

➔ TODAY'S VERSE

Mark 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.



➔ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Matt D'Angelo smile? "Being outdoors and the dog," said the 35-year-old Noblesville resident. He was found before the COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease) pandemic with his wife, Kim, and their then 8-year-old Golden Retriever Buckshot and a couple of friends visiting from out-of-state. They were having a picnic on a Sunday afternoon on the Hamilton County Courthouse Square in downtown Noblesville, eating take-out from the former Copper Still Kitchen & Bar (now the location of The Nesst). The couple is originally from Long Island, N.Y., and came to Hamilton County after learning about the area from a West Virginia grad-school friend who lives here. Matt owns D'Angelo 360 and is personal trainer and health coach. When he's not working? "I'm really into the outdoors. I like to do Spartan races and snowboard. I do Goruck (team events). We're big into health and fitness." Favorite place to hang out? "We probably come down here (to the Square) most of the time. We like to come down here a lot. We go to Alexander's (on the Square)..." Today's feature is a look back at one of The Times' previous Faces of Hamilton County. The D'Angelo couple now has lived here for about seven years. He said, "We love it."

And Another Thing...

The Fishers Police Department will be conducting its annual property destruction after April 10, 2022. The property that is identified as having no evidentiary value and remains unclaimed by its rightful owner will be destroyed. Any property that is associated with an active case, which has not been adjudicated will not be destroyed and cannot be released to its owner. Any evidence that is considered illegal to possess by Indiana Statute will not be released.

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Only Daily Newspaper



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Recycling contamination threatens county waste management systems

The Hamilton County Household Hazardous Waste Center's annual costs have increased from \$40,000 to more than \$100,000 annually because of tighter recycling restrictions and the public not being fully aware of the restrictions.

The Hamilton County Waste Hazardous Waste Center is the largest such facility in Indiana. Leslie Taljaard, director of the Household Hazardous Waste Center for Hamilton County, emphasized the importance for residents to understand what can and cannot be recycled.

"Since 2017, if a resident puts the wrong material in our bins, we get contamination fees," Taljaard said. "It's possible that whole 5-ton bin is going straight to the landfill. We then get hit with a landfill fee and nothing in there is getting recycled."

For example, not all plastics are recyclable.

In 2020, the center received 1.65 million pounds of hazardous materials and electronics, which were properly disposed of or recycled. These materials are the primary focus of the HHW Center whereas the General Recycling Area is not as closely monitored, and the public should follow the signs on the machines for proper guidance.

"If we don't get these types of issues under control, people aren't following the rules, there are other (recycling) programs that have closed down around the state because they can't get the contamination under control," Taljaard said.

When recycling, Taljaard said it is important to pay attention to the signs and information provided on materials, such as

plastic bottles, to ensure the items are recyclable.

The center is funded by property taxes, so the extra costs and fees associated with contaminated items come out of taxpayer's pockets.

For more on Hamilton County's Household Hazardous Waste Center, visit hamiltoncounty.in.gov/262/Household-Hazardous-Waste.

A list of recyclable and non-recyclable materials:

All recyclables should be clean, empty and dry.

RECYCLABLE:

- Rigid plastic containers, such as bottles and jugs
- Paper, newspaper, paper bags, magazines, envelopes, flyers
- Glass jars and bottles

➔ See RECYCLING Page A5

Timmons missing in action

Tim Timmons is missing in action this week, but he must be hiding somewhere warm and out of this chilly weather because we can't find him or his



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

column anywhere. Hopefully, we'll find him wandering around and will have his column back and ready for next week.



Applications now open to become a Fishers Farmers Market vendor

Applications are now open for 2022 summer market vendors! Learn all about being a market vendor, read the 2022 Vendor Handbook, and apply today!

The Fishers Farmers Market is expanding in 2022 to host a weekday market in east Fishers,

the Fishers Farmers Market at Saxony, on Wednesday evenings and the traditional Fishers Farmers Market on Saturday mornings at the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater. The Wednesday

➔ See FISHERS Page A5

Holcomb's 6th State of the State

Governor Eric J. Holcomb addressed a joint convention of the Indiana General Assembly on Tuesday as he delivered his 2022 State of the State Address. The Governor's progress report celebrated accomplishments and focused on next steps to enhance the quality of life for all Hoosiers by strengthening the economy, reskilling the workforce and expanding the state's infrastructure.

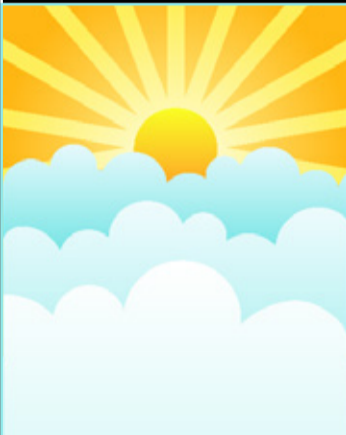
"Hoosiers have proven throughout the pandemic that they are resilient and have a spirit that can't be broken," Gov. Holcomb said. "It's the foundation of who we are and what we strive to be and together we can build an even better Indiana."

Indiana continues its strong fiscal position. The 2021 state fiscal year closed with \$3.9 billion in reserves resulting in an automatic taxpayer refund and reduction of pension obligations.

"When it comes to our strong economy, we've earned it,"

➔ See HOLCOMB Page A5

The Daily Almanac



Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 8:08 a.m.
SET: 5:45 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
High: 42 °F
Low: 30 °F



Wacky Holiday Today

- National Rubber Ducky Day
- National Sticker Day



What Happened On This Day

- 1968 Johnny Cash performs live at Folsom State Prison
- 2000 Bill Gates steps down as CEO of Microsoft



Births On This Day

- 1964 Bill Bailey English comedian, actor, singer, guitarist
- 1978 Nate Silver American journalist, statistician, developed PECOTA

Deaths On This Day

- 1978 Hubert Humphrey American politician, 38th Vice President of the United States
- 1929 Wyatt Earp American police officer

➔ INSIDE TODAY

Obituaries.....A2
Classifieds.....A4
Service Directory.....A2

➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Exercising at least five days a week can cut sick days in half. 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.



➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"And now let us welcome the new year, full of things that never were."
Rainer Maria Rilke

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

He was going to give up all his bad habits for New Year's. But then he remembered that no one likes a quitter!

➔ HONEST HOOSIER

Someone told me to stop complaining about the weather - or move south. I'm just following all those Hollywood types who said they'd move if Donald Trump got elected - and then stayed.



➔ OBITUARIES

Susan Jean Craig



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



13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

46 MORE MILD	30/42 PARTLY CLOUDY, STALL MILD	25/36 TURNING COLDER	20/28 SNOW CHANCE SOUTHWEST	17/31 SNOW SOUTHWEST	22/32 PARTLY CLOUDY	23/36 PARTLY CLOUDY
WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE

OBITUARIES

Susan Jean Craig

March 22, 1953 - Jan. 10, 2022

Susan Jean Craig, 68, Carmel, passed away on Monday, Jan. 10, 2022 at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis.

She was born on March 22, 1953 to James and Dorothy (Strode) Duke in Michigan.

She worked as a beautician and at several Christian book stores in the Indianapolis area. She loved books, dogs and animals. Most of all, she loved her family and grandchildren. On Oct. 10, 2021, she and her husband, Benny, enjoyed celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary with a big party including all of their family and friends.

