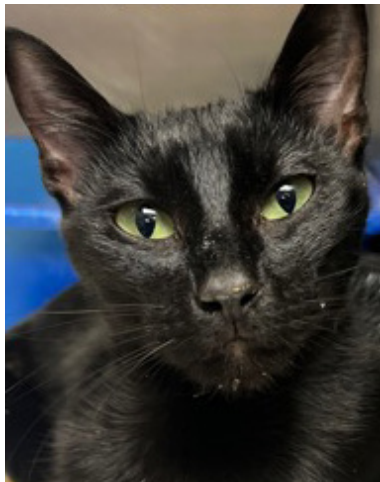


TODAY’S VERSE

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (KJV)

AWL SHASTA



Shasta is a 3 year old female black domestic shorthair cat available for adoption from AWL (The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County) since 11/21/24. Shasta is friendly, playful, and loves to cuddle!! Shasta is ready for her furrever home! AWL is open Monday - Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p.



Went to buy a birthday card the other day for a friend and realized the price of the card is about what I was going to spend on the present!

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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Historic Elston Homestead Next on Tour

Nestled in the heart of Crawfordsville, Wabash College’s historic Elston Homestead is surrounded by a landscape that blends natural beauty with rich local heritage. The meticulously maintained grounds serve as a living testament to the property’s storied past, where each towering tree and carefully placed shrub tells a silent story of generations past. While comprehensive records of the original gardens remain limited, dedicated preservation efforts have ensured that the landscape continues to honor its historical roots. A 1973 tree assessment provides a fascinating glimpse into this ongoing stewardship, noting the care required for majestic specimens like the tulip tree damaged in a storm, the pin oak suffering from a cankered wound, and the hard maple near the formal garden, which required specialized treatment to preserve its health. This thoughtful attention to the landscape has allowed the grounds to thrive, providing shade, beauty, and a connection to Crawfordsville’s natural history.

The Elston Homestead itself has seen many changes since its construction in the 1830s, yet it remains a vibrant hub of hospitality. For nearly 80 years, the home hosted gatherings that brought together the leading figures of both Wabash College and the town. Following the passing of Isaac “Ike”



Nestled in the heart of Crawfordsville is Wabash College’s historic Elston Homestead. The home continues to be a welcoming space where “town and gown” connect. Photos courtesy Flower Lovers Garden Club

Join the party

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

THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. A new study found Indiana is the No. 18 Most Dangerous State for ‘Aging in Place.’ A record 4.2 million Americans are expected to turn 65 this year – and nearly 75 percent want to remain home as they age, increasing the risk of medical complications and social isolation. Seniorly released a study on the Safest and Most Dangerous States for Aging in Place after analyzing data from the CDC, CMS, Census Bureau, and HUD. Ten key factors were analyzed in all 50 states and D.C. including home health aides, ER wait times, weather safety, smart homes, fatal car crashes, and financial security.

2. Despite its reputation as a retirement destination, Florida is the No. 1 most dangerous state for ‘Aging in Place’ and Utah is the No. 1 safest. The 10 safest states were largely in the West and Midwest. The 10 most dangerous states were largely in the Southeast. Which U.S. counties are most in harm’s way this hurricane season? Our friends at LawnStarter ranked 2025’s Most (& Least) Affected Counties by Hurricanes, analyzing 318 FEMA-designated counties across 4 categories and 10 metrics tied to storm history, financial exposure, and disaster recovery capacity. Some findings? A staggering \$5.8 billion in expected annual hurricane damages is concentrated in just 10 counties, nearly one-third of the projected nationwide loss. In addition, 215 of 318 ranked counties (68%) experienced a majority, 50% or more, of their hurricanes as Category 3-5 over the past decade.

3. The Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library, in proud collaboration with the Crispus Attucks Museum, Indiana University Bloomington, Madam CJ Walker Legacy Center and Indiana Landmarks, announces a powerful multi-day commemoration of Juneteenth. From music to journalism, from global revolutions to local heroes, this celebration offers a profound reflection on freedom, resistance, and the enduring strength of the Black experience in America, and specifically, in Indianapolis. It all begins on Thursday, June 19 at Noon. Tickets and more info at: <https://www.vonnegutlibrary.org/events/>.

