

➔ TODAY'S VERSE

1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.



➔ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes James H. Williams smile? "The fact that I give to others without expecting anything in return," said the 53-year-old Fishers resident. Williams was born in Bluffton and grew up in Muncie and has been living in Fishers for nearly 20 years. He graduated from Muncie Central High School in 1988 and went into the U.S. Army right after high school. He attended Ball State University for a few years and dropped out, but is now currently a senior at IUPUI studying General Studies with a certificate in Organizational Leadership Science. "If all goes well, I'll graduate in 2024," he said. He currently is a service sales representative for Cintas Corp. He is an Eagle Scout and an assistant Scoutmaster. He is a Past Master of Keystone Masonic Lodge No. 251 and current active member of Carmel Lodge No. 421. Hobbies and interests? "Camping anytime I can, especially in the winter." Williams has been active in community theater for nearly 35 years, acting, directing and behind the scenes in the production crew. He is currently sound operator for the comedy, "The Curious Savage," Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Basile Westfield Playhouse, "Whether I'm on stage as an actor or helping create the magic, it's an out for me. God has given me so many talents; why not share my passion with those who come to be entertained."

And Another Thing...

1. Chatham Hills

This weekend is your last chance to tour homes in Westfield's Chatham Hills. Guests will be able to explore the homes and design features to gather ideas for their own projects, all while enjoying local food and beverage vendors. This is the last time Home-A-Rama will be at Chatham Hills, so don't miss out.

The event will run from 12-8 p.m. at Chatham Hills, located at 20820 Lindley Farm Rd, Westfield. The event is hosted by First Internet Bank in conjunction with The Builder's Association of Greater Indianapolis. The Builders Association of Greater Indianapolis is a professional trade association representing residential homebuilders, associates, and remodelers. For more information, call (317) 236-6330; or visit www.BAGI.com.

2. Hunting Season

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Division of Fish & Wildlife is reminding hunters that hunting season begins for a variety of game. You can find a list of game with their respective seasons below; for any questions about permitting and preparation, visit dnr/fish-and-wildlife/hunting-and-trapping/hunting-trapping-guide/

- Wild Turkey Fall Archery:** Oct. 1-30
- Deer Archery:** Oct. 1-Jan. 1, 2023
- Woodcock:** Oct. 15-Nov. 28
- Red and Gray Fox:** Oct. 15-Feb. 28, 2023
- Coyote and Striped Skunk:** Oct. 15-Mar. 15, 2023
- Wild Turkey Fall Firearms:** Oct. 19-30
- Ducks, Coots, Mergansers:**
 - North Zone: Oct. 22-Dec. 11
 - Central Zone: Oct. 29-Nov. 6
 - South Zone: Nov. 26, 2022-Jan. 22, 2023
- Canada Geese:**
 - North Zone: Oct. 22-30
 - Central Zone: Oct. 29-Nov. 6
 - South Zone: Nov. 5-Nov. 20
- Youth & Veteran Waterfowl:**
 - North Zone: Oct. 15-16
 - Central Zone: Oct. 22-23
 - South Zone: Oct. 29-30

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

50¢ WWW.THETIMES24-7.COM



Photo courtesy of Mark Hall

Noblesville's Mark and Lisa Hall, co-founders of the Feeding Team, formerly Feeding Families Hamilton County, welcome the audience to the nonprofit's Music Festival on Saturday at Federal Hill Commons.

Lovely Day for A Festival in the Park

Halls' Feeding Team Opens 49th Pantry, Brings in Donations

Mark and Lisa Hall's Feeding Team nonprofit opened its 49th little yellow food pantry on Friday at Legacy Christian School in Noblesville.

I mentioned this would be coming up in last Wednesday's Times column. But what was heartwarming was that Mark and Lisa Hall on Friday had the opportunity to speak in front of



BETSY REASON
The Times Editor

students, faculty and staff at the school's chapel about why they started the food pantries and "how important it is to live our Christian faith out in our communities," Mark Hall said.

"Then one of the coolest moments in a long time ..." 200-plus people prayed over the pantry and for "the hungry neighbors who will use it along with thanking neighbors who will contribute to it," Hall said. "The experience literally gave me chills," he said of the very

➔ See BETSY Page A6

Friends of Central Pool Recognized for 25 Years of Work

The Friends of Central Pool is celebrating its silver anniversary successfully operating, maintaining and expanding the Forest Park Aquatic Center. To honor their 25th anniversary, Mayor Chris Jensen proclaimed Sept. 4, 2022 as Friends of Central Pool Day. The organization was recognized at the most recent Noblesville Common Council meeting.

"For the past 25 years, the citizens of Noblesville have benefited greatly from the tens of thousands of volunteer hours invested in the Forest Park Aquatic Center by the Friends of Central Pool," said Jensen. "No other community has a stronger partnership than the City of Noblesville continues to have with the Friends of Central Pool."

The Friends of Central Pool took over Forest Park Aquatic Center operations and maintenance.

➔ See FRIENDS Page A6



Photo courtesy of Steve Martin, Sheridan Historical Society

New Exhibit on Display at Sheridan Historical Society Museum

The Sheridan Historical Society has a new antique doll display exhibit, featuring several dolls on-loan from Sheridan resident Wilma Bush. The dolls have been put into display cases for all to see.

Pictured above are Connie Mossburg (left) and Donna Jessup standing next to the large display case. Mossburg and Jessup are responsible for obtaining the dolls and setting up the interesting display. The museum is open on Tuesday and Friday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. and all are welcome to stop by and see the interesting collection of dolls. The museum is in Sheridan at 315 South Main St.

➔ INSIDE TODAY

- Obituaries.....A2
- Letter to the Editor.....A2
- Tim Timmons.....A3
- Service Directory.....A4
- Capital Chronicle.....A5
- Classifieds.....A5
- Indiana Facts & Fun.....A7
- Indiana News.....A8, A9, A10

➔ OBITUARIES

- Mary Sue Edwards
- Derek Robert Knief
- Jack Dale Pigg
- Finley Edward 'Ed' York



➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Cut back on your exercise if you're running a fever. 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.



➔ HONEST HOOSIER

Hoosier Carole Lombard was born in Ft. Wayne on this date in 1908. Some of us still remember when she perished in a plane crash.



➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"True love is like ghosts, which everyone talks about but few have seen." - Unknown

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

What do you get when you divide the circumference of your jack-o-lantern by its diameter? Pumpkin Pi.

The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank MEGAN TAYLOR for subscribing!



13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

53/76 STRAY ENOUGH EARLY	48/59 MUCH COOLER	37/57 A.M. FROST	38/65 A.M. FROST	47/72 WARMER	57/75 RAIN CHANCE LATE	60/80 BREEZY AND WARM
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED

OBITUARIES

Derek Robert Knief

April 22, 1981 - October 2, 2022

Derek Robert Knief, 41, of Carmel, passed away on Sunday, Oct. 2, 2022.

He was born April 22, 1981 in Indianapolis to Richard "Dick" R. Knief and the late Linda D. (Watson) Knief.

Mr. Knief made friends easily and as a result, he had several long-time buddies. He enjoyed camping and watching documentaries on TV. As an auto mechanic, he also liked to spend time tinkering on his cars. Mr. Knief was an avid gun collector of all types. He had a soft spot for animals, especially his dogs Charlie and Sadie.

Survivors include his father Richard "Dick" R. (Vickie) Knief; brother Jason (Iza) Knief; two sisters Elizabeth (Peter) Mayberry and Rachel Dewhurst; and two nephews Henry Webb and Robbie Knief.

In addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by his sister Alyssa Knief.

Family and friends are scheduled to gather on Monday, Oct. 10, 2022 at 5 p.m. in Trinity Baptist Church, 1415 E. 191st Street, Westfield, where the Memorial Service is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

In memory of Mr. Knief, donations may be made to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), 199 Water Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10038.

Envelopes will be available at the service.

Bussell Family Funerals is privileged to serve the Knief family.



Jack Dale Pigg

December 11, 1940 - October 4, 2022

Jack Dale Pigg, 81, Anderson passed away on Oct. 4, 2022, at Roger Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis after an extended illness.

He was born Dec. 11, 1940, in Smithville, Ind. to Cort and Cora (Kinsler) Pigg.

Mr. Pigg served his country in the US Army. He was a member of the VFW Post #4736 in Greenfield. He loved to cook, bake and garden. In his younger years, he enjoyed racing and flying planes.

Mr. Pigg was owner and operator of Pigg Equipment Company in Greenfield for many years.

Survivors include his son David Michael Pigg of Greenfield; daughter Jacqueline (Robert) McClintock of Lapel; two sisters Diane (Scott) Thompson and Linda Brockey, both of Indianapolis; two granddaughters Alison (Alexander) Sprungle of Fairlawn, Ohio and Sarah (Cole Britt) Seifert of Indianapolis; and two great-grandchildren Teddy Sprungle and Winnie Sprungle.

He was preceded in death by his wife Sheila (Riley) Pigg; son Gregory Ryan; parents; and two brothers Michael Pigg and Steven Pigg.

Cremation will take place. A Celebration of Life is being scheduled to take place at a later date.

Online condolences may be made at www.hersberger-bozell.com.



Mary Sue Edwards

July 5, 1941 - October 5, 2022

Mary Sue Edwards, 81, of Noblesville, passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022 in Noblesville.

She was born on July 5, 1941 to Hugh and Leota (Rich) Addington in Westfield.

Mrs. Edwards enjoyed playing Bingo, cards, and scratch-off lottery tickets. She liked going on walks, and loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include her spouse of 63 years Robert E. Edwards; two daughters Elaine Wright and Teri (Jeff) Magers; brother Dale (Becky) Addington; sister Sharon K. (Glenn) Bell; five grandchildren Erica Ashworth, Jennifer Leneave, Melissa Ashworth, Robert (Brittany) Ashworth and James Magors; and five great-grandchildren Trevon, DeAndre, Ava, Kylie and Miles.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two siblings Jack Addington and Shirley Emry

Private family services will be held. Burial will be at Summit Lawn Cemetery in Westfield.

