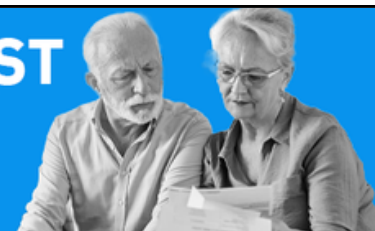


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**➔ TODAY'S VERSE**

*Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." (NKJV)*

*Meet Julius*



YOU CAN'T BUY LOVE, BUT YOU CAN ADOPT IT Julius is a handsome 5 year old male brindle American Pitbull Terrier available for adoption from The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 8/11/24. Julius has won the prestigious award/s of ULTIMATE HUNK & ULTIMATE CUTIE PIE!! Julius has the looks of a big beefy hunk, but is truly a BIG TIME cuddle bug! Julius loves to suckle blankets while in bed, he insists on bringing a toy with him to the play yard, and he absolutely LOVES being the center of attention! Julius loves going out for walks, playing fetch, and frolicking in a fenced yard.

Julius is neutered, microchipped, dewormed, and up to date on all of his shots. Julius is looking for his best friend! Could that be you? AWL is open Monday - Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p. PLEASE LIKE & SHARE! Can't adopt, but over 18 yrs old?

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**BTN**

By The Numbers, a look at what's in the news . . . by the numbers. These are just numbers, not suggestions that they mean more or less than what they are. We do not suggest that one number is connected to another. These are simply facts

with no extraneous details, bias or slanted reporting. To borrow (and perhaps mangle a bit) a quote from legendary fictional detective Joe Friday, it's just the numbers, ma'am!

*Feeling tired and groggy today? It's no wonder! We all lost an hour of sleep yesterday! Yes, it's that time of year when we "Spring Forward" with the clocks as part of Daylight Saving Time. Sine we are stuck with it for now, let's take a closer look at DST - by the numbers!*

**15 . . . 6 . . . IX**

Daylight Saving Time and time zones in the U.S. are defined in the U.S. Code, Title 15, Chapter 6, Subchapter IX - Standard Time . By act of Congress, civil clocks in most areas of the United States are adjusted ahead one hour in the summer months (known as Daylight Saving Time) and returned back one hour in the winter months (known as standard time).



As of 2007, Daylight Saving Time begins in the United States on the second Sunday in March and ends on the first Sunday in November.

**1974-75**

During the "energy crisis" years, Congress enacted earlier starting dates for Daylight Saving Time. In 1974, Daylight Saving Time began on Jan. 6 and in 1975 it began on Feb. 23. After those two years the starting date reverted to the last Sunday in April.

**11-2-25**

Speaking of . . . here's the date when you can change the clocks back. It happens at 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 2.

**3-8 and 11-1**

Looking ahead to 2026, we Spring Ahead on March 8 and Fall Back on Nov. 1. Both happen on Sundays at 2 a.m.



**2**

Only two states in the U.S. don't observe DST - Arizona and Hawaii. Of course Hoosiers might remember there were more . . .



**4-2-2005**

Back in 2005, then Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels and the Indiana Legislature passed a law that meant on April 2 of the following year, Indiana would become the 48th state to observe DST.

**➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

Catch your kids being good and praise them.

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](http://www.thepaper24-7.com)



**➔ THREE THINGS You Should Know**

**1** Indiana Newspapers are having a rally day at the Indiana Statehouse on March 19 and would love for you to come along. Here's the scoop. State lawmakers are trying to take legal notices out of newspapers and put them on a government website. Not only would that be like the fox guarding the henhouse, but it will cost taxpayers more than they are currently spending. It will also hurt, perhaps severely, some Hoosier newspapers. So at 11 a.m. newspapers from all over Indiana are going to the Statehouse to show our opposition to the move - and we hope readers join us! Newspapers are a part of Indiana history and an important part of an open government. The Founding Fathers thought so and put it right there in the First Amendment. We'd love it if you would help us preserve that! We hope to see you March 19!

**2** The state is accepting applications through March 24 for the 2025-26 Governor's Fellowship. The Governor's Fellowship is highly selective and provides a unique experience in Indiana state government by placing fellows in various state agencies on a rotating basis throughout the year. It's open to college graduates who receive their associate or bachelor's degrees beginning in either summer or fall of 2024 or spring of 2025 as well as those without a degree who have at least two years of full-time professional experience. Application and submission guidelines are at <https://www.in.gov/gov/governors-office/governors-fellowship-program/>.

**3** Are Indiana men really that sneaky? A new survey from our friends at datingnews.com says that one in 5 Hoosier guys are volunteering at animal shelters to boost their dating profiles. A survey of more than 3,000 people found that 19 percent of Indiana men admit to being 'philanthropy players', and only joining a charitable cause to boost their dating profile. The color in the nation? Three states were tied at 25 percent, Colorado, Connecticut and Nebraska.