Montgomery Minute

Looking for your creative outlet? Then consider the Craft Collective, a crafting club for adults. It meets the third Thursday of the month at the Crawfordsville District Public Library at 5:30 p.m. Come on along and create a new project every month. Supplies and instruction will be provided. However, be sure to register in advance. You can go to <https://crawfordsvillelibrary.in.gov/> for more information and to register.

INSIDE, PAGE 5
STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL



QUOTE OF THE DAY

“In the age of noise, clarity is rebellion.”
— George Orwell

JOKE OF THE DAY

Why’d Little Johnny throw a stick of butter out the window?
He wanted to see a butter-fly!

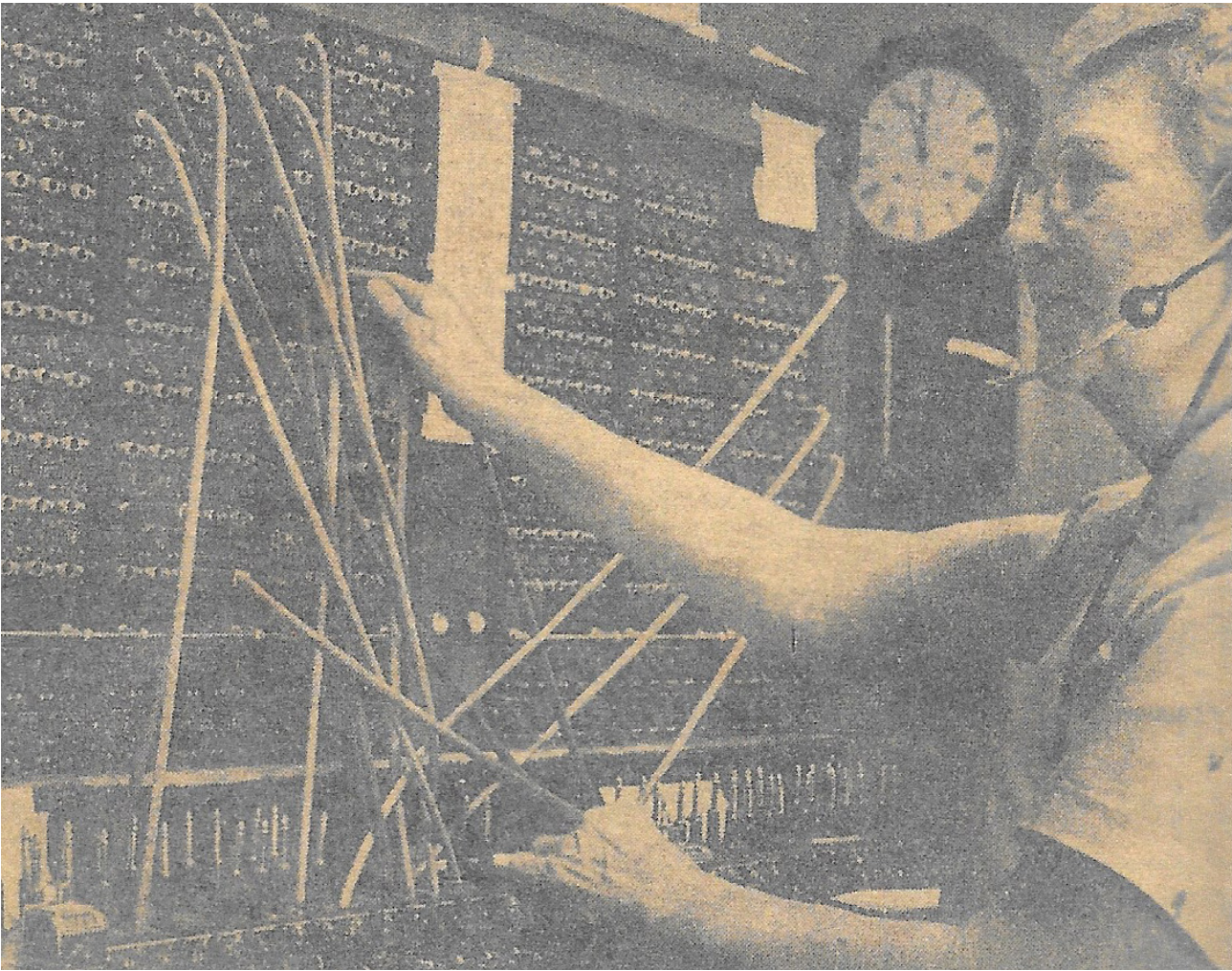
Butch
Recalls Old
Wooden
Benches

Like many small towns in days past, Darlington had several wooden benches located on the sidewalks in front of the businesses on Main Street. Just about any time of day, and late into the evening, there were always local residents sitting on the benches, talking to their friends, discussing the latest news and watching the world go by. Several years ago I wrote a poem entitled “The Old Wooden Bench.”

“On Main Street by the old cafe there rests a common sight--A wooden bench, so wobbly now, and lonesome in the night. They claim the bench is only junk, An eyesore many say; But childhood days and faces dim, Cannot be tossed away.
Ol’ Doozy Dane and Harley Cain, they passed

See Butch Page 3

■ BUTCH’S BACK IN THE DAY



Back in the day, almost every small town in Montgomery County had their own telephone office with an operator manning the office to connect people when they run the line on the oak wall phone. Shown above is Lena Carroll, one of Darlington’s four operators in 1956. Two years later, the residents had modern dial phones and the local operator became a thing of the past.

Get Your Entry Ready for Sound & Silence Art Show

The Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County is currently seeking artwork for the 2025 Community Art Show, Sound & Silence, highlighting places and the people of Montgomery County. Submissions are due by July 19, 2025.