Survivors include her husband, Benny Craig; sons, Benjamin Craig and Bradley Craig; two grandchildren, Cole and Caden; and two sisters.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brother.

Visitation is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., with services at 1 p.m., on Monday, Jan. 17, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Fishers Mortuary, 12010 Allisonville Road, in Fishers. Rev. Stanley R. Sutton will officiate. Burial will be at Carmel Cemetery in Carmel.

Memorial contributions may be made to Humane Society for Hamilton County, 10501 Hague Road, Fishers, IN 46038.

Condolences: www.randallroberts.com



Fishers-based OfficeWorks becomes the new exclusive representative of Miller and Knoll in Central Indiana

Fishers-based OfficeWorks is now the new exclusive representative of both Herman Miller and Knoll for Central Indiana.

This partnership brings together the design heritages of Herman Miller, Knoll, and their 19 brands under one roof -- for the first time in this market. Their constellation of brands includes Colebrook Bosson Saunders, Dates-Weiser, DWR, Edelman

Leather, Fully, Geiger, HAY, Holly Hunt, KnollExtra, Knoll Office, KnollStudio, KnollTextiles, Maharam, Muuto, naughtone, and Spinneybeck | FilzFelt.

"OfficeWorks is thrilled to represent a group of the most iconic brands in modern design. We welcome the opportunity to earn the support of new clients and specifying partners and strengthen our relationships with our customers by adding

even greater value to their evolving workplaces," said Larry Martin, OfficeWorks President.

The highly regarded Knoll brand is internationally recognized for creating workplace and residential furnishings that inspire, evolve, and endure. Started 80 years ago, Knoll continues to be a definitive resource to address the dynamic activities of the contemporary office while supporting an ultra-linked,

connected workforce.

A certified minority-owned business (MBE), OfficeWorks has been leading the central Indiana market in helping their clients create great places to work, learn and heal since 1984.

To learn more about this partnership: <https://office-works.net/news/2022/office-works-becomes-exclusive-representative-of-knoll-in-central-indiana>

Magic Hat Barber Shop is now open

Magic Hat Barber Shop, a luxury men's grooming experience, is now open at 885 Monon Green Blvd, Suite 101 at Carmel City Center.

At Magic Hat, guests enjoy premium haircuts, beard trims, and straight razor shaves. Expert barbers focus on capturing the spirit of each guest while they enjoy complimentary beverages and abundant extras in an inviting, well-appointed environment. The premium, Restorative Haircut is a guest favorite featuring a one-hour service that includes a shampoo and scalp massage.

Master barber and celebrity groomer, owner Justin Virgil Gramelspacher welcomes his guests into a polished and professional atmosphere within an industrial loft-like space. "We're proud to bring our modern barber shop to a community as amazing as what we have here in Carmel and the surrounding area and thrilled with the look and feel of our shop in Carmel City Center."

In addition to barbering services, Magic Hat provides a curated range of grooming, shave, skin products, and gifts from DS & Durga, Ursa Major, Brosh Japan, and more.

Magic Hat is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and closed Sunday and Monday. Haircuts are priced at \$40 - \$75 and beard trims at \$25. A straight razor shave with osage hot towels and pre/post shave skin care is \$40 with the option to shave both directions of hair grain. Magic Hat is appointment-based with walk-ins subject to availability.

"We are thrilled to have Magic Hat at Carmel City Center," said Melissa Averitt, senior vice president at Pedcor Companies. "The menu of services offered and level of expertise that Justin provides to his clients is something we're sure all men will enjoy."

About Carmel City Center Carmel City Center is a one million square foot, \$300 million, mixed-use development located in the heart of Carmel, Indiana. A destination like no other in central Indiana, the project offers the appeal of a neighborhood and the vibrancy of a downtown. Carmel City Center features luxurious residences, specialty retail and restaurants and premier office space. Phase One includes

62,427 square feet of commercial space.

The following restaurants, retailers and offices are currently open in Phase I of Carmel City Center: 14 Districts, 317 Charcuterie, 317Home, Addendum, Bath Junkie, beauty + grace, Christopher Scott Homes, divvy, Eggshell Bistro, Fishman Fine Jewelers, Guardian Wells, Harrison & Moberly, LLP, Hey Little Diddle, The Imperial Spa, InCycle, IndyFit, The Ink Pad, Julie Browning Bova Design, Kits & Kaboodle Classic Toys, Kooi Law Firm, Lily & Sparrow Boutique, Linden Tree Gifts, Manelé Café, Matt the Miller's Tavern, Megan Danielle Skincare, Out of the Blue Polish Pottery, Pure Concepts Salon, Purple Ink LLC, Stretch Zone, Tucci's, Uplift Intimate Apparel and The Yoga Studio. Pedcor is also in various stages of lease negotiations with other restaurant, retail and service concepts.

The apartment units in the Residences of Carmel City Center opened in summer 2010. The penthouse condominiums are all committed. Law firm Drewry Simmons Vornehm occupies 16,500 square feet of office space

in Carmel City Center. Future phases of Carmel City Center include additional residential and commercial space.

Carmel City Center is the location for The Center for the Performing Arts, which includes a 1,600 seat world-class concert hall named "The Palladium," a 500-seat theater named "The Tarkington" and a 200-seat black box theater. Carmel City Center's boutique hotel, Hotel Carmichael, is now open as part of the Autograph Hotel Collection, Marriott's independent lifestyle brand. Feinstein's, Vivante French Eatery and Adagio Lounge are open in Hotel Carmichael. Carter Green in Carmel City Center is also home to the Carmel Farmers Market, Carmel Christkindlmarkt and The Ice. This pedestrian-based master plan development is located at the southwest corner of Range Line Road and City Center Drive (126th Street).

The Monon Greenway runs directly through the project. Carmel City Center was developed as a public/private partnership between the City of Carmel, Pedcor City Center Development Company and numerous developers.

Lt. Gov. Crouch statement on Gov. Holcomb's 2022 State of the State address

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch offered the following statement following Gov. Eric Holcomb's 2022 State of the State address:

"Our state's fiscally responsible investments continue to make Indiana a leader in the Midwest and nation for families and businesses. Our incredible growth has taken us to a low unemployment rate that we haven't experienced in more than 20 years, and Indiana is reaping the benefits that our neighboring states envy.

I applaud Governor Eric Holcomb for his vision to navigate these unprecedented times. I look forward to another year of investing in our infrastructure, recruiting talent for our businesses and keeping Indiana a low tax state.



Lt. Gov. Crouch

Additionally, I look forward to reducing the stigma of mental health, expanding mental health services for all Hoosiers and growing the number of behavioral health professionals in Indiana.

2022 brings new opportunities to make Indiana the best it can be, and we have great momentum to ensure all Hoosiers have equal opportunities to succeed in their lives and livelihoods."

Fall 2021 Dean's List at Olivet Nazarene University

To qualify for inclusion on the Dean's List, a student must have been enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on a 4.00 grading scale.

Lyle Beam of Westfield
Kyle Byers of Carmel

Connor Harrison of Fishers
Ella Slibeck of Fishers
Hannah Taggart of Indianapolis
Jaici Wright of Fortville
Olivet Nazarene University is an accredited Christian, liberal arts university offering more than 140 areas

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

education with offices and meeting spaces throughout Chicagoland and the Midwest. From Oxford to Tokyo, hundreds of Olivet students also experience the global classroom each year through study abroad opportunities, internships and worldwide mission trips.

