

■ TODAY'S VERSE

2 Timothy 2:7

Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.

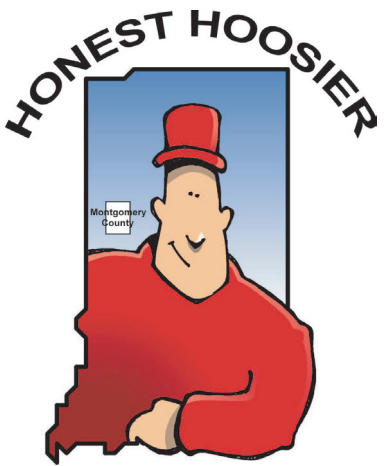
■ AWL MAX



Stetson is ready to BUST OUT of the shelter and into your home! Stetson is an 8 month old male American Blue Heeler available for adoption from The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 12/26/25. Stetson is a BIG TIME LOVER!! Stetson loves going out for walks and will gladly sit for treats. Stetson is looking for his best friend. Could that be you? Stetson 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

An informational meeting for Strawberry Festival Queen and Junior Royalty Program is scheduled for Feb. 11 at 6 p.m. in the Donnelly Room at the Crawfordsville Public Library. The meeting will provide an overview of the program and its requirements. Junior Royalty contestants are not required to attend the meeting with their parents or guardian. If interested in attending the informational meeting, you must email [sfestqueen@gmail.com](mailto:sfestqueen@gmail.com) prior to the meeting to receive the required paperwork. The Junior Royalty Program is open to boys and girls ages 6-10 as of May 1, 2026 and is \$25 to enter. The Strawberry Festival Queen program is open to high school girls with a \$50 entry fee. All contestants must reside or attend school full time in Montgomery County.



Lots of history linked to this date. The Challenger disaster happened in 1986. A ceasefire in Vietnam took place in 1973. In 1813 Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* came out (anonymously). But my favorite happened in jolly old England in 1896 when poor Walter Arnold became the first human being to get a speeding ticket. He was going 8 mph in a 2 mph zone. (And who says you don't learn anything in newspapers!)

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We were created to experience wonder. But to find it you have to be willing to look."  
**Don Bentley Jr.**

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

What happened when the bossy nitwit walked into a bar?  
*He ordered everybody a round.*

# The Paper

## OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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### Butch Recalls Winter Days of His Youth

The furnace at our house has had a workout this winter. When it's cold and windy, it runs almost continually. As I sit in my recliner, book in hand, I try not to think of how much LP gas is being used, but I also worry that the furnace might quit working. I do not like to live in a cold house! I grew up in a tenant house that was freezing cold in the winters. After I was married I told my wife that I would never live in a cold house again.

However, during those growing-up years, my brother and I spent quite a bit of time outdoors during the winter. Like most kids, we always tried our hand at building snowmen . . .



**Butch Dale**  
*Columnist*

the bigger the better. We grabbed pieces of coal from the old shed to use for the eyes and mouth, sticks for the arms, and a carrot for the nose . . . and topped it off with one of Dad's old hats. We built forts and had plenty of snowball fights, always trying to hit each other smack dab in the face. Both of us

became pitchers on the baseball teams, so perhaps that snowball throwing paid off.

One time when the snow drifts were packed hard, I cut off sections into blocks with a shovel and built an igloo. To keep warm, I placed small dried

*See Butch Page 3*

### IU Gave Sports Fans Something to Smile About



**Two Cents**  
*from Tim Timmons*

I'm not a big stop-and-smell-the-roses kind of guy. From the famous Satchel Paige quote – Don't look back, something might be gaining on you – to Tom Petty's lyrical line – I don't know but I've been told, you never slow down, you never grow old – just never saw the advantage in doing it. (And you can toss in a lesson I heard John Wayne say in a western – it's harder to hit a moving target.)

But I got to tell you that this Indiana University football season gave me pause – a very pleasant one mind you.

Like a lot of us Hoosiers, I grew up a fan of our state teams – as well as our favorite sport, Hoosier Hysteria. No, I don't mean just basketball. I mean high school basketball. I watched Big George McGinnis, Steve Downing and Co. lead Indianapolis Washington High School to the 1969 state championship with a perfect 31-0 record (coached by a man who would become a legend, Bill Green). I remember my Mom booing as Lafayette Jeff won back in '64 (Mom was a proud Frankfort High School grad and hated Jeff). I was so proud when guys I knew from my home county led Carmel to the state title in '77.

In colleges, I was a fan of all of them. Back when Lou Watson coached the Hurryin' Hoosiers with Joby Wright and McGinnis and Downing I watched every game Channel 4 televised. Later when Bob Knight arrived, I became a bigger fan. Watched all the Purdue games on WTTV as well. Loved Rick the Rocket Mount and Billy Keller. Fred Schaus was one of my favorite coaches.

