

■ TODAY'S VERSE

**Romans 5:3**

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope; And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

■ AWL MAX



Max is ready to BUST OUT of the shelter and into your home! Max is a 1 year old male American Blue Heeler available for adoption from The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 12/29/25. Max loves going out for walks and will gladly sit for treats. Max is looking for his best friend. Could that be you? Max is available for adoption, to foster, or just simply going out for walks. AWL is open Monday - Friday from 2p-5p and Saturday's from 12-3p. Come say hi!

■ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Whether the Red Cross or Versiti, officials are explaining that blood supplies are critical. Did you know that collecting blood has become increasingly challenging. According to our friends at Versiti, only about 3 percent of the population donates blood, yet nearly 70 percent of people will need blood in their lifetime. Every successful blood drive matters more than ever, and your efforts truly make a difference for patients and families in our community. Versiti is currently booking the 2026 schedule and are in urgent need of additional blood drives during the winter months, when donations are traditionally lowest. If you are interested in having a blood drive, please reach out Jennie Bean at [jbean@versiti.org](mailto:jbean@versiti.org)



Only 58 days to spring. Yes, I know I'm not supposed to wish my life away. But I also know I haven't had feeling in my toes since that warm spell

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Everybody can be great because everybody can serve."

*Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

How does a carpenter in the great white north fix things?  
*He igloos it together!*

# The Paper

## OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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### Butch Didn't Need Bullets!!!

In August of 1977, I made a decision to change careers. After having been a teacher and coach for several years, I decided that the job of police officer might be a good occupation. The Sheriff's department had posted an opening for deputy sheriff in the newspaper, so I called to find out what the deadline was for applications. The Sheriff at that time was Glen Sillery, and his wife Norma, who served as the jail matron, answered the phone. It was the last day to apply, so I drove to the jail on Covington Street and filled out a 2-page application. Interviews for all applicants were to be held the next evening.

When I arrived, there were approximately 12-15 men in the lobby waiting to be interviewed. A few had been reserve police



**Butch Dale**  
Columnist

officers. I had no law enforcement experience. I sat there, wondering why I had even applied, and then it was my turn to be interviewed by Sheriff Sillery, Chief Deputy Charlie Stewart, and the Merit Board members.

The interview lasted all of five minutes. I drove home and told my wife that I had very little chance of being hired. Around 10 o'clock the phone rang. It was Sheriff Sillery, "John, congrat-

ulations...you have been hired." I was somewhat speechless, "That's great! What made the Merit Board decide to hire me?" "Well, you seem to have a good head on your shoulders, have a great background, and you have a Master's degree ... and we would like to have some college educated officers on the department." "OK ... well thank you ... When do I start?" "Be here at the

See Butch Page 3

### Indiana House Once Again Wants to Spend More While Sharing Less

It's back. I had high hopes after more than a hundred newspaper people and supporters showed up at the Indiana Statehouse last year that perhaps we might've gotten some of our good Legislators to see the light. But nooooooo. The hired hands in Indianapolis are back with a vengeance, hell-bent on taking public notices out of Indiana newspapers and hiding them, uh, sorry, posting them on a massive government website that will be about as easy to navigate as the Pythagorean theorem.

Here are the big points raised in committee meetings at the Statehouse while they rushed through HB 1283.

- Cost
  - Modernization
  - Government website
- Let's address those, shall we. The hired hands are big about telling you how much money they spent



**Two Cents**  
from Tim Timmons

on a specific public notice, or even an annual cost. Those numbers are in the thousands of dollars. That's not wrong. What they DON'T tell you is what percent of the overall budget that is. In every single case I did the math on, the cost of public notices amounts to less than one percent of that entity's budget.

Here's the other thing they never mention while they pontificate grandly on "saving taxpayers money" ... anything to do with

themselves. Want to talk waste? Let's look at their pension program. It is far superior to anything the private sector has. Let's look at how much exemptions cost. By that I mean programs that apply to all the rest of us out here in taxpayer land ... but do not apply to the overlords on Capitol Avenue.

One more note on costs, but let's hold that off until we get to the big, beautiful

See Two Cents Page 4

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

**1.** Hoodox, Indiana Humanities, Heartland Film, and Free Press Indiana announced a new film program to support Indiana filmmakers in producing short, uplifting stories of Hoosiers working to connect, strengthen and celebrate their communities. LIFT will offer \$5,000 grants to five filmmakers to create high-quality short films that feature stories of Hoosiers who have a vision for how to strengthen their communities. If selected, filmmakers or filmmaking teams have two months (April 15-June 15) to complete their films. In addition to financial support, LIFT partner organizations will provide mentorship opportunities throughout the process. The final films will premiere at Heartland Film's Indy Shorts Film Festival in July 2026. Applications are due on March 15 at 11:59 p.m. EST. Visit the LIFT website at [LIFTIndiana.com](http://LIFTIndiana.com) for in-depth guidelines, application instructions, and more. For more information, email [rocky@watchhoodox.com](mailto:rocky@watchhoodox.com).

**2.** The Indiana Department of Natural Resources Fish of the Year program recognizes anglers who have caught the longest fish of each species DNR tracks in that year. For 2025, Steven Kellett, a Linton dentist, set a new FOTY record with 17 FOTY winning catches, eclipsing the mark of 15 FOTY winning catches set by Liu He of West Lafayette in 2022. The Kellett name also appears five more times on the 2025 FOTY list, as Landon, Steven's 9-year-old son, caught five winning fish. To learn more about DNR's FOTY and Record Fish programs, see [on.IN.gov/recordfish](http://on.IN.gov/recordfish).

**3.** Speaking of fish, Floyd County resident Justin Brown caught a record-setting longnose gar on the Ohio River a few weeks ago. The fish weighed 23 pounds, 12.2 ounces, beating the previous record from 2008 by almost a pound and a half. The previous record fish was caught from the White River. Brown caught his gar from a boat using a jigging spoon. All three of Indiana's gar records have now been broken in the past three years – the shortnose gar record was set in 2025, and the spotted gar record was set in 2024.

