

TODAY'S VERSE

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.



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 54-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. 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 production crews. He is a Past Master of Keystone Masonic Lodge No. 251 and current active member of Carmel Lodge No. 421.

And Another Thing...

1. Home Show Tickets

Want free tickets to the 101st Indianapolis Home Show, running from Jan. 20-29 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds and Event Center? All you have to do to win tickets (valued at \$15 each) is send us a selfie of you and our front page (Print or Online Edition) to ttimmons@thetimes24-7.com. Be sure to tell us who you are, where you are from, how many tickets you would like and a little bit about yourself so we can include it if your photo is selected to publish on our front page. Then all you have to do is wait and watch. If you see your smiling face on our front page - you win!

2. Comet Coming!

Want to see a comet with your naked eye? Well, you just might get your chance soon. Comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF) will be closest to our planet on Feb. 1 and Feb. 2. According to the good folks at space.com, if the comet continues to get brighter, we just might be able to look up and see it. And even if it fades a bit, we should still be able to use binoculars or a telescope around then. Go to space.com for more information.

3. Spartz on Ukraine

Yesterday, ahead of the Ramstein Format Meeting to be held tomorrow hosted by Secretary Austin, Rep. Victoria Spartz issued the statement below urging the Biden Administration to provide a longer-range Guided Multiple Rocket Launch System (GMLRS) or Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) munitions to Ukraine:

"The next six months will be critical to the brutal war in Ukraine and longer-range capabilities will be crucial for its success. The Biden Administration needs to be proactive for a change and provide proper security assistance to the Ukrainian Army more timely to deter further Russian aggression. The notion that somehow an 80 km capability cannot reach Russia but a 300km capability can does not make any sense if you just look at a map - Ukraine and Russia share over a thousand miles of border. What these capabilities would do is to help the Ukrainian military to better defend its cities in Eastern Ukraine where the Russian army has pulled back its artillery to a "safe" distance on the occupied Ukrainian territories."

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 8:02 a.m.
SET: 5:47 p.m.

High/Low
Temperatures
HIGH: 56 °F
LOW: 44 °F

Today is....

- Artist as Outlaw Day
- New Friends Day
- Good Memory Day

What Happened On This Day

- 1829 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's *Faust: The First Part of the Tragedy* receives its premiere performance
- 1883 The first electric lighting system employing overhead wires, built by Thomas Edison, begins service at Roselle, N.J.
- 1981 *Iran hostage crisis*: US and Iranian officials sign agreement to release 52 American hostages after 14 months of captivity

Births On This Day

- 1809 Edgar Allan Poe American author and poet
- 1946 Dolly Parton American singer-songwriter and actress

Deaths On This Day

- 1865 Pierre-Joseph Proudhon French politician, philosopher and economist
- 1990 Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh Indian mystic, guru and educator



Betty Lee Cooper stands in front of the display of her White House Christmas Ornaments at the Sheridan Historical Society Museum.

White House Historical Society Christmas Ornaments Display

The Sheridan Historical Society Museum has an interesting Christmas display about to be packed away for the rest of the year, but it will stay out through the end of January for you to stop in and see. The display is a collection of the famous White House Christmas ornaments.

The collection was begun by Jackie Kennedy in 1961 as an enlightenment to the annual Christmas display at the White House. An ornament was created each year to honor a previous administration and because administrations come in four-year blocks, it has not taken too long to go back all the way to George Washington's two administrations.

In 1980, the White House Historical Society adopted these Christmas ornaments as a fundraising project. The public responded overwhelmingly, and it has now become a major

source of funds for the Society.

Locally, Betty Lee Cooper began collecting the ornaments several years ago. Just this past year she decided to donate them to the Sheridan Historical Society so they could become part of their annual Christmas decorations here at the Museum. Many visitors have been in the Museum over the holidays and admired the collection display, but come the end of January, they will sadly have to be stored away until this coming November.

If you would like to see them before they are put away, drop by the Museum and take a peek. The museum is located at 315 South Main St. in uptown Sheridan, just on the country side of Hamilton County. They are open every Tuesday and Friday from 1-4 p.m., and every second and fourth Saturday from 1-4 p.m.

In the Trenches of the War on Local Hunger



MARK HALL
Feeding Team Feature

Hunger is a cruel battleground. Those in the fight usually don't choose to be in this struggle. Battles are waged in silence, embarrassment, solitude, and fear. Dad's that are afraid to be seen as a failure to their families. Mom's that are managing a household, nutrition, and work. Seniors faced with impossible choices of food or warmth, food or medicine, and food or rent. Homeless and friendless neighbors panicked to get survival nutrition. Singles trying to make their way in a world with tough economic conditions. Families that simply run out of money before running out of week. There is no embarrassment in needing help and there is no shame in receiving it. I have been there.

This war isn't likely to ever be completely won. Yet we fight. We fight not only because it's the right thing to do, but we also fight because it's who we are. No one need go hungry.

As a community we are an army of sorts, committed to putting food in as many hungry

➔ See HALL Page A5



Photos courtesy of Noblesville Schools Education Foundation

NSEF Serves Up Delicious Spaghetti Dinner, Gives Back

This past Friday, the Noblesville Schools Education Foundation hosted a Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser at Noblesville High School as part of Hamilton County's Bicentennial Celebration. (Above left), Noblesville Schools Education Foundation's Lauren Stafford (left) and Adriann Young attend the NSEF Spaghetti Dinner; (above right) Noblesville Common Council member Aaron Smith and volunteer Noblesville High School alum Mikki Perrine, owner of Ginger's Cafe, enjoy the Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser.

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TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Regular exercise reduces food cravings. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in *The Times* and online at www.thetimes24-7.com.



TODAY'S QUOTE

"A politician thinks of the next election. A statesman, of the next generation."
- James Freeman Clarke

TODAY'S JOKE

What'd the cops yell when they caught the snowman stealing hubcaps?
Freeze!

HONEST HOOSIER

Speakers, property taxes, politics... Remember when government used to run efficiently? Yeah, me neither!



OBITUARIES

None



The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank **CAROL FOX** for subscribing!



13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

44/56 WINDY, BREEZY PARTLY CLOUDY	30/35 FLURRIES & SNOW SHOWERS	26/39 SOME SUN	30/36 SNOW/RAIN MIX	27/37 PARTLY CLOUDY	29/40 CHANCE OF RAIN/SNOW	27/35 MOSTLY CLOUDY
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED

Politics As Usual . . . Eva Education Day 2023



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

A good many of you responded to last week's babblings about the fiasco the U.S. House went through in electing a Speaker. To a person, you agreed that it was just another example of the ineptitude our government sadly exhibits now. But a lot of you went further. Much further. The anger, the frustration, the absolute disappointment in where our government, and thus our country, stands today is almost overwhelming.

The bloated, inefficient hot mess that our government has turned into is a sore topic. Many of us, I dare say nearly all who are reading this, had the privilege of growing up in a country that was proud, spirited and patriotic. Yes, our government had its problems, but nothing like today. The only thing woke meant was what time your alarm got you going. If a politician blatantly lied about darn near everything and got caught, i.e., Rep. Santos, he wouldn't be in office. Think not? Ask Richard Nixon.

But before we go any further, no, this is not a call for overthrow . . . not a desk-pounding cry to take up arms . . . not an accusation of shadows and conspiracies.

What's wrong with our government isn't that complicated. For today, let's boil it down to five things.

1. Career politicians: We need term limits.
2. Lobbyists and campaign contributions: Money talks. Too loudly in this case.
3. Complexities: Richard Branson, the billionaire owner of Virgin Airlines has a great quote: "Any fool can make something complicated. It is hard to keep things simple." Way too much of our government is complicated. Tax code that weighs almost as much as me? C'mon!
4. Pork: I suppose you could throw this one under No. 3. But bills that get passed have riders attached to them that have nothing to do with the bill. Make proposed legislation plain to read and restricted to that specific law.
5. Benefits and perks: Get rid of insurance, pensions and other perks for the hired hands. Not only do they now have sweet-heart deals that most of us could only dream of, but it encourages them to stay in office.

To be fair, we could add a bunch more to the list, but this feels like a starting point, don't you think? The bottom line is we have allowed our government to grow far beyond what was intended.

We could talk more about what the Founding Fathers created. But as soon as you mention them, it sends some folks into a tizzy. Kind of like when you mention the definition of a man or woman.

Look, those who hold elected office work for us, at least in theory. So, let's all put our boss hat on for a second and think of this like a performance review.

First, the wonderful folks in HR would tell us we have a problem. How can we review someone's performance if we don't

have standards and expectations in place – specific ones? Without that, how do we measure job performance? It's a fair point. Can you imagine having a job in which your performance was never measured? Yet that's exactly the situation we have today with the hired hands.

If we can't agree on how to rate their performance how about if we focus on laws? It kind of feels like they think creating new laws is part of the job, right? But seriously, don't we have enough laws? Maybe instead we can task them to examine laws that are out of date and get them off the books?

While they're examining those, let's add that we want them to take a look at taxes. All of them. I'd be willing to bet there are several (that might be the understatement of the year!) that are no longer used for what they were intended. The term is sunset clause – and it's not used often enough.

When they get those two things done, we can get them working on the five things from above. Too much? Nah, we're good and patient bosses. Let's give them plenty of time to get all this accomplished. How much? Oh, I don't know, how about four years?

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.

Two programs will recognize the life and works of Eva Kor, a Holocaust survivor who passed away in 2019.

The first comes in a statewide proclamation issued by Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb that sets aside Jan. 26, and the second is from the Indiana Historical Society on Jan. 28. Both are titled Eva Education Day.

"On International Holocaust Remembrance Day and Eva Education Day for the state of Indiana, we remember and honor the memory of the six million Jews who were murdered

by the Nazis and their collaborators," said Troy Fears, Executive Director of CANDLES museum in Terre Haute. "As we witness a rise in global antisemitism and intolerance, it is more important than ever to listen to or read the stories of Holocaust survivors, like our museums founder, Eva Kor, and reflect on their experiences, and retell their stories."