RedCross blood drive to be held at Muhammad Ali Center on Jan. 17th for Ali's 80th birthday

On Jan. 17, Muhammad Ali would have turned 80 years old. Throughout his life, he followed his principles, one of which was giving. Since January is National Blood Donor Month, the community is invited to consider donating blood in memory of Muhammad to help those in our community who desperately need it. The Red Cross Blood Drive will take place on Monday, Jan. 17 at the Ali Center in View Pointe Hall from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Partnering with the Red Cross on Muhammad's birthday for this community initiative aligns so well with Muhammad's spirit of giving," said Laura Douglas, Interim President and CEO of the Muhammad Ali Center. "Muhammad always said that 'service to others was the rent you pay for your room here on earth,' so we know he would be grateful for this blood drive."

Donating blood is one of the simplest things a person can do to help celebrate a person's life. For the hour it takes to give blood, there could be a whole commu-

nity of people thankful for another birthday given to a loved one.

"We are excited to partner with the Ali Center to celebrate the legacy of Muhammad Ali," said Eric Holden, District Manager-Donor Recruitment, Kentucky Region American Red Cross Blood Services. "As an organization that is built on the generosity of people giving, we believe our mission aligns perfectly with that of the Ali Center. We are excited to see this partnership grow as we work to ensure a more diverse blood supply through efforts like our Sickle Cell Initiative."

Blood Drive Safety Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control. Additionally, precautions—including facemasks for donors and staff, regardless of vaccination status—have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Signing up for an appointment in advance helps reinforce the Red Cross safety guidelines.

Save Time During Donation

Donors can also save up to 15 minutes at the blood drive by completing a RapidPass®. With RapidPass®, donors complete the pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online—on the day of donation—from a mobile device or computer. To complete a RapidPass®, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App. To donate blood, individuals need to bring a blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification that are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also must meet certain height and weight requirements.

To show your support of this partnership or to share that you are giving blood

on Muhammad's birthday, please use the following hashtags on social media: #Ali80 #GreatestGiveBack

About the Muhammad Ali Center

The Muhammad Ali Center, a 501(c)3 corporation, was cofounded by Muhammad Ali and his wife Lonnie in their hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. The international cultural center promotes the Six Core Principles of Muhammad Ali (Confidence, Conviction, Dedication, Giving, Respect, and Spirituality) in ways that inspire personal and global greatness and provides programming and events around the focus areas of education, racial and gender equity, and global citizenship. The Ali Center is formally associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications, and in 2020, became one of the newest stops on the U.S. Civil Rights Trail. The Center's headquarters also contains an award-winning museum experience. For more information, please visit www.alicenter.org

Dreaming of a new home?

find it here!
the times

Letters

Letter to the editor: Urge lawmakers to fix solar loophole

Dear Editor,
Our legislators are back in session and I hope they work on good solar policies for Indiana. This state should be thrilled so many people, schools, businesses and cities have and want to invest in solar technology. It makes us more energy self-sufficient.

I'm a solar owner and want to thank my representative Tony Cook for introducing a bill (HB 1136) that would extend net metering and makes solar more affordable for homes, schools and

cities. Solar helps to cut energy costs and saves tax payer dollars for schools and cities. Solar and sustainable energy should be promoted to its utmost. Net metering is for small-scale, customer-owned and rooftop solar that is used to meet your own energy needs. It's not about the large-scale solar farms for utilities.

I also want to urge Senator Scott Baldwin who sits on the utilities committee to hear a bill (SB 248) that fixes a terrible loophole.

Utilities are using this loophole to change the way they reimburse solar owners for energy supplied to the grid. By changing from "monthly" to "instantaneous" netting, solar owners are compensated significantly less. Instantaneous netting hurts people, schools and cities that embrace energy freedom and expect to receive fair compensation for power we create. Lawmakers need to fix this loophole.

Jodi Becker
Westfield

House Committee to consider 'Nursing Indiana Back to Health' proposal to address Hoosier workforce shortages

The Indiana House Public Health Committee will tomorrow consider House Bill (HB) 1003, a House Republican legislative agenda bill termed "Nursing Indiana Back to Health." The bill, authored by Rep. Ethan Manning (R-Denver), would address Indiana's health care workforce shortage and support Hoosier nurses if passed this session by the Indiana General Assembly. The legislation will be heard in committee tomorrow, Jan. 12 at 8:30 a.m. in Statehouse Room 404.

"The gap between supply and demand for nurses has long been growing, but the length and stress of the pandemic has exacerbated the issue," said Brian Tabor, president of the Indiana Hospital Association.

"The 'Nursing Indiana Back to Health' legislation is a crucial step forward in narrowing that gap and ensuring that Hoosier patients will have the nurses they need to care for them



for years to come. Indiana hospitals greatly appreciate the General Assembly's recognition of the importance of our workforce challenges and their willingness to take up this legislation to empower nursing educators in Indiana."

The demand for registered nurses (RNs) in Indiana is projected to grow 12% from 2018 to 2028, a far greater rate than the average for all occupations. That translates to 4,750 new

job openings, without enough nurses to fill those positions.

"Nursing Indiana Back to Health" provides flexibilities and removes unnecessary regulations for nursing schools in Indiana, allowing additional students to enter the nursing workforce pipeline.

"Ivy Tech Community College was created to be responsive to workforce needs," said Dr. Sue Ellspermann, president of Ivy Tech Community College. "The 'Nursing Indiana Back to Health' legislation will enable the College to expand its nursing programs by 600 students annually by 2025, helping close the gap on the nursing shortage. We appreciate the legislature's willingness to remove barriers that will allow the College the flexibility to address urgent workforce needs."

The Indiana Hospital Association and Ivy Tech Community College will testify in support of the bill in committee.

Millions in grant funding awarded to enhance sexual assault victim services

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) announced that more than \$2 million in grant funding has been awarded to 20 organizations across the state to support sexual assault victims. The funding was provided through two programs administered by the agency: the Sexual Assault Victim Assistance Fund (SAVAF) and the Sexual Assault Services Project (SASP).

"This funding is about making sure that survivors of sexual assault have meaningful access to services," said Devon McDonald, ICJI Executive Director.

"These grants will broaden Indiana's support network and provide critical resources to those who need it the most." Established in 2016 by the Indiana General Assembly, the purpose of the SAVAF program is to provide a comprehensive statewide response to support victims of sexual assault. Funding, which primarily comes from the fees collected from sexual assault-related crimes, can be used to establish and maintain rape crisis centers, and provide services that work to address the physical, psychological and emotional needs of victims, known as trauma-informed services. This year, a total of \$1.6 million was awarded to 11 organizations through the program – a 50 percent increase from 2021. Some of the projects funded this grant cycle will help to provide safe shelter, counseling, crisis lines, advocacy

support, referrals and prevention services. "Many of the organizations we're funding this year go beyond providing direct support," said Kim Lambert, ICJI Victim Services Division Director. "They will be engaging the community and implementing a wide array of prevention strategies to address sexual assault."

Federally funded, the SASP program provides direct intervention and related assistance to victims of sexual assault and their families. Funds are made available to rape crisis centers and nonprofits through the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women.

For this grant cycle, just under \$500,000 was awarded to nine organizations. Similar to SAVAF, these funds will be used to expand sexual assault programming and advocacy services in the state.

The following organizations received SAVAF and SASP grants, which were approved by the ICJI Board of Trustees in December and made available at the first of the year.

