

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 34:8

O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

■ AWL BOOSTER



Booster is a 1 year old male Labrador Retriever available for adoption at The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 12/4/2025. Booster loves going out for walks/jogs, frolicking in a fenced yard, and being showered with endless love/attention. Booster is looking for his best friend! Could that be you? AWL is open Monday-Friday from 12:15-5p and Saturday's from 12-3p. Come snuggle cats in a community cat room, walk dogs, or lend a helping hand!

■ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

The Crawfordsville/Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce invites the community to attend its first-ever State Financial Update Fireside Chat on Tuesday, March 31 from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Hoosier Heartland State Bank Success Center (1623 S US 231 in Crawfordsville). This informative event will feature Indiana State Treasurer Daniel Elliott and Indiana State Comptroller Elise Nieshalla in a moderated discussion focused on the current status of Indiana's financial landscape. Attendees will gain insight into the state's fiscal health, budgeting priorities, economic outlook and financial initiatives that impact local businesses, taxpayers and communities. The program will also include time for audience questions, offering a valuable opportunity to engage directly with two of the state's top financial officers. The event is open to the public for a fee, regardless of age. The cost is \$10 for Chamber members and \$15 for non-members. Preregistration before March 18 is encouraged to assist with planning. Visit [crawfordsvillechamber.com](http://crawfordsvillechamber.com) to register or call (765) 362-6800



So Ol' Don is talking about UFOs, or UAPs. Isn't that just the perfect definition of government? Everyone and their uncle have been calling these things UFOs for decades. And yet the government pays somebody somewhere to throw that out and start calling them UAPs. Dunno who that was, but I want their job!

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The man who has planted a garden feels that he has done something for the good of the world."

Charles D. Warner

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

What do you call a sad strawberry?  
A blueberry!

# The Paper

## OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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## Concert ON THE Corner

Photos courtesy Andy Chandler

**Indiana University's Acapella consort Collegium Polyphonia was featured in Wabash Avenue Presbyterian's Concerts on the Corner Sunday. Composed of six graduate students and two undergraduates from the IU Jacobs School of Music, the group was recently formed by Dr. Dana Marsh. Dr. Marsh is the Chair of the Department of Historical Performance and professor of music at IU Bloomington. He said this was the first time the group performed together in concert. The concert featured a capella sacred music from the Western European High Church in the 1500s and 1600s. Despite the blustery conditions, about 80 people attended.**

## LWV Report From Solar Meeting



The day before the Montgomery County planning meeting, my father had solar panels installed on his house – something that seemed improbable six months ago. He had previously debated electrification and was skeptical of Priuses until he had to commute six hours to work each week.

When I heard he was going solar, he cited calculations showing he would have a net gain even without tax breaks, which he opposes.

He's like many pro-Trump locals who have installed solar arrays; it just makes economic sense.

Solar energy didn't used to be polarizing. It was a good use of money and land, so listening to the testimonies at the Copper Box Commission Meeting on Tuesday, March 10, highlighted the anxieties and concerns raised against solar farms in the county.

Fire Risk  
Concerns about peat fires and volunteer departments

See League Page 3

## Butch Lists Guidelines for Women Over 70



In my last column I listed a few guidelines for men who have reached the age of 70. Now here are some suggestions for women who are in the same age bracket.

1. If you make it out of bed in the morning, grab a cup of coffee, and make to your recliner, you are exactly where you want to be . . . at home and avoiding people. While sipping your coffee, you can decide to use the powers of caffeine for good or evil.
2. Your goals for the remainder of the day should be to buy something you really want, smack someone and eat something sweet. No use to worry about the future . . . just take one anxiety attack at a time. And the great thing is that you can now laugh, cough, sneeze and pee at the same time!
3. Don't compare yourself to friends who brag that on their recent vacation they climbed a mountain. Just

See Butch Page 3

## Happy Birthday to My Best Friend

Do you have a friend, a very best friend, who you've known and kept close to for more than four decades? Some of us have – but those seem to be more rare today than they used to be.

So believe me when I tell you that I am one of the luckiest shmoes around. My wife, my absolute best friend, has put up with a vagabond journalist for more than 43 years. She's followed me away from her parents and sisters to the dry and dusty lands of West Texas, the beaches of North Carolina, the lunacy of California, the land of lake effect snow in South Bend, the broken roads of

East Texas and to the hills and hollers of Kentucky.

She's given me two beautiful and wonderful daughters and they have given us eight delightful grandpups – seven wonderful boys and one gorgeous and talented girl.

Yes sir, it's been a trip! Not to say it's all been smooth sailing. How could anything over 40-some years not have bumps and valleys?

But through it all she has stayed – even when she probably didn't want to – traveling along, signing a song . . . (sing it with me now), side by side.

As one of my favorite people used to say, truth to



**Two Cents from Tim Timmons**

tell, we shouldn't be here. Back in 1982 or '83, we were engaged and trying to figure out where we were going to get married. I was Catholic and she was Lutheran. We met with clergy from both religions and the Catholic priest gave us a compatibility test.

