

■ TODAY'S VERSE

Proverbs 28:1 The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

■ AWL SPOCK



Spock is a 1 year old male medium size mixed breed pup available at The Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County (AWL) since 2/23/26. Spock loves going out for walks and will gladly sit for treats. Spock is looking for his best friend. Could that be you? Spock is neutered, dewormed, microchipped, and up to date on all of his shots. Spock is available for adoption, fostering, or walks. Come say hi! 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!



Welcome to the 140th day of 2026. Nope, that's all. With all the angst in the world I just thought you

ought to start your day with something friendly

■ MONTGOMERY MINUTE

In observance of Memorial Day, The Paper won't be published Monday, May 25. We'll be back on Wednesday, May 27. God bless our military and our country! And we thank all our readers!

■ QUOTE OF THE DAY

"To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all."

Oscar Wilde

■ JOKE OF THE DAY

How can you tell when an Indy-car fan is watching a Formula One race?

When he taps you on the shoulder and asks "Are we watching qualifying?"

The Paper

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'Team Hadley' Awarded LWV Honor



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

David and Sheridan Hadley's touch is evident all over some of Montgomery County's most democratic, neighbor-serving projects.

If you've never met them, you might not realize how giant their impact is. David looks like someone who's spent his time outdoors. He showed up for the dinner in a pin-striped blue button-up with red cuffs. He's lithe and white-haired. Sheridan looks like she's on the cusp of retiring from her role as principal, silver pixie cut, khaki slacks and a white jean jacket. They exude an energy that matches what they do.

concerts or demonstrations for democracy, working the polls, in the seats at government meetings, or in church. They are tireless, networking and inviting others to help them make the county a better place to live. They are two-time recipients of the League of Women Voters' Making Democracy Work Award, which honors those who strengthen civic life. It is shorthand for a decades-long record of seeing community needs and then doing the hard work to meet them.

The specific achievement that put 'Team Hadley' at the center of this year's

You might see them at

See LWV Page 5



Photo courtesy LWVMC

David and Sheridan Hadley have once again been honored by the LWV of Montgomery County.

Timmons Scattershoots From the Hip



TIM TIMMONS

Two Cents

Scattershooting while wondering whatever happened to Dan . . .

IN JUST five days it'll be another Memorial Day, a day that goes all the way back to our country's Civil War -- or as they like to call

it down south, the war of northern aggression. Three years after the war officially ended, John Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic proclaimed the holiday Decoration Day to honor Union soldiers killed in battle. But it was a southern belle, a Mary Ann Williams of Georgia,

who came up with the idea of decorating the graves of all Civil War veterans with flowers.

Just about a hundred years later, Congress turned it into an official holiday. If you think about it, the U.S. was involved in almost a dozen armed conflicts since the Civil War ended and 1968. So changing it from a holiday to honor Civil War vets to one that honors all vets who had fallen in the service of their country made sense.

See TIM Page 3

■ THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources seeks volunteers for its annual Fishin' Pond at the Indiana State Fair, which runs Aug. 7-23 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. The Fishin' Pond is a popular, immersive, and free fishing experience for ages 5-17. Volunteers handle various duties including registering participants, baiting hooks, removing fish from the hook, preparing fishing equipment for use, and guiding participants around the pond. Volunteer training will be provided by DNR staff before the event. Learn more and register as a volunteer at on.IN.gov/fishing-pond. Volunteers receive a free parking pass, State Fair entry for the days worked, and a DNR Fishin' Pond volunteer T-shirt.

2. The Indiana State Comptroller's Office announced this week the launch of a new Federal Funding Expenditures Dashboard on the Indiana Transparency Portal that shows Hoosiers exactly where federal dollars come from and how they were used — broken down by federal department, expenditure category, account and state agency. "Federal grants made up 42 percent of Indiana's general revenue for fiscal year 2025 — a total of \$22.6 billion. This dashboard gives every Hoosier — from citizens to state legislators, media and federal partners — the clearest view yet of how those dollars move through Indiana government," said Comptroller Elise Nieshalla. "The historical data included further enables spotting trends and flagging where extra review is needed, and it's a meaningful assist to agency partners working to root out any fraud, waste or abuse that may be lurking. This is an additional tool for building and preserving public trust." The dashboard is Indiana's first public-facing, navigable tool dedicated to tracking federal expenditures and offers the ability to see trends by providing six years of historical data. Designed to complement USASpending.gov — which reports federal award amounts — this dashboard shows what Indiana agencies have spent, pulling directly from the State's financial system. It is modeled after the existing Total State Expenditures Dashboard on the ITP and is available at in.gov/itp/finances/Federal-Funding-Expenditures-Dashboard/.

