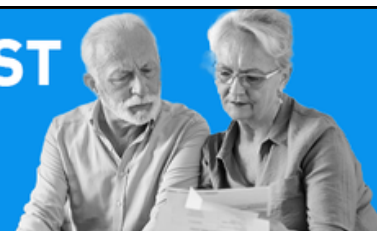


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TODAY'S VERSE

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Meet Gunnar



Gunnar is a 3 year old black/white bulldog mix available for adoption since 1/3/25. Gunnar loves going for walks, frolicking in a fenced yard, and will gladly sit for treats. Gunnar came to the shelter with his BFF, Kevin (who's also available for adoption). Gunnar is looking for his BEST FRIEND!

DOGGY DAY OUT!! Want to make a shelter dog's day? Our "Doggy Day Out" program lets you take a shelter dog on a special adventure! Whether it's a walk in the park, a pup cup run, a cozy movie night, or a fun hike, you'll give them a much-needed break from the shelter. It's a great way to provide enrichment, socialization, and extra love to a dog waiting for their forever home. Plus, you get to enjoy a fun-filled day with a grateful four-legged friend! Requirements: ID, signed volunteer waiver, and approved foster application.



How is March Madness a thing in April?

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Boomer Bits

Ask Rusty – Will My Medicare Premium Change because I Sold Investment Property?

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

ASK Rusty
 Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty:
 I have questions concerning the deduction of money from my Social Security benefit amount as relates to the sale of investment property. I am 66 years old and have been drawing Social Security since I turned 62. My wife is 56 and is a housewife and has no taxable income. Our income comes from our rental property and my Social Security benefit. I have decided to liquidate two of our properties - one was sold in December 2024, and one is in Escrow and is scheduled to close in March 2025.

what my AGI will be for 2024, and it looks to be about \$318K. How will this affect my Social Security benefit, and will it have an effect on the amount I pay for my Part B Medicare Plan going forward? I have a Medicare Advantage plan.

My next question is about 2025 (after the next property closes and I file taxes), my AGI with the long-term capital gain profit could be between \$700k-\$800K. How will this affect my benefits going forward?
Signed: Prudent Investor

My normal Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) has been running about \$30K-\$32K. However, last year with the sale of the property I will receive a long-term capital gain profit of about \$255K. I did a rough calculation on

Dear Prudent Investor:
 Actually, the GROSS amount of your Social Security benefit will not be affected by these transactions, but the NET amount of your SS benefit payment will change due

➔ See RUSTY Page A3

A Guide to Great Skin At Any Age

(Family Features) Here's the secret for achieving a glowing complexion: there is no secret. In fact, a key factor in achieving great skin at any age comes down to one common denominator that's no secret at all. It's simply taking good care of your skin.

After all, your skin is your body's single largest organ. It's your protective shield, but it can also reveal the truth of your age, especially if you're lax when it comes to regular skin care.

➔ See SKIN Page A3

Don't Scan QR Codes on Unexpected Packages

A package you didn't order could be a fun surprise, but be careful – especially if it comes with a QR code. It might be the setup for a scam.

In a "brushing" scam, you receive a package you didn't order, often without a return address. This is often a setup by unscrupulous companies who found your address online. After the company ships the product to you, they can post a fake, positive review on your behalf to improve their store's ratings and get more sales.

➔ See SCAN Page A3

Indiana 32 East of Crawfordsville Closing to May

The Indiana Department of Transportation announces a temporary bridge closure on State Road 32 about 4 1/2 miles east of I-74, located just outside of Crawfordsville.

Beginning on or after Monday, crews will close the S.R. 32 bridge over Muskrat Creek for maintenance, in addition to having soft closures on S.R. 32 at County Road 900 E. and C.R. 975 E. Both county roads will be open to local traffic. The official detour around the closure is I-74 eastbound to S.R. 75 northbound back to S.R. 32.

Work is anticipated to last until late May but is weather-dependent and subject to change. INDOT encourages drivers to seek an alternate route and use caution while traveling in and around work zones.

➔ See MAY Page A3

Property Taxes Heating Up As Taxpayers Wait

Are you watching the unfolding drama on property taxes inside the Indiana Statehouse? I sure am and boy is it interesting.

TIM TIMMONS
 Two Cents

A few observations:

- Gov. Mike Braun is in the spotlight. He ran and won the office last fall by convincing Hoosiers he was going to do something about property taxes and ridiculous government spending. To be sure, Braun appears to be backpedaling a bit. He is talking about finding answers that are "minimally" enough. What happened to the big talk about being a fighter and really making a difference in spending?
- Along those lines, he's asked departments across the board to reduce their budgets by 5 percent. Really? Five percent? With the way government spends our money, isn't that a little like me losing a couple of pounds back when I tipped the scales at 330?

