

TODAY'S VERSE

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Eric Bowman smile? "Theater" and "knowing that no matter what life throws at you, God always has your back," said the 49-year-old Noblesville resident of 17 years, who works as an optician in Fishers. He was born and raised in Kokomo and is a 1991 Kokomo High School graduate. He has lived in Noblesville for 17 years and has been an optician for more than 30 years. He auditioned for his first play, The Belfry Theatre's "It's A Wonderful Life" in 2018 in Noblesville and has never looked back. Recently, he was cast as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in "From the Dark Pages," Halloween theatrical tour at the Seiberling Mansion in Kokomo. Earlier this year, he made his directorial debut for Duck Creek Players in Elwood, directing Shakespeare in the Park, for "Much Ado About Nothing." Currently, he's directing Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Orient Express," and also playing the announcer in the show, for Duck Creek Players, today through Saturday at Elwood Opera House, with tickets available at duckcreekcenter.com. He likes to thank friends and family (especially his wife Rebecca; they're newlyweds) for always supporting him and being understanding when he says "I can't, I have rehearsal."

And Another Thing...

1. Fall Property Tax

The 2022 Fall Tax Installment is due by Nov. 10. Payments can be made by cash or check in the office, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Payments can be made by credit or debit card with a 2.5% fee or an e-check with a \$1.00 fee through the County's website at hamiltoncounty.in.gov/taxes

The following Hamilton County Bank Branches are also accepting payments until Nov. 10:

- BMO Harris Bank
Community First Bank of Indiana
Farmers Bank
First Farmers Bank
First Merchants Bank
Horizon Bank
Merchants Bank of Indiana
Star Financial Bank

2. Back at it Again

The Noblesville Times once again has free tickets to give away for the Christmas Gift + Hobby Show. This year's extravaganza is scheduled for Nov. 9-13 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

All you have to do to win two tickets (valued at \$28) is send us a selfie of you and our front page (Print or Online Edition). Be sure to tell us who you are, where you are from and a little bit about yourself so we can include it if your photo is selected to publish on our front page. If we use your smiling photo on our front page - you win!

It's really that simple! You can text or e-mail it to news@thetimes24-7.com.

2. Back at it Again

Hamilton County Humane Society in Noblesville has been awarded a \$15,000 grant as the grand prize recipient of Freshpet's annual Fresh Start program for the Midwest Region.

The Humane Society for Hamilton County is among the few open-admission, truly no-kill shelters in the country. "This funding will be used to care for the animals who come into our doors--over 3,600 so far this year--to ensure they are fed, have clean, warm bedding, and most importantly loved," said the Humane Society for Hamilton County.

Hamilton County Humane Society was one of thousands of no-kill shelters and rescues nominated for a Fresh Start grant. Winners were chosen by a panel of five judges that included celeb Sarah Michelle Gellar, dog influencer Tatum Talks (hi.this.is.tatum), Freshpet's expert veterinarian Dr. Aziza Glass, as well as Freshpet's local shelter partners, St. Hubert's and Pennsylvania SPCA.

The Fresh Start initiative was created in 2018 to support overlooked cats and dogs who are often deemed unadoptable. Freshpet's Fresh Start program has awarded more than \$400,000 in contributions to no-kill shelters and rescues in the past four years.

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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Superintendent Hile Delivers Inaugural State of the Schools Address

Noblesville Schools Superintendent Dr. Daniel G. Hile presented his inaugural State of the Schools address today at the Noblesville Schools Community Center. The annual luncheon was hosted by the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce and covered a wide variety of topics ranging from academics to finances to construction projects.

Hile opened the presentation, themed "Going Places", with several examples of the district's academic excellence including:

- "A" rating from the Indiana Department of Education.
National recognition for Science/Technology/Engineering/Math (STEM), Advanced Placement (AP), and music education.
First-in-the-nation educator apprenticeship program for high school students.
Noblesville High School (NHS) student one of only four in state named to Governor's STEM Council.
Top 10% performer on

ILEARN and SAT testing.
State leader in workforce development initiatives including the largest high school internship program in the state with 275 students and 160+ businesses.

NHS graduates are among highest scholarship and advanced college credit earners in the state. The Class of 2022 earned a record-setting \$6.3 million in scholarships.

The district's alternative education program, Millers Success Academy, is showing a 94.7% graduation rate for students who were previously at risk of dropping out of school.

The district used the address as an opportunity to announce upcoming plans to renovate STEM and performing arts spaces at Noblesville High School due to significant ongoing growth in these programs.

The speech also touched on the district's commitments to

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Photo courtesy of Noblesville Schools

Superintendent Dr. Daniel G. Hile presents his inaugural State of the Schools address at the October 26 Noblesville Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

County Works on Expanding Community Preparedness

Community preparedness is essential to ensuring Hamilton County is ready for emergencies and disasters. It can be hard to know where to start or make time for preparedness. Sure, you can buy some super expensive prepper kits off Amazon, but more importantly, making preparedness a priority will pay dividends when an emergency strikes.

To help Hamilton County focus on community preparedness, Hamilton County Emergency Management has announced Monica Peterson, Community Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator, will move to a new full-time position. She served in a part-time role over the past few years.

She bolstered volunteer programs, created new emergency preparedness workshops, and expanded outreach to kids at special events. "Everything we do in emergency management revolves around community preparedness. With our volunteers' help, we can participate in various events where we can talk to individuals and families about how they can be prepared," said Peterson.

To ensure you are ready for an emergency, you can start with a plan for what you will do in an emergency, put together a kit of items you may need, and

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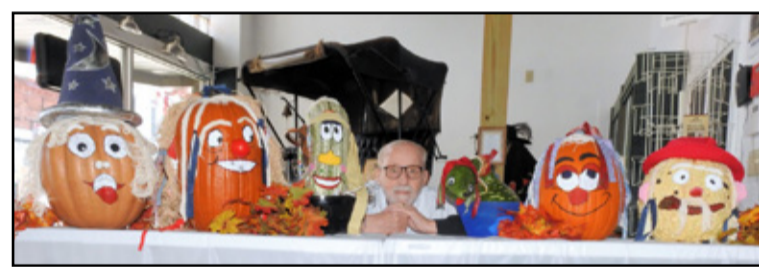


Photo courtesy of the Sheridan Historical Society

The Punkin Family is an eclectic bunch of characters with deep roots in the rich earthy soil of our Hamilton County community. Pictured above from the left are BroBilly, MamaMia, Sister Suzie, Mr. Steve Martin (the creative mastermind), Noodles the Wonder Dog, Poppo and Uncle Joe.

Punkin Family to Visit Sheridan Historical Society

The Sheridan Historical Society is playing host to the Punkin family this Halloween season. The family is celebrating the season by making an appearance

at the Society's Museum front windows for all to see, especially next Monday.

See PUNKIN Page A6

Haunted Trail, Trunk-or-Treat, Headless Horseman, Pumpkins



BETSY REASON The Times Editor

With Halloween on Monday, the community can enjoy four days of witching hours this Hal-

loween weekend.

Here's our list of 22 Halloween happenings through Monday, including the area's official trick-or-treat hours.

1. Dare to enter the Haunted Trail Friday and Saturday at Red Bridge Park in Cicero with kid-friendly hours 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and spooky hours 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., with food, vendors and games, plus special Royal Events entertainment. Freewill donations with proceeds to benefit Cicero Parks. Golf cart parking only at Red Bridge, Spooky Trolley will pick up at designated parking lots in Cicero. A \$100 cash

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OBITUARIES

- Brad Scott Hill
Kathleen D. Jarosz
Karen Sue (Rice) Jones
Ruth Moorhous



TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you want to get more exercise, consider getting a dog and walk it regularly. 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

Why do some places limit when kids go trick or treating? Didn't we all grow up just doing it on the actual holiday?



TODAY'S QUOTE

"You wouldn't believe on All Hallow Eve what lots of fun we can make, With apples to bob, and nuts on the hob, and a ring-and-thimble cake."

