

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Habakkuk 3:19

Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places.

■ AWL JIMMY



Jimmy is a 1 year old male American Pit Bull Terrier available for adoption since 12/15/25. Jimmy loves going out for walks/jogs, playing fetch, and will gladly sit for treats. Jimmy is looking for his best friend. Could that be you? Jimmy is available for adoption, to foster, or just simply going out for walks. Come say hi!! AWL is open Monday - Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p. Come say hi, snuggle cats, walk dogs, or lend a helping hand!

■ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

The Annual Meeting of the Crawfordsville | Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce will be held during Connections & Conversations May 6 beginning at 8 a.m. on the third floor of Fusion 54 (101 W. Main St.) in beautiful downtown Crawfordsville. The 2025-26 Chamber Nominating Committee has announced the proposed slate of candidates to serve on the Board of Directors, effective June 1, 2026. The slate can be found at the Chamber's website.



Kind of hate to see April go . . . but LOVE the month of May in Indiana! Let's go racing!

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Once you face your fear, nothing is ever as hard as you think."
Olivia Newton-John

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

Name a bow that can't be tied.
A rainbow.

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County's oldest locally owned independent newspaper www.thepaper24-7.com | 50¢



Photo courtesy Andy Chandler

Winding Down

The college baseball season is almost over for Wabash. The Little Giants take on Franklin this afternoon at 5 and then have a double-header Saturday at home against Wooster before the North Coast Athletic Conference tournament next week. Even though the overall record is below .500, Wabash is doing well at home. The Little Giants are just 6-20 away from Crawfordsville, but 4-4 in the friendly confines of Goodrich Ballpark.

Chamber Breakfast: Residents Press Lawmakers

The final Crawfordsville Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, offered a revealing snapshot of what's on the minds of Montgomery County residents and how the three of our Statehouse delegates in attendance – Sen. Brian Buchanan, Rep. Beau Baird, and Rep. Jeff Thompson – are framing the just-completed legislative session as they look ahead.

Across the three breakfasts this year, the need to correct previous legislation and executive action stands out. From the unintended

and alarming consequences of the 2025 property tax reform to the sudden cut to childcare funding, citizens and local leaders appealed to elected officials to understand the impact county residents are experiencing.

When Governor Braun signed an executive order that shut off childcare vouchers and training funds, he impacted a piece of infrastructure. A large swath of households cannot afford childcare, and not because providers charge inflated rates. Almost all facilities and providers work for low wages themselves. Because the average warehouse,

League of
Women
Voters
Column



manufacturing or retail employee cannot afford to pay the equivalent of their own wages to a provider and meet all their own bills, Hoosiers stay in a catch-22 without government investment in childcare as infrastructure. The hard stop on childcare funding throttled efforts by county and city officials, churches and non-profits partnering to mend

See League Page 4

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. Aer Lingus launched its fifth weekly flight to Dublin out of Indianapolis recently, marking a milestone of growth that is exceeding expectations after the new transatlantic service made its operational debut last May. Aer Lingus now offers five flights per week through to the end of the 2026 summer season. Year-round service four times per week will continue following the summer season. With five weekly departures through the summer, Hoosiers now have even more frequent access to Dublin and seamless connections to more than 20 destinations beyond, including Paris, London, Frankfurt, Rome and Amsterdam. As an added convenience, Dublin Airport is one of only two airports in Europe offering U.S.-bound travelers preclearance services — allowing passengers to complete U.S. immigration and customs procedures before departure and arrive in Indianapolis as domestic travelers.

2. The Office of Lt. Governor Micah Beckwith and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs recently announced five Indiana communities will receive \$1,015,000 in Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Grants and Planning Grants through the Community Development Block Grant program. Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Grants are awarded to the following communities: The City of Madison is awarded \$350,000 and Vermillion County is awarded \$495,000. Comprehensive Planning Grants are awarded to two communities: the City of Frankfort is awarded \$60,000 and the Town of Osgood is awarded \$50,000. And a Utility Study Planning Grant of \$60,000 was awarded to Franklin County.

3. If you are hosting foster children, you and your family could get into all Indiana State Park properties across the state for free. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources offers a free Indiana state park annual entrance pass to qualified foster families. To get a pass, families need to fill out a short form. A link to the form can be found at dnr.IN.gov/state-parks/rates-and-fees/entrance-fees at the bottom of the page. Once it is completed, submit the form to PermitApplication@dnr.IN.gov. If you are having trouble filling out the form, download and complete it using Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Butch Says Dads Are Very Forgiving!