Online condolences may be made at www.randallroberts.com.



Finley Edward 'Ed' York

June 9, 1957 - September 29, 2022

Finley Edward 'Ed' York, age 65, of Whitestown, passed away on Thursday evening, Sept. 29, 2022, at Compassus Hospice of Indianapolis.

He was born on June 9, 1957 in Livingston, Tennessee, son of the late Ernest Edward York and Delephine (Light) York-Blazier.

After graduating from Sheridan High School, Mr. York went on to serve his country in the United States Navy. He was a member of the K.V. Elliott American Legion Post 67 in Sheridan and a member of Six Points Church in Sheridan. After his time in the Navy was complete, he started his career in the manufacturing and automotive industries. Mr. York's journey began with Hampton Tool and Die in Hampton, South Carolina, where he served his apprenticeship and learned the ins and outs of the manufacturing business. After 15 years with the company, he took a position with Steel Parts in Tipton, Indiana, and later hired on with Oxford Automotive in Greencastle, where he would retire as a tooling engineer and supervisor in 2002.

Mr. York enjoyed being outdoors, especially when it came to fishing. Being on the water in a boat was one of his favorite activities. He also loved spending time in his garage. As with most engineers, tinkering with things was a way of life; Mr. York was no different. The garage was a gathering place where friends came to sit and visit, solve all the world's problems, and discover just how many things duct tape really can be used for. Mr. York was a real Mr. Fix-It. If you hung around his garage long enough, you just might learn something.

Family was Mr. York's true passion. He was a loving husband and father and was filled with joy the day he became a grandfather. His work ethic, devotion to family, and strong faith are the beginning of a wonderful legacy for his family to carry forward. The "Gentle Giant", whose sweet and quiet demeanor always put people at ease, will be missed by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Survivors include his loving wife Janice Darlene (Smith) York, to whom he was married on Jan. 10, 1976; three sons John Edward York (Joyce) of Indianapolis, Joseph Allen York (Amber) of Sheridan and Brandon Scott York of Whitestown; 11 grandchildren Kanisha, Johnny, Jacob J., Ryder, Kyo, Destinie, Daphne, Darrah, Emmy, River and Jacob; two great-grandchildren Madalyn, and Kelton; sister Donna Lynn Blazier-Roys of Lebanon; and many nieces and nephews, especially Alice 'Boo Boo' and Nathan 'Tank'.

He was preceded in death by his parents Ernest Edward York and Delephine (Light) York-Blazier; step father Donald A. Blazier; and two canine BFFs Jazzie and Bruno.

Services are scheduled to be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022, at Six Points Church, 1545 W. 226th Street in Sheridan, with Visitation scheduled to run from 11 a.m. until the time of service. Pastor Scott McDermid will be officiating. Graveside Services are being planned for a later date.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Kercheval Funeral Home in Sheridan, Indiana.



Noblesville-Fishers Office Pride Cleaning Service Wins Franchise of the Year

Office Pride Commercial Cleaning Services of Noblesville-Fishers has been named the company's Franchise of the Year. Office Pride of Noblesville-Fishers, Ind., is owned by Chris and Kim Middleton, multi-unit owners with the national franchise system.

The Middletons were recognized for the company's top honor at Office Pride's annual owners' retreat, which was held Aug. 24-27 in Nashville.

In addition to Franchise of the Year, Office Pride of Noblesville-Fishers received a Two Million Dollar Club award for billing a milestone amount during a calendar year; and a Standards of Excellence Award, which recognizes promotion of Office Pride's core values, sales growth and revenue retention, engagement and reporting.

Franchise of the Year is awarded to the franchise with the highest score among Standards of Excellence winners. Office Pride of Noblesville-Fishers was recognized for ranking fifth in best unit growth. Collectively, the Middletons' franchises rank third overall. In the award presentation, Chris Middleton was praised for operating his businesses with the highest commitment to the brand's core values and always being willing to lend a hand to other franchise owners.

This is the Middletons' third Franchise of the Year Award, having previously won in 2019 and 2010.

The Middletons first joined Office Pride as the



Chris Middleton

independent owner and operator of the Noblesville-Fishers franchise in 2009. They purchased the Office Pride of Muncie-Old West End, Ind., franchise in 2015, added Office Pride of Chattanooga-Lake Hills, Tenn., in 2017 and Office Pride of Kokomo-Tipton in 2019. The couple have been married more than 30 years and live in Noblesville. They have four adult sons.

About Office Pride: Based in Palm Harbor, Florida, Office Pride Commercial Cleaning Services is an award-winning, faith-based franchisor and a respected leader in the commercial cleaning industry. The company was founded in 1992 on strong core values that ensure business is conducted with integrity and a commitment to service excellence. Office Pride is one of the fastest-growing commercial cleaning franchisors in the nation, with over 145 locations in 25 states. For services near you, visit OfficePride.com. For franchise opportunities, visit OfficePrideFranchise.com.

Letters

Reader Disagrees with Timmons Column

Dear Editor,

I am ready for some friendly discussion. With the November elections getting close I am hearing "Biden's inflation". Inflation doesn't happen in a year or a year and a half. Let's look at the effects of Covid19. You (Tim Timmons) mentioned \$2.00 a gallon gasoline (in a column), and if my memory serves me and sometime it doesn't, the best price I remember was \$2.77. I am also not an economist, but I do remember something about supply and demand having something to do with pricing. During Covid19 everyone stayed home: no dining out, very little socializing with friends, canceling of events, traveling nearly stopped and a big one, a lot of people not even commuting to work but working from home. Since there was very little demand for gasoline, the price was \$2.77 per gallon. As Covid19 subsided there was a built up demand to once again socialize with friends and family, dine out, go to entertainment events, travel and you guessed it, go back to work. Thus there is now more demand than supply and up goes the price of gasoline. Another problem is the war in Ukraine which is putting a worldwide demand on energy. Another effect of the Covid19 pandemic was the breakdown of the supply chain which is still affecting the price of food. When you go to the market is everything on your list readily available? Again, I believe supply and demand is effecting price.

I would also like to address your comments about Donald Trump. Please check out or you probably already know the definition of a psychopathic, narcissistic personality disorder. After refreshing your memory about the disorder see if anyone in particular comes to mind. (What if Al Gore was still calling foul over hanging chads?) As for Trump's continued complaining about the 2020 election fraud if there had been one or two states in question maybe there could have been grounds to claim a challenge about the election results, but five states? Come on. I do understand that Trump in his own mind believes he won because his father trained him that he could not be a loser. On another side of Trump, there is a saying that states "birds of a feather flock together." Let me mention a few of Trump's close associates and tell me what you think. These are the associates that come to mind, Roger Stone, Steve Bannon, Alex Jones, Michael Flynn, the pillow guy and QAnon. Do birds of a feather flock together? Tim, you also made mention of Biden reference to Fascist. I believe Biden made reference to MAGA members as fascists which I do believe was an over statement and probably should not have been made. I also do not believe everyone who voted for Trump are MAGA supporters. I do want to

include the Donald Trump planned insurrection and the Coup D'etat. Trying to overturn an election by not accepting the electorals and submitting artificial electorals, pressuring Mike Pence to not accept the electorals, lock stepping the Republicans senators into not accepting the real electorals. There is also Trump's asking that metal detectors not be used during the gathering before the attack on the Capital because his supporters, some of whom were armed, were not going to hurt him. Then there is the fact that Trump watched the takeover of the capital with no action for over three hours. A takeover of the capital which he could have stopped at any time.

There was a time in Europe around 1938 when a man started his move to take over a country. He promoted nationalism, promised to turn around a very bad economy, lived off large crowds and hour long speeches, developed enemies to unite his country behind his movement, replaced all the legal system with his own choice of people, demanded complete and total loyalty or you were gone and destroyed the very structure that was the seat of the previous government. Does anyone come to mind and do you see any similarities in our country today?

We have a very important November election coming very soon. I believe the two most important items on the ballot are our democracy and abortion laws. Democracy is not spelled out but any vote in support of Donald Trump and his endorsed candidates is a vote against democracy. Let me clarify, I am not saying anything about stand alone Republicans or conservatives. I have friends that have told me they are no longer Republicans but are still conservatives. There is one problem in our government today and it is Donald Trump. On abortion there are far too many gray areas that need to be addressed before any type of law should replace Roe vs Wade. The topic of a referendum concerning abortion on the November ballot came up during debate on the abortion law here in Indiana which I believe would be a tool to express the wishes of the people. The comment by one legislator was that abortion was not a referendum issue. I believe the state's abortion law is on the ballot and one's stance on the subject can be expressed by the way one votes.

Tim, one last subject, I bet you are happy. It is the 2024 election and your statement that you would vote for Donald Trump again. I do believe and hope that Donald Trump will be barred from holding office in the future. My vote is going to be for our democracy, freedom, the rule of law, which I believe no one should be above. My vote will be for Liz Cheney if she runs.

David Marsh
Noblesville

Buy. Sell. Rent. Lease.

THE TIMES classifieds.

The Times
Public Notices Deadline:
11:00 a.m.
2 Business Days Prior to Publication
legals@thetimes24-7.com
Private Party Notices Submitted After Deadline
May Be Subject To \$25.00 Fee
In Addition To The Cost Of The Advertisement

Obituary deadline
The Times publishes obituaries daily at www.thetimes24-7.com, and in its print product every day with the exception of Sundays and Tuesdays.
All obituaries must come from a funeral home.
A photo may be included and should be sent as a high-resolution JPEG.
Daily obituary deadline is 4 p.m. for the following day's print publication.
To read more obituaries, visit www.thetimes24-7.com.

