

2021

# PROGRESS



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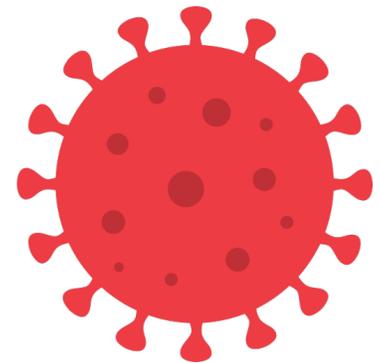
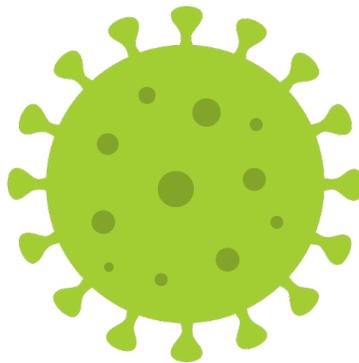
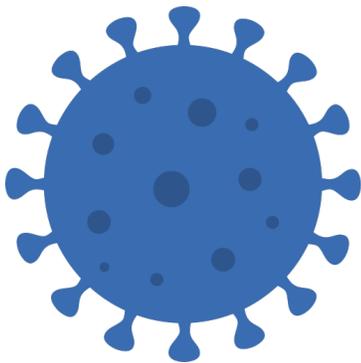
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## Acuity manufactures new UV technology to kill germs

**Nick Hedrick**

[nhedrick@jrpess.com](mailto:nhedrick@jrpess.com)

A Crawfordsville company manufactured a new ultraviolet product that disinfects the air while lighting the room.

Acuity Brands Lighting ramped up production of the unit that uses the light technology, which has long been used to kill germs and, some studies show, is effective against the coronavirus.

Called EvolvAIR UV with Downlight, the product continuously circulates pathogen-contaminated air through a sealed chamber,

where the air is treated with a high-intensity ultraviolet light to inactivate bacteria, fungus and viruses. The treated air is then returned to the room.

The technology has become part of the company's own efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19. The lights were installed in the plant's two large break rooms and all of the restrooms, areas where there is more exposure to germs.

A cluster of COVID-19 cases, which health officials linked to social exposures outside of the workplace, was identified at the factory

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in May 2020.

"You feel that extra level of security when you walk inside our break rooms and restrooms," said Govinda Kadam, an advance manufacturing engineer.

Other ultraviolet fixtures are being developed that will be installed in conference rooms, sales training rooms and assembly areas. The other products are

designed to fit over existing light fixtures.

The company has contacted local schools about donating some of the units, said Shawn Ramey, a manager at the plant.

In 2020, Acuity donated hand sanitizing stations to public buildings and partnered with the Montgomery County Health Department to promote mask wearing.

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# Rocky Ridge celebrates 30th anniversary

**Taylor Dixon**  
Journal Review

In the fall of 1988 three brothers set out to build a golf course. On April 2, 1991 Rocky Ridge Golf Club opened to the public as a nine hole course, and expanded to 18 holes a few years later.

“Well, the story is kind of built around three brothers and the Hole farm,” said Kathi Hole, Gerald Hole’s wife.

The Hole brothers inherited the nearly three generation farm after their father passed away in 1975. After which Bob and Garry ran the farm, barely making \$5,000 over two years in 1986.

Meanwhile, Gerald was working as a trooper with the Indiana State Police. He would eventually retired in 1991 after 28 years of service.

As the golf club was being built, Gerald would spend every free minute helping out. And over the three years of its construction he saw trees come down and fields torn up. The once rough landscape of farmland eventually turned into green fairways that golfers still enjoy 30 years later.

“It was a labor of love more than it was anything else,” Gerald said. “And it’s been fun watching it grow and see the people come and enjoy it.”

Today, the nearly 200-

acre course runs through a 60-house subdivision and sees hundreds of golfers a year.

Nobody in the family golfed, until Gerald and his brother, Bob, picked up the sport when they were teenagers. While Gerald doesn’t play much anymore due to shoulder injuries, he still expressed love for the sport.

“Golfing is something you can do from the time you’re very small until you’re too old to drag the bag around,” the 79-year-old laughed.

Another thing Gerald said was there is more to running a course than people might think. From paying for equipment, like mowers, weed eaters, fertilizer and

golf carts, which run at about \$6,000 a piece.

“People don’t realize that there’s more to it than just mowing grass. They don’t see the expense involved,” Gerald said.

During COVID-19 they lost considerable membership, Gerald said. However, they ended up making the money back over time because golf turned out to be one of the better outdoor socially distanced activities during the pandemic. In fact, Rocky Ridge saw golfers from Illinois come play when Illinois shut down all outdoor activities, some even continuing to come back this year because they liked the course.

# Ground broken on \$138M Tempur Sealy plant

**Nick Hedrick**

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Ground was ceremoniously broken on Tempur Sealy's \$138 million foam pouring manufacturing facility near Crawfordsville, as local officials celebrated the global mattress company's arrival as a transformative moment for Montgomery County.

The 754,000-square-foot plant, which will be the world's largest Tempur Sealy facility, is slated to open in the spring of 2023. At least 350 workers are expected to be employed by 2025.

"Our community today is a place where folks like Tempur Sealy — a respected and revered company — want to be a part of," John Frey, president of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners, said during the ceremony.

"My message to all current business and industry leaders in our community: this is about you making the right decisions years ago to build your business in Montgomery County," Frey added, "and the outside world still sees our community today just like you saw it years ago as the right place to be."

The facility, which is being built on farmland between C.R. 250E and Nucor Road, will make bedding products and components. It will be Tempur Sealy's third foam pouring facility in the United States. The company is currently recruiting managers and plans to open a recruitment and training center in Crawfordsville next year.

Tempur Sealy executives say the expansion to west central Indiana is proof of



*Dignitaries turn dirt at a groundbreaking ceremony for the Tempur Sealy plant in October 2021.*

the company's growth — from an upstart brand that struggled for retail floor space against more established names in the early 1990s to a top-seller of mattresses.

"You probably remember the commercials with the lady jumping up and down on the bed with a glass of wine. Well, that was Tempur 30 years ago," said Cliff Buster, North America CEO for Tempur Sealy International.

As demand for the company's products grew and executives realized the capacity of the two foam pouring facilities in Virginia and New Mexico would be exceeded, the search for space to build another plant got underway. Montgomery County was

selected in June 2020.

The plant will be built on 130 acres of land with the capacity to expand to 1 million square feet.

"The Crawfordsville and Montgomery County team did a very thorough job of assuring us that Tempur Sealy would be a good long term fit in the community," said Scott Vollet, Tempur Sealy International's executive vice president of global operations.

At the ceremony, Tempur Sealy announced the donation of a total 30 mattresses and pillows to the Crawfordsville Fire Department and Through the Gate, a Linden residential facility for women struggling with addictions.

Crawfordsville Mayor Todd

Barton said the company was making a "huge investment" that will "propel them into the future" as a bedding industry leader.

"The sense of family in our community and in their company are remarkably similar, and the fit couldn't be better," Barton said.

U.S. Rep. Jim Baird (R-Greencastle), who was also on hand for the groundbreaking, praised the teamwork among local dignitaries to land the company.

"I really think it comes down to having the kind of attitude among our people — the work ethic and the can-do attitude that you have in Montgomery County and west central Indiana to bring this kind of economic base," Baird said.



# Bed and breakfast debuts cabin yurt

**Taylor Dixon**  
Journal Review

Pulling up to The Queen and I Bed and Breakfast, the first thing noticed is the 1873 two-story brick home that Isaac and Holly Hook renovated in 2015. Then the guineas, a chicken-like bird used to keep ticks away, will start to run across the driveway, making one wonder if this place really is just a couple miles outside downtown Crawfordsville.

Following a gravel path off the paved driveway visitors will find the only cabin yurt in Indiana.

A yurt is a structure that dates back centuries in Asian culture. Traditionally, it is a circular wooden frame covered in animal skins or felt, resembling a tent. These

have sheltered many nomadic groups, and is still a home to over half of the Mongolian population today, according to National Geographic.

The Hooks, however, are renting out a more modern yurt. The building is made entirely of wood, has electricity, a full kitchen and indoor plumbing.

The 28-acre property at 2710 E. State Road 32 also has walking trails through the woods. And there is a chance you will be joined by their Spanish Mastiff, Gus, who loves tagging along on walks.

However, the couple admits they were in a little over their heads when constructing their cabin yurt, as neither of them have a background in construction. Both work at North Montgomery High School, Isaac as the athletic trainer and Holly as a com-

puter science and business teacher.