When fall rolled around, it was all about Notre Dame football.

My Irish grandmother, God rest her soul, was a devout Catholic and we would make a trek to South Bend once a year to light a candle in the grotto on the campus of Notre Dame. Long before I knew of Knute Rockne, the Four Horsemen, the Gipper and Ara Parseghian I thought Notre Dame was where we went to pray.

Here's the thing about all that – it was easy to root for everyone because they all won!

*See Two Cents Page 3*

### Understanding Government: The Prosecutor's Office

Montgomery County's prosecutors handle everything from speeding tickets to attempted murder, and last year they did it 1,565 times. That tally for 2025 includes 1,065 misdemeanors, 383 Level 6 felonies, 71 Level 5 felonies and 46 major felonies, a category that runs from Level 4 felonies up to attempted murder. It is actually lower than the office's recent high-water mark of 1,828 cases in 2023, a surge that followed years of elevated filings after the pandemic.

Deputy Prosecutor Jacob Moore told the Jan. 9 Lunch with the League crowd that his five-attorney team

**League of Women Voters**  
*Column*



reviews every criminal case that comes from law enforcement and decides what charges, if any, are appropriate. That covers criminal cases and traffic infractions, but not civil ordinance matters like parking tickets or noise complaints.

The office is also responsible for drafting and processing search

warrants, a workload that has climbed from about 300 in 2022 to roughly 525 in 2025. Prosecutors advise officers in real time, which is why someone from the office is always on call.

"If we are not on call to answer those questions, we're putting law

*See League Page 4*

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

**1.** A California-based company specializing in "finding" people's unclaimed property will pay \$107,000 to settle allegations that it deceived Hoosiers through illegal consumer solicitations and fee agreements. U.S. Claims Services Inc. – doing business as Payne Richards and Associates – allegedly made false statements in solicitations to consumers. The company allegedly stated that consumers' unclaimed property was held by "a third-party escrow agent" when, in fact, it is the Attorney General's Unclaimed Property Division that holds the property. Additionally, the company's fee agreements allegedly failed to include language required by Indiana law informing consumers that a claim for property held by the Attorney General may be made without charge through the Attorney General's office. Attorney General Todd Rokita reminds Hoosiers they have multiple ways of reaching the Unclaimed Property Division on their own. They may go to [IndianaUnclaimed.gov](http://IndianaUnclaimed.gov), text CLAIM to 46220, call 1-866-462-5246 or send email to [updmail@atg.in.gov](mailto:updmail@atg.in.gov).

**2.** As everyone gears up for the Super Bowl, our friends at Gambling 'N Go <<https://gamblingngo.com>> carried out a survey of 3,474 football fans to find out where they most want to watch the big game, specifically for the food, revealing the spots that turn Super Bowl Sunday into a true feast day. In the great Hoosier state they found the top three locations in Indianapolis, Fort Wayne and Lafayette. First was Tom's Watch Bar, Indianapolis. For the Super Bowl at Tom's Watch Bar, the food is designed to carry the watch from kickoff through the final drive without rushing the moment. With more than 100 screens surrounding the space, the food supports every moment of the game without pulling focus from the action. Fort Wayne's Pub at 1802 was second. Super Bowl watching is matched with plates that reward a slower, steady pace. With TVs throughout and a lively atmosphere, the food fits comfortably into a full-length Super Bowl watch. And in third was Big League Sports Bar and Grill, Lafayette. It suits a Super Bowl crowd with food designed for flexibility across all four quarters. With generous portions and a game-focused setup, the food encourages settling in and letting the Super Bowl run its course.

**3.** Samaritan's Purse is celebrating a successful season after collecting 12.2 million Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts in 2025, sharing the love of Jesus with children in need around the world. The milestone reflects the generosity of millions of shoebox packers helping to fill shoebox gifts with toys, school supplies and personal care items. Across the U.S., the project collected 10.9 million shoebox gifts in 2025. Combined with those collected from partnering countries, the industry is now sending over 12.2 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide, including those whose lives were turned upside down by Hurricane Melissa, a category 5 storm that recently struck Jamaica. Information about ways to get involved year-round can also be found at [samaritanpurse.org/occ](http://samaritanpurse.org/occ).

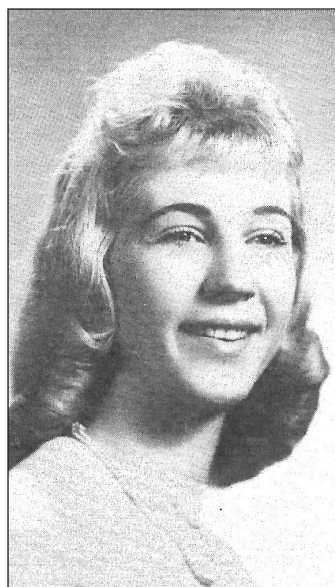
# The Paper

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:**  
She was a cheerleader all four years.