3. During Indiana Small Business Month, Governor Mike Braun is recognizing companies working with Power Up Indiana, the state's program that supports those who invest in upskilling their workforce. Across Indiana, small businesses are doing more than filling open positions; they are building pathways for workers to grow. Through efforts like Power Up Indiana, employers are investing in training that improves retention, supports business growth and helps Hoosiers move into higher-skilled, higher-wage roles.



Registration Open for Camp Meet Me in Middle

Questions: Can lightning strike twice in the same place, and who would ever wish for that to happen?

Answers: Yes, and Volunteers for Mental Health!

This type of lightning might be called love-lightning, and that is why it is so desirable.

When Volunteers for Mental Health received their first hit of love-lightning, it was a cold January day that evolved into a hot and happy summer event.

The Douglas Family and Central Indiana Rubber Products had conducted a December promotion that resulted in the funding VMHMC needed to run its summer intermediate camp to help fifth- and sixth-graders develop the coping and self-regulation skills to survive the challenges of middle school.

The successful camp was held in July 2025 and directed by local therapist Jamie Selby of Mesa Waa Gii. The campers have continued to meet regularly during the academic year for dinner, discussion, activities, and reflection.

The camp and follow-up activities have been entirely free thanks to the Douglas Family and Central Indiana Rubber

See CAMP Page 3

The Paper

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► OBITUARIES

Connie Jo Bowman

March 3, 1952 - May 15, 2026

Connie Jo Bowman, age 74, of Crawfordsville, passed away on Friday, May 15, 2026 at Ben Hur Nursing and Rehab. She was born on March 3, 1952 to Paul and Norma (Ehrie) Fischer in Crawfordsville.



Connie attended Fountain Central High School. She worked locally at Coast to Coast, RR Donnelley and retired in 2017 from Pace Dairy. In her younger years, Connie was active with her square-dancing club and bowling league. She enjoyed camping, reading, and boating. Later in life, she appreciated a quiet evening working on word puzzles, listening to music, and spending time with her dog. Connie was fiercely proud of her grandchildren and enjoyed attending their sporting and school events throughout the years.

Connie will be missed by her children, Daniel Donahue, Daryl Donahue and Dawn Pruet; 7 grandchildren, Jason, Austin, Caleb, Jordan, Tivon, Olivia and Blakely; soon to be 8 great grandchildren; her sister, Donna Demoret; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents, Paul Fischer and Norma Kincade; brother, Ronald Hart and brother-in-law, Steve Demoret.

Per Connie's wishes, cremation was chosen with private family services. Share memories and condolences at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

Public Notices Deadline: 11:00 a.m.
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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

Delbert "DJ" Knox, Jr.

September 2, 1957 - May 7, 2026

Delbert "DJ" Knox, Jr., 68, passed away May 7, 2026 at St. Anthony Healthcare in Lafayette. DJ was born September 2, 1957 to the late Delbert Sr and Ethel (McNulty) Knox in Crawfordsville. He was a 1977 graduate of South Montgomery and attended Olivet Nazarene University. He worked a variety of jobs, including a long career as a hotel receptionist, where he left lasting impressions on many.



Though he never married or had children of his own, DJ devoted his life to the people he loved most - his family. He is survived by his niece, Melanie Brown (Andrew); nephew, Steven Mahoy (Megan); and his great-niece, Maddie. Family gatherings and simply being together were among the greatest treasures of his life.

DJ loved to cook and trying recipes from Paula Deen, once traveling to her restaurant, an experience he called "the trip of a lifetime." He was also known to help people, often giving them a place to stay while they got back on their feet or had nowhere else to go. DJ will be remembered for being unapologetically himself - funny, opinionated, and impossible to forget.

He was also preceded in death by his beloved older sister, Denise; 2 infant siblings -Steven Wesley and Lisa Ann; grandparents; and many aunts and uncles.

A memorial service will be held May 23 at Crossroads Community Church of the Nazarene. Visitation will be 2 PM until the service at 3 PM. Interment will follow at Indian Creek Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Life Ministry.

The family requests those attending please wear purple, DJ's favorite color. They'd also like to thank the staff at Glasswater Creek Lafayette, University Place, and St. Anthony for the compassionate care and support provided. Share memories and condolences at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

Master Gardeners say Thank You

By Sheri Bethard

President, Master Gardeners of Montgomery County

The Master Gardeners of Montgomery County sincerely thank the approximately 610 people who attended our Annual Spring Plant Sale & Garden Show on Saturday, May 2, at the 4-H Fairgrounds. Thanks to your support, the sale was a tremendous success, and we are already looking forward to Spring 2027.