“The process was a lot longer than we ever thought. And, you know, as healthcare and education by profession, we had no idea what we were getting into as we started constructing this building,” Isaac said. “Facebook even thinks I should have a master’s degree in construction management, from the amount of research we’ve had to do.”

The idea came from the Hooks wanting a separate building from the Queen and I on property. After researching they liked the idea of a yurt, but thought something more stable, like a cabin, would be best. They broke ground in November 2020.

The Queen and I yurt has been open since Memorial Day weekend and has been booked pretty much every

weekend since. They’ve had visitors come to stay during the Strawberry Festival, take advantage of local state parks, like Turkey Run and Shades State Park, and even to escape the noise of the city to relax in the country.

“I really like opening our home and our property to guests. And to people of all walks of life and seeing them experience something different on our homestead,” Isaac said. “Whether it’s the guineas roaming around, or walking the trails through the woods or having a breakfast with fresh eggs that we collected that day, that’s always rewarding to us.”

To learn more about The Queen and I Bed and Breakfast, call 765-918-4677, visit online at [www.thequeenandibnb.com](http://www.thequeenandibnb.com) or find them on Facebook.



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# Mattingly named police chief



## Journal Review

A 14-year-old veteran of the Crawfordsville Police Department was elevated to chief in January 2021.

Aaron Mattingly was appointed to the position by Mayor Todd Barton following the resignation of chief Mike Norman.

Mattingly, who was a lieutenant in the investiga-

tions division, joined the department as a patrolman in 2007. He came to CPD after serving three years as a jail deputy and road deputy with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

He has served as a field training officer, narcotics investigator and Montgomery County Multi-Jurisdictional SWAT Team operator. Mattingly is a certified general

instructor and emergency vehicle operations instructor through the Indiana State Law Enforcement Training Board and graduated from the National Polygraph Academy.

The Corydon native holds a bachelor's degree in criminology from Indiana State University. He and his wife, Amy, have two daughters, Isabella and Claire.

# City sought state funds for stormwater, wastewater review

## Nick Hedrick

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Crawfordsville sought funding from the state in December 2020 to conduct a comprehensive review of the city's stormwater and wastewater systems.

The city applied for a \$60,000 planning grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for the project. Crawfordsville will contribute \$7,500 of the cost



out of the stormwater operating fund.

"We've had this stormwater program for a number of

years and we've addressed a lot of the serious issues, but we think it's time to step back and really create a ... longterm

plan that really plots out where we go next," Mayor Todd Barton said.

The recent projects include the separation of sanitary and storm sewers downtown.

The study was tasked with looking at current conditions and facilities and future capital projects at the utilities. Consultants were to also work

with city employees to identify at least three alternative projects and processes for the departments.

The wastewater treatment plant was first built in 1938 and has been expanded three times since the mid-1960s, according to the city's website.

The system currently treats an average of 3.01 million gallons of wastewater daily, but is capable of treating up to 4.7 million gallons a day, according to the website.

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*Heavy machinery demolish the Sugar Creek lowhead dam.*

# Low head dam removed

**Nick Hedrick**

[nhedrick@jrpress.com](mailto:nhedrick@jrpress.com)

Below the twin smokestacks of the old power plant along the rocky banks of Sugar Creek, excavators drilled into Crawfordsville's low head dam in September 2021, making the first cut in a long-awaited demolition project.

As a small group of spectators gathered to watch downstream, heavy machinery clawed into layers of concrete to slowly drain the reservoir.

"I'm not sure I ever thought I'd see this," said Friends of Sugar Creek board member Austin Brooks, who led the demolition effort as president of the nonprofit group.

FCS started raising awareness of the safety and ecological hazards about a decade ago as the state encouraged the removal of obsolete low head dams from Indiana's waterways.

Brooks reached out to Dr. Jerry Sweeten, a retired Manchester College biology professor who is considered a leading expert on the subject.

Sweeten's company, Ecosystems Connections Institute, has consulted on the removal of a dozen dams and partnered with FCS and the City of Crawfordsville for the project.

Along with improved spawning sites for Bass, stream habitat and fish counts are expected to increase after the dam is excavated.

"This is one of the best things you can do for the health of the stream," Sweeten said over the sound of a jackhammer near the water's edge.

The project, which is largely being funded through a grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, also has support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Fish and Wildlife

Service, Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the State Historic Preservation Office.

"It's good to see a culmination of a project that has been pursued for the past 10 years and really accelerated the last two to three years," said Ed Fain, the current president of FCS.

Longtime creek advocate Bob Stwalley joined FCS members and other spectators on the banks near Elston Softball Complex.

Stwalley, 90, planned to be the first person to boat across the section of the water once the dam is fully removed. He made the trip days later.

"Did you think we'd ever see this?" Brooks asked Stwalley.

"I'm glad we are," Stwalley replied.

Crews from Crawfordsville-based W Enterprises began the excavation by removing a small piece of concrete from the middle of the

200-foot-long dam, gradually draining the water to minimize downstream impact.

Once the water level is down to the first cut in the dam, additional small cuts will be made until the water reaches its final natural level with normal stream flow. Completing the project could take two weeks, said Dale Petrie, the city's director of operations.

Standing behind yellow caution tape marking the viewing area, Betty Leslie took pictures as the equipment tore into the dam. Leslie's late husband, Alvin, worked in the now-decommissioned power plant for nearly 40 years.

"I really wished my husband could be here but he passed away four years ago," said Leslie, who had mixed emotions about removing what she called a city landmark.

"I'm all for it if that's what [project leaders] feel is necessary to do."



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# Campbell joins city leadership team

## Journal Review

Mayor Todd Barton announced the addition of Abigail Campbell as the city's new communications director. Campbell started the new role in September.

"This is a new position that we are excited to have filled with a communications specialist that is dedicated to furthering the City of Crawfordsville's story and milestones," Barton said. "Abigail has experience in both the private and



government communication sectors and I think she will make a great addition to our team."

Campbell graduated from Indiana University where she obtained a bachelor's degree in journalism and public relations. Most recently, Campbell served as the communications director for the Indiana Builders Association where she represented

almost 3,000 home builders throughout the state. Additionally, Campbell has served as a press secretary for the Indiana House of Representatives where she managed external press for representatives in southeastern Indiana.

"I am looking forward to taking on this new opportunity and working with Mayor Barton and his team to showcase all the wonderful things Crawfordsville has to offer," Campbell said. "I

hope my past experiences will prove to be an asset and help the city realize new communication avenues."

As communications director, Campbell will provide outreach and timely information to the community and the news media concerning city services, policies, major projects and community events.

Campbell graduated from Fountain Central High School and currently lives in Crawfordsville.

## CPD officers receiving new body cameras

Nick Hedrick

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The Crawfordsville Police Department is equipping officers with new body-worn cameras designed to be automatically activated.

The department received approval Wednesday from the Board of Public Works and Safety to purchase the cameras in a six-year agreement with manufacturer BodyWorn. The cameras replace the current devices manufactured by Digital Ally.

The new cameras are designed to turn on when an officer arrives on a call and continuously record even when not activated. The footage

would be stored in a cloud-based storage system.

"It really affords the opportunity for as much [footage] to be captured as possible," said police chief Aaron Mattingly, who alluded to the rhetoric over recent police shootings in seeking the upgrade.

The cameras will also activate following a loud noise such as a gunshot or when an officer is in a prone position for an extended period of time or draws a weapon.

"Does that include a taser?" board member Erin Corbin asked.

Mattingly said only a fire-arm activates the cameras. "Instances where the tasers are deployed, generally speaking, we're actively on the call anyway," he said.

Attorneys and media outlets could receive access to footage approved for release through a link with an expiration date meant to prevent the video from being downloaded long after the incident, Mattingly said.

Crawfordsville officers have been wearing body cameras for about a decade. BodyWorn

is the same manufacturer used by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

Funding comes from the

public income safety tax. Cost for the first year is \$136,597.50. The cost is \$63,745.50 per year for the rest of the agreement.

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## Study: Jail needs almost double bed capacity by 2040

**Nick Hedrick**

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The Montgomery County Jail needs almost twice as many beds to house the number of inmates projected to be held by 2040, a study found.

A feasibility study and bed analysis of the jail by DLZ Engineering calls for adding 182 beds to the facility, bringing the total number of beds to 406. The jail currently has 224 beds.

The report, which DLZ also presented to the Board of Commissioners in March, examines the physical condition of the sheriff's office and jail, analyzes the inmate population and forecasts the jail's capacity needs over the next 20 years.