Educators across the state are encouraged to visit CANDLES website for educational resources. Visit candleholocaust-museum.org for more

information.

The museum has scheduled the grand opening of their new Eva's Scarves exhibit on that day. The event is free to the public and Alex Kor, Eva's son, will be in attendance.

The Historical Society's Eva Education Day is scheduled for Jan. 28 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be educational activities, book signings, talks, a documentary screening, and more. All activities are included with regular museum admission. For more info, visit indianahistory.org/events/eva-kor-education-day/

AARP Indiana Now Accepting 2023 Community Challenge Grant Applications



AARP Indiana is inviting local organizations and governments across the state to apply for the 2023 AARP Community Challenge grant program, now through March 15 at 5 p.m. Grants fund quick-action projects that help communities become more livable in the long-term by improving public spaces, transportation, housing, civic engagement, diversity and inclusion, and more.

Now in its seventh year, the program is part of AARP's nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods and rural areas to become great places to live for all residents, especially those age 50 and older.

"AARP Indiana is committed to helping communities across the state become great places to live for people of all ages," said State Director Sarah Waddle.

"The Community Challenge has proven that quick-action projects can lead to long-lasting improvements enhancing Hoosiers' quality of life."

Previous Community Challenge grants have led to impressive results with nearly half of grantees leveraging their projects into additional funding support from private and public sector partners and eight in ten overcoming barriers and advancing change.

In 2023, the AARP Community Challenge is accepting applications across three different grant

opportunities, two of which are new this year. All projects must be consistent with AARP's mission to serve the needs of people 50 and older along with other eligibility criteria. AARP will prioritize proposals that are inclusive, address disparities, and directly engage volunteers age 50 and older.

New this year, the program will provide capacity-building microgrants paired with additional resources, such as one-on-one coaching, webinars, cohort learning opportunities and more for improving walkability and starting or expanding a community garden.

Also new this year, the Community Challenge will also offer demonstration grants. A portion will be focused on transportation improvements with funding support provided by Toyota Motor North America. Another portion of demonstration grants will focus on promoting greater awareness of the benefits of accessory dwelling units as a housing solution.

AARP will also offer grants under a flagship opportunity to support projects that improve public places; transportation; housing; diversity, equity and inclusion; digital connections; community health and economic empowerment; and new this year community resilience; and civic engagement.

Since 2017, AARP has awarded more than \$12.7 million to over 1,060 projects – including 19

in Indiana – through the Community Challenge to nonprofit organizations and government entities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The program provides direct support to all community types, including rural, suburban and urban communities with a special focus on the needs of those 50 and older.

AARP Indiana works in collaboration with communities across the state, bringing people together, and providing resources and expertise to help make Indiana's counties, towns and cities great places to live for people of all ages. Organizations across the state have used grants for a variety of projects, including the expansion of wi-fi Internet access in a Muncie neighborhood, infrastructure improvements in multiple cities, and even a new mural and awning at a food pantry and shelter in Seymour.

The Community Challenge is open to eligible nonprofit organizations and government entities. Other types of organizations are considered on a case-by-case basis. Grants can range from several hundred dollars for small, short-term activities to tens of thousands for larger projects.

The application deadline is 5 p.m., March 15. All projects must be completed by Nov. 30, 2023. To submit an application and view past grantees, visit AARP.org/CommunityChallenge

Engineer Your Future, Apply to Governor's STEM Team

Gov. Eric J. Holcomb, Secretary of Education Dr. Katie Jenner and Treasurer of State Daniel Elliott are officially inviting Indiana high school students to apply for the 2023 Governor's STEM Team. Gov. Holcomb developed the competition in 2017 to highlight Indiana's top high school students for their achievements in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).



Katie Jenner

CollegeChoice 529 Direct Savings plan, administered by Treasurer Elliott and letterman jackets identifying them as members of the Governor's STEM Team.

The submission period for the program is now open, and applications may be submitted via this JotForm. The deadline for applications is 11:59 p.m. on Feb. 3.

"It's an incredible honor to award each STEM Team winner with a \$1,000 CollegeChoice account deposit in support of their future education," said Treasurer Elliott. "These students represent the best of Hoosier hard work and innovation, and we are humbled to help them have a bright future with less student loan debt."

The Governor's STEM Team program will recognize the top high school STEM students in the state with consideration for coursework, extracurricular activities, work/research projects, leadership roles and community service.

Winners will be announced at a Statehouse ceremony in early May.

Indiana is known as a state that prioritizes STEM education. This includes -

- More than 100 Indiana STEM-Certified schools. These schools exemplify a great deal of inquiry, project-based learning, community engagement, entrepreneurship, student-centered classrooms, integration into humanities and related arts and out-of-school STEM activities.
- Indiana STEM Cadre. The STEM Cadre develops and implements collaborative professional development for educators.
- New science and computer science standards. Last year, Indiana approved new science and computer science standards that increased focus on supporting active student engagement in science learning.

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Thanks for reading The Times, Hamilton County!

Banks Makes U.S. Senate Run Official

By Niki Kelly

Northeast Indiana Congressman Jim Banks jumped into the 2024 race for the U.S. Senate on Tuesday — becoming the first candidate in what is expected to be a crowded Republican field.

The conservative rabble-rouser is known for his fiery tweets and has served the Third District in the U.S. House since 2017. He just began his fourth term in office.

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun is giving up his seat to run for governor in 2024.

“One thing is clear to me and that’s that Hoosiers deserve a conservative fighter in the Senate. And Mike Braun has been a consistent conservative and we should have a conservative replace Mike Braun and I want to be that conservative leader, that conservative fighter,” Banks said.

He used the word conservative 20 times in a 10-minute interview with Indiana Capital Chronicle. He dropped a video about his run Tuesday morning and plans to file today. In the video he says “only in America could a small town kid from a working class family do what I’ve been blessed to do.”

Banks grew up in Columbia City, the son of a factory worker and a nursing home cook. He was first in his family to go to college and met his wife while at Indiana University.

In Congress, he has focused on veterans issues — he served in Afghanistan for parts of 2014 and 2015 while in the state Senate — and holding China accountable. Just last week he launched an “anti-woke” caucus and has been on Fox News in recent days highlighting it.

Banks said the Senate would provide an opportunity to do even more on national security and defense issues he cares so much about.

“I think it was obvious to me after being in the House for a few terms is that there aren’t enough conservatives in the Senate. We saw the massive omnibus spending bill get passed in the Senate here recently with Republican support and that’s only paved the way for our \$32 trillion national debt to grow even more. So, we need conservatives in the Senate who are going to fight back against the Democrats and the Biden agenda, not to go along with it,” he said.

Banks also ran the largest conservative caucus — the Republican Study Committee — for two years. He recently came up short in a vote to become the House Republican whip and staunchly supported U.S. Rep. Kevin McCarthy in the recent speakership fight.

“I’ve led the fight in Congress to hold China accountable for stealing our jobs and for giving us COVID,” he said in his video. He also invokes transgender girls athletics, abortion and critical race theory.

A Senate term is six years, rather than two, giving more breathing room between campaigns. But a Senate campaign will likely take millions to win.

In 2018, Braun spent \$4.5 million in the GOP primary. According to Vox, altogether, the three candidates spent more than \$9 million in one of the most expensive and negative primaries that year.

Club for Growth connection

Open Secrets, which researches and tracks money in politics and its

effect on elections and policy, found Banks’ top contributor from 2015 to 2022 was Club for Growth — \$104,066.

Club for Growth’s independent expenditure super PAC went on the offensive Sunday — running an attack ad against two term-governor and former Purdue University president Mitch Daniels, who is also considering a run for Senate.

Mark Lubbers, a personal adviser to Daniels and longtime friend, didn’t mince words about the ad and Banks.

“A majority of Americans are ready to embrace conservative policy ... but loser grifters like Club for Growth keep making conservatism ugly and unlikable. At some point genuine conservatives will have to go to war with these bully goons to save us from baby-Trumps like Jim Banks,” Lubbers said.

He said he heard Club for Growth plans to continue its investment in Banks, possibly reaching into the millions.

“For the sake of my friend Mitch Daniels, I hope he opts out of what these grifters have made of politics,” Lubbers said. “For the sake of my country, I hope Mitch runs and beats Banks to a pulp.”

Lining up support

Banks sidestepped a question on Daniels but said he had called Donald Trump to tell him of his decision and he “would be very glad to have his support.” Banks has visited with Trump numerous times and his video includes two pictures with the former president.

Others who are endorsing Banks are Indiana Congressman Larry Bucshon, R-8th, and Arkansas U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton.

“Hoosiers deserve to have another tried and true conservative in the Senate, and Jim Banks is by far the best person for the job. Jim and I are both veterans of the U.S. Navy Reserve, and we need Jim in the Senate to build a strong military that will defend the homeland and stand up to our adversaries like Communist China. Jim isn’t afraid of the radical left and will fight to remove ‘woke’ training from the military that harms our readiness. Jim’s an unapologetic champion for conservative values, with a strong record of defending the unborn and protecting parents’ rights in education. I’m confident Jim will continue the fight for Hoosiers’ conservative values in the Senate, and he has my full support.”

Cotton said “we need more leaders like Jim Banks in the U.S. Senate — leaders with military experience who will defend our rights and our national security. For six years he’s been an indispensable partner in the House and I know he will be an even stronger partner in the Senate. Jim is a proven conservative fighter who puts Hoosiers first and I’m proud to endorse him.”

Banks previously served six years in the state Senate and hails from Columbia City. He and wife Amanda have three daughters.

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Expo Registration Open for Indiana Green Industry Professionals

The Indiana Green Expo is returning this year with three days of educational opportunities for turf and landscape professionals in addition to a trade show and networking events.

