

■ TODAY'S VERSE

James 1:12

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

■ AWL KAYLA



Kayla is an 8 year old (senior) female American Blue Heeler available for adoption at AWL since 9/12/25. Kayla loves going out for walks, looking cute, and enjoys the finer things in life - like a nice comfy bed! Kayla is looking for her best friend. Could that be you? Kayla is available for adoption, to foster, or just simply going out for walks. Come say hi and ask staff to meet Kayla!! AWL is open Monday-Friday from 2p-5p and Saturday's from 12-3p.

■ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

The Linden Depot Museum, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit railroad museum located along U.S. 231, has launched a \$30,000 GoFundMe fundraiser to support Project 497, a cosmetic restoration of its historic Nickel Plate Road bay window caboose No. 497. Norfolk & Western Railway donated the caboose several years ago and it has suffered significant weather-related deterioration. Project 497 aims to restore the caboose's exterior appearance, returning it to a condition worthy of public display and long-term preservation. For more information or to donate, please visit the Linden Depot Museum's GoFundMe page: <https://gofund.me/41580a477>, or contact museum president, Gary Vierk at (765) 427-3630. Donations may also be mailed directly to Linden Depot Museum, Project 497, P.O. Box 154, Linden, IN 47955.



Did you hear that Veep J.D. Vance and wife Usha are expecting their fourth child? This'll be the first time since Hoosier Schuyler Colfax and wife Ellen gave birth to little Schuyler the III in 1870. Why do we care? Because the Colfax folks were Hoosiers!

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage."

Lao Tzu

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

What'd the snail say when he called his sweetie on Valentine's Day.

I just crawled to say I love you!

The Paper

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Butch Explains Semantic Shift . . . Well, Kind Of . . .

A few weeks ago I mentioned a sad statistic . . . 54 percent of the adults in the U.S. have a literacy level (the ability to read and comprehend) below sixth grade. Many of these people don't realize that the meaning of words and terms have changed over time. It is called "semantic shift." Because of this, people sometimes become mad or confused when they discuss politics, the economy and current problems in our country. Like the quote in the movie Cool Hand Luke, "What we have here is a failure to communicate." Here are a few examples of words with their ORIGINAL meaning and their NEW meaning:

Hospital: A place where you go to have surgery on part of your body. **NEW meaning:** A place where you go to have surgery on your bank account.

Qualified: Competent. **NEW meaning:** Having



Butch Dale
Columnist

just enough experience or education to really screw things up.

Cell Phone: A small device used to communicate. **NEW meaning:** A technological marvel that guarantees you will never have one peaceful moment to yourself.

Zillion: A large indeterminate number. **NEW meaning:** (1) the number of illegal immigrants that Biden let in, (2) our national debt, or (3) the number of people who hate vinaigrette sauce on their fish.

Impotent: Unable to

copulate. **NEW meaning:** What any man hopes to become if he is married to a woman who looks like Maxine Waters.

Activist: Someone who cares about the future of certain causes. **NEW meaning:** Someone who cares about the future until they grow up, have a real job, get married and have a bunch of screaming kids.

Facts: An actual truth. **NEW meaning:** Information that is unnecessary during a political debate or

See Butch Page 3

LWV Looks Into ICE, Immigration in Indiana

Why are people trying to prevent detention for non-criminal immigrants?

Some years back, Chris Cleave's Little Bee hit the bestseller list. Little Bee is 16, a Nigerian girl who has spent two years in a cinder block detention center in Essex, England. Her life is ordered by the regime of the center, and her entire future is on pause. She has no idea what the future holds, except that she wants to find a British woman whom she met on a beach one fateful day years earlier. She and the woman share the memory of surviving the brutality of a local militia. The militia destroyed Little Bee's village, murdered her sister, and took one of the woman's fingers in exchange for her life.

League of Women Voters
Column



The story echoes that of another bestseller, one inspired by a true story set in Australia. In Stateless (Netflix), a German woman, Cornelia Rau, is detained by Australia's border control and disappears into a desert detention camp, lost in the immigration detention system indefinitely, never charged with a crime and unable to fight for her own release.

Last fall, the LWVMC

wrote about Irish father Noel Ball, twice detained in the U.S., once on the eve of his wedding and again 10 years later. In his first detention, ICE moved him to seven different centers while his fiancée, Diana, sought to locate and free him. He'd committed no crime and had followed the procedures for his visa paperwork. Twelve years later, ICE detained

See League Page 4

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. The Builders Association of Greater Indianapolis reports that single-family building permit activity across Central Indiana closed out 2025 on stable footing, with year-end totals modestly exceeding 2024 levels. The nine-county region recorded 10,173 permits in 2025, compared to 10,044 permits in 2024, reflecting a 1 percent year-over-year increase and underscoring continued housing demand despite economic and seasonal headwinds. Permit activity remained consistent during the final months of the year, in line with typical winter seasonality and broader national housing trends. According to the U.S. Census Bureau and analysis from the National Association of Home Builders, single-family permitting and housing starts softened across much of the country late in 2025, as elevated interest rates, affordability constraints, and economic uncertainty weighed on builder confidence. Against that backdrop, Central Indiana's year-end performance remained relatively steady, reflecting a market that continues to adjust cautiously while maintaining underlying demand.