At the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, the jail released about 100 low-level non-violent offenders, including some nearing the end of their sentences, to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

But before the pandemic, the jail was constantly at or near full, said Montgomery County Sheriff Ryan Needham. The average daily population reached 270 in July 2017, nearly 50 inmates beyond capacity.

"You know, right now is certainly an exception," Needham told county council members in requesting funding for the study last April. "What's that going to look like in five years, 10 years?"



*Det. Ethan Redmond, left, consults with office administrator Dell Wilson at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office in March 2020.*

The study analyzed seven years of inmate population data ending in 2019. (Figures through mid-2020 provided by the county were not included due to the pandemic.)

While the number of people booked into jail declined over the period, the average stay grew longer and fewer inmates were released, according to the data.

Annual bookings dropped by 17 percent over the period to 1,374, according to the data. Probation violations amount to most of the booking charges.

The average length of stay grew by 30 days to 145 days. More than 200 fewer inmates were released, with 1,400 offenders discharged in 2019.

The jail population is projected to top the 300 mark by 2033 based on trends, according to the study. To reduce admissions, DLZ recommends a series of steps including funding local detoxification services and developing diversion options for mentally ill offenders.

The study also includes an assessment of the building, which opened in 2006. It

prioritizes a list of suggested improvements, including the repairing and painting of exterior doors and frames, repairing mezzanine perimeter railing in inmate housing and extending a security system services agreement.

The proposed expansion comes with an estimated price tag of \$18.5 to \$21 million in hard construction costs, in addition to about \$300,000 in top-priority infrastructure repairs.

If approved, construction would likely take 14 to 18 months.

# New county administrator, highway director named

## Journal Review

A new Montgomery County administrator was hired and the highway department came under new leadership in 2020.

The Board of Commissioners tapped Avon town manager Tom Klein as administrator to oversee day-to-day operations of county government. Klein replaced administrator Mark Casteel, who resigned in July 2020.

A native of Illinois who grew up in Bloomington, Klein served as Avon's first town manager for 22 years. Before that, he was chief financial officer and executive



Left: Jake Lough  
Right: Tom Klein

assistant to the Indianapolis public works director. He earlier served as assistant to Bloomington's director of public works and executive assistant to Bloomington's mayor.

"Tom has an exceptional amount of experience, has

a positive attitude and a willingness to be part of our community," said then-Board of Commissioners President Jim Fulwider. "He knows how government works and how to make improvements in efficiencies and vision. This is an exciting time as we fill this position with a very experienced and talented person."

Klein has served as president and central regional director of the Indiana Municipal Management Association and received the Circle of Corydon Award from Gov. Eric Holcomb. He is a graduate of Indiana University.

He was a finalist for government management positions in three other states before accepting the job.

Klein and his wife, Lexi, a freelance graphic artist, have a daughter, Grace. Klein also has three adult sons, Mats, Evan and Cameron.

At the highway garage, assistant director Jake Lough took the reins of the department in December 2020, following the resignation of director Jeremy Phillips. Lough had served as interim director while the commissioners searched for Phillips' replacement.

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# County sets vision to spur development

**Nick Hedrick**

nhedrick@jrpress.com

Montgomery County leaders set a vision of “100 Jobs, 100 Homes” to spur more economic development in the community.

Elected officials joined together in March 2021 to begin the conversation in the first of what they hope will be a series of joint meetings of the Board of Commissioners, County Council, Redevelopment Commission and Regional Sewer District.

“If this does nothing but stay 30,000 foot today to talk about why we’re doing what we’re doing, I’ll be a happy guy,” said Board of Commissioners president John Frey, who led the meeting.

Despite the pandemic, economic development leads have remained strong and the city is in significant talks with local companies looking

to expand operations.

But officials discussed the ongoing challenges for companies eyeing a move to Montgomery County, such as the lack of suitable existing buildings.

“We say that in public [and] people are like, oh, we got the old this building and that building. Those don’t meet the specs that we’re looking for,” said Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton, who spoke at the meeting. “We have no inventory of existing buildings in this community.”

Barton said officials could discuss new ways of creating spec buildings that weren’t available several years ago. With the commerce park all but full, the city plans to hire a firm to determine how to develop land south of Crawfordsville.

Talks are continuing with housing developers seriously interested in building proj-



David Rosenberg, executive vice president of the Indiana Economic Development Corp., speaks at a groundbreaking ceremony for the Tempur Sealy plant in October 2021.

ects. The city and the county are investing in programs to help entrepreneurs and small business owners.

But the county’s expansion efforts are hurting without a full-time economic devel-

opment director, said Ron Dickerson, chair of the Redevelopment Commission.

Commissioners were developing an action plan and discussing how to finance improvements.

# New curator takes charge at Carnegie museum

**Nick Hedrick**

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A self-professed history and classics nerd who jams to the “Hamilton” soundtrack, Ashley Hannum works within walking distance from the wooded grounds of a famed Civil War general’s study in the childhood town of “Chicago’s” playwright.

“It’s a small town that feels alive and vibrant and it doesn’t feel, you know, like it’s sleepy and fading that some small towns tend to do,” said Hannum, who was named curator of the Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County in the spring of 2021.

She was tapped to replace longtime curator Kat Burkhart, who stepped down in January 2021 to join Purdue University.

Originally planning a career in the medical field, Hannum was studying chemistry at

DePauw University when she changed her major to classical civilizations. That led to a job doing archaeology conservation work at the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis.

Hannum later became curator of anthropology and archaeology, but wanted to work in a smaller institution where she could be more involved in the broader responsibilities of running a museum.

As the Carnegie prepares to celebrate its 15th anniversary next year, its new leader sees an opportunity to better define the museum’s mission. The museum was originally founded by the Crawfordsville District Public Library to bring awareness and appreciation to the county’s history, heritage and culture.

“We’re doing a lot more than that in the community,” Hannum said.

Hannum said she wants library and museum staff and



Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County curator Ashley Hannum, left, and operations manager Kathy Brown in May 2021.

the public to be part of the conversation. She also plans to look for ways to revamp the “WOW Gallery,” which spotlights notable county natives, take note of the 120th anniversary of the building’s dedication and update the

permanent exhibits.

“What exactly that looks like at this point in time, I’m not 100% sure yet... but we’re ready for some updates and just to make sure that we’re continually relevant to the county.”

# New mass notification system launched

**Nick Hedrick**

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Montgomery County launched a new mass notification system for emergency alerts in February 2021.

The Code RED system, a product of software company OnSolve, will be activated during severe weather or other emergency situations and used to mobilize SWAT or

CERT responses and snow plows. It uses the same technology as Everbridge, the county's previous notification tool, which sends location-based alerts to subscribers.

If a tornado is spotted in New Ross, for example, a notification is sent only to subscribers in the immediate area. The free alerts are sent by phone, text message or e-mail.

"The last mass notification system we had — it was a good system, but it was almost too much and it was hard to maneuver on the public side and on the private side," said Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency Director Shari Harrington, who presented the new tool to the Board of Commissioners on Monday.

The county was also looking for a less expensive system: Code RED costs \$9,000 to implement, a savings of about \$4,000.

The county is paying an additional \$1,000 to provide access to GIS maps for emergency responders.

Initial funding comes through a grant from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

Harrington worked with the county's mapping depart-



Montgomery County Deputy Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency Deputy Director Brian Campbell, from left, director Shari Harrington and administrative assistant Jessica Burget in the Emergency Operations Center. The agency facilitated the county's mass notification system.

ment, emergency dispatch center, highway department and county administrator's office to launch the system.

Residents can text moco54 to 99411 or call Harrington at 765-364-5154 to sign up for alerts.



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# WHIN invests in Montgomery County

## Journal Review

Wabash Heartland Innovation Network is making a big impact in Montgomery County. The organization met this fall with community leaders to share its progress.

“WHIN is committed to cultivating a regional ecosystem where globally competitive businesses will plant and grow,” WHIN CEO Johnny Park told Montgomery County Chamber board members, Community Foundation board members and others who attended the meeting.

“Our strategy,” Park said, “is to develop our region as a Living Laboratory for digital agriculture and next-generation manufacturing, which rely on the Internet of Things.”

The Internet of Things, or IoT, uses networked sensors to attach the physical world to the internet. The technology gives users powerful, data-driven applications to increase productivity, reduce costs and better manage their resources. With initial funding from Lilly Endowment Inc., WHIN is helping more manufacturers and farmers adopt sensor-based products.

“WHIN and our tech partners make the first year of adoption low to no cost for farmers and manufacturers,” Park said. “Three farmers in Montgomery County, representing 12,000 acres, are members of WHIN’s Ag Alliance, giving

them access to applications like aerial imaging, grain monitoring and automated soil sampling.”

