

➔ TODAY'S VERSE

Romans 8:38 – 39 “And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow – not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below – indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (NLT)



➔ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Logan Campbell smile? “Coming to see my grandparents,” said the 20-year-old Noblesville resident, the grandson of Bill and Carrie Prater of Noblesville. He was found earlier this year with his grandparents, who were closing Kirk’s Hardware after owning the store for 20 years. “Ever since I can remember, I was coming in here when I was a little kid, for the summers,” said the 2020 Noblesville High School graduate, who has enjoyed working part time for his grandparents at the store. Logan said he’s learned a lot from his Papaw, including how to fix things. But the biggest thing that Logan credits to his Papaw Prater is learning “respect.” He said, “Just treating people respectfully. I’ve always learned that’s very important from him. He’s been that idol or role model for me ... He taught me a bunch.” The Praters were found Aug. 7 enjoying their last ice-cream desserts at the South 10th Street Dairy Queen, which closed permanently that evening to make room for the new roundabout coming to the intersection of 10th and Pleasant streets.

And Another Thing...

1. Baird Responds

After Joe Biden’s recent State of the Union, Congressman Jim Baird, a Republican who represents Indiana’s 4th District, said this: “Tonight, the President delivered his second State of the Union address from the U.S. Capitol, which, thanks to temporary fencing, is more secure than our southern border.” What’s the old line? If it weren’t so sad, it’d be funny. Over in the Senate, Indiana’s Mike Braun has an observation of his own. “Where I come from, you don’t get credit for putting out a fire you started. When President Biden touts “deficit reduction” tonight he means adding slightly less to our \$31 trillion debt bomb this year than the one and a half trillion he added last year. When he touts jobs coming back, he doesn’t mention what they’re coming back from: record high inflation he created and his COVID policies that paid people not to work ... the state of our federal government is bloated, wasteful, and in need of real leadership.”

2. DNR at Boat Show

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources wants to see you at the Indianapolis Boat, Sport and Travel Show on Feb. 17-19 and 22-26. The show takes place at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. The DNR and State Park Inns will have an information booth in Tackle Town in the Blue Ribbon Pavilion. The booth is a convenient one-stop shopping opportunity for licenses, state park passes, lake-use permits and Outdoor Indiana magazine subscriptions. DNR biologists and State Parks interpretive naturalists will be on hand to share program information and resources, as well as answer fish and wildlife and parks questions.

The TIMES

Hamilton County’s Own Daily Newspaper



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

Bryan Ball Cavajal (from left), Eric Dixon Gonzales, Austin Uebelhor, Sarah Eberhardt and Barb Weaver rehearse for The Belfry Theatre’s “Around the World in 80 Days,” opening Friday at Arts for Lawrence’s Theater at the Fort.

Belfry’s ‘Around the World in 80 Days’ Travels to Next County



BETSY REASON
The Times Editor

The Belfry Theatre play director Eric Matters talks about directing a play for a theater without a theater, how his family was the driving force for theater in his life, and how his upcoming show, “Around

Want TO GO?

What: Hamilton County Theatre Guild’s Belfry Theatre production of “Around the World in 80 Days” play.
When: Feb. 10-19, 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Note the earlier evening time from The Belfry’s traditional start time.
Where: Art for Lawrence’s Theater at the Fort, 8920 Otis Ave., Indianapolis, 46216.
How much: \$20 for adults, \$15 for ages 62 and older, students and military.
Tickets: artsforlawrence.org/tickets or 317-773-1085.

the World in 80 Days,” which opens Friday, is keeping him grounded with a purpose after the recent loss of his father. “Being a theater without a theater is a challenge,” Matters said, referring to The Belfry Theatre which had its last performance at the Noblesville venue in February 2020 just before the Covid pandemic.

The small 104-seat Belfry Theatre building on Greenfield Avenue and Union Chapel Road closed during the pandemic and remains closed today due to building and maintenance issues that occurred while the building was not in use. Since Belfry Theatre productions resumed,

➔ See BETSY Page A9

House Passes Goodrich's Bill to Raise Earned Income Tax Credit



Rep. Chuck Goodrich

The Indiana House of Representatives on Monday unanimously advanced State Rep. Chuck Goodrich’s (R-Noblesville) bill to increase the state’s earned income tax credit from 10% to 12%.

Goodrich said this legislation would provide additional tax

relief to working Hoosiers struggling to make ends meet. This tax credit is available to low- to moderate-income workers, providing tax relief for an estimated 500,000 Hoosiers.

“Increasing this tax credit could be a great benefit for working families around the state and can play a role in combatting generational poverty,” Goodrich said.

“We want to support those in the workforce, especially as employers continue to experience challenges filling job openings.”

Goodrich said the bill would also couple Indiana to the current federal earned income tax credit. By coupling with the federal tax credit, Hoosiers will be able to benefit from this expanded relief including families

➔ See GOODRICH Page A9

CPA to Launch New Arts Camp Aimed at Youth With Disabilities



Children and young adults with disabilities can explore their talents and make new friends at a summer camp debuting in June at the Center for the Performing Arts.

Adapted from a concept developed at Ball State University, the Prism Project at the Center is a four-week performing arts camp designed for people ages 6-22 with physical, developmental and cognitive disabilities.

With guidance and one-on-one support from trained instructors and non-disabled peer volunteers, the participants learn about self-expression through theater, dance, and vocal and instrumental music. The program will culminate in an original group performance on June 25.

The goal of the Prism Project is to provide an engaging per-

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➔ INSIDE TODAY

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➔ OBITUARIES

Paul Alan Achenbach



➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Keep high calorie snack foods out of sight – you’ll eat fewer of them. 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 thetimes24-7.com



➔ HONEST HOOSIER

The media is praising the fighter pilot who shot down the Chinese balloon for doing it with one shot. It’s a slow-moving balloon the size of three school buses. Can you imagine the kidding he would have got had he missed?



The Times appreciates all our customers. Today, we’d like to personally thank **YVONNE CATHCART** for subscribing!

➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

“Your love shines in my heart as the sun that shines upon the earth.”

Eleanor Di Guillo

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

What month does the boss say the fewest dumb things? February. It has the fewest days.

13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

40 DRIZZLE FOR TO GREAT RAIN THU	32/34 COLD, SNOW FRI	25/37 BURNING COLD SAT	27/44 WETTER AND WARMER SUN	39/51 BREEZY AND RAINY MON	45/51 BREEZY AND WINDY TUE	38/50 RAIN CHANCE WED
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⇒ OBITUARIES

Paul Alan Achenbach

September 12, 1945-February 6, 2023

Paul Alan Achenbach, age 77, of Cicero, Indiana, passed away February 6, 2023 at his home with his family by his side. He was born September 12, 1945 at Saint Petersburg, Florida to Paul Hoover and Glenda Bernardine (Brunk) Achenbach.

During his younger years he grew up in the Jackson Township, Hamilton County, Indiana area and graduated from Jackson Central High School with the Class of 1963. He then attended Parson College in Iowa before transferring to Ball State University.

He first worked for General Motors Company in Anderson, Indiana, a division where they made and designed headlights and taillights. When General Motors began closing their manufacturing plants in Anderson, he became employed at Allison Transmission Company in Indianapolis and worked there until he retired.

Paul also honorably served his country in the U.S. Army earning the Bronze Star Medal among other other awards and medals.

He was an active member of the Lighthouse Tabernacle Church in Carmel, Indiana where he also served as an elder. He was dedicated to his Savior, his Church and Church family.

His family attested that Paul was a true family man. With his faith his family also came first in his life. He was especially happy to be with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He also enjoyed watching sporting events with his favorite being I.U. Basketball.

He married Vicki Gean (Rayle) Achenbach on January 7, 1984 who survives him. Also surviving are daughters: Kimberly (Steve) Stackhouse and Melissa (Odell) Moore, both of Cicero, IN, a son: Michael Alan Achenbach of Peru, Indiana, a sister Vicki Lynn (Chuck) Seely of Goodyear Arizona, 11 Grandchildren, several Great-grandchildren, and one Great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services will be held Monday, February 13, 2023 at 2:00 P.M. at Hartley Funeral Home Cicero Chapel, 209 West Jackson Street, Cicero, IN, 46034 with Pastor David Wesley Totman officiating. Burial will follow at Cicero Cemetery. A time of visitation will be from 10:00 A.M. until time of the service. Memorial contributions may be made to Lighthouse Tabernacle Church, 2599 East 98th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46280. You may send condolences at www.hartleyfuneral-homes.com.



Timmons Talks This, That and 'Tuther



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

Scattershooting while wondering whatever happened to Jane Webb and Dawn Wells.

LET ME START by saying thank you to the good folks at St. Bernard's church. They invited me to share some highlights of the Israel trip, and even went out of their way to feed me. How's that for a great day! A special thanks to Jan Sears for being so kind and making it easy!

ON THAT subject, if you would like a slightly used vagabond journalist to pay your community or church group a visit and share highlights from a trip to the Holy Land, let me know. You don't even have to feed me!

FOLKS HAVE asked about John Marlowe. I can share, with his permission, that he is fighting prostate cancer. The 60-something-year-old found out just before Christmas and is going through chemotherapy now. I've spoken with him several times and he hasn't lost his sense of humor or wry wit. And he did say prayers are appreciated.

Needless to say he has mine – and I am sure a lot of yours. Here's hoping for a full and complete recovery!

SPEAKING OF great writers battling health issues, I corresponded with one of my favorite sportswriters from back in the day, Jack Hess, a couple of weeks ago. Jack, a Fishers resident and retiree from the Indianapolis News and Star, has been under the weather as well. Like John, I'm looking forward to seeing my friend for a cup of coffee when he is feeling better!

WE'VE BEEN talking about politics a lot lately. Here's a thought. What if every panel, every committee, every group that the Legislature or Congress creates always had an equal number of Republicans and Democrats? That premise would force them to compromise. Decisions would no longer simply be a reflection of the party in power. Probably wouldn't work but we need to find some answer, don't we?

WHILE ON politics, one reader asked a great question after the column on the national debt. Who owns it? Some quick research shows that the debt is divided into intragovernmental holdings and public debt. The intragovernment is mostly debt through the Federal Reserve and Social Security. The public debt, unfortunately, involves a lot of money owed to Japan and China. In the U.S., public debt includes savings bonds, pensions, insurance companies, banks and more.

AT THE end of today's scribbles, we're talking a bit about comic books. But how many of you

remember the big little books? My favorites had small drawings in the corner of some pages and when you flipped through quickly the drawings came alive. I remember a man running and another one with Tarzan swinging on a vine.

ARE YOU tired of the filth that passes for comedy on TV now? Well, if you can find it, check out Dry Bar comedy. If you have streaming TV, it's there. I think you can find it on the internet, too. There are a lot of very funny comedians and the humor isn't anything that would embarrass your mother. What a concept, huh!

DID YOU see the news reports about the Chinese balloon flying over the U.S.? It was reported to be the size of a few school buses and, disturbingly, was flying over areas where we have missile silos. Apparently, this isn't new and has happened a few times before. Still, with Russia and North Korea publicly discussing nuclear strikes . . .

DID YOU catch the comment Joe Biden made the other day? "More than half the people in my cabinet, more than half the women in my administration are women." Before that he was telling people how to report fraud online. He told us to go to "report fraud D-O-T-F-T-C dot gov." If it wasn't so sad it'd be funny.

FOR ALL the fans of Readers' Choice, fear not. We usually kick off our biggest annual promotion early in the year. We're

just running a little behind – which the older I get seems to be more and more common. Sigh. All I can ask is to be patient, and don't be fooled by our competitors' efforts to copy us. You know who's been doing this the longest and the best.

AND FINALLY, Jane Webb. A lot of guys I grew up with were either Betty or Veronica fans, Ginger or Mary Ann. You know what I mean? They either went for the girl next door or the high society type. Me? I always leaned toward Betty or Mary Ann. Jane Webb Karyl was the wonderful voice of Betty in the TV cartoon, Archie. Dawn Wells played Mary Ann on Gilligan's Island. Dawn passed away in December, 2020 at the age of 82 and Jane in 2010 at the age of 84. May they both rest in peace.