The theme asks the community to present artwork of any variety that captures sound, silence, or both for its annual Community Art Show Sound & Silence.

From the thump, thump, thump of the big bass drum in a parade to the whisper of dragonfly wings to a seemingly quiet sunrise, sound and silence are all around us.

Professional and amateur artists are welcome to submit work for consideration. Children’s art is welcome too! Art will be returned to the artist at the conclusion of the exhibit.

Artists should send images of their art to Janna Bennett at jbennett@carnegiemuseum.in.gov or call (765) 362-4622 to make an appointment to show the work or to make other arrangements to view potential art work. Submission deadline is July 19. A decision will be made by the curatorial team by July 25 on the selection of art to be included.

The exhibit will be on display from Aug. 9 to Oct. 25.

During the months of June and July, the Carnegie Museum will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and other times by appointment. In August, we will return to our normal public hours of Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to the Carnegie Museum is free, and the building is wheelchair and stroller accessible.



Elston Homestead is one of 8 different gardens on the tour and tickets are on sale now for \$12. Courtesy Flower Lovers Garden Club

Elston
Continued from Page 1

Elston in the 1960s, the Homestead was willed to Wabash College, and for decades, it served as the residence of Wabash’s presidents. Today, it continues to be a welcoming space where

“town and gown” connect for celebrations, receptions, and moments of reflection.

Visitors to the Homestead grounds will discover a landscape that is not just a backdrop to history but an integral part of it. The grounds reflect a delicate balance between

preservation and gentle evolution, ensuring that this remarkable property remains as inviting and inspiring as ever. Whether seeking a peaceful retreat or a deeper connection to Wabash College’s legacy, a walk through these environs is a journey through time, where nature and

history intertwine in enduring harmony.