Butch Dale
Columnist

In looking back at my pre-school days, I realize that many times I was the definition of a "problem child." Yes, I was mischievous and stubborn. I played, explored, imitated grown-ups and misbehaved . . . not all the time mind you . . . but enough to aggravate my parents to no end on many occasions. Mom would tell me, "Just wait till your father comes home!" Yes, sometimes he punished me, but he also had his forgiving side. It reminds me of a poem by my favorite author, Edgar Guest, entitled, "When Pa Comes Home."

"When Pa comes home, I'm at the door, An' then he grabs me off the floor, An' throws me up an' catches me, When I come down an' then says he: 'Well how'd you get along today? An' were you

See Butch Page 2

Timmons Ripped for Ripping on Trump



Two Cents from Tim Timmons

From the reaction to my questioning the actions of one Donald J. Trump last week, I may well be back down to three or four readers. Some folks were pretty ticked off that a lowly vagabond newspaperman would dare question the Don.

What is it about this guy that inflames us so much?

By any reasonable measure, he had a decent first term in the office. But his second term has been anything but. He is spending money that we don't have – and then some. His ego, which has always been his biggest defining character, is out of control this time. And hey, let me be clear. I didn't mind his ego the first time. It seemed to me he parlayed it from he has to win all the time to We The People have to win all the time. That worked for me. After Obama's world apology tour we needed some good ol' patriotic flag waving. This time though?

See Two Cents Page 3

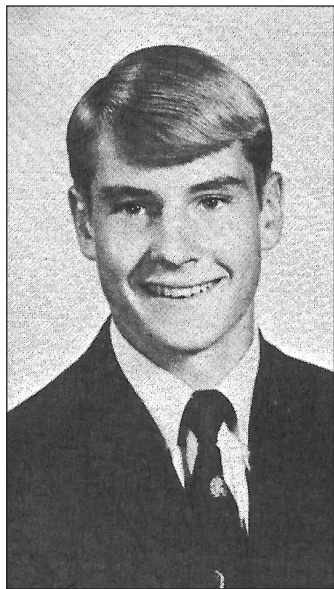
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OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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RECOGNIZE ME?

Flashback Trivia with Butch Dale



Do You Recognize This 1970 Ladoga H.S. Graduate?

HINT:

He was the second leading scorer in basketball in the county his senior year, but his favorite sport was golf!

Answer on Page 3

BIRTH

Charlotte Jane Manriquez

A baby girl, Charlotte Jane Manriquez, was born April 25, 2026 to Stephanie Finney and Brandt Manriquez of Frankfort at Witham Health in Lebanon.

Charlotte came into the world at 7 pounds, 5 ounces.

She will be welcomed home by 8-year-old Lilly Finney, 6-year-old

Granger Finney and 1-year-old Wesley Finney.

Maternal grandparents are Mike and Kathy Garretson. Paternal grandparents are Tim and Tammy Manriquez. Maternal great-grandparents are Charles and Joan Kraner and paternal great-grandparents are John and Diana Garner.

Franciscan Kickoff to Summer May 2 in Crawfordsville

Franciscan Health Crawfordsville and Safe Kids Greater Lafayette in conjunction with the Boys & Girls Club of Montgomery County and the Montgomery County Health Department will be part of the Kickoff to Summer free community event on Saturday, May 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club of Montgomery County.

The team from Franciscan Health will provide education about medication safety, water safety and fire safety. Bike helmet fittings will also be conducted.

A hands-on science station will provide an additional educational opportunity.

Stat Flight, a critical care air medical service based in Indiana, will have a helicopter on display for attendees to check out.

Face painting will also be available for children who attend the event.

The Kickoff to Summer will feature a 3-on-3 basketball tournament and a pickleball tournament.

The Boys and Girls Club of Montgomery County is located at 1001 Whitlock Ave. in Crawfordsville.

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Popular ArchiCamp Set for June 16-17

Calling all young explorers! It's time for the popular Gen. Lew Wallace Study & Museum ArchiCamp again!

The Study & Museum is pleased to bring back ArchiCamp, a two-day architecture-themed camp presented in collaboration with Indiana Landmarks. Designed to engage and inspire, ArchiCamp introduces children to the rich architectural history of Crawfordsville while encouraging an appreciation for preserving cultural heritage.

Scheduled for June 16-17, ArchiCamp invites young explorers ages 8-12 to take part in an immersive experience blending history, design and creativity. Campers will explore the unique architectural styles of downtown Crawfordsville and the Lew Wallace Study through guided walking tours, while also participating in hands-on activities that bring architecture to life.

ArchiCamp offers a dynamic mix of education and fun that sparks imagination and curiosity. Activities from past camps have included building popsicle stick bridges, designing blueprints and constructing minia-



Photos courtesy Gen. Lew Wallace Study & Museum

Activities from past camps have included building popsicle stick bridges, designing blueprints and constructing miniature cityscapes from recycled materials.