2. A host of top safety experts are scheduled to offer trainings at the 2026 Indiana Safety and Health Conference & Expo, which runs Feb. 23-25 in Indianapolis. The three-day event, presented by the Central Indiana Chapter of ASSP and the Indiana Chamber of Commerce in partnership with INSafe and the Coalition for Construction Safety, is the largest gathering of its kind in the state and will help attendees discover new strategies for compliance to build a safer workplace. Entertainer Terry Crews will serve as the opening session keynote speaker. Crews is an author, action-movie hero, sitcom star, children's book illustrator, talent show host and mental health advocate. He is the host of NBC's top-rated summer show "America's Got Talent," currently in its 20th season and will discuss "Mental Health in Safety." The conference, which is sponsored by Indiana Safety and Supply Co., will include sessions on a number of relevant issues, including leading in high-risk environments, eliminating unsafe conditions, automatic sprinkler systems, emotional intelligence, ladder safety, culture building, rescue plans and much more.

3. Gov. Mike Braun recently announced selections to fill three judicial vacancies, Joshua McMahan, Kevin McDaniel, and Elliott McKinnis. McMahan has been appointed to the Howard Superior Court 1. McDaniel has been appointed to the Tippecanoe Superior Court 1. And McKinnis has been appointed to the West Lafayette City Court.

MCCF to Host Professional Development Opportunities

Montgomery County Community Foundation is hosting two types of professional development opportunities this year. The Lunch & Learn sessions are one-hour educational offerings that take place at the Foundation office, 119 E. Green St., over the lunch hour, 12 - 1 p.m. Local experts in various areas share information useful to nonprofit organizations on a variety of topics. There is no cost, and participants are invited to bring their own lunch. Register at tinyurl.com/NPLunchandLearn.

The Nonprofit Learning Series offers more in-depth workshops on various topics related to the operation of a nonprofit. There is a \$25 fee and lunch is included. These workshops are held at the Hoosier Heartland State Bank Success Center. Register at tinyurl.com/NPLS2026.

MCCF Nonprofit Learning Series

Communications
Tuesday, March 10, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

Kim Johnson, Wabash College

Looking for new ways to tell your organization's story? This session will cover the two main goals of communications; writing and photography, with a special bonus hour* for camera basics!

*Deep Dive Into DSLR Photography offered from 3-4 p.m.

Strategic Planning
Tuesday, Aug. 18, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Karen Porter, KLPorther Strategic Solutions

Strategic planning is essential to the long-term success of nonprofits, yet the process can feel overwhelming or result in a plan that sits on a shelf. This session will demystify strategic planning by defining core components and walking participants through a clear, phased approach.

Fundraising and Planned Giving
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Phil Purcell, MPA/JD, Consultant for Philanthropies

This interactive workshop will have two parts: fundraising and planned giving. Both will explain the best practices for creating a comprehensive fundraising plan, incorporating planned giving, and how to involve a nonprofit board of directors when asking for gifts.

MCCF Lunch & Learn Sessions

Running Effective Meetings & Use of Robert's Rules

Feb. 18, 12 - 1 p.m.
Dan Taylor, Taylor, Minnette, Schneider & Clutter, P.C.

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The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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Sandy Webb Celebrates 30 Years with HHSB

Sandy Webb, Director of Retail, is celebrating 30 years with Hoosier Heartland State Bank.

Webb began her career at HHSB as a frontline teller, assisting customers with transactions and other banking needs. She was the branch manager at the Roachdale and Ladoga locations before transitioning to the branch manager of Crawfordsville East in June 2018. In 2021, she was named area manager, where she oversaw Crawfordsville East, Linden, Roachdale and Ladoga, along with the virtual branch. In 2023, she was promoted to Director of Retail.

"Sandy has poured her heart into HHSB for 30 years, and it shows in the way she cares for our customers and our team," stated Cody Hargis, Assistant Vice President of Retail. "Her kindness and consis-



Sandy Webb

tency have made a huge difference, and we couldn't be more excited to celebrate her today!"

Webb is the first and only HHSB employee to have won each category (Mission Award, Vision Award and Values Award) at HHSB's annual Shared Values Awards. She was raised in Roachdale and currently resides in Ladoga with her husband of 38 years, Dave. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her friends and family, entertaining in her home, cooking and shopping.

Lunch With The League This Friday

The League of Women Voters of Montgomery County will host its next Lunch with the League Friday at noon. The program will feature Wabash Center's Montgomery Adult Guardianship Services and its Volunteer Advocates for Seniors and Incapacitated Adults Program.

The presenter will be Marcelle Jones, Program Coordinator for the Montgomery Adult Guardianship Services. This program partners with Montgomery County Superior Court 2 and Judge Daniel Petrie to provide trained, supervised volunteers who

serve as court-appointed advocates and care partners for elderly and incapacitated adults.