➔ See TIM Page A4

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Keep snack foods out of reach when you're stressed or anticipate stress.

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

"The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax."
 Albert Einstein

TODAY'S JOKE

What do you call a research organization on April Fools' Day?
 A think prank.

MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Montgomery County Stand Up for Democracy, an informal group of Democrats, Republicans, Independents and others, is inviting the community to a gathering at Pike Place in downtown Crawfordsville from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday. Stand Up for Democracy encourages like-minded Montgomery County residents to come together for conversation about the issues facing us. If you support our constitutional system of separate institutions sharing powers, the freedoms of expression, assembly and the right to petition our government, you are invited to stand up and have your voice heard. There will be local speakers and live music. Coffee will be served. Bring lawn chairs and umbrellas. We'll stand up for democracy, rain or shine.

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

THREE THINGS You Should Know

- Indiana Landmarks announces that Brad M. Ward has been selected to become the organization's next president and CEO. A Jasper native with deep experience in community foundations and place-based philanthropy, Ward has worked as a lead strategist at the Council on Foundations, where he traveled the U.S., Mexico, Canada, and the Caribbean to help strengthen local community foundations. He has also worked with community foundations. He replaces Marsh Davis, who is retiring as president and CEO of Indiana Landmarks after serving the nonprofit organization for 36 of its 65 years.
- Did you know that April is National Financial Literacy Month, but most Americans are only getting part of the story? At a time when mass layoffs—especially at the federal level—are threatening pensions, benefits, and retirement security, conversations around "financial literacy" are everywhere. But according to Michael A. Scarpati, CEO of RetireUS, we're having the wrong ones. "We're stuck in a loop talking about budgeting, credit scores and saving on coffee, while ignoring the other 80% of the financial picture," says Scarpati. "People need to understand taxes, insurance, asset management, income gaps, estate planning and how their benefits actually work especially if they're all of the sudden thrown into retirement. But because of what's trending online, they're not even thinking about those things. Most of the influencers giving financial advice online aren't licensed or registered. If they were, they wouldn't be posting half of what they do due to strict regulations," he explains. "That's a huge red flag. The financial advice dominating your feed is likely coming from people who have no professional obligation to protect your best interest."
- Sport Clips asks first responders to submit a brief video sharing why they should be chosen for an all-expenses-paid trip to compete in the World Police & Fire Games this summer in Alabama. Current or retired first responders can submit a video between 30-120 seconds introducing themselves, sharing their story about how and why they became a first responder, what sport they plan to compete in and why they would make a great Sport Clips-sponsored athlete. Five winners will be selected. To find out more, visit sportclips.com/honoringourheroes. Entry deadline is 11:59 p.m. April 12.

➔ OBITUARY

Rex A. Handley

February 10, 1960 - March 30, 2025

Rex A. Handley, age 65, of Waveland passed away on Sunday, March 30, 2025. He was born in Crawfordsville on February 10, 1960 to the late Gerald and Sue Handley.



Rex was currently working at Zahn's Floor Covering. He was an avid Hot Wheels Collector.

Rex is survived by his daughters, Amanda (Joey) Dexter and April Walters; stepson, Harley Brock; brother, Randy Handley; 14 grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; long-time companion, Tresa Brock; and daughter, Ashley Hoffa.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Rex at First United Methodist Church, 212 E. Wabash Street in Crawfordsville on Sunday, April 6, 2025 from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm. Sanders Funeral Care is entrusted with care. Share memories and condolences online at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

Democracy Group Holding Rally at Pike Place Saturday

Montgomery County Stand Up for Democracy, an informal group of Democrats, Republicans, Independents and others, is inviting our community friends and neighbors concerned about the state of American democracy in these troubled times to gather at Pike Place (125 S Washington St, Crawfordsville) from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Stand Up for Democracy encourages like-minded Montgomery County residents to come together for conversations about the issues facing us, to hear one another's concern and to give public voice to them.

If you support our constitutional system of separate institutions sharing powers, the freedoms of expression, assembly and the right to petition our government, you are invited to stand up and have your voice heard.

Please plan to attend this event and stand up for our neighbors, our seniors, our veterans and the most vulnerable among us.

There will be local speakers and live music. Coffee will be served. Bring lawn chairs and umbrellas. We'll stand up for democracy, rain or shine.

Rep. Genda: Scholarships Available



MARK GENDA
Guest Columnist

Applications for the Indiana Career Scholarship Account (CSA) program are now open for Hoosier students in grades 10-12 interested in internships, apprenticeships and work-based learning opportunities.