- Carolyn Wells

TODAY'S JOKE

What's did the girl say when a vampire kissed her? It was a pain in the neck.

7 DAY FORECAST: THU 36/60, FRI 38/63, SAT 39/67, SUN 48/60, MON 50/58, TUE 46/64, WED 46/70

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

➔ **OBITUARIES**

Brad Scott Hill

September 27, 1973-October 22, 2022

Brad Scott Hill, 49, of Noblesville, passed away on Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022 at IU Health North Hospital in Carmel.

He was born on Sept. 27, 1973 to Bill and Nancy (Hall) Hill in Muncie, Ind.

For 6 years, Mr. Hill worked for SMC and attended church regularly. He enjoyed the outdoors and going “Jeeping”. He was a fun-loving friend and father who was friends with everyone. Mr. Hill was a hard worker and he loved to tinker and play in the mud.

Survivors include his wife Holly Hill; parents Bill and Nancy Hill; daughter Braydon Hill; brother Mike (Christy) Hill; dogs Sunshine and Evie; and cat Mow Mow.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents Charles and Frances Hall and Ethel and Chester Hill.

Visitation is scheduled to be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with services scheduled to begin at 1 p.m., on Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022 at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, 1150 Logan Street, in Noblesville. Pastor Clifton Smith and Pastor Michael W. Risden will officiate. Burial will be at Crownland Cemetery in Noblesville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 681405, Indianapolis, Ind. 46268-1405 (cancer.org); or the American Diabetes Association, PO Box 7023, Merrifield, Va. 22116-7023 (diabetes.org/donate).

Online condolences may be made at randallroberts.com.

Kathleen D. Jarosz

December 19, 1942-October 23, 2022

Kathleen D. Jarosz, 79, of Westfield, passed away on Sunday, Oct. 23, 2022 at IU Health Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.

She was born on Dec. 19, 1942 to Charles and Ethel (Stempf) Haley in Indiana Harbor, Ind.

Mrs. Jarosz received a Master’s in Education and for 37 years was a teacher for the Chicago Archdiocese and Green Bay Archdiocese. Her life centered on her love of teaching and education. Working in the inner city of Chicago was her joy. “Beauty, Truth & Goodness in all things” was Mrs. Jarosz’ personal motto and the goal she set for her students. Her life was enriched by many travels in North America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia studying history, art and religion.

She was listed in Leaders in Elementary Education and was a DePaul University of Chicago Alumni member. Mrs. Jarosz was a member of St. Maria Goretti Parish in Westfield, Indiana.

Survivors include her husband Thomas Jarosz; brother Dennis (Sandy) Haley; and sister Linda (Robert) Mohrhaus.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sisters Elizabeth Haley Bein and Bonnie Haley Hindson.

Visitation is scheduled to be held from 9-11 a.m., with a Funeral Mass scheduled to begin at 11 a.m., on Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022 at St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church, 17102 Springmill Road, in Westfield. The Rev. Kevin Haines will officiate.

Online condolences may be made at randallroberts.com.

Karen Sue (Rice) Jones

October 12, 1942-October 20, 2022

Karen Sue (Rice) Jones, 80 of Celina, Tenn., and formerly of Sheridan, joined her late husband Gene on Thursday, Oct. 20, 2022.

She was born on Oct. 12, 1942 to the late Bill and Viola (Showalter) Rice in Noblesville, Indiana.

Mrs. Jones enjoyed talking and meeting new people; she worked as a cashier at Walmart. When her husband retired, they decided to move on the river in Celina, Tenn., where the two of them would look forward to fishing together.

She was quite the bowler; her daughter Gayla and her bowled in leagues. Mrs. Jones looked forward to their bowling nights. She loved playing softball and she continued to play in adult leagues for many years and there wasn’t a position she hadn’t played.

She enjoyed the outdoors and she and Gene would look forward to camping with their family and friends. She also loved to cook, and her family would look forward to the meals she would prepare. When Mrs. Jones was home, she could be found watching westerns and game shows.

The most important thing to Mrs. Jones was her family especially her grandchildren whom she loved very much and would look forward to seeing them.

Survivors include her two children Gayla (Terry) Hart and Bryan (Erin) Jones; eight grandchildren Joshua, Taylor, Jacob, Craig (Courtney), Brooke, Laura, Danielle and Dawn; 18 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild; and brother David Jones.

She was preceded in death by her husband William ‘Gene’ Jones, in 2022; daughter Rebecca L. Jones, in 2022; two sons Michael Jones, in 1989, and Rick Jones, in 2016; two beloved grandsons Matthew Jacob and Casey; three brothers Stephen Rice, Earl Jones and George Jones; and sister Judy Brown.

Mrs. Jones’ funeral services is scheduled to be held on Friday, Oct. 28, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Fisher Family Funeral Services at 508 E. 6th St. in Sheridan. Family and friends are scheduled to gather from 11 a.m. until the time of service. Burial will follow at Crown View Cemetery; Mrs. Jones’ nephew Bill Floyd will be officiating her services.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society (donate3.cancer.org). Friends and family are invited to sign the online guestbook, leave a condolence or share a memory at fisherfunerals.com.

Those who will not be able to attend the services can go on Fisher Family Funeral Services Facebook Page where it will be broadcast live.

Fisher Family Funeral Services have been entrusted with the care of the Jones Family.

Ruth Moorhous

June 11, 1936-October 24, 2022

Ruth Moorhous, 86, of Indianapolis, IN went to be with her Lord and Savior on Monday, Oct. 24, 2022.

She was born June 11, 1936 in Lowell, IN to Matthew and Ruth (Vallee) Theis.

Survivors include her two sons Greg (Kathy) and Scott (Deana Stewart); daughter-in-law Cathie; 7 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; and sister Doris.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years George; son George W.; brother Ted, and sister Janet.

Family and friends are scheduled to gather on Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022 at 11 a.m. in Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, where the Funeral Service is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m.

Visit bussellfamilyfunerals.com to read Mrs. Moorhous’ complete obituary.

Bussell Family Funerals is privileged to assist the family with arrangements.



Bubba Shares Real Scary Story for Halloween



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

I’m blaming it on the big box stores. Those folks put out Halloween stuff in July and Christmas stuff in August (what happened to Thanksgiving?). Heck, I was in one of those stores the first week of October and they already had their Halloween stuff marked down and were moving it out to make way for more Christmas trees.

The world has lost its mind.

And what that has done for us in the worldwide HQ of Sagamore News Media is make things busier. We have more year-end stuff happening now, more folks wanting to talk about 2023 advertising (which we always appreciate) and more fun stuff with record keeping.

So it was the other day. I was sitting at my desk trying to see over the massive pile of papers because I thought someone was at my door. Well, I thought I could hear them, I just couldn’t see . . . when all of a sudden the phone rang.

“Paper, Timmons,” I barked, (perhaps a little too harshly. (I’ve got to work on that!)

“This here is a special call for Timothy Timmons from Mr. Halloween himself, Morris Karloff,” a familiar twang said.

“This here?” “MORRIS Karloff?” The twang? It could only mean one thing. “How you doing, Bubba?” I sighed.

“Dang, Timmons!” Bubba Castiron said. “How’d you know it was me? I disgraced my voice and everything.”

“Disgusted?” “Huh?”

“Never mind.” For those not familiar, Bubba Castiron is a few screws short of a hardware store. He hangs out with his pals at a little hole-in-the-wall joint called the Crawl-On-Inn out somewhere between Bowers, Kirkpatrick, Colfax and Clarks Hill. I’ve been there once but not sure I could find it again if I had to – and I really hope I never have to. Elvis tends bar there and you can usually find Bubba, Tater, Gumball, Big Country and part-time waitress, part-time truck driver Bambi.

It’d been a while since I heard from Bubba, but one thing was for sure. He hadn’t lost his knack for calling at the worst possible times.

“Bubba, I’m kinda busy here. What can I do for you today?”

“Well, Timmons, seeing as how it’s Halloween and all, I thought I’d tell you about the big trip me and the Mizzus took to the Big Cranapple?”

“Big Apple?”

“Huh?”