School Board Elections More Important Than Ever



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

There's so much disagreement in the world today. Liberals, conservatives, socialists, Trumpers, non-Trumpers . . . it just goes on and on. But perhaps most of us can agree that parents are the biggest influence when it comes to their children. And maybe we can also nod our heads together on the idea that the second-biggest influencer might be schools.

If so, then this election might be one of the most important in recent memory.

It's time to vote for school boards.

Long gone are the days when folks ran because they either wanted to hire, or fire, a basketball coach. But things haven't cooled off much. Instead of coaches, the hot topics are critical race theory, what books should or shouldn't

be in school libraries, how many genders there are, do kids have the right to be "furries" at school . . . and even the core question of do parents have the right to know and / or influence the curriculum.

Look, you may have strong feelings on these topics. That's good, I do, too. We might agree, we might not. But the point is that the folks who will decide those topics and more are on your ballot.

Look, it's just one man's opinion but getting school boards who believe the following four things are more important than ever:

- Parents are responsible for raising children, not schools
- There are indeed some books that are not age appropriate
- Teachers need to be able to educate – not just make sure kids can pass tests
- School principals and administrators should be more concerned with school safety than hot topic social issues

Boil it down and we need people in charge who put education, teachers and kids first.

We do not need people who think schools' jobs

are to raise children. Ask a teacher and they will tell you the classroom is hard enough today. Most will tell you they desperately want mom and dad to raise Little Johnny and Susie before they hit the classroom door.

We don't need to elect people who think racism is part and parcel of being white. Isn't that actually the definition of racism?

We do not need people, like our First Lady, who said that any and all books should be in the school library. Look, I have eight grandchildren, and all but two are in pre-school or elementary schools. You can damn well bet there are books they should not be exposed to yet. Isn't the Internet bad enough? The 10-year-old knows more about the birds and bees and such than I did when I was in high school.

We very much do not need people who believe boys aren't boys and girls aren't girls . . . or cute little furry animals.

And most of all, we do not need people sitting on those boards who are (what's the term?) woke.

In today's upside-down world, we desperately need school; boards who support teachers and

support students. We need school boards who hire administrators who are in line with community standards, and show the door to those who are not.

Make no mistake, this is a critical time.

And make no mistake, this is about education.

Isn't it intellectually dishonest to let little boys and girls think they can be something other than a little boy or little girl? Isn't it intellectually dishonest to try to ignore the parts of history we don't like, agree with or make us uncomfortable? Shouldn't education be about being honest, not anything else?

We need people serving on those boards who are exactly that – intellectually honest. We don't need those who are more concerned about being politically correct than about ensuring administrators, teachers and kids are all rowing in the same direction toward learning. We need to elect people who believe accountability isn't a bad thing and who believe successes should be celebrated. Let me say it again, ask a teacher. The job is hard enough today. It's not anything like when you and I were

Local Candidates

According to the state web site, here are the candidates for local school boards:

Noblesville:

Joe Forgey
Chuck Haberman
Melba Kiser
Brian Laskey
Misti Ray

Hamilton Southeastern:

Brad Boyer
Edward Gedeon
Jackie Howell
Tiffany Pascoe
Juanita Pritchett
Carla Cork
Dawn Lang
Julie Chambers
Harry Delks
Ben Orr

Sheridan:

Tyler Henning
Kim Zachery
Nancy Boone
Drew Carlisle
Cheri Hume

Westfield:

Patricia Fassnacht
Alan Ford
Amber Huff Willis
Curtis Wyatt
William Anderson
Patrick Phillips
Rebecca Ogle
Jill Woerner

Carmel:

Sheldon Barnes
Jenny Brake
Stephanie Ann Flittner
Kristin Kouka
Lori Long
Jennifer Nelson-Williams
Adam Sharp
Greg Brown
Jake Nichols

Hamilton Heights:

Arnie Cooper
Julie Davis
Benjamin Lehman
Doug Ozolins

in school.

When you go to the ballot box, please cast your vote for those individuals who are ready, willing and able to help get things going in the right direction again.

Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his

columns are worth, appears periodically on Thursdays in The Times. Timmons is the chief executive officer of Sagamore News Media, the company that owns The Noblesville Times. He is also a proud Noblesville High School graduate and can be contacted at timmons@thetimes24-7.com.

Farmer Sentiment Drops, Rising Interest Rates Contributing to Uneasiness

The Purdue University/ CME Group Ag Economy Barometer farmer sentiment index declined 5 points to a reading of 112 in September. The decline in farmer sentiment was primarily the result of producers' weakened perception of current conditions, as the Current Conditions Index declined 9 points to 109.

The Index of Future Expectations also weakened slightly, declining 3 points from a month earlier to a reading of 113. 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 from Sept. 19-23.

"Concerns about input costs and, in some cases, availability are key factors behind the relative weakness in this month's farmer sentiment," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial

Agriculture.

"However, a growing number of producers are also concerned about the impact of rising interest rates on their farm operations."

Higher input costs remain the number one concern among survey respondents. In September, 44% of respondents chose "higher input costs" as their number one concern, while 23% chose "rising interest rates," and 14% chose "availability of inputs." When asked to look ahead to 2023, the largest share (38%) of producers expect input prices to rise from 1% to 9% compared to 2022 prices.

Meanwhile, nearly a fourth (24%) of producers expect input prices to rise from 10% to 19%, and 9% of survey respondents said they expect an input price rise of 20% or more.

The Farm Capital Investment Index declined to a record low of 31 in September, as producers continue to indicate now

is not a "good time" to make large investments in their farming operations. To understand why they felt that way, a follow-up question was posed to farmers who reported now being a "bad time" to make large investments.

For the third month in a row, producers overwhelmingly (46%) said it was due to increasing prices for farm machinery and new construction; however, 21% indicated that "rising interest rates" were a primary reason, up from 14% who cited interest rates in August.

Despite that negative perspective, fewer producers plan to reduce their farm machinery purchases. Since peaking in March 2022 at 62%, the share of producers who plan to reduce their machinery purchases compared to a year earlier has been declining, dipping to 47% in September. Their plans for farm building purchases tell a similar story. Since the March 2022 high of

68%, producers who planned to reduce their building and grain bin purchases has fallen to 56% in September.

Producers' perspective on farmland values continues to soften. This month, the Short-Term Farmland Value Expectations Index fell 5 points to 123, and the Long-Term Farmland Value Expectations Index fell 7 points to 139. Compared to a year ago, the short-term index is down 21%, while the long-term index has fallen 12% over the same time frame.

In a follow-up question posed to respondents who expect farmland values to rise over the next 5 years, nonfarm investor demand (60%) remains their primary reason for the rise.

This month's survey included a series of questions to understand producers' cover crop usage. Nearly six out of 10 (57%) respondents said they currently plant cover crops on a portion

of their farmland, while approximately one in four producers said they have never planted a cover crop.

Most producers who report planting cover crops say they only plant them on a portion of their farmland, with half indicating they plant on 25% or less of their acreage. However, some farms report more intensive use of cover crops as nearly a fourth of respondents said they plant cover crops on over 50% of their farms' acreage.

A large share (40%) of producers who reported planting cover crops this month said they have been planting cover crops for five years or less, while 28% of respondents said they have been planting cover crops for more than 10 years. The reasons for planting cover crops vary, with 37% citing "improve soil health" and 33% citing "improve erosion control" as the primary motivators.

Just 5% of cover crop

users indicated "carbon sequestration" as a motivation for planting cover crops.

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.

AG's Office Warns Hoosiers to Watch Out for Government Imposter Scams

Attorney General Todd Rokita is warning Hoosiers about one of the most pernicious robocall frauds. Scammers pretend to call from government agencies like the Social Security Administration, the IRS, or Medicare, but it's then later exposed as a scam.

"It all starts with a seemingly harmless text, call, or email, but it ultimately results in a devastating blow to Hoosiers' hard-earned savings," Rokita said.

"Do not disclose your financial or other personal information. If you get a scam call asking you to wire money, use



Attorney General Todd Rokita

cryptocurrency, or gift cards, hang up the phone and contact my office. Scammers are real and create real problems for innocent people."

These fraudsters will use crafty tricks to fool

you. They might tell you that you'll miss out on some government benefit or offer to send you something for free, but it's a scam.

The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division shared the following tips for Hoosiers to avoid these types of scammers:

- Don't wire money, send cash, or use gift cards or cryptocurrency to pay someone who says they're with the government.
- Don't give your financial or other personal information to someone who calls, texts, or emails and says they're

with the government.

- Don't trust your caller ID. Your caller ID might show the government agency's real phone number, but caller ID can be faked.
- Don't click on links in unexpected emails or text messages. Don't click on any link, and don't pass it on to others. Simply delete the message.
- Look out for

prerecorded calls from imposters posing as government agencies. Typically, neither the Internal Revenue Service nor the Social Security Administration make phone calls to

- If you suspect fraudulent activity, immediately terminate the communication, and do not provide any personal information.
- Add your number to

the Indiana Do Not Call List.

- Contact our Consumer Protection Division at 1-888-834-9969 or donotcall@atg.in.gov.

If you receive an unwanted text or call, please file a complaint online at in.gov/attorneygeneral/consumer-protection-division/ with Attorney General Rokita's office.

TheTimes24-7.com



Life without local news is like hearing crickets

STOP LISTENING TO CRICKETS

The **TIMES**
Serving Noblesville & Hamilton County

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
770-7777

Contact us today for fast junk removal!

317-349-3169

7 AM - 10 PM
7 Days A Week

601 W. Main Street • Arcadia

Lt. Gov. Crouch and IHCD Open Applications for Indiana's Energy and Water Assistance Programs



Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCD) have opened applications for Indiana's Energy Assistance Program (EAP) and Water Assistance Program (WAP).