Acknowledgments

We extend special thanks to the Crawfordsville Scouts for helping customers carry plants throughout the event and out to their vehicles. We are also grateful to

the vendors and non-profit organizations that participated by selling plants and plant-related products and by sharing information about their organizations and businesses.

- HHSB
- Friends of Sugar Creek
- Crawfordsville District Public Library
- Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Progreen Garden Center
- Yund Outdoor Landscape Company
- Davidson's Greenhouse
- Denhart's Mercantile
- The Plant Pub
- Wildfire 348
- The Sweet Spot,

- LLC
- Stadler Laser & Wood Crafts
- Walnut Fork Farms
- Sugar Creek Lawn & Hardscape
- Nucor Indiana
- Purdue Extension-Montgomery County

How Proceeds Will Help

Funds raised from the event will support several local projects, including the Crawfordsville Seed Library, the Nicholson School Garden, the Wellbrooke Seniors Garden Group, beautification plantings of native trees at the 4-H Fairgrounds, and the installation of the Montgomery County Pollinator Garden.

The Pollinator Garden was planted on Satur-

day, May 9, with more than 900 native flowering plugs designed to attract birds, bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. The garden should begin blooming in the coming months. It is open to the public.

Upcoming Event: Annual Plant Exchange

Please join us for our Annual Plant Exchange on Sept. 26 from 9 a.m. to noon in the Exhibit Hall at the 4-H Fairgrounds. Bring plants to trade or simply come and choose new plants for your home or garden. Watch for upcoming events and programs on our Facebook page, Master Gardeners of Montgomery County (Indiana).

One Local, One Area Student Shine at Olivet Nazarene

Jude Coursey of Crawfordsville and Hannah Haag of Thorntown each earned Dean's List honors at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Ill.

To qualify for inclusion on the Dean's List, a student must have been

enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on a 4.00 grading scale.

Olivet Nazarene University is an accredited Christian, liberal arts university offering more

than 140 areas of undergraduate and graduate study, including the Doctor of Education in ethical leadership. Olivet's 275-acre park-like main campus is in Bourbonnais, Illinois, 45 miles south of Chicago. Additionally, Olivet offers Graduate

and Continuing Studies via online education. From Oxford to Tokyo, hundreds of Olivet students also experience the global classroom each year through study abroad opportunities, internships and worldwide mission trips.

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Ziair Morgan Completes Trine Degree

Ziair Morgan of Crawfordsville completed requirements for a degree from Trine University at the end of the Spring 2026 semester. Morgan earned a degree in Sport Management at Trine.

Trine University is located in Angola, Ind. It is an internationally recognized, private, co-educational, residential institution, offers associate's, bachelor's, master's and doctoral de-

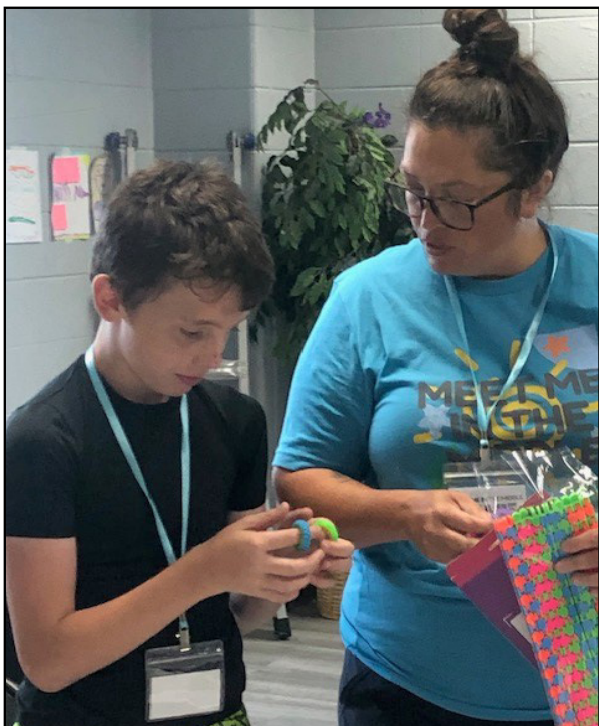
grees in the Allen School of Engineering & Computing, Ketner School of Business, College of Graduate and Professional Studies, Brooks College of Health Professions, Franks School of Education, Jannen School of Arts & Sciences and Rinker-Ross School of Health Sciences. Trine is a member of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association and offers 37 intercollegiate sports.