ArchiCamp invites young explorers ages 8-12 to take part in an immersive experience blending history, design and creativity.

ture cityscapes from recycled materials.

Space is limited, and scholarships are available to ensure all interested participants have the opportunity to attend. Early registration is encouraged.

Don't miss this opportunity for young learners to discover the world of architecture and local history. Join in on inspiring the next generation to value and preserve our shared heritage.

ArchiCamp Details:

Dates: June 16-17

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

(drop-off and pick-up each day)

Location:

General Lew Wallace Study & Museum, Crawfordsville

Registration: forms and additional information are available at www.ben-hur.com/programs/archicamp/

Contact: Thomas Meeks at 765-362-5769 or tmeeks@ben-hur.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

For The Record is a public service and regular feature in The Paper of Montgomery County. It is designed to tell you what is scheduled to happen and what actually does happen in meetings paid for with your

tax dollars. The Paper encourages all citizens to take an active role in being involved in local government.

City of Crawfordsville Notice of Special Meeting--2026

Crawfordsville Fire Pension Board

The Crawfordsville Fire Department Pension Board will hold a special meeting at 10 am on Thursday in the Council Chambers, Second Floor of the

Crawfordsville City Building, 300 East Pike Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana 47933. The special meeting's purpose is to conduct a hearing required under I.C. § 36-8-8-12.7.

Date of Notice: 27 April 2026.

BUTCH

good, an' did you play, An' keep right out of mamma's way? An' how'd you get that awful bump, Above your eye? My, what a lump! An' who spilled jelly on your shirt? An' where'd you ever find that dirt, That's on your hands? And my! Oh my! I guess those eyes have had a cry, They look so red. What was it, pray? What has been happening here today?"

"An' then he drops his coat an' hat, Upon a chair, an' says, 'What's that? Who knocked the engine on its back, An' stepped upon that piece of track?' An' then he takes me on his knee, An' says, 'What's this that now I see? What-ever can the matter be? Who strewed those toys upon the floor, An' left those things behind the door? Who upset those parlor chairs, An' threw those blocks upon the stairs? I guess a cyclone called today, While I was workin' far away. Who

was it worried mamma so? It can't be anyone I know.'

"An' then I laugh an' say; 'It's me! Me did most ever'thing you see. Me got this bump the time me tripped. An' here is where the jelly slipped, Right off my bread upon my shirt, An' when me tumbled down it hurt. That's how me got all over dirt. Me threw those building blocks down-stairs, An' me upset the parlor chairs, 'Coz when you're playin' train you've got, To move things 'round an awful lot.' An' then my Pa he kisses me, An' bounces me upon his knee, An' says, 'Well, well, my little lad, What glorious fun you must have had!'"

I think my Dad was like many fathers. He knew he had to punish me to correct my misbehavior. But he also remembered some of the "naughty" things he did when he was a young child . . . and he would just hold



Photo courtesy Butch Dale

The author, Johns Dale, ready for action in 1952 at the age of 3.

me tight and smile . . . That's what Dads do best.

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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Private Party Notices Submitted After Deadline May Be Subject To \$25.00 Fee In Addition To The Cost Of The Advertisement



Cody Laster



Casey Hockersmith

F.C. Tucker Recognizes Top Agents

F.C. Tucker West Central is proud to announce Cody Laster as Listing Agent of the Month and Casey Hockersmith as Sales Agent of the Month for March in recognition of their outstanding performance and dedication to their clients.

Laster continues to make a strong impact in the Montgomery County real estate market through his commitment to service and results-driven approach. A lifelong resident of the area and a proud Southmont graduate, he brings a deep understanding of the community along with a strong foundation in customer service and sales. His career path reflects determination and focus, having built his skills through leadership roles before transitioning into real estate full-time.

Since launching his real estate career, Laster has earned multiple recognitions including Rising Star

within F.C. Tucker, Top 25 Affiliate, and the Denver-Hutt Rising Star for Outstanding Service. He has also served in leadership roles within the Montgomery County Board of Realtors and currently holds the position of Vice Chair. Beyond real estate, he remains actively involved in his community, volunteering with local organizations and dedicating time to his church.

“Cody’s drive and commitment to both his clients and our local community truly set him apart,” said John Downey, Broker/Co-Owner of F.C. Tucker West Central. “He approaches every opportunity with professionalism and a willingness to go above and beyond.”

Hockersmith is recognized as Sales Agent of the Month for her consistent performance and client-first mindset. A Southmont High School graduate and Indiana University

alumna, she brings a diverse professional background that includes experience with Indiana University Athletics, Wabash College and the Crawfordsville | Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce.