**➔ TODAY'S QUOTE**

"The truth is not always popular, but it is always right."  
*Malcolm X*

**➔ TODAY'S JOKE**

What did one spring chicken say to the other?  
You're looking egg-cellent.

**➔ MONTGOMERY MINUTE**

We have free tickets to the Indiana Flower & Patio Show ready and waiting for YOU! All you have to do is take a selfie with you and our front page (print or online doesn't matter) and email it to [news@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:news@thepaper24-7.com). If we publish your picture (and we will!), you win two to four free tickets - valued at \$15 each! The Show is one of the oldest flower shows in the U.S. and goes on March 15-23 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Don't pass up the chance for free tickets and a great day! Snap that selfie and email it to us today!

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

**\$2.5M in Road Money On Way Here**

Almost \$2.5 million in Community Crossings matching grants are headed here, according to the Indiana Department of Transportation.

The county is getting the lion's share of the money with \$1.5 million. Crawfordsville is getting \$688,177 and the town of New Market is in line to get \$290,188.

"This funding is used as a match to our local paving budget," Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton told The Paper. "Basically, it allows us to pave twice as many streets as we would be capable of paving without it."

➔ See ROAD Page A4

**Ribbon is Cut on New Early Learning Center**

A crowd of nearly 100 gathered Thursday afternoon for the long-awaited ribbon cutting for the new Montgomery County Early Learning Center. In attendance were representatives from the 16 partners, along with many others who have supported and participated in the project in countless ways.

This transformational community project, set to open March 17, will provide 124 high-quality childcare seats for infants through age 5.

➔ See NEW Page A4

**Butch Wants Pat to Give Him One More Chance!**



**BUTCH DALE** Columnist

As you all know, Montgomery County has always been a hot spot for basketball. After all, the first basketball game in Indiana was played right here in 1894, and Crawfordsville High School won the first state championship in 1911. But baseball has also been a very popular sport, too, with kids learning to play at an early age. I began playing baseball when I was 7 years old in 1956 when Dad signed me up for Farm League. I knew absolutely nothing about the game, so when

➔ See BUTCH Page A3

**HONEST HOOSIER**



This is America and hard work and achievement is still rewarded . . . with higher taxes.

## How are Vaccines Approved?



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

I have been asked to write about how vaccines are approved in the United States. Two pivotal committees play crucial roles in ensuring the safety and efficacy of vaccines: the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). While both are integral to vaccine oversight, they serve distinct functions and have members with specialized knowledge.

The VRBPAC operates under the auspices of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Its primary responsibility is to evaluate data concerning the safety, effectiveness, and appropriate use of vaccines and related biological products intended for human disease prevention, treatment, or diagnosis. This committee provides recommendations to the FDA Commissioner on regulatory issues, including the approval of new vaccines. The VRBPAC consists of 15 voting members, including the Chair, selected by the FDA Commissioner or their designee. These members are authorities in fields such as immunology, molecular biology, virology, bacteriology, epidemiology, biostatistics, and related scientific areas. Additionally, the committee includes a consumer representative to provide perspectives on the social and community aspects of vaccination, and a non-voting industry representative to offer insights from the vaccine manufacturing sector.

In contrast, the ACIP is an advisory committee within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Established in 1964 by the U.S. Surgeon General, its mission is to provide advice and guidance on effective control of vaccine-preventable diseases in the U.S. civilian population. The ACIP develops written recommendations for the routine administration of vaccines to both pediatric and adult populations, including vaccination schedules that take into account appropriate timing, dosage, and contraindications. These recommendations are considered official federal guidelines upon approval by the CDC Director. Similarly to VRBPAC, the committee comprises up to 15 voting members, experts in fields such as immunization practices, public health, vaccine research, and clinical use of vaccines. At least one member is a consumer representative, providing perspectives on social and community aspects of immunization programs. Members are appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and serve four-year terms. The ACIP also includes non-voting ex officio members from federal agencies involved with vaccine issues and non-voting liaison representatives from various medical and professional societies and organizations.

Given the critical nature of their work, both committees have policies to manage conflicts of interest among their members. For the VRBPAC, members are required to disclose any financial interests that

could be affected by the committee's recommendations. The FDA reviews these disclosures to determine if a conflict exists. In certain cases, the FDA may grant waivers allowing members with potential conflicts to participate in discussions, provided these conflicts are publicly disclosed during meetings. This process ensures transparency and maintains public trust in the committee's recommendations.

Similarly, the ACIP mandates that all members complete an annual confidential financial disclosure report. These reports are reviewed by the ACIP Secretariat, the CDC's Federal Advisory Committee Management Branch, and the Office of General Counsel at CDC. Members are required to disclose any potential conflicts at the beginning of each meeting. If a conflict is identified, the member may be asked to recuse themselves from discussions and decision-making related to that specific issue. This rigorous process ensures that the committee's recommendations are based on unbiased evaluations of scientific evidence.