CAMP

Continued from Page 1



Campers made locker decorations to help them remember calming techniques.



Photos courtesy Volunteers for Mental Health

Jamie Selby and a camper meet a middle school challenge.

Products. Could such generosity strike twice? Yes, when the Douglas family and friends, CIRP and the Amanda Douglas Memorial put their hearts and minds to it! This coalition of loving and caring individuals have again offered to sponsor the intermediate camp, plus a variety of other mental health activities in Montgomery County!

Registration for the 2026 Meet Me in the Middle Camp will be open through June 8. The number of campers is limited to a maximum of 18. The free camp will be held again at the Montgomery County Boys and Girls Club and will meet for four consecutive afternoons on July 21, 22, 23, and 24.

Jamie Selby will again share her extraordinary talents through a series of middle-level experiences and activities over the four afternoons. In addition, Selby will be joined by master speakers who will bring focused content and activities for the middle-schoolers. Parents who are hoping to help their current fifth or sixth graders find the answers to middle school can obtain more information and register their students through June 8 by visiting the VMHMC website, www.vmhmc.org and clicking on the Meet Me in the Middle camp logo.

Information inquiries can also be e-mailed to dbw@vmhmc.org

Summer Reading at CDPL



KAREN RECORD MEGAN TAYLOR

It's almost time for Summer Reading at Crawfordsville District Public Library! Beginning Tuesday, May 26, challenge yourself and your family to read and earn fun prizes. We have reading logs and events for all ages--kids, teens, and adults.

The theme for children this summer is "Buggy About Books!" Sign up at the Youth Service desk at the library or online at cdpl.beanstack.com, beginning May 26. Once registered, kids will be given a reading chart with bug habitats, and they can check off each bug on the chart as they read. Once all the bugs are crossed off in a habitat, they can bring the reading chart to the library to receive the prize for that bug! When all six reading

habitats are completed, elementary children will earn a t-shirt and a book to keep. Preschoolers will earn a book bag and a book to keep.

Every day children may try to find "Andy the Ant" in the library and enter a weekly drawing to win a small prize. Every week there will also be a picture search up at the library for children to find pictures of a particular bug. There will be an information sheet about that bug and a trivia paper to fill out. A small prize will be given for each bug trivia questionnaire. Plus, there will be a different bug craft available!

Please plan to join us for a story time each week. Story times will be on Tuesdays at 10:30 for babies, Wednesdays at 10:30 for toddlers, and Thursdays at 10:30 for preschool. On Fridays at 10:30, we will have activities by the pavilion for all ages. Come explore with chalk,

bubbles, painting, sand art, and tie-dying!

We have crafts and activities for children throughout the summer. Registration is required for a couple of these activities. Please check the calendar on our website or at the library.

The reading challenge for teens is also "Buggy About Books," but they will keep track of time spent reading by coloring squares to create an insect. Once a bug is complete, teens can come in for a prize. This challenge will also be available at the Youth Service desk or online at cdpl.beanstack.com.

The reading challenge for adults is "Unearth a Story." Log the hours you read this summer and see how far you get! If you read at least 6 hours, you will earn a prize book from our second floor prize cart and a raffle entry toward our Story Lovers Prize Bag. Keep reading to earn even

more raffle tickets! To register, create a free account at cdpl.beanstack.com or download the free Beanstack app and search for our library.

Summer Reading for all ages will last for six weeks, until Tuesday, July 7. All time for reading must be turned in by 7:30 p.m. that day to receive prizes.

We hope to see you this summer (if not before)! Beginning May 31, our summer open hours will be Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit our website at crawfordsvillelibrary.in.gov or follow us on social media to get all the latest information on library events.

Megan Taylor is Assistant Manager of Adult Services and Karen Record is the Manager of Youth Services, two departments at Crawfordsville District Public Library

TIM

Continued from Page 1

Sadly.

I hope you will join the thousands and thousands across this great land Monday and pay respects to those who so very dearly deserve it.

IS IT JUST me or does it seem like there's been an increase in earthquakes of late? Particularly around Yellowstone's giant volcano? How about sightings of UFOs? (Hey, I'm an old newspaper guy -- I LOVE these kinds of stories.) I have a pal who is a scientist and so I figured he'd not only know the answer but since he doesn't work for the government (or any entity that owns black helicopters), he'd shoot me straight.

He did.

The answer to both is no.

He also pointed out that we have much better detection methods

for earthquakes so we know when even little tines happen now. And he pointed out that there are drones everywhere and that has accounted for an increase in UFO (I refuse to call them UAPs) sightings.

Then he sighed and hung up.