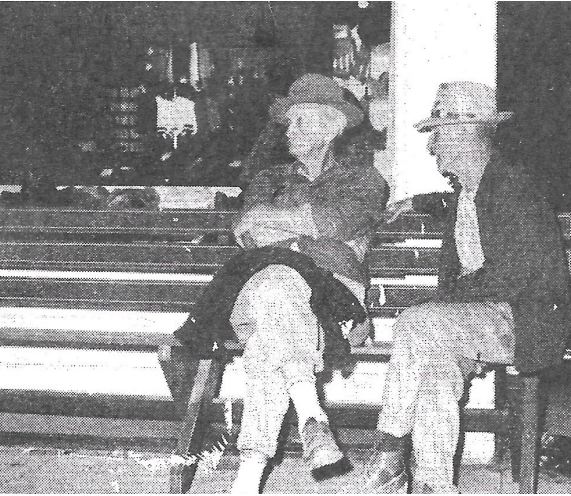
Bonus: Watercolor artist, Ellie Jeffries, will be on hand creating a unique painting. Her art primarily depicts nature, with her paintings characterized by whimsical, magical, and light-hearted themes.

■ 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.

Board of Zoning Appeals
City of Crawfordsville
June 18, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Common Council Chambers
Agenda
I. Call to Order & Roll Call
II. Presentation of Minutes
A. May 21, 2025
III. Old Business
A. (WITHDRAWN) UV 0100 & DSV 0144 Leonardo Espinosa Morales requests a use variance from the schedule of uses

of the City Zoning Ordinance to allow a three unit multi-family dwelling and a development standard variance from the square footage requirements of the City Zoning Ordinance in an R-2, residential zoning district at 700 Tuttle Avenue (Parcel No. 54-10-05-113-032.000-030)
IV. New Business
A. SE 0069 Jamie Selby requests a special exception from the schedule of uses of the City Zoning ordinance for a clinical mental health therapy office in an R-2, residential zoning district at 1003 Shady Lane (Parcel No. 54-10-04-113-050.000-030)
V. Miscellaneous
A. Informational Update by City Administration
B. Next regularly scheduled meeting: July 16, 2025 at 7:00 PM
VI. Adjournment



Butch
Continued from Page 1

their hours by; Harry, Bill, and Alvie too, Spun jokes to make you cry. Rufus Remington sat and chewed, And cussed kids on their bikes; Glenn Pickering jabbed his hickory cane--I’d never see the likes!

Elmer Chambers claimed his seat, While Lulu strained to hear; Hal Royer cranked out facts and scores, From games of yesteryear. Penson and Deac, Roy and Jack, Spent many an afternoon, Talkin’ horses and teasing kids, Before heading to Med’s back room.

Kids would stop and rest a bit, Trade cards and lick their cones; But Ruby’s seat was permanent--To her that bench was home. Though carved and splintered from years gone by, I think that you will find, The lonely bench has spirit still...Ingrained in wood...and time.”

I sat on those benches hundreds of times when I was a youngster. Many times, after visiting the drug store, I sat out front...ice cream in one hand and Topps baseball cards in the other. On the bench by Warren’s Hardware and Slim’s barber-shop, I sat with Alvie Warren, and watched him roll his cigarettes by hand. My Grandpa Dale would often join us, and they would talk about the old days when they were young. I learned a lot of things from the people who sat on the benches through the

years...life in the past, stories about people, town history, and of course...I heard many jokes. Some of those people were lonely, and just enjoyed sitting there and talking for hours at a time.

After the school closed in 1988, the businesses on Main Street began to close one by one. By that time, many of the old-timers who had occupied the benches had passed away. Eventually the town removed the benches from in front of the buildings, all of which now are apartments. But as I sit in the library today and look across the street, I can still see those “bench people” smiling and conversing and watching the world go by... And there I am, too, sipping on a Green River phosphate and munching on a sawdust sundae from Harmon’s drug store.

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.



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League of Women Voters Talks With South Schools

The Indiana state government didn't hand out any favors to local schools this legislative season. It moved Indiana away from generating revenue based on property taxes toward sales tax income. The cuts affect the funding of Montgomery County's three school corporations. Then, in a double whammy, the legislature passed another bill that diverts almost half of the state's general fund for schools toward school vouchers – these are now available to any family regardless of household income.