“Never mind. So you guys went to New York?” “That’s right, Timmons. And we had a grand old time. Even stayed in one of those fancy-schmancy high-rise hotels. It had more than a hundred floors and we were all the way up on

the 93rd.” “Wow, Bubba, I’ll bet that was quite the view up there,” I said. I’ve always loved New York and I could just imagine the view from that high up.

“It was, it was,” Bubba said. “But that’s not the big deal. Timmons, that hotel was haunted as Sammy Terry’s basement.”

“Now, Bubba. Don’t tell me you believe in ghosts,” I tried.

“Well, I ain’t saying I does and I ain’t saying I doesn’t. But after what happened there, I can tell you it was the scariest thing I ever heard or saw in my life.”

Much as I hate to admit it, Bubba had once again managed to interrupt my day and then caught my attention. He was like a wreck on the interstate. You know you should just drive on past, but you find yourself looking out of morbid curiosity.

“So what happened, Bubba?”

“Me and the Mizzus had gone out to eat at one of those fancy Coney Island restaurants – the kind where they actually wrap the silverware in paper napkins instead of making you pull ‘em out of the dispenser. When we got back, the head honcho at the front desk told us that they were having a problem with the elevators. Timmons, he actually leaned over and whispered they were ‘haunted!’ Well sir, I figured they probably done did call them Ghostbuster fellers . . . say, did you ever see those documentary movies on those guys? They sure do good work. Anyways, we didn’t want to wait until they got there – besides, we didn’t want to take a chance and get slimed you know. So we told the waiter-dee of the desk that we’d just take the stairs.”

“But you said you were on the 93rd floor?”

“That’s right, Timmons. And you ain’t gonna believe what all happened.”

“Was the stairwell haunted?” I asked.

“It mighta been,” Bubba said. “The more stairs we climbed the dimmer the lights got and we heard moaning and groaning – then again that all might’ve been ‘cause we was getting pretty winded. But when we finally – and I do mean finally – got up to our floor, the scariest thing ever happened.”

“You saw a ghost?”

“No.”

“You heard one?”

“No.”

“The air temperature was cold?”

“No.”

“Well what was it for crying out loud?”

“The Mizzus looked at me and said, ‘I forgot the room key.’”

With that Bubba burst out laughing and I was pretty sure I could hear the gang all laughing in the background as he hung up the phone. I hate Halloween.

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 ttimmons@thetimes24-7.com.

➔ **Letters**
Reader Endorses Melba Kiser, Misti Ray for School Board

Dear Editor,

With elections being plagued by the lesser of two candidates so often, it’s refreshing to have two amazing candidates for Noblesville School Board. Seeing candidates that retain professionalism, even when berated, and who are well-prepared for the position is wonderful to see. Melba Kiser and Misti Ray are a great fit to lead our school system over the next four years for these reasons and much more.

What makes a good school board candidate? I am sure that varies based on the person you ask, but for me, the top things are what I’ll discuss here. To me, the most obvious two characteristics of a strong candidate for school board are to be both familiar with the accolades and challenges in the school, as well as being approachable and considerate of opposing views. Melba has been a regular attendee of school board meetings and other school and parent-related functions for more than 18 months while Misti is both a mother of a Miller for 22 years and a substitute teacher. Both are well aware of the state of our schools. Melba and Misti are both as far from a conversational narcissist as one could find. Neither Melba nor Misti finds it easy to talk about themselves, but rather, continually talk to everyone about whatever subject matter is important to that person. Both have repeatedly shown a strong backbone to criticism and a willingness to find solutions to disagreements without jeopardizing their values.

I believe everyone will agree that prioritizing both children and teachers is a must for a school board candidate. Both Melba and Misti have stated and shown a dedication to putting kids first. Melba constantly states her inspiration for running is to give her grandchildren the same opportunities she had as a Cuban refugee from Castro and as a naturalized citizen, while Misti has been serving on preschool, PTOs and youth sports boards for years. Both show a

dedication to our children. Both of these women have held the standard that our teachers deserve the best pay possible and it must be made a priority, not as just one part of a referendum. Each has stated they stand for removing distractions from the classrooms so that teachers can focus on the academics they went to college to learn how to teach. Both want to bring “academic excellence” to the forefront of Noblesville Schools; which oddly enough is not in the vision, mission or commitments listed on the school website. This will make Noblesville attractive to new teachers and teacher retention.

Finally, that brings me to the last two points. Ensuring Noblesville is a competitive and high ranking school is paramount, as-well-as transparency is vital to quelling the contention rising throughout the country between parents and schools. Both Melba and Misti want Noblesville to be competitive not only to attract teachers, but in a state of school vouchers, to ensure parents choose Noblesville over the other private and charter school options. Each candidate has also pledged to increase transparency at every level with the parents, because communication and unity between parents and schools provide the best learning environment for children.

With both Melba and Misti running for school board I am thrilled to be voting not for the better of two bad candidates, but for two candidates that are truly great picks for Noblesville school board. Both candidates want less non-academic distractions, prioritizing better teacher pay, a written commitment to “academic excellence”, and an approach to education that puts transparency at the center of the parent and teacher relationships. I won’t tell you who to vote for, but I hope you can see why I believe Melba Kiser and Misti Ray are such great candidates for Noblesville School Board.

Tim Cortrecht
Noblesville



Thanks for reading The Times!

MDH Partners Acquires 162,228-Square-Foot Building in Noblesville

MDH Partners today announces the acquisition of Washington Business Park 1, a 162,228-square-foot, 85% leased distribution facility located in Noblesville, Indiana. The new-build is located within the 142-acre corporate campus of Washington Business Park. Houston Hawley served as the acquisition lead for MDH Partners. Bryan Poynter with Cushman & Wakefield represented the buyer and Ryan Baker with Cushman & Wakefield represented the seller.



Park 1 is a modern bulk industrial warehouse and distribution facility located just off the intersection of SR-37 and IN-32. The facility is the first building available within Washington Business Park, a 142-acre corporate campus.

The Park is ideally positioned less than 15 minutes northeast of an access point to I-465, less than 10 minutes north of an access point to I-65 and only 45 minutes northeast of the Indianapolis International Airport.

Additionally, Indiana is home to the only U.S. statewide port system that provides international connections via the Great Lakes and Ohio-Mississippi River system.

Washington Business Park 1 is 85% percent leased to four tenants with a 25,000-square-foot space available for lease. The facility is located in the Hamilton

County submarket of the Indianapolis industrial real estate market.

According to JLL, the Indianapolis industrial market saw five million square feet of space absorbed in the third quarter of 2022, bringing the year-to-date total to 15 million square feet. This is the most square feet of space absorbed through three quarters ever and only three million square feet away from breaking the yearly absorption record – 17.8 million square feet – set last year.

The purchase of Washington Business Park 1 increases MDH Partners' Indiana footprint to more than 1.1 million square feet. The firm acquired Park 100 Building 71, a 193,348-square-foot, industrial facility in Indianapolis, Indiana in August 2022, and acquired its first Indiana property, Franklin Tech Park, a

808,505-square-foot, Class-A industrial facility in Franklin, Indiana in March 2022.

MDH Partners has remained very active this year, acquiring nearly five million square feet of industrial assets throughout the U.S. since last January. The firm recently expanded its portfolio into new markets including California, Minnesota, Maryland, Indiana, Illinois and Pennsylvania. The firm currently owns over 101 assets across 20 states.

About MDH Partners:

MDH Partners is an Atlanta-based real estate investment company managing its discretionary funds targeting industrial real estate across the United States on behalf of its institutional investors. Founded in 2005 as the successor to a fifty-year-old local real estate development company, MDH Partners has led and/or participated in over \$6 billion (80 million square feet) of acquisitions, developments, and asset management as an advisor and investor.

For more information, visit mdhpartners.com.

Westfield Welcome Announces Fun Fall Activities This Weekend



Westfield Welcome has announced a weekend full of family-friendly fall activities at Grand Junction Plaza.

