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*Wishing you  
a very  
Merry  
Christmas!*

**TODAY'S VERSE**

Proverbs 3: 5-6 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.



**FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY**  
*People who call our community their own.*

What makes Lesa Bryant smile? "Being Roman Catholic," said the 55-year-old Noblesville resident, who was found at the Conner Street Laundromat in Noblesville in 2020. She is a cook at GetGo Cafe at Ricker's in Noblesville. "I really enjoy it because I really love working with people," she said of her job. "I'm Dan Stevens' little sister. He's in charge of the Hamilton County Courthouse. He used to be Sheriff of Hamilton County. My brother is very special to me. We're very close to each other. He bought me the Chrysler ... that I drive." As a youngster, when she was old enough to ride a bicycle, she rode to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. She got involved in church and learned to sing and sang in the choir, and she volunteered with special-needs children. Bryant was in the convent twice, studying to become a religious sister. She attended college for restaurant management and is a recovering alcoholic, 27 years sober. She and her ex-husband share a 20-year-old son, Jesse James Bryant. "We're very blessed to have Jesse because he had cancer in fifth and sixth grade ... He survived. That is a blessing ... Because he missed two years of school, he won't graduate until he's 20." What else? "I love Noblesville because it's just a fun place to live. There are a lot of free things you can do. It's very family oriented." Today's feature is a look back at one of The Times' previous Faces of Hamilton County. As she sat in the laundromat waiting for her laundry to be done, she said, "Remember the old TV show, 'Cheers.'? That's what this laundromat's like. Everybody knows everybody. Everybody tells each other their stories."

**And Another Thing...**

The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners final meeting of 2021 will be held Monday, December 20, 2021 at 10:00 am. This meeting is only for items that require action prior to the end of the year. If you would like to be placed on this meeting agenda please email commissioner.agenda@hamiltoncounty.in.gov before noon on Wednesday, December 15, 2021. The first meeting in 2022 will be January 10, 2022.

# The TIMES

Hamilton County's Only Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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## Lions Assist Gleaners



Photo courtesy of Noblesville and Carmel Lions

On Saturday, December 4th, the Noblesville and Carmel Lions helped distribute food from Gleaners. This is done the first Saturday of the month. In the photo above, Unidentified Carmel Lion, Bob Yunker, Tim Baker, Joe Connerley, Bill Ryan, Christine Woodward, Lane Sims, and Steve Shaw

## Keep your eyes on skies for windy weather

Everyone is paying attention to the weather after the recent devastating storms that left a deadly swath of destruction in several states, most notably Kentucky. So a lot of people, including us in Hamilton County, should be alert this evening.

The National Weather Service has issued a wind advisory for portions of Indiana, including Hamilton County. The advisory, which goes into effect at 7 p.m. tonight and

lasts until 7 a.m. tomorrow morning, forecasts that we could see wind gusts in Noblesville in the lower 40 mph range.

To our west and north, the forecasts call for much more vigilance. A moderate risk of severe thunderstorms is forecast for today through tonight. The NWS says that widespread severe wind gusts of 60 to 75 mph, along with at least a few tornadoes, are likely from late afternoon through this evening

across the Mid-Missouri Valley to the Upper Mississippi Valley. Embedded gusts of 80 to 100 mph and a nocturnal strong tornado or two are also possible, particularly across western to northern Iowa and southeast Minnesota.

Locally, we should see a sharp drop after tomorrow's predicted high of 64. The high on Friday will only reach into the 40s and will struggle to reach 40 for the remainder of the weekend.

## Noblesville Lions, guests bring sense of community

If you want to join a philanthropic organization that does good in the community, the Noblesville Lions Club is one of the many.

The Noblesville Lions' volunteering and charitable giving help strengthen our community, as do many, many of our charitable organizations here in Noblesville.

Besides all of the Lions' volunteering -- giving Kid-Sight vision screenings to local school children, assisting Gleaners with food distribution at Hamilton Heights High School, ringing the bell for Salvation Army, helping the Lions-sponsored Noblesville High School Leos Club

to have a book bag drive for the homeless and give away grade-school dictionaries -- the Lions put on an annual pork chop dinner in June and organize a



The Times photo by Betsy Reason  
**New Noblesville High School boys varsity basketball coach Scott McClelland said being at the Noblesville Lions Club Christmas meeting gives him "a sense of community."**

Dodgeball and Cornhole tournament in September. Noblesville Lions earned the Indiana District Directors' 500 percent Model Club for the Lions Club International Foundation. The local Lions also put on an annual Lions Club pork chop dinner in June and organized a Dodgeball and Cornhole Tournament fundraiser, this year, on Sept. 11.

There is always an interesting

➔ See BETSY Page A4

## An unexpected Christmas call . . .

I love Christmas! From early, early memories more than 60 years ago of watching for Santa, to the year I found car keys in my sock (and a payment book), to early years of marriage and walks in the snow, to a few years later and seeing our girls fly down the stairs on Christmas morning, to just a few years ago and the wonder of watching grandchildren.



TIM TIMMONS  
Two Cents

Of course that does not even include the years as an altar boy at midnight mass.

Heck, back then I even liked snow!

What is there not to love about Christmas?

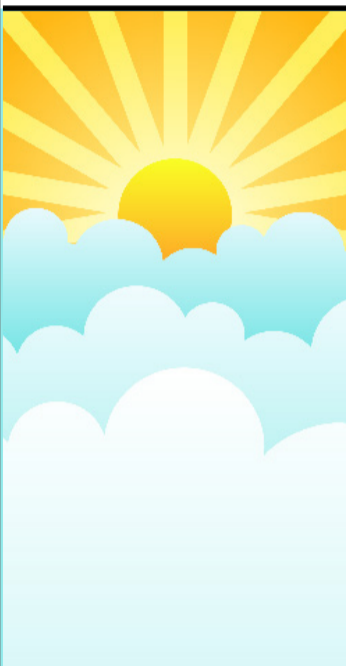
So I was sitting at my desk with a little Christmas music on -- Go Fish's I Got the Joy -- when the phone rang.

"The Times, Timmons."

"This here is a person-to-person call from the North Pole to one Tim Timmons," a twangy

➔ See TIM Page A4

## The Daily Almanac



Sunrise/Sunset  
RISE: 8:03 a.m.  
SET: 5:24 p.m.



**High/Low Temperatures**  
High: 64 °F  
Low: 55 °F



**Wacky Holiday Today**  
• Boston Tea Party Day  
• Stupid Toy Day



**What Happened On This Day**  
• 1707 Last eruption of Mount Fuji  
• 2010 Last episode of Larry King Live aired



**Births On This Day**  
• 1901 Margaret Mead American anthropologist  
• 1775 Jane Austen English author

**Deaths On This Day**  
• 1980 Colonel Sanders American businessman  
• 1988 Sylvester American singer-songwriter

## INSIDE TODAY

Obituaries.....A2  
Classifieds.....A4  
Comics.....A4

## TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Don't smoke around kids -- it can lead to increased numbers of ear infections and lung infections. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Times and online at [www.thetimes24-7.com](http://www.thetimes24-7.com).



## HONEST HOOSIER

Christmas is a week and two days away. One of my favorite memories is listening to Christmas carols on the streets around downtown Noblesville while waiting in line to visit Santa on the courthouse square.



## TODAY'S QUOTE

"When we recall Christmas past, we usually find that the simplest things -- not the great occasions -- give off the greatest glow of happiness."  
Bob Hope

## TODAY'S JOKE

What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?  
Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

## THREE-DEGREE GUARANTEE

Weatherby says the high today will be **64°**

If Weatherby is off by more than 3 degrees, e-mail us at [weatherby@thetimes24-7.com](mailto:weatherby@thetimes24-7.com) and let us know. Include your name and phone number. Each month those who called in and caught Weatherby will be entered into a drawing for a prize.



The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank **RON MCGILL** of Noblesville for subscribing!

## OBITUARIES

None



5 37806 50100 8



## Where to donate to help Kentucky and other areas devastated by tornadoes

Many donors are seeking ways to help those in need as Kentucky and other states begin to recover from the damage caused by severe storms and multiple tornadoes.

BBB's Give.org recommends before making a contribution or sending a donation to verify if the charity they choose to support meets the BBB Standards for Charity Accountability and review this list of charities.