### When Child Care Is Cut, Everyone Pays

League of Women Voters Column



Over 200 child care centers have closed since CCDF cuts in mid-2025, according to the Association for the Education of Young Children. Three of those in Crawfordsville alone. One of Purdue's three centers announced closure on Jan. 16. The closures are putting center employees out of work. Families are left scrambling not only for a new provider, but a workable way to meet their bills. Among those filling the gap are licensed home childcare providers, now working longer hours and less pay.

The crisis is deepening. And in his 2026 state of the state address, Gov. Mike Braun spent just three sentences noting childcare should be more affordable and available. You know, to grow the economy and help Hoosiers "get better jobs." He promised to dig in during the budget session to see "what we can do to invest in lowering child care costs. I would like to see a program where businesses have some skin in the game to make child care more affordable"

During the budget session? The next budget session is a year off, in 2027. To survive the void, parents are losing or changing jobs, heightening concerns about overall economic health. New families are stuck on years-long waitlists for vouchers, either not working or trying to find alternatives, and when a current family loses their voucher, they're shut out of the program for at least two years, says Marcia Chandler, a licensed Parke County provider with decades of experience.

Surviving centers and home providers like Chandler's are the providers being penalized for the state's misplaced priorities. (Note: Gov. Braun has now told the Indianapolis Business Journal and announced to the state that he would like to incentivize the Chicago Bears to northern Indiana. That will cost tax dollars. Hoosiers footed 86.5 percent of Lucas Oil Stadium's \$720 million price tag to the tune of \$622.8 million.)

"Parents can't accept jobs until they have child care sorted out," Chandler explains. "They piece together care from various individuals, which is not what is best for developing children. Parents lose jobs due to lack of child care. Employers lose good employees. Ripple effect."

Chandler says some families try to absorb increased out-of-pocket costs after CCDF reimbursement levels were reduced, which means they have to cut expenses elsewhere. She describes a familiar pattern when care is delayed or unaffordable: parents

See League Page 3

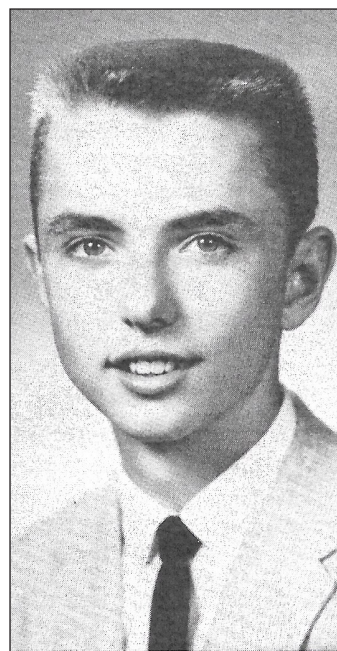
# The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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## RECOGNIZE ME?

Flashback Trivia with Butch Dale



**Do You Recognize This 1959 New Ross H.S. Graduate?**

**HINT:**  
He was one of the most popular students!

Answer on Page 4

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

### Roman Xavier Wayne Powell

Paris Powell of Crawfordsville gave birth to Roman Xavier Wayne Powell on Jan. 16 at Witham Health Services.

Roman Xavier Wayne came into the world at 8 pounds, three ounces. He will be welcomed home

by 4-year-old brother Nova Powell.

Maternal grandparents are Kendra Powell and Juifria Maynard of Crawfordsville.

Belinda Boysel and Steve Boysel from Springfield, Ohio are the maternal great-grandparents.

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## OBITUARIES

### Beverly "Bev" A. Mershon

April 4, 1953 - January 18, 2026

Beverly "Bev" A. (Dineson) Mershon, age 72 of Crawfordsville, passed away on Sunday, January 18, 2026 at home while surrounded by her loving family. She was born in Milford, Connecticut on April 4, 1953 to the late Hans and Edna (Sherman) Dineson.

Bev graduated from Milford High School in Connecticut in 1971 and attended college in Boston, Massachusetts and Dubuque, Iowa. She opened Munchkinland Daycare in her home, where she nurtured and educated countless children, treating each one as if they were family. Bev also shared her vibrant spirit in various roles, including positions at Sugar Creek Animal Hospital and Neighborhood Drycleaners, and as a bookkeeper for several local businesses.

Bev's passions extended far beyond her work. She had an undeniable love for the outdoors and animals, especially her cherished dogs. Wheth-

er she was landscaping her yard, driving her tractor in the woods, or spending time splitting firewood, she found joy in the simple pleasures of life. Bev was also an enthusiastic seamstress, known for her skill and creativity. She will be remembered for her creative and witty sense of humor and she was well known for her crafty practical jokes.

On September 2, 1995, she married her beloved husband of 30 years, William "Chumley" Mershon, who survives. She also leaves behind two children, Geoffrey Godbout and Kristy Godbout, three step-children, Matthew Mershon, Meaghan Mershon and Michael Mershon; a granddaughter, Calla Godbout, and several step grandchildren; her three siblings, Cindy, Fred and Cliff; and her beloved dogs, Bonnie, Darby, Snoodle, and her four-legged shadows, Toby and Bitsy. She will be profoundly missed by



her family, friends, and pets.

Cremation was chosen with a private family celebration at a later date. Memorial donations may be given in her memory to the Montgomery County Animal Welfare League, 1104 Big 4 Arch Road, Crawfordsville, IN 47933. Sanders Funeral Care entrusted with care. Family request that you share funny stories and memories online at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### SEA 1: Why Homeowners Deserve Property Tax Relief

Dear Editor,  
Senate Enrolled Act 1 (SEA 1) of the 2025 session was the most significant overhaul of Indiana's property taxes and local government finance system in a generation. Although the law presents challenges for local units of government, it also advances important goals: greater transparency, increased accountability, and a more equitable tax structure.

Prior to SEA 1, Indiana's income tax laws often provided revenue to local units without requiring those units to take a public vote on the tax. Local governments were also unintentionally rewarded for maintaining property-tax-funded debt and increasing levies, since doing so generated higher property tax collections and a larger share of income tax distributions. SEA 1 addresses these longstanding issues by capping and constraining debt issuance and requiring more units to hold public meetings before establishing or increasing local income tax rates.