Friday will feature the first annual Trick or Treating in the Plaza, presented by Wilhelm Construction, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Join more than 30 businesses and organizations for a safe night of trick or treating.

There will be a special meet and greet with the "Salem Sisters" beginning at 6:30 p.m. near the Main Stage. Movies in the Plaza, presented by Community First Bank, will feature a showing of Hocus Pocus at 7:30 p.m. Stacey Sobczak also sponsors this special feature with Compass Realty.

On Saturday, Pumpkin Funktion takes over Grand Junction Plaza from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Pumpkin Funktion is a free Fall festival with a pumpkin decorating contest, a pumpkin carving demonstration from Master Carver Lee Saberson, fall-themed games, and several retail vendors.

There will also be live music, balloon artists, a funky, fun house, a palm reader, and a strolling

magician. Pumpkin Funktion is presented by Centier Bank.

"We are excited to add these free family events to our lineup," said Kayla Arnold, Director of Westfield Welcome.

"We hope you'll join us for one of our events this weekend!"

Public parking for the event is available in the gravel lot directly east of Grand Junction Plaza and in the parking lot at the southwest corner of Poplar Street and Park Street. On Saturday, a free trolley will be available starting at Christ United Methodist Church (318 N. Union Street) and run continuously to Grand Junction Plaza from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

More information can be found at westfieldwelcome.com/events

About Westfield Welcome:

Westfield Welcome focuses on community engagement and hospitality for residents, businesses, and visitors. As a department of the City of Westfield, Westfield Welcome hosts more than 30 annual events and provides hundreds of volunteer opportunities each year.

Centier Bank Launches New Health Savings Accounts

Centier Bank is pleased to announce the launch of a new Health Savings Account (HSA) in its suite of banking products to help individuals as well as companies maximize savings when it comes to health and medical costs. The Centier Bank HSA, powered by Lively, the company known for the modern HSA, is an account specifically for medical costs that helps consumers save for the needs of today and tomorrow.

An HSA is an interest-bearing account used for qualifying medical expenses, with the Internal Revenue Service's maximum contribution limits set annually. The HSA is designed to be paired with a qualifying high-deductible health plan (HDHP), traditionally known for lower premiums and high-deductibles. A qualifying HDHP has a minimum deductible and out-of-pocket maximum that is set annually by the IRS.

The Centier Bank HSA, powered by Lively is currently available to individuals and employers. Individuals who are enrolled in a high deductible health plan can set up pre-tax contributions from their bank accounts. And employers can offer these triple-tax advantaged accounts as a key benefit for employee wellness and retention, while reducing their payroll taxes at the same time.



Randy Shephard, Senior Vice President of Retail Sales at Centier Bank, said he is excited about debuting the new HSA to clients to meet them where they are in their financial journey and help maximize their savings.

"Health Savings Accounts are a popular option for those who are strategic about their savings," Shephard said. "Anytime the opportunity to use pre-tax funds to allocate toward expenses arises, folks should take it."

Rising healthcare costs, combined with the effects of the pandemic, have underscored the importance of being prepared for unexpected expenses. Today, 70% of Americans rank healthcare coverage as the most important benefit when switch jobs,

according to Lively's third annual Wellness and Wealth report. The same report found that one in two Americans have delayed or skipped medical care due to cost.

"There are few products on the market that can match the flexibility and tax savings a Health Savings Account offers," said Alex Cyriac, CEO and co-founder of Lively.

"That's why we are excited to partner with Centier Bank, with their track record of helping clients improve their financial well-being through competitive products and remarkable service. By giving clients the option to consolidate finances at their preferred community bank, they can build toward their financial goals with confidence."

The account comes

with a personal online dashboard and mobile app, and educational content. Companies who want to offer a health savings account to their employees can take advantage of the proprietary technology that makes setting up employee-funded accounts and contributions easy and simple.

For more information about Centier Bank HSA, powered by Lively, including FAQs and to open an account, go to centier.com/personal-banking/hsa.

About Centier Bank:

Centier Bank is Indiana's largest private, family-owned bank, having served hometown banking across communities since 1895. With a purpose of enriching lives through financial guidance for an even better tomorrow, Centier Bank currently has 58 retail locations, serving in 35 communities across 11 counties with 947 associates.

Centier Bank has ranked on Forbes' list of Best-in-State-Banks annually from 2019-2022. Additionally, Centier Bank has been among the top "Best Places to Work in Indiana" by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and received national attention by American Banker magazine as the Top Best Bank to Work For in Indiana and #2 in the U.S.A.

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Meeting Notice

Hamilton County Council Highway Committee

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County Council Highway Committee

will meet at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022 at the Hamilton County Highway Department, 1700 S. 10th Street, Noblesville. The purpose of this meeting is for discussion of highway projects.

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Indiana Right to Life Voter Guide Less Transparent After Abortion Moves

By Whitney Downard

The state's leading anti-abortion organization, Indiana Right to Life (IRTL), has released its latest voter guide for Hoosiers seeking information on candidates but some decry the lack of transparency in changes to the scorecard.

The 2022 survey, distributed to candidates running for federal or state offices, is markedly different from its 2020 counterpart. The 2020 version included detailed breakdowns of each candidate's response to every survey question while the 2022 version includes just four designations: does or does not support pro-life legislation, mixed and did not respond.

The voter guide itself doesn't include IRTL's process for determining which candidates received which designation, but Mike Fichter, the organization's president, said it was based on a combination of factors including survey responses and voting records.

That means that even Republican candidates who didn't respond could get a "does support" designation based on their previous record. In the 2020 guide, dozens of sitting Republican lawmakers didn't respond. In 2022, no sitting Republican lawmaker was given the "did not respond" designation.

"(IRTL) decided to produce a more concise presentation of candidate positions following feedback from supporters who felt previous voter guides were too detailed, and the print too small, to be effective," Fichter said in an emailed response to questions. "The ultimate measure of any voter guide is its usefulness. Feedback on the new style in 2022 has been very positive."

Many new candidates from both major parties didn't respond to the survey. Some of the first-time candidates, without a solid campaign apparatus, may not have the ability or inclination to respond to the organization.

"There's no doubt in my mind that there were some candidates who were tough to track down because we have a fair amount of first-time candidates who aren't used to getting all these questions or may have simply not put in campaign strategy time to respond to all of them," said Andrew Downs, a former political science professor at Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Fichter said that IRTL didn't "hand hold" candidates to make them

respond, and had even corrected the survey when one candidate said their response wasn't included.

"If we are contacted by candidates who believe they did respond but were improperly excluded, we make every effort to update our online scorecard in a timely manner," Fichter said. "In cases where a candidate does not respond, we advise voters to contact the candidate directly to ask about their positions on issues."

But Downs observed that some candidates may purposefully not respond, especially if they're a Republican challenging a Democrat in a purple district.

"The Dobbs decision wasn't uniformly loved and (the near-total abortion ban in) Senate Bill 1 didn't make a lot of people happy," Downs said. "So you might, as a candidate, want to distance yourself from that."

Lawmaker responds to their designations

Sen. Ron Alting, R-Lafayette, was one of four GOP lawmakers who received a "mixed" designation from the organization, along with Sens. Kyle Walker and Jon Ford as well as Rep. Ann Vermilion.

All voted against the near-total abortion ban, believing it was too strict, and are up for re-election.

Alting said his constituents have been supportive of his decision, even pro-life Republicans, many of whom said they actually wanted a less restrictive ban at 15 weeks that included exceptions for rape, incest and life of the mother.

"I'll tell you why - because they live in the real world. They understand that a 15-year-old can be brutally raped... and not go home to tell mom and dad because she's scared to death," Alting said.

"It may pass the 10-week (cutoff) before she thinks to go home and tell them and that's why the 15 (weeks cutoff) is very, very important. We don't live in a perfect society."

IRTL has maintained that they would only support a total ban on abortion, with the only exception being for the life of the mother. The current law - on hold due to several legal battles - allows exceptions for rape or incest victims up to 10 weeks post-fertilization, as well as for the life of the mother and fatal fetal anomalies.