Conflicts of interest can significantly impact the credibility and acceptance of a committee's recommendations. If committee members have financial ties to vaccine manufacturers, it could lead to perceptions that recommendations are influenced by industry interests rather than public health considerations. Such perceptions can erode public trust in vaccination programs, potentially leading to decreased vaccine uptake and increased vulnerability to vaccine-

preventable diseases. Therefore, managing conflicts of interest is essential to uphold the integrity of public health recommendations.

It is imperative that the experts serving on these committees are well-respected in their fields and do not exhibit political bias. The credibility of vaccine recommendations hinges on the perceived impartiality and expertise of committee members. Any indication of political influence or bias can undermine public trust, leading to vaccine hesitancy and decreased immunization rates. Therefore, maintaining a non-partisan stance and focusing solely on scientific evidence are crucial for the effective functioning of these committees.

Recently, the sudden unexplained cancellation of key advisory committee meetings has raised concerns about potential delays in vaccine production and distribution. The annual selection of flu strains is a time-sensitive process, requiring a six-month production cycle to ensure vaccines are available before the onset of the flu season. Without the timely input of VRBPAC, there is apprehension that vaccine manufacturers may lack the essential information needed to produce and distribute targeted vaccines effectively. Similarly, postponements in ACIP meetings could delay critical vaccination guidelines, affecting public health responses to various vaccine-preventable diseases.

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

## Indiana Secretary of State Pushes to Protect Elections

Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales joined 20 other Secretaries of State in calling on newly appointed U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem to take action to prevent non-citizens from voting in American elections.

The letter, signed by top election officials from across the nation, urges DHS to address critical deficiencies in the Systematic Alien Verification for

Entitlements program, which is used to verify citizenship status.

As outlined in the letter, the current SAVE program has inefficiencies, outdated technology, and financial barriers that hinder states' ability to effectively detect and remove non-citizens from voter rolls. The Secretaries of State are requesting that DHS improve the system to ensure the integrity of U.S. elections and protect

against ineligible voters.

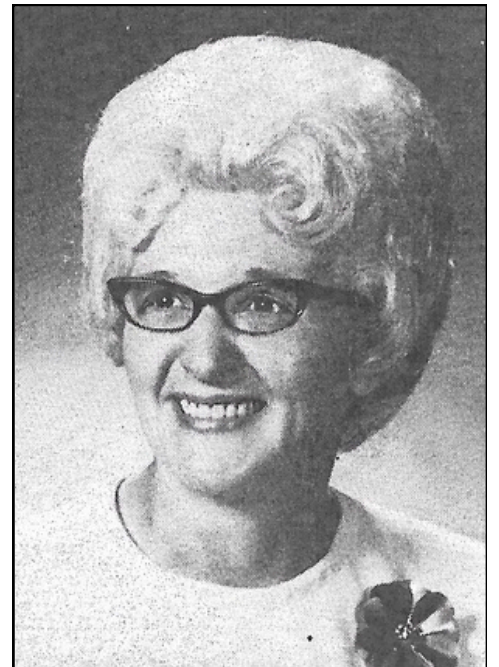
"Ensuring that only eligible voters participate in our elections is essential to maintaining public confidence and protecting the integrity of our elections. Indiana is committed to safeguarding our election system, and I am joining my colleagues in requesting that the Department of Homeland Security take swift action to make the SAVE program more efficient and accessible to states. Hoosiers deserve to trust in the election



**Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales**

process, and that starts with ensuring that non-citizens are not allowed to vote. Only U.S. Citizens can vote in Indiana. Period," said Diego Morales, Indiana Secretary of State.

## Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



**Do You Recognize This Pretty Lady?**

**HINT:**  
 She was a cook and cafeteria supervisor at New Market for many years and became Southmont's first cafeteria manager.

**Answer on Page A3**

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## Traveling with Felix



**CARRIE CLASSON**  
The Postscript

Our cat, Felix, has turned into an excellent little traveler.

"What do you do with your cat?" we are invariably asked when we tell people we are headed off to Mexico to spend the second half of the winter.

"Oh! Felix is from Mexico," my husband, Peter, tells them. "He's just coming back with us!" And it is true. Felix enjoys his international status.

We worried, when we first brought him from our tiny apartment in Mexico, that he would feel lost and afraid in our much larger condo in the U.S. To our surprise, Felix loved it. Felix learned that if he got up enough traction in the carpeted bedroom, he could skid down the polished wooden floors in the hall, zoom across the living room, ricochet off the wall and land on the couch, all in a matter of seconds. Our entire condo became a giant cat racecourse.

"Oh," Peter then said, "he's never going to be happy going back to that little apartment in Mexico!"

On the contrary, Felix was over-the-moon to discover that he knew exactly where he was when we returned to our little Mexican apartment. He jumped up on his little brushing table (aka the coffee table) and demanded an immediate brushing. He seems to like that Peter and I are forced to be in the same room all the time, and he can sit between us on the couch and keep an eye on us at all times.