These programs are designed to help households across the state pay their bills and avoid shutoffs, especially during the winter months. Qualified Indiana households can now apply for federal funding to help pay their utility bills. Applications will be accepted until May 15, 2023.

Energy Assistance Program:

IHCD has been managing the Energy Assistance Program (EAP) since 2006. Community organizations designated by the state, called local service providers, are responsible for client intake and eligibility determination. These community organizations ensure that the program covers all 92 counties in Indiana. Information on LSPs can be found by visiting EAP.ihcda.in.gov.

EAP can help cover

utility costs associated with electricity, gas, and a home's bulk fuel heating source.

Water Assistance Program:

Households can apply for water/wastewater utility assistance in the same application as energy assistance. When completing the EAP application, applicants must check a box to apply for water assistance and submit their most recent bill. The same LSPs that administer EAP also administer this program.

The water assistance program is a temporary emergency program to help low-income households catch up on their water and wastewater bills during the COVID-19 pandemic, though the program does not require proof of COVID-19 hardship to apply.

Eligibility Requirements:

Households that make 60% of the state median income (60 SMI) or less are encouraged to apply for the program. See the chart below for a more detailed breakdown of income eligibility require-



Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch

ments. If a household is unsure if they meet income requirements, they are encouraged to fill out an application with the proper documentation so their eligibility can be determined.

How to Apply:

Indiana residents can apply online by visiting EAP.ihcda.in.gov. While there, residents will find a list of local service providers and the various ways to connect with them. Residents can also apply in-person or mail in applications. Households can also call 2-1-1 and ask to be connected to the EAP local service provider in their area.

If residents have a disconnected utility, have received a notice for disconnection, or are almost out of bulk fuel, they should call their local service provider immediately, as they may be eligible for a crisis benefit.

Indiana Department of Insurance Approves Workers' Compensation Rate Decrease for 2023

Indiana Department of Insurance Commissioner Amy L. Beard recently approved a decrease of 10.3% on average for Workers' Compensation rates recommended by the Indiana Compensation Rating Bureau (ICRB), effective Jan. 1, 2023. Individual employers may experience a rate change different from -10.3% depending on their rating class (classifications based on the type of business) and other rating factors. There are approximately 150 such industry types.

"The 10.3% decrease represents a savings to Indiana businesses of approximately \$80 million," said Commissioner Beard. "We are pleased to approve a rate decrease that helps support Indiana businesses and Indiana workers."

The 10.3% decrease can be attributed primarily to the long-term decline in workers' compensation countrywide claim frequency, and the recent favorable experience in average costs per claim in



Indiana for both indemnity and medical benefits.

Workers' compensation insurance covers medical costs associated with workplace injuries and provides wage replacement benefits to injured workers for lost work time. The Indiana Compensation Rating Bureau (ICRB) and the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) jointly make a rate filing with the Indiana Department of Insurance (IDOI) proposing loss costs and rates for the coming year of policies. In 2021, there were approximately 350 different insurance companies writing workers' compensation insurance in Indiana, representing approximately 120 different

insurer groups.

Indiana Workers' Compensation rates consistently rank one of the lowest in the United States, according to the Oregon Workers' Compensation Premium Rate Ranking report. The Information Technology and Research Section in the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services has examined state rates on a biennial basis since 1986.

About the Indiana Department of Insurance:

The Indiana Department of Insurance protects Indiana's insurance consumers by monitoring and regulating the financial strengths and market conduct activities of insurance companies and agents. The IDOI monitors insurance companies and agents for compliance with state laws to protect consumers and to offer them the best array of insurance products available. The IDOI also assists Hoosiers with insurance questions and provides guidance in understanding how insurance policies work.

Never miss a public notice on legal proceedings!
After it prints in your local newspaper, it goes online:
IndianaPublicNotices.com
TheTimes24-7.com

The Times SERVICE DIRECTORY

AUTOMOTIVE	FUNERAL SERVICES	HOME SERVICES	OUTDOOR MAINTENANCE
<p>Best One of Indy Selling tires. Serving people. Call Tyler and his team for all your tire and auto care service needs! Mention this ad to save 5% off tires or 10% off service. 317-773-3130 17016 Clover Rd • Noblesville BATTERIES • BRAKES • OIL CHANGES • TIRES • & MORE! bestoneindy.com</p>	<p>MUFFLERS & MORE For fast repair service come see us at Mufflers & More! 317-896-5868 2235 Westfield Road • Noblesville</p>	<p>BUSSELL FAMILY FUNERALS Serving Hamilton County and surrounding areas BussellFamilyFunerals.com Donna Bussell Owner/Director 1621 E. Greyhound Pass Carmel, IN 46032 317-587-2001</p>	<p>Indiana Funeral Care indianafuneralcare.com Indianapolis (317) 636-6464 8151 Allisonville Rd. Indianapolis Greenwood (317) 348-1570 2433 E Main St. Greenwood</p>
<p>Red Sail Roofing 866-500-SAIL www.redsailroofing.com Roofing • Siding • Gutters No job is too small! Locally owned here in Noblesville</p>	<p>REVOLT CBD Natures Original Pharmacy Indiana's Online CBD Store Indiana Grown & Manufactured Free Deliveries on Thursdays Use Coupon Code times20 for 20% Off First Time Purchase Free Consultation Help w/ Inflammation, Sleep & Anxiety RevoltCBD Products.com</p>	<p>DeLong LANDSCAPING 317-667-5163 Stamp Concrete Outdoor Lighting Landscape Design delonglandscapingllc.com</p>	<p>317-468-5583 PHARIS TRUCKING & PAVING Cicero</p>
<p>Jim Dandy Restaurant Since 1964 Online Ordering is HERE! Visit our new website at www.jdrest.com to order now! Sign up for our email list to receive weekly deals and specials! Monday - Saturday 6:30 AM - 9 PM Sunday 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM 2301 E. Conner Noblesville 317-773-3288</p>	<p>Adkins Draperies & Blinds 317-896-3833 www.adkinsdraperyshop.com 3162 E. State Road 32 Westfield Hunter Douglas Graber Skandia Blinds Monday-Friday 10 AM - 5 PM Saturday 10 AM - 1 PM</p>	<p>REVOLT CBD Natures Original Pharmacy Indiana's Online CBD Store Indiana Grown & Manufactured Free Deliveries on Thursdays Use Coupon Code times20 for 20% Off First Time Purchase Free Consultation Help w/ Inflammation, Sleep & Anxiety RevoltCBD Products.com</p>	<p>317-468-5583 PHARIS TRUCKING & PAVING Cicero</p>

Contact our advertising department at 765-361-0100 ext. 1 to be included in our next Service Directory.

Committee Focuses on Black Deaths in Indiana's Maternal Mortality Increase

By Whitney Downard

A key legislative panel heard testimony related to the state's dismal maternal mortality rate Tuesday, exploring solutions it could propose as legislation in the 2023 session.

The latest Indiana Maternal Mortality Review Committee report found that 92 women died during pregnancy or up to a year postpartum, an increase from the previous year.

State Health Commissioner Kris Box reviewed the Maternal Mortality Committee's report, briefing the interim committee on public health, behavioral health and human services on its contents. Between 2019 and 2020, pregnancy associated deaths increased from a ratio of 74.2 deaths per 100,000 births to 117.1, while pregnancy-related deaths rose from a ratio of 18.6 deaths per 100,000 births to 22.9.

For Black Hoosiers, the risk was even higher.

Across the three years analyzed by the committee, Black women had a ratio of 128.8 deaths per 100,000 births, 93%

higher than the reported ratio of 91.6 deaths for white women.

Reflecting on the report and analyzing solutions, Dr. Jasmine Johnson, a Black mother and maternal-fetal medicine physician, noted the role of medical bias and discrimination in the racial discrepancy. In particular, the health system repeatedly failed Black women as their education and income levels increased – two factors that reduce risk for other women.

"For some patients, having increased education or having private insurance may put them in a kind of lower risk category for an adverse outcome," Johnson said. "What we see with our data is that those same protections don't necessarily translate to Black patients... the maternal mortality rate for Black women who graduated college is higher than that of a white woman who has not finished high school."

Johnson noted that even Black pediatricians weren't safe, as demonstrated by the preeclampsia death of Dr. Chaniece Wallace in Indianapolis in 2020.



Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana Capital Chronicle is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501(c)(3) public charity. Indiana Capital Chronicle maintains editorial independence. Follow Indiana Capital Chronicle on <https://facebook.com/IndianaCapitalChronicle> and <https://twitter.com/INCapChronicle>

"All of our patients come to us and say they are afraid to have a baby; they are afraid because they're seeing that women are dying in the news and it's especially apparent to the Black patients that they are at a higher risk of dying and it's taking the joy of pregnancy away from people," Johnson said.

Social factors
Another researcher, Dr. Lauren Dungy-Poythress, noted that many social factors contribute to worse health outcomes for women, including the chronic stress of racism. "The stress of being a Black woman in American society can take a physical toll during pregnancy and childbirth," Dungy-Poythress said.

On top of that, Black women encounter racism while accessing health-care. One study found that 33% of Black women said they had been discriminated against because of their race in the medical system and another 21% said they avoided going to the doctor because of said discrimination, Dungy-Poythress said.

"I have two daughters. When I was their age in my 20s I thought about getting married (and) having children. But I never once thought, 'I shouldn't have children because there's a higher chance that I could die.... While the medical system watched and ignored me,'" Dugny-Poythress said. "Those are the concerns that young women have today."

Johnson teaches at Indiana University, one of the largest medical schools in the country. She said that the state's passage

of the near-total abortion ban worried providers that healthcare access for pregnant Hoosiers would worsen as OBGYN students decided to practice elsewhere.