Her strong communication skills, local knowledge, and dedication to helping clients achieve their goals have made her a trusted resource for buyers and sellers alike. Hockersmith’s passion for her work is matched by her commitment to her family and community. She resides locally with her husband Zach, their two boys Hudson and Camden and their Australian Shepherd Remy.

“Casey has a natural ability to connect with people and guide them through the buying and selling process with confidence,” said Downey. “Her energy, professionalism, and consistency make her a valuable part of our team.”

Rep. Genda Shares Update

Fitch Ratings, a major credit rating agency, has once again given Indiana a AAA credit rating for the 17th year in a row. The AAA credit rating is the highest rating possible, emphasizing the state’s leadership in disciplined fiscal management, economic resilience and long-term financial stability.

Indiana has earned this rating for nearly two decades due to its commitment to fiscal responsibility, balanced budgets and strong financial reserves. For taxpayers, a high credit rating means the state can borrow money at lower interest rates when funding infrastructure and other investments, allowing tax dollars to go further and saving Hoosiers’ money.

A AAA rating also signals financial stability to businesses and investors, helping attract economic development, jobs and long-term investment to Indiana.

We’ve continued to pass balanced budgets and advance policies in Indiana that make government more efficient, protect taxpayers and expand opportunity for Hoosiers.

Indiana remains one of a select group of states to hold the highest credit ratings from all major rating agencies.

To learn more about Indiana’s credit ratings, visit the Indiana Finance Authority’s Credit Ratings page.

State task force is cracking down on online predators



Mark Genda
House Representative

Indiana law enforcement continues to deliver results in the fight against online child predators and abuse.

Over the past year, the work of Indiana State Police’s Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force resulted in the arrest of 499 individuals for crimes against children and the rescue of 126 children from abuse.

The ICAC has expanded its capacity to better protect Hoosier children. Over the last year, the ICAC Task Force hired 50 new law enforcement officers to investigate online child exploitation and abuse and collaborate more effectively across the state.

Citizens are helping too. In 2025 alone, nearly 30,000 cyber-tips were received, representing a 38% increase in comparison to 2024. Already in 2026, the ICAC task force has received 2,951 tips, a 29% increase compared to January last year.

These reports, submitted through both local and national systems, help law enforcement put more predators behind bars. To make a report to the cyber tip hotline, click here.

The ICAC Task Force operates through a

partnership between Indiana State Police and local law enforcement. They also provide education and resources for parents and safe social media use, parental controls and how to report abuse.

I am grateful to Indiana’s law enforcement community for helping to keep Hoosier kids safe and cracking down on online predators.

LISTEN: Recapping the 2026 Legislative Session

The 2026 legislative session has officially ended, and all House Republican priority bills have either been signed into law by the governor or await his signature to become law. This week on Around the House, learn more about how these laws will lower costs for Hoosier families and reduce government bureaucracy.

READ: Delivering Results for Hoosiers This Session

Sine Die marks the end of a productive short session for Indiana House Republicans. Read about new laws and how they will impact you in this week’s blog.

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

TWO CENTS

Continued from Page 1

It’s no longer MAGA – Make America Great Again. Now it’s DAGA Don Always Gets Abrasive.

He has two worlds, those who kiss his rather large posterior and enemies.

There is no middle ground.

The Pope – a guy who is probably about as peaceful as they get – hasn’t said anything against Trump specifically. He denounced war. But that apparently ticked Trump off and now the Pope is a bad guy.

For denouncing war?

Did you hear that Trump wants an arch built in his honor? A 250-foot arch to go along with the country’s 250th. That’s not so bad, but we’re not calling it the US of A Arch, or anything like that. It’ll be the Trump Arch. Oh, and it’ll cost \$400 million to build. Apparently, it’s fashioned after the one in Paris or something. Do we really need an arch? We’ve got tons of arches. Go to St. Louis. Heck, drive down the interstate and you’ll see two golden arches every 15 minutes or so. And \$400 million? Give me some helpers, bricks,

mortar and a trowel and we’ll build one for a lot less than that.

Besides, we’re almost \$40 trillion in debt and instead of telling the American people how he’s SAVING us \$400 million, he’s spending \$400 million on another monument . . . to himself.

He’s put his name on the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, the Institute of Peace, the Palm Beach airport, federal savings accounts, prescription plans, roads, ships, currency and more. The Congressional Budget Office recently estimated that all this work will cost around \$2 billion.

Hey, if he eliminated the deficit I’d be the first one in line saying rename everything after him. But the debt, the deficit, every economic indicator just keeps going south.

When does it end? Sadly, we are reaching the point where it may not.

Anyone remember Greece in 2009?

But let’s get back to the question – why can we not criticize the guy without hateful responses? Why does every Cabinet member kow-tow to the Don

like he’s some sort of royalty? Why are his lies OK?