While Montgomery County has no brick-and-mortar charter schools competing for per-pupil funds, a small portion of students may qualify for funds diverted to charter and private schools. What is the effect of this, really, on local school districts? Over the next few weeks, we'll chat with superintendents about the funding (and other) changes that will affect their staffing, resources and policies.

This week, we feature perspectives from Southmont Superintendent Stephanie Hofer EdD, who is in her first year at the helm of the district. The picture that emerges from our conversation with her is one of cautious stability, careful planning and a steadfast commitment to protecting the classroom.

Hofer began with the basics, explaining that Southmont's funding is a mosaic of federal grants (such as Title I and special education funds), the state's basic grant (tied to student enrollment), property taxes, miscellaneous revenue and proceeds from debt issuance. Of these,



local property taxes have consistently accounted for about 40 percent of the district's total budget—39.93 percent in 2023, 41.52 percent in 2024 and a projected 41.12 percent in 2025. This relative stability masks deeper currents of change, particularly as state-level property tax reforms take effect.

According to the Indiana Legislative Services Agency tables, published by WFYI, Southmont funding decreases will be close to \$370,000, or about 33 percent, in 2026; a little under \$400,000, about 3.4 percent, in 2027; and over \$577,000, or 4.9 percent, in 2028. While Hofer says that the district has been well managed, the average teacher's salary is just under \$52,000. The funding decreases would be equivalent to the salaries of about seven teachers the next year, eight the following year and 11 teachers in 2028. The good news is that with funding streams as they are, and with Southmont's fiscally responsible planning, the impacts will be cushioned. Staffing and student services stand to be protected. It will be building and grounds funds that bear the brunt of the impact.

Indiana's new property tax credit, which caps losses at 10 percent or \$300, and reductions



Helen Hudson was the recipient of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County' annual Making Democracy Work award. Hudson has been a member of the League for 37 years, serving in numerous positions, including president / co-president for six years. **LWW**

in farm ground assessments, will directly impact district revenues. The new deduction, starting at 6 percent and rising to 33.3 percent by 2031, is expected to erode the property tax base further. These changes will make it more challenging across local governments, including school districts. Southmont's challenge will be maintaining the district's buildings and grounds, especially as the Debt Service Fund will also lose property tax revenue. Even if the district holds its tax levy steady, a shrinking assessed valuation will force the debt service rate higher in the coming years.

Hofer is clear-eyed about the practical impacts. With multiple funds and some leeway, the district may need to transfer the maximum allowable 15 percent from the Education Fund to the Operations Fund each month to offset property tax losses.

While the Operations Fund levy will rise by 4 percent in 2026, this will not fully compensate for the anticipated revenue decline. The upshot: long-term upkeep of facilities, transportation and technology will require even more careful management.

For a rural district like Southmont, transportation is a perennial concern. Long bus routes—sometimes up to an hour for students—mean that maintaining a reliable, up-to-date fleet is essential. Hofer emphasizes the importance of not consolidating routes or extending ride times, both for student well-being and educational equity. The district's bus replacement plan is under pressure, but maintaining current service levels remains a priority.

Much of Southmont's budget planning hinges on enrollment. While the district has seen some growth in assessed valuation—14.18 percent in 2023 and 9.17 percent

in 2024—the projected increase for 2025 is a modest 1.23 percent. The tax rate, meanwhile, has held steady at .96 percent since 2022. New housing developments could eventually boost enrollment and, by extension, state funding, but these gains are likely to be incremental rather than transformative in the short term.

Despite these fiscal headwinds, Hofer is adamant that classroom instruction will be shielded from cuts. "Protecting the classroom is always going to be my number one priority," she said.

As noted, Hofer expects staffing levels to remain stable, with reductions considered only as a last resort. The district does not anticipate changes to student nutrition, wrap-around services, library resources, technology access or extracurricular programs like music and athletics. Federal nutrition funding and other support programs remain intact for now, which is important because about 40 percent of students qualify for free or reduced lunch—a reminder of the district's vital social role.