Now in its 10th year, the program works with local aging and disability providers to support vulnerable

are often scared and confused, and then their volunteer advocate walks in. They see that smile and hear, 'I'm here to speak up for you, to make sure they take care of you. Is that OK?' In time,

funded through a grant supervised by the State Adult Guardianship Office, Montgomery County Courts, Montgomery County Community Foundation and Wabash Center, Inc.

To learn more or become a volunteer, attend the Lunch with the League Friday or contact Marcelle Jones at mjohnnes@wabash-center.com.

Lunch with the League is a free program offered in the public interest sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County

Lunch with the League will take place in Whitlock Hall at St. John's Episcopal Church from noon to 1 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church is located at 212 S. Green St. in Crawfordsville.

Plan to bring a sack lunch or a lunch from any of the offerings in town and hear Ms. Jones talk about the Adult Guardianship Program and how you can participate as a volunteer or let others know about the volunteer opportunities this program offers to help adults in need.

adults across Montgomery County.

"We really try to promote the dignity of human life," said Sharon White, Program Manager. "They

their fears soften, trust grows. And that is what advocating for them truly means."

The Montgomery Adult Guardianship Services program is

Elston Memorial Foundation Gets Grant

In 2025, Indiana Landmarks awarded \$3,226,856 to help nonprofits and cities around Indiana save meaningful places, including one in Crawfordsville. Drawing from a variety of funds, these grants support efforts ranging from architectural assessments and repairs at historic structures, to programs, workshops, videos, and digital walking tours promoting preservation and heritage.

Locally, the Elston Memorial Foundation was granted \$4,000 for development of historic structures report for 1882 Queen Anne-style house. This money came from the

Efroymsen Family Endangered Places Grants. The goal is to support architectural and structural assessments, rehab cost analyses, reuse studies, and fundraising planning. In

2025, Indiana Landmarks made 13 grants totaling \$41,840. The fund honors the Efroymsen family's significant support of the organization's endangered places programs.



INDIANA LANDMARKS

Tessa Surber Joins Staff at F.C. Tucker

Over the last three years I have heard from many of you, especially those from Vermillion and Warren counties, that you should have the right to decide for yourselves whether carbon sequestration projects move forward in your communities.

I agree, which is why in both 2024 and 2025 I authored multiple bills in response: Senate Bill 7 and Senate Bill 260. On Tuesday, I joined Vermillion County Commissioner Bill Peebles to testify in support of SB 7. Then, on Thursday, I spoke on the floor in support.

Deery and Commissioner

In my testimony, I walked my colleagues through the environmental history of Vermillion County, from coal mining to the Newport Chemical Depot. I explained how when this started in 2019 (before I was in politics), no one ever asked the people whether they wanted to be a testing ground for carbon sequestration. I stated that no county should be a dumping ground for another county's waste without that county's approval.

The bill passed by a vote of 36 - 12, making it the first of its kind to pass either the House or the Senate. The bill now moves to the House for consideration.

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.

The deadline to fill out the survey is this Sunday, Feb. 1 at 11:59 p.m.

Keeping Dangerous Criminals Off the Streets

There have been too many news stories in recent years about dangerous repeat criminals who were arrested but let out of jail on little or no bail, only to hurt more innocent people.

Understandably, many people are fed up with "catch and release" policies that fail to keep dangerous criminals behind bars. That's why I'm supporting legislation this year aimed at keeping dangerous suspects off our streets.

In most of the country, courts can hold at least some dangerous arrestees without bail in order to protect the public. Senate Joint Resolution 1 seeks to amend Indiana's constitution so judges could hold an arrestee without bail if there is no way to release them without threatening the public.

A companion bill, Senate Bill 2, would make sure arrestees are treated fairly when their bail is set and guarantees all arrestees have legal protections like the right to an attorney at their bail hearing, the right to present evidence, and the right to have their bail set in a timely manner.



Spencer Deery
State Senator



Courtesy Photo

Senator Spencer Deery and Vermillion County Commissioner Bill Peebles

SJR 1 and SB 2 work as a package to improve public safety for every community in Indiana. Under Indiana's constitutional amendment process, if SJR 1 passes the House, it will appear as a statewide ballot question during this November's election, meaning you will have the chance to weigh in on this important issue.

Legislative Update

This week I had other bills, in addition to SB 7, move forward. 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. The bill passed the Senate Monday with bipartisan sup-

port and now heads to the House of Representatives for further consideration.

Senate Bill 204 would get the best people into Indiana's schools by reforming teacher training and improving licensing pathways. It also reduces some administrative burdens on our universities by eliminating duplicative reporting that drives up costs. The bill passed the Senate Tuesday and now heads to the House of Representatives 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.

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BEFORE AFTER

CRACKS IN THE BASEMENT?



Photo courtesy Andy Chandler

The Wabash College volleyball team is in season – and so far the Little Giant spikers are 1-1, having beaten Maranatha Baptist and falling to Illinois Wesleyan. Wabash is back in action Saturday at River Forest, Ill. when it takes on Dominican University at noon and Concordia at 4 p.m. The Little Giants are back home Tuesday when Franklin College comes calling. The sport is in its sixth season at the college and is coming off back-to-back winning records.