BTW, do you recall the last names of our four fictional ladies? Betty was Betty Cooper. Mary Ann was Summers. Ginger was Grant and Veronica was Lodge. Yeah, I had too much time on my hands as a kid and read all the comic books I could get my hands on. My favorites were Batman, Superman, Combat, Archie and the Lone Ranger. What were yours?

Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically 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.



Photo courtesy of Sheridan Historical Society

Fishers-Based Land Betterment Appoints Byron E. Price, Ph.D. to Board of Directors

Fishers-based Land Betterment Corporation ("Land Betterment" or the "Company"), an environmental solutions company fostering positive impact through upcycling former coal mining and industrial sites to create sustainable community development and job creation, yesterday announced the appointment of Dr. Byron E. Price to its Board of Directors as an Independent Director.

Throughout Dr. Price's 40+ year career he has held many positions across multiple fields to include: Doctor of Public Policy and Administration, Professor, Dean, Director, Captain of the United States Army, Global Advisor, Research Fellow, Author, Lecturer and Speaker.

Dr. Price holds a Doctor of Philosophy and Public Policy and Administration from Mississippi State University, a Master of Business Administration from Oklahoma City University and a Bachelor of Science and Master of Public Administration from Texas Southern University. During his distinguished career he has focused his work in the fields of Public Policy, Social Impact Investment, Prison Privat-

ization, Prisoner Reentry, Mass Incarceration, Race and Gender, Social Justice, Workforce Development and Social Entrepreneurship.

Dr. Price who is an experienced professor and policy entrepreneur, is acutely aware of the balance between utilizing the theory of academia and its application to solving real world problems. During his time at Rutgers University, he was responsible for the creation of the Diversity Fund in 2004, which enabled disadvantaged minority students an opportunity to continue their studies.

He also taught in the Executive MPA program where leading local and state officials were able to bridge theory and practice. For his work, he was awarded in 2006 the Human Dignity Award; one of the highest honors Rutgers bestows on individuals dedicated to promoting a culturally enriching environment at Rutgers and the surrounding community.

Mark LaVerghetta, Chief Governance Officer of Land Betterment commented, "We are honored to have Dr. Price, who is skilled in social impact

investment, economic, community, and rural development as well as workforce development training, join our Board of Directors. Byron has been a steadfast supporter of Land Betterment over the years as we built our unique model of fostering positive social and environmental impact by upcycling how we live and thrive to create sustainable community developments and opportunities."

He went on to say, "Byron has extensive experience in transitioning both urban and tribal communities around the world and we are looking forward to drawing upon both his vast knowledge and network, as well as his application of principles in real world scenarios."

Dr. Price added, "I am so impressed with Land Betterment's mission to create scalable impact that is both environmentally and economically sound in underserved regions throughout the United States. In my role as Independent Director, I am looking forward to being part of their continued success fostering positive impact through upcycling former coal mining and industrial sites and creating

sustainable community development and job creation."

About Land Betterment Corporation:

Land Betterment Corporation, an Indiana Benefit Corporation and Pending B-Corp, is an environmental solutions company focused on fostering a positive impact through upcycling former coal mining sites to create sustainable community development and job creation. The Company utilizes a complete solution-based lifecycle program to restore and rehabilitate the environment and revitalize communities in need of change and opportunity.

Land Betterment accomplishes this by identifying un-reclaimed, run-down and neglected coal mining sites, fixing the environment through reclamation and remediation, and then repurposing the land to support a sustainable business that serves the community. Land Betterment firmly believes that with real solutions it is possible for restoration of impacted areas to live side-by-side long term employment, while building sustainable and safe surroundings for communities and our planet.

Special Visitor to Sheridan Museum

On a recent Sheridan First Friday evening, Sheridan Historical Society President Ron Stone (left) and Vice President Steve Martin (center) were pleasantly surprised by a visit from Congresswoman Victoria Spartz. She was passing through Sheridan, and as she came down Main Street she saw the bright lights from the Museum and decided to drop in and say hello. The Congresswoman is a Ukrainian-born American politician and businesswoman who is the U.S. Representative for Indiana's 5th Congressional District. Thank you, Congresswoman Spartz, for taking the time from your busy schedule to stop and say hello.

⇒ Meeting Notice

Hamilton County E911 Executive Board

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-5 (a) The Hamilton County E911 Executive Board will

be meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. The meeting is held in the Mayor's Conference Room in Noblesville City Hall, 16 South 10th St., Noblesville. The discussion will be regarding E911 operations.

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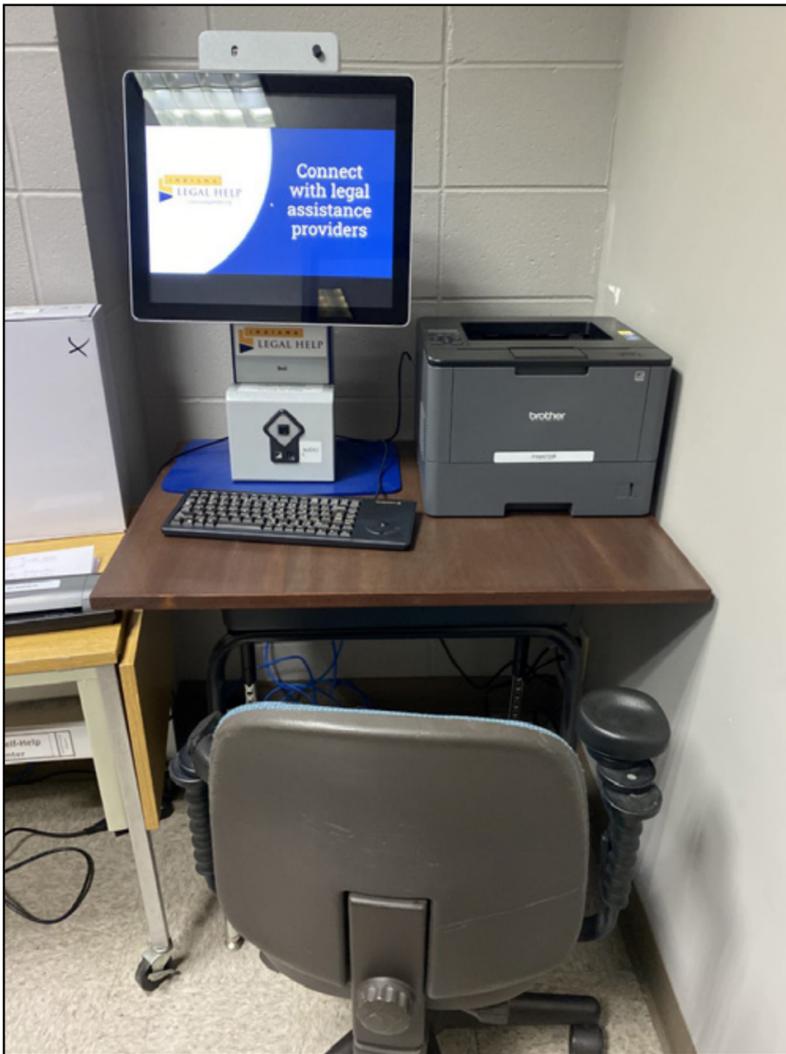


Photo courtesy of Hamilton County

The new kiosk in the Legal Self-Help Center is available to help Hamilton County residents who are facing eviction understand their legal rights.

New Legal Kiosk to Offer Help to Hamilton County Residents Facing Eviction

Hamilton County residents facing eviction or housing instability now have a free legal resource at their fingertips. A new desktop computer, scanner, and printer with access to IndianaLegalHelp.org were installed in the court's Legal Self-Help Center last week.



Court Administrator Jill Acklin

"In Indiana, housing evictions are considered a civil matter," said Court Administrator Jill Acklin, "Which means individuals are not provided legal representation and are often left to navigate the legal system on their own. Resources like these are critical in helping Hoosiers access the resources they need – especially

those who don't have access to reliable internet connectivity."

The Indiana Bar Foundation received a 13-million-dollar, two-year grant from the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority to fund the development and deployment of 120 self-

help kiosks. At least one will be placed in each of Indiana's 92 counties.

Each kiosk provides legal forms, instructional videos, referrals to free and low-cost legal services, and a statewide calendar of free legal advice clinics. The kiosks will begin offering other legal topics later this year.

"These kiosks are an innovative solution to increasing access to justice and providing underserved communities services they so badly need," Acklin added.

Individuals needing legal help with an eviction or housing instability are encouraged to access resources offered at IndianaLegalHelp.org

Federal Grant Funds Available for Specialty Crop Industry

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), beginning Feb. 15, will seek project proposals from Indiana's specialty crop sector for funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Specialty Crop Block Grant Program.

"Specialty crops are big business in Indiana," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development.

"This unique sector is quite large in Indiana, after all 80% of our state is farmland and forests. We are excited to use this federal funding to bolster our large specialty crop sector and research initiatives."

The USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program offers federal funding annually to state departments of agriculture to support their specialty crop industries. This year, Indiana's allocation is

\$484,966.

Eligible projects must enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in Indiana, defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, horticulture and nursery crops.

Funding will not be awarded to projects that benefit a particular commercial product, or provide a profit to a single organization, institution or individual. Each project must identify at least one of the new USDA performance measures that specifically demonstrate the project's impact on enhancing the competitiveness of eligible specialty crops.

ISDA is seeking projects that have objectives such as: increasing consumption and consumer purchasing, increasing access and distribution, increasing food safety knowledge and processing, developing new seed varieties and improving environmental sustainability, among other

things. Click here or visit ams.usda.gov to see the full list of performance measures.

ISDA and USDA encourage applications that benefit smaller farms, new and beginning farmers, underserved producers, veteran producers and underserved communities.

Applications open on Feb. 15, 2023 and are due by 12 p.m. on March 10, 2023. Proposals must be submitted online through the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's Grants Management System. Indiana Specialty Crop Block Grant application resources are located on ISDA's Grants and Funding Opportunities website.

For more information, visit ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/2023_SCBGP_RFA.pdf. For a full list of eligible specialty crops, head to ams.usda.gov/services/grants/scbgb/specialty-crop



Photo courtesy of Centier Bank

Representatives from Centier Bank and United Way gather for a picture celebrating the \$52,000 donation from Centier's annual campaign.

Centier Bank Donates \$52K to 100 Indiana United Way Programs

Centier Bank recently presented a \$52,000 gift to nine United Way agencies across Indiana as part of its annual United Way Workplace Campaign. Centier Bank's associate contributions and a corporate gift will impact approximately 600,000 individuals throughout the state, helping serve more than 100 local United Way programs.

For more than 50 years, Indiana United Way Agencies have been working to improve lives across the globe through health, education, and financial stability programs. For the past several years, Centier Bank has partnered with United Way chapters across the state, resulting in the advancement of initiatives designed to impact thousands of families and individuals in need.

The donation supports the United Way organizations in the 11 counties in which Centier serves, including Lake, Porter, La Porte, St. Joseph, Elkhart, Marshall, Allen, Tippecanoe, Boone,

Marion, and Hamilton counties.

In Northwest Indiana, 1 in 3 households can't afford basic needs such as childcare, housing, food and transportation, which is why United Way NWI is working to expand its services to meet those residents where they are.

Adam O'Doherty, Centier Bank Board of Director member, said Centier associates look forward to participating in the annual campaign each year, which is a way to enrich lives across the communities they serve.

"Our Servant Heart Culture is what drives our purpose to enrich lives for an even better tomorrow," Contrucci explained.

"Our associates enthusiastically participate in this fundraiser and by partnering with United Way agencies across our communities all year round and we are proud to contribute to their success."

For more information on United Way, go to unitedway.org. For more information on Centier Bank, go to centier.com

Get Shakin' for Earthquake Awareness Month

February is Earthquake Awareness Month.