We failed.

See Two Cents Page 4

## ■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

**1.** Don't blame us if we love bookstores! So that's why when our friends at Advance Funds Network <<https://advancefundsnetwork.com/>>, a direct business loan lender, conducted a nationwide study to identify the small businesses Americans say are the places known for real warmth, patience and above-and-beyond service we were excited. We were even more excited to learn that an Indiana bookstore -- Fables and Fairy Tales (Martinsville) – was the top Indiana business on the list. The study surveyed 3,104 adults and combined direct consumer feedback with each business's Google review score to create a final ranking. Tops in the U.S. was Matchbox Candle Co. in Sioux Falls, S.D.

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

**3.** Kroger recently announced that it's expanding access to high-demand GLP-1 therapies at participating Kroger pharmacies, bringing patients a more convenient option for obtaining their medication. The Kroger Family of Pharmacies honor manufacturer-sponsored programs, including Lilly's KwikPen Self-Pay Savings Card for Zepbound®, according to each program's eligibility requirements and terms and conditions. For eligible patients, these programs may help lower out-of-pocket costs. This marks the first time self-pay patients may be eligible for Lilly's savings program for this product at a retail pharmacy location. Kroger also support patients in navigating all available payment options, including insurance benefits, manufacturer programs and discount cards. This empowers patients to choose the pathway that works best for them. Insurance coverage and pricing vary by individual.

# The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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## Mayor Barton Sets Community Forum Monday

Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton has scheduled his monthly Community Forum for Monday, March 23 from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Mayor's Office in the City Building.

This will be Barton's 153rd Community Forum since taking office.

Holding a monthly community forum was something Barton pledged to do during his first campaign for mayor and he has continued to do so every month – except during the COVID pandemic.

This event is designed to allow the



Mayor Todd Barton

public to come ask questions, discuss concerns, interact with the mayor and learn more about anything regarding the city.

The City Building is located at 300 E. Pike St., just off beautiful downtown Crawfordsville.

## Braun Partners with Turning Point USA

Indiana Gov. Mike Braun recently held an event with Turning Point USA and issued a proclamation reaffirming freedom of speech as a foundational American value to be defended and celebrated, supporting open dialogue and individual liberty, and calling on all Indiana schools and universities to take all steps to facilitate student organizations like Turning Point USA chapters that foster the values of liberty and freedom of speech for the next generation.

"I commend the work of Turning Point USA's Club America and other organizations dedicated to fostering an appreciation for American exceptionalism, the importance of constitutional rights, and standing for freedom. I call on all schools and universities in Indiana to take all necessary steps to facilitate student organizations like Turning Point USA that foster the values of

liberty and freedom of speech in the next generation of Hoosiers." - Governor Mike Braun

The proclamation recognizes that freedom of speech is a foundational human right that protects each person's search for the truth and pursuit of happiness in society and that the exchange of ideas is essential to promote a healthy, dynamic, and informed society.

Governor Braun also commended "the work of Turning Point USA's Club America and other organizations dedicated to fostering an appreciation for American exceptionalism, the importance of constitutional rights, and standing for freedom."

It also emphasizes that "robust, open dialogue strengthens communities by fostering civic engagement, innovation, government accountability, understanding, and respect among people with diverse viewpoints."

## Court OKs Cleanup on Mill Street

The City of Crawfordsville has secured an agreed judgment in the Montgomery County Superior Court 2 requiring cleanup of a nuisance property located at 802 Mill Street in Crawfordsville.

On March 12, 2026, the Court granted a joint motion filed by the parties and entered an Agreed Judgment in favor of the City and against Greene Realty, LLC.

The Court determined that a nuisance condition exists at the property under City Code Chapter 96 and it ordered that it must be abated.

Under the Court's order, Greene Realty LLC must complete the abatement within 30 days of the Court's approval of the judgment. Required work includes removing and hauling away all remaining building materials and fire

debris from the site, backfilling and compacting the property to grade with engineer fill and covering the area with topsoil followed by seeding and strawing.

If Greene Realty LLC does not complete the required work within the allotted timeframe, the Court has authorized the City to abate the nuisance itself or through contracted agents. Any costs

associated with the cleanup, including attorney fees and court costs, may then be assessed to Greene Realty LLC and placed as a lien on the property.

The agreed judgment also states that if Greene Realty LLC completes the required abatement within the timeframe ordered by the Court, the City will waive any available fines, court costs, and attorney fees.

## ATM Theft Suspects Apprehended Following Early Morning Pursuit

Maybe it works in the movies . . . not so much in real life. Crawfordsville Police report that someone tried to drag an ATM with a truck and break into it.

But it didn't work.

And now CPD and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office have felony charges pending against three adults and one juvenile in detention.

It all started Sunday at 4:37 a.m. when the CPD and Sheriff's department responded to an ATM alarm at Fountain Trust Bank, 1700 E Main St. in Crawfordsville. Officers said four suspects used a stolen pickup truck to pull the ATM machine from its concrete base, dragging it into the parking lot of a neighboring business. Investigators determined the suspects made several attempts to force open the ATM using the stolen truck, but were unsuccessful in gaining access.