Even before SEA 1, counties demonstrated a long history of prudent fiscal management. County governments uniquely provide essential services not only to residents but also to every other local unit of government. County officials serve as both collec-

tors and distributors of local taxes. This responsibility gives counties a detailed understanding of their communities' financial pressures and a clear picture of how policy changes affect taxpayers and the units relying on county-distributed revenues.

Understanding Property Tax Levies and Debt Service Levies

Property tax levies are the total amount local units of government may collect through property taxes to fund its annual operations and public services.

Debt service levies are taxes imposed to repay money borrowed for capital projects or other obligations. These levies are calculated annually to ensure a unit meets its legally required debt payments.

From 2019 to 2025, county property tax levies experienced the smallest year-to-year growth among major unit types, except for libraries. Debt service levies followed a similar pattern: county debt service growth remained consistently below the statewide average for other local unit types.

Why Homeowners Needed Immediate Relief

A major focus of SEA 1 is providing property tax relief to

homeowners, and the need for that relief was clear. In 2012, homeowners paid 42% of all property taxes collected statewide. By 2025, their share had grown to 51%. From 2012 to 2018, residential assessed values increased by less than 4% per year. But beginning in 2019, annual increases exceeded 8%, fueled largely by rapid growth in home market values that far outpaced other property types. As market values surged, the property tax burden shifted disproportionately onto homeowners.

To rebalance the system, SEA 1 phases in an increase to the homeowners' deduction, ultimately allowing homeowners to deduct 67% of their home's market value by 2031. At that point, homeowners will pay taxes on only 33% of their home's assessed value. This phased-in change will gradually shift some of the tax burden back to other property classes, restoring balance to the system.

Moving Forward

As with any generational policy change, aspects of SEA 1 will require continued review and refinement. But its guiding goals to enhance transparency, provide stronger accountability, and more equitable tax structure



David Bottorff

should remain central to the system going forward. We want to ensure that counties have the funds to provide constitutional and statutory services like the courts, prosecutors, public defenders, jails, elections and maintaining public property records.

The next step in property tax reform is ensuring that when one unit provides tax relief, other units cannot absorb that capacity for their own spending. Under current law, if a unit reduces its levy to provide relief, other units can "claim" that unused tax capacity, undermining the intended benefit to taxpayers. For property owners to truly experience relief, Indiana must ensure that reductions offered by one unit are not offset by increases elsewhere.

Data Source: Indiana Gateway

David Bottorff  
Executive Director  
Association of Indiana Counties

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**BUTCH***Continued from Page 1*

jail at 7 a.m. tomorrow morning.”

When I arrived that next morning, the Sheriff was in his office and came out to shake my hand. Charlie Stewart was standing at the reception counter drinking coffee. “Go down that hallway. There are some uniforms around the corner. Find a couple of shirts and pants that fit, and then come back up here.” Around that corner was a large pile of uniforms, wrinkled and in disarray, heaped up on the floor. After a few minutes of trying them on, I found some that, although not my size, I could wear that were halfway decent.

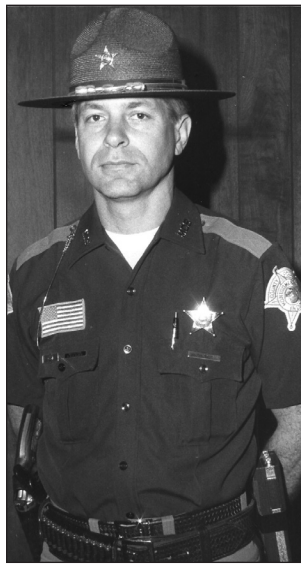
At that time, there were only four other road deputies on the department...Jim Brown, John Dixon, Bill Merchant, and Brian Keim, although the Sheriff and Chief Deputy also frequently handled cases and accidents too. That morning, Brian was in the jail office looking over the inmate list, when the Crawfordsville dispatcher called and stated that two juveniles had just set a barn on fire down near New Market. The Sheriff told me to go with Brian to assist him, but I told him that I had not been issued a gun. Charlie opened a drawer on the counter and pulled out a rusty looking Colt snub nose .38 revolver and handed it to me.

I looked it over and asked Charlie, “What about a holster?” “Well, we don’t

have time to find you one, so just stick it in your pocket.” I opened up the cylinder, “But there are no cartridges in it,” I pointed out. “Oh well, no one will know it’s not loaded,” Charlie stated matter of factly.

I jumped in Brian’s patrol car, and off he went south down Washington Street, lights and siren, traveling about 65 miles per hour, around vehicles and through red lights. That’s when I thought to myself...“What in God’s name I am doing? I have a wrinkled uniform, a rusty gun with no bullets, and may die in an accident on the way to my first call.” It was a hot day, and we searched for the juveniles for over two hours, through woods and cornfields, but no luck. The New Market town marshal Orville Clifton stayed in his car, parked under a shade tree, the entire time. I arrived back at the jail, sweat soaked, and tried to pick the burrs from my uniform. A half hour later the town marshal brought both juveniles to the jail. “I just waited until they came out of the cornfield and arrested both of ‘em . . . pretty simple!”

Well, that was my first day as a police officer. After riding with other officers the next three days, I was given my own patrol car and sent out on my own on the night shift. I was the only one on duty after 11 P.M. for the entire county. That first night I arrested a man over near

**John Butch Dale**

Waynetown who had stolen a car in Illinois and booked him into jail for felony theft. It’s called “learning as you go.” My annual pay was \$7,800, and I worked 45 hours a week minimum with no overtime pay. Later on I attended the police academy and through the years dealt with hundreds of accidents, crimes, and difficult situations. And yes, the Sheriff had issued me a stainless steel Smith & Wesson .357 magnum revolver . . . with bullets, too! In 1994, I was elected Sheriff, and believe it or not, there were times I did not carry a gun. I always believed God would protect me from harm. I must have watched too many episodes of The Andy Griffith Show!

