

➡ TODAY’S VERSE

Psalm 145:21 My mouth shall
speak the praise of the LORD:
and let all flesh bless his holy
name for ever and ever.

Meet
Diamond



AWL has had the beautiful Diamond since 06/20/2024 (313 days). Diamond is a 2 year old American Pit Bull Terrier looking for her best friend! Diamond LOVES long walks/jogs, playing fetch, frolicking in a yard, peanut butter bones, and will gladly sit for treats! Diamond has a superstar personality and would thrive with an active family. Diamond is spayed, dewormed, microchipped, and up to date on all of her shots! DIAMOND'S ADOPTION FEE IS WAIVED (sponsored by Best Friends)!



Yes, I’m spending all my time this week on the subject of Moms. Know anything better or more worthwhile to talk about? I sure don’t!



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Butch Recalls the Old School Mascots . . .



BUTCH DALE
Columnist

Everyone knows the names of the school mascots here in Montgomery County . . . the Crawfordsville Athenians, Southmont Mounties and North Montgomery Chargers. But how many of you remember the mascot names from the schools before consolidation? Of course, since I qualify as an "old-timer" now, I remember all of them . . . Alamo Warriors, Bowers Blackshirts, Coal Creek Bearcats, Ladoga Canners, Linden Bulldogs, New Market Purple Flyers, New Ross Blue Jays, Waveland Hornets, Waynetown Gladiators and my school, the Darlington Indians. Before the Coal Creek consolidation, there was the Wingate Spartans and New Richmond Cardinals. Ladoga's mascot was

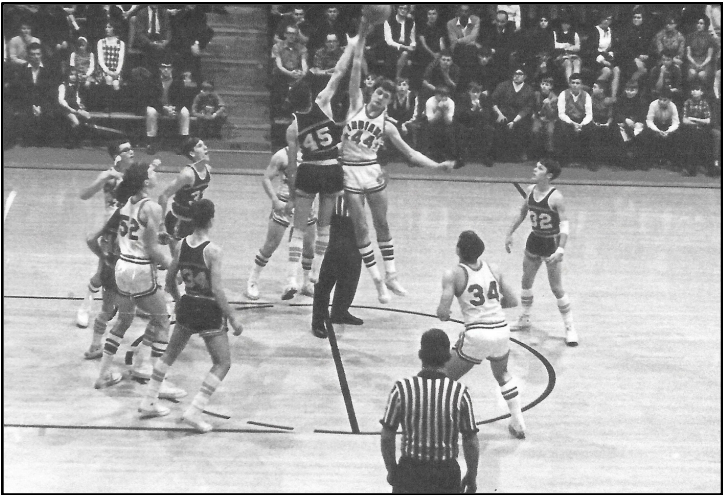


Photo courtesy Butch Dale

No matter your school’s mascot, we all had a lot of community pride in our teams.

originally called Spartans, but they changed it to Canners in the 1930s, or so I'm told.

Now let's take a look at a few schools outside our county. Boone county had the Perry Central Midgets, Pinnell Purple Dragons, Thorntown Kewasakees, Dover Blue Devils,

Jamestown Little Giants, Whitestown Panthers and Granville Wells Rockets. Putnam County sported teams such as the Bainbridge Pointers, Roachdale Hawks, Cloverdale Clovers and Russellville Bees. In Hendricks County there

➡ See BUTCH Page A3

Bubba Outflanks the System



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

As if the debacle that Indiana property taxes have become weren’t enough, Gov. Mike Braun doubled down.

and sent a press release touting how wonderful his first 100 days in office were.

Then, President Trump starts talking about a third term. Granted, out of 45 men who have served in that office, not having the ability to run for a third term only applies to 14 of them (the 22nd Amendment wasn’t ratified until 1951 when Harry Truman was in office).

And THEN, Trump had to comment on due process. I’m not sure if half the stuff

he says scares me to death or makes me laugh because I think (hope) he’s just messing with the left.

As the TV guys says, wait! That’s not all. I got my new property assessment in the mail and, you guessed it, the value of my property rose faster than a 16-year-old on the way to the ‘fridge after school.

The phone rang.

“This here’s Dick Clark, spinning the hits from the ‘60s and ‘70s,” a twangy voice practically yelled in my ear. “You sir are the winner in our Name That Tune contest. If you can tell us who sang 1927 Kansas City you win an iPod Nano!”

Twangy voice? Dick Clark passed away more than a decade ago? iPod Nano?

The perfect next thing in an already crappy day . . .