Instead of clicking on links that others may send in texts and social media, consider making a cash donation directly through the charity's own website. In an emergency situation, this is likely the fastest way of sending help. In-kind donations of supplies may be well intended but can sometimes be difficult and costly to manage if the charity does not already have an established means to help distribute them to those in need.

Shelters and Emergency Centers

To help locate available shelters and other assistance, the two following national organizations are BBB Accredited Charities with local affiliates across the country:

American Red Cross (a BBB Accredited Charity)



announced how they are providing assistance across multiple states.

Salvation Army (the national office is a BBB Accredited Charity) also shared how they are providing assistance in some areas. Check with local affiliates for additional information about specific assistance available in a particular community.

Food Banks  
Feeding America (a BBB Accredited Charity) is active in providing groceries to those in need.

Crowdfunding  
Crowdfunding campaigns are already being set up for those in need. While some may be drawn to providing direct assistance to individuals, BBB Wise Giving Alliance recommends the following tips:

Give to people and

### About BBB Serving Central Indiana

For more than 100 years, Better Business Bureau has been helping people find businesses, brands and charities they can trust. In 2018, people turned to BBB more than 173 million times for BBB Business Profiles on more than 5.4 million businesses and Charity Reports on 11,000 charities, all available for free at [bbb.org](http://bbb.org). There are local, independent BBBs across the United States, Canada and Mexico, including BBB serving Central Indiana, which was founded in 1916 and serves 46 counties.

organizations you know. It is safest to give to crowdfunding postings of people you personally know. If that is not possible, consider a posting that is being managed by an established charitable organization that can be checked out.

Not all crowdfunding sites operate alike. Some crowdfunding platforms do a better job of vetting postings and projects that appear on their site than others. Review the site's description of its procedures. If they do take precautions, they generally announce that fact loudly to help encourage giving.

See if the posting describes how funds will be used. Vague descriptions of how the collected funds will be used should also be a yellow caution light. Thoughtful collections will take the added step of iden-

tifying and verifying needs before money is raised.

Don't assume pictures represent an official connection to the person or family identified. Unfortunately, some crowdfunding postings may be using pictures of needy individuals without their permission. As a result, you can't assume an official connection. Again, each site has different rules on what they allow.

Your contribution may not be deductible as a charitable gift. If a crowdfunding posting is claiming to be helping a specific named individual or family, donors in the U.S. generally cannot take a federal income tax deduction, even if the individual or family is in need. See IRS Publication 526, for more information on this subject.

## Fishers Mayor and Police Chief host virtual Town Hall

Mayor Scott Fadness and Fishers Chief of Police Ed Gebhart invites residents to a special edition of Mayor's Twilight Town Hall: How We Address Active Assailant Threats in Our Schools in partnership with Hamilton Southeastern Schools on Thursday, December 16 at 8 p.m. Chief Gebhart will be joined by panelists, including Fishers Police Department Captain Mike Johnson; Kim Lippe, Assistant Superintendent; Ryan Taylor, Director of Staff and Student Services; and Brooke Lawson, Mental

Health and School Counseling Coordinator, from Hamilton Southeastern Schools.

During the virtual forum, attendees can learn and ask questions about the protocols, decisions, and actions that take place following an active assailant threat within Hamilton Southeastern Schools.

Residents can register online at [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_wr\\_9kjWsRCy-DTulk\\_r1DNw](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wr_9kjWsRCy-DTulk_r1DNw) for the webinar and can submit questions or topics for discussion ahead of the event using the form.



## MyndVR announces new partnership with American Senior Communities

MyndVR, the leading provider of virtual reality solutions for older adults in the United States, announced today a new partnership with American Senior Communities (ASC) to bring MyndVR's virtual reality program to their residents. MyndVR's immersive VR platform allows seniors to engage in an array of fields including learning, travel, art, music and nature.

The new partnership is also reflective of MyndVR's continued growth into new markets and highlights the strength behind the growing VR/AR industry. MyndVR will be debuting the technology at ASC's Allisonville Meadows Assisted Living Community in Fishers, IN on Friday, December 17.

"We are so excited to be partnering with American Senior Communities to bring our headsets to their residents," said Chris Brickler, CEO of MyndVR. "Their team has been incredible to work with and we can't wait to see how the community responds to the technology on Friday."

ASC is an Indiana owned and operated senior community that takes pride in incorporating Hoosier hospitality in all of their services. ASC has created an Integrated Care Network with a full range of lifestyle and care options to bring innovative ways to serve their residents. Their latest partnership with MyndVR is one of the ways their team is honoring this commitment.

"ASC is intentional in choosing partnerships that allow us to leverage cutting edge technology to enrich the lives of the residents that we are honored to serve, said David Stordy, Chief Operating

Officer at ASC. "We are truly excited to partner with MyndVR to bring these innovative virtual reality experiences to our residents as part of our mission to serve each customer with quality care and excellence."

About MyndVR  
MyndVR is the leading provider of Virtual Reality solutions for senior living communities, home health care agencies, State and Federal Veteran homes and individual adults aging in their own homes. The company has licensed a vast library of VR content and created MyndVR Studios to produce therapeutic experiences that positively impact the lives of seniors, Veterans, and other groups. The company's technology enables older adults to interact with the outside world in truly innovative ways that foster engagement, cognitive wellness and above all, joy and happiness.

MyndVR is committed to conducting extensive research in order to measure the therapeutic effect of VR. These studies will continue to measure the health care outcomes, including cognitive, visual, emotional and physical effects on older adults.

About American Senior Communities  
American Senior Communities offers a variety of senior lifestyle and care options throughout Indiana and Louisville. To learn more visit [ASCCare.com](http://ASCCare.com). For more information about MyndVR, please contact James Lambert, Account Director at [j.lambert@heraldpr.com](mailto:j.lambert@heraldpr.com) or at 504-256-0925. For more information about American Senior Communities, please visit [ASCCare.com](http://ASCCare.com).

## New statewide blood pressure policy will help Hoosiers lower heart disease risks

Thousands of Hoosiers with high blood pressure may now have easier access to monitoring devices that will allow them to check their own blood pressure, which could help them better control their blood pressure and lower their risk of heart disease, thanks to a change in state policy that was recommended by the American Heart Association.



### American Heart Association.

On Dec. 2, the Indiana Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning (OMPP) approved a policy request to expand coverage of blood pressure monitoring devices for the diagnosis and management of patients with hypertension and to address barriers to the implementation of self-measured blood pressure monitoring. The OMPP also removed a requirement for prior authorization, eliminating a barrier for patients receiving a device.

Nearly half of Hoosier adults are estimated to have high blood pressure, consistent readings of 130/80 or higher, and for half of those individuals their hypertension is uncontrolled, doubling their risk for cardiovascular complications.

Self-measured blood pressure monitoring, the regular measurement of blood pressure by the patient outside the clinical setting, either at home or elsewhere, is a validated approach for out-of-office blood pressure measurement and is endorsed by several national and international hypertension guidelines, including the American Heart Association. The best available science supports the removal of patient exclusions and barriers to the use of self-measured blood pressure monitoring for improved diagnosis and management of high blood pressure by expanding coverage for clinical services to encourage provider utilization and use of validated automated blood pressure

devices for home use.

"High blood pressure is one of the biggest risk factors for heart disease and heart events," said Dr. Sandeep Dube, a cardiologist who is president of the American Heart Association's Indianapolis board of directors. "Growing evidence indicates that monitoring blood pressure outside of the doctor's office, including self-measured blood pressure monitoring, confirms the diagnosis of hypertension and also helps people control their blood pressure. This policy move by the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning is a critical step to expanding self-measured blood pressure monitoring and increasing coverage of patient- and provider-re-

lated costs."

"We're excited to learn of this expansion of coverage," said Tony Gillespie, vice president of public policy and engagement with the Indiana Minority Health Coalition. "Many Hoosiers, including racial and ethnic minorities who utilize Medicaid, face substantial barriers to accessing the healthcare services that could help them prevent or control risk factors for conditions including heart disease. By expanding access to devices which allow people to measure their own blood pressure, communities will be empowered to take control of their blood pressure and in turn live longer, healthier lives."

The AHA believes everyone deserves adequate, accessible, and affordable health care. The Association published a presidential advisory earlier this year calling for eliminating inequities in the health care system, promoting diversity within the public health and health care workforce, and improving the health care system's ability to address social determinants of health.