Sexual Assault Victim Assistance Fund, 2022 Awards

County -- Award Recipient -- Award Amount

- Delaware -- A Better Way Services, Inc. -- \$241,791
- Floyd -- The Center for Women and Families -- \$74,604

- Hamilton -- Prevail, Inc. of Hamilton County -- \$60,868
 - Jasper -- North Central Indiana Rural Crisis Center, Inc. -- \$38,234
 - Johnson -- Assist Indiana, Inc. -- \$361,982
 - Lake -- Fair Haven, Inc. -- \$274,412
 - Marion -- Latino Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, Inc. -- \$87,647
 - Marion -- Children's Bureau -- \$169,900
 - Monroe -- Middle Way House, Inc. -- \$60,375
 - Ripley -- Safe Passage, Inc. -- \$134,139
 - Tippecanoe -- YWCA Greater Lafayette -- \$146,047
 - Sexual Assault Services Project, 2022 Awards
 - County -- Award Recipient -- Award Amount
 - Allen -- YWCA Northeast Indiana -- \$56,013
 - Delaware -- A Better Way Services, Inc. -- \$63,282
 - Dubois -- Crisis Connection, Inc. -- \$54,885
 - Hamilton -- Prevail, Inc. of Hamilton County -- \$42,971
 - Howard -- Family Service Association of Howard County, Inc. -- \$46,076
 - Jasper -- North Central Indiana Rural Crisis Center, Inc. -- \$47,618
 - Lake -- Fair Haven, Inc. -- \$66,757
 - Marion -- Children's Bureau -- \$63,490
 - Vanderburgh -- Albion Fellows Bacon Center, Inc. -- \$57,435
- Visit www.cji.in.gov to learn more about the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

BBB Scam Alert: Tracking code trick costs to online shoppers

BBB Scam Tracker has received numerous reports about shipping tricks that scammers use to steal from online shoppers. The con artists are exploiting PayPal's policies by delivering incorrect items and using stolen tracking numbers.

How the Scam Works:
People are shopping online and are finding amazing deals, often brand name goods at a significant discount. Often, the items are large – such as pieces of furniture or a vacuum cleaner. The website and the products look legitimate, so consumers are deciding to take a chance and make a purchase. The site directs them to pay through PayPal, which leads many to believe it's safe.

After checkout, a confirmation email arrives that contains a tracking number from UPS, FedEx, or another shipping service. After a few weeks, the package arrives, but it's not what was expected. For example, one shopper ordered a six-foot artificial Christmas tree, but "received a bottle brush Christmas tree no bigger than my hand." Another shopper told BBB that they ordered "a pressured machine washer for \$78..." and received "a yellow shirt that's not worth \$2." In another common version of this scam, the package is delivered... but to the wrong address.

When consumers try to correct the mistake, they are finding that the ecommerce site is either unresponsive or unhelpful. In some cases, the site doesn't provide contact information, or no one responds to emails or calls.

Some scam victims report filing claims with PayPal in order to get a refund. PayPal's protection promise says customers can open a dispute if the package never arrives, if the item received is counterfeit or differs significantly from what was ordered. However, not all claims are resolved to the buyer's satisfaction. Take one shopper's



experience, for instance, who ordered a desk online they never received. Upon further investigation, the shopper discovered the tracking number indicated the order was shipped to a fictitious address. The shopper filed a dispute through PayPal, but the seller insisted they delivered the package, so PayPal dropped the dispute. "PayPal did not give me any option to discuss their decision," the consumer reported. "They just closed the case."

BBB contacted PayPal about the BBB Scam Tracker reports. After looking into the stolen tracking code issue, they replied: "We notified various shipping carriers of this issue allowing tracking data to be stolen and we believe it has been closed. In addition, we made enhancements to our algorithms to identify and disable these fraudulent bad actors. In fact, we are stopping a significant majority of these fraudulent sellers at first transaction through our detection program and have refunded customers impacted by this fraud scheme even if they did not appeal our decision."

Protect Yourself from a Package Delivery Scam:

- Before paying, know your rights and responsibilities. In everything from check cashing scams to cons involving new peer-to-peer payment systems, scammers often take advantage of what consumers don't know when it comes to processing payments. Don't make a purchase from a shady seller assuming the purchase will be protected no matter what.
- Before buying

online, confirm the site has real contact information. Make sure the seller has a working phone number and address on the website, so you can contact them in case of problems.

• Don't wait too long to file a dispute. Scammers know that PayPal and credit cards have time limits for disputes. They often try to delay the process long enough so that shoppers miss the window.

• If the price seems too good to be true, there's probably something wrong. Be wary if the item is selling for significantly lower than what's been advertised elsewhere.

• Review BBB online shopping tips. Many online purchase scams use similar tactics. See BBB's online shopping tips for more advice and visit our BBB.org/onlineshopping for more.

For More Information Learn more about spotting and reporting PayPal fraud. For more resources on shipping fraud, see FedEx's website and UPS's online resource center. To learn more about scams, go to BBB.org/ScamTips.

If you've been targeted by this scam, help others avoid the same problem by reporting your experience at BBB.org/ScamTracker.

NOTE: PayPal Inc., FedEx Corporation and United Parcel Service are BBB Accredited Businesses.

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 2020, people turned to BBB more than 220 million times for BBB Business Profiles on more than 6.2 million businesses and Charity Reports on 11,000 charities, all available for free at 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.

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation is to present initial Bear Creek Park concepts

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation invites the community to participate in the third Bear Creek Park public input meeting. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 25, at 6 p.m. in the Jill Perelman Pavilion, 3000 W. 116th Street, Carmel, IN 46032.

Why Should the Community Attend?

Want a say in developing your community park? Now is your chance! Input gathered at public input meetings will help shape the vision and final park design.

CCPR and its consultants, SmithGroup, gathered community feedback at the first two public input meetings regarding amenities and programming. At the Jan. 25 meeting, SmithGroup will present initial park concepts showcasing several possibilities within Bear Creek Park. These concepts reflect public input as well as facility and programming needs identified in CCPR's 2020-2024 master plan.

The community will have the opportunity to

ask questions and share feedback on the park concepts. This workshop will help CCPR develop the Bear Creek Park Master Plan, which will guide the ultimate design of the park's development over the next several years.

Background on Bear Creek Park

Bear Creek Park was purchased in 2020 and comprises 26+ acres of undeveloped land located in northwest Carmel at 146th Street and Shelborne Road. The park is open on weekends from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Stay tuned to CCPR's social media and carmelclayparks.com/parks/bear-creek-park for more information.

ABOUT CARMEL CLAY PARKS & RECREATION

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) holds the Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA) in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association

(NRPA) for parks serving populations of 75,001 to 150,000. As an accredited agency, the department serves the recreation, fitness and nature needs of the community, manages and develops existing spaces and resources and creates a sustainable future for parks and recreation programs through a financially viable and environmentally conscious parks system. CCPR manages and maintains more than 500 park acres and numerous recreation facilities, including the Monon Community Center and The Waterpark. In addition, CCPR has partnered with Carmel Clay Schools to establish Extended School Enrichment (ESE), a before and after-school care program for K-6 students located at all eleven Carmel elementary schools. The Summer Camp Series is a component of ESE that offers 12 different summer camps accommodating children ages 5-15. For more information, visit carmelclayparks.com.



Photo courtesy of Total Seed Corporation

Aaron Conaway (Left Center), signs agreement to naming rights for new TCSC greenhouse with Superintendent, Dr. Ryan Glaze (Right Center), Ryan Campbell (Right), and Christy Conaway (Left).