Paul Hodgen is using TeleSense technology that allows him to monitor the health of his stored grain continuously and remotely.

“The grain in our bins is our financial security and we do everything we can to protect that asset,” Hodgen said. “Doing periodic manual checks is unsafe and less reliable than using automated technology. The TeleSense devices that WHIN introduced to us are lower cost and have more capability than other solutions I have tried.”

At the same time, WHIN-funded research at Purdue is leading to the next generation of IoT technology, and WHIN sponsored education at Purdue and Ivy Tech is building the workforce the region needs as it becomes more high-tech.

Purdue has engaged local manufacturers in its WHIN-sponsored programs, and WHIN is looking to engage more farmers and manufacturers in the Living Lab.

“We want to get the word out that WHIN is a key resource for our local manufacturers,” said Casey Hockersmith, assistant director of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, which co-hosted the WHIN meeting along with the Montgomery County Community Foundation. “They can try out com-

mercial-grade technology to help with maintenance, safety and other needs.”

WHIN is also helping with the connectivity that the county needs.

“There is an I in IoT,” Park said. “Lack of internet access is an obstacle to virtually all economic development efforts and to our mission of increasing the use of digital technology.”

WHIN has been working with the county to find places where it can help accelerate broadband projects.

“Ladoga is working on a plan that would bring fiber to the homes in our community,” said Ladoga Town Council member Lester Miles. “WHIN will help build relationships with local ISPs that may be able to use that fiber to deliver newly-available, high-quality wireless service to the surrounding rural area.”

Park said that, with a year to go in the Lilly Endowment, Inc. grant, Montgomery County has already seen \$1,344,440 in direct investments.

As part of that investment, WHIN has allocated \$160,231 to the county’s school corporations for e-learning, with more to follow.

Dr. Shawn Greiner, superintendent of the South Montgomery School Corporation, said the help is needed.

“Many of our students do not have access to the internet at home, which is



critical for homework and continued learning even with in-person instruction,” Greiner said. “WHIN funding is helping us provide hotspots to students to keep them connected.”

With funding from WHIN’s Regional Cultivation Fund, New York City artist Jenna Morello will begin painting a mural on the wall of Montgomery County Community Foundation next to Milligan’s Flowers and Gifts in Crawfordsville in mid-September.

“WHIN is helping the county in so many ways,” said Kelly Taylor, CEO of the MCCF. “A lot of what they do is not visible, though it is transformative. Our mural will help everyone become more familiar with WHIN.”

To learn more about WHIN, visit online at [www.whin.org](http://www.whin.org) or email [info@whin.org](mailto:info@whin.org).



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# CIVICS/GROUPS

## DAR dedicates plaque recognizing Revolutionary War vets

**Nick Hedrick**

[nhedrick@jrpress.com](mailto:nhedrick@jrpress.com)

As the United States looks toward the 250th anniversary of its founding in 2026, a new marker is paying tribute to the men and women who fought for the nation's independence.

The Dorothy Q Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated a plaque recognizing Revolutionary War veterans in an April ceremony at the Elston Memorial Home.

"We want to honor them and we want to tell their stories," Charlotte Blair, Indiana State DAR regent, said before unveiling the plaque in front of members gathered on the chapter house's porch.

The plaque reads: "This marker commemorates the men and women who achieved American independence. These Patriots, believing in the noble cause of liberty, valiantly fought to found a new nation. 1775-1783."

The marker is part of a nationwide awareness campaign by the service

organization, which is open to women who are direct descendants of a person involved in the U.S. efforts toward independence.

DAR seeks to place at least one of the markers in every state ahead of the nation's milestone anniversary.

About 231,000 men and some 20,000 women served in the fight, according to scholars' estimates.

The graves of 15 Revolutionary War soldiers have been documented so far in Montgomery County. Their names are listed on another plaque at the chapter house.

DAR chapters nationwide are planning events to celebrate the upcoming anniversary. In 2017, the national society gave money to the National Park Service to plant 76 trees at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia.

The organization is also establishing a "Pathway of Patriots" along a southeastern Pennsylvania trail that connects the nation's oldest botanical garden with Valley Forge National Historical Park.



*Top: Members of the Dorothy Q Chapter Daughters of American Revolution with state regent Charlotte Blair, center front, in April 2021. Right: Charlotte Blair, Indiana State Daughters of the American Revolution regent, unveils a plaque honoring Revolutionary War veterans at the Elston Memorial Home in April 2021.*



Flower Lovers Garden Club members unveil a bench dedicated to the City of Crawfordsville in honor of the club's 100th anniversary at the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum in August 2021.



## Flower Lovers Garden Club celebrates 100th anniversary

**Nick Hedrick**

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Anita Arnold is known for her green thumb.

In the early-to-mid-1980s, the Crawfordsville resident — who grows plants in more than a dozen garden beds at home — was invited by a close friend to a meeting of the Flower Lovers Garden Club where she could socialize with other gardeners.

“I’ve got a T-shirt that says, you’re never too old to dig in the dirt,” said Arnold, the treasurer and longest active member of the club, which marked its 100th anniversary in August.

Members gathered one afternoon on the grounds of the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum to celebrate the milestone by dedicating a bench to the City of Crawfordsville. Another celebra-

tion was planned for the club’s September meeting.

The club, which currently counts 51 members, maintains flower beds in downtown Crawfordsville, puts on flower shows at the Crawfordsville Farmers Market and hosts a biannual garden walk. It is the oldest garden club in the state, members say.

Originally known as the Dahlia Club, the group was formed in 1921 by a group of women who later spruced up roadside parks, the pre-interstate highway version of rest stops.

“Members would donate flower shrubs in time for the weary traveler to enjoy on their travels,” said Paula Furr, club president.

The club also worked with Shades State Park and the Yountsville’s Mill, Furr said. More recently, members have planted the garden at



Flower Lovers Garden Club members at the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum in August 2021.

the Lane Place following the 2019 death of longtime groundskeeper Ruth Johnson.

Historical information about the club will go on display later this month at PNC

Bank, the Crawfordsville District Public and the Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County.

# Habitat breaks ground on new home

Nick Hedrick

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Susan Weliver feels called to her new home.

It promises to be one of the brightest dwellings on the block — she wants it to be painted a “bold barn” red, a place where the devoutly religious woman can sit on the front porch and share the love of God.

“I don’t want any doubt that He’s sending me to be a light in this neighborhood,” she said.

On a muggy afternoon in July, surrounded by friends from Calvary Chapel, Weliver picked up a shovel and threw dirt on the site where Habitat for Humanity volunteers will build her house in the backyard of the 4-H fairgrounds.

Habitat broke ground on Weliver’s house and another project next door, both of which are scheduled for move-in by Christmas.

“We’re excited to get going again,” said Greg Lanam, vice president and construction coordinator for Habitat of Humanity for Montgomery County. “We haven’t built a new home in six years.”

The nonprofit builds affordable housing for qualified working families earning 30 to 60 of the area’s median income. Up to 20-30 families at a time may qualify for a house, but applications are currently not being accepted.

A family recently settled into a Habitat-repaired dwelling on Russell Avenue. Earlier, consumers from Abilities Services Inc. received a place alongside other Habitat houses across from Wabash College’s baseball field.

Weliver first applied to Habitat two years ago after mold infested her apartment, but missed the deadline. She later discovered mold in her current home.

Along with other health complications, Weliver lives

with a condition that prevents her body from detoxing mold.

“We kind of fell in love with Susan as soon as we met her,” said Mike McCormick, Habitat president.

The City of Crawfordsville donated a dilapidated house on Binford Street to Habitat. The neighboring property owner also gave his house. Habitat handled the demolition. Mayor Todd Barton said it was “like a dream come true” to see the sites under construction.

A resident has been approved for the site next door to Weliver’s. The man, who didn’t want his name published, said he was grateful to Habitat for his new home.

Following preliminary construction work, the national Habitat’s “care-a-vanners” team will arrive in September to build the exteriors of both houses. More volunteers will be sought once construction moves indoors.

Weliver’s friends got a



Susan Weliver scoops dirt as friend Jeannie Stevens looks on at a groundbreaking ceremony for Weliver’s Habitat for Humanity house in July 2021.

look at drawings of the house during the groundbreaking ceremony.

“It’s wonderful, perfect for her,” Diamond Carrell said.

## Local United Way announces merger

### Journal Review

LAFAYETTE — Donating members of last year’s United Way of Greater Lafayette Campaign voted unanimously in July to approve a merger between United Way of Greater Lafayette and Montgomery United Fund for You.