Felix also loves Lulu, who comes to clean our apartment twice a week. She plays with him and speaks Spanish to him while she cleans. And he is constantly occupied by the guests and employees coming up and down the stairs outside the screen door of our apartment. They are all very interesting and a little scary (except

Lulu), so he watches through the screen and dashes away whenever they get too close, only to come out and spy again as soon as they have passed.

And traveling back and forth with Felix is not bad either.

I had been out of the cat-owning business for a while and was amazed to see how many new options in cat carriers were available.

We ended up with a kitty backpack that I wear with Felix in front. The entire front wall of it is curved plastic, so Felix can watch everything, and I have both hands free for luggage and tickets. The first day I went out walking with it, a couple of small girls called out, "Taylor Swift!"

Since I knew that, unfortunately, I bear no resemblance to Ms. Swift, I googled when I got home and learned that Ms. Swift often travels with one of her cats and has popularized the cat backpack with the domed plastic window. The little girls who spotted Felix in his carrier knew this, and I certainly felt a lot cooler and more au courant once I did.

It is fun traveling with Felix. People in both countries are pleased to see him, a black-and-white ambassador to and from the U.S. and Mexico. He is welcomed by children in both English and Spanish who call out either "Gatito!" or "Kitty!" and he seems quite content with his jet-setting lifestyle.

If the inconveniences of travel ever start to make me anxious or annoyed, I look at Felix, watching the world like a minor celebrity through the window of his Taylor Swift carrier. I'm sure he doesn't know what will happen next, but like every good mini-celebrity, he is always open to the next adventure.

*Till next time,  
Carrie*

## When Shirt Happens



**DICK WOLFSIE**  
Funny Bone

This past week, I did a little shopping to find some warm apparel

for our trip to Iceland. I don't like buying new clothes because I always seem to spill something on them.

If I enjoy my meal at a particular restaurant, I wear the same shirt the next time I am there. When the waiter asks what I'd like for dinner and I have trouble remembering the great choice I made the previous time, I just point to the appropriate spot on my shirt. The server knows exactly what I want.

Mary Ellen also went shopping for our vacation. A woman's shopping spree lasts longer than a man's, so I was home for about two hours before Mary Ellen pulled into the driveway. When she walked into the house, I was trying on a pair of pants I had purchased.

"You have a stain on your pants," said Mary Ellen.

"That's impossible. I haven't even worn them, yet."

"They must really know their customers at Macy's. They pre-stained them for you."

"Well, I guess I can't wear those to dinner," I said, hoping to return them and get my money back.

"I think you should wear them, anyway," said Mary Ellen. "You're missing a few food groups in your collection. That may be something new you've never spilled."

Then, I reached into the package and pulled out the flannel shirt I had also bought. This was perfect for our trip.

"That's another bad choice," said Mary Ellen.

"Why?"

"It has a smudge under the second button."

Sure enough, once again I had purchased something brand new that had somehow anticipated its unavoidable destiny to be dripped on.

"Wait a second, Mary Ellen, my tie will cover the problem."

"That's a super idea, Dick, a tie with a flannel shirt. It's too bad the Mickey Mouse tie you packed also has a stain on both his ears. Not that you need a tie in Iceland. Did you read the dress code for the trip? We're going to Iceland, not Disney Land. And I know why you like flannel shirts. All the new drippings blend in together."

On a previous cruise, Mary Ellen suggested not bringing any fancy clothing for dinner at all, maybe just a good raincoat. The truth is, it's inappropriate to arrive at a formal meal in a soiled garment but acceptable to stain it accidentally while eating. That first night, I ordered the shrimp cocktail and effortlessly completed my assignment on my pants." Those need to be soaked in cold water," said my wife when we were back in our cabin. So, I threw it overboard.

After we returned home from our vacation, I washed my clothes and tried to remove the soiled areas, but what remained was evidence of some fine Italian wine and a delicious Chicken Parmigiana dish. Mary Ellen took more than 1,000 photos on that trip to create lasting memories.

I had a better idea. Let's just say my approach was spot on.

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

## ↓ BUTCH From Page A1



the coach, Marion "Runt" Maxwell, asked me what position I played, I told him, "I bat!"

Well, Runt was a great coach and he instructed all of us in the basics and had us playing great together as a team. He emphasized that we practice hard, try our best and use good sportsmanship. Batting was fun, but what I really enjoyed was pitching. When I progressed to Little League, and we began playing other schools, I wanted to strike out everyone on the opposing teams. I wanted to win!

As it turned out, our Little League baseball team was quite successful in county play. After the first four games, we had defeated everyone, but the next game was against New Ross, who was also undefeated. They had several good players, but their best player was Pat Evans, who was also their pitcher. But we had confidence that we would win!