To date, the expansion of Indiana's school voucher program and the presence of virtual charter schools have had only a minor impact on Southmont. While a handful of students have left for virtual options, most eventually return, Hofer noted. The absence of brick-and-mortar charters in the county has helped insulate the district from more significant enrollment losses. Hofer's message to families is clear: Southmont is committed to offering a comprehensive,

supportive educational environment that meets the needs of all students, something that many charter and private schools cannot and do not offer.

Southmont's financial outlook is best described as steady but vigilant. Years of prudent fiscal planning have given the district a cushion to absorb current shocks, but continued vigilance is required. The district's long-range financial plan is a "living, breathing document," subject to regular review as legislative and economic conditions evolve. While some Indiana districts may face more acute challenges, Southmont's approach is to adapt, prioritize the classroom and avoid drastic measures like staff reductions or program cuts.

Hofer and her team are navigating a complex financial environment with transparency and resolve. The community can take comfort in the district's commitment to stability, educational quality and the well-being of every student. As state and local conditions continue to shift, Southmont's watchwords remain adaptability and student-centered stewardship—a model for rural school finance in uncertain times.

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.

INDOT Removing Flashers Throughout West Central Indiana

The Indiana Department of Transportation announces the ongoing removal of amber-red overhead flashers throughout West Central Indiana.

Amber red overhead flashers can cause confusion for motorists. Drivers often perceive the overhead flasher as an implication of an all-way stop. INDOT is aiming to enhance safety by doing this throughout the district, as this misperception can result in right-angle crashes because of failing to yield to traffic on the free flow approaches.

District traffic operations will be installing LED-flashing ground-mounted signs prior to the overhead flasher removal in several rural locations. Traffic will be maintained with temporary stoppages during the work, which is taking place at the following intersections:

In other Subdistricts:

Cloverdale:

- U.S. 40 at County Road 200 W., Hendricks County
- U.S. 231 at State Road 42 in Cloverdale, Putnam

County

Frankfort Subdistrict:

- S.R. 29 at 2nd Street in Michigantown, Clinton County
- S.R. 32 at S.R. 75 in Dover, Boone County
- U.S. 52 at Stockwell Road in Tippecanoe County

Terre Haute:

- S.R. 46 at Canal Street in Riley, Vigo County
- S.R. 159 at C.R. 1350 S., Coalmont, Clay County
- U.S. 40 at C.R. 100 E., Knightsville, Clay County
- U.S. 40 at C.R. 425 W., Clay County
- U.S. 41 at S.R. 246,

Crawfordsville Subdistrict:

- U.S. 136 at S.R. 25 east junction in Waynetown, Montgomery County
- U.S. 136 at S.R. 25 west junction in Waynetown, Montgomery County
- S.R. 63 at C.R. 1650 N., Vermillion County
- S.R. 63 at First Street in Fairview Park, Vermillion County
- S.R. 63 at Market Street near Newport, Vermillion County
- U.S. 36 at Old S.R. 63/C.R. 360 E., Hillsdale, Vermillion County
- U.S. 36 at Washington Street, Montezuma, Parke County
- U.S. 136 at S.R. 341 west junction in Hillsboro, Fountain County

Vigo County

- U.S. 150 at Hollingsworth Place in Shirkieville, Vigo County

West Lafayette:

- S.R. 18 at S.R. 43 north junction in Brookston, White County

- S.R. 43 at Seventh Street in Brookston, White County
- U.S. 52 at S.R. 55 south junction in Atkinson, Benton County

Work is anticipated to be complete by early July but is weather

dependent and subject to change. INDOT encourages drivers to be mindful of potential ongoing traffic impacts at these locations and to use caution while driving around maintenance and construction crews.

Pair of Local Students Earn IU Kokomo Degrees

Indiana University Kokomo congratulates the 275 students who earned degrees in May 2025. The graduates represent 36 Indiana counties, five states, and three countries.

Those who earned degrees from Montgomery County are: Christina Lynn Pritchett of Crawfordsville, Bachelor of Science in Medical Imaging Technology; and Makayla DeLayne Hughes of Linden, Bachelor of Science in Education

The Indiana Office of Energy Development is launching the Indiana Energy Saver Program. The program is aimed at providing Hoosiers with utility bill savings while increasing home comfort and energy savings in Indiana.