As officers arrived on scene, the suspects fled in a separate vehicle. A pursuit followed and ended when the suspects' vehicle crashed near Interstate 74. All four individuals then fled the scene on foot. With assistance from a Montgomery County Sheriff's Office drone and a Crawfordsville Police Department K9 unit, officers were able to quickly locate and apprehend all four suspects.

The suspects were later identified as individuals from Texas and Louisiana. All four were transported to the Franciscan Health Crawfordsville Emergency Department for evaluation due to the vehicle crash and exhaustion.

A detention order was issued for one juvenile suspect. The three adult suspects were transported to the Montgomery County Jail and preliminarily charged with:

Theft (Level 5 Felony)

Resisting Law Enforcement with Endangerment (Level 5 Felony)

Criminal Mischief (Level 6 Felony)

Auto Theft (Level 6 Felony)  
Organized Theft (Level 6 Felony)

Due to the incident involving a financial institution, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been notified. It has not been determined whether the case will be pursued federally.

Agencies assisting in the response included the Crawfordsville Police Department, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, and the Ladoga Police Department.

Anyone with information related to this investigation is encouraged to contact investigating officer, Det. Geoff Payne at (765) 362-3762 ext. 155 or by email [geoffpayne@crawfordsvil-lepolice.in.gov](mailto:geoffpayne@crawfordsvil-lepolice.in.gov)

## City Gets \$750,000 for Wastewater Treatment

The City of Crawfordsville Wastewater Department has been awarded a \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) to support critical improvements at the city's wastewater treatment facility.

Funding will be used to replace the aging digester lids that support the anaerobic digestion process used in wastewater treatment. The existing lids are more than 30 years old and have exceeded their useful lifespan. Their deterioration has contributed to odor issues affecting the west side of the community. Replacing the lids will significantly reduce odors while also improving the efficiency of the wastewater treatment process.

Assistant Wastewater Superintendent Mike McKinney said the project will have a meaningful impact for residents and the overall operation of the treatment plant.

"This funding is a great investment in Crawfordsville's infrastructure and quality of life," said McKinney. "Replacing these digester lids will help us improve the efficiency of our treatment process while also addressing odor concerns that have affected nearby neighborhoods. We are extremely grateful to OCRA for recognizing the importance of this project and providing the funding to make it possible."

McKinney also expressed appreciation to community members who participated in the grant process by attending public hearings, completing



Photo courtesy City of Crawfordsville

From left, State Representative Beau Baird, Wastewater Superintendent Troy McKinney, Wastewater Assistant Superintendent Mike McKinney, Gerry White from OCRA, City Clerk-Treasurer Karyn Douglas and Joanie Fitzwater from Kleinpeter Consulting Group.

surveys, and submitting letters of support highlighting the importance of the project.

"The support from our residents played a key role in helping us demonstrate the impact this project will have on our community," McKinney said. "We truly appreciate everyone who took the time to share their input."

This project was made possible through

the collaborative efforts of city leadership, staff, and community partners who assisted with planning, public engagement, and preparation of the grant application.

McKinney also recognized Michael Kleinpeter, President and Grant Administrator of Kleinpeter Consulting Group LLC, for his guidance throughout the grant application process.

"Mike's exper-

tise and assistance throughout the grant process were incredibly valuable," McKinney said. "We appreciate his support in helping bring this project to fruition."

Once completed, the improvements will enhance wastewater treatment operations while helping improve environmental conditions and quality of life for residents in Crawfordsville.

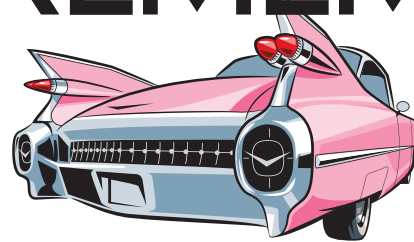
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## REMEMBER WHEN?

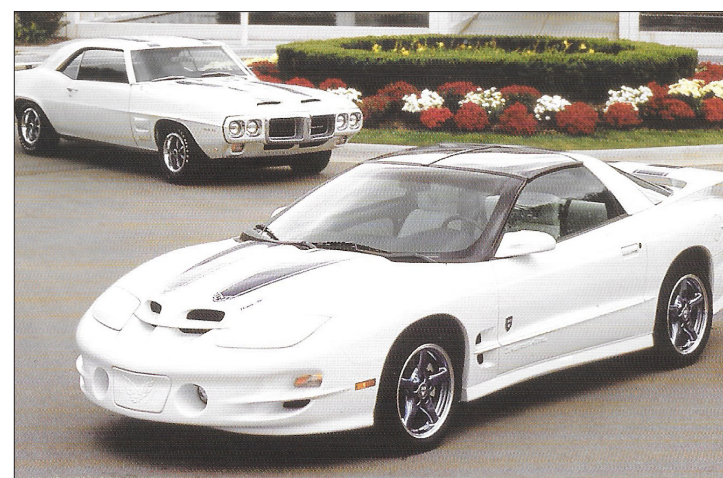


Back in the day with Butch Dale

Hot Cars From Back In The Day

Do you recognize this classic car from 1999?