BUTCH

Continued from Page 1

during a CNN or FOX newscast.
 Hammered: To strike blows with a hammer. NEW meaning: What Republicans were going to get with the aid of alcoholic beverages if Kamala Harris and Tim Walz had been elected.
 Moron: Someone who cuts in front of you on the highway. NEW meaning: An ICE protester.
 Hot: A sexually appealing person. NEW meaning: A condition which is the opposite of Hillary Clinton.
 Plumber: A skilled individual who can repair water pipes and fixtures. NEW meaning: The guy who cannot resist bending over

with his pants too low.
 Male and Female: Members of the opposite sex. NEW meaning: Whatever they say they are . . . hard to tell sometimes.
 Marijuana: Dried leaves of the hemp plant. NEW meaning: The reason you are working at Taco Bell when you're 50.
 Hard working: People who go to work every day and don't complain. NEW meaning: A person who realizes that no one will ever thank them.
 Hollywood: The stars of the motion picture industry. NEW meaning: The liberal elites who are so wealthy that they don't have to

associate with the common people who they pretend to care about.
 Finger: A part of the hand." NEW meaning: The current expression of gratitude between political opponents, which has replaced the customary smile and handshake.
 Now this should clear up any misunderstanding or lack of clarity between people during everyday conversations . . . I think.
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.

FOUNDATION

Continued from Page 1

Meetings are essential but can derail board initiatives when poorly planned. Effective meetings should be purposeful and aligned with strategic goals. This workshop will provide strategies for running more efficient, goal-oriented meetings, including practical use of Robert's Rules of Order—the most widely used parliamentary procedure since its introduction in 1876. Participants will learn how to apply the rules both as a presiding officer and as an active board member.
 Grantwriting Basics Wednesday, March 4, 12 – 1 p.m.
 Cheryl Keim, MCCF Grants & Community Relations Director
 This session will introduce the fundamentals of grantwriting for nonprofit organizations, from identifying appropriate funding sources, to crafting a proposal that combines relevant and meaningful data with compelling narrative about the program or project. With thoughtful planning and good organizational skills, grantwriting need not be overwhelming. While

the content will focus on the MCCF grant process, information will be applicable to most any grant application.
 AI for Nonprofits April 22, 12 – 1 p.m.
 Matt Salzman, Director of Grant Relations at Wabash College
 Local nonprofits often rely on part-time staff and volunteers to carry out big missions. This Lunch & Learn will focus on how accessible, easy-to-use AI tools can help lighten everyday workloads and make limited time go further. Together, we'll look at how nonprofits can:
 Save time on writing, planning, and administrative tasks
 Support part-time staff and volunteers with clearer workflows and materials
 Improve communications and fundraising
 Use AI responsibly as a support tool—not a replacement for human judgment
 This session is designed for nonprofit leaders, staff, board members, and volun-

teers with little or no experience using AI tools.
 Lean Processes for Nonprofit Business Operations Sept. 23, 12 – 1 p.m.
 Matt Salzman, Director of Grant Relations at Wabash College
 Nonprofits are often asked to do more with less - less time, less staff, and tighter budgets. This session will introduce simple, practical ways nonprofits can work more efficiently without losing sight of their mission. Lean is a specific methodology applied to organizational practices that aims to increase efficiency and quality by identifying and removing waste in processes. The goal is to focus on what truly adds value for the organization and its members. Matt will share nonprofit-friendly tools and lessons that help organizations reduce unnecessary steps, simplify everyday work, and free up time for programs and people. This session is not about corporate jargon or manufacturing—it's about making nonprofit operations clearer, smoother, and more sustainable.

Montgomery County Community Foundation is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year and has awarded over \$33.5 million in grants and scholarships since 1991. To learn more about MCCF, visit www.mccf-in.org and follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

Karen Stops By For a Visit – But Not For Oysters



Karen Zach
 Special Guest Columnist

How many of you like seafood? I like some – shrimp, crab and lobster but there are a couple that just make me sick (not only literally but just looking at them), one of those being oysters! After writing genealogy columns (sometimes more than one at a time) for over 50 years, there are few topics I've not covered but when reading some old 1850-1900 newspaper advertisements, I found one of those topics! LOTS of ads for LOTS of places in our area selling "fresh" oysters although I never could figure where they would get "fresh" ones! Don't think Sugar Creek housed any!

Often, there would be several places selling them (Crawfordsville Review 15 Sept 1860). In this year and before and beyond, Isaac Marks would often have oysters as the main point of an ad "Isaac A. Marks has received the agency of the sale of these delicious bivalves (oysters). He will commence receiving them direct from Baltimore in a few days and will sell them at prices so low that everybody can afford to purchase." On the same page, Hay's Eating Saloon was receiving "Fresh Baltimore Oysters, daily and served 'em up in fine style!"

When I was a young'un, there would be several oyster soup suppers (thank goodness they often had chili too and pie or I'd have left very hungry) given by one of the churches or clubs in town to raise money for some such project. Don't hear much of that anymore!

Oysters were a big draw even in the small communities.