Hoosiers can apply now through the program's online portal to begin the eligibility review process. Those eligible will receive a no-cost home energy audit to identify potential improvements. Homeowners, tenants



Rep. Mark Glenda



Freepik.com

and landlords are encouraged to apply. Audits are expected to begin this summer.

Improvements could include air sealing, insulation and equipment

replacements such as space heating and cooling systems and water heaters. The program also includes discounts on eligible products that are installed by quali-

fied contractors. These measures aim to reduce energy consumption and lower costs for Hoosiers.

To learn more about the program and apply, please visit IndianaEnergySaver.com.

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

A Taste of Spring

Another Strawberry Festival has come and gone and we'll join everyone in missing it until the next one. Photographer and historian Andy Chandler was kind enough to share some photos he took. The young lady on stage is Lindsay Lowe. The weather put a damper on everything, but never fear, folks still had a good time and we're already looking forward to 2026. Photos courtesy Andy Chandler



■ EL MICHO APPLIANCES



The Crawfordsville | Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for El Micho Appliances, a family owned and operated appliance business in Crawfordsville. El Micho provides high-quality appliances, expert service and a personal shopping experience. El Micho Appliances offers a range of appliances, including refrigerators, ovens, washers, dryers and dishwashers. It is located at 301 E. College St. and is open M-F 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. The business is closed on Sundays. Visit the Chamber website at crawfordsvillechamber.com or email Stacy Sommer at ssommer@crawfordsvillechamber.com.

■ BUTCH'S FLASHBACK TRIVIA



Answer: Larry Rice

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 Times!

Deery supports housing act

Wherever I travel in the state, I hear the same concerns about the need to grow our housing supply, especially for affordable homes.



Sen. Spencer Deery

Many communities have been working hard on this issue for years, and I am always looking for ways the state can assist. This year, I supported a bill that builds on previous efforts to construct new housing developments.

Face to face

Join Me for Open Office Hours or Speak with Me at a Community Event

Last year, I launched open office hours throughout Senate District 23 to give you the opportunity to meet me and share what's on your mind. This year I will continue that practice, but I also want to do a better job making sure you know in advance which public events I will attend over the summer so you can also catch me there as well. More opportunities will be announced soon, but for now, here are

House Enrolled Act 1005 will:

- Bolster the Residential Housing Infrastructure Assistance Program (RIF), a revolving loan fund that helps local governments work on infrastructure projects that support housing projects;
- Give participants in the RIF program priority if they also support affordable, pro-housing policies; and
- Streamline the permitting process by allowing qualified third-party inspectors to perform plan reviews or inspections.

four June events I'll be attending in four different counties:

- 5 to 6 p.m. on Monday, June 16, at the Vermillion County Fair 4-H Community Building
- 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18, at the Warren County Fair 4-H Community Building
- 12:45 to 2 p.m. on Monday, June 23, at Faith West Community Center Study Lounge. To reserve a time slot, click here.
- 6:30 p.m. on Friday June 27 at the opening night of the Covington Fourth of July Celebration

Indiana National Guard Marks Army's 250th Birthday

Hoosier National Guard soldiers, airmen and civilians gathered at Camp Atterbury, the southern Indiana post near Edinburgh, to celebrate the U.S. Army's 250th birthday.

Since the Army's inception on June 14, 1775, millions of soldiers from all walks of life have served with pride, dedication and distinction.

"On this celebration, we not only look back on the last 250 years, but we are reminded of the responsibility we have to carry forward to remain the most lethal, ready and adaptable force on the planet," said Brig. Gen.

Justin Mann, the Indiana National Guard director of joint staff.

In addition to Mann, who gave the keynote speech, the 38th Infantry Division Band played a birthday song and the Army Song, and Hoosier Guardsmen fired ceremonial cannons. Additionally, Mann joined the oldest soldier and youngest soldier at Camp Atterbury to help cut the birthday cake.