CSAs provide \$5,000 annually in scholarship funding to students enrolled in an approved program provider for the upcoming school year. The deadline to apply is Oct. 1.

Established through a 2023 law passed by the Indiana House, CSAs help students learn more about potential careers and get practical training with local employers. The program increases opportunities for

them to earn valuable certifications, participate in meaningful, work-based learning experiences and build a network of professional connections.

More than 2,000 students have utilized CSAs since enrollment first opened for the 2023-2024 school year. Through this program, they can explore potential careers while participating employers have a chance to shape the next generation.

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

Tuberculosis on the rise

Tuberculosis is on the rise in Indiana, including right here in Montgomery County.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Tuberculosis is a serious, contagious disease that primarily affects the lungs but can spread to other parts of the body. As part of ongoing public health efforts the Montgomery County Health Department is encouraging individuals who may be at risk to seek testing for TB.

Tuberculosis is a bacterial infection caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, which spreads through the air when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. TB can be classified into two types: active TB and latent TB. Active TB occurs when the bacteria are actively multiplying in the body, and the person shows symptoms of the disease. Active TB symptoms may include persistent cough lasting more than three weeks, chest pain, coughing up blood, unexplained weight loss, night sweats, or fever. This form of TB is contagious and can spread to others. It is important to seek medical attention for diagnosis and treatment if you or someone you know is experiencing any of these symptoms.

Latent TB occurs when a person has the bacteria in their body, but the immune system is keeping the bacteria under control. People with latent TB do not show symptoms and cannot spread the disease to others. Without treatment latent TB could

progress to active TB.

Screening for tuberculosis is recommended for individuals in the following categories: people with symptoms of active tuberculosis, individuals who have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with active tuberculosis, individuals with compromised immune systems (e.g., HIV-positive individuals), those who have traveled to areas with a high prevalence of tuberculosis (e.g. some countries in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Latin America), persons who have lived or worked in congregate settings (e.g homeless shelters, correctional facilities, detention centers and long-term care facilities). The Montgomery County Health Department recommends persons in the above risk groups seek screening through their primary care provider. Screening for TB is also offered at the Montgomery County Health Department for a fee. TB screening involves a simple skin or blood test. To schedule a TB screening appointment at the Montgomery County Health Department, please call (765) 364-7255. We encourage residents who may be at risk or experiencing symptoms of TB to take advantage of this vital service.

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do You Recognize These 1976 CHS Graduates?

HINT: They both participated in French Club, Student Council, Honor Society and gymnastics.

Answer on Page A3

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CASEY WILLIAMS

Nobody but noooooobody gives you a better inside scoop on new cars than Casey Williams. Each week Casey puts you behind the wheel and gives you the lowdown on the latest out of Detroit, or other places! If you drive a car, this is a must read!

Catch Casey every Monday,

 only in The Paper of Montgomery County!

Thank you for reading The Paper!

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↓ RUSTY From Page A1

to a provision known as “IRMAA” (Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount). IRMAA affects the Medicare premiums you pay from your Social Security benefit, and a higher Medicare premium will result in a lower net Social Security payment. Here’s how this will work for you:

Your Medicare premiums each year (typically for Medicare Part B and Part D) are determined by looking at your “Modified Adjusted Gross Income,” or “MAGI”, from two years prior (MAGI is your normal AGI plus any non-taxable interest you may have had). Since the property you sold in 2024 will be reflected as part of your 2024 income, IRMAA will cause your 2026 Medicare premiums to be higher than the standard monthly 2026 amount. How much higher depends on how much you exceed the income level for your IRS filing status. Using 2025 rules, if you file as Married/Jointly and your taxable income (MAGI) is more than \$212,000 but less than \$334,000 then, instead of paying the standard 2026 monthly Part B premium, you’ll each pay \$370 per month for Medicare Part B (and likely a supplemental amount of \$35.30 if your Advantage plan includes prescription drug coverage).

Your Medicare premiums are recalculated every year (again based on income from two years prior). Thus, in 2027, IRMAA

will also affect your Medicare premiums and your net Social Security payment because of your 2025 real estate transaction. If your MAGI in 2025 will be over \$750,000, then IRMAA will increase each of your 2027 Medicare Part B premiums to \$638.90 (and likely also add a supplement of \$85.80 per month each to your Medicare Advantage premium for prescription drug coverage).

The good news is in 2028 all of this will be behind you and your Medicare premiums will revert to whatever the standard monthly premiums are for that year (because your income levels thereafter will presumably be below the then-IRMAA thresholds).