## Gov. Eric Holcomb announced that all Hoosiers taxpayers getting refund

Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb announced Wednesday that an estimated 4.3 million taxpayers will receive a \$125 refund after they file their 2021 taxes.

"Despite a pandemic, Indiana exceeded all expectations and closed the state fiscal year with an unprecedented amount in reserves," said Gov. Holcomb. "We have an obligation to put this money back in the hands of taxpayers instead of leaving it in the hands of government."

An estimated \$545 million will be returned to Hoosiers after taxpayers file their 2021 state taxes. The governor said he is working with leaders of the general assembly on legislation that will streamline the process and make an additional 910,000 taxpayers eligible for the credit. The typical taxpayer liability is approximately \$1,000. This payment represents about a 13 percent one-time tax cut.

Once the legislation passes, the Department

of Revenue will begin processing payments for taxpayers. The form of taxpayer payments will be based on how the 2021 return was filed. Taxpayers who apply for an extension will receive the payment after filing their return.

The department of revenue expects to complete refunds for taxpayers filing by the April 18, 2022, filing deadline by May 1, 2022. One the details are finalized DOR will provide additional information in 2022.

### ATTENTION

Looking for persons who were employed at Warner Commercial Auto Body in Noblesville in the time frame of 1954-69. Please contact Jim Lyons at (330) 670-7319 or by e-mail at [jlyons@hcplaw.net](mailto:jlyons@hcplaw.net).

Thanks for reading  
The Times!

**NOBLESVILLE BABE RUTH BASEBALL**

*Providing an affordable and positive baseball experience for all young men ages 13-18*

**REGISTRATION OPENS DECEMBER 1ST**

Though we are "Noblesville Babe Ruth Baseball," we welcome and encourage players from other communities to participate with us!

**Registration:** December 1, 2021 thru March 2022

**Evaluations:** March 12, 2022, NHS Aux Gym (New players ages 13-15 only)

**Opening Day:** April 18, 2022 (13-15)  
April 30, 2022 (16-18)

**[www.noblesvillebaberuthbaseball.com](http://www.noblesvillebaberuthbaseball.com)**

## Everything Home to open new showroom

The Indiana Design Center is pleased to announce that Everything Home will be opening a 2,600 square foot retail showroom and studio space on the first floor of the Indiana Design Center (IDC). Everything Home is an established, award-winning, interior design and renovation firm eager to be part of the IDC community and serve clients in a dynamic new atmosphere. The Everything Home showroom and studio will be a destination for purchasing curated home furnishings and décor to help design-enthusiasts achieve EH inspired style at home. Visitors will also have an opportunity to meet Everything Home's design team to learn more about their signature process and services for hire.

Entrepreneurial in spirit, Wendy Langston founded the Carmel-based interior design firm in 2014 following her successful business launches of home building brands, Old Town Design Group and Heartwood Custom Homes, where she continues as principal designer. This experience spring boarded her latest brand Everything Home, where she and her talented team work from concept to completion to transform spaces new and old through intentional design and meticulous project management, achieving luxurious livable spaces. "The new showroom will allow us to share our favorite furniture vignettes, complete with lighting, accessories, art, and rugs for purchase to complement our full-

service interior design in studio. We will be open to the public Monday – Saturday during normal business hours and welcome visitors to meet our team and shop our look and home goods," says Langston.

Everything Home's portfolio includes 7 Home-A-Rama homes, 10 luxury model homes, and press features in HGTV Magazine and Elle Décor, along with several industry favorite awards. From refreshing and renovating many existing spaces to styling numerous new builds, Wendy and her expert team have accumulated extensive working knowledge over the years—helping them to create an elevated design experience for their clients. Langston says, "In making the decision

to move our business to the Indiana Design Center we determined the Center offers us the best of all worlds, a vibrant thriving design community to learn and collaborate with, and a one of a kind retail destination vibe like no other in the Indy metro area for clients and shoppers to enjoy and experience."

The new showroom is set to open in early 2022 and will increase the offerings available in the Center for the public and design professionals alike. "We are proud of the IDC's merchant mix and for the additional products, design style and leadership that Everything Home will bring to the Center," says Melissa Averitt, Pedcor Companies senior vice president.



Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Runser

More than 800 service members and civilians gathered at Camp Atterbury for Cyber Shield 18 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana from May 6-18, 2018. Cyber Shield 18 is part of the National Guard's ongoing effort to be a versatile capability for governors of all 54 states and territories. This is the seventh iteration of this training exercise.

## Indiana National Guard to offer new way to serve with electronic warfare battalion

The Indiana National Guard will add approximately 200 new positions with the establishment of an intelligence and electronic warfare battalion.

Indiana Guardsmen will need specialized skills and high-level clearances so that they can use advanced technologies to protect and defend Hoosiers, Americans and the nation's allies from threats around the globe.

"Indiana's brave men and women who serve in our armed forces consistently demonstrate their ability to adapt, to remain flexible, and to rise to the occasion as conditions and missions change," said Gov. Eric J. Holcomb. "Our ability to attract yet another high-tech unit speaks volumes of the talent pool in the Hoosier state, and aligns with our efforts to help keep Indiana in the top three in the nation in the concentration of the industries of the future,



including life sciences, aerospace, healthcare, defense, ag-bioscience, cyber, orthopedics and advanced manufacturing."

While the Indiana National Guard soldiers will be globally engaged, they will enter cyber battles from the Hoosier State at the Indiana Intelligence Center in Indianapolis.

"We are committed to bring a new, cutting-edge skill sets to the Indiana National Guard," said Brig. Gen. Dale Lyles, the adjutant general of the Indiana National Guard, which numbers approximately 13,500 citizen-warriors. "This new intelligence and

electronic warfare battalion will do just that and will be a showcase to not only the nation, but also the Hoosier state."

The Indiana National Guard's newest battalion will open an array of opportunities for recruits and existing Guardsmen. The battalion will need intelligence officers and warrant officers, information technology maintainers, all-source intelligence analysts, geospatial analysts, signal intelligence analysts, human intelligence collectors and analysts, and counter intelligence personnel.

Indiana National Guard Maj. Grover Smith, the director of intelligence operations and plans, said he sees the battalion as a fantastic opportunity for new recruits and seasoned Guardsmen alike.

"You begin the path to the skills highly sought after in civilian industry," said Smith. "Also the high-level clearance

opens the doors for highly marketable career fields which will not only benefit the state, but also benefit the National Guard as we grow and change."

While the Hoosier Guardsmen prepare for the new unit, the state will ultimately see an increased economic impact.

"During the emplacement of this unit in Indiana, the U.S. Army will invest approximately \$44 million across the first two years with an annual investment in manpower, training and equipment of \$1.5 million," said Col. Jeffrey S. Hackett, the Indiana National Guard's operations officer.

Indiana National Guard soldiers and airmen work around the clock to maintain their readiness to serve at home and abroad at a moment's notice as directed by the United States president or the Indiana governor. The Indiana National Guard is community based yet globally engaged to protect life and liberty.

## Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band to play Palladium on April 16

The Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band will bring its blues-rock sound to the Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday, April 16.

Tickets starting at \$40 will go on sale at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 17, at the Palladium Box Office, online at TheCenterPresents.org and by phone at (317) 843-3800. The 8 p.m. event is part of the Katz, Sapper & Miller Pop/Rock Series and the 2021-22 Center Presents Season sponsored by Allied Solutions.

Shepherd first emerged as a young guitar prodigy in the 1990s, signing his first recording contract at 16 and quickly becoming one of the most successful blues artists of his generation, as well as a prominent champion of blues tradition. The Louisiana native's releases have routinely topped Billboard's Blues Albums chart, and he has collaborated or toured with such names as B.B. King, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, Robert Randolph, Stephen Stills, Ringo Starr, the Rolling Stones and Van Halen. Along the way, he has earned five Grammy nominations, two Billboard Music Awards and the Blues Foundation's Keeping the Blues Alive Award, among others.

The band's current tour celebrates the upcoming 25th anniversary of Shepherd's sophomore



album, *Trouble Is ...*, which sent three singles to the Top 10 of the Mainstream Rock chart: "Blue on Black," "Everything Is Broken" and "Somehow, Somewhere, Someway."

The Center for the Performing Arts currently requires patrons 12 and older to show proof of COVID vaccination, or a negative test taken within 72 hours of the performance, before entering its venues. Patrons 3 and older must wear masks or other face coverings at all times, except when actively eating or drinking.