Answer on Page 4

## The Paper

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## CRACKS IN THE BASEMENT?

## Our Library – A Place / Space For Community

Before the Carnegie building opened in 1902, Crawfordsville's public library was operated out of a series of rented rooms. In these circumstances, you'd think that the less space taken up, the better. Yet we know that the Ladies' Reading Association, a predecessor, made arrangements for a reading room. Why? What does space provide in a library?

The library is a place to study. In our modern building, we've designated the second floor as a quiet space. Just as patrons may not have internet access at home, they may not have a dedicated, distraction-free space where they can work. There are desks to spread out, with outlets nearby to charge electronics. We have printers and public Wi-Fi, as well as chargers, laptops, and desktop computers for patrons to use. Here, our collection,

research databases, and knowledgeable staff are all within easy reach.

The library is a place to relax. Sometimes you just need to go somewhere that's not work, school or home. You don't have to pay to visit the library. You can color or work on the puzzle. In our talk zone on the first floor, you can chat with a friend. You can browse our shelves, pull a book down, and spend all day reading. This space is for you!

You're probably familiar with our kids' play area in the Youth Services Department. Did you know that we also have a teen hang-out space? Nestled between the young adult books and our graphic novels, this is a great place to do a group project, play a board game or just chill.

The library is a place for the community. We have programs for all age groups and interests, like game nights,



**Susanna Howard**  
Crawfordsville District Public Library

book clubs, arts and crafts and yoga! You can get weekly updates on upcoming library events (as well as a sneak peek at our newest titles) by signing up for our Wowbrary email newsletter on our library's website. You can always check our online calendar, grab a paper calendar at the library, or simply browse our bulletin boards to see what's going on. Come out, have fun and spend time with your neighbors!

You can host your own event here, too! Whether it's a club meeting or a birthday party, you can reserve

a room on our website on our Room Reservations page. Want to run your own library program? Ask about volunteering with us!

Check out what's happening on our website at [crawfordsvillelibrary.in.gov](http://crawfordsvillelibrary.in.gov) or call us at (765) 362-2242. This winter, the library is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

*Susanna Howard is a library assistant in the Adult Services Department at the Crawfordsville District Public Library.*

## Bill to Increase Parental Control Over School-Issued Tech Passes Senate

A bill authored by State Sen. Spencer Deery (R-West Lafayette) that would help Hoosier students learn healthy tech habits passed the Senate today with bipartisan support by a vote of 41-3.

Senate Bill 159 would give parents increased control over school-issued technology on devices sent home from school.

"Parents often set limits on devices within their homes, but sometimes students can use school-issued devices like Chromebooks to get around

these limits," Deery said. "Senate Bill 159 would give parents the authority to have controls on all devices entering their home while ensuring they can still be used for educational purposes."

Committee testimony on the bill emphasized that most schools already pay for parental controls outside of school hours, but many schools do not turn the service on or inform parents about it. Senate Bill 159 exempts schools in an existing contract without such

capabilities but requires it of contracts going forward.

SB 159 now heads to the House of Representatives for further consideration.

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

## Tessa Surber Joins Staff at F.C. Tucker

F.C. Tucker West Central is proud to announce the addition of Tessa Surber as the newest REALTOR®/Broker serving Montgomery County and the surrounding communities.

Real estate has always played a meaningful role in Surber's life. Growing up with a father who owns a construction business in Montgomery County, she developed a strong appreciation for craftsmanship, home design and the process of helping families find the right place to call home. Her early exposure to the industry gave her a foundation that now enhances her work as a real estate

professional.

Before earning her real estate license, Surber spent two years working in the F.C. Tucker West Central office as an unlicensed assistant. During that time, she discovered her passion for guiding people through one of the most important decisions they will make. That experience, paired with her lifelong connection to the area, inspired her to pursue a full-time career in real estate.

As a licensed Realtor, Surber is committed to delivering clear communication, thoughtful guidance, and exceptional service. She takes pride in helping clients feel

supported from start to finish, whether buying, selling, or investing. Her knowledge of Montgomery County, combined with hands-on experience in both real estate and construction, gives her a valuable perspective on what makes a home truly stand out in today's market.

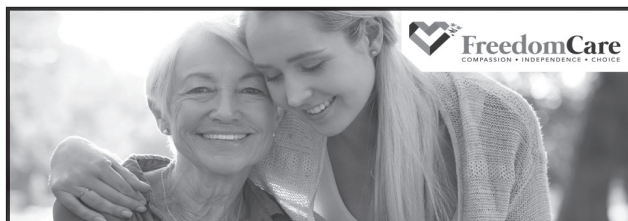
"Tessa has already been such a positive presence in our office, and we are thrilled to officially welcome her as an agent," said John Downey, Broker/Owner of F.C. Tucker West Central. "Her professionalism, market understanding and passion for serving others make her



**Tessa Surber**

an outstanding fit for our team and for the clients she will represent."