For reference, here is a link to Medicare’s information on the Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount, or “IRMAA:” <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/factsheets/2025-medicare-parts-b-premiums-and-deductibles>

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

Looking for a part-time job that does not involve the words: Would You Like Fries With That?

The Paper of Montgomery County is looking for clerical help. This could be the perfect job for part-time students all the way up to Baby Boomers looking for something to do.

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

E-mail jobs@thepaper24-7.com

↓ SKIN From Page A1

Make hydration a priority. Keeping the skin hydrated maintains its barrier integrity. When the skin becomes dry, it reduces the effectiveness of the skin barrier, making it less resilient against irritants and allergens.

Often, when the skin is dry it feels more rough or flaky. With proper hydration, the skin feels smoother and looks more supple. Achieving hydration through a better skin care routine, drinking plenty of water daily and eating certain fruits and vegetables can improve your skin’s appearance, maintaining a radiant, healthy complexion.

Use the right soap. Despite what your mother may have told you, squeaky clean isn’t always best. A better bet when it comes to soap is a product that respects your skin’s moisture balance and cleanses without creating tightness or irritation.

Mild options such as Pears skin cleansing products are specifically formulated and dermatologically tested to be gentle on the skin. They’re made with plant-based glycerin, which is a powerful humectant that attracts water from the environment and deeper layers of the skin to the outer layer, keeping it hydrated. Glycerin-based cleansers can help prevent stripping of the skin’s natural oils, which averts a tight, dry feeling.

“More than ever, consumers are looking for mild and gentle products that are effective, smell good and work well,” said Dr. Adriana Lombardi,

founder of the Skin Cancer & Cosmetic Surgery Center of New Jersey. “Pears soap checks all the boxes. It creates a really nice, thick lather and smells crisp and clean while leaving the skin hydrated.”

Avoid hot showers. Even the best products may not overcome the potential harm that comes from taking showers that are too hot. The heat removes your skin’s natural oils, which leaves you prone to itching and dryness and may worsen skin conditions.

Instead of cranking up the heat, opt for lukewarm temperatures and keep the shower time brief. Use moisturizing cleansers, and after your shower, immediately apply moisturizer to replenish and rehydrate your skin.

Protect your skin from the sun. After completing your skin cleansing routine, there’s an additional step to help maintain healthy, hydrated skin before heading outdoors: Take time to apply a layer of sunscreen to skin that will be exposed, including your face, ears and hands. Reapply every two hours if you’re spending a great deal of time outside. Sun damage can prematurely age the skin. You may not feel the heat as much during colder times of year, but the rays are still capable of damaging your skin, maybe even more so because you don’t feel the burn.

Find more advice for keeping your skin supple and soft at [Amazon.com/pears](https://www.amazon.com/pears).

↓ SCAN From Page A1

ABOUT BBB SERVING CENTRAL INDIANA: The Better Business Bureau has empowered people to find businesses, brands, and charities they can trust for more than 110 years. In 2024, people turned to BBB more than 220 million times for BBB Business Profiles on more than 5.3 million businesses, and 80,000 times for BBB charity reports on about 12,000 charities, for free at [bbb.org](https://www.bbb.org). The International Association of Better Business Bureaus is the umbrella organization for the local, independent BBBs in the United States and Canada. BBB Serving Central Indiana was founded in 1916 and serves 42 Indiana counties.

Reports to BBB Scam Tracker over the last few months show a twist on brushing scams where the package contains a QR code. The code comes with instructions to scan it to find out who sent the package or how to start a return. Scanning the QR code can lead to a phishing website or download malware onto your device.

In one BBB Scam Tracker report, a consumer received a package of pasta via Amazon in her name. Thinking it was a gift from a friend, she scanned the QR code that came with the package. The QR code took her to a website that appeared to be Amazon. The consumer said she has received a higher-than-normal amount of scam emails since scanning the QR code.

In another BBB Scam Tracker report, a consumer received a ring in the mail that he did not order. The ring came with a QR code. The consumer checked BBB Scam Tracker before scanning the code, and after reading other reports about brushing scams, he decided not to scan it.

It might seem like there are no downsides to a free package, but it could be a sign that someone is using your personal information for their own gain. If this happens to you, BBB recommends checking the security of your accounts and notifying the retailer who sent you the package.

What to do if you receive a package you didn’t order:

- Don’t scan QR codes. They might take you to a phishing site that steals your personal information or download malware onto your device.
- Protect your identity. If you did scan the QR code and enter personal information, change your passwords for any accounts that may have been compromised, and enable two-factor authentication. Keep a close eye on your credit reports and credit card bills after you receive the package.