Total Seed Production secured naming rights to a new greenhouse in Tipton

Local seed company, Total Seed Production, has secured the naming rights to a new greenhouse being built by the Tipton Community School Corporation. The greenhouse, which is expected to be built by summer 2022, will be named the Total Seed Production Greenhouse. This partnership between Total Seed Production and TCSC is an investment into the future of agriculture in Tipton County. The greenhouse is set to be the focal point of the school's Ag program and the Tipton Chapter of the FFA.

Over the last 18 months, the TCSC School Board, the TCSC Ag teachers, and the Friends of Tipton FFA have been hard at work to organize the construction of this greenhouse. This project is finally coming to fruition thanks to the work of all of these groups and many donors; including the donation towards naming rights by Total Seed Production. "We are excited to see such a great investment into our school's Ag program come together. This is the boost we need

to make our FFA and Ag courses the absolute best in the state," commented Total Seed Production President, Aaron Conaway.

Total Seed Production has a deep connection to this project and what it will mean for the K-12 students who will be utilizing this new facility. "Our new greenhouse will serve as a year-round classroom providing virtually limitless teaching and learning opportunities," stated TCSC Superintendent, Dr. Ryan Glaze. Total Seed Production Vice President, Ryan Campbell, added, "I grew up in FFA, I know the impact it can have on students. Even now, as a professional in the Ag Field, I reflect on many of the lessons from Ag classes and find value in them. So, we were very excited for the opportunity to give back to a part of our community that has given so much to us."

The Total Seed Production Greenhouse will be accessible to all K-12th graders in the Tipton Community School Corporation for classes and extracurricular activities.

"This is a way for students to get a full-cycle, hands-on experience on what it takes to grow something. They will be able to see so much more of what it means to be a part of the Ag Field. I am so thankful and proud of the school's leadership from Dr. Glaze to the TCSC School Board to see this project through to raise the level of our Ag programs," added Conaway.

About Total Seed Production

Total Seed Production Inc. is family-owned and operated by 4th generation seedsmen, and is one of the largest vertically integrated seed corn and soybean seed producers in the United States with more than 70 employees. The company is known for its 4 Pillars of Operation: Seed Corn Production, Soybean Seed Production, Farming, and Warehousing & Distribution. The home office and production facility are located in central Indiana and services retail brands throughout the entire USA, Canada, and Mexico. Learn more at www.totalseedproduction.com

Wild Birds Unlimited listed among top franchises in Entrepreneur Franchise 500

Wild Birds Unlimited, the international bird feeding and nature specialty franchise, again staked its claim as one of the nation's best franchising opportunities with another placement in the annual Entrepreneur Franchise 500. The Indiana-based brand was ranked No. 188 in the 2022 rankings thanks to its brand strength and steady expansion.

"We are always proud to be recognized for achievements, and another ranking in the Franchise 500 is one of the best validators of our efforts," said WBU's Executive VP and Chief Development Officer Paul Pickett. "For decades, we have aimed to provide customers with the joy of backyard bird feeding and provide entrepreneurs with a sustainable and fulfilling ownership experience. Recognitions like these are proof that our model can succeed in doing just that for the long run."

The Entrepreneur Franchise 500 is one of the most competitive and coveted recognitions for franchise brands and a useful research tool for business owners interested in franchising opportunities. Brands are evaluated on various factors such as costs, fees, size and growth, brand strength, and financial stability.



WBU's inclusion in 2022's list marks its 26th consecutive appearance, and the fourth consecutive year among the top 200 brands. That continued presence in such a prestigious list is due to the brand's strength among entrepreneurs and customers. With more than 350 stores across the United States and Canada, WBU's reach has grown by more than 5% over the past three years.

The Franchise 500 appearance is the latest honor in a wildly successful year for Wild Birds Unlimited. In 2021, the franchise was recognized for its achievements in publications such as Inc., Franchise Business Review, Franchise Gator, and many more.

To view Wild Birds Unlimited in the rankings, visit <https://www.entrepreneur.com/franchise500>. Results can also be seen in the January/February 2022

issue of Entrepreneur, available on newsstands as of January 11th.

About Wild Birds Unlimited

Wild Birds Unlimited is the original and largest franchise system of backyard bird feeding and nature specialty stores with 350 locations throughout the United States and Canada. Wild Birds Unlimited specializes in bringing people and nature together with bird feeding and nature products, expert advice and educational events. Wild Birds Unlimited has consistently ranked in the top 10 in the overall category for more than 10 years on Franchise Business Review's prestigious Franchisee Satisfaction Awards. Visit our website and shop online at www.wbu.com. To learn how you can open your own Wild Birds Unlimited, visit franchise.wbu.com.

Austin Peay State University announces Dean's List Fall 2021

Austin Peay State University is proud to recognize Emma Dalton from Fishers, IN, as one of

the students named to the Dean's List for academic achievement during Fall 2021.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must earn a semester GPA of 3.5 or greater.

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NEH announces \$24.7 million for 208 humanities projects nationwide

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has announced \$24.7 million in grants for 208 humanities projects across the country. Among these are grants to support Oakwood University's creation of a living history museum, based on the life of Dred Scott, and the digitization of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century North American climate and weather data, including daily meteorological observation records kept by Thomas Jefferson from 1776 to 1826.

"These NEH grants will support educators and scholars in enriching our understanding of the past and enable cultural institutions from across the country to expand their offerings, resources, and public programming, both in person and online," said NEH Acting Chair Adam Wolfson. "We look forward to the many new insights and discoveries that these 208 exemplary projects will make possible."

Thirteen new NEH Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants, which leverage federal funds to spur nonfederal support for cultural institutions, will enable projects such as the preservation and repurposing of seven historic buildings in San Antonio, Texas, for a humanities programming and resources center focusing on the history and cultures of immigrant communities in San Antonio's Westside neighborhood. Other grants will support digital infrastructure upgrades at the Chapman Center for Rural Studies at Kansas State University to ensure the sustainability of the center's digital humanities research projects on Great Plains history, and assist with the relocation of the Hamm Archives, documenting the history of the Brooklyn Academy of Music, to a new facility to provide public access to the collection.

Several projects apply new technologies and digital methods to innovative humanities research and public programs, such as the development of a digital archive of Cherokee manuscripts and lexical resources to facilitate collective translation and study of the Cherokee language, and the creation of a multimedia civics and history education gaming experience to teach middle and high school students about the history of the Supreme Court and its landmark cases. Other newly awarded grants will underwrite an assessment of the impact of Open Access editions of scholarly books on print sales at university presses and support

an interactive storytelling website based around a collection of postcards published and mailed during the 1941-44 Siege of Leningrad.

In the field of conservation science, NEH Preservation and Access Research and Development Grants will advance research on biomolecular identification of chia seed oil, which was widely used as a binder in Mexican lacquerware and painting from the sixteenth through the nineteenth century, and support the development of a risk assessment matrix for public art collections to address essential needs in conservation and emergency planning. Additional grants will provide training in the digital preservation of cultural heritage materials to Indigenous community groups in Alaska, Hawai'i, and Maine, and fund workshops for staff of small museums, libraries, and archives on preserving and providing access to born-digital materials. NEH Fellowships and Awards for Faculty will support humanities scholars in noteworthy research and writing projects: a book on Frederick Douglass's work as the editor of four influential antislavery newspapers; an economic history of working people and the poor in the Roman empire; a study of Louchébem, a secret slang spoken by French butchers since the thirteenth century that was used by members of the Resistance during the Nazi occupation of France; and a history of the African-American GIs who reopened the Burma Road, creating a pipeline to transport Lend-Lease Act supplies to China during WWII.