Tessa is eager to begin helping clients achieve their real estate goals and build lasting relationships along the way.



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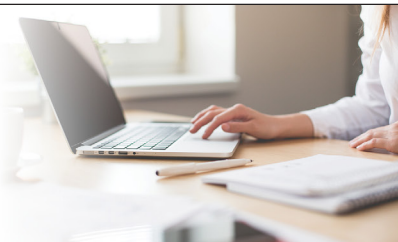
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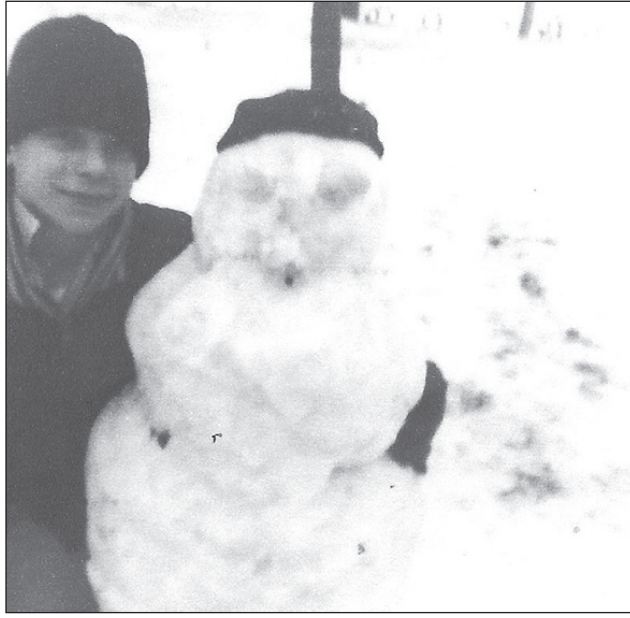
**BUTCH**

*Continued from Page 1*

out twigs inside and lit them with a match... and the igloo's roof melted. We had an old sled that had belonged to our cousin, so we took turns pulling each other around the yard. But the real fun was when Dad hooked a chain on his tractor or truck and pulled us on that sled all around the fields. One day, I took the sled to town. Behind the drug store on Main Street was a steep hill where other kids would slide down. Halfway down the hill was a flat spot, followed by a crest, and if you were going fast enough, you went airborne! The kids used their own sleds, bent sheets of tin, tire inner tubes or whatever they could find. One boy used an old refrigerator door!

When it was really cold and ice formed on the creeks and ponds, many kids hiked up to the conservation club and skated on the frozen ice. I borrowed a pair of ice skates from my cousin and tried that one time, but could barely stand up straight on those skates. I also feared that the ice might break and I would fall into the water, so I never ventured very far out to the middle of the pond since I couldn't swim a lick. Dad took me ice fishing on that pond one time, too. I sat there for two hours. I saw plenty of fish, but never had a bite.

One snowy afternoon, I took my Daisy B-B rifle back to the woods to hunt for rab-



**Butch built a little snowman.**

bits. As soon as I entered the woods, a rabbit scampered off and hid inside a hollow log. I had him trapped! I shot into the log about thirty times, figuring that I had that night's supper for the family. But when I looked in the opposite end, the rabbit took off and hightailed out of sight. Just as well, I guess, as I would rather look at a rabbit than eat it.

Sometimes I climbed the ladder up to the haymow and built a secret hideout with bales of straw. I often took a book and flashlight and read in my new warm and comfy quarters. And there were times that I just sat by the haymow window and watched the birds land on the nearby catalpa tree.

Chores during the winter became more difficult at times. The outside faucets became frozen, and we would have to carry water from the house to the chickens and pigs. One time I made the mistake of trying to drink from an

outside hydrant . . . and you guessed it . . . my tongue stuck to the faucet! I can remember Dad milking the cows, sometimes in the darkness of morning, and his hands would get very cold as the milk streamed into the steel buckets.

The upstairs bedroom where my brother and I slept had no heat, except for what little came up through a floor vent from the fuel oil stove in the downstairs living room. We wore hats and coats and gloves to bed on many nights. But the worst part of winter, when I was very young . . . before we had an indoor toilet, was heading out to the outhouse to take care of necessary chores. Thank the Lord it had a wooden seat!

*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.*

# Program Designed to Help Those at Risk of Falling

Falls are a leading cause of injury among older adults, often resulting in a loss of confidence and reduced physical activity. To help individuals regain strength, improve balance, and move with greater confidence, Purdue Extension and Crawfordsville Mobile Integrated Health is offering A Matter of Balance, a fall prevention program.

This eight-session program will be held on Tuesdays from Feb. 24 through April 21 (no class March 24), from 10 a.m. to noon, at Wellbrooke of Crawfordsville, 517 Concord Road. Participation is open to anyone who is concerned about falling, has experienced a fall in the past or has limited activities due to fear of falling.