- Notify the retailer. If you can tell where the package is from, go directly to the retailer’s website to get their contact information and report the package as a scam. Retailers like Amazon have policies banning brushing and fake reviews, and they will investigate your report.
- Check for fake reviews. If you can identify the company that sent you the packages, look for false reviews in your name and report them to the retailer.
- Pause deliveries. One package is no big deal, but some targets of brushing scams are overwhelmed with a floor of unordered packages, creating a serious problem. If this happens, you may want to consider temporarily refusing package delivery at your home address and directing your real orders to a package acceptance service.
- Keep the package. The one silver lining of brushing scams is that you get to keep the gift – the Federal Trade Commission says you have a legal right to keep unordered merchandise. Don’t try to return it, especially if there are instructions to scan a QR code or enter information. It could needlessly compromise more of your personal information.

For more information Visit BBB’s online shopping HQ for more tips on shopping safely online.

Read BBB’s article on brushing scams. Stay alert to shipping fraud by visiting FedEx’s website, U.S Postal Service and UPS’s online resource center.

If you spot a delivery scam, report it. Visit [bbb.org/ScamTracker](https://www.bbb.org/ScamTracker) to report your experience and help others learn the signs of a scam.

↓ MAY From Page A1

Stay Informed Motorists in West Central Indiana can monitor road closures, road conditions, and traffic alerts any time via:

- Facebook: [facebook.com/INDOTWestCentral](https://www.facebook.com/INDOTWestCentral)

- X (formerly Twitter): [@INDOT_WCentral](https://twitter.com/INDOT_WCentral)
- TrafficWise: [511in.org](https://www.trafficwise.com/511in.org)


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Butch Dale’s Flashback Trivia

Answer:
Carla and Marla Hughes

↓ TIM From Page A1

- A lot of people are asking where the fight is that Braun talked about both on the campaign trail and on the Statehouse floor not too long ago when a thousand or so folks showed up to show how strongly they feel about runaway property taxes? Mr. Governor – I understand in those hallowed Statehouse halls it's all about proper decorum and niceties. But your constituents are pretty fed up with decorum, niceties and exploding property taxes. A little more of that "fight" you talked about would be welcomed. Just saying.
- Braun started out talking about resetting property taxes back five years. THAT got everyone's attention as well as got a lot of Hoosiers excited. However, that also was a call to arms to the lobbyists who represent Hoosier cities, towns, counties, townships and schools. We all know how it works. If you get to keep more of your money, that means the government gets less. One side or the other is going to feel pain. That is a fact. The lobbyists and (so far) the politicians have decided that will be you. We'll see if that changes before the legislature wraps up.
- And along THOSE lines, while the government is choosing you to feel the pain instead of them, they are also saying something else. During tough times, the ones who bear the brunt are taxpayers. That's just wrong. When belts have to get tightened, our government should never tighten after we do, or less than we do. It's not that complicated.
- Ultimately, what started as property tax reform has turned into property tax rerun. And like the stale re-runs we see on TV, we all know how things turn out.
- Another VERY interesting angle is that Braun's next political opponent could well be just down the hall (well, up the stairs and across the hall) in Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith. A quick review – Beckwith campaigned for and won the lieutenant governor's nod at the convention, despite Braun hand picking Rep. Julie McGuire. Beckwith campaigned extensively around the state and his conservative, Christian, common sense platform won favor with Hoosiers. LOTS of Hoosiers. If Braun backs off on property taxes now, he'll very likely be a one-term governor and his replacement could easily be Beckwith.

So many questions, so few answers. It'd be easy to say this is going to go like it always does. A few folks will make noise and jump up and down, but ultimately we'll take what our overlords (uh, I mean elected representatives) hand us.

Or not.

Mind you, I'm not saying there is hope. But the reality is the political climate has changed. Thanks to DOGE shining the light on outrageous examples of our tax dollars being utterly squandered, people are paying more attention . . . and are more fed up.

Here's a big question for Republicans – and more importantly, voters. Do you remember when the GOP was the party of limited government and tax cuts? What happened to that? Don't forget that the Republicans have a super majority in the Statehouse. They can literally do whatever they want.

That's the thing you should not forget. They ARE doing whatever they want. They are not coming up with property tax reform of any significance. They are not resetting property taxes back five years like Braun said. They are not putting Hoosiers' concerns ahead of their pals in other sectors of the government.

They are showing you exactly what they want and what is important to them.

Let's not forget we're not asking the impossible. Several states have found ways to make low property taxes work. Nine states have found ways to survive without income taxes. Heck, Florida has no income tax and now is exploring how to eliminate property taxes.

Why can't we?