“Hello Bubba. What can I do for you – and it was Mike Reilly.”

“Dang Timmons,” Bubba shot back. “How do you always figure out it’s me and how the heck did you know that song? You must be one of the savannahs or something.”

“Savant.”

“Huh?”

“Never mind.”

“Listen, Timmons, you seem abscessed with the politicians and property tax.”

“Obsessed.”

➡ See TIM Page A3

➡ TODAY’S HEALTH TIP

Grandma’s advice not to put anything smaller than your elbow in your ear was right – that includes Q-tips.

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



➡ THREE THINGS
You Should Know

- 1 Seniors, you might want to get to Kroger today. The grocery giant is offering its senior shoppers with an exclusive 5 percent discount on total in-store purchases for one day only – Wednesday, May 7. Shoppers 55+ can take advantage of this offer by simply using their Kroger loyalty card or alternate ID and letting their cashier know they qualify. Some exclusions apply, such as alcohol, tobacco, fuel, gift cards, prescriptions and other restricted items. To save even more, most Medicare Advantage recipients can use their Food and OTC Benefit cards as a convenient way to shop for eligible groceries, over-the-counter medications and more.
- 2 Indiana First Lady Maureen Braun recently announced the launch of a new fundraising initiative to expand and sustain Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library across the state. The initiative establishes a public-private partnership aimed at supporting the beloved book gifting program that promotes early childhood literacy by delivering free, high-quality books to children from birth to age 5.
- 3 Indiana Department of Homeland Security has opened applications to the State Disaster Relief Fund for residents who incurred damage to their homes or property located in qualifying jurisdictions from any of the following disaster events:
 - March 1, 2025: Mine Collapse
 - March 15, 2025: Severe Storms
 - March 19, 2025: Severe Storms
 - March 30 – April 2, 2025: Severe Storms/Flooding

Applications to help with immediate needs will be capped at \$2000 initially, although eligible homeowners could receive additional assistance after a complete damage assessment is finished. For more information, go to <https://www.in.gov/dhs/emergency-management-and-preparedness/state-disaster-relief-fund/>

➡ TODAY’S QUOTE

No man succeeds without a good woman behind him. Wife or mother, if it is both, he is twice blessed indeed.
Godfrey Winn

➡ TODAY’S JOKE

Why is a computer so smart?
Because it listens to its motherboard!

➡ MONTGOMERY
MINUTE

Dr. Bela Sandor will speak on chariots as Lew Wallace presented them in *Ben-Hur* tomorrow at 7 p.m. in the Carriage House at the Lew Wallace Study & Museum. Dr. Sandor, a Professor Emeritus of Engineering Physics at the University of Wisconsin, takes an in-depth look into the world of competitive chariot racing, its depiction in *Ben-Hur* and the historical accuracy of the exciting filmed chariot races. Discover what the film adaptations got right – and what they got wrong. This presentation is free and open to the public and the Carriage House is ADA accessible, seating is limited and reservations are suggested. For more information visit www.ben-hur.com or call Larry Paarlberg at (765) 362-5769.

The Paper appreciates all our customers. Today, we’d like to personally thank NORMA YOUNG for subscribing!

WHO: Flower Lovers Garden Club

WHAT: 17th Annual Garden & Arts Tour

WHEN: Sunday June 29 11-5 (Rain or Shine)

WHERE: There are 8 different gardens on the tour and the addresses are listed on the tickets along with a map

COST: This is a ticketed event and tickets are \$12, 12 and under free – tickets available NOW at following locations and would be a great Mother's Day gift.

ProGreen Garden Center
Davidson’s Greenhouse
Ryan’s Flowers
Country Hearts & Flowers
Just Because
Milligan’s Flowers
Crawfordsville Library

Tickets will also be available the day of the tour at Pike Place from 11-2

17th Garden & Arts Tour
Coming Up June 29

By Janelle Nunan

Whirligig Gardens – tucked quietly in my back yard is a colorful, leafy haven that has blossomed far beyond its humble beginnings. What started as a modest circular planting around a bird bath has, over the years, unfurled like a storybook—growing until nearly every corner of the yard is touched by greenery and blooms. The perennial gardens are a graceful blend of pinks and purples that dance through the beds. Recently, cheerful hints of yellow have begun to peek out, adding a playful contrast to the soft hues. But the real heart of this garden

➡ See GARDEN Page A3

Navigating
Uncertainty:
City’s Budget
Challenges



There’s an old joke that goes, “How do you eat an elephant?” “One bite at a time” is the punch line. No one seems to ask, “How do you make an elephant taste good?”