A key focus of "A

Matter of Balance" is guided exercise designed specifically for older adults. Participants will take part in gentle, low-impact exercises that help improve strength, balance, flexibility, and coordination, all essential for reducing fall risk. Exercises are done at a comfortable pace and can be modified to meet individual ability levels, making the program accessible for beginners and those who may not have exercised regularly.

In addition to physical activity, participants will learn how to view falls as preventable, set realistic goals for staying active, and make simple changes at home to reduce fall hazards. Together, these strategies help participants feel more confident moving

through their daily routines.

This program is ideal for anyone who has fallen in the past, worries about falling, or has limited activities due to balance concerns, but still wants to remain active and independent in a safe, supportive environment.

Pre-registration is required by Feb. 17. To register, visit <https://event.me/gBkG99>.

For more information, contact Purdue Extension Montgomery County at (765) 364-6363 or e-mail [monicanagele@purdue.edu](mailto:monicanagele@purdue.edu)



# Conference for Teen Ag Leaders 3 Weeks Away

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 pro-

fessional 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/departments/extension/wia/emerging-ag-leaders.html>

**TWO CENTS**

*Continued from Page 1*

Notre Dame won national championships in 1966, 1973, 1977 and 1988. IU won in 1976, 1981 and 1987. Purdue went to the final four in 1969 and 1980.

There were Big Ten titles and NIT titles in there as well.

The point is, from 1966 to 1988 - a span of 24 years - the teams I rooted for won seven titles and were in the final game two other times. That's nine times in a little over two decades.

I thought that's the way it worked and every few years we'd be enjoying another championship. Heck, if you toss in my Indiana Pacers from the ABA days and my two favorite baseball teams - the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Cincinnati Reds - there were seven more titles in that time (but pros felt different than college).

Winning seemed normal. Being a fan was so enjoyable.

It all ended in 1988.

Sure, IU went to the title game with that wonderful team led by Noblesville's Tom Coverdale in 2002. Notre Dame fell to Alabama in the final game in 2012. Purdue, led by Zach Edey and Westfield's Braden Smith came oh so close in 2024 before finishing runner-up to UConn.

But no titles in the

last almost 40 years.

Enter Curt Cignetti and the most unbelievable sports story ever. This is so much bigger than Milan. Everyone knows about the magical 1954 state title. Thing is, Milan was a pretty danged good team. They almost got to state the year before, finishing 19-2 and losing in the semistate. Milan was good and expected to be good. IU has been the proverbial doormat in college football for generations -- the losingest program in college football history. The worst. Bottom of the barrel. Perennial losers like Northwestern, Kansas State, Rutgers and others called IU when it came to scheduling Homecoming games.

Cignetti changed it all. It has been so much fun to watch. And it reminded me of just how rare these times can be.

In my seven decades on this rock, the college teams I root for won seven championships - until IU this year.

So for once I'm just sitting back and taking it all in. I'm going to continue smiling for a while, ever so thankful that Cignetti, Fernando, and the rest came to Bloomington. And I'll keep rooting for Matt Painter and Braden Smith,

Marcus Freeman and the Irish and whoever the latest IU basketball coach is. I'll continue humming Duke Tumatote's Lord Help Our Colts song. I'll wait for Tyrese Haliburton to heal.

Got no idea when that next title will come - so this one will do just fine for now. Thanks, IU!

*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).*

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### LEAGUE

Continued from Page 1

enforcement in a situation where they're having to make decisions that a lawyer really should be making—on the side of the road while they're trying to make sure that they're safe, the people they're interacting with are safe, that they're collecting evidence in the proper way," said Moore.

Moore said that having prosecutors on call helps protect constitutional rights while strengthening cases against later legal challenges to searches and seizures.

Prosecutors are not investigators, Moore said, and should not be out building cases themselves. If they did, they could become witnesses and be barred from handling those prosecutions. Instead, when a resident suspects fraud or a scam, the instruction is clear: call law enforcement, not the prosecutor's office.

Once law enforcement submits a report, prosecutors review the evidence, check that rights were not violated, and then decide whether to file the same, fewer or additional charges beyond what the officer recommended. Most cases resolve short of trial — Moore estimated fewer than 10 jury trials out of 1,565 filings last year. Plea agreements and diversion programs, he said, balance accountability with rehabilitation, especially in substance-related crimes where untreated addiction feeds recidivism.

Behind the caseload numbers, Moore outlined a looming personnel crunch. The Montgomery County office now has five criminal prosecutors and four support staff, plus a separate child support division. However, three of the five prosecutors are expected to retire within about two years. By mid-2027, only Moore and one other prosecutor are projected to remain, even as the county grows and adds police officers who will generate more cases.