A process the board of directors has been working on for a little over three years, the merger will help the newly named United Way in Montgomery County, an office of United Way of Greater Lafayette, increase its community outreach. Heather Shirk, United Way in Montgomery County Advisory Committee Chairperson, thinks community members will be proud of the change.

“People in this community should be excited,” Shirk said. “It definitely opens more doors for the people and agencies that we already serve, and I think it will allow us to support even more people and organizations within our community.”

While maintaining efforts towards resource in Tippecanoe County, the merger will provide additional opportunities and expanded services to residents of Montgomery County.

“The main thing for people to remember is that money raised in Montgomery County will stay in Montgomery County,” Shirk said.

The same is true for dollars raised in Tippecanoe County.

Two individuals from Montgomery County will

join United Way of Greater Lafayette’s fiduciary board to represent their community’s needs within the organization. Previous board members from Montgomery County will form a local advisory board that will serve in the capacity of conducting local fundraising activities and making funding recommendations to best serve their local needs.

Michael Budd, CEO of United Way of Greater Lafayette, said the merger blossomed out of a years-long partnership between the two organizations.

“This started out as a request from Montgomery County to explore ‘how do we partner to make our communities stronger?’ and conversations moved towards

this merging process,” Budd said. “I think it’s a great step for us in being able to serve the broader community and help our neighboring counties make an even greater impact.”

United Way of Greater Lafayette is confident the decision is in the best interest for residents of both counties.

“We recognize that a lot of the services that are provided in Lafayette are not just provided to Tippecanoe County residents, but in some cases are also serving the surrounding communities and counties,” said Laura Downey, board president of United Way of Greater Lafayette. “We feel that this is a way to coordinate and synergize those activities as well.”

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# YSB celebrates 50th anniversary

**Io Maeda**

Journal Review

Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau reached its 50th anniversary in September and marked the occasion Sept. 11 with volunteers and organizations who have engaged with YSB for a long time.

“It is very exciting,” said Karen Branch, YSB executive director. “A lot of nonprofits like the size of the YSB do not always survive 50 years. I think what has contributed to our success is we have the most wonderful, dedicated caring staff.”

YSB is an agency dedicated to working with youth in Montgomery County. Its primary goal is to prevent juvenile delinquency and help them grow into responsible adults. The concept of YSB emerged in 1970, when the League of Women Voters desired to have a place for

kids to feel safe. YSB finally came into existence with the support of the Circuit Court in September 1971. YSB has 11 different programs, all designed to support and help them through fulfilling various needs.

“I think we have helped countless youth, whether that is through their education, having a mentor, having an advocate, having that extra guidance and support from adults,” Branch said. “I think our impact has been immeasurable through the number of kids that we have served.”

The pandemic caused the YSB to shut down its building. YSB staff worked at home and there were no in-person interactions. However, YSB overcame the difficult time by reaching out to children virtually.

“The staff are really creative about maintaining contact,” Branch said.

The staff made full use of devices such as Zoom meet-

ings or FaceTime to keep in contact with children. When the YSB reopened its building, both the staff and children wore masks and conducted events where they could see each other from a distance.

“There was not any disruption in our programs,” Branch said. “We just kept going and adapted.”

The pandemic hit children much more severely than YSB. There was concern of food insecurity due to all of the schools in this county being shut down. Branch said that many kids who go to the public school rely on free breakfast and lunch.

“When they could not go to school, they were missing out on two meals a day,” Branch said.

To prevent hunger, YSB cooperated with the schools through the Nourish program. They provided backpacks full of food for breakfast and lunch every Friday afternoon

and delivered them to each child’s home.

“We were doing 350 backpacks a week that we were going out into the county to kids who were in need,” Branch said.

Branch said the biggest challenge for all of the people in this country during the pandemic was social isolation.

“If people were already struggling with mental health issues, I think the pandemic just exaggerated and how that affected them,” she said.

Branch hopes the YSB can celebrate another 50 years.

“We want to continue to maintain and be a stable agency,” she said. “One of the reasons the YSB has existed for 50 years is because of the community support that we have. It is all of those people working together to make sure the YSB has been able to be successful and continue to exist.”

# Sugar Creek Players mark 50 years

**Io Maeda**

Journal Review

The Sugar Creek Players celebrated 50 years with a celebration this summer at Pike Place in downtown Crawfordsville.

A concert paid tribute to many favorites from past Vanity Theater performances and the theater also was open for tours.

The Vanity Theater at 122 S. Washington St. is home to the Sugar Creek Players. The SCP came into existence in 1971. The group did not have a permanent place to perform until the Vanity Theater was deeded to them in 1983. The building used to be a movie house.

The event also served as a fundraiser. Banners from past

shows were auctioned.

“It is a huge fundraiser to help us really bankroll the next 50 years of the Vanity Theater and the Sugar Creek Players,” said Julia Phipps, Sugar Creek Players president.

The pandemic struck the group hard. They had to continue maintaining the building despite the lack of shows and profits.

“We were still putting out money every month,” said Lisa Warren, Sugar Creek Players vice president.

However, the theater and performers survived thanks to the community’s generous support.

“I can only hope that we have another 50 years and I am here with my kids,” Phipps said.

For more information about



the celebration event or the Sugar Creek Players, visit online at <http://www.sugar>

[creekplayers.org](http://creekplayers.org) or connect with them via Facebook or Instagram.

# MCCF celebrates 30 years of serving community



**Io Maeda**

Journal Review

The Montgomery County Community Foundation celebrated its 30th year anniversary in August.

MCCF is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering the development of the county by giving grants to people and nonprofit groups. Gifts from donors have enabled them to build various types of funds, grants and scholarships. Anyone can donate any amount of money to the specific organization via MCCF.

Although donors are required to contribute the required minimum amount of money to establish a new fund in one's name, it would be a permanent community funding resource continued to be funded by MCCF taking a portion of the earnings from their investment.

"(Through support from the donors) That is how we provide funds, grants and scholarships to other nonprofits in the community to focus on improving the whole quality of life in Montgomery County," said Kelly Taylor, CEO of MCCF.

MCCF launched its organization in August 1991 after they were able to accomplish

the challenge brought by Lilly Endowment. Thanks to the generous cooperation of this community through fundraising, they were able to raise \$3.7 million and receive a match of \$1.3 million from Lilly Endowment, establishing the total beginning endowment of \$5 million in the first year.

"Fortunately, we had some very innovative and some great visionary people that jumped on board and said, 'we want to do this (accept the Lilly Endowment's challenge) in our community.' Then they got a group together and began getting all of the organization put in place," Taylor said.

MCCF's first fund was created in 1992 by Dr. Mark and Barbara Caress, continuing to benefit the Montgomery County Educational Foundation even today. It now has 230 endowed funds to support various types of needs in the community.

In 1992, the first three grants were awarded and totaled \$2,091. Last year, the foundation awarded 334 grants totaling \$1.4 million. The first scholarships were awarded in 1994, for a total of \$9,775, but 264 scholarships were awarded in 2020, for a total of \$503,075. In April 1992, their assets totaled \$64,934, but it increased to a total of \$59.5 million last December.

They have contributed to many people and nonprofit organizations by fulfilling their needs through various ways. One of the remarkable accomplishments that they have done is renovating the Canine Place. A \$100,000 MCCF grant was awarded to begin construction in 2002 and it has become a venue for various events and commu-

nity gatherings such as First Fridays.

When the county faces a difficult time, MCCF always serves as the backbone. They were even able to support the community during the pandemic because their investment performance was positive. By the end of last December, they were able to distribute \$245,499 of COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Grants in this community.

The grant was essential for many organizations because they were not able to have fundraising events and suffered from a loss of revenue.

"We offered up COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Grants to help our nonprofit stay in business and continue to deliver those essential services throughout the community," Taylor said.

One of the things they have done during the pandemic is support childcare centers. They saw that the childcare numbers in the centers were dwindling because the parents did not have enough revenue to afford letting their children go to the center.

"We were able to help some of our local childcare centers to keep them in business," Taylor said. "Workers could continue to work and have a safe place for children."

They have also provided sanitizers and masks to all of the nonprofits so that they did not have to worry about finding those supplies if they needed.

For the next five years, they are going to focus on early childhood learning in the ages of 0 to 5 years old. Taylor said that this county is in a lower rank compared to the state's other counties in terms of the number of quality childcare



seats available in our community.

"We want to make sure that we have recognized quality care for our children and we want to make sure that parents are ready for kindergarten when their children become older," she said.

Taylor emphasized the necessity of the project by picking up on one of the studies that shows that for every dollar parents invest in early learning, there is a five dollar return later in life.

"I want to make sure that children have that good start in life, because as research and science tells us that the brain is formed in those early years, that is when learning is occurring," Taylor said.