### Want TO GO?

*Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band*  
8 p.m. Saturday, April 16  
The Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts, 1 Carter Green, Carmel, IN 46032  
Tickets: From \$40, on sale 11 a.m. Dec 17  
Purchase and information: TheCenterPresents.org (317) 843-3800  
Tickets@TheCenterPresents.org

## Extra police are on patrol during the holiday season

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) today announced that more than 200 police agencies will be increasing patrols during the holiday season, as part of a statewide crackdown on impaired driving.

Starting this week until Jan. 1, officers will be on high alert for anyone driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Law enforcement will also be watching for seat belt violations and other forms of dangerous driving.

This is part of the Safe Family Travel campaign aimed at reducing crashes and traffic fatalities around the holidays, when statistics show an increased potential for drunk driving. The high-visibility patrols are funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) with grants from the criminal justice institute.

"If your holiday celebrations include alcohol, make arrangements ahead of time to get home safely – don't wait until after you've had a couple of drinks," said Devon McDonald, ICJI Executive Director. "One wrong decision behind the wheel is all it takes to cause a tragedy."

Every year, more than 10,000 people die in drunk-driving crashes in the U.S. That's approximately one person every 52 minutes. While driving under the influence is a daily concern, it's more prevalent around certain holidays, with Christmas and New Year's among the deadliest.

Last December, 73 people lost their lives in fatal collisions in Indiana. Of those, 11 involved a drunk driver, according to ICJI.

"It's important to remember that these aren't just numbers we're talking about," said Robert Duckworth, ICJI Traffic Safety Director. "These are people with loved ones whose lives were

cut short due to impaired driving. Your choices behind the wheel matter, and they can have serious consequences."

Throughout the campaign, officers will be working overtime to raise awareness about the dangers of impaired driving, which includes more than just drugs and alcohol. Certain prescription and over-the-counter medications can also affect a person's ability to drive safely, so it's important to read and follow all warning labels or consult with a doctor before driving.

State and local officials are asking for the public's help to keep Indiana roads safe this holiday season by designating a sober driver or using a ride service, public transportation or taxi if alcohol is consumed. Motorists are also encouraged to wear a seat belt, slow down, put down the cell phone and to make sure kids are properly buckled up. In addition to being required by law, wearing a seat belt also reduces the risk of injury or death in a crash.

Motorists can report suspected impaired drivers by calling 911 or contacting their local police department.

Visit [www.cji.in.gov](http://www.cji.in.gov) to learn more about the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

About the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute  
The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) is the state planning agency for criminal justice, juvenile justice, traffic safety and victim services. ICJI is designated as the state administering agency for distribution of federal funds and as the state Statistical Analysis Center for research. ICJI is responsible for coordinating and collaborating with local, state and federal entities to identify, assess, plan, resource and evaluate new and emerging issues facing the criminal justice and public safety spectrum.

## Full production grants available for Black playwrights

Lack of financial resources is often the most daunting obstacle for new writers trying to bring fresh, innovative story ideas from the pages of their script to the stage.

For a few aspiring writers, OnyxFest 2022 - the first and only Indiana theater festival exclusively for African American playwrights - will cover all expenses required to bring scripts to life. Scripts will be accepted for consideration from December 15th up to midnight Tuesday, March 15th.

This competition is designed to showcase the broad spectrum of stories that depict Black life and culture. OnyxFest Director Vernon A. Williams said, "This is an event that empowers Black artists to create their own narrative, to tell their own stories."

Playwrights will

receive royalties along with stipends to pay actors, directors, lighting assistants and sound technicians. The grant will include funds for set design, props, costume and makeup as well as the complete cost of theater rental for both rehearsal and performances.

"This is an opportunity of a lifetime for serious new playwrights with talent but no resources," Williams said, adding that OnyxFest 2022 will also provide playwrights script development, marketing and advertising for productions along with video recordings and internet streaming of plays.

Scripts should be submitted to [https://iu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eePgEsfecadmjw](https://iu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eePgEsfecadmjw). Entries will then be submitted to a jury of theater professionals who will



read each and determine five winners. Winners will be notified April 15, 2022.

Entries must be original one-act plays - between 45 minutes and an hour in length. There may be no more than six characters per cast. Subject matter is unrestricted. Williams recommends that writers avoid stereotypes, dread stereotypical portrayals of Black life and culture, and gratuitous violence or sexual content.

OnyxFest 2022 is sponsored by the Africana Repertory Theater

of IUPUI (ARTI), a program of study offered by the IUPUI School of Liberal Arts, School of Education and Office of Community Engagement using theater to document and artistically reflect the history, cultural life, and politics of people of the Africana Diaspora.

Watch all five productions of last year's OnyxFest at [onyxfest.com](http://onyxfest.com). For more information on this year's festival, text or call 317.457.8779 or email [onyxfestindy@gmail.com](mailto:onyxfestindy@gmail.com).

## Indiana Farm Bureau's Hovde Award presented to Purdue Extension educator Karen Richey

The Indiana Farm Bureau's (INFB) 2021 Frederick L. Hovde Award of Excellence in Educational Service to the people of Indiana by a Purdue staff member has been awarded to Extension educator Karen Richey.

Karen Plaut, the Glenn W. Sample Dean of the Purdue College of Agriculture, paid tribute to Richey's numerous contributions: "For 31 years, Karen has made an impact at local, state and national levels while also mentoring numerous educators throughout Indiana. She is

renowned for her expertise on food, nutrition and food safety, has provided statewide leadership on numerous boards and task forces, and was instrumental in creating the Purdue Extension food safety team. She is deeply deserving of this honor."

The award was presented at the annual INFB convention, held in French Lick on Dec. 9.

"Rural communities are the cornerstone of our membership. Since 1972, it's been an honor to support Purdue University educators, like Karen

Richey, who showcase outstanding service to our members across rural Indiana," said Randy Kron, INFB president.

Nominated by three fellow health and human sciences educators, Richey's nomination also was supported by colleagues such as Amanda Deering, clinical associate professor in Purdue's food sciences department.

"Karen has a natural ability to connect with people and explain difficult concepts in a way that people can easily understand," Deering said. "Not every-

one can do that well, and I think it's wonderful that she uses these abilities to serve our Indiana stakeholders through Purdue Extension. Her devotion to providing food safety education is inspiring, and she should be viewed as an example of what all Extension educators strive to be."

In accepting the award, Richey praised the colleagues with whom she has worked during her three-decade Purdue Extension career. "I am truly honored to receive the Hovde Award. I am the one accepting this honor, but the award



Photo courtesy of Purdue

**Karen Plaut, the Glenn W. Sample Dean of Purdue College of Agriculture, left, presents Extension educator Karen Richey with the 2021 Frederick L. Hovde Award of Excellence in Educational Service.**

belongs to at least equally to the great individuals and teams that I have had the

good fortune to work with at various stages of my career."

### TIM From Page A1

nasally voice said. "Can you hold for the big guy hisself, Mr. Santy Clause?"

Hmmm. This here? Person to person? Hisself? Santy??? All this could only mean one thing . . . Bubba Castiron.

If you haven't met Bubba, he's one of those folks you go two aisles over in the grocery store to avoid. Not only is he a pest, loud, brash and talkative, he's about six eggs shy of a carton.

"Hello Bubba, what can I do for you?"

"Dang, Timmons! How'd you know it was me? I thought for sure that this being the Christ-

mas season and all you might think this was one of them telemarvelers or something?"

"Telemarketers?"

"Tele-who?"

"Never mind. Listen Bubba, I'm kind of busy here. What can I help you with?"

"Actually, I'm here to help you, Timmons. I got a story that I think you'll really like, and you know, you have a way with words and all, I thought you might ought to write it up for your readers."

I couldn't imagine what tale Bubba had cooking this time, but I was pretty sure it wouldn't be anything worthwhile.

"Look, Bubba, I—"

"My grandpappy lived to be 103, but before he passed on to that great still site in the sky, he told us about when he almost bought the farm right exact on Christmas day three years back."

I thought about how to stop him, but at this point it was probably quicker to let him tell his story and get it over with.

"Grandpappy had a heart attack and whilst he was riding in the ambulance with the sirens going he actually passed over," Bubba explained. "He said there weren't no white lights or nothing, just an elderly angel who

sat down beside him. This here angel told him not to fret, that the days was numbered for the entire world.