"For two and a half centuries, American soldiers like yourselves, brave men and women of every background, have answered the uncommon

call to serve. You have done so to honor your deep love for country," said Mann in his speech. "To every soldier, past and present, thank you. You are the strength of this organization. You are the legacy we celebrate today and are part of the future."

The commitment to serve continues for all soldiers. Approximately 10,000 soldiers serve in the Indiana National Guard, and they serve to help defend their nation in overseas missions yet also help civil authorities in times of crises.

Currently, approximately 600 Hoosier National Guard soldiers are deployed overseas, and this year, approximately 750 Guard soldiers answered the governor's call to help with winter storm and flood relief missions.

For the soldiers' hard work and dedication, Indiana Gov. Mike Braun, who serves as the commander-in-chief for Hoosier Guardsmen, issued a statewide proclamation honoring not only his Army National Guard soldiers but also soldiers worldwide and the U.S. Army.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ETA Encourages Going Vegan

Dear Editor,
My phone recently lit up with an alert I'd never seen before: "Warning: Dust Storm." I've lived in Northwest Indiana my entire life, and this was a first—a strange, surreal kind of weather I'd only ever heard about in far-off places, not here, not home. Dust storms are doubling across the U.S., driven by the changing climate and industrial agriculture that strips the land bare. Last month, winds hit 60 mph in Illinois, coating highways in dust. These storms don't just erode



soil—they carry pesticide residue into rivers, lungs, and crops, threatening the environment and public health. The best way to address these storms? Go vegan. Animal agriculture plays a massive role in these dust storms.

Growing feed for billions of animals exploited for food demands vast monoculture fields—corn and soy—planted and harvested in ways that leave the soil exposed and lifeless. Trees are cleared, land is destroyed, and climate catastrophe accelerates. That's why going vegan is one of the most effective ways to fight back. Going vegan shrinks demand for these feed crops, slashes greenhouse gas emissions, and saves countless animals from a life of misery. Every vegan meal helps. Please visit PETA.org for simple steps to go vegan today.
Rebecca Libauskas
The PETA Foundation

Crawfordsville District Public Library

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
26 Blood Drive on June 30 from 10a-2p	27	28	29	30	31 SIGN-UP TODAY!
2 Drop-in Resume Help: 5:30-7p	3 Baby Story Time: 9:30a Elementary Time: 4p Color Our World Kick-Off: 3p-6p For All Visitors	4 Toddler Story Time: 10a	5 Preschool Story Time 10a Lego Club: 4p Drop-in Tech Help: 6-8p	6 Activity at the Pavilion: 10a	7 SMASH Day Art at CMMC: 1-3p
9 Yarn Works: 6p Drop-in Resume Help: 5:30-7p	10 Baby Story Time: 9:30a Elementary Time: 4p Genealogy Club: 7p	11 Toddler Story Time: 10a Full Moon	12 Preschool Story Time 10a Dragon Bingo: 4p CDPL Board Meeting: 4p Drop-in Tech Help: 6-8p	13 Activity at the Pavilion: 10a	14 Book Sale 10a-4p How to Train Your Dragon Movie: 2p Park After Dark Night Hike: 9p
16 Drop-in Resume Help: 5:30-7p	17 Baby Story Time: 9:30a Elementary Time: 4p Dungeons & Dragons for Beginners: 5p	18 Toddler Story Time: 10a Wyrd Words Book Club: 6p	19 Preschool Story Time 10a Yarn Works: 10a Craft Collective: 5:30p Drop-in Tech Help: 6-8p JUNE TEENTH	20 Activity at the Pavilion: 10a hello Summer	21 SMASH Day Space at CMMC: 1-3p
23	24 Baby Story Time: 9:30a Elementary Time: 4p Genealogy Basics: 6p	25 Toddler Story Time: 10a Mystery of History Club: 6p	26 Preschool Story Time 10a	27 Activity in the Pavilion: 10a	28 SMASH Day Science at CMMC: 1-3p