If our nation is divided – which is a little like asking if it can get cold in Indiana in January – Trump appears to be the fulcrum. I don’t know why. Just because I believe that Trump has lost his way doesn’t mean I’m jumping on the liberal bandwagon. Not even close. I swear by the old saw that if you aren’t a liberal when you’re 20 you have no heart and if you’re not a conservative when you’re 50 you have no brain.

Trump has put himself so far above everything that whether or not he has a heart or a brain is a serious question.

Here’s hoping whoever comes along next can take the ideals from that first term and – along with a huge dose of economic smarts – get this country back on a path to sanity.

Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically on Wednesdays in The Paper. Timmons is the publisher of The Paper and can be contacted at ttimmons@thepaper24-7.com

Workers’ Compensation Conference Features Updates

Understanding and complying with workers’ compensation laws is imperative for businesses to keep employees safe and improve workers’ comp programs. An upcoming Indiana Chamber of Commerce event, the 2026 Indiana Workers’ Compensation Conference, will help companies navigate claims and audit their current program.

The conference – presented by attorneys at Kightlinger & Gray LLP – takes place May 5 at the Ritz Charles in Carmel, with a virtual attendance option available. Sessions include navigating real-life fact patterns in workers’ compensation; prevention of hand, wrist and arm injuries; an employment law lightning round; overview of

mental health injuries; and demystifying the Indiana Independent Medical Examination (IME) process.

“Between medical expenses, wages and the challenges of reduced productivity, the average cost of a work-related injury is roughly \$40,000,” says Jennifer George, Indiana Chamber vice president of business education and events. “Employers that prioritize safety are not only doing the right thing ethically, but they can also help their business’ bottom line.”

Additional topics will include best practices, real-life scenarios that occur during an employee’s workers’ compensation claim (and how to address them in accordance with the Indiana Workers’

Compensation Act) as well as the complexities of upper-extremity injuries including causation, prevention and treatment.

Registration costs \$449 for Indiana Chamber members or \$549 for non-members. Companies sending two or more attendees can receive a 20% discount at checkout by using the promo code GROUP20.

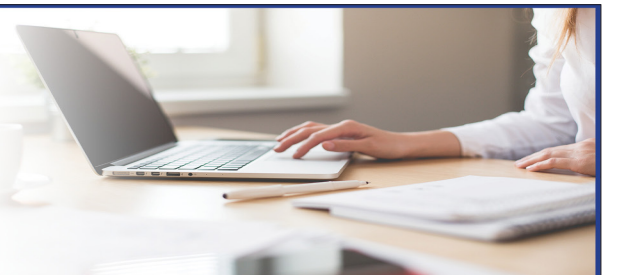
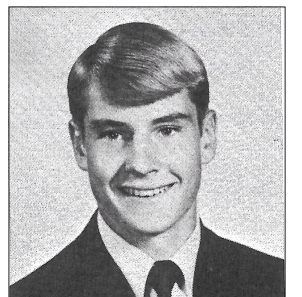
The HR Series sponsor is the Institute for Workforce Excellence. Genesis Comp Concussion is the gold sponsor. Silver sponsors are Charles Taylor, Direct PT/DX, Hanger Clinic, OrthoIndy, Pressio Medical and WellNow Urgent Care.

View the agenda or register to attend in person or virtually at www.indianachamber.com/conferences.

RECOGNIZE ME?

Flashback Trivia with Butch Dale

ANSWER: Dave Williamson



Sen. Deery Shares Update

Limited access to affordable child care hinders too many Hoosier parents from finding jobs, and it keeps too many employers from finding workers. We have to start viewing child care as essential to the infrastructure of our state. Just as you can't get to work without a road to drive on, you can't get to work if you have no one to watch your children.

Over the last four years, I have authored and supported multiple bills to help parents, providers and employers.

This year, I supported Senate Enrolled Act 4, which allows additional state dollars to be invested in a federal program designed to help low-income families pay for child care. Thanks to that new law, the State Budget Committee recently reviewed an additional investment of \$200 million in what's known as the CCDF voucher program. This will reduce the num-

ber of families who are on the waitlist for access to affordable child care, allowing these parents to seek work and more employers to find workers.

Another law I supported this year is House Enrolled Act 1177, which expands eligibility for Indiana's tax credit for businesses that provide child care to their employees, incentivizing more employers to offer child care.

Finally, in 2024, I authored Senate Enrolled Act 2 to reduce unnecessary regulations that drive up the costs of child care. My co-author and I drafted this bill following a summer study in which we heard hours of testimony, listening to ways we could responsibly lower costs while maintaining child safety.