Some tasks are so big, they could seem as tough as an elephant steak. (Shudder to think anyone would want to eat elephant, I hope.) Running a manufacturing-based city in central Indiana and slowly growing its population and property assessment value, attracting and retaining businesses while upgrading its infrastructure and quality of life, that’s a bite to chew. For 13 years, Crawfordsville’s

➡ See LWV Page A4

➡ OBITUARY

Gary Lee Thomas

November 8, 1963 - May 2, 2025

Gary Lee Thomas, age 61, of Kingman, passed away Friday, May 2, 2025, at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis, surrounded by family.



He was born November 8, 1963, in Danville, Illinois, to Ronnie Allen and Helen Louise (Gossett) Thomas.

Gary graduated from Turkey Run High School in 1982. After high school, he moved to Tampa, Florida, where he worked as a drywall for over 20 years before returning home. For the last 15 years, he delivered newspapers for the Rockville Sentinel and assisted several area farmers.

Gary loved the outdoors, gardening, and taking care of his boxer dogs. He never knew a stranger and had a deep passion for helping others.

He is survived by his mother, Helen Thomas; a brother, Randy (Esther) Thomas, both of Tangier; a sister, Kimberly (Bradley) White of Hillsdale; nieces and nephews, Rachel (Josh) Harris, J.T. (Jessica) Thomas, Ashley Soltermann, Kristin (Tyler) Busenbark, and Thomas “Fish Bait” Soltermann; great-nieces and nephews, Wil Sauter, Blake (Kate) Harris, Aidan Harris, Taylor (Gracie) Thomas, Payton Thomas, Kendall Thomas, Raegan Lowry, Raylin Lowry, Addison Thomas, Sophia Norman, Emma Norman, Isabella Norman, Natalie Busenbark, and Ella Busenbark; and one great-great-nephew, Walker Thomas; many close friends; and his beloved dog, Wesley.

He was preceded in death by his father, Ronnie Thomas, and his beloved boxers, Bart, Gertie, and Sam.

Visitation will be held at Sanders Funeral Care, 203 S. 1st Street in Kingman, Thursday, May 8, 2025, from 11 a.m. until the time of the funeral service at 1 p.m., with Jerry Canady officiating. Burial will follow at Rush Creek Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the St. Vincent Foundation, Heart Center, 250 W. 96th Street, Suite 470, Indianapolis, IN 46260 or online at <https://give.stvincent.org/ways-to-give/donate/givenow> Share memories and condolences online at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

FOR THE RECORD

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

CRAWFORDSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

The Crawfordsville City Council May Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, May 5, was canceled because of a lack of agenda.



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us online:
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It’s A Circular Economy



TRICIA HERR
Guest Columnist

I hope you had a wonderful Earth Day on April 22nd and a great Arbor Day on April 25th! Earth Day and Arbor Day are great holidays to take action and advocate for the natural world that we rely on for all our needs. I hope we use the days **after** the holidays to reflect on our role as humans in the natural ecosystem that we are a part of.

Humans need Earth’s natural resources. We rely on the air and atmosphere to create our habitable climate. The soil filters our water, cornerstones our roads, and provides a nutrient-rich medium for our forests and crops. The natural water systems provide drinking water. Trees provide lumber and oxygen. We rely on plants and crops to provide oxygen and nutritious food for our direct consumption or to feed the animals we consume. We rely on the fuels and minerals found beneath our feet (and grown) to fuel our cars, light our homes, and create many of the tools, devices, plastics, and equipment we use daily.

I could go on and on about how we rely on the natural world, but my list of ways the natural world relies on humans is looking pretty blank. What role do humans serve to give back to Earth’s natural systems? In our current economic and social structures, we create a LOT of waste. According to the EPA’s “Facts and Figures on Materials, Wastes, and Recycling”, in 2018, 146.1 million tons of municipal solid waste were placed in landfills, the top categories being food and plastics.

In a natural ecosystem, there is no such thing as “waste”. Decayed plants and animals return nutrients to grow more plants and animals. Every plant, animal, insect, and microorganism serves themselves but also serves the chain links above and below them in the trophic levels.

Have you ever heard of a “Circular Economy”?

A circular economy is a system where materials never become waste; products and materials are kept in circulation and in use. A circular economy is no easy feat, but it mimics our natural ecosystems and the cyclical regeneration, creating zero waste. A functioning circular economy repairs, remanufactures, refurbishes, recycles, and reuses in a constant cycle so

nothing goes to waste. Raw materials recovered from the earth stay in circulation, therefore reducing need for new raw materials but also reducing the cost of production. Circular economies can vastly financially and environmentally favorable.