Complicating matters, recruiting replacements is harder than it sounds. Indiana is down to three law schools after closures at Valparaiso and Indiana Tech, and many graduates carry debt that pushes them toward jobs that pay higher than small-county prosecution can offer. Moore criticized the bar exam and law school focus on appellate work in generic jurisdictions instead of practical training in Indiana law. Like other rural counties, Montgomery County must compete on salary with larger counties while funding three of its five prosecutor positions locally. The state funds the other two.

On the ground, Moore said that much of the docket centers on domestic violence and substance misuse. Domestic violence cases are among law enforcement's most dangerous calls, and prosecutors often seek convictions that restrict abusers' access to firearms and

allow stiffer penalties for repeat offenses or violations of no-contact orders.

Drug cases feed both punishment and problem-solving courts. The county's Veterans Treatment Court and Drug Treatment Court aim to keep people with addiction issues in intensive, community-based treatment rather than send them to the Department of Corrections, where they may leave with no housing, job or support. Moore said those programs have reduced recidivism and changed attitudes, with participants generally more respectful and less combative when they do re-enter the system.

Electronic crimes have become Moore's reluctant specialty. Montgomery County's Internet Crimes Against Children work has grown enough that local investigators now assist neighboring rural counties in building child sex abuse material cases. Those investigations rely on a national system that flags known illegal images by digital data, often through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Moore warned that simple possession of abuse images is not benign and tends to escalate in severity over time. He also cautioned parents about posting children's photos online, noting cases where benign pictures were used to generate realistic explicit images with artificial intelligence. Beyond child exploitation, the

office sees complex fraud and cryptocurrency scams that are often difficult to prosecute. In one case, a scammer used fraudulent credit cards to steal from businesses across the country and appeared tied to a Caribbean-based gang. Bitcoin, Moore said, is "the bane" of his existence because its design and foreign-based wallets make tracing scam payments extraordinarily difficult for local authorities. He warned against one scam, saying that no legitimate agency will ever demand bond money in Bitcoin, nor will they ever call ahead to warn of an arrest.

On marijuana, Moore spoke personally rather than for the office. He argued that a medical-only model, as seen in some states, can complicate probation and problem-solving courts by allowing people with addiction issues to substitute one substance for another. Whatever the policy debate, he said that prosecutors are not lawmakers and should not decide wholesale which crimes to ignore; their role is to enforce statutes as written, represent victims and the community, and leave lawmaking to legislators.

*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.luvvmontcoin.org](http://www.luvvmontcoin.org); or, visit the League of Women Voters of Montgomery*

## Baird Applauds as Legislation Clears Committee

Congressman Jim Baird (IN-04) applauded the passage of multiple bills he supported in the House Foreign Affairs Committee to boost American national security, counter narco-terrorism, stop the influx of deadly fentanyl and preserve American Artificial Intelligence (AI) leadership and security.

"Our country faces rapidly evolving national security threats, and Congress must be poised to properly address them and close the security gaps," Baird said. "The bills we passed today are critical to addressing the security challenges with AI, providing Congress with oversight over the sale of advanced AI chips to our adversaries, and supercharg-

ing American AI leadership to beat China. We also passed multiple bills to help the U.S. combat criminal cartels, stop the flow of deadly fentanyl that has taken far too many American lives, and end the rampant drug trafficking that has persisted in our own backyard. I thank Chairman Mast for his outstanding leadership on this committee, and I hope these bills are passed in the full U.S. House soon."

The House Foreign Affairs Committee, with Baird's support, passed: The AI OVERWATCH Act (H.R. 6875) to ensure U.S. adversaries cannot use American AI technology to further military and intelligence programs,

curb the sale of chips to our adversaries such as China, and accelerate American AI exports to allies and partners around the world. Baird serves as a cosponsor of this legislation.

The American Cooperation with Our Neighbors Act (H.R. 4532) to direct the U.S. Department of State to work with local governments in Mexico to fight narco-terrorists and violent cartels that traffic fentanyl and other illicit drugs into the United States.

The Caribbean Basin Security Initiative Authorization Act (H.R. 4368) to enhance the U.S.-Caribbean security partnership, improve resiliency after natural disasters, and provide greater long-term stability in the region.

## CenterPoint Offers Payment Assistance

After a historically cold start to winter, CenterPoint Energy is encouraging Indiana customers to take time to review available assistance programs and energy-saving resources as colder temperatures are expected to return later this month.

December 2025 brought the coldest winter start since 2017, according to the National Weather Service in Indianapolis. While early January has brought temporary relief with highs near 60°, forecasts indicate a return to seasonal temperatures by mid-January and continued fluctuations through February.

"December was one of the coldest on record, and during periods of extreme cold, customers may see an increase in their energy usage that is also reflected in their bills," said Mike Roeder, President of CenterPoint Energy Indiana. "With the potential for several more weeks of winter weather, we encourage customers to utilize available assistance and resources before the next stretch of cold weather."