YES, I AM not nearly as big a fan of our president as I once was. The grade-school name calling and the egomania on display aside, I do not believe he is doing a good job on so many fronts. To be fair though, this doesn't mean I'm trading in the red sweat-shirt for a blue one. I've always worn one that has a third color in it, white.

I'm just so stinking tired of politics and the ideas that if you are a Republican, all Democrats are idiots. And if you are a Democrat, all Republicans are fascists. Could we just stop? I won't get off this soapbox until we

have political parties that start looking for and finding common ground. That, my dear friends, is where the best answers are.

SPEAKING OF Mr. Trump, anyone else unimpressed with his last visit to China? Hate to say this but he looked like the second fiddle to China's president, Xi Jinping. Trump performed much better on his first visit in 2012. This time was likely the worst visit of any of the eight U.S. presidents who have gone there -- except Barack Obama's disasters. The best? I would argue Richard Nixon or Bill Clinton. Nixon opened the door by being the first sitting U.S. president to go way back in 1972. And Clinton went in '98 and very correctly spoke about the awful legacy of Tiananmen Square. That took some courage.

WONDERING WHO Dan is? Why

it's Daniel Hale David, who we all know much better as TV's Dan Rowan. He was half of Rowan & Martin's hit TV show Laugh-In. Most Boomers will well remember Rowan as the straight man to funnyman Dick Martin. And they'll remember Laugh-In -- a name that seemed to fit the times with sit-ins and all sorts of 1960s protests. Laugh-In ran from 1968 to 1973. Rowan passed away at the age of 65 from lymphoma. Oh, want to know something else that's kind of neat? He was born on a carnival train as it passed through Oklahoma. He toured with his parents who had a song-and-dance routine as he grew up.

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 timmmons@thepaper24-7.com.

CASEY WILLIAMS



Nobody but noooooobody gives you a better inside scoop on new cars than Casey Williams. Each week Casey puts you behind the wheel and gives you the lowdown on the latest out of Detroit, or other places! If you drive a car, this is a must read!

Catch Casey every Monday in The Paper!

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PUBLIC NOTICES

54C01-2604-JP-00063
STATE OF INDIANA) IN MONTGOMERY CO. CIRCUIT COURT
) SS:
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY) CAUSE NO. 54C01-2604-JP-00063
IN RE PATERNITY OF:)
GRETTEL CRUZ MIGUEL)
By Next Friend:)
YENICE MIGUEL NOLASCO)
YENICE MIGUEL NOLASCO)
Petitioner)
v.)
ANGEL CRUZ GUILLEN)
Respondent)

**SUMMONS – SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE OF SUIT**

You are notified that you have been sued in the Court above-named and a hearing will take place in Montgomery Co. Circuit Court. The nature of the suit against you is a Petition to Establish Paternity and Custody. This summons by publication is specifically directed to Angel Cruz Guillen, residence unknown.

You must answer the Petition, in writing, by you or your attorney, within thirty (30) days after notice of suit, and if you fail to do so, a judgment will be entered against you for what the petition has demanded. Petitioner's attorney is Andrew G. Spear, 1300 N. Pennsylvania St., Ste 202, Indianapolis, IN 46202.
Date: 4/27/2026

Sondra K Sixberry
Montgomery Co. Clerk
PL5303 5/6 5/13 5/20 31 hspaxlp

STATE OF INDIANA) IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
) SS:
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY) CAUSE NO. 54C01-2605-MI-000577
IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF:
Mario Harris
Petitioner

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Mario Harris, whose mailing address is in Montgomery County Indiana, hereby gives notice that Mario Harris has filed a petition in the Circuit Court requesting that their name be changed to Milo Harris.
Notice is further given that the hearing will be held on said Petition on June 16th, 2026 at 2:30 pm.

Mario Harris
Petitioner
4-27-2026
Date Filed
Sondra K Sixberry
Clerk

PL5305 5/6 5/13 5/20 31 hspaxlp

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In Addition To The Cost Of The Advertisement**

**TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE
AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE**

By virtue of a certified copy of a decree to me directed from the Clerk of Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Indiana, in Cause No. 54D01-2508-MF-000916 wherein The Huntington National Bank was Plaintiff, and Mariner Finance LLC, Unknown Occupants, Tenants, or Lessees, Joseph Weaver, was a Defendant, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Decree with interest and cost, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder, on June 10, 2026 at the hour of 10:00 AM or as soon thereafter as is possible, at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, 600 Memorial Dr., Crawfordsville, IN 47933, the fee simple of the whole body of Real Estate in Montgomery County, Indiana.