I was introduced to “circular economy” in a sustainability course in undergrad, but the idea of “don’t waste” is not new to any of us. I fondly remember my aunts and uncles teasing my grandmother, who grew up during the Great Depression, for not wasting a thing. From never not scraping a jar or bowl out till it was clean or how she weighed down the hollow legs of her plastic patio table with the screws, bolts, and washers from that bucket of metal nothings in her garage. She was an avid canner and was never afraid of a brown and bruised banana.

But a Circular Economy is much more than not being wasteful. It takes “don’t waste” more than a step further, it also builds the starting blocks to take off from. A circular economy uses intuitive design, thinking about the end of life of a product at the beginning of the design of the product. It decides that there will be a use for said product or the materials of the product when the purchaser is done with its use. A circular economy is obtainable, and some products already have a circular economy. Aluminum is a very circular product. For example, aluminum cans for beverages are 95% recycled and can be used and back on the shelf as fast as 60 days depending on where you are in the U.S.A. 80% of all the aluminum in current production in the United States is recycled. Aluminum can retain its quality throughout the recycling process and can be recycled endlessly. (Source: Aluminum.org)

In future articles, I hope to dive deeper into this topic. In the meantime, I’ll let you, reader, ruminate on a linear vs a circular economy. If you have questions or want to discuss it more, give me a call or email. Tricia Herr – 765-364-6363 – triciaherr@purdue.edu

Upcoming Event:
Native Plant Jamboree – June 7th, 2025 – 9AM to 1pm @ Montgomery County Fairgrounds

Tricia Herr is the
Extension Educator /
Agriculture & Natural
Resources

Butch Dale’s Flashback Trivia



Do You Recognize this
1963 New Ross H.S.
Graduate?

HINT:
She married a
Waveland fellow and
became a Home
Economics teacher.

Answer on
Page A5



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GARDEN

From Page A1



Photo courtesy Janelle Nunan and the Flower Lovers Garden Club

Whirligig Gardens is just one of the eight different gardens on this year’s tour.

lies in its texture—lush, shade-loving hosta are planted in abundance. Some were starts from friends, but many of the hosta were carefully chosen from Sower’s Hosta Farm, a beloved gem nestled near Ladoga. Their deep greens, variegated patterns, and resilient nature provide the perfect backbone for this shaded sanctuary. One of the more recent discoveries for my shade gardens is the stunning Brunnera. These hardy, deer-resistant beauties bloom in brilliant blues each spring, their tiny flowers shine brightly. Their arrival has added another layer of color and texture to an already magical space.

But it’s not just the plants that make this garden special—it’s the spirit behind them. Every corner is sprinkled with whimsical touches and treasures collected during an annual sisters' weekend, where flea markets and greenhouses become playgrounds of possibility. These joyful excursions have filled the garden with delightful oddities and vintage charm, each piece a special memory. One of these early excursions is where my whirligig obsession, I mean collection, began.

As the gardens continue to grow and evolve, so too has my understanding of

them. With each passing season, I’ve come to learn which plants thrive in the dappled light and rich soil, and which ones simply don’t belong. Where once I may have hesitated to make changes, I’ve grown more confident over the years—unafraid to dig up a plant that’s not quite right and give it a new home, or let it go altogether. The process has become part of the pleasure, a gentle rhythm of trial, error, and joyful discovery. I don’t consider the gardens ever finished. To me, they’re not a static display, but a living, breathing canvas—an ongoing conversation between nature and gardener. Each year brings new ideas, new inspirations, and new opportunities to refresh, re-imagine, and reinvent. Whether it’s introducing a new color, shifting a border, or trying a plant I’ve never grown before, the garden invites change with open arms. It’s this ever-changing nature that keeps me connected and excited —because there’s always something new waiting to bloom just around the corner.

Bonus: Artist Mary Lou Dawald will be an added feature in the Whirlygig Garden. She will have unique handmade clay garden art in the form of fish sticks, pot heads and more. All items are one of a kind!

↓

BUTCH

From Page A1

was the Lizton Blue Blazers, North Salem Blue Devils and Pittsboro Burros.