The 2023 Indiana Green Expo will take place Jan. 30 through Feb. 1 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. Fourteen educational tracks will be offered with topics including design, invasive species, tree care and

more, along with a track in Spanish. Continuing Education Requirements for a variety of certification programs will be available for attendees.

“The Indiana Green Expo is the best opportunity of the year for the green industry to gather for education, vendors and networking,” said Kyle Daniel, a nursery and landscape outreach specialist. “Investing in your

employee professional development will greatly increase employee retention, a critical part to the success of companies.”

Conference registration and additional details are available online at indianagreeneexpo.com.

The Midwest Regional Turf Foundation (MRTF) and the Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association first joined efforts in 2007 to offer the Indiana Green Expo

(IGE). In recent years, the conference has had an average attendance of 1,600 green industry professionals.

MRTF supports turf research and education at Purdue University for the advancement of the turfgrass industry. Proceeds from the IGE will be used to improve the green industry through research, educational programming and other supporting functions.



Photo courtesy of Senator Young’s Office

Senator Young Takes Trip to Taiwan, Reaffirms US-Taiwanese Relationship

Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.) visited Taiwan from Monday to Wednesday as part of a larger visit to the Indo-Pacific region. Senator Young met with senior Taiwan leaders and private sector representatives to discuss U.S.-Taiwan relations, regional security, trade and investment, global supply chains and other significant issues of mutual interest. At the outset of his trip, Sen. Young met with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, photographed above.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**CITY OF FISHERS
NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

Owner: City of Fishers, Indiana
Director of Public Works
10212 Eller Road
Fishers, Indiana 46038
Project: Continuous Diamond Grinding of Concrete Pavement

Notice is hereby given that the City of Fishers, Hamilton County, Indiana (“Fishers”) will receive sealed bids for the above-referenced Project addressed to the Director of Public Works, City of Fishers, 10212 Eller Road, Fishers, Indiana until 12:00PM on or before February 3, 2023. Any Bid received after the designated time will be returned to the Bidder unopened. The Bids will be publicly opened and read by the City of Fishers at 12:00 pm on February 3, 2023, in the Public Works Conference Room at 10212 Eller Road, Fishers, Indiana. The Bid should be clearly marked “BID ENCLOSED 2023 Continuous Diamond Grinding of Concrete Pavement” on the outside of the envelope, and as otherwise set forth in the Bid Documents.

An optional Pre-Bid Meeting for discussion of the Project, the bidding requirements and other important matters will be held on January 25, 2023, at 1:00pm in the Training Room at the Department of Public Works, 10212 Eller Road, Fishers, Indiana. For special accommodations for individuals planning to attend the Pre-Bid Conference or public bid opening meeting, please call or notify Fishers at (317) 595-3160 at least forty-eight (48) hours prior thereto.

In general, the Work shall be completed by State of Indiana certified/qualified Contractors and Subcontractors for the Project all as required by the Bid Documents which have been assembled into a bound Project Manual and generally consists of continuous diamond grinding of concrete roads at one (1) location - 116th Street Westbound from Ohio Road to Brooks School Road, Fishers, Indiana, all as further specified by the Bid Documents.

Any Bid may be withdrawn prior to the deadline for receipt of Bids, but no Bidder shall withdraw its Bid within sixty (60) days after the opening of the Bids. If a contract is awarded, it will be to the “lowest responsible and responsive bidder” in accordance with Ind. Code §36-1-12-1 et seq. The Owner, however, reserves the right to reject and/or cancel any and all Bids, solicitations and/or offers in whole or in part as specified in the solicitation when it is not in the best interests of the Owner, and waive any informalities, discrepancies, omissions, variances, or irregularities in bids received in its sole discretion. The Bid Bonds and certified checks of unsuccessful bidders will be returned upon selection of the successful Bidder, execution of the Agreement, and provision of the required Performance and Payment Bonds and Certificate of Insurance.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by bid security in the form of a Bid Bond as provided in the Project Manual in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the total Bid amount, including alternates with a satisfactory corporate surety qualified to do business in the State of Indiana or by a certified check made payable to Fishers, on a solvent bank in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the amount of the total Bid including alternates. The Bid Bond or certified check shall be security that the successful Bidder will, within ten (10) calendar days or such other time specified by Owner from the acceptance of the Bid, execute the Agreement and provide the required Payment and Performance Bonds, included in the Project Manual and Certificate of Insurance.

A Performance Bond with good and sufficient surety as required by the Owner on the Form provided in the Project Manual, shall be required of the successful Bidder in an amount equal to at least one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Sum, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the Agreement. The surety of the Performance Bond may not be released until one (1) year after the Owner’s final settlement with the Contractor.

The Contractor shall provide a Payment Bond with a good and sufficient surety as required by the Owner on Form provided in the Project Manual, in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Sum. The Payment Bond is binding on the Contractor, its subcontractors, and their successors and assigns for the payment of all indebtedness to a person for labor and services performed, material furnished, or services rendered. The Payment Bond must state that it is for the benefit of the subcontractors, laborers, material suppliers, and those performing services. The surety of the Payment Bond may not be released until one (1) year after the Owner’s final settlement with the Contractor.

All out-of-state bidder corporations must have a Certificate of Authority to do business in the State. Application forms may be obtained by contacting the Secretary of State, State of Indiana, Statehouse, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.
TL19992 1/19 1/26 2r hspaxlp

Notice of Proposed Precinct Boundary Changes

To the voters of Hamilton County:
You are notified that the Election Division of the Office of the Secretary of State of Indiana has determined that a proposed order by the Hamilton County Commissioners to change certain precinct boundaries within this county would comply with state law, and that the Election Division has notified the Commissioners that precinct boundaries may be established in accordance with the county’s proposed order.

The boundaries of the following existing precincts would be changed by the adoption of the county’s proposed order:

Precinct Changes Proposed for 2023

Adams Township
Annex #2022-05 – Sheridan 2 Township to Town
Annex #2022-07 – Sheridan 4 Township to Town (2 voters)

Delaware Township
Annex #011822C – Delaware 22-Twship moved to Delaware 18 – City (2 voters)
Annex #041822D – Delaware 22-Twship moved to Delaware 09 – City

Fall Creek Township
Annex #011822B – Fall Creek 34-Twship moved to Fall Creek 01 – City (3 voters)
Annex #041822B – Fall Creek 34-Twship moved to Fall Creek 27 – City
Annex #041822B – Fall Creek 39-Twship moved to Fall Creek 12 – City (2 voters)
Annex #041822C – Fall Creek 29-Twship moved to Fall Creek 03 – City (4 voters)

Annex #071822 – Fall Creek 34-Twship moved to Fall Creek 27 – City
Annex #071822A – Fall Creek 34-Twship moved to Fall Creek 33 – City
Fall Creek 37 voters moved to Fall Creek 27 (137 voters) due to Fall Creek 37 being over 2000 active voters

Jackson Township
Annex #9-21-2021-2 – Jackson 04-Twship moved to Jackson 08 – Town

Noblesville Township
Annex # 88-12-21 – Noblesville 03-Twship moved to Noblesville 18 – City (71 voters)
Annex #29-05-22 – Noblesville 04-Twship moved to Noblesville 40 – City
Annex #51-07-22 – Noblesville 03-Twship moved to Noblesville 11 – City (1 voter)
Annex #28-05-22 – Noblesville 19-Twship moved to Noblesville 29 - City
Noblesville 44 – NEW PRECINCT created due to Noblesville City Council redistricting
Noblesville 40 – 552 voters moving to new precinct Noblesville 44
Noblesville 09 – 257 voters moving to new precinct Noblesville 44

Washington Township
Annex #21-54 – Westfield 05-Twship moved to Westfield 02 -City (2 voters)
Annex #22-03 – Westfield 05-Twship moved to Westfield 02 – City (2 voters)
Annex #22-04 – Westfield 05-Twship moved to Westfield 02 – City
Annex #22-13 – Westfield 05-Twship moved to Westfield 02 – City
Annex #22-12 – Westfield 05-Twship moved to Westfield 02 – City
Westfield 27 voters moved to Westfield 20 (633 voters) – due to Westfield 27 being over 2000 active voters

Wayne Township
Annex #30-05-22 – Wayne 02-Twship moved to Wayne 03 – City
Any registered voter of this County may object to the county’s proposed order by filing a sworn statement with the Election Division. This statement must set forth the voter’s specific objections to the proposed order, and request that a hearing be conducted by the Indiana Election Commission under the Administrative Orders and Procedures Act (Indiana Code 4-21-5).

The mailing address of the Election Division is:
Election Division of the Office of the Secretary of State of Indiana
302 West Washington Street, Room E-204
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2743

Any objection to the proposed order must be filed with the Election Division no later than noon, Indianapolis time, 10 days after the publication of this notice. A complete copy of the county’s proposed order is available for public inspection and copying at the Hamilton County Clerk’s Office and the Election Division.
Hamilton County Board of Commissioners
TL19993 1/19 1r hspaxlp

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Proposals Limiting Right to Bail, Home Detention Move to Senate

By Leslie Bonilla Muñoz

Indiana lawmakers went tough on crime Tuesday when a committee advanced a constitutional change restricting the right to bail and moved a less controversial bill barring people with more severe convictions from participating in community corrections programs.

Under Indiana's current Constitution, only people accused of murder or treason can't get bail, as long as "the proof is evident, or the presumption strong." Sen. Eric Koch's Senate Joint Resolution 1 would edit that document to let judges deny bail anyone they deem "a substantial risk to the public," and at the same standard of proof.

Prosecutors have said SJR 1 would keep dangerous people off the streets before trial, while critics say it's too vague and subjective to protect those presumed innocent until

convicted.

On Tuesday, Democrat Sen. Greg Taylor, of Indianapolis, argued the burden of proof should be more stringent — with evident proof and strong presumption being on the lower end of the scale — while supporters like Sen. Liz Brown, R-Ft. Wayne, said that's the standard already enshrined within the Constitution.