LOT NUMBERED 30, AS THE SAME IS KNOWN AND DESIGNATED ON THE RECORDED PLAT OF SAMUEL N. WARBRITTON'S SECOND ADDITION TO THE TOWN OF NEW MARKET, AS PER PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 64, PAGE 476 IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, INDIANA.

More commonly known as 305 Second St, New Market, IN 47965
Parcel No. 54-15-06-222-066.000-022

Township Scott

Together with rents, issues, income, and profits thereof, said sale will be made without relief from valuation or appraisal laws.

"Subject to all liens, encumbrances and easements of record not otherwise extinguished in the proceedings known as Cause 54D01-2508-MF-000916 in Superior Court of the County of Montgomery, Indiana."

Plaintiff Attorney
Morgan L. Wills 26152-10
Sassano, Deighton, Delaney, Higgins &
Mommensen Co., L.P.A.
4834 Richmond Rd, Suite 201
Cleveland, OH 44128
Phone: (216) 360-7200
Facsimile: (216) 360-7210
mwills@carlisle-law.com

Sheriff of Montgomery County
Montgomery Sheriff Department
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Mariner Finance LLC, Any Officer or Managing Agent, 8110 Corporate Drive, Nottingham, MD 21236

Mariner Finance LLC, c/o Bleeker Brodey & Andrews / Atty. Julia M. Andrews, 9247 N. Meridian Street, Ste. 101, Indianapolis, IN 46260

Unknown Occupants, Tenants, or Lessees, 305 Second St, New Market, IN 47965

Joseph Weaver, 305 Second St, New Market, IN 47965
Joseph Weaver, 4569 W. 950 S., Waveland, IN 47989

NOTICE
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OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

PL5304 5/6 5/13 5/20 31 hspaxlp

CHS Student Served as Page During '26 Legislative Session

State Rep. Beau Baird (R-Greencastle) welcomed Alayna Schroeter, from Crawfordsville High School to the Statehouse where she participated in the Indiana House Page Program during the 2026 legislative session.

"Some of the best public servants started out by just showing up and paying attention," Baird said. "The page program is where your curiosity can turn into engagement."

During her day as a page, Alayna interacted

with lawmakers and session staff, toured the Statehouse and joined Baird on the House floor to watch the legislation process in action.

To learn more about how students ages 13 to 18 can serve as a page during the 2027 legislative session, visit indianahousepublicans.com/pageprogram.

Baird represents House District 44, which includes all of Putnam County and a portion of Montgomery County.



Photo courtesy Indiana House Republicans.

Alayna Schroeter from CHS poses with Rep. Baird on her day as a Page.

Hoosier Authors Book Club Discusses Vonnegut

The Hoosier Authors Book Club enters its eleventh year with five planned book discussions.

The second meeting will take place in the Lew Wallace Carriage House at 200 Wallace Ave. Thursday at 7 p.m. The General Lew Wallace Study & Museum's book club will discuss *This Isn't Nice What Is? The Graduation Speeches and other Words to Live By* by Kurt Vonnegut & Dan Wakefield.

If This Isn't Nice, What Is? is not a novel, but a 2013 collection of Kurt Vonnegut's commencement speeches, selected and introduced by his friend Dan Wakefield. The book gathers

Vonnegut's popular and often humorous advice for graduates, reflecting his unique blend of irony, joy, and seriousness, and has been re-released in expanded edition.

Vonnegut was a man of discipline, a champion of literary style, a modern sage, and a poetic shaman of happiness. After the publication of his now-legendary 1969 satirical novel *Slaughterhouse Five*, Vonnegut added another point of excellence to his résumé: He became one of the country's most celebrated and sought-after commencement speakers, and like other masters — he bestowed his gift of wit and wisdom upon throngs of eager young

people entering the so-called "real world." This collection of selected speeches reveals Vonnegut's poignant and heartening remarks to young people.

A limited number of books will be available for check-out at the Carriage House at the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum. If you can't attend the discussion in person, you can attend by Zoom! Register in advance for this meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/811111111111>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Other books that will be read by the Hoosier Authors Book Club this year include: *Rabbit Hutch* by Tess Guntz on June 18; *Joy Goddess: A'Leia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance* by A'Leia Bundles. September 17; and *When Knighthood was in Flower* by Charles Major on October 15.

All discussions are free and open to the public. Meetings are held in the ADA-compliant Carriage House Interpretive Center. For more information about the Hoosier Authors Book Club visit <https://www.ben-hur.com/programs/hoosier-authors-book-club/>.