"Well, ol grandpappy always was a curious sort so he asked the angel what he meant and the angel told him that God had been watching things go farther downhill with all of us human sapiens—" "Homo sapiens."

"Nah, it didn't have nuthin to do with that. Anyways, the Big Guy wasn't liking what he was seeing out of our behavior so he sent this angel down to check it out. Well, you know how angels can't lie. So when the angel

gets back to heaven he tells God that 98 percent of all humans are up to no good and only 2 percent are decent folk. Well sir, that ticked God off something fierce. At first He was going to send down all that hell fire and limestone—"

"Brim . . . oh never mind."

"But before He did, He decided to double check just to make sure the angel got it right. Instead of sending another angel God decided to find out for Hisself."

In spite of myself, this story was intriguing. Maybe it would be worth a column?

"So God decided to send an e-mail to the 2 percent to find out for sure if they were really good and decent. And Timmons, do you know what that e-mail said?"

"No, what?"

"Me neither!" Bubba howled!

I could hear him laughing hysterically as I slammed the phone down.

*Timmons is the chief executive officer of Sagamore News Media, the company that owns The Noblesville Times. He is a proud Noblesville High School graduate and can be contacted at [timmons@thetimes24-7.com](mailto:timmons@thetimes24-7.com).*

### BETSY From Page A1

guest speaker at each regular Lions meeting, typically at 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday of each month.

Just last week, I was invited to attend the Lions Christmas meeting and dinner, a guest night at The Farm, the former Boys & Girls Club purchased and renovated by Culver's owner Jeff Meyer, who spoke at a Lions' September meeting. The Farm is a beautiful workplace and venue, and I will write about it in another column.

The guest speaker during this particular Lions Christmas meeting was NHS's new boys varsity basketball coach Scott McClelland.

He said, "I would really love for all of you to come to a game."

He said, "It's a little bit of a slow start," with a season record of 1-2, as of last week's meeting. On Friday, the team lost its away non-conference

game against Carmel, 64-49, and on Saturday, Millers won their away non-conference game against Anderson, 72-64.

So now their season record is 2-3, with their next game this Friday night at home against Westfield Shamrocks and Saturday night at Hamilton Heights.

I haven't really read many articles about McClelland since this summer when he was hired. So I honed in to listen closely to his talk at the Lions Club meeting.

Most high school basketball fans are aware that McClelland led Division 1A Morristown Yellow Jackets to a state title in 2018 before he came to Noblesville, jumping to 4A basketball.

He said it was the small town feel that attracted him to our city. He's originally from the Muncie area, Yorktown High School, where he played basketball. That's not far from my own alma mater,

another small school out in the middle of farm fields, Shenandoah High School. Our Shenandoah Raiders made it all the way to the Basketball State Finals in 1981 before class basketball. Led by coach Bob Heady, we lost to Vincennes, a team that went on to win the 1981 State Championship. Former NHS varsity coach Dave McCollough now coaches my Raiders.

McClelland for the past six years had coached the Yellow Jackets in Shelby County, "home of the famous Copper Kettle," he said. "If you've never eaten there, I highly encourage all of you to."

Listening to the coach, in his 19th year as head basketball coach, talk about small towns, made me feel at ease. After high school, McClelland played a year of college basketball at Ancilla College, a small school in Plymouth, Ind. Before he coached at Morristown, McClel-

land had stops at Western Boone and Brebeuf high schools. "When the Noblesville job came open, I felt that was something I needed to look at," he said. "I'm very excited to be here."

McClelland is married with a 10-year-old daughter.

He looked around at the Lions and their guests in the audience at their Christmas dinner. "It's great to see community people come together," he said. "I think we've lost touch with that in the world that we're living in."

McClelland said, "I feel lucky, getting up everyday to be around young people."

He likes the traditional small-town values that he wants to instill in his basketball kids' today. "Being here tonight gives me a sense of community, and I think that's important," he said.

From a basketball stand-

point, he's had some kids play really well," he said. This season, the team will use "quickness and skills to the players' advantage," McClelland said.

One thing that he would hope that players would take away? "Perseverance," he said, "so when they get out of playing, they know how to deal with setbacks."

Why he wanted to be a coach? "I think I knew at a young age that I really wanted to be a teacher. I enjoyed coaching. I enjoyed being in the classroom. I enjoyed being around young people. So that was always right there, and I didn't really look at anything else."

He said, "I'm not sure there is anything else." Having grown up in Muncie and Yorktown, spending 13 years (coaching in Morristown), he said, "I think the thing that I bring to Noblesville is a sense of community."

-Earlier at this same

Lions Club meeting, Noblesville Lions' most recent past president Julia Kozicki -- who was the club's first female president and who also ran for Noblesville Mayor in the May 2019 Republican primary and who celebrated her 10th anniversary last week of winning big on the Jeopardy TV game show -- sang Christmas carols for dinner guests with Beth Lively on guitar. The duo, in the past, has been joined by Lively's twin sister, Lynn Sylvester, in a trio, singing and playing music at the former annual Tri Kappa Breakfast with Santa at Forest Park Inn. (I still miss that excellent event for kids.) All three of the women are hometown folks; Kozicki is a 1987 Noblesville High School graduate and Lively and Sylvester are 1971 NHS graduates.

-Contact Betsy Reason at [betsy@thetimes24-7.com](mailto:betsy@thetimes24-7.com).

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**12**  
Clinton

**Number Stumpers**

1. How many educational institutes are located in the county?  
≥
2. What is the population density of the County?  
≤
3. How old is Clinton County?  
≥
4. What percentage of land in the county is made up of Frankfort?  
≤

Answers: 2 Institutes 2, 81 people per square mile  
3. 188 Years 4. About 1.8%

**Did You Know?**

- Clinton County was founded in 1830 by DeWitt Clinton.
- The county seat, Frankfort, contains an estimated 15,951 people and is 7.43 square miles.
- The 405.25 square mile county is inhabited by an estimated 33,224 individuals.
- Frankfort is home to the Frankfort Municipal Airport and is a junction for several rail lines.
- The county contains Frankfort Community Schools and Ivy Tech.

**Got Words?**

The junction railway and municipal airport in Frankfort allow the county to connect to many different cities in the United States. What do you think are the benefits and drawbacks of transportation methods such as trains and planes?

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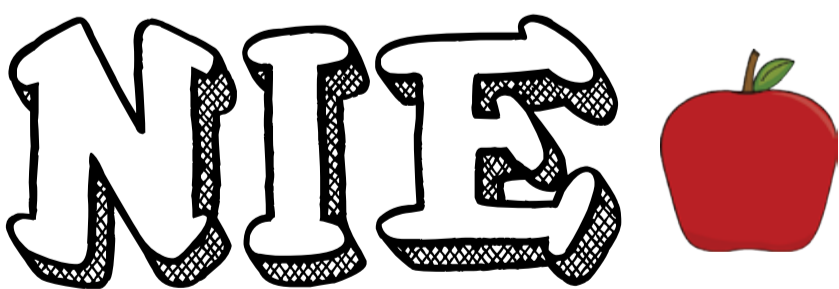
**Word Scrambler**

Unscramble the words below!

1. FROFARNKT
2. ROITAPR
3. LNCOTIN CYONUT
4. IALR LESIN
5. OARSNATITPNROT

Answers: 1. Frankfort 2. Airport 3. A Clinton County 4. Rail lines 5 Transportation

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# Indiana the Strong

Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021

A6

## Test for bovine respiratory disease may save cattle industry millions



Photo credit: Purdue University photo/Tom Campbell

**Mohit Verma, professor of agricultural and biological engineering in Purdue University's College of Agriculture, works in his lab. Verma successfully developed an on-site bovine respiratory disease test.**

Sous-vide cooking inspired an idea that took promising technology out of the lab and into the barn. Researchers at Purdue University successfully developed an on-site bovine respiratory disease test that provides results within an hour.

The team of researchers has been steadily advancing the point-of-care technology to address the disease, which is the most common and costly disease affecting cattle in the world.

"We wanted to see if the technology is tough enough for the farm and how messy we could get," said Mohit Verma, assistant professor of agricultural and biological engineering, who led the research. "We weren't overly cautious with cleanliness because we want the test to be easy to use. Respiratory disease can quickly spread from animal to animal, and it can be devastating. Quick diagnosis leads to the proper treatment and reduces unnecessary use of antibiotics."