Fountain County had the Hillsboro Wildcats, Wallace Peppers, Kingman Black Aces, Mellott Derbies, Richland Township Red Devils and Veedersburg Green Devils. Parke County schools included the Bridgeton Raccoons, Bloomingdale Bulldogs, Tangier Tigers, Marshall Bobcats, Rosedale Hotshots, Montezuma Aztecs, Turkey Run Warriors and Greene Township Green Aces. In Warren County were the Pine Village Pine Knots, Williamsport Binngy Bombers and West Lebanon Clippers.

Up north in Tippecanoe County were the Clarks Hill Hillers, Battle Ground Tomahawks, West Point Cadets, Klondike Nuggets, Dayton Bulldogs, Shadeland Peppers, Buck Creek Cobras, Stockwell Warriors, East Tipp Trojans, Romney Pirates and Wainwright Mustangs. Clinton County was home to the Mulberry Berries, Kirklin Travelers, Forest Bobcats, Scircleville Ringers, Sugar Creek Township Crickets, Michigantown Ganders and Colfax Hickories.

How did these schools come up with their mascot names? It was usually a combination of student, faculty and community input...and voted on before being

adopted by the school. Sometimes it reflected the history of the locality, as in Thorntown's name Kewasakees, since that town was a Miami Indian village. Darlington called their team the Indians after a beloved teacher and coach, Ed Miller, who was part Indian. Many schools chose a fierce sounding name to intimidate their opponents. Would you rather play against the Richland Township Red Devils or the Perry Central Midgets?

Having graduated in 1966, I played against many of these small schools, so it was easy for me to recall their mascot names. I had to do a little digging to come up with the others. There are hundreds of other mascot names in Indiana from the past and present, but the most famous high school mascot name in the entire nation came from right here in Montgomery County...take a drive up to New Richmond, the movie hometown of the Hickory Hucksters.

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

↓

TIM

From Page A1

“Huh?”

“Never mind.”

“Anyways, you is going about this all wrong. You ain’t never going to get politicians to do the right thing. It ain’t in their GPA.”

“DNA.”

“Huh?”

“Aw Geez Bubba. NEVER MIND!”

“What you got to do is what me and Gumball, Tater and Big Country did to get comfortable chairs here at the Crawl-On-Inn.”

For those who haven’t been there, the Crawl-On-Inn is a low-rent, hole-in-the-wall bar out somewhere near Bowers, Kirkpatrick, Colfax and Clarks Hill. I’ve been there once but not sure I could find it again. Like any bar it has stools, but there are small tables scattered about and the chairs have flat wood seats and thin iron rods as the backrest. There is nothing comfortable about it. I figure they’re that way on purpose so that patrons won’t stay very long and will move out – not that there’s a crowd waiting there.

“You see, Elvis (the bartender and owner, I presume?) is tighter than a size small exercise pants on a double-wide fat guy on a bicycle. So we knew we’d never talk him into forking over the bucks for cushiony chairs. Heck, we didn’t even try. Instead, we outflanked him.”

“You what?”

“We went to Bambi.”

Bambi is the part-time waitress at the bar who also drives a truck part-time. She has a certain way with

everyone that is hard to describe. Effective, but hard to describe. It became clear Bubba wasn’t going to explain.

“OK, Bubba. I’ll play your silly game. Why did you go to Bambi?”

“It’s elementary, my dear Timmons,” Bubba said – his twang sounding nothing like Sherlock Holmes. “We told Bambi that those hard chairs was hurting her tips. You see, those chairs are so uncomfortable so peoples don’t tend to stick around very long. If they don’t stay long, they don’t order second or third drinks. They don’t order dessert. So the bill is less and that means the tip is less. Get better chairs, get better tips.”

I was still trying to wrap my head around the idea that the Crawl-On-Inn had desserts.

“We knew Bambi would get after Elvis and wouldn’t let it go. Took about two weeks, but we walked in one morning and there was new chairs all around.

“You see, Timmons. That’s what you got to do. Forget going to the politicians. Be smarter. You can do it.”

For once, Bubba didn’t hang up laughing and howling. “Y’all have a nice day now.” Click. He was gone.

I wonder if Bambi ever goes to Indianapolis?

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 thepaper24-7.com.

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.

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LWV

From Page A1

mayor, Todd Barton, has been focusing, bite by bite, goal by goal, to improve life for the city.

Each year, Barton sets goals, works with the city council and department heads and creates a budget to move the city forward. His approach to the city's budget process stands out for how he's disciplined it.

Now, as the last state property tax legislation, tariffs and cuts to federal funding threaten to reduce funding and upend the process, the League of Women Voters spoke with him to help readers understand the process. Barton offered a candid look into how the city's budget comes together, the unpredictable pressures it faces, and the new uncertainties introduced by state and federal policy changes.