*John “Butch” Dale is a retired teacher and County Sheriff. He has also been the librarian at Darlington the past 37 years, and is a well-known artist and author of local history.*

**League***Continued from Page 1*

postpone starting jobs until child care is arranged, patch together informal arrangements with multiple caregivers, and sometimes lose jobs when those arrangements fall apart.

Chandler, who prefers to be described as a licensed child care provider who opens her home to children and families, stresses that providers like her are rarely in the field “to make money.” At the same time, she argues that the broader economy depends on a stable child care system, and that providers and low-income families cannot sustain it alone. Still she’s doing what she can.

Chandler herself has absorbed the losses in order to keep all of her existing families enrolled. Her Class I child care home serves children from six weeks to 13 years old with capacity for 15 children when she has an assistant. The children currently in her care have been with her from one to five years, reflecting a high level of continuity and long-term relationships with families.

“Stability and consistency are what the children and families need,” she says. “So that is what I will provide for as long as I can. The children who are already enrolled come, and we’ll figure out the dollars together later.”

Chandler reports that enrollment at her home remains steady at the moment because her current families still qualify for Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) vouchers under the current rules. Families are recertified for CCDF on a staggered, annual schedule, she explains. That means the full impact of tightened eligibility will not be felt until more of them reach their renewal dates. The damage will accumulate because state policy changes have lowered the income threshold for eligibility to 135 percent of the federal poverty level, thereby excluding more working families over time.

Chandler has no open slots, so when inquiring families call, the conversation turns to helping them locate other quality care and explaining available assistance programs.

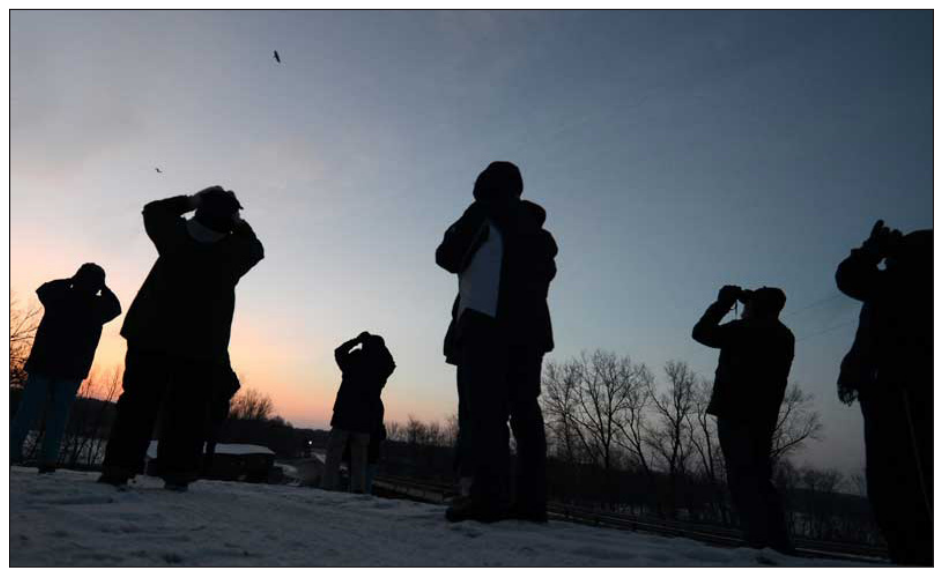
Chandler has long used a sliding fee scale, based on market rates and federal poverty guidelines, which gives her some flexibility in what she charges families. She currently cares for 12 children using vouchers, a share she says is consistent with prior years. She has not participated in the On My Way Pre-K preschool voucher program even though she qualifies. Notably, On My Way Pre-K is undergoing significant cuts, including a reduction in funded preschool seats and lower reimbursement rates for providers.

The recent changes in funding have hit school-aged care particularly hard. Chandler now has eight school-aged children in her group, and she says that this is the age group that has seen the steepest decrease in support for before- and after-school services and care during school breaks. Other providers have responded by limiting or discontinuing school-age slots because the financial model no longer works for them.

Asked what would most help her stay licensed, maintain quality, and keep serving low-income families, Chandler points to direct financial support for families whose CCDF benefits have been reduced. Asked what solutions might mitigate the funding cuts, she suggests that scholarships or local grants could help bridge gaps created by state and federal funding decisions. State and independent analyses similarly warn that without additional investment, fewer children will be served.

Meanwhile, Gov. Braun seems poised to charge toward another NFL team, making it seem he doesn’t quite grasp how critical child care is to all of Indiana’s counties, including its rural ones

*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.*

**Turkey Run State Park’s Eagles in Flight**

Turkey Run State Park is hosting its annual Eagles in Flight Weekend begins Friday.

Learn about eagles and other raptors all weekend through a number of activities including live birds of prey programs, multiple eagle roost and nest viewing hikes, presentations by the International Crane Foundation and Indiana Audubon Society, owl prowling night hikes, bird banding, crafts and games, and a Fri-

day night kickoff with music.

A fundraiser auction will be held by the Friends of Turkey Run and Shades state parks during the weekend. All of the proceeds will go toward both parks.

Advance registration is required. Cost for the weekend is \$35 for ages 16 and older and \$25 for ages 6-15. Admission to Saturday-only events is \$25 for ages 16 and older and \$15 for ages 6-15. For more information

and to register visit [ow.ly/sFh150XQK6X](http://ow.ly/sFh150XQK6X).

Overnight lodging is available at the Turkey Run Inn. Make lodging reservations by calling 1-877-563-4371 or at [IndianaInns.com](http://IndianaInns.com) and reference group code EAGLE.

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*Turkey Run State Park (on.IN.gov/turkeyrun) is at 8121 East Park Road Marshall, 47859.*

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## TWO CENTS

Continued from Page 1

government website.

Modernization? Wow! So happy they brought this up. They like to point out that no one reads newspapers anymore. What? Do they think we're sitting in a back press room, covered in paper dust and ink smudges? We "modernized" years ago and today the vast majority of our readers are digital. Most of you are reading these words on a screen. A phone, a tablet, a laptop, a desktop . . . very few of you are holding a paper in your hands.

Modernization? Maybe they should get with today's world and find out how this really works!