Answer on Page 5



## LEAGUE

Continued from Page 1

facing runaway blazes resonate emotionally, especially for those who remember actual soil fires. However, Indiana's existing 119 solar farms have not experienced any fire disasters. "Have you ever tried to light a window on fire?" asked a local farmer.

The solar panels are made of glass, silicon and aluminum, which do not readily burn. Fire risk is mainly in wiring, inverters or transformers placed for access. The risk is similar to traditional electrical transmission, and the developer commits to annual training with local departments plus site design for quick equipment access. As one solar builder and local volunteer firefighter noted, we have "more of a problem at Shades Park with down timber for fire than anything else" in the county.

Land Never Going Back to Agriculture

Several speakers framed solar projects as "a total loss of good agricultural land" that can "never be reclaimed," referencing peat fires that sterilize soil for decades. Yet, the project is a 30-year lease, not a sale, and the developer must post a full decommissioning bond to restore the land at the end of its useful life. The company's vegetation expert described a site-wide perennial cover designed to build organic matter, enhance infiltration, fix nitrogen – benefits that farmers should appreciate – and dramatically reduce the use of insecticides, herbicides and fungicides across the site.

The Company Will Sell and Walk Away

It's easy to imagine a distant boardroom flipping projects like stocks, especially after past experiences with other industries. However, the developer emphasized its core philosophy to be an owner-operator, not a project flipper, intending to own and run Copper Box for its full 30-year life.

While trust in business is low, decommissioning does not rely on corporate goodwill: the ordinance requires a bond covering the removal cost to be posted at the start of construction and to follow the project throughout its lifespan. Even if the project is sold, that financial backstop remains, ensuring the county isn't left with an orphaned facility.

Harm to Birds, Insects and Wildlife

Concerns about cranes and other birds disappearing from a nearby 80-acre bird sanctuary that hosts 247 species raise alarms. However, local ecologists and biologists pointed to evidence that native plantings under solar arrays reduce erosion and pesticide runoff while improving habitat for insects and birds. A conservation professional hired for this project described a custom seed mix to boost pollinators, soil health, and water quality, while a beekeeper noted that 900 acres of diverse forage could significantly help honeybees struggling with chemicals and monocultures. A visitor to another Indiana project reported seeing sandhill cranes foraging comfortably among the panels, and a long-time solar builder stated he consistently observes "more bugs and birds than ever before."

Glyphosate and Other Chemicals

The word "glyphosate" understandably triggers concern because of its links to cancer and poor water quality. Glyphosate is among the chemicals

many conventional farmers already use in much larger quantities on intensively tilled fields.

This project aims to establish a dense perennial cover within two to three years, using spot treatments for weed pressure rather than broadcast spraying. The developer collaborates with vegetation consultants and employs local contractors for seeding and management, keeping agronomic decisions close to those who live with the land.

Noise and Visual Blight  
People worry about aesthetics. The solar panels, which are about as tall as mature cornstalks, generate no sound. The nearby Pleasant Meadows subdivision and the Boys and Girls Club experience no disturbance.

Copper Box is designed with more than 500 feet of setbacks from homes. Third-party appraisers studying similar Indiana projects found no negative impact on nearby property values, aligning with the county staff report.

Blocking Future Development

Opponents argue that once 900 to 1,800 acres are covered, the county has closed the door on neighborhoods and businesses. However, the temporary nature of solar distinguishes it from permanent development; there is minimal concrete, no sewered subdivisions and no long-lived foundations to remove when use changes. At the end of the lease, the ground can easily be returned to its original state. In other states, large solar projects have been built adjacent to new home construction, suggesting that proximity to panels does not hinder development.

Power Exported Out of State, Not Filling the "15% Gap"

It's easy to resent local land serving big-city customers while Montgomery County sees no energy benefits. Yet Indiana is a net importer of electricity, bringing in about 15 percent of its power from other states, and Copper Box connects directly to a Duke Energy transmission line feeding the Crawfordsville substation. This project contributes to regional reliability and helps close the state's overall deficit, supporting the grid for local homes and businesses. More generation close to load reduces Indiana's dependence on distant fossil-fuel plants and volatile global supply shocks.

Heavy Metals Leaching into Soil and Water

Concerns about cadmium and contamination speak to another fear. However, the planned panels consist mostly of silicon, glass, and aluminum, which are "non-toxic in nature," with no liquid to leak. While multiple speakers worried about high water tables and well contamination, no one could cite actual cases of heavy-metal pollution from modern silicon-based solar projects in Indiana, despite 4.2 gigawatts already operating in the state. In contrast, current row-crop systems regularly send fertilizers, pesticides and sediment into waterways – harms that the perennial ground cover is intended to reduce.