Who do you think won that game? Well, here is a summary which appeared in the newspaper:

"The New Ross Little Leaguers won the 'big one' Wednesday evening, defeating Darlington 5-3 in a battle of two unbeaten teams. New Ross pitcher Pat Evans survived a shaky start to throttle the Little Indians on four hits. He also led the winners at the plate with a perfect evening (3-for-3) while driving in two teammates and scoring one run. New Ross, which trailed going into the bottom of the fifth inning, rallied for three markers to pull the game out of the fire."

Yep, we lost. My team went on to win the remainder of the games that summer, and finished with a record of 7-1. New Ross remained undefeated, and won the Little League county championship. I remained as my team's pitcher in Pony League and then in high school. I developed a decent

"roundhouse" curveball to go along with my fastball. I loved to pitch, and was pretty successful. My Darlington Indian baseball team won the majority of its games, defeating every county school ... except for one.

You guessed it ... New Ross. Pat Evans was still pitching. He had developed a wicked fast curveball, and just when my fellow teammates and I backed away from the plate ... because it appeared the ball was going to bean us ... it crossed the plate for a strike. Our bats whiffed the air ... and Pat just smiled. If someone did make it to first base, it was pure luck. Of course, they had some great hitters, too. I managed to strike out a few. Never did strike out Ronnie Haffner!

As it turned out, in all of the games that I played against New Ross, in both baseball and basketball through the years, my teams only managed to defeat the Blue Jays one time ... in the afternoon semifinal round of the Montgomery County basketball tourney in 1965. They had won 15 straight games, the longest winning streak in the state, but by some miracle we won 49-45. I still don't know how we did it. Of course, in the championship game against Coal Creek that evening, we knew we could beat them. Yep ... you're right again ... We lost that one 47-45. My only chance to win a county championship ... down the locker room drain.

Pat Evans graduated from New Ross in 1967 and went on to become a golf pro. He lives in Putnam County, and drove up here to visit me at the library two years ago. The next time he comes to visit, I am going to ask him to bring a bat and ball. I want to see if I can perhaps hit that fast curveball of his just one damn time!

*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.*

## Back in the Day with Butch Dale



One of Crawfordsville's most famous landmark buildings was the Crawford Hotel, which was built in 1900 and lasted until 1974.

**Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia**  
Answer: Jean Friend

**NEW** From Page A1



**Community Foundation CEO Kelly Taylor said that the investment in early childhood education is an investment in the future.**

Located at 110 W. South Boulevard, the facility was constructed to meet and exceed state licensing requirements. The Center is equipped to meet Paths to Quality Level 4, as well as meet accreditation standards for the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

In her address, Montgomery County Community Foundation CEO, Kelly Taylor, commended investors. "The impact of your contribution extends far beyond the walls of this building," she told the crowd. "By investing in early childhood education, you are investing in the future of our entire community. You are ensuring that our youngest generation has access to the best possible start in life, which will benefit not just the children, but all of us, for years to come."

KinderCare will operate the Early Learning Center, providing high-quality education to children in a safe and reliable environment with qualified staff. With more than 55 years of experience in early childhood care and education, KinderCare utilizes research-based curriculum designed for young children and boasts the highest number of nationally accredited early learning centers among private providers in the country.

"We know child care is an essential benefit for working families, and we also know it can be challenging for families in communities outside of major cities to find



Photos courtesy Montgomery County Community Foundation

**As Kelly Taylor said, the Early Learning Center and what it stands for will benefit the younger generations like 3-year-old Matilda Pence who is already enrolled at the new center. Reports are that she was a total hit with the crowd!**



**Nearly 100 people gathered in the cold for the long-awaited ribbon cutting for the Montgomery County Early Learning Center.**

**Partners in this endeavor included Acuity Lighting, City of Crawfordsville, DES Engineering, Early Learning Indiana, Hoosier Heartland State Bank, Lakeside Book Company, Montgomery County government, Montgomery County Community Foundation, North Central Health Services, Nucor, Penguin Random House, State of Indiana, Tempur Sealy, Tipmont, Tri-County Bank & Trust, and Wabash College. Halstead Architects served as the project architect, and Patterson Horth, Inc. acted as the construction manager.**

access to care," said Dan Figurski, President of KinderCare for Employers and Champions. "The level of partnership between private industry, civic organizations, and local government makes the Montgomery County Early Learning Center truly unique. When this center opens in a few short days, 124 children will have access to high-quality early childhood education, which will prepare them for a lifetime of learning while also offering their families much needed support during their early years."

The initial groundwork for the Center began in 2019, when a childcare task force

comprised of individuals representing local government, employers, providers, parents, schools and nonprofit organizations was formed to address the lack of high-quality childcare in the community. While current childcare educators are committed to providing high-quality education and support, the fact remains that more high-quality seats are needed. Currently, less than 40 percent of local children under the age of 5 have access to high-quality care. This affects employers, employees, families, and the community as a whole.

The Community Foundation identified childcare as a top strategic initiative and a priority in

grantmaking. As the Foundation began to look for opportunities to expand childcare seats, it wanted to focus on innovative and creative solutions. Now after more than two years of discussions and planning, this transformational project has become a reality.