Though Black women accounted for a disproportionately high rate of deaths, overdoses accounted for the highest percentage of deaths, or 30.4%.

Solutions
Box said part of the solution would not just be screening women and providing referrals to care, but ensuring they stay engaged with treatment without worrying that the government would penalize them by taking their children.

"A lot of women don't seek care because they are afraid that we're going to take their children away from them or that this child – because they admit to it – might be

taken away," Box said. "We have not taken that punitive approach in the state of Indiana for several years."

Deaths increased across the board, Box said, regardless of category. Across the three-year period of study, overdoses accounted for 31.2% of deaths.

"It is heartbreaking to see those numbers (of deaths) increase and probably reflects some of the lack of care that was available with a lot of people closing offices or doing virtual visits and other things," Box said.

Box noted that the report didn't even include an analysis of women who nearly died during childbirth or in the postpartum period. The analysis of 2020 included just three deaths due to COVID-19, a number she expected to increase next year.

"In looking and discussing (this) with the CDC, every state saw this huge increase in maternal mortality," Box said. "Unfortunately, we're already seeing the numbers for '21 and they're going to be elevated too."

Classifieds

765-361-0100 ext. 15 | class@thepaper24-7.com
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Deadlines for next-day publication:
Line ads: 1 p.m. | Display ads 11 a.m.

FREON WANTED: We pay \$\$\$ for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient. Certified Professionals. Call 312-291-9169 or visit RefrigerantFinders.com

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 877-930-3271

DISH Network. \$64.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100 Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-855-551-9764

Earthlink High Speed Internet. As Low As \$49.95/month (for the first 3 months.) Reliable High Speed Fiber Optic Technology. Stream Videos, Music and More! Call Earthlink Today 1-855-977-7069

High-Speed Internet. We instantly compare speed, pricing, availability to find the best service for your needs. Starting at \$39.99/month! Quickly compare offers from top providers. Call 1-844-961-0666

4G LTE Home Internet Now Available! Get GotW3 with lightning fast speeds plus take your service with you when you travel! As low as \$109.99/mo! 1-877-327-0930

Smart Home Installations? Geeks on Site will install your WIFI, Doorbells, Cameras, Home Theater Systems & Gaming Consoles. \$20 OFF coupon 42537! (Restrictions apply) 855-668-0067

LIVE PAIN FREE with CBD products from AceWellness. We guarantee highest quality, most competitive pricing on CBD products. Softgels, Oils, Skincare, Vape & more. Coupon Code: PRINT20 Call Now 833-226-3105

SERIOUSLY INJURED in an AUTO ACCIDENT? Let us fight for you! Our network has recovered millions for clients! Call today for a FREE consultation! 844-517-6414

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. FREE information kit. Call 855-965-4916

New Starting Base Pay - .60 cpm w/ option to make .70 cpm for Class A CDL Flatbed Drivers, Excellent Benefits, Home Weekends, Call 800-648-9915 or www.boydandsons.com

DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY! FAST FREE PICKUP-24 HR RESPONSE! Help Children in Need, Support Breast Cancer Education/Prevention or Veterans. Tax Deduction 844-820-9099

DIAGNOSED WITH LUNG CANCER? You may qualify for a substantial cash award. NO Obligation, NO risk! We've recovered millions. Let us help you!! Call 24/7, 844-284-4920

Looking to SELL your Home? Save time & money, connect with the Top Agents in your area to get more MONEY and close FASTER! Call 317-854-9781

Wesley Financial Group, LLC - Timeshare Cancellation Experts - Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 877-329-1207

Never Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Complete Care Home Warranty COVERS ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK FREE. \$200.00 OFF 2 FREE Months! 1-855-408-3894

COMPUTER ISSUES? GEEKS ON SITE provides FREE diagnosis REMOTELY 24/7 SERVICE DURING COVID19. No home visit necessary. \$40 OFF with coupon 86407! Restrictions apply. 888-715-8176

Need Help with Family Law? Can't Afford a \$5,000 Retainer? www.familycourtdirect.com/ Family/Law - Low Cost Legal Services - Pay As You Go - As low as \$750-\$1,500 - Get Legal Help Now! Call 1-888-417-4602 Mon-Fri 7am to 4 pm PCT

Denied Social Security Disability? Appeal! If you're 50+, filed for SSD and denied, our attorneys can help get you approved! No money out of pockets! Call 1-855-995-4758

Thinking about installing a new shower? American Standard makes it easy. FREE design consultation. Enjoy your shower again! Call 1-855-475-0534 today to see how you can save \$1,000 on installation, or visit www.newshowerdeal.com/hoosier

AT&T TV - The Best of Live & On-Demand On All Your Favorite Screens. CHOICE Package, \$84.99/mo for 12months. Stream on 20 devices at once in your home. HBO Max FREE for 1 yr (w/CHOICE Package or higher.) Call for more details today! (some restrictions apply) Call IVS 1-844-412-9997

Guaranteed Life Insurance! (Ages 50 to 80). No medical exam. Affordable premiums never increase. Benefits never decrease. Policy will only be cancelled for non-payment. 833-535-1043

Become a Published Author. We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing-Trusted by Authors Since 1920. Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution. Call for Your Free Author's Guide 1-888-965-1444 or visit <http://dorranceinfo.com/hoosier>

DIRECTV for \$69.99/mo for 12 months with CHOICE Package. Watch your favorite live sports, news & entertainment anywhere. One year of HBO Max FREE. Directv is #1 in Customer Satisfaction (JD Power & Assoc.) Call for more details! (some restrictions apply) Call 1-888-885-8931

Upgrade Your Home with a **NEW METAL ROOF**
Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!

LIMITED TIME OFFER
60% off YOUR INSTALLATION
+
TAKE AN ADDITIONAL **10% off**
Install for Military, Health Workers and First Responders

ERIE Metal Roofs
Warranty: Limited Lifetime. Transferable to 1 subsequent owner from original purchase. Terms and conditions apply. Visit us at erie.com. Appearance of the surface coating beyond normal wear and tear.

STRONG AS STEEL WITH THE ATTRACTIVE LOOK OF VARIOUS ROOF STYLES

From Dimensional Shingles to classic styles reminiscent of Cedar Shake and Spanish Tile, an architectural roofing system by Erie Metal Roofs can enhance the beauty of your home while protecting your family and property for a lifetime.

Call today to schedule your **FREE ESTIMATE 1-866-781-6023**

Made in the USA

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. Offer expires December 31, 2022. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservicescompliance.com. All rights reserved.

Are you at risk?

Get Screened for Risks of Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease

5 Screening Package for \$149

Call 844-499-4567

LIFE LINE SCREENING
The Power of Prevention

FRIENDS From Page A1

nance in 1997. A testament to community service and volunteerism, the nonprofit organization has renovated the facilities as needed, and worked with local businesses and residents. Friends of Central Pool recently led an effort to embark on phased major improvements and renovation project known as Project 2020 to make the pool safer, more accessible and modern.

Earlier this summer, the pool also unveiled its new LED videoboard. The 31.5-foot by 12.5-foot screen is elevated 15 feet off the ground. It will be used as a scoreboard for swimming, diving and water polo matches, as well as a movie screen for special events at the aquatic center. The new screen, which is believed to be the largest of its type in the Midwest, also meets

the standards to host competitive national and international swimming events.

The Forest Park Aquatic Center is one of the largest outdoor swimming and diving facilities in the Midwest. The pool has 10 swimming lanes of 50 meters, or 22 swimming lanes of 25 yards. It is the only outdoor pool in the Midwest with Olympic regulation diving platforms.

"The City of Noblesville is extremely fortunate to have such an incredible, world class facility as the Forest Park Aquatic Center and over 20 Olympic Trail qualifying athletes and 10 Olympians, including Noblesville's own David Boudia, have called the Forest Park Aquatic Center home," said Noblesville Common Council President Megan Wiles. Through the years, the

efforts of the Friends of Central Pool have remained committed to fulfilling the desire for a public swimming pool in the Noblesville community, which dates back to the early 1900s. The Forest Park Aquatic Center draws over 40,000 visitors to Noblesville, and hosts one of the largest 3-day youth athletic competitions each summer.

About the City of Noblesville:

Noblesville is the 10th largest city in Indiana, home to more than 69,600 residents, and the county seat in Hamilton County, Indiana. Just north of Indianapolis, the growing city is known for its nationally recognized public schools, extensive public park system, Hamilton Town Center, and the outdoor music venue Ruoff Music Center.