Just one incumbent Republican lawmaker didn't receive a supportive or mixed designation from the organization: New Albany Rep. Ed Clere,

who also voted against the near-total abortion ban, was marked as not supporting pro-life legislation.

Clere said he didn't return the organization's general election survey, though he said he answered the organization's primary election questionnaire. But unlike past voting guides, none of the sitting elected officials were designated as such and he was singled out.

"The voter guide is misleading, at least in my case," Clere said. "Because I have supported pro-life legislation year after year... I've always considered myself a pro-life legislator and I still do."

Clere's assertion that he returned the primary voter guide couldn't be confirmed because the IRTL's previous voter guides are no longer on their webpage. To compare to the 2020 publication, the Indiana Capital Chronicle used the Wayback Machine, which archives some internet web pages.

Fichter clarified that this year's scorecard was evaluated based on a combination of factors, including: "surveys, voting records, public statements, in-person discussions and more".

Downs said that evaluations based on yes or no votes for specific information are more informative but can be complicated if one only considers a tailored list of bills or doesn't include procedural votes on things like amendments.

"That aside, groups that are sending out information are doing it so that targeted voters receive a message," Downs said. "That message may be 'Vote for Person X, because they do what we want.'"

Impact moving forward

Nearly every race had its candidates in place before the Dobbs decision was released, meaning that candidates motivated either way on abortion access might not have considered running until this summer. Downs said he thought the more interesting question would be whether abortion continued to be an issue moving forward.

"There are people who might have run offense had they known about the Dobbs decision before the deadline to file," Downs said. "The question is how many people who ran this year... will continue their campaigns into '24?'"

But, in the 2023 session, Downs was confident that some legislators would attempt to tackle abortion again.

Some Questions...

Here are some questions from Indiana Right to Life's 2022 General Election survey:

- Will you vote only for party and caucus leadership that is committed to protecting innocent life from conception to natural death?
- Do you support your political party's national platform on abortion?
- Do you support current Indiana law stating that human physical life begins when a human ovum is fertilized by a human sperm?
- Under what circumstances do you believe abortion should be legal? (Mark all that apply.)
 - A. Abortion should never be legal.
 - B. Life of the mother only
 - C. Rape and/or incest
 - D. Other
 - E. Abortion should be legal in all cases

"I think it's safe to say that there will still be legislation introduced. We know there are people who didn't think (the ban) went far enough... (and) there will be people who try to walk it back a little bit," Downs said.

However, the likelihood of leadership allowing the legislation to move forward would be low, particularly since there are many competing priorities for the budget-writing session. Downs said that lawmakers might delay passing other legislation until they receive more clarity from the U.S. Supreme Court on lingering questions.

For his part, Alting said future abortion legislation would depend on whether leadership wants to go through the process again, which included late nights and prolonged hours of public testimony.

"I don't think they've got the votes to make it more restrictive; I don't think that will happen," Alting said. "So hopefully leadership will not let that go on and make us concentrate on subjects like this versus the budget and other topics we need to focus on."

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ProTeam Tactical Performance Helps Celebrate National First Responder Day

First responders are equated with toughness and bravery as they quickly respond to their community's distressing and traumatic needs, but the repeat exposure to intense, stressful scenarios can often lead to anxiety, PTSD, depression and more if left unrecognized and unmanaged.

In fact, according to the Ruderman Family Foundation, depression and PTSD are up to five times more common in first responders than the general population and are more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty.

First responders are more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty.

In light of National First Responder Day, Indianapolis-based ProTeam Tactical Performance believes now is the time to change the conversation and shift the mindset police and fire services have when it comes to their departments' mental health efforts.

Led by former Indianapolis Colts quarterback Jim Sorgi and former St. Louis Cardinals right fielder Joey Vandever, ProTeam Tactical Performance provides elite injury prevention, rehabilitation, and performance solutions, like those of collegiate and professional athletic organizations, to help tactical professionals recover from physical and mental injuries, improve their work performance, and enhance their quality of life.

"Our first responders deserve the same elite resources and support they give us each and every day," Sorgi said.

"At ProTeam Tactical Performance, we meet tactical athletes where they are and provide them with expert care and resources. We leave first responders better than how we found them."

Now, the company is helping police and fire departments take a proactive approach to behavioral health with SHIELD - a confidential, secure and HIPAA compliant platform and database. With SHIELD, individuals can self-evaluate depression, anxiety, PTSD, substance abuse, stress and sleep quality symptoms through research-based questionnaires on an easy-to-use, customizable app.

Each firefighter and officer has their own private login to take questionnaires, journal, access resources and seek support anonymously.

"First Responder Day is a day to show your appreciation and support for tactical heroes and everything they do for us as citizens," Sorgi said.

"These people put their lives on the line every day to protect and serve our communities. The least we can do is honor them, pay them respect and find better ways to take care of their physical and mental well-being."

For more information about ProTeam Tactical Performance and SHIELD, visit proteamtactical.com.

About ProTeam Tactical Performance:

ProTeam Tactical Performance partners with durable medical equipment providers, physicians and other athletic training experts to give tactical professionals the highest level of innovative performance products and services.

Through early intervention, state-of-the-art technology, priority physician access and personalized recovery solutions, ProTeam Tactical Performance aims to maximize the health, recovery and quality of life for firefighters, police officers and other tactical professionals.

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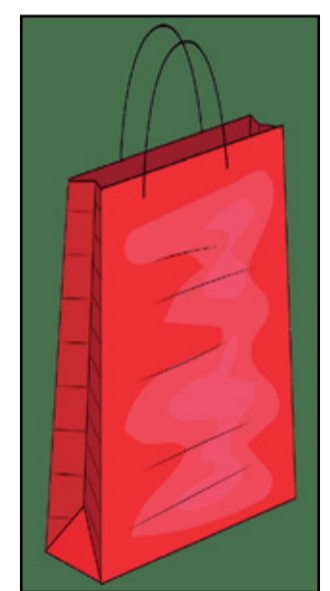
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SCHOOLS

From Page A1



Photo provided

The Miller Man, assisted by NHS senior and Noblesville Schools Education Foundation intern Jack Behrs, was on hand to welcome guests. NHS jazz students also performed at the event.

safety and mental health, with over (50) safety and (30) mental health enhancements made thanks to funding from the 2018 referendum. Additionally, Noblesville Schools is one of only a few districts in the state with School Resource Officers in every building.

Regarding finances, the district reported that the total property tax rate is expected to decrease for the fourth year in a row. The schools are in good financial health with a balanced budget, an increased credit rating, and secure savings.

Hile also noted that referendums are a critical component of Indiana

school funding and that the current operating referendum is set to expire in 2026. He emphasized the district's commitment to being a transparent and responsible steward of taxpayer dollars.

Labor shortages and competitive compensation continue to be major challenges for the schools. The district currently has over 40 support staff positions, like instructional assistants and custodians, that they are unable to fill. Noblesville Schools is the largest employer in Noblesville.

Hile also reported that the spread of false school information continues to be a challenge and encouraged the public to seek



Photo courtesy of Noblesville Schools

Stony Creek Elementary students presented their STEAM (science, engineering, technology, art and math) projects to the public. Here Stony Creek 5th graders show Dr. Hile their robotics before the event starts.

information through the district's website, board meetings, official district social media and local news media. He stated that he is committed to transparency and invited the public to contact school staff, including him directly, regarding any school questions or concerns.

Updates on several construction projects were covered, all of which will be funded through bonds (loans) and will not use referendum dollars or raise the tax rate.

The grand opening of the new Beaver Stadium took place earlier this summer and the venue, which is 50% larger than the former field, has seen

record fan attendance.

The high school's new tennis complex opened recently across the street from Noblesville East Middle School, increasing the district's overall court capacity by 50% for this growing program.

Updates/expansions are currently taking place at NHS (athletic and office spaces) and Promise Road Elementary (additional classrooms). Both schools have over-capacity enrollment.

The address wrapped up by celebrating Noblesville's Teachers of the Year and multiple state and national recognitions in athletics, music, and academics.