For example, one change we made through the law was to remove the regulation that those between the ages of 18 and 21 could not care for



Spencer Deery
State Senator

infant children, even if they were properly vetted and trained. We included this in the law after hearing testimony that removing that limitation would expand the pool of eligible workers without sacrificing safety.

My work to make child care affordable again complements the work I am proud to have been a part of to try and get rising housing, medical, and electricity costs under control. These continue to be my top priorities and plans for the future as your state senator.

Stay Alert During Planting Season

Hoosier farmers have started their planting season, and motorists are remind-

ed to stay alert as large farm equipment travels across our roadways.

Farm equipment often moves much slower than normal traffic, and farmers will pull over when they can to let motorists pass, but it may take time for them to get to a safe place to do so.

Drivers should also avoid tailgating, as some farm equipment might have to make sudden stops along the road, and allow plenty of time to get to a destination.

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.

LEAGUE

Continued from Page 1

a hole and empower more Hoosiers to go to work. By December, multiple church-run childcare centers closed their doors and families were wait-listed for vouchers. In practical terms, the rollback stresses marriages and household budgets, and parents juggle for interim or pop-up help to be able to show up to work. Employers are struggling to find and keep workers. This is both an economic and a human problem. Childcare is inseparable from workforce participation, household economic stability and community economic health; but also, children need stable routines and caring providers. The heightened stress on parents and kids impacts learning outcomes and increases dependency on other social safety nets.

Rep. Beau Baird pointed to the governor's move to restore significant funding to the childcare voucher program, effectively conceding that earlier decisions had gone too far, too fast. In their comments, Baird, Buchanan and Thompson all treated this session's childcare experience as a lesson learned: sudden cuts to such a critical system ripple quickly through the local labor market and family life. The lawmakers appeared open to rethinking how childcare funding is structured and sustained in future sessions.

The conversation also surfaced quieter, but no less consequential, gaps in the system — especially for retirees. Local educators and public employees raised concerns about Medicare's birthday-month enrollment rules, which can leave newly retired teachers and others in a no-man's land between employ-

er coverage and full Medicare protection. Citizens wanted to know, "What can Indiana do to help retirees avoid coverage gaps or crushing out-of-pocket bills?" The representatives acknowledged they didn't understand how the birthday rule worked and would look into solutions.

Perhaps the most vivid metaphor of the morning came in a question about property taxes and last year's highly touted SB 1, which was supposed to make sure the whole state wasn't "fighting over slices of one cake." Rex Ryker asked what happens to communities where the assessed value is so low that they "can't bake a cake big enough" to serve everyone? In other words, if the local tax base simply can't sustain the needs of schools, public safety and basic services, how does the new framework help them?

On this point, Sen. Brian Buchanan was candid: the state is still working on 2025's SB 1, and "there is more work to be done" to ensure that each taxing unit receives the funds it needs and is entitled to. Baird seemed to echo that the intent of SB 1 — to distribute resources more fairly across Indiana — has collided with the reality that some counties and municipalities are starting from a much smaller cake. The implication is that future sessions will need not just minor "technical corrections," but serious thought about how to prevent lower-assessed-value communities from falling further behind, even under a reformed system.

As he has at all three sessions, Thompson focused most of his comments on why SB 1 was the right political choice for the state.

Residents also pressed their representatives to broaden the conversation about health care costs beyond the often-blamed Medicaid budget line item. They pointed to the way premiums, deductibles, utility bills and medical expenses are devouring household budgets, even for those not on public programs. The legislators responded by acknowledging that health care inflation is a major driver of financial stress for families, alongside rising utility rates, and that simply scrutinizing Medicaid expenditures is not enough. Their reflections on this session made clear that the problem is not just what the state pays, but what individual households are being forced to shoulder — a challenge that remains largely unresolved and will require sustained work over multiple years.

Environmental concerns threaded their way into the discussion as well, particularly around clean water, clean air and conservation. In a county that relies on both agriculture and manufacturing, residents asked how the state plans to protect natural resources without sacrificing economic opportunity. The lawmakers linked these questions to soil and water conservation efforts and to ongoing collaboration with local and state agencies. Their reflections hinted at a recognition that environmental policy is not a separate silo but is bound up with public health, agriculture policy and long-term economic planning — even if comprehensive solutions are still in early stages.

Additionally, Wash College Professor Shamira Gelbman raised concerns about the disenfranchise-

ment of young voters — including students who struggle with residency rules, ID requirements and basic access to polling places should the early voting window be narrowed. The legislators emphasized the importance of civic-mindedness among young people, but they also heard the underlying challenge: if the rules make it hard for students to vote where they live and study, the result is a quieter, less representative democracy. Their comments suggested an openness to further conversation, even as they were cautious about revisiting existing election laws too aggressively.