And lastly, and my favorite – a government website. See, on the surface, it makes sense. One website could be created where all the public notice bills could go and bang, boom . . . problem solved. So the hired hands are ever-so-kindly offering to do exactly that for us poor peons out here . . . because, you know, they like to take care of us.

And hey, for the low, low price of about half a million bucks – they'll do it!

Sigh.

Here's what they don't tell you.

That site already exists. It's courtesy of the Hoosier State Press Association, a wonderful organization led by Executive Director Pam Lego. HSPA made this site a reality, last week . . . oh no, wait. Maybe it was last month . . . wait, hang on . . . THAT SITE HAS BEEN IN PLACE FOR A FEW YEARS!!!

And it doesn't cost anywhere close to half a million bucks a year to operate.

Here's a question. Name

something the government does better than private business.

Go ahead.

I'll wait.

Yup, that's what I thought.

Here's another thing they are not telling you. This website would be

manned by two or three government employees. They would be charged with

ensuring all the legals from every corner of the great state of Indiana are posted. Newspapers currently have dozens of employees doing that work – and yet our state thinks a couple state employees are going to get all the same work done?

And for you city, county and school officials, how do you think it'll work on your end? Right now you send your notices to your friendly Indiana newspaper. They take it and make it work. Think the state will do that? What are the chances that the state will tell you exactly what format it has

to be in? Probably not very big, right? Following state guidelines is always a seamless, easy, nothing-to-it process . . . right? I mean, c'mon . . . the state doesn't tell you how to do your job now, right?

If this passes, there is no way in Hades that a small amount of state employees can do the work that dozens of private sector people do now. Altogether, there are probably 50 to 60 Indiana newspaper employees tasked to work on legals. That's their full-time job. That's a couple thousand of man hours A WEEK! Think two or three state employees are going to be able to get all that work done in their 80 to 120 hours? (And hey, let's not even mention pay. Good, bad or indifferent – newspapers are not exactly known to be payers of high wages. What do you think a state employee makes

per hour – not to mention the costs of the benefits! Those newspaper jobs will be eliminated, Hoosiers will be out of work and the answer the state has won't work. You can count on a year or so later they'll grow the agency and the budget will explode. Half a million today turns

into a million or twelve tomorrow. That's the way it always works.)

None of this even touches on the fact that the government site would be – not the equivalent of – the exact scenario of the fox guarding the hen house. See, right now our government is required to put in writing their intentions to raise your taxes, vote themselves raises, etc. What do you think the chances might be that one of those notices falls through the cracks if the government is the only one responsible for telling you about it?

Just saying.

Besides, I think we all know the answer to that.

Folks, it has been said in this space many times . . . newspapers ain't what they used to be. The entire media landscape is changing. I'm not trying to tell you it's not. But the last thing we need right now is another body shot, another negative impact – especially when it boils down to something completely unnecessary.

I hope you will reach out to your elected officials – mainly your state senators. This is a fight taking place now, today. We need your help. They need your help. It's about so many things, transparency in government, local newspapers, local jobs, tax money and good stewardship of such. Help them remember that please.

*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](mailto:ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com).*

## New Market Elementary Honor Roll and Character Counts Awards

### 2nd Quarter 2025 Character Counts

Preschool: Parker McCullough, Kael Risner, Lilah Hargis, Kamden Williams, Bexleigh Williams, Walt Cohee

**Kindergarten:** Darby Carr, Oliver Jenkins, Everett Peterson, Sienna Shaw, Ethan Hopkins, Fletcher Hartman, Griffin Cummins, Millie Kaur, Jack Blanton

**1st Grade:** Izzy Buchanan, Landyn Bryan, Demi Morrison, Carson Barnhart, Olivia Bonilla, Kellan Pullen, Joseph McCullough, Liam Hargis, Monroe Cohee, Lincoln Page, Theo Hens, Allison Boyd

**2nd Grade:** Delilha Posser, Azzy Robinson, Zeke Lesko, Savannah Johnson, Makenzie Youngs, Kaiden Williams, Paisley Williams, Hendrix Rush

3rd Grade: Kenzie Brown, Holly Hedge, Emma Kelsey, Lydia Stull, Maddux Perez, Scarlett Sexton, Jep Carrell, Owen Buck, Kordelia Maddock

**4th Grade:** Brecken Thomas, Ainsley Kight, Hadley Cornelius, Kason Hall, Cole Boyd, Logan Carr, Aunysa Pyle, Braden Ford, Ellie Emberton

**5th Grade:** Elle Collins, Peyton Doss, Syllis Barnett, Calvin McCandless, Kaison Steiner, Kynlee Cleary, Briley Malone, Tyberius Anglin, Audri Cohee

### 3rd Grade High Honor Roll

**(Quarter 2):** Amelia Allen, Kane Barsotti, Owen Buck, Hayden Davis, Calli Dittmer, Patrick Heimbach, Everett Kaur, Hudson Landaverde, Kordelia Maddock, Asher Newlin, Liam Page, McCartney Pullen, Cole Ramsey, Averi Schick, Emerie Stoner, Sterling Trent

**Semester 1:** Amelia Allen, Kane Barsotti, Mason Brown, Owen Buck, Jep Carrell, Calli Dittmer, Theodore Hartman, Patrick Heimbach, Weston Hoskins, Oliver Jones, Everett Kaur, Gemma King, Hudson Landaverde, Kordelia Maddock, Tinsley McCloud, Emerson Miles, Asher Newlin, Briar

Osborn, Liam Page, Teagan Priebe, McCartney Pullen, Cole Ramsey, Averi Schick, Emerie Stoner

### Regular Honor Roll

**(Quarter 2)** Jovie Bray, Jep Carrell, Joslynn Clark, Orion Collins, Kendrix Cope, Westyn Cornelius, Jaxon Cummins, Thaylen Gentry, Everly Gregerson, Weston Hoskins, Kassidi Johnson, Gemma King, Tinsley McCloud, Emerson Miles, Jackson Olinger, Briar Osborn, Maddux Perez, Michalia Peterson, Alex Reed, Elliana Richardson, Willow Schaaf, Scarlet Sexton, Audrey Stringfield, Lydia Stull, Everlee Surber