Opposition

Indiana Public Defender Council Executive Director Bernice Corley and attorney Mike Cunningham told lawmakers that SJR 1 should better define what the "substantial risk" is, pointedly giving examples like communicable disease versus emotional distress or physical danger.

Corley also argued that states with similar bail-limiting language on the books typically have presumptive release, when incarcerated people are by default released when they're first eligible for

parole — unless a parole board finds specific reasons not to release them.

"There's two sides of this coin, always," she said about the right to bail. And she warned that passing SJR 1 could "upheave" Indiana's case law.

Courtney Curtis, the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council assistant executive director, said "adding a couple of words" would not require the state to start over.

She described a spectrum with the rights of defendants and public safety on either end, adding that states are "trying to find where's that happy medium."

Koch, meanwhile, said there are already built-in checks on the right to bail: defendants can appeal bail decisions, and can seek review from higher courts.

The nine-member Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Committee approved SJR 1 with a 5-3

vote, sending it to the full Senate Chamber. It nearly passed along party lines: the group's two Democrats voted against it, but so did Ranking Majority Member Susan Glick, R-LaGrange.

"I believe the language in this resolution should be void for vagueness," Glick said.

"... What we're attempting to do is keep the very most dangerous individuals in jail indefinitely. I understand that," Glick continued. "But I believe that the language here will allow it to be applied to a lot of other people for a lot of other reasons."

Koch's planning to keep SJR 1's wording the same, for now.

"I'm a listener. I try to keep an open mind. I thought the discussion today was very helpful," Koch told the Capital Chronicle after the committee adjourned. "But as of now, I have no plans to change it. But,

this is just the beginning of what is, and should be, a long process."

Serving a sentence out at home

The committee also unanimously advanced an amended bill altering community corrections programming, which is meant to divert felony convicts from incarceration and serve as an intermediate level of penalty between jail and probation, according to the Indiana Department of Correction.

Programming includes residential centers, work release, home detention and electronic monitoring.

Senate Bill 179 — also authored by Koch — would bar people convicted of level one felonies from participating in the programs, as well as those with certain extra penalties on their convictions.

But it would expand the program as an alternative to county jail, rather than just to the Department

of Correction, and allow people on work release to earn accrued time just like those in home detention.

Though the prosecutors and defenders judicial agencies are typically on opposite ends of criminal justice bills, Koch said both groups had workshopped the bill and supported it.

An amendment, which wasn't available online, would crack down on home detention escape without also ratcheting up consequences for smaller violations, committee chair Aaron Freeman, R-Indianapolis, said.

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IDOE Rolls Out Enhancements to Indiana GPS Dashboard

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) has deployed the first round of enhancements to its new Indiana Graduates Prepared to Succeed Dashboard (Indiana GPS) — a resource that is constantly evolving in response to the needs of Indiana's students, communities and employers.

The most recent enhancements allow users to drill down into longitudinal and disaggregated data, showing data over time by student population.

"When we first began developing Indiana GPS, one of the consistent pieces of feedback that we heard across education stakeholders, including policymakers, educators and families, was the importance of being able to quickly locate longitudinal and disaggregated student population data," said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education.

"Having this information available at the click of a button provides a comprehensive look at where we have been in recent years, where we are today, and where we need to go, thus informing our future work at the school, community and state levels."



When first accessing the statewide-, district- and school-level summary pages within Indiana GPS, users can see a snapshot of student performance over multiple measures. From there, users can hit the "Explore" button to drill down further into the data, as well as learn more about how the indicator is calculated and how it connects to the five key characteristics which best indicate a student's preparation for success after high school.

Similar to the process leading up to the dashboard's initial release, over the last month, school leaders have had access to an embargoed pre-release of this second iteration of the dashboard. This provided an opportunity to ask questions and share feedback prior to the public launch. As a result of ongoing feedback from schools, updates continue to be made to the dashboard to ensure it is as comprehensive and as easy

to use as possible.

The development of Indiana GPS follows the enactment of House Enrolled Act 1514, passed in 2021 directing IDOE and the Indiana State Board of Education to develop a school performance dashboard that promotes transparency and multiple student measures, including longitudinal measures. The second iteration of the dashboard is launching nearly one and a half years in advance of the statutorily-required July 1, 2024 date.

The development of this dashboard is an iterative process and will continue to be improved over time, with new data and features added. To learn more about the development of the Indiana GPS performance dashboard, head to in.gov/does/home/indiana-graduates-prepared-to-succeed-indiana-gps/

To explore the dashboard, visit indianagps.doe.in.gov.

NFPA Accepting Nominations for 2023 James M. Shannon Advocacy Medal

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is now accepting nominations for the 2023 James M. Shannon Advocacy Medal, which recognizes fire and life safety advocates who have made significant contributions to reducing losses from fire, electrical, and other hazards, while furthering the NFPA mission.

The advocacy medal honors an individual or group that shares the values of former NFPA President James Shannon. During his 12-year tenure at as president, Shannon was recognized for his exceptional record of advocacy to reduce fire loss, most notably by spearheading

the Coalition for Fire-Safe Cigarettes and advocating for fire sprinklers in all new homes.

"Each year we are inspired by the work of the nominees of the Shannon Advocacy Medal," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA.

"Whether it's through efforts to increase awareness of the benefits of installed home fire sprinklers, to advocate for the use of the latest codes and standards, or to better educate residents about ways to reduce wildfire risk in communities, we are pleased to be able to recognize their commitment and dedication to improving

public safety and better protecting our nation's fire service."

NFPA considers nominees who are members of the fire service or any individual or group whose advocacy efforts meet the award's criteria. The medal recipient will be announced during the NFPA Conference & Expo in Las Vegas, June 19-23. Previous recipients have worked to increase use of sprinklers, advocated for the use of updated codes, and other activities.

The nominee application is available for download and can be sent to publicaffairs@nfpa.org until the submission period closes on Feb. 9.

Meeting Notice

Noblesville Economic Development Council Committee
The City of Noblesville

Economic Development Council Committee will meet on the following dates in 2023. Meetings will be held at 8:30 a.m. in room A213 at City Hall, 16 S. 10th Street, Nobles-

ville, unless otherwise noted.

- March 22, 2023, Room A214
- June 14, 2023
- Sept. 13, 2023
- Dec. 13, 2023

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HOME SERVICES

Rose-Hulman Receives Over \$3M to Help Bolster Homework Help Program

A \$3.5 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. will allow Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology's free AskRose Homework Help program to help more middle and high school students in Indiana, including historically underserved students, to excel in their math and science homework.

Rose-Hulman tutors are available Sunday through Thursday from 5-10 p.m. (Eastern Time) from early August through the middle of May each school year for free tutoring sessions by video, telephone call, email, or chat. Tutors can be accessed through the AskRose website, AskRose.org, or by calling 877-ASK-ROSE (877-275-7673).

"For more than 30 years, our AskRose program has been successful in helping Indiana students succeed in learning math and science, and we're most appreciative of Lilly Endowment's continued support of that mission," said Rose-Hulman President Robert A. Coons. "Services provided by our homework help program are necessary more than ever as the math and science educational gaps in grades 6-12 have widened since the COVID-19 pandemic."

Coons added, "AskRose also helps provide Indiana students with an aptitude and interest in math and science, and promotes valuable tools in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education that are necessities for the development of the highly skilled technical

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

workforce required for Indiana's economic future."

Indiana Department of Education data suggests English as a Second Language (ESL) students are another highly impacted group of students. Based on this information, AskRose will hire bilingual students to create dedicated Spanish-speaking tutoring hours and pilot this concept with two schools.

This grant also will support a new outreach program that equips historically underserved students with additional resources to pursue STEM fields. The RoseSTEM college preparation program is designed to build a pipeline of highly prepared students for college through partnerships with high schools and Community-Based Organizations (CBO). Selected high schools and CBOs include:

- Indianapolis – Center for Leadership Development, Minority Engineering Program, GEO Academies of Indianapolis, and Starfish Initiative
- Chicago – Noble Charter Schools, Walter Payton Prep and Marian Catholic High School
- Northwest Indiana – 21st Century Charter School of Gary
- Terre Haute – South Vigo High School

Students attending the nation's top-ranked college for undergraduate engineering education are proficient in math and science. That's why AskRose

has become a perfect way for Rose-Hulman students to help children learn and succeed, give back to schools throughout Indiana, and improve tutors' communication and leadership skills while reinforcing their knowledge of basic math and science concepts.

About 100 Rose-Hulman students serve as tutors during each school year after being specially recommended by faculty for their technical knowledge and ability to communicate with students of all skill and comprehension levels. Approximately 20 tutors are available each night and they have access to textbooks and many other resources to lend valuable assistance. The AskRose Homework Help program is certified by the National Tutoring Association.

AskRose officials report that younger schoolchildren have been more impacted by COVID-19 pandemic learning loss than older students. That's why the program recently expanded its service hours to begin at 5 p.m. five nights each week to better reach younger students.

A key ingredient of the AskRose program is that rather than give students the answers, tutors guide students through homework problems to help them better understand math and science concepts. This is the way students are taught in schools today. Student privacy is

always protected, and students are never asked for their last name or telephone number. Also, all AskRose Homework Help services are available at no cost to students and parents through support and financial assistance from Lilly Endowment Inc. and Rose-Hulman.

AskRose Homework Help has conducted more than 750,000 tutoring sessions since starting in 1991. The AskRose.org website also offers more than 500 resources available through videos and downloadable reference materials.

AskRose Basics:

- Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology** offers free math and science tutoring for students in grades 6-12. Students may call 877-ASK-ROSE (877-275-7673) to speak with a tutor, or go to the AskRose website, AskRose.org, to interact with a tutor by video, online or through email. Questions filed by email and other means are answered during AskRose's hours of operation.

- Hours of operation:** 5-10 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, through May. Additional afternoon hours may be available, depending on tutor availability. (The service is closed during Rose-Hulman's holiday breaks.)

- Online resources:** Students and educators may access resources and educational materials at AskRose.org.