The city's budget process kicks off in May or June. "We create a list of goals at the start of each year," Barton says, "and we work through what's working, what's deficient and where changes are needed."

Then, his team must estimate anticipated revenue for the coming year, relying on projections from financial advisors and the state's "growth quotient." With a clear sense of available funds, Barton then meets with department leaders – police, fire, parks and others – to review their proposed budgets and manage the top budget items that matter most to a well-functioning city staff. Some of those costs are the same that hit businesses – healthcare costs, salaries, energy.

Healthcare costs can swing by double digits from year to year. Barton has tackled this by moving the city into a healthcare trust and opening an employee clinic to control routine care costs, but volatility remains.

"A swing of a few percentage points is a lot of money," he says.

Salaries, particularly for police officers, have been another major challenge. The tight labor market has led to aggressive recruiting by other communities, forcing Crawfordsville to continually adjust police officer pay to remain competitive.

"You're always weighing what's enough to keep people here, but not so much that it's unsustainable," Barton explains. The cost of replacing experienced officers – training, onboarding, and lost expertise – adds to the complexity.

Fuel and energy costs, as well as the price of public safety equipment, are equally unpredictable. Barton points to the cost of a fire engine: "Nine years ago, it was \$880,000. Now, the same piece of equipment is over \$1.3

million. That's the reality we're dealing with." These big-ticket items make it nearly impossible to hold the line on expenditures year after year.

Barton's approach streamlines what was once a chaotic process. Instead of every department presenting a "wish list" to the city council - leaving councilors to pit departments against each other as they hash it out – they create a "clean budget" that fits within projected revenues.

With a goal-centered process, "The council doesn't have to make cuts," Barton notes. "They can, but they don't have to. It used to be two four-hour nights of haggling; now, our work session is usually two and a half hours." This shift, he said, leads to better priorities and less turmoil in city government. They send the budget to the state for validation, and the city improves based on priorities year by year.

Except this year's state and federal changes have upended the process. First of all, the city's CPA (certified public accountant) team is still trying to detangle the extraordinarily complex formula in the legislation passed by Republican supermajority in the statehouse and signed by Gov. Mike Braun.

In addition to trying to forecast the usual uncertainties in the largest expenses – healthcare, salaries (especially for police and fire), and energy – the city council and mayor must also navigate uncertainty in what incoming funds will be.

Indiana's new property tax law has thrown the largest amount of uncertainty into the budgeting process. Barton's financial consultants are still calculating what the change will mean for Crawfordsville's available funds.

"It's incredibly complex," he says. "When you change one thing, it affects four or five others. We still don't know the impact, and neither do the legislators who voted for it."

He recounts conversations with state representatives who admitted they didn't fully understand the numbers but promised to "fix it next year" – a promise Barton said he has heard before, with little follow-through.

For Crawfordsville, the stakes are high because it's a manufacturing community. Business property tax is a significant revenue source, and changes to how business personal property is taxed hit harder here than in cities dominated by residential or distribution properties.

"If you're a city like Plainfield, it's not a big deal. For us, it's huge,"

Barton says. The city's ability to fund essential services matters to major employers who need reliable water, fire and safety, along with a dependable workforce.

The shift away from property taxes toward income taxes to fund local government leaves Barton skeptical.

"The argument is that income tax is more fair, but in reality, it puts a greater burden on households that are already struggling," he says. Renters tend to be lower-income residents who cannot afford to buy a house and do not benefit from rising property values. They end up shouldering a disproportionate share of the tax load. Barton also points out the practical challenge: "We can't accurately break out income just for city residents, so the numbers don't add up. It's going to be tough for cities to make up the difference."

Federal funding is another area of concern. The city recently used federal grants provided through FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security to buy out homes along Sugar Creek that were threatened by erosion. Phases 2 and 3 of this program, intended to help more homeowners in Wayne Avenue and Sugar Cliff, were abruptly canceled, leaving residents in limbo.

"Imagine you've paid for your home your whole life, and now it's worth zero because it's going to fall into the creek," Barton says. "We had hope for these families, and now the program is just gone."

Meanwhile, the Market Street railroad crossing project, funded by a federal rail grant, is being "fast-tracked." While this is good news for infrastructure, it puts pressure on the city to come up with matching funds much faster than planned. "We had our match planned over two or three years. Now we have to figure it out in one. That's a challenge," Barton notes.

Despite these challenges, Barton remains focused on keeping Crawfordsville on a steady course.

