunter Conkright, Hunter Cook, Gavin Cope, Treycin Cope, Alexander Cordoba Hueto, Harper Crawford, Tyler Dutton, Drake Elliott, Londyn Gayler, Jordyn Greenlee, Liam Hall, Rachel Hess, Colter Jenkins, Zara Johnson, Nolan Kelp, Chloe Kinnett, Hudson Lewis, Dixon Lutes, Audrey Maish, Kinzie McElheny, Giovanni Minick, Tiona Mitchell, Daniel

Murdock, Matthew Myers, Naomi Neal, Oliver Neese, Kyran Oppy, Eloise Osborne, Annabelle Paschke, Mackenna Peebles, Brooklynn Pierce, Haddey Rice, Alexis Sanders, Archer Schmitt, Shiloh Seymour, Asher Simpkins, Madison Skinner, Madalynn Sparks, Bryson Stephens, Brody Temple, Camden Tyler, Julian Veach, Edgar Viveros, Scarlett Webb, Zayne West, Boston Wheeldon, Allayna Wilbur, Monroe Wilcox, Addilynn Wood

7th

Sadie Arnold, Colton Benge, Anna Bowers, Dracen Brant, Landon Bratcher, Jaxson Bretney, Macy Campbell, Cohen Carpenter, Malea Carpenter, Jillian Clark, Sophia Cogdill, Dastan Cooper, Isabella Coveau-Nicholson, Elli Crane, Natalia De La Torre, Grady Finlayson, Lillyian Fletcher, Alexis Funkhouser, Hadlie Horn, Ryan Hunter, Isabella Hutson, Sidney Johnson, Trey Johnson, Brighym Joyce, Nathan Kamakian, Clayton Kunz, Addison Leigh, Cooper Moseley, Charles Neel, Estella Newton, Parker Nichols, William Paschke, Abriella Purple, Elisama Santana-Roldan, Genevieve Schultz, Cameron Simms, Amelia Snyder, Bentley Weber, Kathleen Whittinghill, Amelia Wilson, Ryanne Woody, Jackson Youngblood.

8th

Kendall Barnett, Kohen Bonebrake, Henry Brooks, Clayton Brown, Ethan Brown, Warren Brown, Wyatt Cornell, Parker Cowan, Anthony Cruz-Perez, Hunter Daniels, Andrew Fedor, Coleston Foxworthy, Avamarie Garriott, Reese Goins, Scarlett Hamm, Alexander Heisel, Anna-Belle Horton, Noah Hunsberger, Landon Ireland, William Kendrick, Ava Leader, Korbin Lewis, Kipton Linzie, Sophia Long, Jackson Melvin, Malachi Meyers, Holly Nelson, Landon Osborne, Ella Redden, Bailey Richmond, Annabelle Rose, Emily Seaman, Jayna Simpkins, Makenzi Snellenbarger, Karley Sparrow, Olivia Ware, Conner White, Zetta Zachary.

DEERY

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As your state senator, I will work hard to ensure the state lives within its means this year, including supporting the passage of a balanced budget.

If you'd like to contact me, visit my webpage at IndianaSenateRepublican.com/Deery and click "Contact Me" to offer feedback on legislative issues. You can also click "Request Assistance" if you need help from my office to navigate an issue with a state agency.

From Page A3

STATE GRADUATION RATE Hits Record High

The Indiana Department of Education recently announced the state's highest recorded graduation rate at 90.23% of Indiana students graduating high school in 2024 — up from 88.89% in 2023.

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.