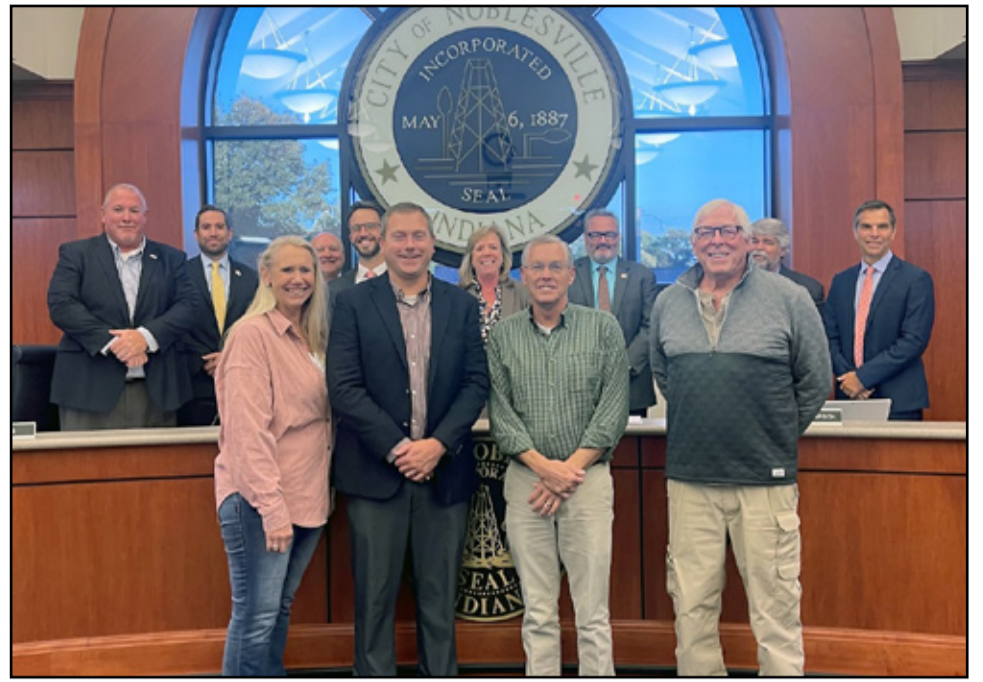


Photo courtesy of the City of Noblesville

At the Sept. 27 Noblesville Common Council meeting, the council posed with representatives from Friends of Central Pool after Mayor Chris Jensen proclaimed Sept. 4 as Friends of Central Pool. Photographed are (front row, left to right) Forest Park Director of Aquatics Kim Bowling, Forest Park Aquatic Center Board President Greg Conner, Board Secretary Randy Crutchfield, Board Vice President Dick Sidner and (back row, left to right) Councilmembers Mike Davis, Pete Schwartz, Greg O'Connor, Aaron Smith, Megan Wiles, Darren Peterson, Brian Ayer and Mark Boice.

BETSY From Page A1



Photo courtesy of the Feeding Team

Mark and Lisa Hall's Feeding Team nonprofit opened its 49th little yellow food pantry on Friday at Legacy Christian School in Noblesville.

powerful moment, which was followed by his wife stocking the pantry with the help of about 20 students. "Truly an inspiring and rewarding experience."

It's times like these that mean the most as the Noblesville husband and wife work diligently to not only keep opening more of the little yellow food pantries but keep these pantries stocked for those in need.

"Take What You Need, Give What You Can" is the motto for the nonprofit. The Halls created Feeding Families Hamilton County in April 2020 and in summer 2020 rebranded the nonprofit's name as the Feeding Team or www.Feedingteam.org.

Over the weekend, they invited the community to come out to the third

annual Music Festival of the Feeding Team. Three live bands -- Mike & the Boys, Fast Cadillac and Tyler Robling Band -- performed at the festival, which brought in about \$6,800 for the nonprofit. Admission was a nonperishable food donation.

About 1,800 people were estimated to attend the festival with much of the fundraising coming from donations and the sale of silent auction items and sponsors. The Halls said about 5,500 meals were donated.

The donations were down from 2021, the Halls attributed to the current economy. However, they were very thankful for the generosity of their community.

Contact Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com.



Photo courtesy of Nik Roberts

Mark and Lisa Hall's daughter, Alyssa Thomas, with children, Hank and Bryce and Alyssa's husband, Chad Thomas, hold the American flag during Feeding Team's third annual Music Festival at Federal Hill Commons.



Photo courtesy of Nik Roberts

People sit under the big tree at Federal Hill Commons to watch the bands during the Feeding Team's Music Festival.



Photo courtesy of Nik Roberts

Mark Hall (middle), co-founder of Feeding Team, meets with Fishers Police officer Jasmeet Singh and Hamilton County Sheriff Department's Andrew Howard, who provided security for the Music Festival.



Photo courtesy of Nik Roberts

Mark Hall, co-founder of the Feeding Team, chats with Bob and Beth Keck of Noblesville during the nonprofit's third annual Music Festival on Saturday at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville.



Photo courtesy of Nik Roberts

The central hub for the Feeding Team's volunteers, silent auction and donations at the Music Festival.



Photo courtesy of Nik Roberts

Mike Ottinger operates sound for the bands, vocalists, musicians and guest speakers during Feeding Team's third annual Music Festival.



Photo courtesy of Nik Roberts

People start filling the lawn during the Feeding Team's third annual Music Festival.



Photo courtesy of Nik Roberts

Feeding Team's volunteers help try to pack the pantry during the nonprofit's third annual Music Festival.



Photo courtesy of Nik Roberts

Dan and Tammy Daubenspeck of Noblesville enjoy relaxing on the lawn at Federal Hill Commons to hear the bands during Feeding Team's third annual Music Festival.



Photo courtesy of Nik Roberts

Mike & The Boys perform during Feeding Team's third annual Music Festival.



Photo courtesy of Nik Roberts

The band Flash Cadillac performs during Feeding Team's third annual Music Festival.

Thanks for reading The Times!

TheTimes24-7.com

HONEST HOOSIER



Blackford County is a strong farming community. Here's a tip of the seed corn cap to that!

I ndiana

Facts & Fun



05

Blackford

Number %00 ÷ Stumpers

- Founded in 1838, Blackford County is the site of multiple unincorporated communities and ghost towns.
- The county has the 8th smallest population in Indiana with only 12,766 individuals.
- For a brief amount of time in the 1800s the town was the site of an Indian reservation for the Miami Tribe.
- 72 percent of Blackford County is covered with corn and soybean fields.
- The county is the 4th smallest in size in Indiana being only 165.58 square miles.

1. What is the population of the county per square mile?
≥
2. How old is Blackford County?
≤
3. How many square miles of the county are covered in corn and soybean fields?
≥
4. If the total population in Hartford City, the county seat, is 6,220, then what percentage of the entire county is made up of Hartford residents?
≤

Answers: 1. 77 per square mile 2. 180 years 3. Around 48.7% 4. Around 119.22 square miles

Got Words?

Blackford county is divided into two incorporated cities and one incorporated town. Throughout the rest of the county visitors may find numerous uninhabited ghost towns. What do you think might have been some of the causes for the ghost towns in Blackford County?

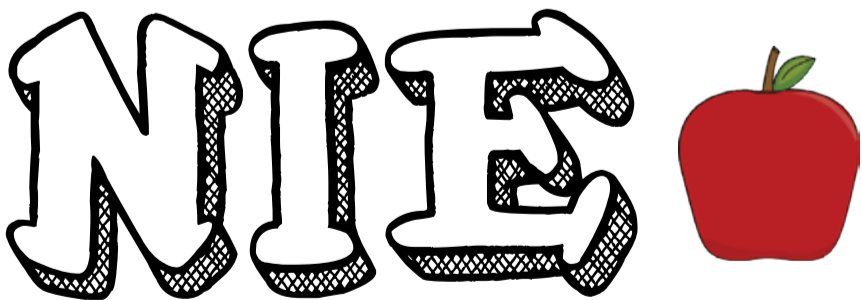
Word Scrambler

Unscramble the words below!

1. BLODKACFR YOTUNC
2. IAMMI BRTEI
3. CONR
4. OHGST OSTNW
5. OYNASBE FISDEL

Answers: 1. Blackford County 2. Miami Tribe 3. Corn 4. Ghost Town 5. Soybean Fields

Indiana Facts & Fun Is Presented This Week By:



Newspapers In Education

A Program That Raises The Bar!

**To help support literacy please support
Newspapers in Education
If you'd like to be a sponsor,
call (765) 361-0100 ext. 22**

THURSDAY

Indiana the Strong

Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022

A8

Indiana Behavioral Health Commission Concludes Work With Final Report

A statewide commission of 24 elected officials, stakeholders and behavioral health providers has concluded its two-year examination of Indiana's behavioral health delivery system and issued its final report to the Indiana General Assembly.

The report from the Indiana Behavioral Health Commission makes recommendations regarding infrastructure in the mental health space, workforce needs,

overall mental health and well-being for Hoosiers, as well as funding recommendations.

"This report builds on the important, ongoing work already underway by stakeholders in partnership with the state of Indiana," said Jay Chaudhary, chairman of the commission and the director of the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction. "I thank the commission members for their dedication to this work. We

know that these collaborations must continue in order to improve access to mental health care for Hoosiers, and how that care is delivered."

The commission was formed in 2020 under the direction of the Indiana General Assembly in SEA 273, authored by Sen. Michael Crider, who also served on the commission.

"I'm excited to take the findings of the commission to my colleagues in the Indiana General

Assembly," Crider said. "I urge my fellow legislators to examine how we can continue to support the progress underway in delivering behavioral health services."

The report examines the future of work already underway in Indiana, such as the new 988 three-digit number for crisis response, the intersection with criminal justice, and how to improve Hoosiers' mental health literacy.



Photo courtesy of IDHS

Fire Investigators Seek Information Regarding Six Unexplained Fires

Fire investigators are seeking information regarding suspicious fires in the town of Shelburn in Sullivan County. There have been six unexplained fires in the area since July 5, 2022. Two of the fires happened within an hour of each other on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2022.

This is an ongoing investigation and anyone

with information about the fires is encouraged to call the Indiana Arson Hotline at 1-800-382-4628. Callers are not required to provide their name. A reward may be available if a tip leads to an arrest and conviction.

The Indiana State Fire Marshal functions as a section of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

Hoosier Dairies Eligible for Grant Funding

Hoosier Dairy farmers, manufacturer's, and processors can apply now until Nov. 10 at 6 p.m. ET (5 p.m. CT) for a new round of Dairy Business Builder grants through the Dairy Business Innovation Alliance (DBIA), a partnership between the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association (WCMA) and the Center for Dairy Research at the University of Wisconsin - Madison (CDR).

"This funding opportunity is new to Indiana, and we want to encourage Hoosier dairy businesses and farmers to apply," said Lt. Gov. Crouch, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "Agriculture is the backbone of our state, and our dairy industry is crucial. If Hoosiers take advantage of this opportunity,

it will elevate our dairy processing and value-added products to the Next Level."