Because legislators are giving lobbyists, special interests and local governments priority while chucking you and all us other taxpaying schmucks in a well so deep and dark that not even Lassie will be able to find us.

If we are truly going to get government – at all levels – back on the right path, it's not going to happen little by little. Debate the chainsaw vs. scalpel

approach all you want, but the scalpel accomplishes very little. Besides, there is enough fat in most government budgets that big cuts from a chainsaw can be handled.

I've worked with dozens of mayors, council people, superintendents and the like over the years. For the most part, they were smart and sharp people. Tell them they have less money to work with – a lot less – and they'll figure it out.

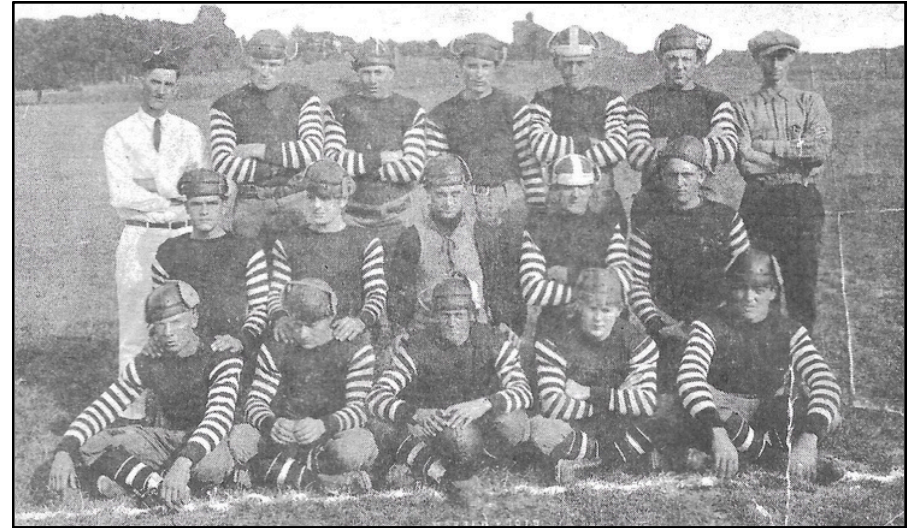
Maybe that means a statue or two less in Carmel? Maybe we don't replace that intersection with a roundabout. Maybe we don't hold off on that new annex? Maybe they renegotiate a contract or three. Whatever. Those in charge can figure it out – if they are willing.

Today's scribbles started with saying the spotlight is on Braun. He could go from hero to zero or anywhere in between. Just one vagabond newspaper guy's opinion, but Braun is going to have to choose between legislators and taxpayers. And to be sure, that doesn't mean property tax reform will win out. Just because the governor says it doesn't mean it'll happen. There's that pesky executive / legislative branch thing (are you listening Mr. Trump?). But Braun can and should veto anything with a "minimal" amount of property tax relief. If the legislators don't deliver real reform, Braun should step up and call a special session. He should make it clear that he is fighting for us, and those in the chambers of the House and Senate are not. They can override him, but if they do I'd hate to be in their shoes when the next campaign rolls around.

Until then, government is doing what government always does. Saying one thing and doing another. The big question is – when will we (and our governor) stop putting up with it?

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.

Back in the Day with Butch Dale



Linden had an independent football team in the 1920s. The players played both offense and defense, wore no pads and used leather helmets. Those guys were tough!

Charlotte's Web Opens in Hillsboro

The Harmony Theater, formerly Myers Dinner Theatre, brings the beloved children's classic 'Charlotte's Web' to the stage. This play, adapted from the book by E.B. White, is directed by Rebecca Lea and runs April 4-19.

The Children's Literature Association named this "the best American children's book of the past two hundred years," and Joseph Robinette, working with the advice of E.B. White, has created a play that captures this work in a thrilling and utterly practical theatrical presentation. All the enchanting characters are here: Wilbur, the irresistible young pig who desperately wants to avoid the butcher; Fern, a girl who understands what animals say to each other; Templeton, the gluttonous rat who can occasionally be talked into a good deed; the Zuckerman family; the Arables; and, most of all, the extraordinary spider, Charlotte, who proves to be "a true friend and a good writer." Determined to save Wilbur, Charlotte begins her campaign with the "miracle" of her web in which she writes, "Some pig." It's the beginning of a victorious campaign which ultimately ends with the now-safe Wilbur doing what is most important to Charlotte.