MCCF is gradually starting the early childhood project. The early learning director has started to work for MCCF from this June. She is working closely on executing the plan to improve child care in this county.

Taylor hopes to see endowment growth in the future to give back more money to the community and execute projects to increase the county's quality of life.

"We are very thankful for donors for the community support that we get and for the trust that the community puts on us because to give someone your money and knowing that will be put to good use, that is a lot of trust," Taylor said.

## Schools receive e-learning funds

WHIN grants part of 3-year, \$6 million project

### Journal Review

**WEST LAFAYETTE** — Wabash Heartland Innovation Network allocated \$2 million to the school corporations in the ten-county WHIN region to provide broadband access for students who do not have adequate access to the internet for schoolwork.

The districts include Crawfordsville, North Montgomery and South Montgomery schools.

The allocation was the first of a three-year, six-million-dollar project to improve student connectivity in the region. North Central Health Services is a partner in the initiative.

“WHIN is committed to helping the Wabash Heartland become the most connected rural region in the state,” said WHIN CEO Johnny Park. “Even when students are in class in person, they need online access outside of school for homework, projects, and school-related activities.”

“Internet availability and connectivity are challenges that have long plagued rural school corporations and are issues that were magnified by the need for virtual learning opportunities during the pandemic,” says Dr. Shawn Greiner, superintendent of South Montgomery Community School Corp. “We are grateful for this grant opportunity to help our students thrive and

succeed, regardless of where they live.”

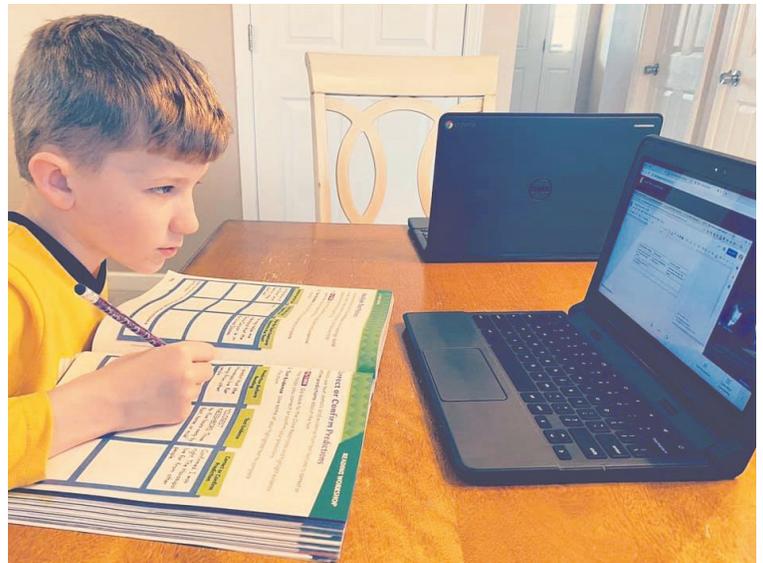
Schools may use their allocations to provide plans to students that are compatible with their school-issued Chromebooks and iPads. In the short run, that can include personal hotspots. The funding is also available for teachers who do not have adequate access to prepare and conduct lessons from home.

In Montgomery County, the money will be spent on fees for AT&T data plans, which were provided to families without internet access when schools switched to virtual learning last year. The funds will also be spent on individual “MiFi” devices, which can be used for weather-related e-learning days, homework and remediation programs.

“All students and teachers should be able to stream videos and participate in video conferencing,” Greg Jarman, WHIN’s vice president of broadband partnerships, said. “In or out of a crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual platforms are here to stay.”

WHIN’s long term broadband strategy includes helping school corporations find more permanent, network-based solutions.

“We look forward to working with the region’s school corporations to understand their



*A New Market Elementary student does a math lesson while live video chatting with his teacher for help.*

needs,” Jarman said. “We can help connect them with the latest, most innovative broadband technology so that students have the safe, filtered access they need.”

Pat Corey, WHIN’s vice president of engagement, said that school corporations were very responsive to the initiative.

“We know there are at least 1,000 students that WHIN will be able to help immediately,” says Corey. “The funds can continue data plans for students on grants that are expiring and can help students who either have no access presently or whose access does not support video streaming.”

The funds can also be used for students who have an economic need. “We know households have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic,” says Corey.

The funds will be administered by school corporations, who will identify participating students and teachers.

“Every school corporation is different,” says Corey. “Some have a lot of need; others have been able to find workarounds. We want to meet them where they are, on the timetable that works for them.”

For more information about WHIN’s e-Learning initiative, visit [whin.org/e-learning/](http://whin.org/e-learning/)



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## Oakes named new site director for Ivy Tech Crawfordsville

### Journal Review



In June, Kristin Oakes was named site director for Ivy Tech Community College Crawfordsville.

Oakes will oversee the day-to-day operations of the campus including scheduling of classes and working with community partners.

Oakes is currently an associate professor in the School of Arts, Science and Education at Ivy Tech Lafayette since August 2009. She has taught courses in pre-algebra, algebra, math principles and student success, and has tutored students in the Learning Resource Center on the Ivy Tech Lafayette campus. She also serves as the Department Chair of Academic Support and Student Success since August 2014, supervising

adjunct instructors, tutors, and staff and managing budgets and resources for the program. She also oversees the new Learning Commons on the Lafayette campus.

She is currently enrolled in the doctor of education program in community college leadership through Ferris State University and expects to graduate in May 2022.

She holds a master of education degree in elementary mathematics education from Miami (Ohio) University, and graduated with honors from the bachelor of arts program in elementary education from Michigan State University.

"I am very excited to serve the Crawfordsville and Montgomery County communities," Oakes said. "I look forward to working with area schools and employers to help residents further their education at Ivy Tech, whether to transfer to a four-year college or enter the workforce into a rewarding career."

Oakes resides in Brownsburg.

# Online learning platform helps tackle COVID slide

**Nick Hedrick**

nhedrick@jrpress.com

LINDEN — For Melva Triplet, the answer for stopping the COVID slide in her fourth grade classroom at Pleasant Hill Elementary was already in her toolbox.

“When we came back to school, [the students] took NWEA,” Triplet said, referring to the standardized test, “and we had a lot of kids who made no growth or low growth and we needed a way to turn that around.”

Triplet turned to IXL Learning, an online personalized instruction platform she began using more than a decade ago to reinforce reading and writing lessons.

The strategy is showing results: A special education student who came into fourth grade a year-and-a-half behind on reading is now reading at grade level and was the only child in the class to

receive a perfect score on a math assessment.

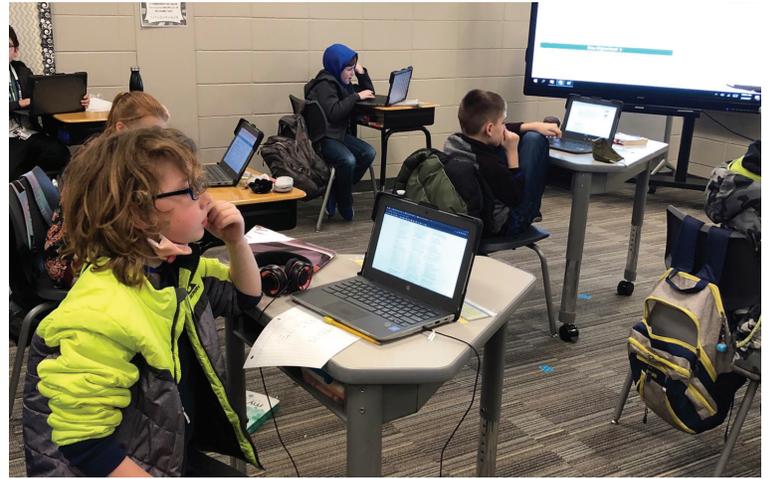
“I contribute all of that to using the IXL program because it’s just so good,” said Triplet, who was recently named to IXL’s Elite 100 list of participating teachers. “I see it over my whole classroom and it’s great.”

IXL Learning offers individualized lessons in math, language arts, social studies, science and basic Spanish to more than 11 million students in preschool through 12th grade.

All North Montgomery elementary schools use the math program, where activities are tailored to each student’s skills.

“This app allows students to practice math skills at their own level,” North Montgomery Superintendent Dr. Colleen Moran said.

IXL has also helped boost reading skills. Some of Triplet’s high-ability students are reading at a ninth grade level.



Students use IXL curriculum in Melva Triplet’s classroom at Pleasant Hill Elementary School.

For teachers, the program helps generate personalized learning plans and provides a real-time look at student progress as skills are completed.