The team also added an easy-to-read color change from red to yellow to indicate the test results, he said. A paper detailing the work was published in the journal Veterinary Research.

"We've been working to improve our test to get it out of the lab and into the hands of farmers and veterinarians, and it worked very well in the field," Verma said. "One key to

achieving this advancement was using a sous-vide water bath to maintain the temperature needed for it to work, around 149 degrees Fahrenheit. My brother was doing sous-vide cooking and the idea just clicked. It is something easy to bring to a farm, fill with water and allow the test to be run."

Bovine respiratory disease, or BRD, is responsible for half of all cattle deaths from disease in North America and costs the beef industry \$900 million annually, he said. Several strains of bacteria and viruses can cause the disease, which makes it difficult to effectively treat.

"Some of the bacteria that cause BRD have become resistant to certain antibiotics," Verma said. "Unfortunately, because the standard test can take several days to provide a result, the farmers need to treat the cattle before they know the pathogen responsible. This can lead to use of an ineffective antibiotic or overuse of antibiotics."

The technology created by Verma's team can identify three strains of bacteria among the top four that cause BRD: *Pasteurella multocida*, *Mannheimia haemolytica*, and *Histophilus somni*.

A nasal swab collects the needed sample, and the swab is put into a small vial with corresponding primers and reagents developed by the team that serve as

biosensors for the bacteria. The vial and its contents, which is called an assay, are heated in the water bath to enable the chemical reactions. If the bacteria for which the test is designed is present, the assay changes color.

The technology tests for DNA from the bacteria and uses a method of nucleic acid amplification called loop-mediated isothermal amplification, or LAMP. When the bacterial DNA is present, LAMP amplifies it. As the level of nucleic acid increases, it changes the pH of the assay, which triggers the color change.

The advantage of LAMP over other methods is that it does not require extraction and processing of the samples, which can be lengthy and expensive, and it produces results in under an hour, Verma said. Its results matched those from a polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, test 60%-100% of the time.

Ana Pascual-Garrigos worked on the project as an undergraduate student in biochemistry and is first author of the paper. Additional members of the research team and co-authors of the paper include Jennifer Koziol, from Purdue's College of Veterinary Medicine; Aaron Ault, from Purdue's School of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Timothy Johnson and Jon Schoonmaker from Purdue's Department of Animal Sciences; Deepthi Pillai from Purdue's Department of Comparative Pathobiology; and Murali Kannan Maruthamuthu, Josiah Levi Davidson and Grigori Rudakov from Purdue's Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering.

"It was exciting to be working toward a product that could greatly impact the cattle industry," said Pascual-Garrigos, who is now pursuing her Ph.D. at the University of Cambridge. "This research shows it is possible to have more point-of-care solutions around the globe."

Verma and his team advanced the technology

to this stage through a \$1 million USDA-NIFA grant. In a parallel project, Verma is using the same technology for a saliva-based test for COVID-19. The BRD technology is part of his startup company Krishi Inc. The startup received \$100,000 from the Purdue Ag-Celera-tor fund earlier this year.

The next step in their pursuit of putting the technology into the hands of veterinarians and farmers is to develop paper test strips. These strips could include multiple assays, such that one strip could identify the presence of several different pathogens. They also plan to apply the same approach to tests for other infectious diseases in cows and pigs, and to investigate the potential for detecting food contamination.

"This platform is very versatile," Verma said. "We just need to change the matrix we are using - develop new primers and assays - for different pathogens. We are working to apply our technology to address other health issues, and we believe it has potential for quick detection of new viruses to help prevent global pandemics."

The preliminary research Verma's team conducted to obtain the \$1 million USDA-NIFA grant was funded by a startup Agricultural Science and Extension for Economic Development (AgSEED) grant. AgSEED was established through Crossroads funding from the Indiana legislature to foster the state's leadership in plant and animal agriculture and rural growth. Verma also received seed funding from the Disease Diagnostics INventors Challenge, created by the Purdue Institute of Inflammation, Immunology and Infectious Disease in partnership with the Department of Comparative Pathobiology, which contributed the funds to realize the pilot project; the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute; and the Indiana Consortium for Analytical Science and Engineering.

## Ivy Tech Foundation names new president

Ivy Tech Community College has named Courtney Roberts Senior Vice President of Development for the College and President of the Ivy Tech Foundation. As leader of the Foundation, Roberts will partner with donors to invest in Ivy Tech Community College students, faculty, and programs to build stronger communities and a better Indiana. She joins the College January 4, 2022.

"Courtney Roberts is a proven leader and philanthropic force in our state, nation and world, and I'm very pleased she will be joining the College and Foundation to help us further our impact on students, employers and communities," said Sue Ellspermann, president of Ivy Tech Community College. "Her vision and passion for creating shared value in communities across the globe will serve us well and further our mission."

As president of the Ivy Tech Foundation, Roberts will focus on reaching the five-year statewide capital campaign goal of \$285 million by June 2023 and plan future campaigns to grow Ivy Tech's philanthropic impact on students and communities around the state.

"Ivy Tech is a critically important institution in the State of Indiana. Not only is it fueling the economic engine of Indiana's workforce - training Hoosiers for the careers that will grow our future economy - it also plays an essential role in advancing access to higher education and opportunities for individuals and communities," said Roberts. "I'm honored to be part of Ivy Tech's efforts to make Indiana a more equitable place for all who call this state home."

Roberts comes to the Foundation following a 14-year tenure with Eli Lilly and Company. She held a number of positions in public policy, government affairs and corporate responsibility, most recently serving as the Director, Social Impact: Global Health Philanthropic Partnerships. In this position, Roberts led a team responsible for Lilly's philanthropic global health efforts in the United States, Sub-Saharan Africa, Mexico, India and China. This includes the implementation of Lilly's \$12 million, eight-year pilot program to address social determinants of health that are barriers to diabetes care in three underserved Indianapolis neighborhoods. She also led Lilly's philanthropic product donation response to natural disasters and global crises, which most recently included the company's donations of



COVID-19 therapeutics to low-middle income countries.

Roberts is a 2018 recipient of the Indianapolis Business Journal's Women of Influence distinction and a member of the inaugural class of Hoosier Women Forward.

She is a consummate volunteer, serving over the years as a member of the Butler University Alumni Board of Directors and a member of the Timmy Global Health Board of Directors. She currently serves on the boards of Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Indianapolis, AMPATH's Development Board, and the Christel House Advisory Committee. Additionally, she has served as the Mayor's appointee to the City of Indianapolis Board of Public Works.

Roberts earned her Juris Doctor degree from the Indiana University McKinney School of Law and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science from Butler University. While attending Butler, Roberts worked with the Indiana General Assembly, transitioning into a full-time role with the Indiana Senate Democrats upon graduation. She served in the administrations of Sen. Evan Bayh and Mayor Bart Peterson, and as a consultant with Bose Public Affairs Group before joining Lilly in 2007.

About Ivy Tech Community College  
Ivy Tech Community College is Indiana's largest public postsecondary institution and the nation's largest singly accredited statewide community college system, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Ivy Tech has campuses throughout Indiana and also serves thousands of students annually online. It serves as the state's engine of workforce development, offering associate degree and short-term certificate programs, and trainings that align to the needs of the community. The College also offers courses and associate degree programs that seamlessly transfer to other colleges and universities in Indiana, as well as out of state, for a quality, affordable route to a bachelor's degree.

## Indiana Humanities open nominations for Indiana authors

Indiana Humanities is continuing to accept nominations for the 2022 Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Awards. Books published between Jan. 1, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2021 are eligible for the awards. Nominations will be open until Jan. 14, 2022.

The Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Awards honor the best books written by Indiana authors. Awarded every two years, they celebrate Indiana writers, shine a light on the Hoosier state's literary community and deepen connections between Indiana writers and readers.

"Every Hoosier has a story to share, and there are talented authors sharing their unique stories and perspectives in remarkable ways," said Marianne Glick, board chair of the Glick Family Foundation. "It is an honor to recognize their work through the Eugene & Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Awards."

Awards will be presented in the following categories:

**Fiction:** This category includes literary fiction, novellas and short story collections written by a single author.

**Nonfiction:** Biography, memoir, creative nonfiction and nonfiction written



EUGENE AND MARILYN GLICK  
**INDIANA  
AUTHORS  
AWARDS**  
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for a general, non-specialized audience will be considered in the non-fiction category.