The reimbursement grants of up to \$100,000 each aim to support small- to medium-sized dairy businesses in diversifying on-farm activity, creating value-added products, enhancing dairy byproducts and creating or enhancing dairy export programs. Competition is open to dairy farmers and processors in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Kansas and Wisconsin.

"Since the inception of the Indiana Dairy Strategy in 2015 and the revamp of the strategy in 2021, our department has worked to increase dairy processing and production

in our state and to support our dairies. This funding is a unique opportunity, and I am thankful for this partnership between Indiana and the Dairy Business Innovation Alliance," said Bruce Kettler, director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture. "I encourage any dairy business eligible to apply to this unique grant."

Indiana State Department of Agriculture Agribusiness Engagement Director David Coates is the coordinator for this grant in Indiana, and he is looking forward to helping dairy businesses expand.

"Dairy Business Builder grants are an excellent path for small-to medium-sized dairy farmers or processors looking to enhance their operation,"

said Coates. "I look forward to working with our hardworking dairy farmers and producers to help them navigate this significant grant opportunity."

Application materials and resources are now available online at cdr.wisc.edu/dbia. Successful applicants will be notified by Dec. 15, 2022.

Since its creation in the 2018 Farm Bill, the DBIA has administered technical assistance and over \$3.7 million in grants to dairy businesses in five Midwestern states. Additional funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture is now supporting an expansion of the program's service area to include Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska and Ohio.

Junior Achievement Seeking Nominations for 2023 Indy's Best And Brightest

Junior Achievement of Central Indiana is seeking nominations for their 19th annual Indy's Best and Brightest event, presented by KPMG LLP. The event will honor 100 of central Indiana's most outstanding young professionals, age 40 and under, in 10 different industry categories.

The categories honored include the following: Accounting; Banking & Financial Services; Education & Nonprofit; Government, Tourism & Arts; Health & Life Sciences; Law; Manufacturing, Retail & Services; Media, Entertainment & Sports; Real Estate, Development & Construction; and Technology. Ten finalists from each category will be chosen by a selection committee and announced in January 2023. One winner from each category will be announced during the event on Thursday, March 23, 2023.

The Best and Brightest event was created by

Junior Achievement to recognize up and coming talent and the next generation of leaders in our community. They are seeking the people who positively affect the Indianapolis workplace and community. Finalists in each category are judged on professional accomplishments and leadership qualities.

Please visit www.indysbestandbrightest.org to nominate someone for one of the 10 categories described and for additional event details. Nominations will be accepted through Nov. 4, 2022.

All 100 finalists will receive an award and the winner in each category will be announced at the event.

Proceeds from Indy's Best and Brightest benefit Junior Achievement of Central Indiana programs. Please contact Renea Gates at 317-252-5900 x10 or rgates@jaindy.org with any questions.

About KPMG LLP

KPMG LLP is the U.S. firm of the KPMG global organization of independent professional services firms providing audit, tax, and advisory services. The KPMG global organization operates in 144 countries and territories and has more than 236,000 people working in member firms around the world. Each KPMG firm is a legally distinct and separate entity and describes itself as such. KPMG International Limited is a private English company limited by guarantee. KPMG International Limited and its related entities do not provide services to clients.

KPMG is widely recognized for being a great place to work and build a career. Our people share a sense of purpose in the work we do, and a strong commitment to community service, inclusion and diversity, and eradicating childhood illiteracy. Learn more at www.kpmg.com/us.

About Junior Achieve-

ment® (JA)

Junior Achievement's mission is to empower young people to own their future success. JA educates and inspires young people in the areas of career exploration, work readiness, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and philanthropy through hands-on experiential learning opportunities for children in Preschool through High School. JA programs help prepare young people for the real world by showing them how to generate wealth and effectively manage it, how to create jobs which make their communities more robust, and how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to the workplace. Today, JA reaches four million students per year in more than 120 markets across the United States, with an additional six million students served by operations in 119 other countries worldwide. Visit www.jaindy.org for more information.

FFA Receives Grant to Help Strengthen Chapters

The National FFA Organization received \$3 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help strengthen Indiana FFA chapters.

The announcement came earlier this week and enables the National FFA to partner with Indiana FFA to strengthen the organization in six primary areas: teacher professional development, recruitment and retention; curriculum development; capital support; staffing; and marketing. These initiatives will create an array of support programs to assist agriculture teachers in creating meaningful student interaction and expanding engagement with students from underrepresented and marginalized populations—a key focus of the National FFA Organization's current strategic plan.

"This transformational investment will enable us, in partnership with Indiana FFA, to expand the impact of local FFA chapters and agricultural education programs on youth across Indiana," said Scott Stump, CEO of the National FFA Organization. "We want everyone to feel welcome and a part of FFA and agricultural education. This funding helps us to support our teachers while offering resources to ensure Indiana FFA has the capacity and infrastructure to expand access for students from low-income households, communities of color, immigrant populations, students who lack adult supervision, or any other student who could benefit from FFA experiences."

"The support of Lilly Endowment means many



more students can enjoy what our leadership camp and programs are about in Indiana," said Tamara Ketchen, director of the Indiana FFA. "We hope students develop the leadership skills and confidence to pursue a career in agriculture and food and stay in Indiana."

The grant is one of nine grants totaling \$91.5 million that Lilly Endowment has made to national youth-serving organizations to help them enhance and expand the impact of their Indiana affiliates and chapters. The grants reflect the Endowment's longstanding commitment to the healthy development of youth in Indiana and to the youth workers and organizations that serve them.

"At Lilly Endowment we believe that this support will help National FFA and the other organizations funded serve more effectively in Indiana and reach even more youth," said Ted Maple, Lilly Endowment's vice president for education. "We also are pleased by the interest many of these organizations have in replicating strategies that succeed in Indiana with their affiliates and chapters around the country."

got stuff?
sell it in the classifieds.
317.770.7777

Life without local news is like hearing crickets
STOP LISTENING TO CRICKETS

The **TIMES**
Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
770-7777

THURSDAY

Indiana the Strong

Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022

A9

IDEM Honors Seven Organizations With Highest Environmental Award

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) announced the 2022 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence. Seven recipients were honored for extraordinary initiatives in protecting the environment.

Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence are Indiana's most prestigious environmental recognition awards. They are reserved for the most innovative, sustainable, and exemplary programs or projects that positively impact Indiana's environment and demonstrate measurable environmental, economic, and social benefits. The selection process is highly competitive, and only one award per category is presented each year.

"Exciting and innovative environmental projects are happening in Indiana. Projects that reduce waste, use alternative energy, and conserve water are happening where we work, play, and go to school," said IDEM Commissioner Brian Rockensuess. "These award winners are implementing real world examples for us all to strive to achieve."

John Roeder, Senior Operations Director for the Governor's Office, presented the awards during the 25th Annual Pollution Prevention Conference and Tradeshow.

Any Indiana citizen, business, nonprofit organization, school, university, or government agency was eligible for the award so long as the project was:

- Located in Indiana.
- Fully implemented by 2020 or 2021, and
- Performed voluntarily and not as the result of federal or state mandates, regulations, or enforcement decrees.

Selected awardees were required to provide quantifiable data to support the nomination, have a positive reputation for environmental health and safety, and agree to share the program or project details with others.

2022 categories and winners:
Energy Efficiency/
Renewable Resources
Bendix CVS Huntington



IN Solar PV System

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, LLC, Huntington IN

Bendix contracted PSG Energy Group to design and implement their first ever on-site solar project at the Huntington manufacturing site. The 1.2 megawatt ground mounted solar array has over 2,600 solar panels and produces 1.5 million kilowatt hours of green electricity – enough to satisfy around 30% of the electricity consumption at Bendix's Huntington Plant #1 and deliver an estimated \$140,000 in electric utility savings annually. The installation is the largest on-site solar system in Huntington County. Other sustainability features of the project include a 91.8% landfill diversion of construction waste and an indigenous seed mix that reduces emissions from mowing and pesticides. Bendix's Huntington complex has achieved a series of sustainability milestones since it opened in 1980, including ISO 14001 certification, zero waste to landfill self certification, and energy efficiency initiatives.

Environmental Education and Outreach

STEAM: Success

Through Education, Agriculture, and Mentoring

Paramount Schools of Excellence, Indianapolis IN

The Paramount Schools of Excellence STEAM program, which stands for Success Through Education, Agriculture, and Mentoring, teaches sixth through eighth grade students about sustainable farming practices through a summer paid job opportunity at a school farm. In 2021, 46 students participated by monitoring soil health, capturing rain, planting and raising native plants, managing a flock of chickens and a herd of goats, and producing fruits, vegetables, eggs, milk, and cheese. The program has been running for a decade and started with 12 students. A total of 249 students have participated to date, learning about sustainable farming practices, food accessibility, and minimal impact livestock management. The farm uses two acres of land formally covered with invasive species, trash, and debris. In 2020, they planted 3,000 square feet of pollinator beds on a former parking lot. Through these operations,

over the last three years, the farm has harvested over 46,000 servings of vegetables and produced more than 1,500 gallons of milk and 2,000 pounds of cheese. All items harvested or produced through Paramount farms are sold back to the community through weekly farmers markets, at local venues throughout Indianapolis, or donated.

Five Year Continuous Improvement 5 Year Continuous Improvement - AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals AstraZeneca Mount Vernon Operations, Mt. Vernon IN

As part of their Environmental Management System, AstraZeneca Mount Vernon invested \$13.5 million in infrastructure including the installation of a two megawatt solar field, enough to power 300 homes and reduce more than 1,866 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually. AstraZeneca also replaced cooling towers with sphagnum moss to reduce chemical and water use by 1.6 million gallons per year and improved equipment efficiencies by installing LED lights, variable frequency drive motors, high efficiency air handling units and an electric maintenance vehicle fleet. Through these efforts, AstraZeneca achieved a \$245,000 monthly reduction in utility costs. Over this same period, the site achieved zero waste to landfill and reduced the generation of waste by over 200 tons per year.