Soft Soils and Peat

The history of peat burning on this site is real and understandably unnerving. However, the developer has conducted geotechnical studies and committed to avoiding "the

areas with the softest soils," using new racking that follows the terrain to reduce grading significantly. One Indiana project of similar size cut grading needs from 500 acres to about 30 using this approach, preserving topsoil rather than scraping it away. The company also stated that panels will not be placed on muck soils identified in the maps, addressing the worst-case fire scenario.

"We're Not Ready for Renewables – If They Worked, Oil Companies Would Have Switched."

This quote captures broad cultural skepticism, not just local concerns.

However, utilities, manufacturers and even some oil majors are investing in solar because it is now one of the cheapest forms of new electricity at scale. Indiana's energy task force, created by the governor, is working from the premise that the state must pursue an "all-of-the-above" strategy to meet rapidly rising demand and that Indiana is already an "energy deficit" importer.

When skeptics point to EV disappointments or policy shifts, they highlight the messiness of transition, not evidence that new technology cannot work; every major farming change – from tractors to hybrid seeds – faced backlash and uneven adoption before becoming normal.

Would You Rethink?

In facing unknowns, it's natural to resort to "what ifs." Fears are legitimate warning signals. In response, we must test them against evidence and remember that humans often prioritize fitting in and interpersonal connections.

What did you hear? Would you rethink your stance? What would convince you? Like my father, nearing 70, we balance logic and concern. When it benefits us, we often shift our mindsets.

Any company seeking to impact our community should build in local control and safeguards to ease concerns.

This company did.

Our county will face a significant shortfall after last year's Senate Bill 1. We may want to weigh the value of tax dollar inflows and request our county distribute them to emergency services, roads and other rural projects.

What some of us heard: Bonds for decommissioning, written fire-training commitments, drainage reviews and clear setback rules are not just technicalities; they are concrete ways of expressing: "We expect things to go right, but we've planned for if they don't."

An honest column about Copper Box can acknowledge that some opposition stems from love of the land and a lifetime of watching bad deals in rural America. It can also ask: when our worries outpace the evidence from projects already in place, are we protecting Montgomery County – or allowing fear of the unknown to close off a tool that could strengthen farms, county budgets, wildlife habitat, and the grid our future generations will depend on?

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

## Rep. Commons Welcomes Oppy



State Rep. Matt Commons (R- Williamsport) recently welcomed Bennett Oppy, who attends North Montgomery High School, to the Statehouse where he participated in the Indiana House Page Program during the 2026 legislative session.

As an educator and representative, the page program is truly special to me," Commons said. "I encourage any student who's interested in learning more about state government to come to the Statehouse for a day and experience the legislative process in action."

During the day as a page, Oppy interacted with lawmakers and staff, toured the Statehouse and joined Commons on the House floor to watch the legislative session.

To learn more about how students ages 13 to 18 can serve as a page during the 2027 legislative session, visit [indianahousepublicans.com/page-program](http://indianahousepublicans.com/page-program).

*Commons represents House District 13, which includes all of Benton and Warren counties, and portions of Fountain, Jasper, Montgomery, Newton, Tippecanoe and White counties.*

## BUTCH

Continued from Page 1

tell them that today you were able to get your leg through your underwear without falling down.

4. It's true that exercise can possibly make you look better. However, a glass of wine can do the same thing.

5. If someone is annoying, OK, maybe you can't kick butt anymore. No problem . . . Just go for their ankles.

6. Be sure to remember the correct replies when arguing with your husband: "Fine" (You are right and he needs to shut his mouth.) . . . "Nothing" (This means something, so he had better watch out.) . . . "Go ahead" (This is not permission, it's a dare.) . . . "Whatever" (Your husband is an idiot!) . . . "That's OK" (It's not OK and he is going to be sorry.) . . . "Wow!" (How did he become that stupid?)

7. Husband provides no sparks in the bedroom? A taser doesn't cost that much. Use it! If he informs you that he would rather watch the Super Bowl, tell him that your idea of a Super Bowl is a toilet that cleans itself after he uses it. Remind him that he doesn't have to pee every time he passes by the bathroom. Your aim is to keep it clean and his aim would help.

8. Have some fun. Break the law. If you

get caught, pretend you're deaf and don't speak English.

9. Don't like living alone? Move in with your kids. Make a lot of noise, trash their house, and if they want you to pick up after yourself, throw a fit. If they thought that since you are 70 . . . you are a sweet old lady, then that is their first mistake!

10. Be happy! You have reached the "wonder years." You wonder where your left your car keys. You wonder where your glasses are. You wonder where you lay down your cell phone.

Here is a little poem for women over 70 . . .

"You've seen it all, you've done it all. You've been around the block; You're living large, you're so in charge. Old lady? What a crock! You've just begun to have some fun. You've earned each little wrinkle. Say it loud, you're downright proud. And when you laugh, you tinkle. A real woman feels it's no big deal to add another candle. You're old, you're bold. You're solid gold. There's nothing you can't handle!"

*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.*

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## Karen Talks About the Neighbors

Let's talk about the neighbors! Note I did not say gossip but instead we need to share some memories.