Teachers across the country say the platform has improved standardized testing scores and classroom performance while helping identify and remediate struggling

students, especially during the pandemic.

“Educators taught us lessons about resilience and dedication that we’ll never forget. They inspired us as they continued to serve their students despite unimaginable disruptions,” IXL CEO Paul Mishkin said in a statement.

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# Feller inaugurated as 17th President of Wabash College

## Journal Review

Dr. Scott E. Feller was inaugurated as the 17th President of Wabash College in an on-campus ceremony in October.

The College's Board of Trustees elected Feller in May 2020, but COVID-19 forced the postponement of his formal inauguration.

"We are genuinely excited to officially welcome Scott Feller to the presidency of our College," said Jay Allen '79, Chair of the Wabash Board of Trustees. "Scott has served Wabash in virtually every capacity since he and Wendy arrived on campus in

1998, and we are proud of his leadership as our 17th president — particularly in such difficult times."

Feller will be inaugurated in Little Giant Stadium Friday at a ceremony that will be attended by students, faculty, staff, alumni, Trustees, delegates from over a dozen institutions and members of the President's family.

"Wabash has been my home for over 20 years and few college presidents have the benefit of such a long association with the institution they lead," Feller said. "I come to my office every day thankful for the relationships I have developed here and an appreciation for what Wabash

means to its students and alumni."

Feller becomes the first person to rise directly from the faculty to the presidency since Byron K. Trippet was elected president in 1956. Feller has served Wabash as the Lloyd B. Howell Professor of Chemistry, Chemistry Department Chair, Chair of the Division of Natural Sciences and Dean of the College.

"Scott's roll-up-his-sleeves approach to tackling challenges and his deep analytical skills, together with his ability to establish trust-based and respectful relationships with his colleagues, faculty, students, alumni, parents, foundations and other sup-

porters of Wabash, uniquely qualify him to be an outstanding president of our College," Allen said.

In his first 15 months in office, Feller guided Wabash through a full year of residential education during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic and initiated a careful plan to ensure the health and safety of the College. He secured a \$4.5 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. for a broad range of student success and inclusivity programs entitled "Restoring Hope, Restoring Trust," and the College set all-time records for its Day of Giving and Annual Fund during President Feller's first year.



# Clifford's gift 'truly transformational' for Wabash athletics

## Journal Review

Wabash College President Scott Feller announced in September that an extraordinary \$10 million gift from Kevin G. Clifford '77 and his family made it possible for the College to build the stunning new Little Giant Stadium.

"Kevin has given his time, talents and treasure to Wabash for four decades, but this extraordinary gift allowed us to create one of the finest stadiums in NCAA Division III," Feller said. "All of us at the College are grateful for Kevin's generosity and commitment to his alma mater. Kevin's lead gift for Little Giant Stadium is truly transformational, and it will make an enormous difference for our scholar-athletes, alumni and all who love Wabash."

Clifford played quarterback on Wabash football teams in the 1970s and was an assistant coach in 1977 when Wabash went 11-2 and played in the national championship game. As an alumnus, he served Wabash on the board of trustees from 1994 through 2014, led a presidential search committee and was on the cabinet of

two capital campaigns that raised more than \$200 million for Wabash.

Clifford spent his entire 37-year career with the Capital Group companies. He rose to become chairman and Chief Executive Officer of American Funds Group, and was a key member of the Capital Group's management committee. He is a member of the board of directors of the National Football Foundation/College Football Hall of Fame, which has a mission to promote the power of amateur football in developing the qualities of leadership, sportsmanship, competitive zeal and the drive for academic excellence in America's young people. He is also on the boards of the National World War II Museum and the United States Olympic and Paralympic Foundation.

Little Giant Stadium is home to the Wabash football and track and field teams. Clifford asked that the playing field in the stadium be named in memory of Frank Navarro, Wabash's Hall of Fame football coach who led the team to the 1977 Stagg Bowl championship game.

"I was fortunate to play for and work for Coach Navarro,"

Clifford said. "The lessons learned under his tutelage served me well in life and business. Discipline, attention to detail, perseverance, sacrifice, and teamwork were of paramount importance to Coach Navarro and we all benefited from his leadership. My family and I hope the new Little Giant Stadium will provide future generations of Wabash scholar-athletes, coaches, faculty, and the broader community a best-in-class facility in which to compete, learn, and win!"

The \$15 million stadium is fully accessible and includes a main grandstand with seating for more than 3,500 fans; media, game operations, and coaching booths; a second-floor W. Club Lounge with four dedicated suites; ticketing and concession areas; FieldTurf playing field and Beynon all-weather track surface; a new and relocated scoreboard; and the Hall of Giants that celebrates our rich tradition of athletics excellence. The W. Club Lounge bears the name of Mr. Clifford and his family.

Clifford's leadership and catalyzing philanthropy moved the vision for a new stadium from a list of "some-

day" projects in the College's Campus Master Plan to the top of the list.

"Frankly, the element of a surprise announcement launching the stadium construction, combined with the sheer size of the gift, gave us tremendous momentum to raise additional funds for the project," said Dean for College Advancement Michelle Janssen. "All of us appreciate Kevin's abiding gratitude to Coach Navarro, and are so pleased and proud that the field bears his name. We are grateful to his classmate, Gary Reamey '77, for leading our efforts from the architect's first sketches through completion of this amazing stadium."

The Stadium was designed by the DLR Group's Kansas City-based Sports Design arm. F.A. Wilhelm was the general contractor that managed all aspects of construction. Continental Office Group designed the signage and graphics for the stadium.

Little Giant Stadium and Frank Navarro Field were dedicated at halftime of Wabash's football game against Allegheny on Sept. 18.

## Franciscan raising funds for Safe Haven Baby Box in Crawfordsville

### Journal Review

Throughout Indiana, abandoned babies have been found on residential streets, open fields and even in trash cans. This doesn't have to happen. Franciscan Health Foundation is raising funds to install a Safe Haven Baby Box at Franciscan Health Crawfordsville.

Indiana's Safe Haven Law allows a woman to legally and safely relinquish an unharmed newborn baby at a Safe Haven location. Historically, Safe Haven sites have been locations like fire and police stations. However, a baby box at a hospital gives women another, less intimidating, option if they fear being recognized, questioned or even arrested.

The box will provide an anonymous way for a woman to safely surrender their baby while maintaining privacy. For women who have utilized these boxes, they are a last resort which results in almost immediate medical care for the baby and eventually, placement into loving adoptive homes. While so many babies are left to unknown dangers after being abandoned, this process will provide every safety measure possible.

Franciscan Health Western Indiana installed its first Safe Haven Baby Box in 2020 in Lafayette.

The box is built into an



Tri County Bank made a donation to the Franciscan Health Foundation Safe Haven Baby Box to be located at Franciscan Health Crawfordsville. Pictured, from left, are Cindy Ratcliff, Director of Patient Care Services Franciscan Health, Jennifer Eberly, Director of Development Franciscan Health Foundation, Tara Miller Tri County Bank Downtown Office Manager and Kyle Brown Tri County Bank South Boulevard Office Manager.

exterior wall of a building. The inside is climate controlled and features a baby bed. Once the baby is placed inside, the exterior door will automatically lock and a silent alarm sounds to alert medical personnel who will quickly retrieve the infant

through an interior door.

The process is quick, secure, anonymous and most importantly, it provides the infant with a chance for a long and healthy life.

The total cost of the project is \$28,000 and is funded by

donations. Currently they have secured \$22,000 and will start construction as soon as the remaining \$6,000 is raised. For more information, or to make a donation, contact Eberly at [jennifer.eberly@franciscanalliance.org](mailto:jennifer.eberly@franciscanalliance.org) or call her at 765-423-6812.

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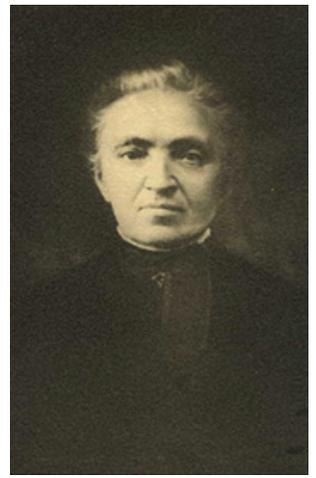
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Paula Kochert, from left, Madeline Kochert and Nancy Gineris speak with Helen Hudson, co-president of the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, and her husband Marc after the dedication of a plaque honoring pioneering physician and suffragist Dr. Mary Holloway Wilhite in August 2021. Gineris and the Kocherts are descendants of Wilhite.