Now, any of my long time readers will remember Hiram Pratt, Waveland's local barber for more than five decades. Although he wrote in a journal every day of each of those years, only about 15 have been preserved. I typed them all for the Montgomery County GenWeb page (originals in the Crawfordsville District Public Library) and many have fallen in love with the man. Definitely an interesting good fellow! So keep on topic, here, Karen. He absolutely craved oysters. Dec 8, 1870 is the first I believe where he wrote about oysters. Paid Irwin for a can of oysters 75 cents. Fairly sure there wasn't a diary where he didn't write about having the seafood for a meal and sometimes just a snack. This oyster lover was still writing about having them in 1907 one of the most up to date diaries we have of his. This time the price (for a pint) on Nov. 26 was 30 cents.

On the GenWeb page, there is a great article (written by a Chicago newspaper correspondent visiting Crawfordsville) featuring author Maurice Thompson (and his brother) shooting his arrow and oysters are even in this tale: "We then threw apples, oranges and oyster cans up in the air and the

brothers shot at them on the wing. It was no trouble for either one to wing an oyster can, but occasionally an apple or orange would get away!"

Guess you can only stomach so much about oysters so I'll conclude this with one story. When hubs was in the National Guards a couple of the wives and about six soldiers were in Michigan and we all went to a nice smorgasbord restaurant for an evening meal. There was literally everything there and of course, you have guessed, Oysters! Several internet sites say that 4-12 oysters is all you should eat. Well, this restaurant had lots of oysters! One of the Guardsman just kept going back for more, probably starting off with 20 and he went for more at least four times. Take warning, ya' may love your oyster like Hi Pratt but do not continue to oyster dive or you may end-up like the Guard -- sick for two days, missing his drill time!

For years, Karen Zach was the editor of Montgomery Memories, our monthly magazine all about Montgomery County. Her column, Around the County, appeared every Friday in The Paper of Montgomery County. Karen retired from all that a few years ago but sent us this gem to share with you. You can reach her at karen.zach@sbglobal.net.

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LEAGUE

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Noel again, this time for almost two years before deporting him to London. The future is uncertain for his family.

American citizens are divided about immigration in the country. A climb in immigration in recent years has spiked concerns. The Migration Policy Institute reports that: "In 2023, the State Department issued 10.4 million temporary visas for tourists, international students, and others, up from 8.7 million in FY 2019. Inside the United States, the 969,000 immigrants who became citizens in 2022, after spending years as lawful permanent residents (green-card holders like Noel Ball), represented the largest naturalization total since FY 2008."

While some Americans support removing immigrants with a legal conviction and setting stricter visa issuance, others want immigration to be zero. Some want to provide legal pathways for immigrants studying, working and contributing to the economy here. Our system is complex, and there are many statuses for immigrants: people naturalized through marriage, adoption, or years of legal residency; student or H1-B working immigrants; asylum seekers; refugees; and those on temporary protective status.

The confusion opens a door to differences that we could be working out in civil discussion. Some citizens perceive a heightened threat from immigrants. Either "they're taking our jobs or housing," or they're leeching our social safety net and school dollars, or they're criminals. Others have immigrants in their families, adopted kids, married in-laws or spouses, or they have church members, neighbors and friends. That personal connection drives them to take action to care for those they know and love.

With emotions at a pitch, the distance between groups feels intractable, especially as more

and more people – 73.6 percent of whom have no criminal record, according to the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse – are being locked up in a growing system of detention centers fueled by federal dollars.

In January, Indiana AID's Robin Valenzuela and Whitney Guthrie presented on the current situation to Montgomery County residents, sharing about the rapid, costly expansion of detention across the region and state.

Not long ago, there was effectively one long-term ICE detention site in the state: Clay County Jail in Brazil, which typically held 50-60 people for ICE at a time. Since a major DHS-funded expansion that increased ICE bed space by roughly 170 percent, Clay now regularly holds well over 200 detainees and has, at times, exceeded 300. Clay was the largest facility within the Chicago Field Office Region prior to Trump 2.0; since then, a huge number of county jails have worked with ICE.

On top of Clay, Marion County Jail in Indianapolis revived its federal contract and began holding ICE detainees in 2025, initially "a few dozen" people but with dedicated housing units for up to 128 beds. Then came the game-changer: a DHS agreement to hold up to 1,000 people in ICE custody at Miami Correctional Facility north of Indianapolis, with a per-detainee payment nearly four times higher than what Clay County receives.

What was once a single county jail contracting with ICE has become a regional detention infrastructure stretching across Indiana and feeding the wider Great Lakes enforcement corridor. Clay, Marion, Miami, and additional county jails such as Clinton and Clark now move people back and forth in a dizzying circuit that is invisible to most Hoosiers but all too real for the families trying to figure out where their loved one is this week. Indiana AID's volunteers report

on dire conditions. At Clay County Jail, detainees sleep in overcrowded units; when the contracted beds fill, "boat beds" – thin plastic shells on the floor – are pulled out to pack more bodies into the space. Food is inadequate, both in quality and quantity, forcing people to buy basics from the jail commissary run by the same private contractor that provides the meals, removing any incentive to improve them. The federal government pays the for-profit company that runs Clay County \$85 / day per person, along with \$27/hour for each guard and transportation fees. Detainees are frequently transferred without warning.