BETSY

From Page A1



Photo courtesy of Conner Prairie

The Headless Horseman rides during four more spooktacular nights of the 39th annual Headless Horseman program at Conner Prairie, which continues today through Sunday in Fishers, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. nightly.

prize for a pumpkin-carving contest during the Trail. Bring your carved pumpkin today and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Label pumpkin with name and phone number and provide a battery-operated candle. Pumpkins will be judged and will be showcased along the Haunted Trail on Saturday.

2. Drop by in costume from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. today at Carmel Clay Public Library for a walk-through Halloween Celebration for kids.

3. Enjoy four more spooktacular nights of the 39th annual Headless Horseman at Conner Prairie, which continues today through Sunday in Fishers, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. nightly. See the Headless Horseman on the hayride, watch magic show, get fortune told, play games, Stephens Puppet show, explore a haunted trail, concessions, and enjoy more sweet treats at the Apple Store (open 5:30 to 9 p.m.), operated by the Conner Prairie Alliance, celebrating its 40th.

4. Join in the community-wide trick-or-treat event at Grand Junction Plaza in downtown Westfield at 5:30 p.m. Friday, then gather on the Great Lawn for Movies in the Plaza at 7:30 p.m. featuring "Hocus Pocus." Next movie is "Elf," Dec. 2.

5. Kids can participate in a Trunk or Treat event at 6 p.m. Friday at Noblesville Moose Lodge.

6. Visit Noblesville's Russell Farms Pumpkin Patch which offers rides to the pumpkin patch 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, with other guest hours 1 p.m.-4 p.m. today and Friday, with admission including hayrides, scavenger hunt, straw maze, corn maze, wall mazes, corn hole, horse shoes, petting

zoo, miniature golf, slides, bridge fun, High Striker challenges, toddler bounce house, games, rides, pedal tractors, concessions, country store and more.

7. Enjoy free hayrides to pick pumpkins until 5:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Spencer Farm in Noblesville.

8. Gatewood Vegetable Farms has pumpkins and is open daily.

9. Join the Boo Bash from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Nickel Plate District in Fishers Amphitheater in Fishers, with more than 60 local vendors offering safe trick-or-treating around the Fishers Municipal Complex. Teal Pumpkin Projects booths provide non-food items for children with food allergies and special needs, food, drink and treat trucks, games and more. Costumes encouraged.

10. Attend Harvest Vendor Fest from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday at Piney Acres in Fortville with half-price admission, face painting, raffle, costume contest, prizes, vendors, more than 30 festival activities.

11. Enjoy Trick-or-Treat on the Rails, a 65-minute adventure down the rails, from 2 p.m. to 3:05 p.m. Saturday and Sunday on the Nickel Plate Express. Wear your best costume for a Halloween costume contest.

12. Enjoy a free Fall Festival at 3 p.m. Saturday at Harbour Shores Church in Noblesville.

13. Vintage Guitars in Noblesville is having a Halloween party at 3 p.m. Saturday with live music by the Pickle Stompers, with candy for kids and pizza for all, costumes encouraged.

14. Bring your little ghouls and goblins to a free Trunk-or-Treat event from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.



Photo courtesy of First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville

Bring your little ghouls and goblins to a free Trunk-or-Treat event from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday in the parking lot of the First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville at 1207 Conner St. Enjoy treats, make-n-take craft, music, and a brown-bag hot dog dinner. In case of inclement weather, activities will move inside. Children participate in the 2019 Trunk or Treat in the parking lot of the church (above).

Saturday in the parking lot of the First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville at 1207 Conner St. Enjoy treats, make-n-take craft, music, and a brown-bag hot dog dinner. In case of inclement weather, activities will move inside.

15. Kids are invited to dress in costume and bring your candy bag for First Christian Church's annual Trunk or Treat 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday at the Noblesville church.

16. Noblesville families can attend a Trunk-or-Treat event organized by Noblesville High School Thespian Troupe and Drama Club, with the help of NHS clubs, sports teams, faculty and staff, NHS Theatre parents and Noblesville businesses, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday in the NHS Parking Lot by Gate 1 (by the flagpole), also with games, stories and a concession stand.

17. Enjoy Chocolate, Magic and Wine for Halloween from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday at Blackhawk Winery in Sheridan.

18. Celebrate Halloween during Noblesville Preservation Alliance's entertaining evening exploring murder ballads music genre during "Murder in Noblesville" from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday at Preservation Hall, with tickets \$10 each at preservationhall.org/

19. Kids can participate in Trunk or Treat at 4 p.m. Sunday at Noblesville First United Methodist Church, with free games, inflatables and candy in the church parking lot, and prizes for the spookiest, silliest and most creative.

20. Dress up your pet for Sundown Gardens' annual free Pet Costume Contest on Sunday at Sundown Gardens in Westfield. Just show up between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., the winner will be announced on Halloween. Also, Sunday is last day for pumpkin patch and hayrides.

21. The Noblesville American Legion invites kids to stop by from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Halloween, Monday, for their Trunk-or-Treat at 1094 Conner St., in Noblesville. The event is organized by the American Legion Riders Post

22. The official trick-or-treat hours in Noblesville are 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday, with Noblesville Police Department having extra patrols for additional safety. Other communities' trick-or-treat hours: Arcadia, Carmel and Westfield, 5-8 p.m.; Atlanta, Cicero, Fishers and Sheridan, 6-8 p.m. See ya there!

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

PUNKIN

From Page A1

Monday is Halloween, of course, and as usual the community is celebrating with a big parade of costumed kids and adults on Main Street. After the parade, all participants are invited to visit merchants and trunk 'n treaters all up and down Main Street for fun and candy. The Museum will be open, and girls and boys of all ages are invited into the Museum for trick or treat candy bags (while they last!) and fun and games.

The Punkin Family will be on display in the

Museum's front windows, docents will be available for a guided tour of the artifacts and displays. Sandy, the Ben Franklin horse, will also be available for rides and other activities are planned. In the event of inclement weather visitors can still come into the museum to sit and warm up and visit.

Make sure to be on Sheridan's Main Street for the parade and Halloween fun. The museum is located at 315 South Main St. in beautiful uptown Sheridan.

COUNTY

From Page A1



Photo courtesy of HCEM

Monica Peterson (in red, center) at the Atlanta Earth Festival teaching children about emergency preparedness using the Plinko-type game she made.

have multiple ways to receive information, such as the HCEM App and a weather radio.

"Hopefully, the Internet never goes down, or the cell towers lose connectivity, but if they do, having a weather radio, which works for all types of emergencies, will ensure you have the information you need," said Peterson. The website www.ready.gov has sample plans, checklists for kits, preparedness information for kids, and much more.

"I am incredibly grateful to the support from the County Council for seeing the value in what Monica has done for Hamilton County," said Shane Booker, Executive Director.

For additional informa-

tion about preparedness or Emergency Management's volunteer programs, contact Peterson at monica.peterson@hamiltoncounty.in.gov or call (317) 770-3381.

About Hamilton County Emergency Management:

Hamilton County Emergency Management is a county public safety department tasked with supporting all municipalities through information coordination, resource management, and consequence management. HCEM is Indiana's largest emergency management program, with seven full-time and two part-time employees and four volunteer programs with nearly 200 active volunteers.

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HONEST HOOSIER



Thinking of making the trip to Carroll County? The Holiday Craft Market is this Saturday at Flora Park from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. See ya' there!

I n d i a n a

F a c t s & F u n



Number $\%$ Stumpers

1. What percentage of the county is taken up by Delphi?
2. How old is Carroll County?
3. What is the population density of Carroll County?
4. How long did the Wabash and Erie Canals operate?

Answers: 1. About 7% 2. 190 years 3. Approximately 54/sq mi.

Did You Know?

- As of 2010 Carroll County had an estimated population of 20,155 individuals.
- The Wabash and Erie Canals ran through the county from 1840 to the 1870s.
- The county has a total land area of 372.22 square miles and 2.8 square miles of waterways.
- Carroll County was founded in 1828 by Charles Carroll.
- The county seat, Delphi, is 2.73 square miles and has an estimated population of 2,877.