Thirty-three NEH Humanities Initiatives grants will enable curricular innovations and enhance educational resources at colleges and universities. These include the formation of a minor in Asian-American studies at Chapman University, the development of an undergraduate Book Studies lab and courses on global print and manuscript cultures at the University of Iowa, and an interdisciplinary curriculum project at the University of Chicago focused on Chicago's Oak Woods Cemetery and the roles of the Great Migration and Eastern European immigration in shaping the city.

This grant cycle also includes the second round of awards made under the NEH/AHRC New Directions for Digital Scholarship in Cultural Institutions program, a joint initiative between NEH and the U.K.'s Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), to

advance digital scholarship at museums, libraries, and archives. These awards will fund international teams of U.S. and British researchers working on projects including the development of a model for collaborative digital curation of Indigenous heritage materials and the digital identification and analysis of patterns in book illustrations published between 1750 and 1940. A full list of grants by geographic location is available here.

In addition to these direct grant awards, NEH provides operating support to the agency's humanities council partners, which make NEH-funded grants throughout the year in every U.S. state and territory. Grants were awarded in the following categories:

- Awards for Faculty Support advanced research in the humanities by scholars, teachers, and staff at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities. 25 grants, totaling \$1.3 million
- Digital Humanities Advancement Grants Support the implementation of innovative digital humanities projects that have successfully completed a start-up phase and demonstrated their value to the field. Digital Humanities Advancement Grants receive partial funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). 15 grants, totaling \$2.2 million
- Digital Projects for the Public Grants Support projects such as websites, mobile applications, games, and virtual environments that significantly contribute to the public's engagement with humanities ideas. 11 grants, totaling \$1.4 million
- Fellowships Support advanced research in the humanities by college and university teachers and independent scholars. 73 grants, totaling \$3.9 million
- Fellowships for Advanced Social Science Research on Japan A joint activity of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission (JUSFC) and NEH. Awards support research on modern Japanese society and political economy, Japan's international relations, and U.S.-Japan relations. 3 grants, totaling \$155,000
- Humanities Initiatives Grants Strengthen the teaching and study of the humanities in higher education through the development or enhancement of humanities

programs, courses, and resources. Grant programs are offered for colleges and universities, community colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities. 33 grants, totaling \$4.7 million

- Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants Leverage federal funding to strengthen and sustain humanities infrastructure and capacity-building activities at cultural institutions. 13 grants, totaling \$5.2 million
- NEH/AHRC New Directions for Digital Scholarship in Cultural Institutions A joint initiative between NEH and the U.K.'s Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to advance digital tools and methods used by museums, libraries, and galleries to bring the humanities to global audiences. 12 grants, totaling \$1.2 million
- NEH-Mellon Fellowships for Digital Publication A joint initiative between NEH and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support digital research and publication in the humanities. 9 grants, totaling \$470,000
- Preservation and Access Research and Development Grants Support projects that address major challenges in preserving or providing access to humanities collections and resources. 6 grants, totaling \$1.5 million
- Preservation Education and Training Grants Help the staff of cultural institutions obtain the knowledge and skills needed to serve as effective stewards of humanities collections. Grants also support educational programs that prepare the next generation of conservators and preservation professionals, as well as projects that introduce the staff of cultural institutions to recent improvements in preservation and access practices. 8 grants, totaling \$2.7 million
- National Endowment for the Humanities: Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at: www.neh.gov.

NFIB announces key priorities for small businesses in 2022

NFIB State Director Natalie Robinson released the following statement today in response Gov. Eric Holcomb's State of the State Address.

"Small business owners across the state are encouraged by the governor's agenda for the 2022 legislative session," said Natalie Robinson, NFIB State Director in Indiana. "Gov. Holcomb is calling for business tax cuts and affordable and transparent healthcare, which are two of the biggest issues facing our entrepreneurs and job creators across the state." "NFIB members have spoken and are ready for the governor and legislature to act on tax cuts this year. While Indiana has largely been protected from the burdensome mandates that other states have suffered since COVID-19 hit, we need to do more here in Indiana to help small business help off-set rising inflation. Our hard-working entrepreneurs are confident that the governor will work to make sure that small business owners can continue to recover from the devastating pandemic." There is no doubt 2021 was filled with angst and uncertainty for small business in Indiana and around the country. Small business is still recovering from the unprecedented health and economic crisis of 2020, not to mention battling ongoing federal government mandates and proposed tax increases. Sky-rocketing costs of goods and services, supply chain disruptions and record inflation are proving to be consequences that aren't going away anytime soon.

These challenges have created an unprecedented workforce shortage and a continued financial burden for small business around the country and in Indiana. Below are NFIB's key priorities this legislative session:

- Business Equipment Tax Cuts - Many states don't have this tax at all - especially those in the Midwest.
- The tax value on business equipment decreases over time, but under current Indiana law, the taxes business pay on their

machinery and equipment can never fall below 30% of the cost.

- Small business owners shouldn't have to pay 30% of the original value on old and depreciated equipment that's worth less than that amount. Eliminating this requirement for new equipment is a step in the right direction but it doesn't help all of the small business owners that still have to pay on equipment they've owned for years. That's why the more types of equipment that are deemed by statute to be exempt, the better.
- Individual Income Tax Rate Reduction - Business owners are struggling to find ways to raise compensation and compete with big corporations, especially when the labor shortage is at an all-time-high.
- Approximately 75% of small business members in Indiana are structured as pass-through entities so lowering individual income taxes will substantially benefit our members.
- NFIB supports the proposal which would reduce Indiana's current individual income tax rate of 3.23% over the next four years to 3.0%.
- Transparency and Affordable Healthcare - Indiana's hospital facility fees are the fifth highest in the country.
- Indiana ranks sixth in the nation for hospital price disparities—ahead of New York, California, Massachusetts and other larger states with higher costs of living.
- Small businesses deserve health insurance that is affordable, flexible, and predictable - not rates that top national charts and exceed that of Indiana's cost of living.

For more than 75 years, NFIB has been advocating on behalf of America's small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. NFIB is nonprofit, nonpartisan, and member-driven. Since our founding in 1943, NFIB has been exclusively dedicated to small and independent businesses, and remains so today. For more information, please visit nfib.com.

HOLCOMB *From Page A1*

Gov. Holcomb said. "Sound fiscal management over time has become our state's reputation."

As further support of Indiana's stable positions, the Governor reported state's robust workforce environment is experiencing its lowest unemployment rate in 21 years at 3%, and more Hoosiers are working today than before the pandemic

"It's a time of unprecedented growth," Gov.



Gov. Eric Holcomb

Holcomb said. "We're revitalizing and connecting our communities across the state like never before

to enhance and elevate the quality of life for all Hoosiers."

Gov. Holcomb recognized the two-year battle against COVID-19 and the exhausting toll on our healthcare system. He took time to thank healthcare providers for their commitment to caring for Hoosiers and to the 3.5 million people who are vaccinated to protect themselves and their loved ones against COVID-19.

Each year, Indiana's Governor addresses both houses of the state legislature, the state's Supreme Court Justices, and other state leaders at the beginning of the legislative session in the State of the State Address. It provides an opportunity for the Governor to report on the status of the state's affairs, highlight key accomplishments of the past year and outline top priorities for the year ahead.