Earthquakes in Indiana may seem unusual or unlikely, but the reality is the state is near two seismic zones. Both seismic zones have the potential to produce major earthquakes and many small quakes. About 2,000 tremors occur daily in the central United States, underscoring the need for all Hoosiers to know earthquake safety.

Hoosiers need to Get Shakin' to be aware of the risk and prepare for a substantial quake. If an earthquake were to strike, Hoosiers should stop what they are doing and:

- Drop where they

are, onto their hands and knees,

- Cover their head and neck with one arm and hand and crawl for shelter under a nearby table or desk (sturdy piece of furniture), and
- Hold On to the shelter with their free hand until the earthquake stops.

K-12 Get Shakin' Video Contest

To encourage students to take an active role in learning earthquake safety the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is launching the Get Shakin' video contest. School-aged Hoosiers (K-12) have the chance to win their class or group a Raspberry Shake RS3D

seismograph to use for a year to track seismic activity worldwide!

Groups can enter by submitting a student-produced video focused on earthquake preparedness and/or safety. A panel of judges from IDHS will select the Top 10 videos to win a seismograph, and an overall winner will be selected to receive a seismograph plus the grand prize: an "Indiana Earthquake Day" event.

The contest is open now. Video entries will be accepted until Aug. 31, 2023. Additional information about the video contest and earthquake safety is on the GetShakin' webpage.

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COPAYS AND DEDUCTIBLES MAY APPLY

Senate Approves Doctor Non-Compete Ban

By Leslie Bonilla Muñiz

The Indiana Senate on Tuesday overwhelmingly passed a ban on physician non-compete agreements, a top Senate GOP priority and one of several bills meant to lower the cost of health care. But some fear Senate Bill 7 could hurt poorer hospitals.

The non-compete agreements bar physicians who leave their jobs from working in similar positions within a certain timeframe, and often a geographical range. That means doctors who want or need to take other jobs either can't practice med-

icine for the agreed-upon time period, or must move elsewhere — even out of state.

"Eliminating non-compete clauses will help increase competition among health care providers, which will lead to lower prices and more options for Hoosiers," author Sen. Justin Busch, R-Fort Wayne, said on the floor.

Eliminating the practice nationally, Busch said, could save health care consumers about \$148 billion annually. That's according to the Federal Trade Commission, which is considering a nationwide ban.

Minority Leader Greg

Taylor, D-Indianapolis, said he supported the bill because the non-compete agreements can also require physicians to refer patients to colleagues within the same medical system.

"People should be referred to the best doctor, not just based on a business decision," Taylor said.

But some feared the bill would threaten hospitals with narrow margins.

"This has been a very, very difficult bill to find the center spot on because you do see both sides," said Sen. Jean Breaux, D-Indianapolis. "The flip side is that the hospitals do

invest an awful lot in the physicians that they bring to their organizations."

Banning non-competes, she said, would let doctors leave their employers at will and "negate all of the investments made on the front end by the hospital."

In committee, some hospitals said non-competes kept their talent in place, but incisive Sen. Liz Brown, R-Fort Wayne, argued that non-competes also kept doctors from leaving other health systems and joining ones desperately in need of help.

The conservative-leaning Indiana Chamber of Commerce also came out

against the bill, arguing that the government should have no role in private contractual matters.

"We have a fundamental philosophical position — long standing — that we oppose government interfering in employers' rights to enter into contracts," President and CEO Kevin Brinegar said Tuesday.

He warned the bill could introduce a slippery slope.

"If we're going to do it here for doctors, then what occupations or what other types of contracts might come next, that the state might want to interfere in?" he asked.

The Senate passed the

bill 45-5, with Breaux and three other Democrats voting against. Sen. Jean Leising, R-Oldenburg, also voted against, citing similar concerns for rural hospitals.

It now goes to the House for consideration.

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BBB Scam Alert: The Top 3 Valentine's Day Scams

This Valentine's Day is shaping up to be big, according to projections by the National Retail Federation, which suggests that consumer spending will reach nearly \$26 billion.

As you prepare to celebrate, there are few common scams that you need to be aware of. Whether you're hoping to spark a new relationship or buying gifts for loved ones, beware of these three scams regularly reported to BBB.

Impostor websites

From fake jewelry sellers to online dating sites, consumers should always be on the alert for impostor websites. Scammers can easily lift official photos, sale promotions and logos directly from the website for a popular jewelry brand. With professional graphics and unbeatable prices, scammers build an attractive website that looks eerily similar to



the real thing.

Similar methods may be used to build fake online dating platforms, which are often used to steal personal data and credit card information. For more tips to spot fake websites, read our guide to smart shopping online.

Red flags:

- Products are available at extreme discounts.
- The seller requests customers pay with cash transfer apps or cryptocur-

rency.

- Customer service is unreachable.

Romance scams

Romance scammers often target vulnerable people who have experienced a recent breakup or other hardship. They take advantage of that heartbreak to establish a connection and gain sympathy. Once they've gotten their victim on the hook with a sad story, they begin pursuing their true goal—money.

Falling victim to a romance scam can be particularly devastating. Victims can lose thousands of dollars, and they're often left feeling heartbroken and betrayed because they really believed they'd found a good partner. Read more about romance scams for safe online dating advice.

Red flags:

- The relationship moves very fast.
- You never meet in

person.

- They ask for money.

Wrong number scam

Responding to a text message from someone who messaged the wrong number might seem harmless. In fact, it might even seem like the polite thing to do, if they say they're looking to reconnect with a potential match.

The text message, however, is bait to lure you into a conversation. If you keep chatting, they eventually try to get your personal information by directing you to sign up for an adult site. Learn more about wrong number texts and scam bots.

Red flags:

- The messages don't stop.
- The sender directs you to sign up for a website.
- They try to get your personal information.

Fake florist scam

Ordering flowers for Valentine's Day? Don't

procrastinate or you may end up falling for a scam. BBB has received many reports of shoppers who thought they were ordering flowers from an online florist... but either got nothing at all, or a disappointing arrangement. Don't let phony florists ruin Valentine's Day.

Red flags:

- The business has no reviews or bad reviews, always check BBB.org.
- You can't find a return policy or satisfaction guarantee.
- The deal is "too good to be true."

What to do if you encounter a scam

If you encounter a suspected romance scam, cut off all contact with the perpetrator by blocking their accounts and phone number. Then, report your experience to BBB.org/ScamTracker. Dating site users should also report suspicious activity to the

platform, so they can take action against the scammers account.

See more BBB's Valentine's Day scam alerts and tips at BBB.org/Valentine.

For more information about romance scams, visit BBB.org/romance.

About BBB Serving Central Indiana:

For more than 100 years, Better Business Bureau has been helping people find businesses, brands and charities they can trust. In 2021, people turned to BBB more than 200 million times for BBB Business Profiles on more than 6.3 million businesses and Charity Reports on 25,000 charities, all available for free at BBB.org. There are local, independent BBBs across the United States, Canada and Mexico, including BBB serving Central Indiana, which was founded in 1916 and serves 46 counties.

Farmers' Market Opens at Indy Airport; Features Over 60 Indiana Suppliers

Travelers at the Indianapolis International Airport (IND) can now truly experience Hoosier home-grown as they dine at the new Farmers' Market restaurant, which serves up a menu of foods and products grown, produced and packaged by more than 60 Indiana Grown members from throughout the state.

Earlier this week, SPP America, along with airport officials, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch who leads rural affairs in Indiana and serves as the Indiana Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development and Indiana Grown members celebrated the grand opening of the Farmers' Market in Concourse B. "We've been very intentional in our conces-

sions refresh initiative to present various aspects of the Hoosier experience, and the Farmers' Market featuring Indiana Grown delivers it in the most authentic way," said Mario Rodriguez, Indianapolis Airport Authority executive director.

This week's event showcased the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's Indiana Grown initiative, which promotes more than 1,800 Hoosier farms, growers and producers from across Indiana.

"Indiana Grown is near and dear to my heart, and I am incredibly proud of this program and the work it's done for its members over the last seven years," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, who also serves

as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development.

"This partnership between Indiana Grown, the Indy Airport and SSP America is a great way to show that the entrepreneurial spirit is thriving in Indiana."

The Farmers' Market will feature a rotating, seasonal menu that will leverage Indiana Grown members across the calendar year.

"The Farmer's Market showcases the state of Indiana's beautifully rich culinary landscape, and the region's multiple artisans," said SSP America's Vice President of Business Development Bob Stanton.

"We'll be rotating the menus on a quarterly basis with seasonally grown

products as we work to highlight as many products as possible in the hopes the business opportunities grow for the Indiana Grown members. Our thanks to the Indy airport and Indiana Grown team as well as our joint venture partners for bringing this project to life."

Agriculture is one of Indiana's most prominent industries. Indiana is the 8th largest agricultural exporter in the nation, renowned for corn, duck, pork and egg production.

"This airport restaurant is an amazing outlet to put a spotlight on Indiana Grown members," said Indiana Grown Program Director Caroline Patrick.

"People from around the world will be able to see and taste our members'

exceptional products every day. Indiana Grown's goal has always been to highlight members and to market them as they do so much for our state. This restaurant showcases our products and our members on an international scale."

Roster of New Restaurants at IND Growing

In 2022, the list of new restaurants that opened at the Indy airport grew. Shake Shack made its eagerly anticipated debut in the fall, along with the new Pacers Courtside Club, Bub's Burgers & Ice Cream, Bento Sushi, Tinker Coffee Café and Ben's Soft Pretzels.

Now, as 2023 rolls in and the Farmers' Market celebrates its official grand opening, airport guests can expect to see an expan-

sion of Harry & Izzy's opening in the spring with a larger dining room and bar to make more room for travelers to experience that signature St. Elmo's shrimp cocktail. Chick-fil-A is also undergoing a renovation to make upgrades and is temporarily closed with an expected reopening also in spring.

In addition, local favorite, HotBox Pizza, will make its airport debut this spring in Civic Plaza, while the Circle City Beer Garden plans to open in Civic Plaza this summer. The Tap will open this summer in Concourse B with a robust menu.

For more information about dining options and operating hours at the Indy airport, visit IND.com/Dining

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Indiana's GOP Lawmakers Split on Bill to Offer 'Driving Privilege' Cards to Immigrants

By Casey Smith

Indiana's Republican lawmakers appear divided over a bill that would expand driving privileges to immigrants without documentation.

The bipartisan measure narrowly advanced 5-4 from the Senate Transportation Committee Tuesday and now heads to the Appropriations Committee for a fiscal impact evaluation.

Bill author Sen. Blake Doriot, R-Goshen, said the "driving privilege" cards can only be used for driving and not as an ID for anything else, including employment or voting. Driving privilege cards also couldn't be used for commercial driver's licenses.

Anyone seeking a driving privileges card would still need to carry auto insurance.

Among other requirements, individuals must also show proof that they paid taxes in Indiana for at least one year. Doriot said Tuesday that ensures "we know they are already a contributing member to our economy and society."

"What we have are a group of individuals that are here, participating in our economy, in our society. They are employed. They're holding up — in my district — the RV industry," Doriot continued. "This is going to put safer drivers on the road because they are going to be going through the same thing that our children or any other adult has to go through to get their driver's license."

But other GOP lawmakers are not on board. They say immigrants to the United States should "follow the rules" to establish legal residency before earning the "privilege" to drive.

"How are we, as a society, supposed to set aside the rules and do the right thing?" said Sen. Jim Buck, R-Kokomo. "As sympathetic as many of us might be, that's a hard hill to crawl over."

How driving cards would work

Currently, Indiana law does not allow immigrants who lack permanent legal status to drive. That means immigrants who live in Indiana often lack the means to legally complete daily tasks and are unable to show identification when asked by law enforcement.

The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) reports that recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) are only issued a license if they meet requirements to obtain a REAL ID: a full legal name, date of birth, social security number, two proofs of address or principal residence, and paperwork showing lawful immigration status.