Although I did many workshops on writing your autobiography, giving a list of possible topics, I never thought of the neighbors; well, that is until Jim's dad wrote about them in his. Second page, even, he listed the neighbors via direction. Example: East: William Darman (Wallace, Jack, children); Jankowski (Vincent; three sisters). Loved how he'd put "shoe-string relation" who were somewhere in the family tree. Fritz (later Blecks – shoe string) and Raffles (shoe)! His description of the Parkers was much more detailed. They had five kids: Fay, Benny, Beatrice, Dorothy and Harriet – "Dorothy was my favorite and a really cute gal. Ben was quite a guy – he really loved dogs and hunting."

In JoAn's (Jim's mom) autobiography they first lived on Edward Street. Neighbors one side, the Gibbons were a Syrian family. "I played with their daughter, Geraldine and her brother, Abe ended-up playing with the Chicago Bears, then became a defensive coach for them." JoAn wove other neighbors' stories into a well-written, fun read!

My dad didn't point out people but pinpointed several he knew, including my favorite notation which was that he played baseball against Birch Bayh.

Mom's wasn't an autobiography as I wrote it several years after she passed, using some of her diaries. Although mom never went to training as a hairdresser, she sure had an amazing knack for it. Regularly, she did several neighbors and friends in town and not just women – kids and men as well (set David G's hair), Doris Grimes (taught at Waveland) and Anna Hayes'. We had three beauty shops in Waveland, so she was eventually made to stop.

Thus it is my turn to tell you about our neighbors when I was



**Karen Zach**  
Special Guest  
Columnist

young and please share yours either in an autobiography or just a couple page essay. Our closest neighbors were Ida Reiter on the East and Norman and Agnes Walker on the other side (loved to watch them shop – he'd buy parts of it; she others and then some together). Mrs. Reiter was quite old but Dad mowed her yard and mom would take her over eats a couple of times a week. When she passed away, Dad was chosen as one of the pallbearers. Well, it was an extremely long funeral, her daughter having played some of Ida's favorite songs; also parts of a book Mrs. R. loved. Dad fell asleep. Then the daughter had a tape of Ida reading some poems she had written. Thus, this is what dad woke up to and he jumped high thinking Ida Reiter had returned from the dead. He was super embarrassed but then again, everyone knew to expect the unexpected from Fred Bazzani.

Johnson's lived across the street from us and their daughter, Mary June and I were fairly close when young as I would carry her across the street to our house and go swimming all the nice days we could. She had one of the last cases of polio so the exercise was quite good and we had fun. Both with a love for writing, many years later we were in the same writing group and had a blast. One day she said, "This so reminds me of when we were young and wrote plays and performed them for our folks. It was one of the highlights from my childhood!" Sadly, I really didn't remember it! Ha, another reason to write your autobiography – others can fill-in

some blanks for you!

Probably my favorite neighbors were Maude and Oscar Cook. I absolutely adored them. They walked just about every evening, holding hands and laughing together. She also made me a lot of yummy cookies when I'd go over and talk to her when he was working (owned an antique store). A fairly well-known Indiana artist, she only did still lifes but I had my picture professionally taken when 16. She loved that picture and for graduation I received her one and only portrait using the picture as her starting point!

Others around were the Machledts who had the funeral home. They lived above it. They had one son, Freddie who would chase me (never caught me) and try to kiss me. The Milligan's lived a bit up the street and I loved playing with Betsy! There were few girls around – hung-out with Mary Curry and Melody Murray some and walked a lot with Carol Presslor plus I always had to walk to school with Tresha Cox. Used to sit and dream looking at the Sears Catalogue with Bobby Ann Fullenwider.

Well, I could keep telling you about the neighbors, but think for now, I'm done talking about them! Please, write about yours!

*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@sbcglobal.net.*

us (but especially me) were good at arguing. Agree to disagree? Well, we've learned over time. A few decades ago, we stunk at it. I really stunk.

But you know what, we didn't give up. We didn't quit on each other. And we're still standing . . . together.

Today, March 18, is my best friend's birthday. And so I offer her this: I thank you for all the years. I thank you for the wonderful times. I thank you for our family. And I thank you for helping me be who I am today. I love you forever

er and a day, Linnie Lou and I wish you the happiest birthday possible! May you have many more safe, healthy and happy ones!

(And if anyone is wondering how old she is today . . . like I said, I've learned a thing or two over the years. Wonder all you want.)

*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 timmons@thepaper24-7.com.*



Contributed photo  
Wynne Roberts and Elijah Thompson were welcomed to the Statehouse by Senator Deery after serving as pages.

## Sen. Deery Shares Update

Keeping Dangerous Suspects Behind Bars  
One of the most basic and essential duties of government is to keep people safe. And yet, Indiana is in the minority of states that, in most circumstances, still guarantees bail even if the individual is believed to pose a significant threat to the public.