- Sponsors:** The service is supported by Lilly Endowment Inc. and Rose-Hulman.

USDA Publishes Final Rule on Strengthening Organic Enforcement

Yesterday, the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) previewed the Strengthening Organic Enforcement (SOE) final rule. This update to the USDA organic regulations strengthens oversight and enforcement of the production, handling, and sale of organic products. This final rule implements 2018 Farm Bill mandates, responds to industry requests for updates to the USDA organic regulations, and addresses National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) recommendations.

"Protecting and growing the organic sector and the trusted USDA organic seal is a key part of the USDA Food Systems Transformation initiative," said Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jenny Lester Moffitt. "The Strengthening Organic Enforcement rule is the biggest update to the organic regulations since the original Act in 1990, providing a significant increase in oversight and enforcement authority to reinforce the trust of consumers, farmers, and those transitioning to organic production. This success is another demonstration that USDA fully stands behind the organic brand."

What does the rule do?

SOE protects organic integrity and bolsters farmer and consumer confidence in the USDA organic seal by supporting strong organic control systems, improving farm to market traceability, increasing import oversight authority, and providing robust enforcement of the organic regulations. Key updates include:

- Requiring certification of more of the businesses, like brokers and traders, at critical links in organic supply chains.
- Requiring NOP Import Certificates for all organic imports.
- Requiring organic identification on nonretail containers.

- Increasing authority for more rigorous on-site inspections of certified operations.

- Requiring uniform qualification and training standards for organic inspectors and certifying agent personnel.

- Requires standardized certificates of organic operation.

- Requires additional and more frequent reporting of data on certified operations.

- Creates authority for more robust recordkeeping, traceability practices, and fraud prevention procedures.

- Specify certification requirements for producer groups.

SOE complements and supports the many actions that USDA takes to protect the organic label, including the registration of the USDA organic seal trademark with the USPTO. The registered trademark provides authority to deter uncertified entities from falsely using the seal, which together with this new rule provides additional layers of protection to the USDA organic seal.

Who is affected?

The rule may affect USDA-accrued certifying agents; organic inspectors; certified organic operations; operations considering organic certification; businesses that import or trade organic products; and retailers that sell organic products. To see if you are affected by SOE, please read the full rule available at [federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2023-00702/national-organic-program-strengthening-organic-enforcement](https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2023-00702/national-organic-program-strengthening-organic-enforcement)

When must organic operations comply with the rule?

Organic operations, certifying agents, and other organic stakeholders affected by the rule will have one year from the effective date of the rule to comply with the changes.

Telehealth for Pets Could Change Veterinary Medicine

By Kim Salerno, Founder/CEO TripsWithPets

Telehealth isn't just for people anymore. Virtual health consultations are now available for pets, and it's a promising prospect.

Pets are a treasured part of life, and have grown in both numbers and in status in recent years. Pet ownership has increased by 20 percent since 1988. As of 2022, there are 393.3 million pets in the United States. Nearly seven out of 10 American households have at least one pet, and 95 percent of pet owners think of their pets as part of the family.

Higher pet ownership and an increase in regard for pet comfort and care have naturally increased the demand for veterinary care. This has led to challenges for pet parents when it comes to accessing quality, convenient care and timely health advice. Telehealth offers a promising solution for the gaps in the current veterinary industry.

Dr. "Scott" Swetnam strongly believes in the benefits of telehealth for pets. A veterinarian with decades of experience treating patients and leading veterinary teams, Dr. Scott created Pet Vet Hotline, a membership based service that provides pet parents affordable, unlimited, convenient and immediate access to experienced licensed veterinarians 24/7 via video or chat.

"We love animals and the human animal bond," he noted. "We wanted to create a solution that allows veterinarians to support that bond in the best way possible, while achieving the best possible outcomes for pets."

Telehealth can help meet these goals in several different ways.

Provides access to care, anytime

Through virtual care, vets can provide pet parents with general health consultations, behavioral advice, nutritional information, education on administering basic care, and



advice about whether and when medical attention is required – all at their own convenience, in the comfort of their own home. The service helps to bridge the "gaps" of veterinary care – those times when a new symptom has appeared or an incident has occurred, and a caregiver doesn't know what the next steps should be.

A pet parent's ability to access this kind of professional advice whenever necessary, at a time that's convenient for them, in a place their pet feels comfortable and safe, is an obvious benefit of virtual veterinary care. Additionally, the ability to seek the advice of veterinarians beyond a pet parent's local pool of resources allows for easier access to more expertise, with no extra time or effort.

Saves both time and money

When health issues come up, even minor ones, pet parents commonly bring their pets in for a vet visit just to be on the safe side. Having a licensed, professional veterinarian "on call" to listen to concerns, answer basic health questions, suggest some initial at-home treatments, and help determine the seriousness of any given illness or injury could change everything in terms of time and money spent on vet visits.

"It becomes a question of whether to take action or pause and monitor for changes," says Dr. Scott. "Let's say your dog is having digestive issues at 11 p.m. You could take him to the emergency vet and pay a hefty fee just to be seen. Or you could pay \$12.95 per month for Pet Vet Hotline for unlimited access and speak to a licensed veterinari-

an immediately who can tell you, 'He's okay, just watch for these specific symptoms.' This really has the potential to save pets a lot of undue stress and parents lots of money and time."

Allows for treatment on-the-go

Managing pet illnesses or injuries during travel is distressing. You're far from home, far from a familiar, trusted veterinarian, and not sure whether to head back home or continue your trip. Knowing the support of a licensed vet is right at your fingertips, no matter where you roam can give you the peace of mind you need to enjoy your trip.

Educates and empowers caregivers

When it comes to human colds, stomach bugs, and minor injuries, we all know what to do and which medicines and home remedies will make us feel better. But when it comes to our pets, we're often at a loss. Our dogs and cats can't tell us exactly where they hurt or detail their specific symptoms. We have to rely on what we see, and we're not always sure what we're looking at, or what we should be looking for in terms of changes in behavior or appearance. Human remedies for injuries and illness don't always work well for pets – and can even be dangerous for them.

Through telehealth, veterinarians can educate pet parents about first aid; help them make sense of behavioral changes, which commonly correspond with a pet's overall health; and perhaps most significantly, teach them how to assess their pets so they can make educated decisions about their care and treatment. They can also separate

truth from fiction when it comes to outdated or anecdotal remedies pet parents may find along the way as they search for answers to their pet health questions.

Learning how to assess your own pet and provide him with basic treatment and care, while knowing that help is readily available whenever you should need it, wherever you happen to be, can ease your anxiety, improve your confidence, and empower you as a pet parent.

Support vets and their staff

A sharp uptick in demand for veterinary services has, in some cases, put an increased strain on veterinary staff. Veterinarians often find themselves in the position of having less time to manage a continuously growing number of patients. Pet parents, for their part, often find themselves dealing with longer wait times, both for care, and for answers to their basic health and wellness questions. Telehealth can help reduce the strain on veterinary offices by fielding general behavioral, health, and nutrition questions, separating urgent health issues from those that are non-urgent, and performing pre-in-clinic visit assessments. This frees up time and resources for veterinary offices, allowing them to run more efficiently, and enabling veterinarians to take more time with patients, and focus on pets with the most serious health issues.

In the end, telehealth can go a long way toward bridging the gap between pet patients, pet parents, and veterinarians.

"As a veterinarian, you're doing the best you can but you can only do so much," says Dr. Scott. "Virtual veterinary services provide easy access to veterinarians, give pet parents the education they need to make the right decisions for their pets, and support veterinarians so they can do the best possible job. I really believe this is a solution for the future."

HALL From Page A1

neighbors' hands as we can. In the trenches it's a sad unspoken truth that we can't help all the hungry neighbors in need, but we can help the next one, and then the one after that and the one after that. Such is the battleground and the nature of the fight. We are extremely fortunate to have passionate, skilled volunteers join us. Their selfless service to others is only outshined by their humility. They are serving hundreds of people who will never know who they are.

In the trenches, food prices have increased over ten percent in the last twelve months. Fixed income from Social Security is increasing this year by roughly eight percent. Our neighbors who have relied on SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) lost their emergency COVID allotments last year. Forty-seven percent of SNAP households also receive Social Security benefits, and those families will see their SNAP benefits reduced due to the Social Security increase. The hard truth is that many neighbors' ability to purchase food has fallen and is worse than one year ago. Current data reports 44,000 food challenged neighbors in Hamilton County. Welcome to the trenches of the war on hunger. The circumstances that place people in the battle are none of my business. Helping those in the battle is the business of Feeding Team. Take What you Need, Give What you Can. With over 44,000 food challenged neighbors in Hamilton County, www.Feedingteam.org is a registered 501C3 not

for profit organization that provides outdoor 24x7x365 no questions asked free food pantries throughout the county. The pantries exist, to meet the food insecurity needs of GAP families, neighbors that may not qualify for public assistance and could use a few meals before payday. The pantries serve as many food-challenged neighbors as possible, and our hearts are with those that like my family, could not always make ends meet.

Thank you for supporting the pantries. We love serving with so many neighbors across Hamilton County. In future columns we will share more stories about how your generosity served neighbors in times of need. The face of hunger in Hamilton County is not what you may think.

In practical terms this straightforward way to help neighbors is having real impact on lives, families, and our communities. Thank you. A few meals can change the course of a person's life. A can of green beans means so much more when you have nothing to feed your kids. Would you like to get involved? Volunteer opportunities are available. We are evaluating new pantry locations. If you think you have a potential area location, please contact us.

Feeding Team operates 49 pantries, served 10,000 meals in November 2022 and have over thirty volunteer families. Mark & Lisa Hall are the Founders of Feeding Team. They may be reached at lisa@feedingteam.org and mark@feedingteam.org or (317) 832-1123.