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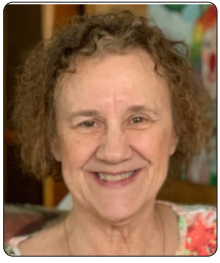
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Karen Shares Research on Waveland's Banta Family



KAREN ZACH
Guest Columnist

The Banta family came from Craig Twp (Henry died there 21 Jan 1867) Switzerland County Indiana. He was ordained in 1830 and was a Baptist Minister for nigh on 40 years. Also, he was in the War of 1812 and married Eleanor VanArsdall who was a few days shy of her 93rd birthday at her death.

They were parents of 12 children (6 boys; 6 girls). Their son, Isaac Vauter born 24 Feb 1809 in Henry County, Kentucky also passed in Switzerland County IN 19 Sept 1863 - he and his wife, Elizabeth Roberts married in 1831 in Switz and they had 8 sons and 5 daughters. The next generation Merit Hannah Banta (b 7 Oct 1835 Switzerland Co and since Electa Penterman, his wife was in

the 1870 census alone with their children, I am guessing (145th Infantry) Merit passed during the CW.

It was their son, Thomas born 10 June 1860, farmed in the Linden-New Richmond area and married Florence Baxter (d at 88 in Waynetown Nursing Home - buried Maple Ridge Cemetery just outside of Waveland. Their four sons (George; Basil; Theron; Perry) and descendants mainly remained in our area. Theron was born in New Richmond 12 Feb 1891 and died 6 Feb 1972 in Danville, IL. What I remember most about Theron is that he was versatile. He was a watchmaker and banker. He began and later ran Banta's Watch Shop in Waveland.

They lived next door to my grandparents and were always so kind and good to them. A member of the United Methodist Church in Waveland, he taught the Men's Bible Class for years and was Master of the Waveland Lodge 300 F&AM, past patron of Waveland OES; and member of the Scottish Rite. He was a life member of the Indiana Watchmakers Association and an honorary life member of the Waveland Alumni Association. In May 1914, he married Delia Marcrum. He had a good education for the time After graduating from New Richmond HS and Indiana State Normal (ISU) he was a star at Zaner College of Penmanship at Columbus, Ohio.

His daughter, Virginia (married Wilmer Sharpe) worked in the Waveland Library for many years. I'd only go to the library if she was working that day. Theron also taught school (Kirkpatrick, Linden

and Waveland) was a banker for 25 years and what I thought the neatest thing about him was for 50 years, he hand engraved over 4,000 Wabash College (and other school's?) diplomas. Theron's son, Myron, worked with him for many years at the watch shop that is not there at this point (it was such a neat building one of the few covered in stone if I remember right) then moved it to the front area of he and Myrtle's home at 501 West Main (one of the oldest homes still standing in Waveland, the home built around a log cabin).

The shop was there for several years. Although I always thought Myron was a neat name I loved his middle name Jules. MJ was born at 9 p.m. on Oct 11, 1918 with Dr. JM Elliott of Linden attending. Theron was 27 at the time and wife "Etta" age 30. The same was true for Myron and his wife, Myrtle Lavanche Pope - in fact, she taught him in school. They had one

daughter, Judy, one of the sweetest, kindest gals I've ever known. Now, there were several who weren't cracked-up about Myrtle, but I loved her. She was our business teacher at Waveland HS and I took all 5 of the classes she taught and Aced (most with an A+++ all but Bookkeeping - got a B+. Darn!

When Mrs. Robinson our school secretary was out a semester my senior year (because of a surprise necessary operation), Myrtle suggested to Mr. Cooper, our principal that I would be great in the office. She helped me a few days then I was on my own. Every morning, I went to get my lessons and came down to work on them - WHEN I had time, that is. It was a tough but very rewarding semester (learned so much and that experience and Myrtle's high praise got me my first real job as a secretary at Purdue) and I had Myrtle to thank for that.

When she passed away

(stomach cancer) in Lafayette, 12 March 1969 she asked for them to find me (we were living in Laf while Jim was in school) and have me come to the hospital. I hugged her and told her how much she had meant to me and ironically, that's why she wanted me to come so she could do the same - "Best student ever! Hard worker" and she told me she loved me. We cried and hugged and I told her the same!

My hometown of Waveland was so blessed to have each and all of the Banta family in its midst!

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.

LWV

Continued from Page 1

celebration is Crawfordsville Area Transportation, the city's long-needed public transportation system. CAT did not start as a fully formed system; it started with many citizens, the Hadleys among them, who listened to the need. Local businesses and residents needed a way to get employees to shifts and patients to medical appointments. At the same time, the League's local planning meeting was elevating transportation as a priority under its economic health position. The Hadleys connected the dots.