As such, our state has seen too many dangerous repeat criminals arrested and released from jail on little or no bail who go on to hurt more innocent people. The problem is especially acute in domestic violence situations when an abuser is arrested and then quickly released and able to continue to harm his victims.

Hoosiers are fed up with "catch and release" policies that fail to keep dangerous people behind bars and off our streets.

That's why this year I supported Senate Joint Resolution 1, which seeks to amend Indiana's constitution so judges can hold arrestees without bail if there is no way to release them without threatening the safety of the public. Under Indiana's constitutional amendment process, Hoosier voters will have a chance to vote on SJR 1 on this November's ballot, meaning you will have a chance to weigh in on this important issue.

Just as important, I also supported Senate Enrolled Act 2, a companion bill that makes 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.

These reforms will prove especially important for women



**Spencer Deery**  
State Senator

who find themselves in domestic abuse situations. If the amendment passes, it will make it easier for authorities to keep an abuser who is a serious threat away from their victims until they can receive a trial.

Welcoming Local Students to the Statehouse

This session, I welcomed Wynne Roberts and Elijah Thompson to the Statehouse who served as Senate pages.

Wynne is from West Lafayette and attends West Lafayette High School. Elijah is from Marshall and attends Parke Heritage High School.

I also welcomed Callan and Cambry Johnson, two students from North Vermillion Jr./Sr. High School who were photographed with State Sen. Greg Goode (R-Terre Haute).

Pages spend a day at the Statehouse touring the historic building, observing debates from the Senate floor and interacting with their state senator.

The 2026 Senate Page program has now ended. Parents interested in learning more about the program should visit [www.IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Page-Program](http://www.IndianaSenateRepublicans.com/Page-Program).

Get Prepared for Severe Weather

As spring arrives, Hoosiers are reminded to prepare for the severe weather that can be expected this time of year.

In recognition of Severe Weather Preparedness Week, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security

is providing several safety tips, including:

Have multiple ways to receive weather alerts, including phone alerts and a NOAA weather radio.

Understand the difference between a watch and a warning.

Never drive through flooded roadways, remember "Turn Around, Don't Drown."

Know your safe shelter location, such as a basement or interior room away from windows.

Prepare an emergency kit and family communication plan before storms develop.

Thunderstorms, floods and tornadoes are common in Indiana, and remembering these tips can help you and your family stay safe during a severe weather event.

In the District New Opportunities for Tippecanoe County and the State

GE Aerospace is investing \$65 million across Indiana. These investments will create a major boom in job opportunities for Hoosiers, especially those in Tippecanoe County. The company has said they will be hiring 880 workers across three Indiana counties, Tippecanoe County being one of them. I am very excited about this investment and believe it will bring incredible opportunities to Hoosiers.

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

### TWO CENTS

Continued from Page 1

Miserably. We failed so bad that he refused to marry us. (Yeah, I know he's a man of God but I sure hope he's reading this today!)

See, the thing is we may not have been the perfect match – but my weaknesses were her strengths. Her weaknesses fell in the area where I had some talents. So together, we helped make up for each other. Sure, it produced some angst, but it also helped us in a lot of ways, especially parenting.

Like I said, we had our issues. Neither of

## Spots Limited for Boys & Girls Club Spring Break Camp

The Boys & Girls Club of Montgomery County will run 2026 Spring Break Camp, offering local youth a fun, safe, and engaging place to spend their school break. Registration is open and spots are filling up.

Spring Break Camp will take place March 23–27 at the Boys & Girls Club and is open to youth in grades K-5. Camp is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. with breakfast, lunch and a snack provided. Throughout the week, campers will enjoy a variety of hands-on activities, including a

mix of games and gym activities, arts and crafts, STEM projects, group challenges and field trips. Camp provides opportunities for kids to learn new skills, explore their creativity, and build friendships in a positive environment.

The program is made possible through the generous sponsorship of Lakeside Book Company, whose partnership helps make the camp accessible to families in the community.

"We are grateful to Lakeside Book Company for helping

make this program possible," said Gina Haile, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Montgomery County. "Spring break can be a challenge for working families. Our goal is to provide a safe, supervised environment where kids can stay active, learn new things, and have a lot of fun."

The cost for the full week of Spring Break Camp is \$65 per child. Space is limited.

Families can register by contacting the Club at (765) 362-8912 or by visiting [www.bgc-moco.org](http://www.bgc-moco.org).