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15
Dearborn

Number % ÷ Stumpers

1. What percentage of land is possessed by Lawrenceburg? \geq
2. How many individuals do not reside in Lawrenceburg? \leq
3. How old is Dearborn County? \geq
4. What is the population density of the county? \leq

Answers: 1. About 1.8% 2. 45,079 Individuals 3. 215 Years 4. 163/square mile

Did You Know?

- Dearborn County was found in 1803 and named after Dr. Henry Dearborn.
- The county has a population of 50,047 individuals and a land area of 307.42 square miles.
- Lawrenceburg, the county seat, has a total land area of 5.56 square miles.
- The southeastern county line is formed by the Ohio River.
- Lawrenceburg has an estimated 4,968 residents.

Got Words?

Dearborn County is home to Perfect North Slopes ski resort. The resort offers tubing and a variety of ski slopes with varying difficulties. How do you think resorts, such as Perfect North, play a role in the ecosystem and community of small towns?

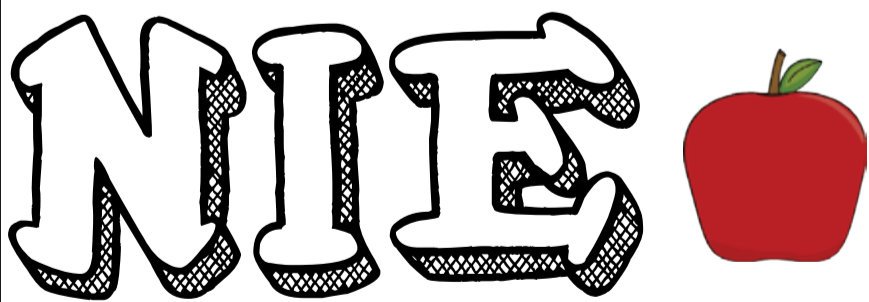
Word Scrambler

Unscramble the words below!

1. OIOH VERRI
2. WRLAREECNGBU
3. ECREFT NRHTO
4. ADRORENB YCNUOT
5. ISK EPSSLO

Answers: 1. Ohio River 2. Lawrenceburg 3. Perfect North 4. Dearborn County 5. Ski Slopes

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THURSDAY

Indiana the Strong

Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023

A7

Governor Holcomb's 2023 State of the State Address

EDITOR'S NOTE: Last Tuesday, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb delivered the annual State of the State address in Indianapolis. The Times is happy to present the text of the speech as prepared for delivery.



Governor Eric Holcomb

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, Madam Chief Justice, Lieutenant Governor, members of the General Assembly, my fellow Hoosiers, it's my privilege to report to you once again on the state of our beloved state, and to share what I believe we as Hoosiers can do to make Indiana an even better place to live, work, and build a future. Please understand one thing up front: I intend to work even harder over the next two years than I have at any other time, to continue to improve our prospects for every single person who calls Indiana home.

After all, believing in this state and our people is why I wanted the job in the first place, and a ticking clock only increases my sense of urgency.

And as we all know, there is much more work to be done!

To that end, just last week, I laid out the specifics of my 2023 legislative agenda, keeping with the same pillars I've used the last six years – so I will spare you a repeat of every detail.

However, tonight I do want to lay out three sets of big goals, and how we achieve them – worthy of a state that is doing well, turning heads, and always seeking to improve.

One, let's secure Indiana's place in the economy of the future.

Two, let's transform the delivery of public health access across the state from how it was structurally designed over a century ago.

And three, let's continue to make unprecedented investments in the classrooms of Indiana's school systems – from pre-K through college and adult learning pathways.

And here's why we can do these three things at the levels I proposed in my budget last week.

Recall, when I first stood right here in 2017, our revenues were roughly \$15.5 billion.

By the end of fiscal year 2022, revenues had grown to over \$21 billion – that's almost \$6 billion – and we've controlled the size of government!

Looking forward, our revenues are estimated to exceed what we spend by \$2.3 billion, and expected to grow by another 3% in each year of the next biennium.

Ladies and gentlemen, because of our strategic collaboration, Indiana has become known for our responsible budgets – and this one is no different.

We have again proposed to make an additional \$1 billion contribution to the pre-1996 teachers' pension fund.

Since 2011, 30 years have been cut from the time to fully fund this pension, which will free up dollars for other uses beginning in 2029 instead of 2059.

And just since 2017, we've paid down our state debt by 31%!

And because our revenue and population are both growing, we have the ability – rather, the obligation – to fuel that growth and utilize reserves for one-time projects, even while we maintain a healthy surplus protecting our state's AAA credit rating.

Indeed, the work we've done together has brought us to this position of

locate the needed resources so we can fly out of the fourth turn and edge out the competition down the negotiation stretch.

It's been said that investment is the strongest sign of a promising future.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, investment loves Indiana, and we have a race plan in place to help all 92 counties reach their Next Level aspirations.

That includes finishing I-69 next year, connecting Evansville to Indianapolis three years ahead of schedule, double-tracking the South Shore rail line in northwest Indiana, and connecting homes, and schools, and businesses via broadband internet – even on our most remote terrain.

After all, there are autonomous tractors in the field, just as there are robotic assembly lines in our factories that need to communicate up and down the supply chain!

And speaking of connecting, tonight I'm pleased to announce through our Next Level Trails program that we're adding a major acquisition to our state's trails legacy.

Director Dan Bortner and his Department of Natural Resources team led negotiations on behalf of Radius Indiana and the city of New Albany, with big time help from Steve Ferguson at the Cook Medical Group, to acquire an old abandoned rail corridor running through Clark, Floyd, Washington, Orange and Lawrence counties.

Once completed, this recreational trail that follows the route of the historic Monon Railroad will be 62.3 miles – the longest contiguous multi-use trail in the state.

Trails and land conservation are sweet spots for Janet, and our dog Henry and me, and so many other Hoosiers.

No wonder we were recognized last year as the national Rail-Trail champion and that our state park inns have the highest occupancy rate in the country.

With this new Monon South trail, we will have invested nearly \$150 million in trails since 2019, another example of the state helping meet the demand to explore and discover – in Indiana – right in their backyards.

So, I'm seeking \$50 million more for trails to continue our momentum, along with another \$25 million to build on our highly successful land conservation program, with partners like The Nature Conservancy and the Central Indiana Land Trust, so that even more Hoosiers and our guests can enjoy Indiana's great outdoors.

With this type of momentum, and so much more, I'm forced to utter that familiar phrase: ladies and gentlemen, the state of our state is strong, and about to get stronger!

But I don't want that phrase to distract us from my bigger purpose tonight.

It's the getting stronger part of the equation that I ask for your help over the next two years.

Because even though we've accomplished a great deal in Indiana, it's obvious we have more potential yet to be realized – and these challenges can't be wished or hoped away.

When individuals, communities, and businesses step up, acknowledge their challenges, and take steps to reach their Next Levels, they should know their state has their back.

And it will take new action to get new results where public health is concerned.

So, let me first thank the Public Health Commission, which completed its work last summer, and especially its co-chairs, former State Senator Luke Kenley, former State Health Commissioner Dr. Judy Monroe and our current Health Commissioner Dr. Kris Box and her team.

I hate to remind you, but I will: We rank 45th for smoking, 46th for obesity, 43rd for access to mental health providers and 41st for childhood immunizations, among all states – you know, our competition.

But what really struck me is that our life expectancy in Indiana has declined in recent years – specifically among those who are front and center to our future – working age adults between 25 and 64-years-old.

That's a pattern we need to reverse, and I will politely push and prod and poke everyone I can to adopt the commission's recommendations, including a significant increase in our state's public-health appropriation – \$120 million in the first year and \$227 million in the second year.

Nearly all of these dollars will be deployed locally – in your districts where our fellow Hoosiers need them – tailored to the unique circumstances of each community partner.

In fact, this initiative will come from the willing counties, to design and propose ways to leverage their own funds in an 80-20 state and local mix.

Our health and wellbeing challenges of course extend to addressing mental health problems, helping Hoosiers defeat addiction, maternal and infant mortality, and assisting our veterans who face double the risk of dying by suicide than other groups.

So, our localized pathways to improvement must include programs to attack these issues, close to home, by building sustainable systems that prevent and respond to a crisis – like our 988 system is doing today – and investing in data-driven, evidence-based community programs with the opioid settlement funds we're now receiving.

We don't have a day or a dollar or a life to waste, so taking the next four months to get it right: nothing could be more important.

Just as we craft our new state public health system, we already have a great example of a tailor-made community development program.

Our first \$500 million READI investment leveraged another \$6.5 billion – over \$2 billion put toward housing – and has become an indispensable part of our business and talent attraction efforts, while offering a boon to every community and county that steps up.

There's already a queue of requests seeking another \$400 million to leverage nearly \$7 billion more of private and other non-state funding.

So, I'm asking the legislature for another \$500 million to launch READI 2.0 – to lock in more transformational projects.

And while READI is our secret weapon to attract more talent in our rural, suburban and urban communities, it's irrefutable that we must do more to prepare and retain our homegrown talent, too.

The most important determinant of a child's success in adulthood is their education.

Furthermore, the quality of their education relies

overwhelmingly on two groups of people – parents and teachers.

Since 2017, I'm so proud of the work we've accomplished together to support unprecedented investments in K-12, which has translated into school districts answering the call to raise teacher pay.

Starting teacher salaries now reach \$40,000, and we're closing in on the goal of achieving an average teacher salary of at least \$60,000 a year.

But to ultimately reach this goal, we need to continue what we started by making the state's largest-ever investment in K-12 tuition support – an increase of \$1.1 billion – and give schools the resources to continue equipping our children's educators.

Hoosier parents are no more sheltered from the rising cost of living than their child's teachers.

And for these parents of school-aged children, fees for curriculum materials essential for in-class instruction can be hundreds of dollars each year – per child – depending on the district!

Sadly, Indiana remains one of only seven states that still allows this disguised tax to be levied on parents each year.

One such parent joins us tonight.

Mandy Allen, a school counselor in South Vermillion School Corporation, paid about \$630 this year for books for her four children.