Questions from the floor and the reflections from Buchanan, Baird, and Thompson remind us all that no law is "forever," though policy is hard to change. It takes involvement and clamor from the citizens. The legislators, for their part, seemed to recognize that the work of this session is not complete, but rather it continues from year to year. Next year will be a budget year. With Medicaid taking up a 26 percent of the current budget, up from 8 percent in the early 2000s, Thompson said it would be a win if Hoosiers could agree upon solutions that keep the state proportion around 22 percent. It will require lawmakers to look at the entire ecosystem, not just the nebulous three boogymen, "waste, fraud and abuse."

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



Photo courtesy City of Crawfordsville
Thanks to quick action by CFD, a serious garage fire was under control in minutes.

East Jefferson Fire Quickly Contained

Sunday night at approximately 11:30 p.m. the Crawfordsville Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire in the 500 block of East Jefferson Street. Upon arrival, firefighters found a detached garage heavily involved in fire, with two nearby structures and a vehicle threatened by potential fire spread.

Firefighters conducted an immediate offensive attack and brought the fire under control within 10 minutes of arrival. The fire was successfully contained to the garage, preventing damage to neighboring structures. Some nearby properties did sustain minor to moderate

heat damage.

The garage was unoccupied at the time of the fire and no injuries were reported. No residents were displaced as a result of the incident.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Preliminary findings indicate the fire is believed to be unintentional in nature.

Fire crews remained on scene until approximately 12:40 a.m. Assisting agencies included the Crawfordsville Police Department, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery County Central Communications Center and Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

SALE # 25-051886
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. 54C01-2511-MF-001423, wherein University Bank was Plaintiff, and Cheryl A. Mitchell, et al., were the Defendants, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and costs, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the 10th day of June, 2026 at the hour of 10:00 am or as soon thereafter as possible, at 600 Memorial Drive, Crawfordsville, IN 47933, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana:
 Lot Numbered Eighty-Five (85) in Englewood Park, an Addition to the City of Crawfordsville, Montgomery County, Indiana, as per Plat thereof recorded July 18, 1906 in Deed Record 98, Page 176, in the Office of the Recorder of Montgomery County, Indiana.
 More Commonly known as: 411 Louise Avenue, Crawfordsville, IN 47933
 Parcel No. 10-04-222-012.000-030
 Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.
 "Subject to all lines, encumbrances and easement of record not otherwise extinguished in the proceedings known as Cause 54C01-2511-MF-001423 in the CIRCUIT Court of Montgomery County, Indiana,"
 Plaintiff Attorney: C. Wesley Pagles
 ATTORNEY NO. 37185-49
 LOGS Legal Group LLP
 4805 Montgomery Road, Suite 320
 Norwood, OH 45212
 (513) 396-8100 Fax: (847) 627-8805
 cwpagles@logs.com
 Sheriff of Montgomery County
 Union Township
 411 Louise Avenue
 Crawfordsville, IN 47933
 SHERIFF FILE NO:
 The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein
 PL5300 4/29 5/6 5/13 3t hspaxlp

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
 By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me, directed from the Clerk of Montgomery Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No. 54C01-2405-MF-000512, wherein U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its Individual Capacity but solely as owner trustee for RACF Acquisition Trust was Plaintiff, and Shon French a/k/a Shon M. Hedge and Springcastle Credit Funding Trust, through its Trustee Wilmington Trust, National Association were Defendants, required me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree, with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder on the 10th day of June, 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.
 THAT PORTION OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 17 NORTH, RANGE 5 WEST OF THE SECOND PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, INDIANA MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: CONSIDERING THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER AS BEARING NORTH 89 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 31 SECONDS WEST WITH ALL THE BEARINGS CONTAINED HEREIN RELATIVE THERETO. COMMENCING AT THE SOUTH QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 9, THENCE ON AND ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 9, NORTH 89 DEGREES, 18 MINUTES, 31 SECONDS WEST 682.77 FEET TO A MAG NAIL, SAME BEING THE POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE ON AND ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE, NORTH 89 DEGREES 18 MINUTES 31 SECONDS WEST 183.40 FEET TO A MAG NAIL, THENCE NORTH 01 DEGREES 49 MINUTES 53 SECONDS WEST 233.54 FEET TO A 5/8" REBAR WITH CAP; THENCE, SOUTH 88 DEGREES 16 MINUTES 55 SECONDS EAST 193.71 FEET TO A 5/8" REBAR WITH CAP, THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 41 MINUTES 29 SECONDS WEST 229.84 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PARCEL CONTAINS 1.00 ACRE MORE OR LESS AND IS SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF STATE ROAD #234 AND ALL EASEMENTS AND RIGHT-OF-WAYS OF RECORD.
 More commonly known as 4690 W State Road 234, Crawfordsville, IN 47933-8216
 Parcel No. 54-14-09-700-013.001-001
 Together with rents, issues, income and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.
 /s/ Matthew S. Love
 MATTHEW S. LOVE, Plaintiff Attorney
 Attorney # 18762-29
 FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C.
 8415 Allison Pointe Blvd., Suite 400
 Indianapolis, IN 46250
 (317) 237-2727
 Ryan Needham, Sheriff
 Brown Township
 The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein.
 NOTICE
 FEIWELL & HANNOY, P.C. IS A DEBT COLLECTOR.
 PL5301 4/29 5/6 5/13 3t hspaxlp