**Semester 1:** Mason Brant, Jovie Bray, Lydia Bridge, Mackenzie Brown, Orion Collins, Westyn Cornelius, Hayden Davis, Thaylen Gentry, Everly Gregerson, Holly Hedge, Javan Hoenshell, Kassidi Johnson, Emma Kelsey, Jeremiaha Lyon, Paisely Newkirk, Jackson Olinger, Maddux Perez, Michalia Peterson, Silas Porter, Coralynn Pritchett, Alex Reed, Elliana Richardson, Willow Schaaf, Scarlet Sexton, Nashlyn Starcher, Audrey Stringfield, Lydia Stull, Everlee Surber, Sterling Trent

### 4th Grade

**High Honor Roll (Quarter 2):** Cole Boyd, Elizabeth Emberton, Braden Ford, Noah Fruits, Elijah Hester, Hudson Hockersmith, Paige Simpson, Isaac Steiner, Brecken Thomas

**Semester 1:** Cole Boyd, Elizabeth Emberton, Braden Ford, Noah Fruits, Elijah Hester, Hudson Hockersmith, Paige Simpson, Isaac Steiner, Brecken Thomas

**Regular Honor Roll:** Maddison Bacchus, Alexander Badertscher, Delaney Carr, Enzo Carr, Logan Carr, Hadley Cornelius, Benson Jones, Ainsley Kight, Jason McNair, Harrison Melton, Michael Mobley, Aunysa Pyle, Maverick Roach, Kaydan Sims, Eliana Starcevic, LauraBelle Surber

**Semester 1:** Maddison Bacchus, Alexander Badertscher,

Enzo Carr, Hadley Cornelius, Benjamin Grimes, Benson Jones, Ainsley Kight, Jason McNair, Harrison Melton, Michael Mobley, Aunysa Pyle, Maverick Roach, Kaydan Sims, LauraBelle Surber, Raelynn White, James Wurtsbaugh, Jason Yeary

### 5th Grade

**High Honor Roll (Quarter 2):** Tyberius Anglin, Syllis Barnett, Isla Beach, Alden Bray, Vera Carrell, Ace Charles, Sawyer Cohee, Sutton Cohee, Oliver Cook, Peyton Doss, Lucille Fishero, Nicholas Heimbach, Lux Highland, Beckett Jones, Briley Malone, Eva Rice, Tristan Stafford, Kaison Steiner

**Semester 1:** Tyberius Anglin, Isla Beach, Alden Bray, Vera Carrell, Ace Charles, Sawyer Cohee, Sutton Cohee, Oliver Cook, Peyton Doss, Lucille Fishero, Nicholas Heimbach, Lux Highland, Beckett Jones, Briley Malone, Tristan Stafford, Kaison Steiner

### Regular Honor Roll

**(Quarter 2):** Roran Alesi, Penelope Bridge, Elijah Brown, Audri Cohee, Elle Collins, Lucas Edwards, Jackson Gray, Liam Howard, Henry Jones, Kyhia Larrance, Calvin McCandless, Hudson McCandless, Hunter McGaughey, Malloory Morpew-High, Samuel Newlin, Mackenzie Peterson, Charlotte Stull, Zane Turner, Gage Van Dorn, Derrick Ward, Colton Watson, Macy White

**Semester 1:** Roran Alesi, Levi Badillo, Syllis Barnett, Elijah Brown, Audri Cohee, Elle Collins, Cale Cunningham, Lucas Edwards, Jackson Gray, Madeline Hawkins, Reyna Hernandez, Liam Howard, Henry Jones, Wyatt Kingery, Kyhia Larrance, Calvin McCandless, Hudson McCandless, Hunter McGaughey, Malloory Morpew-High, Samuel Newlin, Mackenzie Peterson, Levi Rhodes, Eva Rice, Nolan Rothrock, Charlotte Stull, Henley Surface, Gabriel Turner, Zane Turner, Gage Van Dorn, Derrick Ward, Colton Watson, Macy White

## Emerging Ag Leaders One-Day Conference Deadline Approaching

### Tricia Herr

Extension Educator | Agriculture & Natural Resources



Purdue EDGE in Ag is proud to present the Emerging Ag Leaders Conference on Feb. 18 at the Monroe Convention Center in Bloomington. Designed for high school students (grades 8–12) and college attendees exploring careers in agriculture, this event offers a dynamic blend of professional networking, career exploration, and leadership development.

The one-day conference will run from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Participation is limited to individuals in grades 8–12 and college, with registration priced at \$35 per person, including lunch. Attendees are encouraged to register by Jan. 31, and to dress in FFA official dress or business professional attire.

"We're thrilled to create an environment where young agricultural enthusiasts can connect with industry professionals and discover the wide array of career paths available," said Michele Jones, Purdue Extension Educator. "Our goal is to bridge the gap between student interest and real-world opportunity in agriculture."

Participants can expect engaging sessions led by accomplished

professionals, opportunities to network with peers and mentors, and hands-on learning activities. Specific session details will be announced in the coming months.

The Emerging Ag Leaders Conference is an excellent lead-in to the Ag Engage Conference happening Feb. 19. Attendees are encouraged, but not required, to participate in both events.

### Registration Details:

**What: Emerging Ag Leaders Conference**

**Who: Grades 8–12 & college students interested in agriculture careers**

**When: Feb. 18 | 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**Where: Monroe Convention Center, Bloomington**

**Cost: \$35 (includes lunch)**

**Dress: FFA Official Dress or Business Professional**

**Register by: Jan. 31**

**For registration and more information, visit <https://ag.purdue.edu/extension/wia/emerging-ag-leaders.html>**

PUBLIC NOTICES

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No. 54C01-2301-MF-000022, wherein The Bank of New York Mellon f/k/a The Bank of New York as successor trustee for JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Trustee for the benefit of the Certificateholders of Popular ABS, Inc. Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates Series 2005-3 was Plaintiff, and Margaret K. Magill, John Magill, Kelsey R. Magill and Wilmington Trust, National Association, as successor trustee to Citibank, N.A. as Trustee for Bear Stearns Second Lien Trust 2007-SV1, Mortgage-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-SV1 were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the 11th day of February, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as is possible, at Sheriff's Office at 600 Memorial Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana.