The \$5 million investment was made possible through a unique partnership of businesses, government and philanthropy working together to create long-term, sustainable solutions to meet the critical need for additional high-quality childcare.

The Center is enrolling children ages infant through preschool. For more information call the Center at (765) 323-2223.

**ROAD** From Page A1

Barton said that the city looks at which streets to tackle.

"As part of this process, we are required to have a complete street asset inventory, with all of the streets receiving a rating, or score," he explained. "Those scores are used to determine which streets are most in need of repaving."

The county is working on its grant, too.

Montgomery County has been awarded a \$1.5 million Community Crossing Matching Grant from the state," Jacob Lough County Highway Director said. "The grant, which follows a 75-25 matching structure, will be supplemented by \$775,000 in county funds, bringing the estimated total project cost to \$2,275,000."

Lough said the money "will be used for a CapeSeal pavement preservation project, a process that applies a chip seal with a micro surface to extend the lifespan of paved county roads and improve driving conditions. This cost-effective treatment will enhance road durability while reducing long-term maintenance costs. The county has received over \$7 million dollars from the community crossing

matching grant since 2016."

According to the Indiana Department of Transportation, the money is part of more than \$200 million in Community Crossings matching grants for local road and bridge projects across 245 Indiana cities, towns, and counties.


"Improving and maintaining roads and bridges at all levels is crucial for enhancing quality of life and public safety for Hoosiers," Indiana Gov. Mike Braun. "Communities across the state need investment in their local infrastructure and we are pleased to partner with them to make necessary improvements."

Communities submitted applications for funding during a highly competitive call for projects in January. Funding for Community Crossings comes from the state's local road and bridge matching grant fund. Community Crossings has provided more than \$2 billion for local road improvement projects since its inception in 2016.

State legislators identified long-term funding for Community Crossings as part of House Enrolled Act 1002, passed in 2017.

**Thank You For Reading The Paper**

**KENNY THOMPSON**



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

**Catch Kenny every Friday in The Paper!**



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# 2025 Chevrolet Traverse Z71 is a Mean-Looking Brute That Happens to Like Kids, Adventure



**CASEY WILLIAMS**  
Auto Reviews

When Chevrolet replaced three-row mini-vans with three-row crossovers about 15 years ago, it did so with the Traverse that looked as much mini-van as crossover. Three generations in, the 2025 Traverse looks nothing like a minivan, especially in Z71 trim. It's a mean-looking brute that just happens to like kids and adventure.

Moving to the front, plant a foot on the step and leap inside. The glass cockpit includes a 11" flatscreen gauge cluster and 17.7" infotainment display. It's all crisp, clear, and easy to use. Red dash and doors trim plus red stitching on the seats add flash to our Z71. I especially like the thick flat-bottom steering wheel and flybridge console with storage beneath.

Everybody's comfortable too. Tri-zone climate control, heated front seats, and a heated steering wheel are a start. Active noise cancellation allows the Bose 10-speaker audio system to glisten. Devices connect wirelessly and charge wirelessly too. It's a Chevy, so the steering column manually adjusts, and I wish GM would quit embedding headlamp controls in the touchscreen, but we all must make sacrifices.

Safety is as substantial as the Traverse's looks. Automatic emergency

braking, blind spot warning, and lane keep assist are as expected, but welcome friends like rear pedestrian alert, surround-vision cameras, and a rear camera mirror that allows drivers to look out the back even with a full cargo hold.

This thing looks like it should be harboring an angry V8 or V6, but not so. Behind the black grille is a 2.5-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine delivering 328 horsepower and 326 lb.-ft. of torque. Routed to the all-wheel-drive system through an 8-speed transmission, it screams like a little engine, but puts out the power of a unit twice its size. Best of all, fuel economy is rated a relatively frugal 19/24-MPG city/highway – not hybrid mileage, but good for a straight gas full-size crossover with off-road pretensions.

And, it can go off-road thanks to its off-road suspension, skid plates, hill descent control, and

terrain mode to maximize traction when there are no roads. All-terrain wheels dig in and grip whether greeting mud or snow. Even if you have no intentions of getting that personal with Mother Nature, the fat tires and suspension take blows from potholes without drama.

On trips short and long, you'll love Super Cruise. Roll onto an approved highway – pretty much anything with four lanes – and press the cruise button. Wait for green lights to zip across the steering wheel, lift your hands and relax. There's a sensor watching you watching the road, so no napping or book reading, but the system can automatically change lanes or do so upon command of the turn signal. It all becomes normal soon enough.

Driving a Chevrolet means you understand value, and the Chevy Traverse aims for nothing less. Base models start at a very competitive \$37,600,

rising to \$54,900 as tested. It compares very favorably against vehicles like the Ford Explorer, Honda Pilot, Toyota Highlander, Kia Telluride, and Subaru Ascent.