Why weather matters

Energy usage increases when the gap between outdoor and indoor temperatures widens. For every 10-degree drop in outdoor temperature, home heating systems typically run 30-40% longer to maintain the same indoor comfort level.

During December's record cold, heating systems across the region worked significantly harder than usual. That increased usage will be reflected on January bills. With more winter ahead, customers who take steps now can manage costs through February.

Resource Hub: Tools and assistance in one place

CenterPoint's online Resource Hub brings together billing tools, assistance programs and energy-saving resources. Customers can:

- Apply for bill assistance through the Customer Assistance Fund (CAF)
- Find additional assistance programs like the Energy Assistance Program (EAP) for income-eligible households
- Sign up for Budget Billing to spread costs evenly across 12

months

- Set up a payment plan with flexible options to manage balances
- Compare monthly usage to see how weather impacts energy costs

Simple steps to help manage energy usage

There are many factors which contribute to a home's energy consumption, and customers can take several actions to help manage energy costs

this winter, including:

- Lower your thermostat a few degrees at night or when away—this can reduce heating costs by up to 10%
- Check for drafts around windows and doors while temperatures are mild
- Replace furnace filters

Additional information can be found at [CenterPointEnergy.com/ResourceHub](http://CenterPointEnergy.com/ResourceHub).

## PUBLIC NOTICE

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.  
 WHEREFORE the Court orders that a Name Change Hearing is  
 scheduled for March 3, 2026, at 9:00 AM via audio/video technology using  
 Zoom technology platform, which is more than thirty (30) days after the third  
 publication of this Notice, for Thirty (30) minutes. Notice is further given that  
 any person has the right to appear at the hearing on said Petition and/or to file  
 objections on or before the hearing date.  
 IT IS SO ORDERED ADJUDGED AND DECREED this 12/17/2025.  
 /s/Darrin C. Chadd  
 Judge/Magistrate, Marion County  
 Distribution:  
 Rachel A. East  
 John Arak  
 HOCKER LAW, LLC,  
 6626 East 75th Street, Suite 410  
 Indianapolis, Indiana 46250  
 PL5248 1/14 1/21 1/28 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 Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No.: 54C01-2509-MF-001082, wherein AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC, was Plaintiff, and Jessica A. Van Arsdale, 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 March, 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.

The East 50 feet of Lots numbered 2 and 11 as the same are known and designated on the recorded Plat of Englewood Park Addition to the City of Crawfordsville, in Montgomery County, Indiana.

More Commonly Known As: 1505 East Wabash Avenue, Crawfordsville, IN 47933

54-10-04-222-043.000-030  
 Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.

Jennifer L. Snook  
 MARINOSCI LAW GROUP, P.C.  
 2804 Boilermaker Court, Ste. A  
 Valparaiso, IN 46383  
 Telephone: (219) 386-4700  
 Ryan Needham  
 Sheriff of Montgomery County  
 City of Crawfordsville  
 1505 East Wabash Avenue, Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
 Street Address  
 The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein  
 Type of Service: Personal  
 SERVICE DIRECTED TO:  
 Jessica A. Van Arsdale  
 1505 East Wabash Avenue  
 Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
 PL5251 1/28 2/4 2/11 3t hspaxlp



## Witham Looking for Top Healthcare Professional

Witham Health Services has opened nominations for the 2025 Boone County Outstanding Healthcare Professional of the Year. Sponsored by Witham, the award will be presented at the Boone County Chamber's Annual Awards Banquet on March 5 at the Boone County Fairgrounds in the Witham Health Pavilion.

The Outstanding Healthcare Professional of the Year Award is designed to highlight high quality healthcare in Boone County. The individual can be a doctor, nurse, emergency medical technician, paramedic, imaging technician, pharmacist, social worker, phlebotomist or work in any other aspect of the healthcare industry.

"The Outstanding Healthcare Professional of the Year Award is our way of recognizing the extraordinary individuals who care for our community," said Witham Health

Services President and CEO Kelly Braverman. "Every day, healthcare professionals across Boone County go above and beyond for their patients and families, and we are proud to celebrate those whose dedication and leadership make a lasting impact on the health and well-being of our community."

Nominees for this award demonstrate excellence in patient care and professionalism, earning the respect of colleagues, patients, and the community. They go above and beyond daily responsibilities and contribute to the health of Boone County residents through dedication, leadership, promoting healthy living, public health education, and volunteer service.

To submit a nomination, visit [www.witham.org/boone-county-outstanding-healthcare-professional](http://www.witham.org/boone-county-outstanding-healthcare-professional). Nominations will close at midnight on Feb. 6.