CVILLE

Jacome-Huesca, Gianna Kochert Cosby, Evelyn Kohl, Braxton Lewellen, Aubrey Lowe, Aime Macegoza, Mason McCarty, Adrian Medina, Matthew Miller, Bianca Montes Diaz, Campbell Murray, Caroline Novak, Katherine Novak, Vykto Owen, Ethan Owens, Tucker Pastore, Bristol Presley, Alfonso Riano Escobar, Marcus Rogers, Miguel Sanchez, Hayden Sanders, Isla Seward, Collin Simpson, Daniel Surface, Christina Susdorf, Remy Swinford, William Taylor, Yuliana Torres, Laila Torres Murillo, Andrew Turner, Nolan Watt, Katelyn Williams, Dylan Wolcott, LiLi Yeung, Jatzira Zarate-Encarnacion

11th Grade Honor Roll

Jayden Alexander, Nikolai Alfrey, Brisa Guadalupe Avila Zapien, Genesis Calleja-Inzunza, Riley Custer, Aubrianna Davis, Christopher Diaz Zarate, Madison Ellingwood, Tereza Funez Puerto, Lilly Halstead, Anton Hamilton, Jessamine Hartnett, Andrew Hurt, Alexa Logan, Jose Lopez Gutierrez, Cohen McClamroch, Ava McKinney, Kourtney McKinney, Caroline Melevage, Huntyr Miles, Kailey Milligan, Ryan Mitchell, Xxavier Moline, Melany Monterrosa, Emma Mulvey, Ariana Mundy, Ayden O'Malley, Molly Pierce, Madisyn Posthauer, Korbin Sanders, Roxanna Shahan, Jocelynn Stacey, Jayden Stanton, Betty Stonebraker, Ally Strickland, Ahna Terrell, Diego Velasco, Davion Warmoth-Hunt, Ciara Wilke, Myleigh Williams, Jaylynn Wilson, Esther Xotla

12th Grade High Honor Roll

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Destiny Anderson, Adrien Bartlett, Chloe Bean, Alice Bell, Valerie Brandeberry, Lilyann Bridgham, Caedence Brown, Leon Brumett, Emma Buser, Na'arah Byard, Ashley Callejas Perez, Cole Capper, Mikyla Coffman, Jude Coursey, Reagan Cox, Ashley Dominguez, Ella Foster, Zari Freeze, Ruth Garcia, Hutton Haas, Ashlyn Harding, Brody Hartman, Georgianna Hernandez, Lillian Hummel, Shayla Ingram, Chet Kincaid, Taiga Koyanagi, Makenzie Lawton, Maecy Leak, Madeline Lewellyn, Sergio Manzanares Garcia, Juliana Martinez Casagnon, Sophia Melevage, Samuel Minnette, Feliz Montero, Celeste Moore, Kollin Moore, Frida Palacios, Angel Perez Montero, Olivia Pettit, Chloe Plank, Jozie Presley, Alec Saidian, Guinevere Schmitzer-Torbert, Jaylinn Servies, Mackenzie Siggins, Aubrianna Smith, Ian Stewart, Camron Teeple, Daniela Velazquez, Ellie Walker, Jackson Walter, Noah Warren, Adah Westphal, Campbell White, Katherine Whitecotton, Danny Wills

12th Grade Honor Roll

Keirra Adkins, Fatima

Barco, Colten Brock, Angie Callejas, Alexis Carpenter, Izic Clark, Abigail Coffey, Keegan Cokel, Eoin Conkright, Joselyn Cortez-Tapia, Helen Daron, Katherine Douglas, Kristin Dulin, Harley Dye, Miyanna Ewing-McGregory, Riley Gardner, Jaziel Gil Herrera, William Gobel, Gabriel Gomez-Luna, Halyn Hall, Alex Hernandez-Ramirez, Lisseth Hernandez-Zavaleta, Braeden Hites, Litzzy Huesca, Jude Hutchison, Dane Justus, Nicholas Kvachkoff, Anthony Lee Grayson,

Alexia Linzie, Payton McKinney, Jayden McMurry, Briar Mills, Richard Moit, Ximena Montero, Lindsay Moreno, Wyatt Motz, Mya Muniz-Escobedo, Raley Norman, Ava Pettit, Mercedes Randles, Alexis Reed, Jaron Roche, Yosbel Rodriguez, Samuel Sanchez Hernandez, Marleigh Sinnet, Delaney Spencer, Heaven Stonebraker, Jantzen Thayer, Hayden Thomas, Landon Vaught, Trinity Visger, Adamari Viveros, Mercedes Ward, Xavier Whaley

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