Returning alumni to this production are Samantha Bagdon (as Charlotte), Austin Michael Russell (as Templeton), Greta Shambarger (as Fern Arable); along with Victoria Behny (Narrator), Don Hart (Homer Zuckerman) Eli Miller (Lurvy) and Teresa Ross (Edith Zuckerman). New to the Harmony stage is Haley Iverson (as Wilbur); along with Gabrielle Beerbower (Lamb), Alexia Daniels (Goose), Nate Marcum (John Arable), Clarissa McCullough (Martha Arable), Lexy Perez (Sheep), Gabe Reynolds (Avery Arable) and Sean Stiers (Gander).



Photo courtesy of Harmony Theater

Haley Iverson and Greta Shambarger star in Charlotte's Web at the Harmony Theater (former Myers Dinner Theatre).

"Charlotte's Web" will feature a menu inspired by fair favorites and Indiana 4-H-winning recipes featured in the 1999 Indiana 4-H Foundation Cookbook, "Picnics, Potlucks, and Prizewinners." Selections from this cookbook will include: Hoosier meatloaf, buttermilk chicken, gourmet mashed potatoes, classic macaroni and cheese, peanut butter magic cookies and pineapple upside down cake. Pork chops (a staple at the Indiana State Fair), creamy corn and green beans will also be on the menu. As usual, all meals will begin with house salad, fresh-baked homemade rolls and the signature broccoli salad - a tradition passed down by Richard and Donna Myers.

More information on the 2025 Season and "Charlotte's Web" can be found at the theater's new website, theharmonytheater.com.

Tickets for all events may be purchased by calling the Box Office at 765-798-4902, ext. 2, or by visiting theharmonytheater.com.

For certain performance days, meal and show times will be changing for 2025. Wednesday matinee seating for meals will remain at 11:30 a.m. with curtain at 1:30 p.m. Friday and selected Saturday evening performances will now have seating for meals at 5:30 p.m. with curtain at 7:30 p.m. Saturday matinees will have seating for meals at 11:30 a.m. with curtain at 1:30 p.m. Sunday matinees will still have seating for meals at noon and curtain at 2 p.m.

Performance dates and times can vary, so consult the online calendar for updated information. Regular theater prices are \$59.54 for dinner and show, \$47.50 for students (ages 4-18), and show-only for \$39.50. Prices do not include taxes, handling fees or gratuity for waitstaff. Season tickets, group pricing and bus parking are also available. The Harmony Theater (formerly Myers Dinner Theatre) is located at 108 Water St., Hillsboro and is handicapped accessible.

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Sen. Deery Shares Update



SPENCER DEERY
Guest Columnist

Indiana is a wonderful place to live, but we are not immune from the hazards of deadly drugs and violent crime.

Senate Bill 324 is currently making its way through the Indiana General Assembly and would increase criminal penalties for meth and fentanyl dealers. It would also require individualized bail determinations for arrestees charged with violent crimes so more scrutiny is given to whether the arrestee should be allowed back on our streets.

I supported this bill to help local law enforcement crack down on drug dealers putting dangerous substances in our communities and to help keep Hoosiers across the state safe.

SB 324 passed the Senate with bipartisan support and is now being considered by the House of Representatives.

HONORING HOOSIER Farmers

For more than 200 years, Indiana has had a proud agricultural tradition.

Today, the agriculture industry contributes more than \$35 billion to Indiana's economy each year.

Last week, the Indiana State Department of Agriculture honored farms that have been owned by the same family for 100, 150 and 200 years with Hoosier Homestead Awards.

In Senate District 23:

- The Cunningham farm in Fountain County received a Sesquicentennial Award;
- The Deer farm in Montgomery County received a Centennial Award;
- The Hesler & Gooding farm in Fountain County received a Centennial Award; and
- The James W. Orr farm in Warren County received a Centennial Award.

Congratulations to these family farms for earning these honors and thank you for your continued dedication to Indiana's agricultural heritage.

LOCAL FARMS TO BE Featured at Indiana State Fair

The Indiana State Fair and Corteva, Inc., recently announced the 2025 Featured Farmers that will be recognized during this year's state fair from Aug. 1 – Aug. 17.

Parke County's TST Farms will be featured on Tuesday, Aug. 5, Fountain County's Crowder Pork farm will be featured on Thursday, Aug. 7, Tippecanoe County's Tippco Farm will be featured on Tuesday, Aug. 12, Montgomery

County's Oak Hill Tree Farm & MRS Farm will be featured on Friday, Aug. 15 and Tippecanoe County's Horstman Cattle Company will be featured on Saturday, Aug. 16.

Featured farmers will participate in a live chat at the Glass Barn.

EDUCATION BILLS Progress Through General Assembly

Three of my education bills progressed through the Indiana General Assembly this week.