Detainees must purchase more food to meet their daily caloric needs and towels, undergarments, shampoo, soap and toiletries from the commissary. Commissary prices are heavily marked up – some items more than five times local retail. For instance, a 3-ounce packet of chicken breast costs \$5.34. The same brand at Walmart costs \$2.60 for 7 ounces.

There is no outdoor recreation, limited access to health care and medication, no mental health counseling and widespread use of solitary confinement and collective punishment (for example, taking away tablets or television for the entire unit when a few people complain). Books and mail have been withheld.

At Marion County Jail, Indiana AID volunteers note that ICE detainees are housed in separate units, often woken for breakfast at 3:30 a.m., and excluded from the programming available to county inmates, despite the county receiving a daily fee of \$75 / person.

Miami Correctional Facility, a maximum-security prison now being used for civil immigration detention, is even less transparent. Advocates estimate that roughly 800 people are currently held there, many transferred from Clay, Marion or further away, at a rate of

around \$291 per detainee per day. Through all of this, the basic legal fact remains: immigration status is a civil matter, not a crime. Yet people with no criminal convictions are locked up for months or years in county jails and state prisons across our region.

Many detainees were originally present legally in the United States – they entered with visas, held Temporary Protected Status, or had pending asylum claims – and later found themselves detained after a loss or challenge to that status, sometimes because protections like TPS were narrowed or because they overstayed a visa in a system that offers few realistic paths to adjust their status. They're being detained when they report to maintain their legal status, as they are required to do, or they get caught up in sweeps through businesses and neighborhoods.

Local citizens who see the need are volunteering to document when a person is taken, to try to obtain names of those being picked up by ICE or to prevent residents who are constitutionally protected by due process from having their rights violated.

These actions have a constitutional and moral basis. Now, what we need is a larger civic discussion about resolving the system's problems and our philosophy on immigration: how many can we welcome, how are they contributing, and what is the tipping point for straining our systems? Next week, we'll answer five questions people ask about immigration.

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.luvvmtcoin.org; or, visit the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, Indiana Facebook page.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Cargill (173 West County Road 1100 North, Linden, IN 47955) is submitting a Notice of Intent to notify Montgomery County and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management of our intent to comply with the requirements of Montgomery County, as well as the requirements of Construction Stormwater General Permit to discharge stormwater from construction activities associated with the Cargill New Facility Office located at 1000 feet south of CR 1100 North on Jim Simpson Drive. Run-off from the project site will ultimately discharge into Lofland Ditch. Questions or comments should be directed to: Seth Bancroft, Cargill, 173 W CR 1100 N, Linden, IN 47955 (360) 606-3332 PL5252 2/4 1t hspaxlp

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE USE OF THE WATER AND THE SEWAGE SYSTEM AND RELATED SERVICES OF THE TOWN
WHEREAS, the Town of Linden, Indiana (Town) operates both a water utility and a wastewater utility for the benefit of its citizens and the surrounding area;
WHEREAS, the existing rates, fees and charges are set forth in these earlier ordinances;
WHEREAS, it has been determined by the Town Council that the existing rates and charges for connection to the water and wastewater system are insufficient to cover the costs of making those connections, and therefore should be amended and modified as provided in this ordinance;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LINDEN, as follows:
1. WATER RATES – for connection to the Town waterworks, each user connecting to the system shall pay a fee equal to the actual cost of making the connection to the Town's waterworks – but not less than \$250.
2. WASTEWATER RATES – for connection to the Town wastewater system, each user connecting to the system shall pay a fee equal to the actual cost of making the connection to the Town's wastewater system – but not less than \$450.
All other provisions of the current waterworks and wastewater system ordinances of the Town and all earlier ordinances, not amended by this ordinance, shall remain in full force and effect.
The provisions herein, when approved and adopted, shall be effective as soon as practicable.
SO ADOPTED this 4th day of February 2026.
LINDEN TOWN COUNCIL
Wade Bennett, President
Paul Buckles, Member
Chasity Surface, Member
ATTEST:
BY Clerk Treasurer PL5255 2/4 1t 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 Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No. 54D01-2503-MF-000279 wherein Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for Freddie Mac SLST 2022-1 Participation Interest Trust was Plaintiff, and Gordon J. Mills, Occupant(s) of 17 Gladiator Dr, Waynetown, IN 47990, Commodity Credit Corporation, Credit Acceptance Corp. and Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority 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 March, 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.
Lot numbered 17, as the same is known and designated on the recorded plat or Cap Subdivision to the Town of Wayne Town, Montgomery County, Indiana as the same appears of record as Instrument Numbered 200500836 in the Records Office of Montgomery County, Indiana.
More commonly known as: 17 Gladiator Dr, Waynetown, IN 47990
Parcel No. : 05-14-443-039.017-037
Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisalment laws.
Alan W. McEwan Ryan Needham
24051-49 Sheriff of Montgomery County
Doyle & Foutty, P.C.
41 E Washington Street
Suite 400
Indianapolis, IN 46204 Wayne Township
17 Gladiator Dr, Waynetown, IN 47990
Street Address
SHERIFF FILE NO:
The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street addressed published herein
SERVICE DIRECTED TO:
Gordon J. Mills
PO Box 253
Waynetown, IN 47990
MANNER OF SERVICE: Certified Mail
Occupant(s) of 17 Gladiator Dr, Waynetown, IN 47990
17 Gladiator Dr
Waynetown, IN 47990
MANNER OF SERVICE: Sheriff
NOTICE
DOYLE & FOUTTY, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR
PL5257 2/4 2/11 2/18 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 appraisalment 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
NOTICE: MARINOSCI LAW GROUP, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
PL5254 2/4 2/11 2/18 3t hspaxlp