Got Words?

Lancaster Bridge and Adams Mill Bridge are both covered bridges located in Carroll. The two structures allow for easy access across the waterways in the county and connects residents to trails. How do you think the trails and waterways in Carroll County play a role in the everyday lives of the residents?

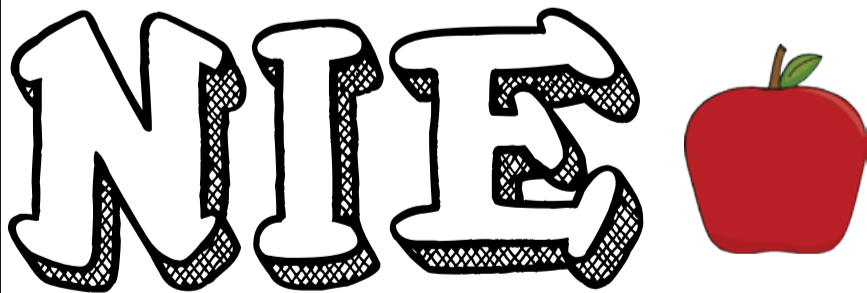
Word Scrambler

Unscramble the words below!

1. RLROLCA OTUCYN
2. WBAAHS
3. TESLNACRA
4. LDIHEP
5. ACALN

Answers: 1. Carroll County 2. Wabash 3. Lancaster 4. Delphi 5. Canal

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THURSDAY

Indiana the Strong

Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022

A8

\$3M in Grants Awarded to Combat Violence Against Women

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) awarded nearly \$3 million to 51 public and nonprofit organizations through the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program. "STOP" stands for services, training, officers and prosecutors.

The program is designed to support communities in their efforts to develop and strengthen law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violence against women, as well as enhance victim services and safety.

"This funding is about making sure that more communities have access to the resources they need to prevent victimization and bring violent offenders to justice," said Devon McDonald, ICJI Executive Director. "It's important that we do everything we can to help break the cycle of violence and shore up support for victims."

Established by the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program promotes a coordinated effort to improve the criminal justice system's response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. The funds are provided by the Office on Violence Against Women under the U.S. Department of Justice.

This year, the grants will be used to provide legal advocacy, counseling, training for law enforcement and court personnel, and victim support services. Funding will also help pay for special prosecutors and investigators who are dedicated to handling cases involving crimes against women.

"For most victims, obtaining a protective order or pursuing legal action is uncharted territory, but we don't want that to be a barrier to seeking safety or justice," said Kim

The following is a list of the STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program award recipients.

- County; Organization; Award Amount
- Allen; Fort Wayne Police Department; \$126,176
- Allen; Allen County Prosecuting Attorney's Office; \$64,161
- Allen; YWCA Northeast Indiana; \$45,154
- Allen; Center for Nonviolence, Inc.; \$27,429
- Bartholomew; Bartholomew County Prosecutor's Office; \$56,563
- Bartholomew; Columbus Regional Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence, Inc.; \$47,919
- Boone; Boone County Prosecutor's Office; \$23,796
- Brown; Brown County Prosecutor's Office; \$28,159
- Cass; Cass County Prosecutor's Office; \$16,841
- Clark; Clark County Sheriff's Office; \$39,565
- Clark; Clark County Prosecutor's Office; \$23,364
- Clinton; Clinton County Prosecutor's Office; \$16,500
- DeKalb; DeKalb County Prosecutor's Office; \$30,000
- Delaware; Delaware County Prosecuting Attorney; \$141,526
- Delaware; Muncie Police Department; \$29,260
- Delaware; A Better Way Services, Inc.; \$22,897
- Elkhart; Elkhart County Prosecutor's Office; \$29,203
- Fayette; Fayette County Prosecutor's Office; \$16,992
- Franklin; Franklin County Prosecutor's Office; \$24,898
- Grant; Grant County Prosecutor's Office; \$34,590
- Hancock; Hancock County Prosecutor's Office; \$63,838
- Hendricks; Hendricks County Prosecutor's Office; \$52,560
- Howard; Howard County Prosecutor's Office; \$45,601
- Johnson; Johnson County Prosecutor's Office; \$45,170
- Lake; Lake County Prosecutor's Office; \$98,933
- Lake; Hobart Police Department; \$83,708
- Lake; Fair Haven Inc.; \$83,355
- Madison; Madison County Prosecutor's Office; \$95,469
- Marion; Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault, Inc.; \$140,185
- Marion; Latino Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Inc.; \$88,241
- Marion; Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence; \$84,829
- Marion; Marion County Prosecutor's Office; \$70,204
- Marion; Marion County Sheriff's Department; \$46,666
- Monroe; Monroe County Prosecutor's Office; \$102,873
- Morgan; Morgan County Prosecutor's Office; \$20,655
- Noble; Noble County Prosecutor's Office; \$25,149
- Porter; Porter County Prosecutor's Office; \$54,295
- Putnam; Putnam County Prosecutor's Office; \$20,028
- Ripley; Ripley County Prosecutor's Office; \$81,619
- Rush; Rush County Prosecutor's Office; \$42,536
- Scott; Scott County Sheriff's Department; \$76,582
- Scott; Scott County Prosecutor's Office; \$40,043
- Shelby; Shelby County Prosecutor, 16th Judicial Circuit; \$94,219
- Steuben; Steuben County Prosecutor's Office; \$25,200
- St. Joseph; St. Joseph County Prosecutor's Office; \$171,286
- Tiptecanoe; YWCA Greater Lafayette; \$29,788
- Vanderburgh; Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office; \$70,547
- Vanderburgh; Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office; \$40,309
- Vanderburgh; Albion Fellows Bacon Center, Inc.; \$39,016
- Vermillion; Vermillion County Prosecutor's Office; \$67,974
- Statewide; Supreme Court; \$125,571

Lambert, ICJI Victim Services Director. "There are resources and advocates who can help that will stand with and alongside victims throughout the process. This funding expands those efforts."

The grants were ap-

proved by the ICJI Board of Trustees in September and made available to organizations starting this month. As a formula grant, funding was distributed based on a predetermined amount, with a majority (96%) going to

law enforcement, prosecution and victim service programs. The remaining 4% was allocated for court programs.

Visit www.cji.in.gov to learn more about the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

WVGS Public Meeting at Vigo County Library

Dennis Hutchinson grew up on a dairy farm in northern Vigo County, IN and graduated from Purdue University with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. He retired from the Indiana Michigan Power Company (AEP). Dennis and his wife Donna have two married daughters and one grandchild.

He belongs to and is involved in several organizations as follows: John W. Foster Camp #2 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Board of the Lincoln Pioneer Village, Charter member of the Kentucky Antique Farm Machinery Association, IN; the Masonic Lodge #687 of West Terre Haute, Scottish Rite Valley of Terre Haute, a member of the southern Indiana Civil War Roundtable of Evansville, Spencer County Historical Society and the Indiana Historical Society. Dennis and Donna have resided in Spencer County, IN for the past 39 years.

Dennis was Camp Commander of the John W. Foster Camp #2 from January 2016 through May 2020 and was the Department of Indiana Commander for Indiana from June 2020 through June 2022.

In addition to his presentation on the Civil War, he will also include the GAR in Terre Haute.

This program is open to the public and will be held in person at the Vigo County Public Library on October 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. It will also be available to members via Zoom. If you are not a member, you may join this meeting and all of the following meetings in 2022 by sending \$15 per individual, or \$20 per family to Wabash Valley Genealogy Society, P O Box 7012, Terre Haute, IN 47802-7012. If you wish to pay using Paypal, add \$2 to each choice. You can obtain the application by going to www.inwvgs.org. Click on membership. Watch this site to see more upcoming events or check WVGS Facebook page. Send application at least one week before the meeting date.

For this fee, you will be able to obtain assistance from other members when you reach a "brick wall" in your research. You will also receive a bi-monthly newsletter. Handouts and recorded videos will be available for periods of time for members only . . . so join to take advantage of the WVGS offerings.