In order to get a driving privilege card, a person would be required to have paid taxes in Indiana in the last year, submit

fingerprints for a criminal background check, and have insurance, according to the bill.

They must also renew their driving privilege card every year. Doriot said the provision ensures that Indiana doesn't become "a destination" for the cards.

Sixteen other states have similar programs already.

Bill co-author Sen. David Niezgodski, D-South Bend, said the bill is a "common sense thing to do."

He noted that the driving privilege card will also come with an additional \$50 fee, in order to help with the cost.

The BMV expects the cost to issue a redesigned license type as required under the bill to cost about \$1.3 million, according to legislative fiscal analysis.

But Niezgodski said the bill is also likely to increase state revenues.

Up to 500 annual requests for the new credentials are expected in the first four years of implementation, and up to 1,100 total requests could be made in the first four years after the cards are made available. Most of the demand is anticipated to come from the state's immigrant population, including DACA recipients who don't have the necessary documents for a REAL ID.

Taking that data into account, Indiana legislation is expected to increase state revenue from driving card credential fees by approximately \$132,500 in the first four years of administration.

Broad support from across Indiana

More than a dozen groups testified in support of the bill on Tuesday.

Michael Niland with the Insurance Institute of Indiana said the proposal would lead to fewer uninsured motorists in the state, which in turn would decrease the current cost shift to Hoosiers who are already paying for auto insurance.

"The hope with this bill is that you could see a decrease in the amount of premiums you'd have to pay towards the uninsured motorist portion of your insurance policies, so you can get back to just paying your traditional insurance that covers your person," Niland said.

Kellie Walsh of the Indiana Motor Truck Association doubled down that the bill would improve roadway safety by decreasing the number of untrained, unlicensed drivers.

Goshen Mayor Jeremy Stutsman submitted a letter of support signed by 49 mayors — 25 Republican mayors, 21 Democrats and three independents.

Goshen Chief of Police Jose Miller said his community is home to many immigrants "who are good people just trying to live the American dream — trying to get to work, trying to take their kids

to school and go to the grocery store."

"Truly, these people just want to have the right to function in our society — and we've let them in our society," Miller continued.

He said driving privilege cards will reduce hit-and-run accidents and make it easier for police to identify people who get pulled over or are involved in collisions.

The bill is also supported by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council, Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police, Indiana Farm Bureau, Indiana Catholic Conference, Indiana State Poultry Association, Indiana Muslim Advocacy Network, among others.

Not all GOP lawmakers on board

Still, Sen. Jim Tomes, R-Wadesville, questioned if a person needs to be able to speak English in order to get the driving privilege card.

Both Doriot and Niezgodski pointed out that English language proficiency is not a current requirement to get a driver's license.

Tomes later noted he's "not against" the bill, but said immigrants like his daughter-in-law — who went through the citizenship process — would likely feel "frustrated" if lawmakers help immigrants without documentation.

"When I hear what we're doing here, you have to understand my side of this. I'm willing to help people. I know what we're trying to do," Tomes said. "But I also understand that people like my daughter-in-law — who work very, very hard to be a citizen of this country ... you can understand how it must feel ... when we say 'Well, sorry about your luck, but these are the things we're going to do for those who come here illegally and want to stay here illegally.'"

Buck called the proposal "one of the best bills" he's seen come through the senate committee. But he ultimately voted against it.

"The fundamental question still remains from those that have obeyed the rules and done the right thing — to try to placate their frustration when I'm down here voting to complicate their frustration ... I'm just struggling," he said. "You've got two sides here, very emotionally involved, and I keep hearing this same phrase, to 'follow the rules and do the right thing.' It's hard to square."

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Dear EarthTalk: Since When is the Transition to Electric Vehicles an 'Environmental Justice' Issue?



The poorest members of our society are likely to benefit the least from a widespread transition to electric vehicles (EVs) for a few reasons. For starters, those with the least income are unlikely to be able to afford to purchase a new car, let alone a Tesla. As such, gas guzzling, internal combustion cars and trucks will likely persist well into the future—even if they are not the majority of vehicles on the road any longer—and their drivers will be paying a lot more for fuel (gas) than their EV-driving lane mates.

And lower income individuals who do pony up for an EV will also suffer disproportionately as even the electricity to recharge will be a much higher portion of their overall income than wealthier EV drivers. A January 2023 study from the University of Michigan found that "more than half of the lowest-income U.S. households (an estimated 8.3 million households) would continue to experience high transportation energy burdens, defined... as spending more than 4 percent of household income on filling the tank or charging up."

"EV ownership in the U.S. has thus far been dominated by households with higher incomes and

education levels, leaving the most vulnerable populations behind," reports Joshua Newell, a co-author on the study and an urban geographer at the University of Michigan's Center for Sustainable Systems. "Policy interventions are needed to increase EV accessibility so that all Americans can benefit from the EV transition."

This problem has not gone unnoticed by some lawmakers and policymakers. One positive development is the federal government's re-upping of its policy offering up to \$7,500 in tax rebates to those who purchase a qualifying new EV. Additionally, many states and localities offer their own financial and other incentives to help low-income individuals afford the transition to an EV. Check out the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (DESIRE), a free online resource from the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center at North Carolina State to find what incentives are available in your area. Other ways that some states and cities are trying to bridge the income disparity gap caused by the EV transition include car-sharing programs for low-income residents and education and job training

opportunities in the EV industry.

Meanwhile, the cost of EVs continues to go down. U.S. car buyers can comparison-shop among more than a dozen EV models with sticker prices under \$40k for the 2023 model year. And many governments and private organizations are actively engaged in research and development to make EVs more affordable and accessible to everyone. Since EVs are cheaper to own and operate than their gas guzzling counterparts, it's a shame that those least able to afford them bear a disproportionate burden, whether they upgrade or not.

CONTACTS: EV transition will benefit most US vehicle owners, but lowest-income Americans could get left behind, sciencedaily.com/releases/2023/01/230111075846.htm; Environmental and Economic Equity in the Electric Vehicle Revolution, vjel.vermontlaw.edu/-4-vol-23; Forth Mobility, forthmobility.org.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 non-profit EarthTalk. See more at https://emagazine.c. To donate, visit https://earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

Young, Coons Introduce Bill to Counter Economic Coercion from Allies, Partners



Senator Todd Young



Senator Chris Coons (D-Del.)

Senators Todd Young and Chris Coons (D-Del.) reintroduced the Countering Economic Coercion Act of 2023 to provide meaningful support to partners and allies facing economic bullying and retaliation from foreign adversaries.

The bill would equip the president with new tools to reduce the impact of economic coercion by strengthening trade and commerce ties with partners on an expedited basis.

As some nations around the world continue to deploy punitive and discriminatory economic measures against American partners, particularly those with smaller economies, this legislation will help to ensure that our shared economic and security interests are safeguarded from foreign threats.

"Some foreign adversaries think they can drive a wedge between our allies and partners by using economic intimidation or by harming economies through opaque, informal actions. These threats and grabs for power cannot go unchecked," said Senator Young.

"Our bipartisan bill will provide the flexibility to help our foreign partners on an expedited basis

when they are targeted for standing up to authoritarian regimes. By supporting our partners under threat, we protect America's own national security interests."

"Countries like China and Russia are increasingly abusing their economic power to bully smaller countries and punish sovereign political decisions," said Senator Coons.

"This economic coercion hurts these nations, threatens U.S. economic security, and undermines the democratic, rules-based international system that has underpinned decades of global growth. I'm proud to work with Senator Young to provide rapid, targeted support to U.S. allies and partners to help them stand up to economic coercion and safeguard American interests."

The Countering Economic Coercion Act of 2023 would provide the president with specific tools to offer rapid economic support to foreign partners targeted by economic coercion and to punish perpetrators of economic coercion, including authorities to:

1. Decrease duties on non-import-sensitive goods imported by the U.S. from the foreign

partner to make up for lost exports to other nations due to coercive actions;

2. Increase duties on imports from foreign adversaries committing economic coercion;

3. Expedite export licensing decisions and regulatory processes to facilitate trade with affected foreign partners;

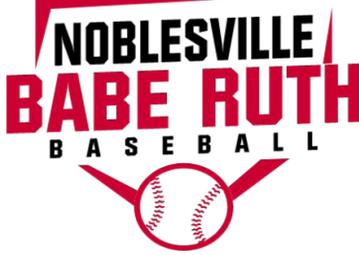
4. Seek congressional appropriations to support foreign aid, export financing, and sovereign loan guarantees; and

5. Waive certain policy requirements to facilitate export financing, allowing the U.S. private sector to meet opportunities in foreign economies suffering from coercion.

The bill directs the president and secretary of State to coordinate the U.S. response with allies and partners in order to broaden economic relief and demonstrate comprehensive and unified opposition to economic coercion.

In determining whether economic coercion is taking place and how to support the targeted country, the president would be required to consult with Congress. In order to facilitate rapid and nimble relief, the secretary of State would be permitted to take certain actions on an expedited basis. Any determination of economic coercion — and any authorities exercised under a determination — would sunset after two years, or upon a joint resolution of Congress.

The text of the bill is available at [young.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Economic%20Coercion%202023.pdf](https://www.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Economic%20Coercion%202023.pdf)



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Dear Earthtalk: What All Is the NFL Doing to Reduce Its Environmental Impact and Carbon Footprint?

Like any major spectator sport league, the National Football League (NFL) is no darling to environmental advocates. Stadium construction, maintenance and energy use contribute significantly to carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and resource depletion. Transportation of fans to games, waste generated during games, and production and disposal of merchandise and equipment can also contribute to environmental harm.

That said, given these points against it, the NFL has made a concerted effort in recent years to reduce its environmental impact, even vowing to become a “net zero” emissions league—meaning it will offset all of its greenhouse gas emissions through a combination of reducing its own emissions and supporting projects that remove or reduce CO₂ from the atmosphere—in the near future.

Indeed, the NFL has made a major push to offset CO₂ emissions over the past few years, offsetting upwards of 20,000 metric tons of CO₂ per year, league-wide. The leading non-profit Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) is partnering

EARTHTALK

with the NFL on its emissions reduction and offset strategy. The goal of this unusual partnership is to reduce emissions through improved energy efficiency and the increased use of renewable energy sources.

The league also encourages and promotes sustainability practices—recycling, reducing single-use plastics, and using environmentally-friendly transportation—at stadiums across the country. And an NFL tree planting campaign also helps reduce the league’s carbon footprint. The league rounds out its emissions reduction strategy by purchasing renewable energy credits to “offset” emissions from energy usage in NFL facilities and events. The league proudly offsets all energy used at major Super Bowl venues.

Waste reduction is also a source of pride for the NFL. Starting in 2019, upwards of 90 percent of the waste generated at and around the Super Bowl was diverted from landfills through recycling and

composting. Likewise, the league has started to take water conservation seriously, implementing low-flow plumbing fixtures and drought-resistant landscaping at various stadiums nationwide, while simultaneously working to educate fans on water conservation through its sustainability outreach program.

Another area where NFL planners have made strides is sustainable building and retrofits, implementing green building practices—such as the implementation of energy-efficient lighting and HVAC systems and the use of recycled building materials in several facilities across the country. For example, Levi’s Stadium, home of the San Francisco 49ers, is LEED Gold Certified and has a 27,000 square-foot green roof (green roofs provide numerous benefits, including stormwater management, improved air quality, energy efficiency, fire retardation and noise reduction).

The NFL isn’t the only

American sports league fixated on sustainability of late. The National Basketball Association (NBA) has its annual “Green Week” celebration, Major League Baseball (MLB) has its “Green Game” initiative that runs the length of the baseball season, and the National Hockey League (NHL) has its “Green Initiative” that promotes sustainability year-round. But the NFL runs the highest profile sporting event on the planet—the Super Bowl—so it has a much larger opportunity to reach fans across the continent and around the world with its messages and examples of sustainability.

CONTACTS: NFL Green, nfl.com/causes/nfl-green/; Environmental Defense Fund, edf.org.