PL5234 1/7 1/14 1/21 3t hspaxlp

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Montgomery Superior Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No.: 54C01-2506-MF-000650, wherein Nationstar Mortgage LLC, was Plaintiff, and Ashley F. Hoopert, was/were Defendant(s), requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on the 11th day of February, 2026, at the hour of 10AM or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 600 Memorial Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana.

PL5227 1/7 1/14 1/21 3t hspaxlp

EXHIBIT A
Part of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 36, Township 17 North, Range 6 West, Montgomery County, Indiana described as follows:
Beginning at a point of intersection of the South Line of Main Street and the East line of the West Half of said Northwest Quarter, said point being 740.27 feet North 00° 00' 00" East and 1325.39 feet North 90° 00' 00" East (basis of bearing is Geodetic North) of the Southwest Corner of said Northwest Quarter; Thence South 79° 44' 52" West along the South Line of Main Street for a distance of 112.74 feet to a 5/8" X 24" capped rebar marked Deckard Srvy Firm #44 (herein after a Deckard Rebar); Thence leaving the South line of Main Street and running South 10° 58' 14" East for a distance of 147.57 feet to a Deckard Rebar; Thence North 79° 44' 52" East for a distance of 83.18 feet to a Deckard Rebar on the East line of the West Half of said Northwest Quarter; Thence North 00° 23' 01" East along said East line of distance of 150.14 feet to the place of beginning, containing 0.332 acres, more or less in Montgomery County, Indiana.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of Montgomery Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No. 54C01-2508-MF-000910, wherein Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC, was Plaintiff, and Cody McIntyre was a Defendant, required me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the 11th day of February, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 600 Memorial Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana.

PL5232 1/7 1/14 1/21 3t hspaxlp

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of SUPERIOR Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No. 54D02-2206-MF-000449, wherein Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper was Plaintiff, and Michael Reinken, et al., were the Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and costs, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the 11th day of February, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, at 600 Memorial Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana.

PL5235 1/7 1/14 1/21 3t hspaxlp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CRAWFORDSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Notice is hereby given that the Common Council of the City of Crawfordsville will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 9, 2026, in the Common Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, Municipal Building, 300 E. Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana, to hear the request to vacate public way(s):
The property location: Portion of Canby Avenue from College Street approximately 474 feet south to the southern terminal end of Canby Avenue; Approximately 675 feet of the North-South alley east of Canby Avenue and west of Dunn Avenue, running south of College Street and north of Fremont Street
The petition is on file and available for examination (and purchase at cost) in the Department of Planning & Building Services on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Building, 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933 (765.364.5152); office hours are 8:00-12:00 noon and 1:00-4:00 p.m., weekdays except holidays.

PL5250 1/21 1t hspaxlp

Remember to Shop Local!

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No.: 54C01-2505-PL-000576, The North Salem State Bank was the Plaintiff, and Indiana Site Services, LLC, James D. Scott Jr., State of Indiana, Screenco Systems, LLC, and Industrial Federal Credit Union were Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and costs. I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on at 10 a.m. on February 11, 2026
at 600 Memorial Drive, Crawfordsville 47933, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana.

PL5231 1/7 1/14 1/21 3t hspaxlp

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of Montgomery Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No. 54C01-2203-MF-000217, wherein PennyMac Loan Services, LLC was Plaintiff, and Richard E. Zachary III and Capital One Bank (USA), N.A. were Defendants, required me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the 11th day of February, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as is possible, at 600 Memorial Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana.

PL5233 1/7 1/14 1/21 3t hspaxlp

STATE OF INDIANA } IN THE MONTGOMERY CIRCUIT COURT
} SS CIVIL DIVISION
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY } CAUSE NO. 54C01-2512-MI-001480
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
THENEA MARIE LOCKE,
Petitioner
NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
COMES NOW the Petitioner, Thenea Marie Locke, and submits her Verified Petition for Name Change of Adult on Birth Certificate and hereby gives notice that Petition for Change of Name for an Adult on Birth Certificate has been filed in the Montgomery County Circuit Court requests that the name of Thenea Marie Locke be changed to Thenea Marie Taylor on her birth certificate. The Court, being fully advised in the matter, now finds that this matter should be and is hereby set for hearing.

PL5248 1/14 1/21 1/28 3t hspaxlp

REMEMBER WHEN?
Answer:
1966 Chevy Chevelle SS

Rep. Genda Shares Update on this year's priorities

House Republicans released our priorities for the 2026 legislative session focused on lowering costs for Hoosier families and reducing government bureaucracy.

This year's priorities build on efforts advanced in recent years to reduce costs, get government out of the way and grow our economy.

Over the last few years, Indiana's GDP grew at a faster rate than all of our neighboring states, and Indiana ranks seventh in the country for attracting new residents.

A recent MarketWatch report shows Indiana as 1 of 15 states currently experiencing expansion and growth - faring better than most other states in the country. We want to continue this momentum while tackling some of the highest costs for Hoosiers, including home ownership and utility costs.

This session our caucus priorities are:

- Expand Indiana's housing supply and drive down costs of home ownership by rolling back costly regulations that impede development (House Bill 1001);
Prioritize energy affordability by adding perfor-

mance-based accountability to ensure utilities are hitting targets aimed at reducing costs and increasing reliability (House Bill 1002);

- Reduce government by combining, eliminating or streamlining dozens of redundant or inactive boards and commissions (House Bill 1003); and

- Cut red tape in education by eliminating unnecessary rules and regulations, freeing up resources and giving K-12 schools more flexibility to focus on educating our kids (House Bill 1004).

Indiana's graduation rate hits record high

Indiana's class of 2025 set a new state record for the high school graduation rate, marking the third consecutive year of improvement. According to the Indiana Department of Education, nearly 92% of Indiana seniors graduated in 2025, an increase of 1.6 percentage points from the previous year.

Graduation rates increased across every student population, reflecting continued progress among students with varying educational needs and backgrounds.