*Storm Forward!*

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

Likes	Dislikes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All-terrain style</li> <li>Glass cockpit</li> <li>Super cruise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No V6 option</li> <li>Manual steering adjustment</li> <li>Obscure headlight controls</li> </ul>

**2025 Chevrolet Traverse Z71**  
Seven-passenger, AWD Crossover  
Powertrain: 2.5-liter T4, 8-spd  
Output: 328hp/326 lb.-ft. torque  
Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind  
Wheels f/r: 18"/18" alloy  
Brakes f/r: disc/disc  
Fuel economy: 19/24 mpg city/hwy  
Assembly: Lansing, MI  
Base/As-tested price: \$37,600/\$54,900

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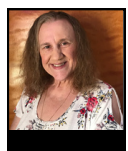
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# Montgomery Murder Mysteries

## Leave ‘em Alone, Charley: Part I

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



**KAREN ZACH**  
Montgomery Murder Mysteries

I was drunk. I was falling-down drunk while one of my best friends was dying. Well, okay, while my best friend, Walter McClure, was murdered. Whatever you want to call it, I was drunk and not there for him. Granted, when he was shot, it sobered me up considerably, but not enough, not enough! Certainly, not enough to save his life!



It began with the Psi Iota dance. We were both invited by some pretty girls. It was a beautiful dance, the gals fun and the punch spiked. Afterwards, we wanted, well okay, I wanted to do a little more with the girls than the women desired. For sure, Walt didn’t have much spunk for that. I talked him into going to Madame Bailey’s but he just sat in the corner with his head down. Gave that up and talked him and our friend, Hal Ensminger into going to The Clipper. We downed a few beers there. Well, I did. Hal and Walt just sipped on ale that they shared with each other and didn’t even finish that one. As they went out, I talked bartender Bromley into selling me a half pint of whiskey. I sipped on it as the evening wore on. Next we went off to the Cigar shop where we all gnawed on a Wheeling stogie or two.

About this time, we decided to have some fun. I decided we would do some tomfoolery on our favorite mischief street, Spring. Some of the coloreds in town lived on that street and I loved to pester ‘em. Hal and Walt both wanted to go on home, but I talked ‘em into it. In fact, it was Walt who tried to yank off Charley Coombs’ pickets to throw at his house. He couldn’t get any off, but found one on the ground near Charley’s gate. We laughed at him and told him to come along. We coaxed him on, but it seemed that was the only fun Walt had had all evening. Anyway, Walt started banging on Coombs’ fence. Coombs yelled out to stop.

\*\*\*

“Oh, Charley, leave ‘em alone, they’re just a bunch of boys havin’ some fun,” I yelled. They had awakened Charley and me a bit after three on the morning of January 30th with their

singing and dancing in the streets. My name is Bill Howard. Me and my family live in part of Charley Coombs’ home, and it wasn’t uncommon at all to be awakened by someone carousing in the streets near our house. After all, there were three pubs and a brothel quite near. Charley’s wife, Sarah, had been real sick with a bad case of pneumonia of late, though, so Charley wasn’t having any of my “Leave ‘em alone!”

Sarah coughed and said, “There’s someone at the door.” I only heard laughing and a banging on the front gate. As I came downstairs, I could faintly see Charley pokin’ around in his front closet where he keeps his hunting rifle. “Oh, no, Charley, don’t do that,” was my reaction when I heard two shots. After that, there was no laughing. Instead someone cried out, “I’ve been shot!” Oh, Charley, why didn’t you leave ‘em alone was my first thought quickly replaced with oh, my, what if that was my son, John out there?

I hustled up the steps two at a time, discovered my own wife, Sarah, whom we call Sally so as not to get Charley’s wife and mine confused, snoring loudly as usual. My daughters Lola and Ollie were fast asleep in their bed. John had been known to be out and about often with the boys late at night, but for sure I was thanking the Lord he was home on this particular eve. His face sticking out from the coverlet Sally’s mother had knitted him for Christmas was surely a glorious sight. After satisfying myself that my family was well, I went on back to Charley.

John and I both work for Charley helping in his well-digging business. We also rent half of Charley and Sarah’s home. It’s been a good arrangement so far. The home is one of the biggest on Spring Street and is almost a square. We walk into the common front entrance, then Charley’s family lives on the right and we on the left. Each side has a large parlor room down, plus a kitchen and an indoor bath, quite a treat in our area of Crawfordsville. Upstairs we each have three bedrooms. This is our fifth year together and the arrangement has been good for all of us. Charley takes out my rent from my pay and I give the rest to Sally. That woman is amazing with money. With her business sense, we actually have some saved for a rainy-day.

It’s odd though that Charley is several years younger than me but my boss. Certainly he is a good man, fair in all his

dealings. Prone to excitement, though and he sure was agitated about those boys making noise. Charley looked at me. “Go on back to bed, Bill. They’ll not be botherin’ us anymore tonight.” Shaking my head, I slowly trekked the stairs but never got myself back to sleep.