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE MONTGOMERY SUPERIOR COURT 2
) SS:
 COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY) CAUSE NO. 54D02-2604-EU-000025
 IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED)
 ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF)
 MARY KAY SCHWARTZ-KRUSE, DECEASED.)
 PARR RICHEY FRANSDEN PATTERSON KRUSE LLP, Attorneys
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, INDIANA
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARY KAY SCHWARTZ-KRUSE, DECEASED
 ESTATE NO. 54D02-2604-EU-000025
 Notice is hereby given that Paul S. Kruse was on 04/09/2026, appointed personal representative of the Estate of Mary Kay Schwartz-Kruse, who died on March 22, 2026.
 All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claims in the Office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the 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, on April 10, 2026.
 Sondra K. Sixberry
 CLERK, MONTGOMERY SUPERIOR COURT 2
 Paul S. Kruse, 10609-06
 PARR RICHEY FRANSDEN PATTERSON
 KRUSE LLP
 225 West Main Street
 Post Office Box 668
 Lebanon, Indiana 46052
 Telephone: (765) 482-0110
 (317) 269-2509
 Facsimile: (765) 483-3444
 PL5299 4/29 5/6 2t hspaxlp

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HHSB Named Five Star Member of IBA



From left, Josh Myers, IBA Vice President - Member Engagement; HHSB's Brad Monts, President and CEO; Zach Hockersmith, CFO; and Blake Zachar, CTO.

Hoosier Heartland State Bank has been honored as a Five Star Member of the Indiana Bankers Association in recognition of HHSB's Association involvement throughout 2025. The award was presented Monday by IBA Vice President of Member Engagement Josh Myers.
 The Five Star Member designation recognizes those IBA-member banks which demonstrate outstand-

ing commitment to the Association in five areas: life-long learning, political awareness, grassroots advocacy, IBA volunteerism and utilizing endorsed, vetted vendors.
 "Our mission at the IBA is to provide member banks with the resources they need to grow strong, which in turn helps create stronger communities," said Amber Van Til, IBA President and CEO. "The dedi-

cation of HHSB by engaging at a high level with our Association, demonstrates their commitment to future growth for the bank and for the communities they serve."
 The Indiana Bankers Association supports Indiana banking through issues analysis, professional education and products and services that enhance member banks' ability to serve their communities.

Photo courtesy HHSB

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Photos courtesy Witham Health

The Witham volunteer team at the annual Spring Luncheon.

Witham Health Celebrates Volunteers

The Witham Health Services Volunteer Organization recently named Tom Ramsey Volunteer of the Year at its annual Spring Luncheon.

“Since joining the Witham volunteer team in 2025 after many years of dedicated service as an employee, Tom has continued to give back with remarkable commitment. He volunteers twice a week while also serving as Vice President of the Volunteer Organization Board,” said Director of Volunteer Services Amy Mitchell. “He truly embodies Witham’s core values of honesty, thoughtfulness, professionalism, and supportive community. His kindness, initiative, and genuine care for others leave a lasting impact on everyone he meets.”

Witham is also celebrating National Volunteer Week, which is observed annually during the third week of April. The volunteer program at Witham has been in existence for nearly 100 years.

“National Volunteer

Week is a special time for us to celebrate and thank our volunteers for the significant contributions they make to the hospital each day by generously donating their time and talent to serve our patients, staff and the community at large,” said Mitchell. “Witham volunteers are often the first and last point of contact for patients and guests, making them a vital part of the overall experience.”

The team of more than 40 volunteers serves across 20 departments including patient transport, guest services, retail sales, pastoral care and more.

“Beyond their daily presence, they lead fundraising efforts for scholarships and hospital needs and help operate key services like our gift shops,” said Mitchell.

For more information about volunteer opportunities at Witham, visit www.witham.org/volunteers or contact Director of Volunteer Services Amy Mitchell at (765) 485-8175 or amitchell@witham.org.



From left, Director of Volunteer Services Amy Mitchell, Tom Ramsey and Tom’s wife Cathy Ramsey.

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