Greening the Government Indianapolis Public Schools

Indianapolis Public Schools, Indianapolis IN

Indianapolis Public School partnered with Cenergetic to implement a comprehensive behavioral-based energy conservation program throughout the district. The program reduces energy use and increases energy efficiency of buildings and equipment through behavioral and operational practices. The program, which has been implemented in all IPS facilities and grounds from classrooms to auditoriums, kitchens and offices, has led to an energy reduction

of nearly 100,000,000 kilowatt hours, a water reduction of 4 million gallons, and saved the district over \$3.6 million dollars in 2021.

Land Use/ Conservation Big Pine Creek Watershed Project

Big Pine Creek Watershed Group, Fowler IN

The Big Pine Creek Watershed Project is a water-quality improvement program focused on preventing nutrient and sedimentary run off. The project covers Benton, Warren, Tippecanoe and White counties. In addition to implementing practices like cover crops, other goals include educating farmers and landowners on the impacts they have on the watershed, as well as raising funds to support this work. Since the program's inception, it has prevented over 110,000 tons of sediment from entering local waterways, hosted 6,500 participants at area events, reached 30% of watershed residents regarding the importance of water quality in the watershed, and raised over \$6 million to accomplish this work.

Pollution Prevention Clear-Coat Elimination Project

Cummins Inc, Columbus IN

Cummins Mid-Range Engine Plant in Columbus specializes in diesel and alternative fuel engines and generators. For 30 years, it washed and painted engines to prevent rust and create brand association. After a two year validation including working with their supplier and customer, Cummins determined painting was no longer needed. The plant eliminated five resource intensive processes including washing with chemicals, painting and using a dry-off and cure oven. The benefits of this project include reductions in air emissions, natural gas usage (by 79%), chemical usage (by 23,500 gallons a year), clear-coat usage (14,000 gallons a year), general waste from masking (plastic caps, acetone rags, paint filters), energy usage (by over 10%), and water usage (12,000 gallons a day).

Recycling/ Reuse Proj-

ect Rain Barrel

City of Monticello Partnership with Ball Corp, Monticello IN

The City of Monticello Wastewater Utility developed a rain barrel project to address the cost and concerns of utility customers with the added cost to water their lawns and gardens following the end of allowances for "sprinkler rates." Partnering with Ball Corporation which provided 55 gallon barrels from food-grade soap, the barrels were provided at no cost to customers to collect rainwater to use on lawns and in gardens. The barrels give the community a way to cut costs and use stormwater runoff, preventing it from running into nearby rivers, lakes, and combined sewers. Ninety-five residents have received a free rain barrel.

About the Awards:

The Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence is an annual program to recognize Indiana's leaders who have identified and implemented innovative environmental practices into their programs and facilities. The awards program is open to all Indiana facilities, state and local units of government, individuals, and technical assistance organizations that implement exemplary environmental projects with measurable results. For more information about the Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence, visit www.in.gov/idem/partnerships/governors-awards-for-environmental-excellence/.

Nomination forms will be available soon for the 2023 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence. Organizations, businesses, and individuals will have until April 2023 to submit nominations for projects completed in 2021 and 2022.

About IDEM:

IDEM (idem.IN.gov) implements federal and state regulations regarding the environment. Through compliance assistance, incentive programs and educational outreach, the agency encourages and aids businesses and citizens in protecting Hoosiers and our environment.



Life without local news is like hearing crickets

STOP LISTENING TO CRICKETS



SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
770-7777

THURSDAY

Indiana the Strong

Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022

A10

US Department of Labor Awards Nearly \$199M in Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy, Training Disaster Recovery Grants

The U.S. Department of Labor today announced the award of nearly \$199 million in dislocated worker grants to support projects that enable unemployed and underemployed people to enter, return to, or advance in high-quality jobs in infrastructure, environment and climate, the care economy and other critical and growing sectors. These grants prioritize individuals whose employment has been negatively impacted by the pandemic and individuals from historically marginalized and underserved populations. Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy and Training Disaster Recovery grants are being awarded to 15 states, six Indian governments and one territorial government, and serve nearly 15,000 eligible workers. The grants align

with the Biden-Harris administration's efforts to provide high-quality jobs and build a skilled workforce, while promoting equitable access for historically disadvantaged communities. "The pandemic caused extraordinary disruption in our economy and disproportionately harmed people in disadvantaged communities," said Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh. "The Biden-Harris administration's actions fueled a strong recovery and historic economic growth. As we enter new phases in the recovery, we must ensure all communities have the support they need to thrive." Authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, Dislocated Worker Grants temporarily expand the



service capacity of dislocated worker programs by providing funding assistance in response to large, unexpected economic events that cause significant job losses. On July

5, 2022, the department announced the availability of funds for QUEST Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker grants of up to \$15 million per applicant.

Corrections Chief Resigns; New Boss Named

Rob Carter notified Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb that he is stepping down from his role as the commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction after nearly six years. Christina Reagle, an IDOC deputy commissioner of administration and finance, will take his place, effective Oct. 17. "Since the start of my administration, Commissioner Carter has brought a wealth of management, public safety and security experience to the Indiana Department of Correction, helping the agency navigate the challenges we have faced, especially in recent years," Holcomb said. "Day in and day out, Rob has remained focused on building a network of leaders statewide for IDOC facilities and implementing the best training programs for incarcerated individuals, which will have a ripple effect across the state in the years to come. I thank him for his service."



Carter was appointed IDOC commissioner in 2017. Under Carter's leadership, IDOC has: Increased partnerships with businesses and organizations, such as The Last Mile and Ivy Tech Community College, to improve educational, job skills development, and training opportunities for incarcerated individuals. Developed a new Transitional Healthcare Team to focus on continuity of medical care, mental healthcare, and addiction recovery services for citizens returning from prison. Worked with legislators to implement a new credit time system that incentivizes incarcerated individuals to focus on specific risk-reduction treatment and programs they need and will help ensure those with the most risk receive the most intensive rehabilitation resources. Found efficiencies and closed multiple facilities in order to focus on funding needed programs and improving compensation for staff working in high-risk environments. Enhanced prison security and safety by expanding use of new detection technologies.

"It has been an honor to implement many of Gov. Holcomb's initiatives, including focusing on increasing vocational training for incarcerated individuals and reducing recidivism to an all-time low," Carter said. "I leave behind an agency and leaders poised to continue focusing on providing a safe environment that fosters training and preparation for life after incarceration." His last day is Oct. 14. He is departing for a role with Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP Public Affairs Strategies Group. Reagle has been with IDOC since 2011 and was named a deputy commissioner in 2019. She oversees the finance, construction services, data analytics and technology divisions. She joined state government as an accountant for the Department of Child Services in 2011 and served as controller and chief financial officer for IDOC before becoming deputy commissioner. "Christina has demonstrated that she understands the constant collaboration needed for success and has a deep understanding of the staff development, investment in technology and program development and planning that is needed for the success at IDOC," Gov. Holcomb said. "I look forward to her leadership." Reagle is a mentor for IDOC's Leadership Academy and its Women in Leadership training program. "I am committed to the responsible management of IDOC that results in a safe environment where employees are valued and incarcerated individuals are given the best opportunity to return to their communities as productive citizens," Reagle said. "I look forward to leading a committed team."

USDA Seeks Input on New Grant Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is gathering input to help shape a recently announced planned grant program focused on improving the resiliency of our food and agricultural supply chain by addressing labor shortages in agriculture, reducing irregular migration through increased use of legal pathways, and improving labor protections for farmworkers. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will hold three virtual listening sessions on Sept. 28-29 for the new farm labor stabilization and protection pilot grant program, which the Biden-Harris administration announced earlier this year as part of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection. The grant program will use up to \$65 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding to provide support for agricultural employers in implementing robust labor standards to promote a safe, healthy work environment for both U.S. workers and workers hired from northern Central American countries under the seasonal H-2A visa program. **More on the Grant Program:** The program will aim to improve the resiliency of our food and agricultural supply chain and advance several major Administration priorities:



- Driving U.S. economic recovery and safeguarding domestic food security by addressing current labor shortages in agriculture. Even before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, agricultural employers were struggling to secure a stable workforce. The pandemic has only exacerbated this problem, threatening our domestic capacity to produce a safe and robust food supply. This pilot program will help address this shortage by expanding the potential pool of workers.
- Reducing irregular migration through the increased use of legal pathways. The Biden-Harris administration has taken numerous steps to address the elevated levels of irregular migration from Northern Central America. The H-2A visa program offers a lawful pathway for individuals from these countries to come to the United States

- Challenges that employers face in securing a stable workforce.
- The set of incentives employers seek from USDA in order to improve their ability to hire workers from northern Central American countries under the seasonal H-2A visa program.
- The labor standards that will make meaningful progress towards ensuring a safer and fairer working environment for both domestic and H-2A farmworkers.
- **Labor Unions and Farmworker Advocacy Community:** FSA will hold a listening session for labor unions on Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 2 p.m. ET, and one for the broader farmworker advocacy community on Thursday, Sept. 29 at 2 p.m. ET. From both groups, FSA seeks input on:
 - Barriers or challenges faced by farmworkers, specifically those from northern Central American countries participating in the H-2A visa program.
 - Recommendations to enhance farmworker protections and to increase farmworker awareness of resources and worker rights.
- **How to Attend:** Register online at fsa.usda.gov/farmworkers. FSA will also consider comments received by 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.



Life without local news is like hearing crickets

STOP LISTENING TO CRICKETS

The **TIMES**
Serving Noblesville & Hamilton County

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
770-7777

Dreaming of a new home?

find it here!
the times