## Descendants retrace pioneering woman physician's steps

**Nick Hedrick**

[nhedrick@jrpress.com](mailto:nhedrick@jrpress.com)

On a grassy patch of land at the doorstep of Wabash College, Joan Eaton and her daughter Dr. Claire Gibson have discovered the last pieces of a vanished landmark.

Stooping to the ground, they dig up chunks of brick, the chalky powder rubbing off onto their hands.

"It is so nice to be close to the history," Eaton says as they looked around the lot in July.

The women arrived from northern California to walk in the footsteps of Eaton's great-grandmother, Dr. Mary Holloway Wilhite, who in the 1850s became the first woman from Indiana to practice medicine as a medical school graduate.

Wilhite, who was a longtime champion for women's equality, lived on the corner of West Wabash and Grant Avenue, where her home became a meeting place for prominent suffragists during the long fight for women's access to the voting booth.

The site later became home to a church. Wabash College acquired the property and demolished the building.

A historical marker, which was erected on the site by the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, lauds Wilhite's role in opening a home for orphans and starting a local women's suffrage association.

Wilhite wouldn't be the last woman in her family to enter the medical field.

Eaton's mother, Dr. Virginia Eaton, now 98, was the only woman to graduate from

her medical school class at the University of Southern California in 1946 and worked as a pediatrician for more than half a century.

Gibson is pursuing the same career. As a medical school graduation gift, her grandmother gave her Wilhite's sheepskin diploma. The family also has the medical book Wilhite used to treat patients.

"I didn't know her story when I decided to go into medicine, but it's a fun lineage," said Gibson, who recently completed her chief residency.

Gibson's older sister, Kate, started researching Wilhite's life after reading about sisters Elizabeth and Emily Blackwell, who were the first women in the U.S. to receive medical degrees.

A keyword search led to a

biography of Wilhite written by Crawfordsville Middle School teacher Shannon Hudson, who invited the family on a women's history tour of Montgomery County.

The first stop was the former site of the county's poor farm, where Wilhite treated residents.

"We feel very comfortable [that] Mary spent some quality time here," Hudson said.

They also stopped in front of the homes of Wilhite's friends Elizabeth Bonyton Harbert and Mary Hannah Krout. In 1868, Harbert and Krout were part of a group of more than 20 women, including Wilhite, who attempted to enroll in the all-male Wabash College but were turned away.

"Big things come out of small towns," Gibson said.



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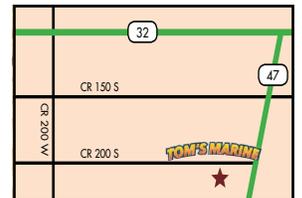
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# Paramedicine program expands reach in busy year

**Nick Hedrick**

nhedrick@jrpress.com

In a busy year for the Crawfordsville Fire Department's globally-recognized mobile health service, the Community Paramedicine Program expanded its outreach to substance users and new mothers while vaccinating residents against the coronavirus.

The program, which moved into the former Visit Montgomery County building on East Pike Street in the fall of 2020, unveiled the county's first NaloxBox to increase access to the overdose-reversing medicine Narcan. The paramedicine center also became a drop-off site for breast milk that is delivered to neonatal intensive care units across the Midwest.

As the COVID-19 vaccine rolled out, community paramedics were pressed into service getting shots into arms. The program teamed up with the county's school districts and the Montgomery County Health Department to vaccinate teachers and eligible students in special clinics.

"It does feel like a breath of fresh air to be on the other side of things," Carrie Jones, a fifth grade teacher at Hoover Elementary, said after getting her shot at a clinic in March 2021.

Launched in 2017 through a grant from the Indiana State Department Health, the community paramedics have gained attention for their portfolio of services offering on-site care in collaboration with other providers and agencies. Officials presented the program at the EMS World Expo in Atlanta.

The NaloxBox was installed at the center in April 2021 through a partnership with mental health provider InWell. The box contains free doses of Narcan and information on local treatment and



*The Community Paramedicine Program and InWell have partnered to maintain a NaloxBox containing free Narcan at the community paramedicine building. Pictured from left are firefighter/paramedic Joe Crane, early intervention specialist Rachel Kenner and InWell peer recovery specialists Shannon Fannin and Maddy Edmiston.*

recovery services.

The boxes were being deployed in each of the state's 92 counties through a partnership between nonprofit Overdose Lifeline Inc. and the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's Division of Mental Health and Addiction.

"For us, this is what a recovery-oriented community looks like ... we've got to start breaking the stigma that this is just a 20-year-old kid dealing with addictions," said Paul Miller, division chief of EMS for the Crawfordsville Fire Department.

"We have senior citizens dealing with addictions, we have pregnant women dealing

with addictions, we have kids in school dealing with addictions," Miller added.

The kits are not a replacement for calling 911 after administering the medication, advocates say. Paramedics can administer additional doses.

When the paramedicine center's milk bank opened in the spring of 2021, it became the first breast milk depot to be housed by a fire department.

The community paramedics partnered with The Milk Bank in Indianapolis to collect milk from approved donor mothers. The frozen, surplus milk is sent to Indianapolis to be pasteurized

and distributed to NICUs and outpatient families.

Also in recent months, the program's Quick Response Team received a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service to continue funding its work for the next three years.

The program follows up with victims of drug overdoses within two days of treatment and also serves suicide attempt survivors and seniors injured in falls.

In a separate grant, the Department of Homeland Security awarded the program \$15,000 to enhance remote patient monitoring and telehealth capabilities.



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# VA vans back on road

**Taylor Dixon**  
Journal Review

For the first time since March 2020, the Veterans Service Office is transporting veterans to medical appointments.

The service resumed in July. The vans leave from the South Boulevard County Building or pick up veterans from their homes and take them to Veterans Affairs hospitals or clinics in Indianapolis, West Lafayette and Danville, Illinois.

Montgomery County's Disabled American Veterans chapter purchased the vehicles to replace a 15-year-old transport van, Ron Compton, DAV commander, said. DAV raised \$36,000 in November 2019 to buy the vans.

About a third of the county's approximately 2,500 veterans go to VA hospitals for medical care. One of the people who rely on the vans is

63-year-old Brad Cope.

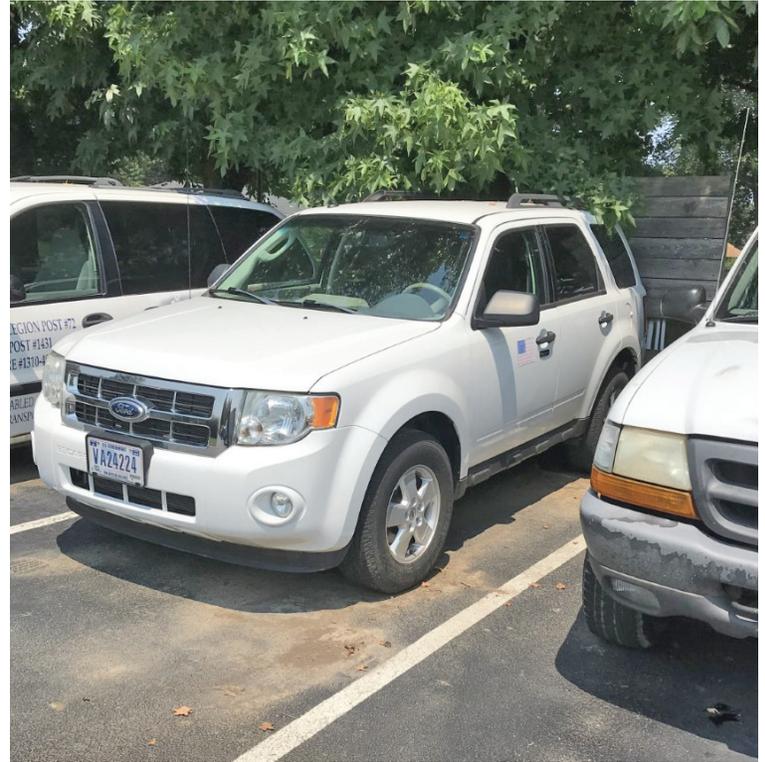
Cope has participated in the program since 1988 and while now he only uses the service a couple times a year, he has had to ride a van as frequently as once a week.

"Guys like myself are not able to drive because of our disabilities," Cope said. "It's a good place for vets, and I'm thankful we have such a program."

After losing all of its volunteer drivers during the pandemic, the program is looking for more drivers.

To apply, drivers must be between the ages of 21 and 75, get a blood draw and security check from the VA and have a valid drivers license. The hours are flexible and drivers would only be needed a few times a month.

If interested, call Ellis at 765-361-4133 Monday through Thursday.



The van used to transport Montgomery County veterans to medical appointments at Veterans Affairs facilities is shown.

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