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Montgomery County Board of Commissioners
NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF HEARING ON RE ESTABLISHMENT OF CUMULATIVE BRIDGE FUND
Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of Montgomery County, Indiana that the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners will consider at the Community Meeting Room, 1580 Constitution Row, Crawfordsville, Indiana at 8 o'clock a.m. on February 23, 2026, the re-establishment of the Cumulative Bridge Fund under the provisions of Indiana Code §8-16-3 for the following purposes: the construction, repair, maintenance and inspection of bridges in Montgomery County.
If accommodations are required to attend this meeting, please contact Auditor Mindy Byers at 765-364-6403.
The tax will be levied on all taxable real and personal property in Montgomery County and will not exceed \$0.075 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The proposed tax will be levied beginning with taxes due and payable in the year 2027. Taxpayers appearing at this public hearing will have the right to be heard on this issue. The proposal to re-establish the Cumulative Bridge Fund is subject to approval by the Department of Local Government Finance.
Within thirty (30) days of the adoption of the ordinance re-establishing the Cumulative Bridge Fund by the Board of Commissioners of Montgomery County, Montgomery County will publish a Notice of Adoption. Upon publication of the Notice of Adoption, twenty-five (25) or more taxpayers in the taxing district (Montgomery County) may file a petition with the County Auditor not later than 12 noon, thirty (30) days after the publication of the Notice of Adoption setting forth their objections to the proposed fund.
Dated this 26th day of January, 2026.
Board of Commissioners of Montgomery County, Indiana
PL5253 2/4 1t 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 the Superior Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No. 54D02-2509-MF-001131, wherein Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC was Plaintiff, and Hailey M. McCormick was the Defendant, 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 of March, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., at 600 Memorial Dr., Crawfordsville, IN 47933 with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana:
THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, STATE OF INDIANA:
PART OF LOT NUMBERED ONE (1), AS THE SAME IS KNOWN AND DESIGNATED ON THE RECORDED PLAT OF BRUSH & RUSSELL'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF CRAWFORDSVILLE, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT NUMBERED ONE (1) AND RUNNING THENCE SOUTH EIGHTY-SEVEN (87) FEET TEN AND FIVE TENTHS (10.5) INCHES TO A POINT EIGHTY-ONE (81) FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT; THENCE WEST FIFTY-SIX (56) FEET THREE (3) INCHES; THENCE NORTH EIGHTY-SEVEN (87) FEET TEN AND FIVE TENTHS (10.5) INCHES TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT; THENCE EAST FIFTY-SIX (56) THREE (3) INCHES TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. ALL SITUATED IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, INDIANA.
Commonly known as 813 E. Market St., Crawfordsville, IN 47933
Parcel No. 07-32-443-001.000-030
THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE DOES NOT WARRANT THE ACCURACY OF THE STREET ADDRESS PUBLISHED HEREIN
Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisalment laws. All sales are subject to any first and prior liens, taxes and assessments legally levied and assessed thereon.
Ryan Needham
Sheriff of Montgomery County, Indiana
/s/ Brian K. Tekulve
Brian Tekulve
Lender Legal PLLC
PLEASE SERVE BY:
Sheriff
Hailey M. McCormick
813 E Market St
Crawfordsville, IN 47933
PL5256 2/4 2/11 2/18 3t hspaxlp

The Paper OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY Visit us online: thepaper24-7.com

Governor Reappoints Local Woman to Board

Governor Mike Braun recently reappointed a local woman to continue serving on the state board of physical

therapy. Therese Eutsler was reappointed by Braun. Her term expires on Dec. 31, 2029.

County VSO Shares February Report



Nicholas Kashon

Veterans Service Officer
Montgomery County

I have finished my first full month as your new Service Officer. It has been a whirlwind of appointments, new information, and each day I continue to learn more and more about the system. It has been an honor to continue to help veterans obtain the benefits that they so deserve.

In January the office received 99 phone calls and had 44 visitors in the office. The DAV vans were used over 30 times to take veterans to various appointments. We had our first veteran roundtable, where members of various groups in the county meet to discuss ways to better serve our local veterans. These groups include the DAV, DAR, American Legion, Y22, Veterans Memorial Park and the Veteran service officer.

What exactly is the role of the Service Officer? We are here to help our veterans

navigate the VA system. Help them to fill out the proper paperwork in getting disability, death benefits or schedule a ride to a medical appointment. We help veterans with their education benefits, help find service records or just sit and listen.