"We've invested heavily in infrastructure and are ready to grow," he says. "The timing is awkward. We're on the cusp, and now everything feels uncertain." For now, Barton's strategy is to stay calm, keep the city on track, and adapt as the financial picture becomes clearer.

Mayor Todd Barton provides regular updates via the city podcast. Tune in here. <https://crawfordsvillemayortime.libsyn.com/>

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, multi-issue political organization which encourages informed and active participation in government. For information about the League, visit the website www.lwvmontcoin.org; or, visit the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, Indiana Facebook page.

Back in the Day with Butch Dale



Back in the day, many towns had their own band. Each member purchased their own instrument and uniform, and gave concerts throughout the year. Shown above is the New Richmond Band of 1919.

Wabash Wrestler Named Ashe Scholar of Year

Soon-to-be Wabash College graduate Mawuli Nevis '25 was named the 2025 Arthur Ashe Jr. Wrestling Sports Scholar of the Year by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* magazine.

Nevis, a biology major from Cincinnati, is also a semifinalist for the Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar of the Year, making him the second Wabash student-athlete to earn national distinction from the publication in the last three years. Reis Thomas '23, was a finalist for the Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar of the Year in 2023.

A four-year letterwinner for the Wabash wrestling team, Nevis posted a career record of 70-42, including a 23-14 mark in 2025. He qualified for the NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships in March at 165 pounds. He was named a Scholar All-American by the National Wrestling Coaches Association in each of the last three seasons.

"Despite the demanding time commitments of athletics, I've always made it a priority to give back to those around me. Through organizations like the Global Health

Initiative/Public Health Organization and my fraternity, I've had the opportunity to use my skills to serve both the Wabash campus and the broader community," said Nevis. "Being named a semifinalist for this award is a true honor. As Arthur Ashe once said, 'Success is a journey, not a destination.' This recognition serves as meaningful feedback, a reminder that I'm on the right path toward becoming the kind of citizen I strive to be."

Nevis has held multiple positions of leadership within his fraternity, Kappa Sigma. He is a member of Sons of Wabash, a group that promotes the benefits of philanthropy among students and alumni. He helped raise funds for the American Legion Post 72's memorial park construction, and planted bushes and flowers to aid with completion of the park. An Eagle Scout, he is a member of the community service committee of the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies, which contributes largely to the organization's community outreach.

He has served for three years as a member of the LOCKR Lab research team at



Mawuli Nevis

Wabash College, where he conducts molecular genetics research in a National Science Foundation-funded lab. Nevis is a member of the Wabash Global Health Initiative and served an internship in Summer 2024 at the McGovern Medical School in Houston, Texas.

Since 1992, Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars have demonstrated stellar athletic ability and academic performance (3.5 cumulative GPA or higher) in addition to a commitment to community service and student leadership. The award is inspired by tennis legend Arthur Ashe Jr.'s dedication to education as well as his love for the game of tennis.

Nevis is the 10th Wabash student-athlete to be named an Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar since 2018.

Baird Launches Congressional App Challenge

Congressman Jim Baird (IN-04) announced that the 2025 Congressional App Challenge has officially launched.

"I'm proud to announce that the 2025 Congressional App Challenge is now open," Baird said. "As a Ph.D. scientist and a member of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I know the value of STEM education and computer science. I encourage every middle and high school student in our district to participate, and I hope this encourages more students to engage in STEM fields. I wish all of the students participating the best of luck, and I look forward to seeing the impressive apps our students create this year!"

The deadline for students to register for the Congressional App Challenge and submit their app online is midnight Oct. 30.

Students may use any programming language (C, C++, JavaScript, Python, Ruby, "block code," etc.) and create an app for any platform (PC, web, tablet, robot, mobile, etc.). The winning apps are eligible to be featured in the Capitol Building and be put on House.gov. Students who create winning apps will also be invited to the #HouseofCode Capitol Hill Reception in Washington, D.C., where winners from across the nation will showcase their projects.

Eligibility:

- To be eligible to participate in the Congressional App Challenge, you must be a middle or high school student at the time of app submission.
- Students may register as individuals or as teams of up to four. No more than four students are allowed to form a team.

- Students may compete in the district they reside in or the district they attend school in.
- If competing as a team, at least half of the teammates must be eligible to compete in the district in which they are participating.
- All competing students must be U.S. residents at the time of submission. There is no citizen requirement for students.
- If competing as a team, all members must submit their information on the registration form to participate.

To register and for more information, please visit congressionalappchallenge.us. For questions, please contact Student Support@CongressionalAppChallenge.us.