Our state constitution promises a tuition-free education.

Let's cover the full cost of curriculum fees paid for by parents like Mandy, so that – starting next school year – no parent receives such a dreadful bill again.

And while parents and teachers are the essential human ingredients in a child's education, and curriculum materials are essential for instruction, no child can succeed without the ability to read.

There is overwhelming evidence that a child who cannot read by the third grade is more likely to become the adult parent who can't read – and therefore disadvantaged for life.

With nearly one out of every five kids in Indiana currently at risk of falling behind in reading, we must do everything we can – and do it now.

Last summer was a good start.

With the help of the Lilly Endowment, we made the state's largest investment in literacy to help prepare more current and future teachers for reading instruction, and the budget I submitted last week proposes rewarding schools that improve their results in third grade reading as well.

But even before entering a classroom, children should have access to books at home and developing a love of reading.

That's why I've proposed funding Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, so children from birth to age five statewide can receive high-quality books each month.

Then, at the other end of the public-education spectrum, I'm asking the legislature to support a \$184 million increase in higher education funding, and support the Commission for Higher Education's proposal to reward our world-class universities for keeping their graduates in careers in our state.

After all, Indiana's college campuses need to be the epicenters of brain gain – not brain drain!

Another pathway to brain gain is enrolling

more first-generation, and low-income minority college-goers, which is why we should support Martin University's mission.

And we can easily ensure thousands more students have their college opportunity paid by automatically enrolling all financially eligible students in the immensely successful 21st Century Scholarship Program, once and for all!

Finally, but no less importantly, we must further invest in adult learning and workforce training in a variety of tailored ways – including increased support for our Next Level Jobs program, expanded access to the Excel Centers, a pilot program to incentivize recipients of Unemployment Insurance to obtain their high school diplomas – and then on to a job!

And we expect that even more of these difference-making programs will be initiated and developed by our own Workforce Cabinet, because Indiana should light-up a pathway to anyone looking for upward mobility.

We don't just want everyone in the workforce, we need everyone in the workforce – and by-golly, we'll help you get there!

At the outset of this address, I mentioned that many of the investments were ones we needed to make in this budget year, made possible by our careful stewardship to grow the private, not public sector.

Yet, I'm mindful as public servants, we must maintain the strength of our essential good government services that Hoosiers rely on each day to grow.

And there is no more essential service than public safety.

That's why my budget calls for major investments in school safety, law enforcement and our firefighters across the state.

Specifically, I am asking the General Assembly to join me by increasing school safety grants by 30%, fully funding our courts' request to upgrade technology and make greater use of our problem-solving courts, making investments to finally realize a true statewide firefighter training system, and to buy the necessary protective equipment for our volunteer forces.

And let's raise the starting pay for Indiana's State Police to \$70,000 a year!

Ladies and gentlemen, in closing, I hope you will take away a few things from tonight.

Number one, I'm proud of our stewardship of state government.

Here in Indiana, we have a well-run, soundly financed state – and the word is out!

And two, more broadly, this is Indiana's time, and we're on the move.

Our economy is growing.

New and exciting opportunities are in reach.

Investors are giving us their vote of confidence.

They're creating industries and careers here.

They see their growth and future here.

Let's prove them right!

For we know there is demand for what Indiana offers.

So, let's redouble our focus on the supply, by building pathways on which more Hoosiers can travel to become healthier, wealthier and wiser.

I stand before you as a full and faithful partner in getting this done, who intends to step on it coming out of turn four.

Thank you, and may God continue to bless our efforts.

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Federal Grant Will Help Improve Quality, Access, Affordability of Early Childhood Care, Education

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning, in partnership with the Indiana Department of Education Office of Kindergarten Readiness, has been awarded a \$42 million federal grant. These dollars will be used over three years to implement programmatic changes that will improve Indiana's capacity to recruit early educators, increase access to early learning opportunities for students in unserved areas and ultimately, support families as they make important decisions regarding their child's education.

"These funds come at a key time as Indiana has built the foundation for innovation through the collaborative partnership of FSSA, IDOE and the Early Learning Advisory Committee. Together we are

uniquely prepared to best serve children and families across the state," said Maureen Weber, chairwoman of the Early Learning Advisory Committee.

The three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will award \$14 million annually to FSSA, which partnered with the Indiana Department of Education on the grant application.

Combined with FSSA's \$4.2 million annual investment as matching funds required by the grant, \$54.6 million will be leveraged in total to accelerate and build Indiana's capacity to implement long-lasting change, including:

- Building upon stakeholders' understanding of the needs, gaps and inequities in Indiana's birth-through-age-5 mixed delivery system, especially

as they relate to underserved populations

- Refreshing Indiana's birth-through-age-5 strategic plan to reflect the current environment and the existing opportunities to drive system-level change

- Amplifying the voices of families in decision-making and introducing new services and educational supports that empower them as their child's first and most important teacher
- Introducing new workforce recruitment and career pathways, building the operational capacity of early childhood care and education providers and enhancing workforce conditions and compensation

- Strengthening instructional practices, quality measures and birth-to-age 8 coordination efforts

- Investing in the expansion of high-quality programs in underserved

geographies

The funding will build upon key work already underway to improve the early learning infrastructure in Indiana. New state legislation championed by Gov. Eric J. Holcomb restructured and expanded Indiana's Early Learning Advisory Committee, and Gov. Holcomb also launched a new Office of Kindergarten Readiness within IDOE to work in partnership with OECOSL to ensure the early learning experiences children receive are effectively readying them for school. In September 2022, new early learning policy goals were established by ELAC to ensure Hoosier children, especially those most underserved, have access to early learning opportunities that prepare them with the skills required to thrive in kindergarten.

Deadline to Apply for Teacher Scholarships Approaching Quickly

Students in high school or college who are planning to teach or work in school administration in the State of Indiana have until January 31 to apply for three scholarships – Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship, Earline S. Rogers Student Teaching Scholarship for Minorities and Student Teaching Scholarship for High-Need Fields.

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education is encouraging students to act quickly, as there is limited funding available. All three financial aid opportunities can be applied for at ScholarTrack.IN.gov.

"Our state's K-12 teachers play an incredibly important role in sharing the value of higher education with their students and preparing them for success," said Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. "The Commission is proud to provide these scholarships to future educators, strengthening Indiana's teacher pipeline for today and tomorrow."

Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship

The Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship provides 200 top-performing high school and college students interested in pursuing a career in education the opportunity to earn a renewable scholarship of up to \$7,500 per year of college (up to \$30,000 total). In exchange, students agree to teach for five years at an eligible Indiana school or repay the corresponding, prorated amount of the scholarship. The Commission will review all applications and notify applicants of their scholarship status via email by March 24, 2023.

"I am really grateful to have received the (Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship). It made paying for college so much cheaper," said current Indiana Univer-

sity South Bend student and scholarship recipient Brianne Simmons. "Now, instead of finding ways to pay for college, I can focus on saving for when I graduate."

Brianne Simmons To qualify for the scholarship, students must meet one of the following academic requirements:

- Rank in the top 20% of their high school graduating class
- Have a top 20th percentile score on the ACT (26) or SAT (1130)
- Have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale

For instructions on how to apply, and for a full list of eligibility requirements, visit the website.

Earline S. Rogers Student Teaching Scholarship for Minorities

The Earline S. Rogers Student Teaching Scholarship for Minorities is available to minority students (defined as Black or Hispanic and Latino individuals) who plan to participate in student teaching or a school administration internship as part of their degree requirements in the semester during which they receive the scholarship. The maximum amount a student may receive is up to \$4,000. Priority will be given to student teaching applicants.

Student Teaching Scholarship for High-Need Fields

The Student Teaching Scholarship for High-Need Fields is available to students who plan to teach special education (any grade) or middle or high school-level math or science. The maximum amount a student may receive is up to \$4,000

For questions about state financial aid, students can contact the Indiana Commission for Higher Education by phone at 888-528-4719 or via email at awards@che.in.gov.

Purdue Ag Economists Provide Insight on Critical Issues Facing Farmers in 2023

After a year of economic shocks that included supply chain disruption, global conflict, tight margins and historic inflation, Purdue University Department of Agricultural Economics experts are looking ahead to what the agricultural sector can expect in 2023. Those findings were recently published in the Purdue Agricultural Economics Report's annual outlook issue.

"Signs are pointing to another uncertain and volatile year in agriculture," said Roman Keeney, associate professor and

co-editor of the report. "In 2023, our experts are assessing the possibility of a recession, impacts from the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, as well as expectations for input costs and food prices."

"Additionally, the 2018 Farm Bill is set to expire in September, which makes 2023 an important year for farm policy. Following multiple years of emergency support and agriculture benefitting from COVID relief packages, government direct support to agriculture is set to fall dramatically."

Inside the issue, Keeney discusses the implications of these changes and notes that the short timeline and a wave of new congressional representatives could make replacing the 2018 Farm Bill in 2023 a significant challenge.

To read the full Purdue Agricultural Economics Report 2021 outlook issue, visit <https://purdue.ag/paer>. The report provides an outlook for the following agricultural topics:

- The U.S. Economy in 2023
- Trade and trade policy
- Factors that shape the

2023 Farm Bill

- Consumer food prices
- Dairy consumption and production
- Purdue Crop Cost and Return Guide
- Agricultural credit
- Farmland values and cash rents

The Purdue Agricultural Economics Report is a quarterly publication from the Department of Agricultural Economics. Articles in the annual outlook issue are intended to provide a road map for understanding challenges facing the agricultural economy.

Jessica Gurevitch Appointed New Forestry and Natural Resources Department Head

Jessica Gurevitch has joined the Purdue College of Agriculture as the new department head for Forestry and Natural Resources. She will also join the department's faculty as a professor.