\*\*\*

Too bad Walt had kept at it because before we knew it, we heard a shot. Hal and I started racing out of there but we heard Walt gasp, “I’ve been shot!” Ensminger and I dashed back to Walt’s side. When we asked how bad it was, Walt gave us to know he thought it was a fatal wound. Hal told us he’d go fetch a doctor.

It was then I thought I’d best pick Walt up and walk him to the hotel which was just about two squares away. Walt cried out that I was hurting him. I knocked on Mrs. Blue’s door. She recognized me as one who had played mischief in her yard before but she must have also read desperation on my face. I convinced her to go outside and help me decide what to do with Walt. A colored came out to help us. Didn’t really want him to help but I knew tiny Mrs. Blue and I couldn’t handle Walt. I sure couldn’t handle him in my condition anyway and maybe not at all as we were about the same size. Mrs. Blue said to bring Walt into her house. The colored was as strong as Paul Bunyan and his Blue Ox put together I think as he mostly lifted Walt up like air. Laying him on the sofa bed in Mrs. Blue’s living room, I had already placed my coat over Walt but he still complained of being cold. Mrs. Blue added a quilt. Odd how I remembered it looking so much like my grandmother’s wedding ring quilt only Mrs. Blue’s matched her name and my granny’s was a rose-colored coverlet. As the three of



us were looking at each other, trying to make a plan, as if I was in any condition to make one, Dr. Ensminger came in. He was Hal’s uncle and lived nearby, so made sense Hal would fetch him. Dr. E. checked Walt out and it didn’t take him long to decide Walt had been correct in his original thought that the wound was indeed fatal. He was going to die, how soon Dr. E. wasn’t exactly sure, but knew it would not be long.

**To Be Continued...**

# FOR THE RECORD

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

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025 - 8 AM

1580 Constitution Row -Room E109

Crawfordsville, IN 47933

CALL TO ORDER Board President Dan Guard

PLEDGE ALLIGENCE and PRAYER

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Claims: AP & Payroll

Minutes: February 24, 2025

Acknowledge Receipt of 2024 Annual Financial Report

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Lane Closure on Nucor Road for Watermain Project

ORDINANCES

2nd Reading Ordinance 2025-6 Creating the 2025 OCRA Owner-Occupied

Rehabilitation Program Fund -\$450,000

2nd Reading Ordinance 2025-9 Amending Rules and Procedures

RESOLUTION

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

\*Next Commissioner Meeting -Monday, March 24, 2025 @ 8:00 am\*

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

March 11, 2025 at 9:00 am

1580 Constitution Row - Room E109

Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Call to Order: Council President David Hunt

Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer

Consent Agenda

Accept & Acknowledge Receipt:

January 14 and February 11, 2025 Minutes - Auditor

Same Series Transfer(s) Report – Auditor

Cash Balance Report – Auditor

Annual Financial Report – Auditor (available online and via email)

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Old Business

New Business

Public Defender Presentation – Bryan Donaldson, Chief Public Defender

Bryan will present information to the Council regarding a state program that helps counties fund Public Defender Offices.

Request for additional employees (PT) – Sondra Sixberry, Clerk of Courts

Sondra would like to split a full-time position into two part-time positions.

She already has employees in these roles. She would also like to add another

part-time position for scanning through 2025 and is offering to pay out of

her perpetuation fund. The Council determines the number of employees in

each department and her positions were not part of the recent

compensation study.

Appointment to Economic Development Commission

The Council appoints one citizen to serve on the Economic Development

Commission. The citizen cannot reside within the City of Crawfordsville. The

appointment is currently vacant. David is reaching out to Tracey Barr. If he

can’t do it, then they will need to discuss how they want to proceed with

finding a replacement.

Appointment to Linden Carnegie Public Library Board

Via a letter mailed to Council, Director Kathy Watkins has requested the re-

appointment of Steve Burke to the board, stating he has been an asset. He is

currently serving in the capacity with a term expiry of March 8, 2025. If

approved by Council, his next 4-year term will run March 11, 2025 through

March 22, 2029.

4Q2024 Financial Report – Auditor Mindy Byers

Mindy will present the 4th Quarter (2024) Financial Report for the County.

Staff & Elected Official Reports

Funded Organizations

Department Heads

Elected Officials

Councilors

Public Comment

Approval of Claim(s):

\$1,494.50 – Taylor, Minnette, Schneider & Clutter, P.C.; Invoice 25578

\$725.59 – Peters Franklin, LTD; Invoice 16376

\*Next regular meeting

April 8 at 9:00 a.m. at Montgomery County Government Center, 1580

Constitution Row – Room E109

Adjournment

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY VISITORS & CONVENTION COMMISSION

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Montgomery County Government Center

1580 Constitution Row – Suite E

Crawfordsville, IN 47933

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

BOARD TRAINING

OFFICER REPORTS

Treasurer Report

Visitor’s Bureau Report – Heather Shirk

MONEY MATTERS

Approve Claims

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

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