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Bills Target Hoosiers with Little Income, Farming and Speed Cameras

By Whitney Downard, Casey Smith and Leslie Bonilla Muñiz

Hoosiers with a low or moderate income were the focus of several bills in the Statehouse on Monday, including tweaks to the state’s earned income tax credit, supplemental food benefits and preschool vouchers.

Additionally, legislators moved bills related to cataloging state farmland and permitting speed cameras – though lawmakers still have reservations about the latter.

Actions in Senate Committee

The Senate Family and Children Services Committee approved five bills unanimously on Monday, though some face an additional financial hurdle in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Sen. Linda Rogers, R-Granger, cast one bill as a win-win for covering the expense of child care while simultaneously freeing up more parents to find jobs and alleviate the state’s workforce shortage.

Eligibility for On My Way Pre-K under Senate Bill 375 would expand from 127% of the federal poverty level, just over \$35,000 annually for a family of four, to 200%, or \$55,500 annually.

Families making up to 260% of the federal poverty level, roughly \$72,000 per year, would still qualify for at least 25% of the subsidy. This would alleviate a benefits cliff that made parents ineligible for any funding when their income increased slightly.

“There’s a threshold and if you’re one dollar over or one percentage over, you are not eligible,” Rogers said. “This kind of graduates that (benefit).”

But Roger’s proposal didn’t include an increase in state funding for the program, nor did it include an expansion for the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), which alleviates costs for older children. The bill did modify the reimbursement schedule for CCDF, narrowing the range of payments that vary county-by-county.

Though the bill passed with every senator’s vote, two senators – Sen. John Crane and Sen. Tyler Johnson – had reservations about the government’s role in funding childcare.

“Ideally, we shouldn’t have to do these kinds of things,” Crane, R-Avon, said. “I think we need to work harder on the private side to meet those needs.”

Increases under government benefit programs

Hoosier seniors in poverty will have an easier time maintaining their benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) while possibly lessening the state’s administrative burden.

The bill from Sen. Shelli Yoder, D-Bloomington, would simplify the process for Hoosiers ages 60 and older as well as Hoosiers with certain disabilities, extending their eligibility for 36 months with a requirement to report any income changes in that time.

Yoder said that Indiana is 31st in the nation for the number of seniors in food insecurity but only half of those Hoosiers utilize SNAP.

The federal government pays for 100% of the benefits distributed and splits the administration costs 50/50, meaning that Indiana could see a slight decrease in costs under this bill.

Roughly 6,000 children and 600 pregnant women will be newly eligible for Medicaid under another bill, authored by Sen. Stacey Donato.

Under Indiana law, the state’s newest Hoosiers – recently arrived and lawfully residing immigrants – must wait five years to qualify for Medicaid insurance coverage or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

“Whether you’re 60 or six weeks, five years is a long time to go without healthcare,” Donato, R-Logansport, said.

The Indiana Commission on Improving the Status of Children voted in October to recommend the statutory change.

State costs are estimated to increase between \$3.8-5 million annually.

House action on EITC, farming

Half a million low-income Hoosier families could soon see an increase in their earned income tax credits and more could qualify under a new proposal, House Bill 1290.

“It’s a very simple bill, but it makes a huge differ-

ence to a lot of ... families,” author Rep. Chuck Goodrich, R-Noblesville, said on the House floor Monday.

There are state and federal credits. The bill would let Hoosiers claim – as a state credit – up to 12% of what they received through the federal version.

It also “recouples” Indiana’s credit with the federal one, Goodrich said – the state’s is tied to an outdated federal version from 2010. That change would make it easier for parents to get the credit for foster children, ensures married couples filing jointly get as much as they would filing separately, and allows families with three or more children to get a larger credit.

Hoosiers who’ve claimed the federal credit may be eligible for Indiana’s earned income credit, as long as they’ve made less than \$47,900, according to Indiana’s 2021 individual income tax booklet.

The House passed House Bill 1290 unanimously, 97-0, and now moves to the Senate.

The bill could cut into state revenue by \$39.5 million to \$46.1 million beginning in fiscal year 2024, and increase administrative expenses, according to the fiscal analysis.

House lawmakers also unanimously passed a bill creating an inventory of farmland lost in the last decade – whether to industry, housing, renewable energy or other developments.

“This is a food security bill,” author Rep. Kendall Culp, R-Rensselaer, said. “... Indiana is one of the leading exporters of food to other parts of the world.” And agriculture supports rural economies around the state, he said.

Culp, a farmer himself, has said he wants more data on lost farmland to see if it warrants some form of a farmland preservation bill in the future.

Speed camera bill gets a yellow light

The Indiana House advanced a bill 70-28 Monday that would allow the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) to use license plate cameras to enforce speed limits in highway work zones.

Bill author Rep. Jim Pressel, R-Rolling Prairie, has backed the bill in the

House for several years. Previous attempts to get such legislation passed were unsuccessful, however.

Pressel’s latest proposal would create a pilot program for speed cameras. The technology would ticket drivers going more than 11 mph over the speed limit in an active work zone. Only four cameras could be used statewide.

INDOT would also be required to enter into an agreement with state police to share information on the program.

“We have an opportunity to slow people down, to save some of our constituents’ lives, save them from injuries,” Pressel said Monday.

Under current Indiana law, motorists who exceed the reduced speed limit in a highway work zone by as little as 1 mph can be stopped by police and fined \$300 for a first violation. The fine increases to \$500 for a second violation and \$1,000 for each subsequent violation. A driver also faces the possibility of losing their license.

But if a speed camera is involved a driver would receive a warning for an initial work zone speed limit violation under Pressel’s bill. Violators would then face a \$75 fine for a second offense and a \$150 fine for a third offense and beyond.

Construction workers also have to be present under the speed camera pilot.

The GOP-dominated supermajority has long resisted efforts to use camera technology for highway speed violations or passing of school buses. They’ve also been hesitant to enact policy around license plate readers used by law enforcement.

Republicans continue to be divided on Pressel’s bill, which now heads to the Senate. It has died there repeatedly.

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Town of Arcadia (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

Water Utility Improvements Project # W21002

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the Arcadia Town Hall located at 208 West Main Street, Arcadia, IN 46030-0578, until Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 3:45 P.M. local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

All interested citizens are invited to attend and should any citizens require special provisions, such as handicapped modifications or non-English translation personnel, the Town will provide such provisions if the request is made by February 20, 2023.

The Project includes the following Work:

Division “B” – Water Distribution Improvements
The project includes, but is not limited to, the installation of approximately 6,090 feet of 8-inch PVC water main pipe, approximately 200 feet of 6-inch PVC water main pipe, approximately 90 feet of 4-inch PVC water main pipe to replace existing water mains, approximately 60 utility-side water service reconstructions, as well as surface restoration for all disturbed surfaces. Due to a railroad crossing, 100 feet of 8-inch ductile iron pipe with 20-inch casing pipe shall be installed via jack and bore method. Also included are approximately 6 each 6-inch gate valves, approximately 21 each 8-inch gate valves, approximately 8 each new fire hydrant assemblies, approximately 6 each fire hydrant assembly replacements, and approximately 5 each fire hydrant assembly reconstructions.

Work along Cicero Avenue (SR 19) will be bid as a mandatory alternate. This work includes approximately 2000 feet of 8-inch PVC water main pipe replacement, approximately 90 feet of 8-inch PVC water main pipe with nitrile gaskets, fire hydrants, water service reconstructions, and surface restoration.

Obtaining the Bidding Documents

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: Commonwealth Engineers, Inc., 7256 Company Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46237. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below. Prospective Bidders may also examine the drawings via the Web-based service of Commonwealth Engineers, Inc. at www.commonwealthengineers.com.

Bidding Documents also may be examined at the office of the Town Hall, 208 West Main Street, Arcadia, IN 46030, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Contract Documents, Specifications and Drawings will be provided via the web-based service of Commonwealth Engineers, Inc. at www.commonwealthengineers.com. The plan holder will receive an email link to the PDF downloadable documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Fifty and 00/100 Dollars (\$150.00) plus 7% sales tax, per project division desired.

One set of printed Contract Documents, Specifications and Drawings may be obtained upon payment of an additional non-refundable fee of Two Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$200.00) plus 7% sales tax, via the web-based service of Commonwealth Engineers, Inc. at www.commonwealthengineers.com. Requests for Contract Documents and Specifications and Drawings must also include a return street address; post office box numbers are not acceptable.

Contract Documents will not be sold separate from the web-based service (i.e. All plan holders will be required to purchase through the web-based service). Partial sets of Contract Documents, Specifications and Drawings are not available. Questions pertaining to this project shall be submitted directly to Andrew Cochrane, P.E. at Commonwealth Engineers, Inc. via <https://login.procore.com>. Additional questions concerning access to the website may be directed to Commonwealth Engineers, Inc. at (317) 888-1177.

All addenda, which may be issued for this Project, will be issued to each plan holder via email. For those whom also purchase printed Contract Documents, printed addenda will be provided as well. All plan holders shall note, the printed documents are provided as a courtesy and do not preclude the plan holder from relying upon the web/email-based materials (i.e. delays in mail delivery will not be considered relevant due to all contract document holders access to materials via web/email).

No refunds will be issued for this project.

The OWNER reserves the right to reject any bid, or all bids, or to accept any bid or bids, or to make such combination of bids as may seem desirable, and to waive any and all informalities in bidding. Any bid may be withdrawn prior to the above scheduled time for the opening of bids or authorized postponement thereof. Any bid received after the time and date specified shall not be considered. NO bid may be withdrawn after the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids for at least ninety (90) days.

Pre-bid Conference

A pre-bid conference for the Project will be held on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 2:00 P.M. at Town Hall, 208 West Main Street, Arcadia, IN 46030. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is encouraged but not required.

Instructions to Bidders

The work to be performed and the bid to be submitted shall include sufficient and proper sums for all general construction, mechanical installation, labor, materials, permits, licenses, insurance, and so forth incidental to and required for the construction of the facilities.

Each bid must be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the title of the Project and the name and address of Bidder. All bids must be submitted on the bid forms as identified in the Contract Documents and Specifications.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified check or acceptable bidder’s bond made payable to the Owner, in a sum of not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount of the highest aggregate bid, which check or bond will be held by the Owner as evidence that the bidder will, if awarded the contract, enter into the same with the Owner upon notification from him to do so within ten (10) days of said notification.

Approved performance and payment bonds guaranteeing faithful and proper performance of the work and materials, to be executed by an acceptable surety company, will be required of the Contractor at the time of contract execution. The bonds will be in the amount of 100% of the Contract Price and must be in full force and effect throughout the term of the Construction Contract plus a period of twelve (12) months from the date of substantial completion.

Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. A conditional or qualified Bid will not be accepted.

Award will be made to the low, responsive, responsible bidder. The low, responsive, responsible bidder must not be debarred, suspended, or otherwise be excluded from or ineligible for participation in federally assisted programs under Executive Order 12549.

All applicable laws, ordinances, and the rules and regulations of all authorities having jurisdiction over construction of the project shall apply to the project throughout.

Bids shall be properly and completely executed on bid forms included in the Specifications. Bids shall include all information requested by Indiana Form 96 (Revised 2013) included with the Specifications. Under Section III of Form 96, the Bidder shall submit a financial statement. A copy of the proposed Financial Statement to be submitted with the bid is included in the bid documents section to these specifications. The Owner may make such investigations as deemed necessary to determine the ability of the Bidder to perform the work and the Bidder shall furnish to the Owner all such information and data for this purpose as the Owner may request. The Owner reserves the right to reject any bid if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, such Bidder fails to satisfy the Owner that such Bidder is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the Agreement and to complete the work contemplated therein.

Each Bidder is responsible for inspecting the Project site(s) and for reading and being thoroughly familiar with the Contract Documents and Specifications. The failure or omission of any Bidder to do any of the foregoing shall in no way relieve any Bidder from any obligation with respect to its Bid.