**Poetry:** Poetry book submissions should be written by a single author.

**Children's:** This category includes young children's books (ages 0-6).

**Middle Grade:** This category includes all genres of books intended for middle grade readers (ages 6-12).

**Young Adult:** This category includes all genres of books intended for young adult readers (ages 12-19).

**Drama:** Plays and screenplays that have been published, produced or performed will be considered.

**Genre:** Science fiction, mystery, fantasy, western, horror, crime and romance should all be nominated in the genre category.

**Debut:** This award recognizes the best first book by an Indiana author in any category.

There will be two additional awards given in

the categories of Literary Champion and Lifetime Achievement. Descriptions for each are as follows:

**Literary Champion:** This award recognizes extraordinary contributions to the community of readers and writers in Indiana by an individual or organization. Literary champions may be writers, but may also include librarians, teachers, arts organizations, writing group organizers and more. This award may be given to an individual or organization. The Literary Champion is nominated with an explanation of why the individual or organization is a good candidate for this award, along with no fewer than three letters of recommendation.

**Lifetime Achievement:** This award recognizes an extraordinary body of work by a Hoosier author. Authors do not need to be current Indiana residents to be considered, but they must have significant connections to the Hoosier State, or the subject matter of their works must display significant Indiana influence. This award is not given posthumously. Past winners include James Alexander Thom, Mari Evans and Dan Wakefield.

For more information on the award categories, eligibility requirements and selection process, please read the nomination guidelines.

To learn more about the Indiana Authors Awards, visit [www.IndianaAuthorsAwards.org](http://www.IndianaAuthorsAwards.org).

About the Indiana Authors Awards

The Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Awards honor the best books written by Indiana authors. Awarded every two years, they celebrate Indiana writers, shine a light on the Hoosier state's literary community and deepen connections between Indiana writers and readers. They were established in 2009 as a vision of Eugene and Marilyn Glick and are a new component of Indiana Humanities' rich and diverse literary programming.

About Glick Philanthropies

Glick Philanthropies is a family of charitable initiatives, programs and organizations focused on building community and creating opportunity.



# THURSDAY

## Indiana the Strong

Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021

A7

### Farmer sentiment weakens as production cost concerns mount

The Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer slipped 5 points in November to a reading of 116 as producers continue to be pessimistic about both the current and future outlook of the agricultural economy. The Index of Current Conditions declined 7 points in November to a reading of 128, and the Index of Future Expectations fell 4 points to 110. November marked the lowest reading of 2021 for all three measures of producer sentiment and comparing year-over-year, the barometer is 30% lower than in November of 2020. The Ag Economy Barometer is calculated each month from 400 U.S. agricultural producers' responses to a telephone survey. This month's survey was conducted Nov. 15-19.

"Farmers are facing sharp rises in production costs coinciding with fluctuating crop and livestock prices, the prospect of changing environmental and tax policy, uncertainty over COVID-19, as well as a host of other issues, all of which are negatively impacting farmer sentiment," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture.

Rising production costs, including those for fertilizer, farm machinery, seed and fuel, are of increasing concern to farmers. For example, in November 43% of survey respondents said they expect farm input prices to rise by more than 16% in the upcoming year. This compares with the actual average rate of farm input price inflation over the past decade of less than 2%.

Supply chain problems could be responsible for a drop in the Farm Capital Investment Index. The index declined 7 points to a reading of 39, the lowest reading since April of 2020. In November, 44% of producers said their farm machinery purchase plans were impacted by low farm machinery inventories. When asked what their biggest concerns are for their farming operation in the upcoming year, nearly half (47%) of survey respondents chose higher input costs.

Unlike the broader sen-

timent measures, the Farm Financial Performance Index rose 2 points to 106 in November, 10% above its low reading in June of 2021.

"Compared to late spring, strong crop yields for fall harvested crops and strength in wheat prices helped push 2021 crop revenue and profitability estimates up, compared to one year ago," Mintert said.

Producers remain very optimistic about farmland values over both the next 12 months and the next five

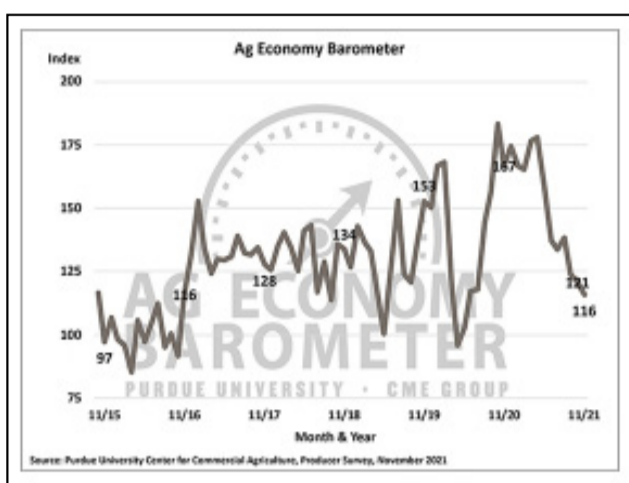


Photo credit: Purdue/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer/James Mintert  
**Farmer sentiment weakens as production cost concerns mount.**

years, as both the short-term and long-term farmland value expectations indices remain near their peaks.

Mintert says, "Strong cash flows from crops in 2021, low interest rates and, possibly, rising concerns about inflation continue to propel farmland values higher."

Somewhat surprisingly, given the concerns about rising input costs, 52% of corn/soybean producers expect cash rental rates to rise in 2022 compared with 43% in October. This marks

the highest percentage of producers reporting that they expect rental rates in 2022 to rise since the May 2021 survey.

Both interest and awareness of leasing farmland for solar energy projects is on the rise. In November, 11% all respondents reported having a discussion with a company or companies about a leasing farmland for solar energy production; however, reported lease rates continue to vary widely. In November, 25% of producers who reported having discussions with a solar leasing company said they were offered less than \$500 per acre, while 34% of producers said they were offered a lease rate of \$1,000 or more per acre.

Concerns over governmental policy and regulations remain elevated among farmers. On the November 2021 survey, 82% of respondents said they expect more restrictive environmental regulations, 74% expect higher estate taxes, and 77% expect higher income taxes in the years ahead. These percentages compare to results from the October

2020 survey when just 41% of producers expected more restrictive environmental regulations and 35% expected higher estate taxes over the next five years.

Read the full Ag Economy Barometer report online. The site also offers additional resources such as past reports, charts and survey methodology, and a form to sign up for monthly barometer email updates and webinars.

Each month, the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture provides a short video analysis of the barometer results. For even more information, check out the Purdue Commercial AgCast podcast. It includes a detailed breakdown of each month's barometer, in addition to a discussion of recent agricultural news that affects farmers.

The Ag Economy Barometer, Index of Current Conditions and Index of Future Expectations are available on the Bloomberg Terminal under the following ticker symbols: AGECCBARO, AGECCURC and AGECCFTEX.

### Purdue site used for virtual 2022 Top Farmer Conference

The Purdue Top Farmer Conference, a management program for farmers that features some of the nation's top experts on farm management, farm policy, agricultural finance and marketing, will take place Jan. 7, live via the Zoom meeting platform.

Frank Mitloehner, a University of California, Davis professor of animal science, air quality extension specialist and the conference keynote speaker, will discuss animal agriculture's path to climate neutrality. Mitloehner is a sustainability expert who has spent nearly two decades studying the relationship between the livestock industry and air quality. His research sheds new light on the impact of livestock emissions on climate and reveals, once livestock emissions and mitigation process are better understood, how the world can move closer to turning what can be viewed as a liability into an asset. He is the director of the University of California's CLEAR Center, which is dedicated to bringing clarity to the intersection of animal agriculture and the environment. In 2013, Mitloehner served as chairman of a United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization partnership project to benchmark the environmental footprint of livestock production.



Additional speakers include Purdue University's Nathanael Thompson, associate professor of agricultural economics; Carson Reeling, associate professor of agricultural economics; and Shalamar Armstrong, associate professor of agronomy. They will offer insights into emerging opportunities for farmers to receive payments for storing carbon on their farms and explore underlying motivations for these markets, what opportunities markets are currently offering farmers and what soil science tells us about the viability of soil carbon markets.