If you, or anyone you know, need help with any of these services please call and make an appointment at (765) 361-4133.

Local attorney Dan Taylor continues to help veterans draft a will at no cost. You can call his office at (765) 361-9680 to schedule a time to meet with him.

Stay warm, spring is on the way.

Nicholas Kashon is the Veterans Service Officer for Montgomery County. You can reach him at Nick.Kashon@montgomerycounty.in.gov or (765) 361-4133. His office is located at 1580 Constitution Row Crawfordsville.

Rep. Genda Shares Updates

Indiana House lawmakers are partnering with the Indiana Diaper Bank for this year's philanthropy project to collect diapers and diapering supplies for Hoosier families in need.

The Indiana Diaper Bank empowers families in Indiana by providing a reliable and adequate supply of diapering essentials. The nonprofit has 70 distribution partners across the state. Since 2017, the Indiana Diaper Bank has distributed 19,786,359 diapers to 294,073 babies.

As part of its collection drive, the House will accept donations including new and opened packages of diapers of all sizes, pull ups, wipes, diaper cream and clean cloth diapers. Donation bins are located near the House Chamber entrance and the 4th Floor South Atrium at the Statehouse in Indianapolis.

The House is also accepting monetary donations to support the Indiana Diaper Bank. You can contribute to the House fund here. The collection drive will run through

the end of the 2026 legislative session in February.

For more information about the Indiana Diaper Bank, click here.

Apply now for energy, heating assistance. With colder temperatures here and heating costs on the rise, there is assistance available for Hoosiers struggling to pay their bills.

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program provides a one-time, annual benefit to help eligible Hoosiers with home energy payments. Applications are now open and will be accepted through April 20, 2026.

Please note the program does not cover all home energy expenses, so it is important that you continue to pay your utility bills. Hoosiers at risk of having their utilities disconnected should contact their provider as soon as possible to discuss payments. You can find a map of utility providers here, or simply call 211 for local resources.



Mark Genda
House Representative



indiana diaper bank

Several utility providers also offer payment assistance resources. Visit your local provider's website for assistance options. To learn more about Indiana's electric providers, click here.

Stay warm and have a great winter season! Reducing Government Bureaucracy

House Republicans announced priorities for the 2026 legislative session that include removing unnecessary regulations to expand opportunity and lower the cost of living. This episode of Around the House focuses on how these proposals will reduce bureaucracy and make government

more efficient. READ: Graduating More Hoosier Students

Nearly 92% of Indiana's high school seniors graduated in 2025, the highest rate in state history! Learn more about Indiana's continuing academic progress on this week's blog.

This historic achievement is a testament to our educators, families and hardworking students who have prioritized academic success.

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

Where in the Word is Tim Timmons?

There's no Two Cents column this week. We're not sure where Timmons is, but we figure he'll wander back in before next week.

Then again, who knows? Stay tuned.

Two Cents
from Tim Timmons



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Buchanan's Workforce, Pharmacist Bills Pass Senate



Photo courtesy Sen. Brian Buchanan's office

SB 293 got the support of the Indiana Pharmacy Association. He posed with pharmacy students from Butler and Purdue universities.

Two bills authored by State Sen. Brian Buchanan (R-Lebanon) unanimously passed the Senate this week.

Senate Bill 223 would require a state agency providing workforce development programs to include the number of people who participated in more than one workforce program and the average increase in the person's wages after exiting the program in their annual reports.

"The goal of Senate Bill 223 is to gather as much data as possible to gauge the effectiveness of these programs going forward," Buchanan said. "The state spends millions of dollars on workforce development

programs each year, and knowing if they are working and meeting our goals is important so we know if taxpayer dollars should continue to be invested in these programs or be put to better use on other options."

Senate Bill 293 would remove the requirement for pharmacists to take a law exam to become a licensed pharmacist in Indiana. Instead, pharmacists would take continuing education courses to ensure they understand current state laws and policies.

Buchanan worked with the Indiana Pharmacy Association on the legislation.

"Pharmacists are a vital part of the

health care industry, and Senate Bill 293 is aimed at reducing the red tape needed for students to get their pharmacist licenses," Buchanan said. "I was grateful for the help from the Butler and Purdue students on this legislation and thank them for their work."

Both bills now head to the House of Representatives for further consideration.

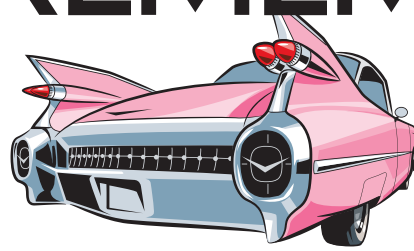
Buchanan encourages residents of Senate District 7 to contact him with any questions or comments they may have. Buchanan can be reached by filling out a "Contact Me" form online at www.IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Buchanan or by phone at 800-382-9467.

Buchanan represents Senate District 7, which

includes portions of Boone, Clinton, Hendricks and

Montgomery counties.

REMEMBER WHEN?



Back in the day with Butch Dale



Hot Cars From Back In The Day

Do you recognize this classic car from 1970?

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!

765-918-1773 - william.dale@exprealty.com

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