RECYCLING *From Page A1*

- Milk, juice, dairy-free milk and broth cartons
- Cardboard, paperboard and tubes
- Metal cans and tins
- Plastic bags, bubble wrap or plastic wrap
- Light bulbs, batteries or electronics
- Food and yard waste or demolition debris
- To-go lids, styrofoam, straws and napkins
- Hoses, ropes and textiles
- Diapers or pet waste
- Sharps, knives or propane tanks
- Pots and pans

FISHERS *From Page A1*

market will run from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. weekly at 13578 E. 131st Street, beginning June 1 and ending September 28. The Saturday market will run from 8 a.m. to noon weekly at the Nickel Plate District Amphitheater, 6 Municipal Drive, beginning May 7 and ending September 24.

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HONEST HOOSIER



Elkhart County is just a couple years older than Wash College. That's pretty impressive!

I ndiana

Facts & Fun



Number %00 Stumpers

1. How many educational institutions are there total in the county?
≥
2. What percentage of the county is made up of water?
≤
3. What is the population density of the county?
≥
4. How old is Elkhart County?
≤

Answers: 1. About 21 2. Approximately 1% 3. 422 per square mile 4. 200 Years

Did You Know?

- Elkhart County was founded April 1, 1830 by immigrants from New England.
- The St. Joseph River is the main waterway in Elkhart which creates 4.8 square miles of water in the county.
- There are 7 public schools in the county, 8 private schools and 6 institutions for higher learning.
- The total amount of land in the county is 467.97 square miles with a population of 197, 559 residents.
- Goshen, the county seat, is the location of Goshen College, which has an enrollment of 800 students.

Got Words?

Elkhart County contains 8 different museums that offer learning experiences about topics such as the 19th century and central railroad systems. Why do you think individuals still invest in and visit museums that share information from earlier times?

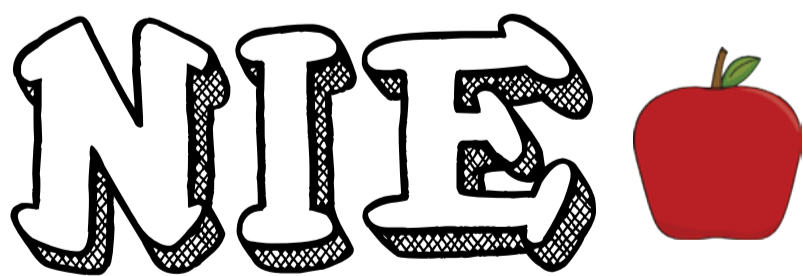
Word Scrambler

Unscramble the words below!

1. TS JEHPSO ERRVI
2. ENGHOS
3. TUCIAENOD
4. UMMUSES
5. REHKTAL NCUOYT

Answers: 1. St. Joseph River 2. Goshen 3. Education 4. Museum 5. Elkhart County

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A7

Indiana has 14th lowest natural gas prices in U.S.

With winter and cold weather upon us, many consumers will be bearing the burden of increased costs for heating sources like natural gas this year.

New data released from the Bureau of Labor Statistics in early December showed a continued rise in inflation, with consumer prices in November rising 6.8% over the prior year. One of the main categories driving inflation overall has been energy, where prices now are up a total of 33.3% over their 2020 levels. While the rate of growth month-to-month has slowed, the cost of utility gas service was 25.1% higher in November than it was one year ago. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased volatility in both demand and supply for energy, and with supply currently lagging behind demand, consumers are facing higher prices as a result.

Recent spikes in natural gas pricing run in contrast to a decline in residential prices seen over the last decade. The rise of new techniques like hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling in the early- to mid-2000s made natural gas easier to extract, which has generally contributed to a trend of

lower prices on average. In dollars per million BTU, the cost of natural gas in the U.S. has generally held steady between \$10 and \$15 since the last recession. In the summer of 2021, however, prices rose to around \$20 per million BTU.

The affordability of natural gas compared to other energy sources has made natural gas a key part of the U.S. energy mix in recent years. This has had some environmental benefit as well, allowing for a transition away from cheap but heavy-emitting fossil fuels like coal. But environmentalists concerned about greenhouse gas emissions have argued that natural gas should also be deemphasized in favor of renewable energy sources, and some municipalities—like New York City—have passed restrictions on natural gas in new construction to speed this transition. States with economies more dependent on energy extraction have responded by banning local governments from considering similar moves.

But if higher prices persist, economics may help speed a transition away from natural gas regardless of any policy

choices that state and local governments make. There already is a strong inverse relationship between natural gas prices and consumption. In parts of the U.S. where natural gas prices are high, including the South and Northeast, per capita natural gas consumption tends to be much lower. The current elevated prices for natural gas could lead utilities and consumers to push for greater energy efficiency and more affordable energy sources, especially in those locations where natural gas is already more expensive.

To identify the states with the most expensive natural gas prices, researchers at Commodity.com calculated the average residential natural gas price, expressed in dollars per million BTU. The data used in this analysis is from the U.S. Energy Information Administration's State Energy Data System (SEDS) and the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. In the event of a tie, the state with the higher annual natural gas consumption per capita was ranked higher. All statistics shown are for the year 2020, the most recent full year of data available.

The analysis found that in 2020, the annual average residential gas price in Indiana was \$8.28 per million BTU, compared to \$10.40 at the national level. Out of all U.S. states, Indiana has the 14th lowest natural gas prices. Here is a summary of the data for Indiana:

- Average residential natural gas price (dollars per million BTU): \$8.28
- Annual natural gas consumption per capita (million BTU): 20.54
- Annual natural gas cost per capita: \$170
- Total residential natural gas consumption (million BTU): 138,729,860

For reference, here are the statistics for the entire United States:

- Average residential natural gas price (dollars per million BTU): \$10.40
- Annual natural gas consumption per capita (million BTU): 14.71
- Annual natural gas cost per capita: \$153
- Total residential natural gas consumption (million BTU): 4,847,260,507

For more information, a detailed methodology, and complete results, you can find the original report on Commodity.com's website: <https://commodity.com/blog/natural-gas-states/>

Witham Health Services puts a pause on elective surgeries and all in-person group classes

With your health and safety in mind, Witham has made the difficult decision to immediately pause all elective surgery. Only urgent and emergent procedures will continue. In an effort to prevent unnecessary exposures we have restricted visiting hours, vendor visits and other in-person activities including all support group and community education classes, Tai Chi, Pedaling for Parkinson's, & FightSmart classes. These will all be on hold until further notice. If you have questions about a support group or education class please call 485-8120. For questions about wellness classes please call 485-8126. We will be re-evaluating each week and we'll re-gather as soon as it is safe to do so. Our community's COVID burden is quickly stretching our hospital resources to new levels. Daily we are seeing more ventilated patients, more COVID positive admissions, and more hospital staff absences. Please help us by getting vaccinated.

About Witham
Witham Health Services

has served the residents of Boone and surrounding counties for over 105 years.

Witham Health Services is a progressive, modern health care provider. We offer many of the medical services people need throughout their lifetime, right here, close to home. Whatever your health care needs are in the future, you won't have to travel far for quality care. We have offices in Crawfordsville, Frankfort, Jamestown, Lebanon, Thorntown, Whitestown at Anson and Zionsville. With our physicians, specialists, and advanced equipment and procedures, you can count on exceptional care in friendly, familiar surroundings with your family and friends nearby. If you're hospitalized, your treatment will be managed by a physician or specialist you know and trust. Our staff takes pride in providing high quality care with a caring touch. Witham Health Services is a county owned, nonprofit healthcare organization committed to improving health through excellence and personalized care.