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THURSDAY

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A9

USDA Grant Helps Support Intensive Research on Ecological Processes Affecting Organic Farming

Purdue University has received a four-year, \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to explore the ecology of organic cropping systems in Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin.

Purdue, in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Western Illinois University in Macomb, will assess weed, insect and pathogen pressure on corn, soybeans and small grains cultivated under standard and ecologically intensified organic farming systems, along with comparing yields across systems.

"In the ecologically intensified approach we try to harness as many of the benefits that nature and ecology provide as we can, all to improve soil health and minimize erosion," said Christian Krupke, a professor of entomology in Purdue's College of Agriculture. That includes using inoculants — microbial enhancements — on the seed, planting crops that attract beneficial insect predators and testing novel crop rotations.

"Ecology is happening no matter what," Krupke said. "Our challenge as researchers and farmers is to harness more of that ecology for our benefit."

The fieldwork will take place at the Northeast Purdue Ag Center, the University of Wisconsin Arlington Agricultural Research Station and the Western Illinois University Allison Organic Research and Demonstration Farm.

"Cool beans!" exclaimed soybean specialist Shawn Conley, professor of agronomy at the Uni-



versity of Wisconsin-Madison. "Wisconsin has an extensive number of organic dairy farmers, and soybean is a key protein source for these farmers," he said, noting that his state leads the nation in organic field crop acreage.

"This is an exciting opportunity to expand our work with the organic community in Wisconsin and beyond."

The collaboration will enable the three universities to study ecological processes at work in organic farming systems more intensively than ever before, said Joel Gruver, professor of soil science and sustainability agriculture at Western Illinois University.

"Historically we have primarily focused on 'what' and 'how' to do organic farming effectively. For example, how to control weeds and supply nutrients," said Gruver, who also directs WIU's Organic Research Program. "This collaboration will allow us to take an integrated look at 'why' and 'how' questions. For example, why does biodiversity contribute to ecological functions like biocontrol and nutrient cycling, and how can we capture the benefits of biodiversity more effectively in organic systems?"

Driving the collabora-

tion is the desire to make U.S. row-crop agriculture more sustainable for the long term. "Sustainable" in this context includes "smart agriculture," "regenerative agriculture" and other such terms.

"The bottom line for all of them is that things are changing rapidly, both on the side of consumers, who ask and pay more for organic produce and meat, and on the side of farmers, who are very interested in these new ideas," Krupke said. "We're trying to do what the most progressive growers might do and then compare that to a conventional organic approach, which many growers are already embracing."

One example is planting buckwheat and cowpea in association with corn and soybeans.

"We want to experiment and see what kind of insects we may attract that may change the communities present in those fields," Krupke said. An underlying aspect of the work is to diversify the fields.

"Theoretically, a system that's more ecologically diverse, that has more buffers and more redundancies against invasions by pests and pathogens, should be more able to withstand those invasions."

The standard and ecologically intensified organic farming regimes will be tested at both university-owned research farms and commercial organic farms in all three states. The university researchers will transfer what they learn on their 5- and 10-acre fields to cooperating commercial growers to see if they can achieve the same performance on

much larger fields.

The Purdue team includes Ashley Adair, an Extension organic agriculture specialist in Horticulture and Landscape Architecture; weed scientist William Johnson, a professor of botany and plant pathology; Michael Langemeier, a professor of agricultural economics and associate director of the Center for Commercial Agriculture; and Darcy Telenko, an assistant professor of botany and plant pathology.

"Organic growers in Indiana are creative," Adair said. "They're always pushing the envelope in terms of what's possible in organic grain production. They're trying new ideas that look beyond what the current researchers have investigated."

The involvement of such creative and adaptive growers is critical to the project's success.

"We know what we want to measure and how we want to measure it, but is our crop sequence practical?" Adair asked. Will the research team's intercropping plan — growing more than one type of crop close together — work for growers in different locations with different soil types and weather conditions? Does the team's plan make economic sense, and will farmers be able to market the crops grown for this study in their area?

"These and many other questions can be answered by involving farmers as research collaborators and will help us, as Extension professionals, provide evidence-based and nuanced advice to clientele pursuing organic practices on their farms."

Rokita: Use Caution During Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita warns Hoosiers of predatory cyber criminals during National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

"Cybersecurity has been an important issue for years, but after COVID-19, businesses and schools have relied more and more on technology," Rokita said. "This makes them even more vulnerable to these types of attacks, and I encourage Hoosiers to educate themselves and stay on high alert."

Implementing appropriate cybersecurity controls has become a necessary part of doing business in today's economy. The average cost incurred by a business from a data breach is now more than \$4 million, and the average cost of a healthcare data breach has skyrocketed to over \$10 million.

Cyber-attacks do not only affect schools and businesses, but they also affect individuals and can potentially destroy the lives of hardworking, honest people.

Security breaches involving your personal information, also referred to as data breaches, can create a significant risk of fraud or identity theft if the information is acquired by the wrong person.

To keep you and your family protected, Rokita encourages Hoosiers to follow these tips:

Monitor your credit. Credit monitoring services track your credit report and alert you whenever a change is made, such as a new account or a large purchase. Most services will notify you within 24



Attorney General Todd Rokita

hours of any change to your credit report. Most major credit cards now offer these monitoring services at no cost to the consumer.

Consider placing a free credit freeze on your credit report. Identity thieves will not be able to open a new credit account in your name while the freeze is in place. You can place a credit freeze by contacting each of the three major credit bureaus:

- Equifax: 1-888-766-0008
- Experian: 1-888-397-3742
- TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289

Place a fraud alert on your credit report. A fraud alert tells lenders and creditors to take extra steps to verify your identity before issuing credit. You can place a fraud alert by contacting any one of the three major credit bureaus.

Contact Rokita. If you believe you are a victim of identity theft, visit gov/attorneygeneral or call us at 1-800-382-5516. For additional tips, you may also visit identitytheft.gov, a site maintained by the Federal Trade Commission.

Girl Scouts of Central Indiana Announces \$2.4M Gift

Girl Scouts of Central Indiana today announced that it has received a \$2.4M unrestricted gift from philanthropist and novelist MacKenzie Scott.

The \$2.4M dollar gift is one of the largest unrestricted donations ever received from an individual donor in the organization's history. It will allow Girl Scouts of Central Indiana to expand its capacity to provide additional innovative and relevant programs that address the most urgent needs of girls today, while preparing them to be leaders in a future that will be full of change, challenges, and opportunities.

"We are so grateful to Ms. Scott for making this generous gift to our organization and the vote of confidence and validation it indicates for the entire Girl Scout Movement," said Danielle Shockey, chief executive officer of Girl Scouts of Central Indiana. "This donation will be transformational in helping us identify and



eliminate barriers within our community, particularly within the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion, to ensure that our mission is relevant, welcoming, and accessible for all girls and their families."

Research shows that participating in Girl Scouts is a powerful factor for developing courage, confidence, and character, which in turn builds a foundation for success in education and careers, enables a lifetime of lead-

ership, and provides high levels of life satisfaction. Girl Scout alums say that their experiences set them on a path for achievement, connected them to something bigger than themselves, and helped them develop their passions and interests. Girl Scouts also provides a critical support system amid a global mental health crisis for youth.

"Every girl deserves the opportunity to live her best life, and Girl Scouts of Central Indiana will do everything we can with

this gift to help make that happen for Hoosier girls," Shockey said. "To that end, we recently announced a new campaign, which promises that every girl will have Her Seat at the Table. A seat at all tables— from the college mathematics lecture hall to the manufacturing floor to the corner office to the statehouse chamber— wherever they dream of making great discoveries, provoking thought, creating innovative tech, or changing the world. She's been underrepresented for far too long, and Girl Scouts of Central Indiana will use a portion of this donation from Ms. Scott to provide every opportunity and every tool necessary for every girl to find her voice and her seat."

Ms. Scott's gift serves as an accelerator to implement the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana promise to support all girls in their STEM, organizational and public leadership aspirations.

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