Wage rates on the project shall not be less than the federal wage scale published by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Bidders on this work shall be required to comply with the provisions of the President’s Executive Order No. 11246, as amended. The Bidders shall also comply with the requirements of 41 CFR Part 60 - 4 entitled Construction Contractors - Affirmative Action Requirements.

The Bidders attention is also called to the “Minority/Women Business Participation” requirements contained in the Project Specifications. The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs has adopted a State goal of 10% participation for minority and women owned businesses for construction related or purchase related contracts for the work.

The Contractor must meet guidelines and practices established by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs and appropriate federal regulations including: 1) Executive Order 11246, 2) Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968, as amended, 3) Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities, 4) OMB Circular A-102, 5) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 6) Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 7) Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 8) Executive Order 12138, 9) Conflict of Interest Clause, 10) Retention and Custodial Requirements for Records Clause, 11) Contractors and Subcontractors Certifications, and others that may be appropriate or necessary.

Contract procurement is subject to the federal regulations contained in the OMB Circular A-102, Sections B and O and the State of Indiana requirements contained in IC-36-1-9 and IC-36-1-12.

Any contract(s) awarded under this Advertisement for Bids are expected to be funded in part by a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as administered by the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. Neither the United States nor any of its departments, agencies or employees is or will be a party to this Advertisement for Bids or any resulting contract.

For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

This Advertisement is issued by:

Owner: Town of Arcadia

By: Rich Versprille

Title: Town Council President

Date: January 30, 2023 and February 6, 2023

END OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

TL20027 2/1 2/8 2r hspajxp

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Lawmakers Pass Bill to Let Utilities Charge Consumers Earlier for New Building Projects

By Casey Smith

Indiana House lawmakers advanced a bill Monday that could encourage more natural gas in the state and allow utilities to charge ratepayers for a plant before it ever goes online.

House Bill 1421 would allow utilities to use a financing option known as Construction Work in Progress, or CWIP, in which customers pay for the natural gas project gradually — rather than with sudden rate increases.

It's a process utilities can already use with other types of power like coal, solar and windmills.

The bill was approved 71-26 and now heads to the Senate chamber for further deliberations.

Author Rep. Ed Soliday, R-Valparaiso, maintains the legislation would provide Indiana with a "smooth transition plan" to eventually pivot from fossil fuels.

"There will never be a wind- and solar-only world. There will be wind and solar, plus some kind of backup for when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining," Soliday said, adding that "we definitely need peaker plants" — natural gas power plants that operate when there's high demand for electricity — "and we need to get them as affordably as we possibly can."

Utility representatives said the bill would help them to recoup expenses for new plants earlier and encourage the construction of new power plants. That's more likely to result in improved electrical grid reliability, they said.

But clean energy advocates argue that the proposal puts ratepayers on the hook for interest-free loans to utility companies.

Rep. Matt Pierce, D-Bloomington, pushed back on Soliday's bill Monday, maintaining that CWIP takes "accountability off the table" for utilities and leaves ratepayers taking all the risk, upfront, for projects that could be obsolete in the not-so-distant future.

"Once you have these payments rolling for the project — before it's even constructed and online — you take away the incentive for the utility to really work to efficiently get that project done," he said. "What we're also doing with this bill is we're encouraging utilities to come in and build yet even more baseload plants that we're going to have to retire before too long, anyway."

Fewer fees for utilities

Normally, utilities need to get bonds to build or upgrade facilities. The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) then approves utilities to increase rates to help recover the cost of the bonds, plus interest.

Soliday said the shift to a "pay as they go" model would enable utilities to collect project dollars through the rate process earlier so they don't have to pay the interest on a bond. In the long run, that saves customers money, too, he said.

"The bill gives the same incentive to gas fired plants as it gives to renewables, as it gives to coal, as it gives to everyone else," he said.

Soliday noted that the bill would also set a 240-day limit for the IURC to approve or disapprove projects — a response to what Soliday said are current wait times of up to two-and-a-half years for those decisions. His bill additionally adds renewable natural gas, or "biogas," to a state list of clean energy projects eligible for financial incentives.

Utility representatives who support Soliday's proposal said in committee slower increases to customers' bills are likely to help avoid sudden rate shock.

"The project is going to result in a rate increase one way or another," said Danielle McGrath, president of the Indiana Energy Association, which represents 14 investor-owned utilities. "With CWIP, you're paying earlier as opposed to later, which is much smoother over time."

With other financing options, rates are flat, McGrath continued.

"Once a project is then in service, it jumps back up again, and you're actually paying a higher rate base," she said.

Bad news for consumers?

But Pierce contends that Soliday's bill will encourage utilities to propose even more building plans for plants that are "probably transitional at best." Plus, if there are hang-ups in a project, "ratepayers are going to eat that."

"If the utility has to go under the old system without CWIP, if they have to go to the private markets to do bonds, and go to the capital markets, those private investors are going to be asking the hard questions," he said. "You'll leave the ratepayers with the risk that somebody's

going to go around with a plan, or maybe it never even gets online ... you have a shifting of risk."

Pierce also noted nationwide shifts — including in Indiana — towards more renewable energy sources.

"In 10 or 15 years from now, when we have the storage figured out — when the renewables are there — we're going to have this big plant, with what they call stranded assets," he said. "There is a transitional role for natural gas, but not building a big baseload plant, which is going to be encouraged by this bill."

Citizens Action Coalition Executive Director Kerwin Olson said his group is opposed to financing any power sources in this way.

"Utilities are financially healthy, and can access capital and debt a lot cheaper than consumers can," Olson said while testifying against the bill in the House utilities committee last month. "If we're serious about affordability, we must reject the expansion of Construction Work in Progress, which only stands to exacerbate the affordability crisis in the state of Indiana — and not help."

Other critics of the bill also worry that CWIP permissions for natural gas utilities will increase the number of Hoosiers facing energy insecurity.

At least 250,000 account payers in the state are behind on their monthly electric payment as of December, and more than 208,000 have been sent disconnection notices, according to the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor.

With natural gas prices on the rise, major electric utilities have already asked the IURC to raise rates.

Those opposed to the bill also point to recent large-scale outages that pushed the grid serving Indiana to its limit, exposing weakness in the reliability of natural gas resources. The most recent swathe of plant failures in December left hundreds of thousands of people without power during one of the coldest weather events of the year.

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Anti-ESG Pension Bill Could Drop State Pension Returns \$6.7B in Next Decade

By Leslie Bonilla Muñoz

A bill mandating that Indiana's public pension system divest from firms or funds that use certain non-financial investment criteria — a flashpoint in the state's culture wars — could slash the system's returns by nearly \$7 billion over the next decade, according to a revised fiscal analysis.

Author Rep. Ethan Manning, R-Logansport, and supporters say the proposal would ensure that the Indiana Public Retirement System puts finances first. House Bill 1008 is part of a GOP effort to crack down on the environmental, social and governmental framework known as ESG investing.

But its restrictions and administrative requirements could mean a hefty price tag for the fund and its retirees.

And the conservative-leaning Indiana Chamber of Commerce reinforced its opposition in a tweet: "Safe to say we still oppose H.B. 1008. We'll continue to voice our strong opposition to House members as well as key senators, who may receive the bill the second half of session."

INPRS itself has been more measured in its responses, and Manning said he expects changes. Returns down?

An updated fiscal analysis for the legislation shows that over the next decade, it could plunge investment returns on defined-benefit funds by \$6.4 billion, and defined-contribution funds by \$300 million.

That drop in returns would cut INPRS' estimated annual return on investment from 6.25% to 5.05%. Indiana and communities with current and former employees in defined-benefit funds would likely pay higher contributions beginning in 2025, according to the analysis.

The new information comes from an estimate by INPRS.

The bill orders INPRS and its many external investment managers to stick to financial criteria in decision-making and avoid using ESG criteria. It defines ESG as pursuing a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, assessing corporate boards or other aspects of governance and divesting from companies in a list of protected industries.

Those industries are firearms manufacturing and related services; oil, gas, lumber, mining, agriculture and meat production-related businesses; and companies that contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Firms that boycott those industries — regardless of how they handle INPRS' investments — could find themselves subject to a mandatory reverse-boycott from INPRS.

And the bill outlines a process for enforcement, headed by Republican State Treasurer Daniel Elliott.

At the end of that process, INPRS would have to divest from firms and funds violating the bill unless its board were to decide that such action would not be in the best economic interest of its members. Then, the board would have to make its rationale public.

Other effects House Bill 1008's specific definitions, requirements and enforcement mechanisms could have other consequences.

"The bill may effectively prohibit investment in private markets [like private equity] as well as the use of active public managers," the new analysis says.

Without those managers, it adds, INPRS wouldn't be able to run a stable value fund for defined-contribution accounts — which it's currently required to offer under Indiana Code.

The bill also tasks INPRS with tracking and reporting all of its proxy votes: typically more than 200,000, annually. The votes are an opportunity for shareholders to influence an entity's management.

That requirement could cost an additional \$550,000 in administrative costs per year, paid out from the funds: \$200,000 for custom proxy voting policy and infrastructure and \$350,000 to hire additional investment staff to manage proxy voting.

The bill would also mean more work, more employees and thus more spending for the agencies involved, which include INPRS, the Treasurer of State, the Auditor of State and the Indiana State Police.

Reaction After the Capital Chronicle reported the updated analysis, some Democrats called for the bill's withdrawal from consideration.

"Under both Democratic

and Republican leadership the General Assembly has worked for years to fully fund all our pensions," Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, said in a statement Monday. "This has required us to be open to a broad range of investments based on their likely return and safety. The present Republican super-majority wants to replace this successful and open strategy with an effort to favor a few industries they like, such as coal."

"Our taxpayers and retirees will have to absorb this cost. We owe them better," DeLaney added. "The super-majority should withdraw this bill and let our pensioners and taxpayers rest easy."

Manning indicated there could be changes to "address" the projected costs.

"We'll continue to work on the bill to address this issue, and I expect there will be further amendments as the bill moves along in the process," he said through a spokesperson Monday afternoon.

INPRS itself was neutral before the analysis' release. Asked about its position on Monday, the agency evaded.

In an email to the Capital Chronicle, a spokesperson said the system invests "for the sole and exclusive benefit [of] its members and beneficiaries" and "does not consider ESG factors" when investing.

"INPRS is sympathetic to the impact that ESG is having on certain Indiana businesses and individuals," a spokesman wrote, seemingly in response to testimony from gun manufacturers and coal companies last week. "INPRS will continue to engage with the Indiana General Assembly on any financial impacts created by H.B. 1008 and work toward a solution."

The House Committee on Financial Institutions passed the bill last week 9-4, along party lines.