Indy Airport putting on the flash for the College Football Playoff Championship

The Indianapolis International Airport (IND) is rolling out the red carpet for the College Football National Playoff Championship, and doing it with some splash and flash that is sure to leave visitors with a clear understanding of why the Circle City is the host with the most.

The Indy airport will welcome the nearly 100,000 visitors coming into the city with the sights, sounds and feeling of Hoosier Hospitality as they join in the weekend festivities leading up to the Jan. 10 championship game at Lucas Oil Stadium.

"We're very proud to be part of the host committee and the first to welcome air travelers as they arrive in Indianapolis for this fan-fest event," said Indianapolis Airport Authority Executive Director Mario Rodriguez.

College football fans arriving in Indy will be welcomed with lots of visual cues – with championship branding covering the airport terminal. CFP-branded window and banner art will adorn Civic Plaza, along with iconic 2022 numerals – ready for their picture-perfect moment. CFP branding will also be visible in Baggage Claim, the pedestrian bridge between

the garage and terminal, the upper-level drive of the terminal and on digital boards throughout the airport.

Two CFP branded luminaires at 40 feet tall will tower over the entrances to the TSA security checkpoints informing travelers of the concourses and showcasing the championship trophy. IAA staff and community volunteers will be present to provide a warm and welcoming Hoosier Hospitality hello. And fans can stock up on their favorite CFP fan apparel and gear sold in kiosks and pop-up shops throughout the terminal.

An honored-guest welcome is planned to help recognize leaders in education on the largest platform in college football. The Teacher of the Year Championship Experience will recognize 56 Teachers of the Year from U.S. states, territories, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense at CFP Foundation events and on the field during the national championship game. This special welcome in Indy starts at IND.

Arts & Culture
Along with live music performances in Civic Plaza by a variety of Indy musicians, including Emma Peridot, Keith Beatty,

Manners, Please, Kristen, and The Girl Called books, planned for Jan. 7 – 11 from 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., local Indiana artists' work will also be on exhibit throughout the terminal.

In partnership with the CFP Foundation, the Extra Yard for Teacher's initiative and the Indy Arts Council, the Indy airport arts program will feature a CFP Indiana Arts Educators exhibit in the KIND Gallery, located in Concourse A now through Spring 2022. The exhibit will welcome college football fans and honor Indiana teachers, featuring 20 art pieces in a variety of mediums from 15 art teachers from eight different Indiana counties. In addition, teacher artwork will be on display on the digital board going down to Baggage Claim.

The 22 For 22 poster show also will be on display in Civic Plaza now through Jan. 11, featuring poster art created by 22 graphic artists and illustrators from Central Indiana and focuses on a theme of common football phrases.

Fans will also have a photo opportunity outside the Ground Transportation Center with a goalpost mural with 3D effects. Airport guests can put on their 3D glasses and enjoy the art. In

total, five goalpost murals will be located throughout downtown Indy for the CFP National Championship providing interactive photo-ops for the perfect selfie.

And to add a spirit of inspiration in overcoming the odds and show off Indy's legends who have shaped our history, fans will be greeted with masterpiece murals of the world's first female millionaire entrepreneur Madam C. J. Walker and the world's first international cycling champion Marshall "Major" Taylor, both located in Civic Plaza.

All of the art on display during this great event is part of the Indy airport's arts program, a cultural collaboration between the Indianapolis Airport Authority and the Indy Arts Council involving permanent and temporary art collections. It is considered one of the most robust displays of local art among U.S. airports, said Rodriguez.

Fan Fun and Safety
"While we would all like to have the pandemic in our rearview mirror, we're still working our way to that goal and keeping travelers' safety as our top priority as we plan for all the fan fun," said Rodriguez.

The Indy airport frontline staff will be among

the first ambassadors of Hoosier Hospitality as fans arrive, where they'll be showered with award-winning customer service. The terminal services team, who were honored as Final Four Frontline Heroes in 2021, have been working throughout the pandemic to make the airport safe for travelers.

"Fans can rest assured that they are arriving at a clean airport that keeps health and safety at the forefront," said Rodriguez, noting that the Indianapolis International Airport has received a global Airport Health Accreditation for its abundance of safety measures throughout the terminal and airport campus to protect the traveling public.

In addition, optional COVID-19 testing is available onsite at the airport for travelers arriving and departing. Masks are required at the airport, per the federal requirement. To learn more about the airport's COVID-19 response, fans can visit IND.com/COVID19.

About the Indianapolis Airport Authority
The Indianapolis Airport Authority owns and operates Indiana's largest airport system in the Indianapolis metro-

politan area. In addition to the Indianapolis International Airport (IND), its facilities include the Downtown Heliport, Eagle Creek Airpark, Hendricks County Airport-Gordon Graham Field, Indianapolis Regional Airport and Metropolitan Airport. IND generates a \$5.4 billion total annual economic impact for Central Indiana – without relying on state or local taxes to fund operations. More than 10,000 people work at the airport each day, and 22,600 area jobs have a connection to the airport. In 2019, IND served more than 9.5 million business and leisure travelers. IND is consistently ranked, year after year, as the best airport in North America and the nation, based on ease of use, passenger amenities, customer service, local retail offerings and public art. The airport is home of the world's second largest FedEx operation and the nation's eighth-largest cargo facility. IND is committed to becoming the airport system of choice for both passenger and cargo service. For more information, visit IND's Facebook page at Indianapolis International Airport and Twitter page at @INDairport.

2022 LARE Application deadline is Jan. 15

The deadline for submitting Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) applications for 2022 projects is Jan. 15, 2022.

The LARE program strives to protect and enhance aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife while ensuring the continued viability of Indiana's publicly accessible lakes, rivers, and streams. The

program accomplishes this through measures that reduce non-point sediment and nutrient pollution.

Technical and financial assistance for qualifying projects is provided to applicants through the LARE program. Wetland enhancement, streambank stabilization, and logjam removal are just a few

projects that LARE funds can be awarded for. To view a full list of qualifying project types, along with additional information about LARE, see lare.dnr.IN.gov.

Applications must be completed and submitted electronically.

To view more DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.

Hunting, fishing, trapping license fees increase

For the first time since 2006, Indiana DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) has increased fees for hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses. Commercial license fees also increase, some for the first time since the 1980s.

The increases will be applied to personal licenses starting with the 2022-2023 license year (April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023) that will go on sale in January. The fee increase does not affect licenses for the remainder of the 2021-2022 license year (April 1, 2021 –

March 31, 2022), even if those licenses are purchased after Jan. 1.

The new fees allow DFW to maintain core programs including habitat restoration, maintenance of public lands, scientific research and education, and expansion of other services to manage Indiana's fish and wildlife for everyone to enjoy.

Funds will also go to the DNR Division of Law Enforcement to ensure it is equipped to provide public safety and enforce the laws governing natural resources.

The new license prices were determined by comparing license fees among other Midwestern states and balancing the rising costs of resource management.

More information on these changes, including a full list of the new fees, can be found here: dnr.IN.gov/fish-and-wildlife/licenses-and-permits/fee-changes

Learn more about how DFW is funded: <https://bit.ly/3xdQTAU>

To view more DNR news releases, please see dnr.IN.gov.