Graduation data is used

by families, educators and policymakers to assess school performance, identify achievement gaps and guide decisions on academic programs across the state. It represents another milestone in Indiana's K-12 progress, which includes third grade literacy growth, ranking 6th nationally for 4th and 8th grade reading, and improved chronic absenteeism rates. Thank you to our hardworking teachers, parents and students for committing to educational success.

A full breakdown of statewide, school corporation and school-level graduation data is available online.

This week on Around the House:

LISTEN: Launching Smart SNAP

Indiana recently launched Smart SNAP, prohibiting SNAP benefits from being used to purchase sugary drinks and candy. These reforms took effect on Jan. 1st. Learn more on this week's podcast:

READ: Stay Aware, Alert and Educated on Trafficking

This January marks National Human Trafficking Prevention Month. House



Mark Genda
House Representative

Republicans have championed several laws to raise awareness and help combat trafficking. Learn more in this week's blog.

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

RECOGNIZE ME?
Flashback Trivia with Butch Dale
ANSWER: Jerry Bannon

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# Sen. Deery Shares Updates for Indiana this Year

I was honored to again be selected to lead the committee of lawmakers assigned to continue the tradition of leading the governor from his office to the House chambers for the annual State of the State address.

I passionately believe in the importance of our institutions and that our system requires strong and separate branches that both collaborate and compete.

I applaud the governor's call for focus on affordability, and I accept the challenge to make that a state priority as we search for policies that will lead Indiana to both greater prosperity and lower costs.

### Take My 2026 Constituent Survey

I want to hear from you about important issues facing our community and state. With that in mind, I hope you'll consider taking my 2026 constituent survey.

This survey covers a variety of topics and includes a comment section for additional feedback.

I hope to hear from you.

### Indiana Sets Record Graduation Rate

As most of you know by now, much of my focus in the Senate has been on improving education. I am

thrilled to report that for the third year in a row, Indiana has set a new record graduation rate with nearly 92% of Indiana seniors graduating high school in 2025, an increase of 1.6% from the class of 2024.

Having a high school diploma is an important key to success, and this increase in the state's graduation rate is a great example of the work our students, teachers and schools are putting in to ensure young Hoosiers are prepared for their future.

### Legislative Update

This week, some of my bills worked through the legislative process. Here is a

quick update:

Senate Bill 159 would help kids build healthy tech habits by increasing parental control over school-issued technology at home. It passed the Senate Committee on Education and Career Development Wednesday and now heads to the full Senate for further consideration.

Senate Bill 160 would keep Hoosiers safe and crack down on masked criminals by imposing tougher penalties on offenders who hide their identities. It passed the Senate Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law Tuesday and now heads to the full Senate for further consideration.



## Spencer Deery State Senator

Senate Bill 204 would get the best people into Indiana's schools by reforming teacher training and improving licensing pathways. It passed the Senate Committee on Education and Career Development Thursday and now heads to the Senate Committee on Appro-

priations for further consideration.

*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.*

## FOR THE RECORD

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

**Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District 2026 Board Meeting Dates**  
Community Growers of Montgomery County:  
Location: The Table Spoon. 11:30am-1pm  
February 11th  
April 22nd  
July 15th  
October 13th  
Montgomery County Cisma: Location: USDA Service Center. 4pm-5pm  
March 25th  
May 13th  
August 12th  
November 4th

**Montgomery County Drainage Board Wednesday, January 21st, 2026, at 9:30 am**  
Montgomery County Government Center, Community Meeting Room  
1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
AGENDA  
CALL TO ORDER  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
REORGANIZATION & SWEARING IN MEMBER(S)  
ELECTION OF

OFFICERS & 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE  
ATTORNEY CONTRACT APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
**December 17th, 2025 – Regular meeting HEARINGS**  
WILEY BASTION  
#502 – Assessment hearing  
URSHULL CROSS  
#512 – Assessment hearing  
CARPER  
CROWDER #513 – Assessment hearing  
LOUGH-MILLER  
#536 – Assessment hearing  
EDWARD PATTON  
#548 – Assessment hearing  
CHARLES  
SCHOEN 1 #552 – Assessment hearing  
ALLEN LEWIS  
#578 – Assessment hearing  
THOMAS & ALFRED TAYLOR

#590 – Assessment hearing  
BOSWELL  
CLOUGH #595 – Assessment hearing  
JOHN COYNER  
#599 – Assessment hearing  
OLD BUSINESS  
NEW BUSINESS  
OTHER BUSINESS  
BOARD TRAINING – Attorney  
PUBLIC COMMENT  
ADJOURNMENT  
Next regular meeting: Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Montgomery County Government Center

Crawfordsville Board of Aviation Commissioners  
The Board of Aviation Commissioners has cancelled our meeting on Wednesday, January 21 at 4 p.m. due to lack of agenda.

**PRIME FARMLAND • 276.28 +/- ACRES**  
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**MON. FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>, 6:30 PM ET**  
**AUCTION**  
EDWARD JONES COMMUNITY BUILDING  
1701 S JACKSON STREET, FRANKFORT, IN 46041

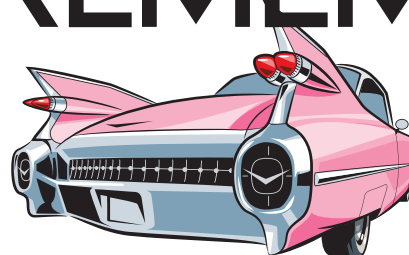
**PROPERTY LOCATION:** Approx. 7250 S CR 880 W, Colfax, IN 46035 in Perry Twp, Clinton Co and Sugar Creek Twp, Boone Co.

Jim Clark: 317.627.6928 | Sam Clark: 317.442.0251


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Auctioneer: Russell D. Harmeyer IN Auct. Lic. #AU10000277, HRES IN Auct Lic. #AC09200019, HLS#SFC-13195, Farm: Lela Powers Trust

# REMEMBER WHEN?



*Back in the day with Butch Dale*



## Hot Cars From Back In The Day

Do you recognize this classic car from 1966?

Answer on Page 4

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