As League members approved transportation as a focus, David and Sheridan acted. They met with city officials, including the mayor, and with key partners such as economic development consultant Cheryl Morphew, to explore what a real public transit system might look like.

The Hadleys helped secure sponsorships to fund a consultant-led, countywide needs assessment—a feasibility study that would determine what kind of system could work here. The League of Women Voters and others helped with financial support for that study, and the Hadleys linked local efforts to state-level resources at the Indiana Department of Transportation. Eventually, a grant was obtained to expand transportation, and the Sunshine Vans

operated by the Parks Department evolved into CAT, a true public transit system for the Crawfordsville area.

If it seems like they put in a lot of work, Sheridan framed it this way: "The timing was right, and it was just plain fun."

The numbers from CAT's first quarter of 2026 speak to the need: CAT has provided 2,227 rides in just three months. Those riders include seniors, people with disabilities, high school and alternative school students and adults traveling to medical appointments, jobs, school and grocery stores. Fourteen employees now support the system, and the budget request for the coming year is roughly \$700,000. The community needs to expand rural service and create more tailored routes for businesses that need reliable transportation for workers. To celebrate CAT's growth and encourage ridership, the League provided reusable shopping bags — branded with CAT and League logos — for the first waves of passengers.

CAT is only the latest chapter in the Hadleys' civic story.

Sheridan, a retired Hoover Elementary School principal, has poured her energy into initiatives like Humans United for Equality, the Women's Legacy Fund, the Moco Robo

robotics program at Ivy Tech, and the "Concerts on the Corner" series at Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church, which offers free music to a neighborhood that includes many low-income renters. Each of these projects opens doors — to STEM learning, to leadership opportunities for women, to arts and community life. Sheridan championed the creation of the skate park at Milligan Park, pressing the case that young people needed a safe, dedicated place to skate — and then working until that "state of the art" facility became reality.

David, a retired Wabash College political science professor, has served on the Friends of Sugar Creek board, the city-county planning commission, the South Montgomery school board and an advisory council for the Indiana Department of Education. He has been active in party politics and was appointed by Governor Evan Bayh to the Indiana State Ethics Commission, where he once served as chair — a role that underscores his long-standing commitment to transparency and accountability in government.

Together, they have also led projects that grabbed wider attention. In 2018, moved by the Parkland school shooting, they organized "Gifts for Guns," a no-questions-asked gun turn-in that exchanged firearms and ammuni-

tion for gift cards, an effort covered by the Indianapolis Star and WRTV.

In their acceptance remarks, David and Sheridan resisted the spotlight. They described their role in CAT as a "small part" of making democracy work. David framed democracy as requiring fair rules, responsive institutions, protection of minority rights, transparency, accountability and a rich ecosystem of civic groups and associations; in Montgomery County, he said, they had been fortunate to find all of these. Sheridan described CAT's launch as a case study in how purpose, platform, and people must come together at the right time. The purpose was clear — people needed rides. The platform was the League, with its reputation and structure for study and advocacy. The people were the mayor, city and county officials, parks staff, the Community Foundation, state transportation partners and residents who cared enough to show up.

The Defending Democracy Award recognizes not just a year's worth of work, but a way of moving through the world. In CAT, in skate parks and literacy efforts, in environmental protection and ethical government, "Team Hadley" has modeled a simple but powerful creed: democracy is not something we admire from afar; it is some-

thing we build, together, one local project at a time.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, multi-issue political organization which encourages informed and active participa-

tion 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.

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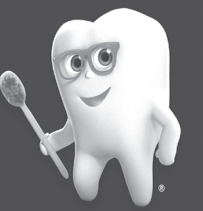
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Cone Zone: Expect Nightly I-74 Lane Closures

The Indiana Department of Transportation is alerting motorists that nightly lane closures are planned across several counties in west-central Indiana.

Beginning on or after Thursday, May 21, INDOT contractors will close one lane at a time in both directions of I-74 between the Indiana/Illinois State line and just east of State Road 39 (Exit 58

in Lizton). Vermillion, Fountain, Montgomery, Boone, and Hendricks Counties will all be impacted.

The purpose of the lane closures is to refurbish pavement markings along the interstate. Work will be limited to 3 miles and one travel lane in each direction, with no work scheduled over Memorial Day Weekend starting at noon on

Friday until 8 a.m. on Tuesday. Work hours for this project will be between 7 p.m. and 9 a.m.

The project is anticipated to be complete in a 2-week timeframe but is weather-dependent and subject to change. INDOT encourages drivers to use extra caution and avoid distractions while traveling in and around work zones.

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