It now goes to the Ways and Means Committee because of its financial impact.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Sheridan Civil Town, Hamilton County, Indiana						
Cash & Investments Combined Statement - 2022						
	Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg Cash & Inv Bal Jan. 1, 2022	Receipts	Disbursements	End Cash & Inv Bal Dec. 31, 2022
Governmental Activities	1101	GENERAL FUND	\$2,634,765.72	\$3,704,877.78	\$4,625,391.21	\$1,714,252.29
	1102	GENERAL PETTY CASH	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
	2201	MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY	\$21,857.86	\$126,036.54	\$76,597.55	\$71,296.85
	2202	LOCAL ROAD & STREET	\$191,974.65	\$81,738.94	\$35,680.39	\$238,033.20
	2203	MVH RESTRICTED FUND	\$144,197.77	\$62,311.95	\$69,642.80	\$136,866.92
	2204	PARKS AND RECREATION	\$65,651.15	\$126,173.19	\$106,716.95	\$85,107.39
	2218	PLAN REVIEW FUND	\$10,821.56	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,821.56
	2228	POLICE CONTINUING EDUCATION	\$30,165.25	\$5,815.00	\$1,045.00	\$34,935.25
	2236	RAINY DAY FUND	\$39,313.61	\$1,291.54	\$0.00	\$40,605.15
	2238	HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE	\$997.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$997.75
	2256	OPIOID SETTLEMENT UNRESTRICTED	\$0.00	\$1,110.28	\$0.00	\$1,110.28
	2257	OPIOID SETTLEMENT RESTRICTED	\$0.00	\$4,572.28	\$0.00	\$4,572.28
	2301	FIRE TRUCK DONATION FUND	\$218.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$218.00
	2302	FIRE BLDG & ACCESSORIES DONATION FUND	\$272.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$272.00
	2303	POLICE DONATION FUND	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
	2304	CASH DONATIONS	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
	2305	COMM. CTR. DONATIONS	\$505.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$505.00
	2306	FIRE DEPT. DONATION FUND	\$20,950.93	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,950.93
	2330	AMBULANCE DONATION FUND	\$15,533.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$15,333.00
	2400	CARES PROVIDER RELIEF FUND	\$3,049.17	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,049.17
	2403	ARP CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND	\$344,077.34	\$346,682.12	\$199,996.71	\$490,762.75
	2404	POLICE IPEP SAFETY GRANT	\$1,069.98	\$1,936.00	\$3,005.98	\$0.00
	2405	FIRE IPEP SAFETY GRANT	\$0.00	\$1,933.98	\$1,933.98	\$0.00
	2500	EMS AMBULANCE REPLACEMENT FUND	\$205,834.85	\$90,913.64	\$805.15	\$295,943.34
	2501	EMS EQUIPMENT FUND	\$95,605.75	\$54,547.78	\$43,195.52	\$106,958.01
	2502	DRUG & NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT	\$33,470.56	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$33,720.56
	2503	EMS BILLING SERVICE	\$17,668.48	\$18,182.48	\$11,411.79	\$24,439.17
	2504	DISASTER RELIEF FUND	\$323.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$323.26
	3318	L/R PAYMENT	\$7,909.00	\$35,333.77	\$38,290.00	\$4,952.77
	3319	LEASE/RENTAL FIRE TRUCK	\$537.89	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$537.89
	3321	STORMWATER BOND	\$1,291.54	\$0.00	\$1,291.54	\$0.00
	3322	BOND PROCEEDS FUND	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
	3323	GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND SERIES 2022	\$0.00	\$700,000.00	\$47,500.00	\$652,500.00
	4401	CUM CAP IMP - CIG TAX	\$23,310.70	\$5,637.32	\$0.00	\$28,948.02
	4402	CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT	\$114,432.64	\$45,753.29	\$40,699.20	\$119,486.73
	4417	REDEV. DIST. 2015 BONDS CAPITAL FUND	\$380,486.61	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$380,486.61
	4500	STATE GRANTS	\$4,458.50	\$178,878.50	\$183,337.00	\$0.00
	4650	TIF/STRD. 47- MULEBARN	\$2,038.64	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,038.64
	4651	TIF-INDUSTRIAL PARK 2004 EXPANSION	\$5,539.03	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,539.03
	4652	TIF/WEBSTERADAMS	\$1,946.72	\$71.00	\$0.00	\$2,017.72
	4653	TIF/WEBSTERSHERIDAN	\$15,749.94	\$8.14	\$0.00	\$15,758.08
	4654	TIF/SHERIDAN INDUSTRIAL PARK	\$156,246.09	\$186,090.50	\$152,019.70	\$190,316.89
	4655	TIF-INDUSTRIAL PARK 2017 EXPANSION	\$32,046.62	\$2,945.04	\$0.00	\$34,991.66
	4656	TIF - SPIDER TIF INDIANA AMERICAN WATER	\$514,114.99	\$145,241.32	\$0.00	\$659,356.31
	6604	REPUBLIC WASTE SERVICES	\$145,678.04	\$266,398.08	\$241,843.98	\$170,232.14
	6607	TRECS TRUST INDIANA	\$0.00	\$9,630.22	\$9,630.22	\$0.00
8801	FIRE 77	\$0.00	\$67,559.07	\$67,559.07	\$0.00	
8802	POLICE 77	\$0.00	\$5,199.36	\$5,199.36	\$0.00	
8806	PERF	\$0.00	\$104,463.10	\$104,463.10	\$0.00	
8902	PAYROLL - FEDERAL	\$0.00	\$119,436.24	\$119,436.24	\$0.00	
8903	PAYROLL - FICA	\$0.00	\$126,740.70	\$126,740.70	\$0.00	
8904	PAYROLL - MEDICARE	\$0.00	\$39,049.82	\$39,049.82	\$0.00	
8905	PAYROLL - STATE	\$0.00	\$46,323.60	\$46,323.60	\$0.00	
8906	PAYROLL - LOCAL	\$0.00	\$19,507.04	\$19,507.04	\$0.00	
8907	PAYROLL - RETIREMENT	\$0.00	\$34,009.81	\$34,009.81	\$0.00	
8908	DIRECT DEPOSIT	\$0.00	\$968,943.43	\$968,943.43	\$0.00	
8909	AFLAC	\$28.87	\$17,104.81	\$17,104.81	\$28.87	
8910	HEALTH INSURANCE	\$2,486.24	\$18,965.77	\$10,797.38	\$10,654.63	
8911	CHILD SUPPORT	\$0.00	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00	\$0.00	
8912	FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL #4416	\$0.00	\$6,727.19	\$6,727.19	\$0.00	
8913	GARNISHMENT - T.I.	\$0.00	\$110.00	\$110.00	\$0.00	
8916	GARNISHMENT - S SHOCK	\$0.00	\$13,208.00	\$13,208.00	\$0.00	
8918	ADAMS TOWNSHIP INSURANCE	\$0.00	\$11,088.11	\$11,088.11	\$0.00	
Wastewater	6201	SEWAGE UTILITY OPERATING	\$2,374,679.83	\$32,601.13	\$225,845.81	\$2,181,435.15
Water	6101	WATER UTILITY OPERATING	\$2,685,725.01	\$38,470.31	\$226,036.59	\$2,498,158.73
Storm Water	6501	STORM WATER OPERATING	\$193,927.93	\$395,110.75	\$367,617.48	\$221,421.20
	6502	STORM WATER BOND PRINCIPAL & INTEREST	\$93,579.36	\$111,132.22	\$96,298.75	\$108,412.83
	6505	STORM WATER PETTY CASH	\$80.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$80.00
	6506	STORM WATER DEBT SERVICE RESERVE	\$34,272.00	\$10,608.00	\$0.00	\$44,880.00
		Total All Funds	\$10,671,739.83	\$8,395,919.14	\$8,401,600.96	\$10,666,058.01

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Indiana Senators Weigh Bill to Criminalize Protesting Outside of Private Homes

By Casey Smith and Whitney Downard

Indiana lawmakers are trying to find the line between protecting privacy in Hoosiers' homes while respecting the First Amendment right to free speech and assembly.

Senate Bill 348 would create a new crime — residential harassment — if someone pickets or protests outside a person's dwelling. It would require an intent to harass and be a Class C misdemeanor. It would also apply to anyone's home — whether an elected official or a private citizen.

Proponents argued in the Senate Corrections Committee on Tuesday that this gives law enforcement a tool to protect the privacy of someone's home, especially in a time of increasingly violent political vitriol.

But some stakeholders remain skeptical, saying that laws already exist to cover these actions and this proposal wouldn't be effective.

"The intent of the bill, which has come to me from the Prosecuting Attorneys Council, is to protect the sanctity of our private residence... to prevent people from picketing and intending to harass people in their homes," said bill author Sen. Scott Baldwin, R-Noblesville.

State senators ultimately decided to hold the bill and continue working on the legislation before deciding whether to advance it through the committee.

Senators had bipartisan concerns about individuals at private residences, whether the far-right attack on Paul Pelosi, husband of former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, or threats to the life of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

In recent years, state lawmakers have also had protesters come to their homes to picket.

"I never thought I'd see that in my lifetime," Sen. Greg Taylor, D-Indianapolis, said about the Pelosi attack. "I'm going to support the bill but I don't think it's going to do anything to help with what we're trying to do."

Legal precedence Sen. Aaron Freeman, R-Indianapolis, argued that the U.S. Supreme Court already upheld ordinances limiting protests in residential neighborhoods, citing the 1988 decision in *Frisby v. Schultz*.

In that case, a group of anti-abortion protesters gathered outside of the home of a local doctor who provided abortion healthcare. Following the protest, the city of Brookfield, Wisconsin banned picketing in front of residential homes. The protesters sued but lost when the Supreme Court agreed with city lawmakers.

Courtney Curtis, the assistant executive director for the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council, said the right of "tranquility" at home had been recognized by the nation's highest court numerous times.

"There is not a right to

force speech into the home of an unwilling listener," Curtis said.

Under this proposed law, Curtis said that protesters could still march in a neighborhood, go door-to-door and distribute literature related to their protest — they just couldn't linger outside of one home and needed to keep moving.

In April of 2020, a group of conservative protesters gathered outside the Governor's Residence in Indianapolis, rallying against ongoing efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Under this bill, those protests couldn't occur and the group would have to disperse.

Defense attorneys say tools already exist

Zach Stock, the legislative counsel for the Indiana Public Defender Council, said police already could ticket or arrest someone for disorderly conduct, trespassing, intimidation or obstruction of trafficways like roads and sidewalks.

"I think that prosecutors and judges have the tools, juries have the tools, to engage in that case-by-case analysis right now," Stock said. "We're not defending anybody's right to harass people."

Stock said he thought protests at homes should be kept to a minimum and that there were more effective ways to share concerns with a legislator — such as testifying at the Statehouse.

Sen. Liz Brown, R-Fort Wayne, said that not everyone has that opportunity

and lawmakers don't have offices in their districts. But it was a "really fine" line between coming to someone's house to contact them about legislation and protesting.

"I don't think they should come to our homes; I've had that happen to me," Brown said. "They didn't say a word but I found it very intimidating and harassing."

It's unclear if the bill would apply to media.

Baldwin said that "professional protesters" had learned to skirt existing laws, meaning that legislation like this was necessary to protect Hoosiers.

"I definitely agree that it's a tightrope between first amendment rights and the right to enjoy one's home quietly and peaceably," Baldwin said.

The bill has already been amended to remove provisions related to false reporting and battery of a public safety official which added costs to the state.

Freeman, the committee chair, said lawmakers would hold the bill to try and amend it again to avoid sending the bill to the Appropriations Committee.

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CAMP From Page A1

forming arts program and close the gap in recreational activities for individuals with disabilities such as autism, cognitive delays, limited verbal communication abilities and alternative communication requirements, as well as physical disabilities and sensory support needs such as vision and hearing impairments.

The activities are designed to help participants develop self-confidence, gain creative arts experience and build relationships. The Prism Project at the Center also provides volunteer opportunities for college students and high school juniors and seniors who are interested in working with people with disabilities.

"We're proud to be offering a new program that aligns so well with our educational mission and also advances the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion in our community," said Jeffrey C. McDermott, President and CEO of the Center for the Performing Arts.

After a parent orientation session on May 31, the camp sessions are scheduled 9:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from June 2-23.

The final performance will take place at 2 p.m. June 25, at the Center's Studio Theater.

Camp registration is available at TheCenterPresents.org/PrismProject-Camp. For more information on accommodations and volunteer opportunities with the Prism Project at the Center, email Outreach@TheCenterPresents.org.

About the Center for the Performing Arts (CPA):

The mission of the nonprofit Center for the Performing Arts is to engage and inspire the Indiana community through enriching arts experiences. Its campus in Carmel, Indiana, includes the 1,500-seat Palladium concert hall, the 500-seat Tarkington proscenium theater and the black-box Studio Theater.

The Center presents and hosts hundreds of events each year, including the Center Presents performance series, featuring the best in classical, jazz, pop, rock, country, comedy and other genres. Educational and experiential programming for all ages includes children's concerts and camps, book clubs, lectures, and classes in music and dance. The Center is home to the affiliated Great American Songbook Foundation and provides space and support services for six resident arts companies.