As described in last week's newsletter, Senate Bill 249 would establish more local flexibility to award salary increases to our school's most needed teachers. The bill passed out of the House of Representatives Tuesday by a vote of 65-29.

I also passed out of the Senate this week House Bill 1498 with a bipartisan vote of 43-4. This bill tasks the State Board of Education with creating a new system for annually determining the performance of schools across Indiana. Parents and taxpayers have a right to know how schools are performing, including the ability to compare their local school with those in the rest of the state. Under the bill, the board will create and implement a new A-F accountability system that ensures continued transparency in school performance.

Because the bills were amended, they now move back to their original chamber for further consideration.

Another bill I authored passed the House Committee on Education this week.

Senate Bill 255 would help our schools recruit more qualified STEM teachers and require schools to change their policies on bullying investigations to prioritize parental rights. SB 255 now heads to the full House for further consideration.

INDOT PUBLIC OPEN Houses Near You

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is inviting public commentary on the 2026-2030 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

This opportunity allows Hoosiers to join in the conversation on Indiana's STIP, sharing feedback on the state's transportation projects planned for the next four years.

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.

Deery Ed Bill Heads to Governor's Desk

A bill authored by State Sen. Spencer Deery (R-West Lafayette) to provide schools with new tools to better compensate teachers in high-need areas is heading to the governor's desk for final review.

Under current state law, schools can offer teachers supplemental pay along with their base salary under the district's negotiated salary schedule. However, these payments are not often utilized.

Senate Enrolled Act 249 would change current law by allowing schools to fund these supplemental paychecks before collective bargaining.

"Teachers in subjects like special education, STEM and English as a second language are some of the most needed across Indiana," Deery said. "This bill gives school administrators more flexibility to increase pay for those teachers if market forces demand. Our schools deserve every tool in the toolbox when it comes to recruiting and

retaining our best teachers, especially those in high-need subject areas.

Deery said the legislation was inspired in part by a report released by the Next Level Teacher Compensation Commission that recommended ways to achieve more competitive pay for teachers in Indiana.

SEA 249 now moves to the governor's desk for further consideration.

Deery encourages residents of Senate District 23 to contact him with any questions or comments they may have. Deery can be reached by filling out a "Contact Me" form online at www.IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Deery or by phone at (800) 382-9467.

Deery represents Senate District 23, which includes Fountain, Parke, Vermillion and Warren counties, and portions of Montgomery and Tippecanoe counties.



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Lt. Governor Makes Mass Spending Cuts

Lt. Governor Micah Beckwith is announcing mass spending cuts his office is making after assuming his role as Indiana Lieutenant Governor from the previous administration.

The office will not be renewing the following contracts:

- Two separate professional development training services totaling \$120,510;
- An outside graphic design service totaling \$27,000;
- The social media management platform, Hootsuite, totaling \$1,188; and
- The image hosting service, Flickr, totaling \$132.

The office has already canceled a subscription to The New York Times, totaling \$195. Additionally, the office renegotiated an existing contract saving \$15,000 of Hoosier taxpayer money.

"When I first came into office, I asked my team for looking for items and services we could cut immediately," Beckwith said. "I knew there would be wasteful spending left over from the previous administration. Fiscal

responsibility isn't just about numbers—it's about ensuring every dollar serves the people effectively. By cutting unnecessary spending, we can ensure that taxpayer money is going to essential services to Hoosiers."

One major purchase made by the Office of Lt. Governor was a new car. The car from the previous administration had been in multiple accidents and was suffering from mechanical issues. Additionally, the car would not be large enough to accommodate the Lt. Governor and his staff when traveling for town halls and meeting with community leaders around the state. The Lt. Governor's office submitted a request through the Indiana Department of Administration for a car to accommodate the office's needs and the office was presented with only two options. The purchase price of the car is less than the existing savings to be cut to the aforementioned.

"Overall, the Lt. Governor's office has already saved the state money," Beckwith said. "I look forward to continue to dive into these contracts and to make the necessary cuts."

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Senior Administrative Assistant for College Advancement

Wabash College is seeking candidates for its position of Senior Administrative Assistant for College Advancement. This position provides a wide range of administrative support for the College's Advancement team. General duties include but are not limited to preparing correspondence, planning meetings, managing budget, processing invoices and expense reports, managing large mailings, ordering supplies, maintaining records, and providing staff support for major College events.

To learn more about this position and how to apply, please visit the College's employment website at www.wabash.edu/employment.

Wabash, a liberal arts college for men, seeks faculty and staff who are committed to providing quality engagement with students, high levels of academic challenge and support, and meaningful experiences that prepare students for life and leadership in a diverse, multicultural world. Wabash is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from persons of all backgrounds.