# Re-Election Campaign



Photos courtesy Andy Chandler

State Senator Spencer Deery (R-District 23) hosted the second of his two re-election kick-off events in Rockville last week – the other was in Tippecanoe County. Deery, along with his wife, hosted a meet and greet with constituents from his district, beginning with a video introduction by former Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels. In the video, Daniels spoke of how Deery worked for his administration when he was governor and that Daniels fully endorsed Deery. Deery spoke about the need for getting back to the fundamentals of the constitution and the ideas that lead to American exceptionalism. "This election will be a referendum on the meaning of being conservative."

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FreedomCare. Let your loved ones care for you and get paid!†Paid by Medicaid. Choose family or friends as your paid caregiver. Check your eligibility today! Call FreedomCare now! 1-844-563-4012. Pickup from 01.18.26

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warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-855-743-1911. Pickup from 01.18.26

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today! 1-855-801-2797. Pickup from 01.18.26

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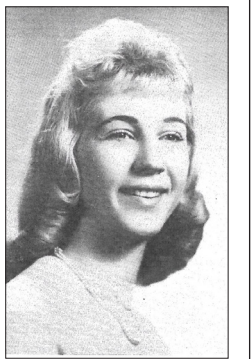
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Answer: 1991 Pontiac Trans Am GTA

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# Registrations Open for Feb. 21 Legislative Breakfast

What goes on in the Statehouse as Legislators grapple with budgets and other issues of our state? Find out by asking them in person at the Crawfordsville / Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce State Legislative Breakfast.

The next one takes place at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21 at Crawfordsville Middle School. It is sponsored by Valero Renewables.

Invited to participate will be state senators and state house members who represent Montgomery County. That group consists of State Senators Brian Buchanan (District 7) and Spencer Deery (District 23) along with State Representatives, Jeff Thompson (District 28), Matt Commons (District 13), Mark Genda (District 41) and Beau Baird (District 44).

The State Legislative Breakfast will include breakfast catered by Smitty D's Hot Dog Stand.

The event is open to the public for a fee, regardless of age. The cost is \$10 for Crawfordsville / Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce members and \$15 for non-members.

Registration is required. Sign up on the Chamber calendar of events at Crawfordsvillechamber.com or call (765) 362-6800.

Crawfordsville Middle School is located at 705 Wallace Ave. The breakfast will take place in the large group instructional room.

For more information regarding the breakfast or the chamber, please contact Chamber Executive Director Stacy Sommer at [ssommer@crawfordsvillechamber.com](mailto:ssommer@crawfordsvillechamber.com).



Sen. Spencer Deery



Rep. Jeff Thompson



Rep. Matt Commons



Sen. Brian Buchanan



Rep. Mark Genda



Rep. Beau Baird

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY**  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT to COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

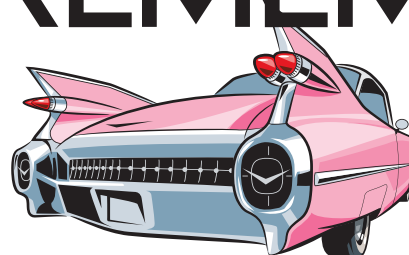
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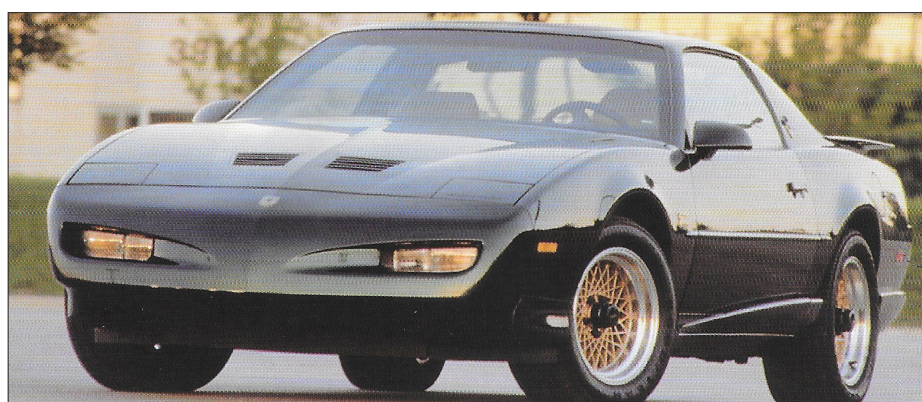
Interested applicants submit resume and three professional references by February 16, 2026. Submit via: Email: [commissioners@montgomerycounty.in.gov](mailto:commissioners@montgomerycounty.in.gov) or Mail: Montgomery County Commissioners Office, 1580 Constitution Row – Suite E, Crawfordsville, IN 47933

*Montgomery County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

# REMEMBER WHEN?



*Back in the day with Butch Dale*



**Hot Cars From Back In The Day**

Do you recognize this classic car from 1991?  
Answer on Page 4

As a former sergeant in the U.S. Army and Iraq War veteran, I would like to start giving back to all who have served in the armed forces. On Veterans Day, I began offering a reduced commission in honor of your service to this great nation. Contact me for details today!

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