After earning her bachelor's degree in biological sciences/ecology, evolution and systematics from Cornell University and her PhD in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Arizona, Gurevitch completed a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Chicago. Gurevitch joined Stony Brook University faculty, where she was appointed a distinguished professor in

2018. She also served as chair and co-chair of the Department of Ecology Evolution.

A plant ecologist, Gurevitch is broadly trained with interests in the environment and ecology and in natural resources and forests. After meeting department members during her interview and on several visits during the summer and fall, Gurevitch said she is eager to get to know the department and the state better.

"This is very clearly a high-functioning department with really interesting work taking place, which makes it all the more exciting to join," she said. "I'm very eager

to visit forests across the state and to meet with those working in them and learn more about the work taking place."

Gurevitch said finding a path to build a much-needed new building, increasing diversity within the department and in the broader field of natural resources, and addressing the needs of forestry and natural resources students are her immediate priorities.

"I want to ensure students are receiving the most current and up-to-date education they need for the fields we are preparing them to pursue," she said. "Broadening the base of people who are doing environmental sciences

and natural resource work is crucial. By doing so, we are then broadening the knowledge of all communities."

The move from the East Coast to the Midwest is a big change, Gurevitch said, after spending 37 years of her career in New York. But she is eager to make the leap.

"I love being a part of a state university," she said. "My education and academic career have been spent in public institutions, and it's something I'm very proud of. I have enjoyed that about Stony Brook, and I am very enthusiastic about being at Purdue and becoming a Boilermaker!"

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USDA Expands Eligibility, Enhances Benefits for Key Disaster Programs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) made updates to several conservation, livestock and crop disaster assistance programs to give more farmers, ranchers, and tribes the opportunity to apply for and access programs that support recovery following natural disasters. Specifically, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) expanded eligibility and enhanced available benefits for a suite of its programs. These updates will provide critical assistance to producers who need to rebuild and recover after suffering catastrophic losses of production and infrastructure due to natural disasters.



FSA has updated the following programs: The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP), the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP), the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP).

"As I meet with producers across the country, I have gained a better understanding of the ways in which our programs work—and the ways in which they can be improved to better support all producers, especially those who are working to rebuild their operations after a disaster," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. "This set of updates to our disaster assistance programs reflects FSA's commitment to listening to producers and responding to their needs wherever we have the authorities to do so. We are confident that these changes will increase the both the accessibility and efficacy of our disaster assistance programs, consistent with our goal to build equity into the fabric of our work at the FSA."

Conservation Disaster Assistance Updates

FSA updated ECP to:

- Allow producers who lease Federally owned or managed lands, including tribal trust land, as well as State land the opportunity to participate.
- Provide advance payments, up to 25% of the cost, for all ECP practices before the restoration is carried out, an option that was previously only available for fence repair or replacement. The cost-share payment must be spent within 60 days.

Additionally, Congress also authorized the Federal government to pay 100% of the ECP and EFRP cost for damage associated with the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire in New

Mexico. This fire burned over 340,000 acres from April 2022 to June 2022 and was the largest wildfire in recorded history in New Mexico. ECP and EFRP cost-share assistance is typically capped at 75%. This policy change for 100% cost-share applies only to those locations impacted by the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire.

ECP and EFRP provide financial and technical assistance to restore conservation practices like fencing, damaged farmland or forests.

Livestock Disaster Assistance Updates

FSA also expanded eligible livestock under ELAP, LFP and LIP. Specifically, horses maintained on eligible grazing land are eligible for ELAP, LFP and LIP. Many family farms and ranches use their forage to raise horses to augment their other agriculture endeavors. FSA recognizes that animals maintained in a commercial agriculture operation, add value to the operation and could be available for marketing from the farm. FSA regulations have been updated to include these animals as eligible livestock.

Horses and other animals that are used or intended to be used for racing and wagering remain ineligible.

Ostriches are also now eligible for LFP and ELAP. FSA is making this change because ostriches satisfy more than 50% of their net energy requirement through the consumption of growing forage grasses and legumes and are therefore considered "grazing animals".

This change for ostriches is effective for the 2022 program year for both LFP and ELAP. ELAP requires a notice of loss to be filed with FSA within 30 days of when the loss is first apparent. Because this deadline may have passed for 2022, FSA is extending the deadline for filing notices of loss through March 31, 2023.

LIP and ELAP reimburses producers for a portion of the value of livestock, poultry and other animals that died as a result of a qualifying natural disaster event or for loss of grazing acres, feed

and forage. LFP provides benefits for grazing losses due to drought and eligible wildfires on federally managed lands.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters. Basic NAP coverage is equivalent to the catastrophic level risk protection plan of insurance coverage, which is based on the amount of loss that exceeds 50% of expected production at 55% of the average market price for the crop.

Previously, to be eligible for NAP coverage, a producer had to submit an application (Form CCC-471) for NAP coverage on or before the application closing date. For 2022, if a producer has a Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification (Form CCC-860) on file with FSA, it will serve as an application for basic coverage for all eligible crops having a 2022 application closing date and all NAP-related service fees for basic coverage will be waived for these producers.

FSA will notify all eligible producers who already have the CCC-860 certification form on file of their eligibility for NAP basic coverage for 2022. To potentially receive NAP assistance, producers who suffered losses due to natural disasters in 2022 should file an acreage report as well as a notice of loss with the FSA at their local Service Center.

Producers who are interested in obtaining NAP coverage for 2023 and subsequent years should also contact their local FSA county office for information on eligibility, coverage options and applying for coverage.

Reporting Losses
Producers impacted by a natural disaster should report losses and damages and file an application with their FSA county office. Timelines for reporting losses and applying for payments differ by program.

For LIP and ELAP, producers will need to

file a Notice of Loss for livestock and grazing or feed losses within 30 days and honeybee losses within 15 days. For LFP, producers must provide a completed application for payment and required supporting documentation to their FSA office within 30 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the grazing loss occurred.

For NAP, producers should contact their local FSA office for guidelines on submitting a notice of loss and filing an acreage certification.

More Information

The updates to these programs build on other Biden-Harris administration efforts to improve disaster assistance programs, including additional flexibility in obtaining Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) basic coverage for socially disadvantaged, beginning, limited resource and veteran farmers and ranchers.

Previous enhancement to the ELAP provide program benefits to producers of fish raised for food and other aquaculture species as well as cover above normal expenses for transporting livestock to forage and grazing acres and transport feed to livestock impacted by qualifying drought. And earlier updates to the LIP payment rates better reflect the true market value of non-adult beef, beefalo, bison and dairy animals.

Yesterday, FSA announced it would begin accepting applications for the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase Two and the new Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) on Jan. 23, 2023, through June 2, 2023. ERP Phase Two is designed to fill gaps in the delivery of program benefits not covered in ERP Phase One and improves equity in program delivery to underserved producers. PARP will help address gaps in previous pandemic assistance, which was targeted at price loss or lack of market access, rather than overall revenue losses. Learn more in the Jan. 9, 2023 news release.

Additional Resources
On farmers.gov, the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, Disaster Assistance-at-a-Glance fact sheet, and Farm Loan Discovery Tool can help producers and landowners determine program or loan options. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their crop insurance agent. For FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service programs, contact the local USDA Service Center.

New Economic Impact Study Proves Indiana Grown Delivers Value

Indiana Grown worked with the Purdue University Department of Agricultural Economics to determine the economic impact and growth of the Indiana Grown program through a collaborative, science-driven approach. The study showed that every dollar spent via Indiana Grown activities resulted in \$0.97 in additional economic activity within Indiana.

"The economic impact study conducted by Purdue shows how valuable Indiana Grown is to the state," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "I am grateful to show our Indiana Grown members that their hard work and dedication to the program is paying off."

Consumer survey results showed that over 33% of Hoosier's have awareness and perceptions of the Indiana Grown program and label. For Indiana Grown members, the survey found that the value of the program to their business is equivalent to approximately \$13,600.

"This data is crucial for us to grow the program and address the needs of both our Indiana Grown members and consumers," said Caroline Patrick, director of Indiana Grown. "I am excited to use this study to propel the program forward and look forward to many years of continued economic growth for local products and businesses."

To determine this data the Purdue team distributed a state-wide questionnaire to Hoosiers to detect consumers awareness, quantified consumer willingness to pay for locally made or grown products and surveyed Indiana Grown members to determine the drivers and benefits of being a member of the program.

For the economic contributions of the Indiana Grown program, the data showed that the total economic footprint of the Indiana Grown program was \$13.91 million as of 2020.

"This project was a great example of the partnership between ISDA, Purdue's Department of Agricultural Economics, and Purdue Extension Community

Development," said Dr. Michael Wilcox, Community and Regional Economics specialist with the Department of Agricultural Economics for Purdue University. "We set out to explore the impact and potential of Indiana Grown from the perspective of consumers, producers (the Indiana Grown members), and the Indiana economy in a rigorous and defensible way. This unique study helps ISDA and Indiana Grown make data-driven decisions about how to continue best supporting Indiana agricultural product branding, and local agri-entrepreneurs that provide value-added agricultural products to consumers in Indiana and beyond."

For Indiana Grown producers, the survey found that members are satisfied with their membership and would recommend the program to others. Additionally, member respondents enjoyed the promotional and marketing events and would like to see more events in 2023. According to the data, most Indiana Grown members joined the program in 2018, particularly in the proteins, livestock, horticulture, grains and oil operations. Likewise, 2020 was the year with the second-highest number of producers enrolled in Indiana Grown, those categories of new members were horticulture, grains, oils, proteins, livestock, wholesale and retail.

"As an Indiana Grown member, the data collected in the study is so valuable in knowing that this program truly enhances my business and sales," said Rachel Boyer, owner of Rachel's Taste of Indiana in Converse. "I love encouraging consumers to shop local and I am passionate about the Indiana Grown program. I was thrilled to see this study come to life and see that what we thought all along, that consumers enjoy shopping local, really is true."

This data was collected from September 2019 to September 2022 and was funded for nearly through the USDA's Federal State Marketing Improvement Program.

Learn more about Indiana Grown at indianagrown.org.

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