Public Notices Deadline: 11:00 a.m. 2 Business Days  
Prior to Publication: [legals@thepaper24-7.com](mailto:legals@thepaper24-7.com)

Private Party Notices Submitted After Deadline May Be  
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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURT  
 COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY )  
 ) CASE NUMBER: 5401-2512-MI-001559  
 IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF MINOR:  
 KALANA EDWARDS  
 Name of Minor  
 KELLEY RADCLIFF  
 Petitioner  
**NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
 Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, Kelley Radcliff as a self represented  
 litigant, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name on 12/31/2025 to change the  
 name of Kalana Edwards to Kalana Radcliff.  
 The Petition is scheduled for hearing in the Montgomery County Circuit  
 Court on March 19, 2026 at 10am. Which is more than thirty (30) days after the  
 third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and  
 to file written objections on or before the hearing date.  
 Date: 12/31/2025  
 Sondra K Sixberry  
 Clerk  
 PL5281 3/11 3/18 3/25 3t hspaxlp

STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURT  
 COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY )  
 ) CASE NUMBER: 54D01-2507-DC-000898  
 IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF:  
 JENNIFER DOMINGUEZ  
 PETITIONER  
 v.  
 JOSE ADAN DOMINGUEZ SUAREZ  
**ORDER SETTING PROVISIONAL HEARING**  
 Cines now the Court, to reset the matter for Final Hearing, due to the court  
 house being closed due to inclement weather.  
 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that this matter shall be reset for a Final  
 Hearing. All parties are to appear in person March 23, 2026 at 2:30 p.m. In  
 Montgomery County Superior Court 1. If you fail to appear, the matter may be  
 heard in your absence.  
 Date: 1-29-26  
 Judge Heather Barajas  
 Montgomery County Superior Court 1  
 PL5280 3/11 3/18 3/25 3t hspaxlp

**54D02-2603-EU-000015**  
 STATE OF INDIANA ) IN THE MONTGOMERY SUPERIOR COURT 2  
 ) SS:  
 MONTGOMERY COUNTY ) CAUSE NO.: 54D02-2603-EU-000015  
 IN THE MATTER OF THE  
 UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF  
 TERRI J. GILSTRAP, Dec.  
**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION**  
 Notice is hereby given that on March 9, 2026, Donald L. Gilstrap II was  
 appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Terri J. Gilstrap, deceased, who  
 died on December 28, 2025, in Hendricks County, Indiana.  
 All persons having claims against this estate, whether or not now due,  
 must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months  
 from the date of first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the  
 decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.  
 Dated at Crawfordsville, Indiana, this 9th day of March, 2026.  
 Sondra K Sixberry  
 Clerk of the Montgomery County Courts  
 Attorney for the Estate:  
 WILLIAM A. GOEBEL  
 118 East Main Street, Ste. 300  
 Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
 (765) 364-94499  
 PL5282 3/18 3/25 2t hspaxlp

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# Ernie Pyle Museum opens Thursday



Photo courtesy Andy Chandler

Visitors this year will see the new Ernie Pyle statue.

The Ernie Pyle World War II Museum will open for the 2026 season on Thursday, March 19, and will welcome visitors throughout the following weekend with tours and special events each day.

The March 19 date marks an earlier spring opening for the museum, which in past years has opened in May.

“The earlier spring opening for the museum is a visible sign of the growth of the Friends of Ernie Pyle organization,” said Steve Key, president of the FEP board. “These

expanded hours are possible due to the support of the community and dedication of our volunteers and guides. We hope to see more visitors with the expanded hours and the chance to enjoy the recently installed bronze sculpture of Ernie Pyle.”

The museum is located in Dana in Vermillion County, Indiana. It features the famed World War II correspondent’s birthplace as well as a museum dedicated to his wartime activity as a journalist.

The opening weekend’s hours will be

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

The site will then be open every Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., through Veterans Day on Nov. 11.

The Ernie Pyle World War II Museum is owned and operated by the Friends of Pyle, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and advancing Pyle’s legacy and honoring the service of all veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.

# Witham Opens Doors for Community Sponsorship

Witham Health Services has announced that the health system is now accepting applications from community organizations seeking sponsorship support for events and initiatives taking place during the second half of 2026.

“Through our community sponsorship program, Witham partners with nonprofit organizations that are working to improve the health and well-being of the communities we serve,” said Community Relations Manager Kim Heffner. “The program is part of Witham’s broader commitment to community outreach and supporting local initiatives that promote healthier lives.”

Sponsorship requests are reviewed twice each year, allowing Witham to strategically invest its resources in initiatives that have a meaningful impact on community health. In the first half of the year, Witham

distributed more than \$35,000 to support community programs and local initiatives.

“Witham values partnerships that help strengthen the health of our communities,” said Witham Health Services President and CEO Kelly Braverman. “Through our sponsorship program, we are proud to support organizations whose

missions align with improving wellness and addressing important community health needs.”

Interested organizations can complete the online sponsorship application and learn more about eligibility requirements by visiting [www.witham.org/sponsorships](http://www.witham.org/sponsorships). The deadline to submit applications is May 1.

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Photo courtesy Crawfordsville District Public Library

## 1,000 Books

Addison, age 5, has completed the Crawfordsville District Public Library program “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten”. She is the daughter of Tristin and Emily Knee. Addison’s favorite book is Disney Minnie ‘n Me, Where’s Fifi? by Lyn Calder. Dad said, “This program made reading fun and gave Addison and her bother, Cayden, a real love for books. We’re very proud of her accomplishment and thankful for our local library.” The Crawfordsville District Public Library congratulates Addison and her family on this wonderful achievement and applauds their dedication to fostering a lifelong love of reading!

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