A group of people, including a man in a blue shirt with "St. Kitts" on it, are seated on a stage, reading from papers. An audience is seated in front of them, watching the event.



The good folks in Russellville hosted an old-fashioned 1946 Radio Mystery program last weekend. Nostalgic Productions presented the Richard Diamond, Private Detective play "The Lonely Hearts Affair," complete with a full cast and sound effects man. The event was dinner theatre style with a variety of soups, sandwiches, desserts and drinks.

Proceeds from the event will help solidify grants to make improvements to the Russellville Community Center. A big shout out to community center director Darrell Wiatt and the many, many volunteers who made this event a memorable event to everyone! Pictured are scenes from the production, as well as the group shot of the Russellville Community Center Staff.

Photos courtesy Ron Keedy.



accommodation, please contact the Crawfordsville Department of Planning & Building Services at the address or phone number above so accommodation can be made.

Braun Reflects on What He Calls ‘Tremendous Progress’

Gov. Mike Braun recently celebrated with his cabinet and legislative leaders what he calls the great strides our state has taken toward his vision of freedom and opportunity for Hoosiers. With the legislative session over, Braun and his team reflected on his first 100 days in office.

"In 100 days, we've made tremendous progress on the Freedom & Opportunity agenda: cutting taxes, giving parents more choice in education, drawing a clear line against extreme wokeness and illegal immigration, putting public safety first, and making state government more efficient, transparent, and accountable to work harder for you," Braun said in a statement.

His office reported that in the first 100 days, "Braun took big steps and bold action to deliver for Hoosiers by providing meaningful property tax relief, making state government more efficient, transparent, and accountable, and Making Indiana Healthy Again."

Here is what his office released:

Restructured state government to work more efficiently and effectively for Hoosiers through creation of cabinet offices, directed all agencies to find savings, and directed his Cabinet to cut 25% of regulations to cut red tape.

Passed a balanced biennial budget that protects Indiana's surplus and reserve funds, continues to support a

AAA credit rating, and includes the Governor's fiscal priorities. Worked with fiscal leaders to navigate a tight April revenue forecast, drive government efficiency, and protect core government functions. Strengthened investment in education and public safety while continuing scheduled income tax cuts for Hoosiers in each of next two years.

Delivered historic property tax relief for Hoosier homeowners, farmers, and small businesses - nearly \$1.5 billion in total savings.

Ensured all Hoosiers have equality of opportunity by eliminating the divisive DEI ideology in state government and replacing it with the level playing field of Merit, Excellence, and Innovation, which all Hoosiers can strive for equally.

Invested in a healthier Indiana by signing executive orders to bring historic health care price transparency so Hoosiers can see simple upfront prices and directing state agencies to tackle the bad incentives that drive up costs like surprise billing and pharmacy benefit managers.

Kicked off Make Indiana Healthy Again, which includes solutions like ending taxpayer subsidies for candy and sugary soda, making it easier for Hoosiers and schools to buy nutritious food directly from Indiana farms, encouraging physical

activity in schools, and starting new studies of diet-related chronic illness and harmful effects of food additives all focused on empowering Hoosiers to live longer, healthier, better lives.

Put parents in the driver's seat of their kids' education by extending universal school choice, providing clear accountability metrics for schools, increasing teacher pay, and making sure curriculum is age appropriate.

Brought a new approach to economic development in Indiana, laser focused on growing wages and job opportunities for Hoosier workers all across Indiana's 92 counties.

Partnered with the General Assembly on major public safety legislation to increase penalties for drug dealers and repeat violent offenders, made clear that Indiana will not tolerate illegal immigration, and took steps to improve conditions for correctional officers.

Put Indiana in position to be the national leader in nuclear energy production, which has already resulted in Indiana being named host of the 2025 NGA Nuclear Summit.

**Thank you
for
reading
The Paper!**

Wabash.

Administrative Assistant

Wabash College seeks candidates for its open position of Administrative Assistant in the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. This is a full-time position with benefits.

Founded in 1995 and supported by Lilly Endowment Inc., the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion is dedicated to improving the teaching of religion and theological studies in higher education. As a part of Wabash College, the Center fulfills its mission by offering educational programs and events, awarding grants for faculty and institutional projects, and developing innovative teaching resources for faculty and administrators.

For more details about the position and how to apply, visit the College's employment website at www.wabash.edu/employment.

Wabash College, 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 among diverse populations around the globe. Wabash is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from persons of all backgrounds.

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