Purdue's Todd Kuethe, associate professor and Schrader Endowed Chair in Farmland Economics; RD Schrader, president of Schrader Real Estate and Auction Co. Inc.; and Howard Halderman, president and CEO of Halderman Real Estate and Farm Management, will discuss the new record high farmland prices across the Midwest and cover the drivers behind the recent sharp increase in farmland values, the implications for farm finance and cash rents,

and how long the boom is expected to last.

Additionally, Dan Quinn, assistant professor of agronomy and Extension corn specialist; Shaun Casteel, associate professor of agronomy and Extension soybean specialist; Bill Johnson, professor of weed science and Extension weed specialist; and Michael Langemeier, professor of agricultural economics, will examine the impact of the dramatic rise in crop input prices, as well as potential input supply shortfalls on corn and soybean production in 2022.

The conference will take place 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET with a one-hour break for lunch. Registration for the four-hour virtual event is \$50 per person and includes access to the live conference, video recordings and presentation slide decks. Upon registration, participants will receive the Zoom meeting link and details about how to join the conference at its scheduled time.

The conference is sponsored by Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture and Farm Credit Mid-America. For more information or to register, contact Sarah Zahn at smithse@purdue.edu or 765-494-7004 or visit <https://purdue.ag/topfarmer>.

### Purdue engineers gain highest professional national distinction

Three engineers from Purdue University's College of Engineering have been named fellows by the National Academy of Inventors, the highest professional distinction given solely to academic inventors.

The new Purdue fellows are Santokh Badesha, adjunct professor for innovation in the Elmore Family School of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Ajay Malshe, the R. Eugene and Susie E. Goodson Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering; and Nien Hwa Linda Wang, the Maxine Spencer Nichols Professor of Chemical Engineering.

This year's selections bring the number of Purdue Engineering NAI fellows to 12. In all, Purdue has 17 fellows.

The NAI Fellows Program highlights academic inventors who have demonstrated a prolific spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating inventions that have made a tangible impact on the quality of life, economic development and the welfare of society. The organization designated 164 fellows for its 2021 class. Fellows will be inducted during a ceremony next June in Phoenix.

Badesha is a corporate fellow and manager of open innovation at Xerox, where he is the all-time record holder for U.S. patents. He has generated patented technology used in nearly all major Xerox printing system families. He is internationally recognized for inventing technologies that have ushered in the era of digital printing on demand. He holds 258 issued U.S. patents and an additional 55 patents at different stages of the patenting process.

His patents cover foundational printing technologies. Some of the most noteworthy include photoreceptors, fuser subsystems and intermediate transfer belts. More information about these technologies is available in this engineering story.

Badesha has worked across government, academia and industry to open new opportunities for technological innovation and commercial successes. He serves as a trustee of the New York State Fuzehub Manufacturing Collaborative, which connects New York manufacturers to academic and industry experts to accelerate R&D and productivity solutions.

In 2021, he was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering "for developing materials enabling the broad use of laser printing and the creation of color laser printing." Badesha was named an honorary member of the Society for Imaging

Science and Technology. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and Society of Imaging Science & Technology.

He was named a chartered scientist by the Science Council of the United Kingdom and received the Distinguished Inventor of the Year Award from the Rochester Intellectual Property Law Association. Badesha is the recipient of many awards from Xerox, including being inducted into the Xerox Innovation Group Hall of Fame.

Malshe is an internationally recognized educator, inventor and entrepreneur who works in the areas of bio-inspired designs, advanced materials, smart manufacturing, productization, and frugal engineering for technological and socioeconomic equity. His specialized application areas include heterogeneous electronics, high-performance mechanical machines, agriculture and food production, and in-space manufacturing.

Malshe's nanomanufacturing inventions have delivered major advancements to the performance, sustainability and safety of high-performance machines used across multiple industrial sectors, including aerospace, heavy-duty transportation, electric vehicles and energy, among others. In particular, he has devoted his efforts to finding impactful solutions to a central challenge that confronts many industries: mechanical equipment performance constraints that stem from harsh surface-to-surface asperity contact originating at the nanoscale in critical components such as gears, valve diaphragms, bearings, rails, pistons and cutting tools.

Malshe holds 26 U.S. patents. He was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering in 2018 "for innovations in nanomanufacturing with impact in multiple industry sectors." He was named one of the 20 Most Influential Professors in Smart Manufacturing by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers in 2020.

Other selected accolades include the NanoBusiness Alliance's Lifetime Achievement Award (2018), the Small Business Association Tibbetts Award (2014), the R&D 100 Award for his TuffTek® tool coating, and three Edison Awards (2014, 2016, 2017). He is a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineering, American Society of Materials, International Academy of Production Engineering and the Institute of Physics in the U.K.

Wang's patented and licensed ligand-assisted

displacement (LAD) chromatography technology has enabled the cost-effective and sustainable domestic production of high-purity rare earth elements (REEs), which are essential for the strategic independence and competitiveness of U.S. advanced manufacturing.

REEs are essential ingredients used to make many high-tech products, from rechargeable batteries to TV screens to jet engines. Until recently, production of REEs in the U.S. has been limited, with China controlling more than 85% of global REE supply. Building on decades of research, Wang's LAD processes have enabled efficient and environmentally sustainable methods for the extraction and purification of REEs through her U.S. patent for ligand-assisted chromatography for lanthanides separation.

Hasler Ventures LLC has secured first rights from the Purdue Research Foundation to commercialize Wang's LAD chromatography process for REE separation and purification. Hasler Ventures has sublicensed the technology to American Resources Corp. (AREC), a supplier of raw materials. In a parallel arrangement, Hasler Ventures licensed Wang's chromatography technologies to Medallion Resources Ltd. for use with minerals and other raw materials.

Wang has created and holds the copyright for the Versatile Reaction and Separation (VERSE) simulation software package, which was the first simulation tool for liquid chromatography systems of separations coupled with reactions. VERSE has been the key tool for the analysis, design and development of the innovative methods for REE purification. It also was instrumental for a collaborative project between Wang and the Argonne National Laboratory in developing a new capture and purification processes for medical isotope production in the U.S. She also has invented new technologies for converting plastic waste into clean fuels and other useful products.

In total, Wang holds five issued U.S. patents, five foreign patents, as well as two copyrights on software packages in the reactions and separations field. Her inventions have been licensed or optioned by 14 companies, including two Fortune 500 companies. She is a member of the Purdue Innovator Hall of Fame, and a fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

### Crouch, IHCD OK CreatINg Places funding



Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's (IHCD) Board of Directors announced \$1 million investment in the CreatINg Places program for 2022.

"We are excited for another great year of the CreatINg Places program," Crouch said. "To date, 58 Hoosier counties have had at least one campaign and we hope to continue to reach counties that have not yet developed a project in the upcoming new year."

Since 2016, CreatINg Places campaigns have raised more than \$5,722,000 in public

funds and an additional \$4,713,400 in matching IHCD funds for projects in communities across the state. Creative placemaking is an innovative approach to community development and when combined with crowdfunding, provides a unique opportunity for community engagement. With the support of Patronicity, organizations, cities and towns have been able to build online fundraising campaigns and with IHCD's matching funds make critical improvements in public spaces. Projects have included community gardens, parks, alley activations, playgrounds, trails, murals, plazas, community kitchens, river walks, markets, incubators and maker spaces.

"It's difficult to state just how impactful this program has been in its first five years," said IHCD Placemaking Manager Ryan Hamlett. "Each project has turned an underutilized space into a vibrant community asset. CreatINg Places is a testament to what can be accomplished when Hoosiers

work together to make incremental improvements to their communities and I can't wait to see what we help bring to life in 2022."

"We're proud to continue to support communities in leveraging the pride residents and businesses have in their communities and help be a catalyst for additional economic activity," said Bridget Anderson, Director at Patronicity. "We look forward to helping communities innovate, tell their story, and build more vibrant communities!"

The program is available to projects located in Indiana communities. Non-profit entities (with 501c3 or 501c4 status) and local units of government are eligible to apply.

Eligible projects must have a minimum total development cost of \$10,000, where the recipient will receive \$5,000 in IHCD matching funds should it successfully raise \$5,000 through Patronicity. IHCD will provide matching grant funds up to \$50,000 per project. Once funded, projects have one year to complete their project.