More information is available at TheCenterPresents.org

GOODRICH From Page A1

with foster children or more than three children.

According to a study by the Tax Foundation, the earned income tax brought 5.8 million people, including approximately 3 million children, out of poverty in 2016.

Goodrich said this legislation builds off House Enrolled Act 1009, which

he authored in 2021, that increased the earned income tax credit from 9% to 10%, and put over \$10 million annually back into the hands of Hoosiers.

House Bill 1290 now heads to the Indiana Senate for further consideration. For more information about this legislation, visit iga.in.gov

BETSY From Page A1



Director Eric Matters



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

Austin Uebelhor and Sarah Eberhardt rehearse for The Belfry Theatre's "Around the World in 80 Days," opening Friday at Arts for Lawrence's Theater at the Fort.

All building prep work was done at The Belfry property and a few other places. "It all had to be transported and assembled in a short amount of time (to Theater at the Fort). Tech day was thankfully a lot of elements coming together at the last minute as we moved our time and efforts around like pieces on a chess board to accomplish everything," he said.

So what's the new, temporary venue like?

"The Theater at the Fort is a lovely venue," Matters said. "It is a touch far from our normal home in Noblesville. And while this does mean a further drive for our traditional patronage to support us, it also opens us up to new patrons in the greater Lawrence area, hopefully, some of whom will follow us home to Noblesville when we finally stop wandering," Matters said.

Pros and cons of the temporary space?

Theater at the Fort is newly renovated and under new leadership.

"Pros are definitely that the space is bigger, newer, more modern and closer to outside conveniences such as restaurants. Con is the load-in/load-out process, sharing the space with

outside groups, far from home for patrons, and uncertainty of returning in the future," Matters said.

The Belfry Theatre board is currently considering an extensive remodel on the currently closed Belfry building or rebuilding The Belfry on either its current property or a future property. The Belfry is looking for prospective properties and/or theater partners and is also seeking affordable rehearsal and production space and costume space until The Belfry can open its own venue again.

On the directing side, Matters is really enjoying directing this cast of actors, who have been rehearsing since auditions in early October.

"So many stories with this cast and crew. They have been a delight to work with and have been very supportive as I go through the struggles of losing my father," said Matters, whose dad, Keith Matters, passed away from ALS, at the end of January. His father, also who is involved with local theater, helped lead Footlite Musicals to be one of central Indiana's finest theaters.

"Really, the best story



Photo courtesy of Rob Slaven of Indy Ghost Light Photography

The Belfry Theatre play director Eric Matters is directing his second play with the community theater, "Around the World in 80 Days," a comedy that opens Friday and continues through Feb. 19 at Arts for Lawrence's Theater at the Fort.

I can tell is the one about how this show kept me grounded with a purpose after that loss."

His greatest inspiration? "My family has always been the driving force for theater in my life," Matters said. "Whether it was following along as my parents did shows or working side-by-side with my brother (Stephen Matters) as we do shows." Stephen Matters actually designed the set for "Around the World in 80 Days."

How did Eric Matters get started in theater? "Family. It's always been about family, either working with my own or forging a new one from like-minded crazies," he said.

The Indiana native specializes in lighting, and he's earned numerous Encore Association Best Lighting Design awards for his work in local community theater.

"I like light because it has such a quiet impact on the show," Matters said. "Subtle color changes can shift entire scenes, and the audience feels that effect but doesn't know why."

While he designs light for many community theater shows, he "would never" light his own shows, he said. "As the director, I like to have a broader vision of the show as it comes together. Narrowing my field of view to one aspect would cause others to suffer. Also, by letting others design, it brings different perspectives and opinions to the creative process."

Matters has been involved in more than 100 productions in various technical capacities. The number of things he's learned along the way would be too numerous to list.

The show, "Around the World in 80 Days" follows the fearless adventurer Phileas Fogg and his faithful manservant as they race to beat the clock, and set out to circle the globe in an unheard-of 80 days. But his every step is dogged by a detective who thinks he's a robber on the run. Danger, romance and comic surprises abound in this whirlwind of a show as six actors portray 39 characters and travel

Meet THE CAST

- Phileas Fogg** -- Brad Staggs
- Aouda** -- Barb Weaver
- Passepartout** -- Bryan Ball Cavajal
- Detective Fix and various roles** -- Austin Uebelhor
- Foley artist and various roles** -- Eric Dixon Gonzales
- More various roles** -- Sarah Eberhardt

Meet THE CREW

- Director** -- Eric Matters
- Assistant director** -- Monya Wolf
- Producer** -- Nicole Amsler
- Lighting Design** -- David Melton
- Light Operator** -- Lilly Trueblood
- Costumer Master** -- Addie Taylor
- Props Master** -- Lindsay Vest
- Set Designer** -- Stephen Matters
- Set Builder** -- Ted Jacobs

seven continents in Mark Brown's adaptation of one of the greatest adventures of all time, according to the play's synopsis.

Matters -- the fearless leader of this wild adventure -- said directing the show has been "a wonderful and fun experience. Watching a great actor move effortlessly through multiple characters is amazing."

He said, "Sarah (Eberhardt) is a great example of that in this show, as she plays the most characters -- (a total of) 13. She uses everything from dialect and accents to body language, to the costumes and makeup to denote the various characters."

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I ndiana



Facts & Fun



Number $\%$ \div Stumpers

1. How many schools are there in total in Muncie?
 \geq
2. How long ago was the discovery of natural gas in Indiana?
 \leq
3. What is the population density of Muncie?
 \geq
4. How old is Delaware County?
 \leq

Answers: 1. 24 Schools 2. 142 Years 3. About 2556 people per sq. mi. 4. 191 Years

Did You Know?

- Delaware County was founded in 1827 and has a population of 117, 671 individuals.
- Muncie, the county seat, is home to Ball State University along with eleven elementary schools, six middle schools and six high schools.
- Delaware County has a total water area of 3.78 square miles.
- The first discovery of natural gas in Indiana occurred in 1876 in the county's town, Eaton.
- Muncie has a total population of 70, 085 and a land area of 27.41 square miles.

Got Words?

Being home to Ball State University, Delaware County is a vibrant, attractive location with numerous art galleries, museums and theaters. In your opinion, how do you think colleges impact the culture of small towns?

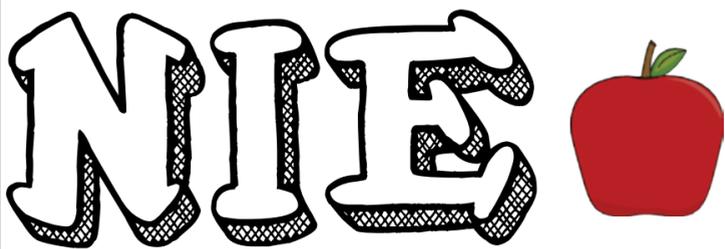
Word Scrambler

Unscramble the words below!

1. LABL TSAET
2. ATULRAN SGA
3. IECNMU
4. WDLAERIA CYNUOT
5. SCHLOHSO

Answers: 1. Ball State 2. Natural gas 3. Muncie 4. Delaware County 5. Schools

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Indiana the Strong

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023

A11

Anu, Previously Gropod, Awarded \$1M Competitive Grant from the National Science Foundation

Heliponix LLC, doing business as anu (previously gropod), has been awarded a Phase II National Science Foundation Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant for \$970,993 and \$75,000 in matching funding from Elevate Ventures.

Anu will continue its research and development work on multispectral photomorphogenesis that is now being deployed in conjunction with deep-learning, computer-vision algorithms within its novel rotary aeroponic cultivation chambers. It was previously awarded an NSF SBIR Phase I grant of \$256,000, in addition to \$50,000 in matching funding from Elevate Ventures. An online video shows the technology in use.

Anu was established six years ago by two undergraduate students in the Purdue Polytechnic Institute who were working on a NASA-funded research study at Purdue University. The research sought to optimize the photosynthetic efficiency of growing lettuce in a controlled-environment hydroponic chamber for astronauts to grow crops more efficiently in space. By manipulating the spectrum of LED light on the lettuce plants, the research team, led by Cary Mitchell, a professor of horticulture in the College of Agriculture, saw an increase in yields while simultaneously reducing the system's energy consumption.

Research team members Scott Massey and Ivan Ball, co-founders of anu, saw an opportunity to further increase yields and minimize energy consumption. Their innovative design, called the Rotary Aeroponic™ Cultivation Chamber, which has multiple patents pending, produces higher yields through its novel mechanical design coupled with a novel control algorithm facilitated through proprietary cloud software.

"Through decentralized, in-home production of produce, the wasteful inefficiencies and environmental destruction attributed to industrialized agriculture

are eliminated, while simultaneously delivering maximum freshness, flavor and nutritional value directly to consumers conveniently," said anu CEO Massey. "Produce is harvested when consumers are hungry rather than everything being harvested at the same time, which requires preservation of the produce. It simply stays alive and fresh until it's eaten. The anu team is now composed of more than 20 team members and continues to rapidly grow."

Massey said the Phase I SBIR grant from the NSF supported anu's "light recipe" research to maximize plant growth yields, nutritional content and energy efficiency within the proprietary Rotary Aeroponic Cultivation Chambers.

"We are now deploying those discoveries into our Phase II deep-learning, computer-vision system to commercialize an autonomous cultivation system for consumers to sustainably eliminate their dependency on grocery stores for eligible produce varieties without preexisting horticultural knowledge required," Massey said. "Our 'Keurig for plants' commercialization strategy empowers consumers to grow their own Pure Produce that is more food safe, free of any pesticides and/or preservatives, and has much less environmental impact than industrial agriculture. This accomplishment is a giant leap forward as this century's Victory Gardens will unite to become the world's largest farm without owning a single acre of land."

As a leader in tunable horticultural research lighting systems, the Lighting Enabled Systems and Applications (LESA) Center of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute has and continues to work with Anu to provide research-grade, multispectral, tunable LED modules and associated programmable control systems compatible with Heliponix's rotary chamber. These modules are based on the LESA Center's TIGER horticulture research lighting mod-

ules and will provide the research flexibility needed in Phase II to optimize the LED illumination impact on plant growth variables in leafy greens including biomass, crop yield, nutritional content and energy efficiency.

"NSF is proud to support the technology of the future by thinking beyond incremental developments and funding the most creative, impactful ideas across all markets and areas of science and engineering," said Andrea Belz, division director of the Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships at NSF. "With the support of our research funds, any deep technology startup or small business can guide basic science into meaningful solutions that address tremendous needs."

Once a small business is awarded a Phase II SBIR/STTR grant, up to \$1 million, it becomes eligible to receive up to \$500,000 in additional matching funds with qualifying third-party investment or sales.

Startups or entrepreneurs who submit a three-page Project Pitch will know within three weeks if they meet the program's objectives to support innovative technologies that show promise of commercial and/or societal impact and involve a level of technical risk. Small businesses with innovative science and technology solutions, and commercial potential are encouraged to apply. All proposals submitted to the NSF SBIR/STTR program, also known as America's Seed Fund powered by NSF, undergo a rigorous merit-based review process. To learn more about America's Seed Fund powered by NSF, visit seedfund.nsf.gov/

About the Lighting Enabled Systems & Applications (LESA) Center

The LESA Center at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is a graduated National Science Foundation (NSF) Engineering Research Center. LESA is an interdisciplinary, R&D center developing "Systems that Think. It is

dedicated to developing autonomous intelligent systems to address modern challenges in the built environment, including controlled environment agriculture (CEA). To learn more please visit lesa.rpi.edu.

About Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute:

Founded in 1824, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is America's first technological research university. Rensselaer encompasses five schools, over 30 research centers, more than 140 academic programs including 25 new programs, and a dynamic community made up of over 6,800 students and 104,000 living alumni. Rensselaer faculty and alumni include upwards of 155 National Academy members, six members of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, six National Medal of Technology winners, five National Medal of Science winners, and a Nobel Prize winner in Physics. With nearly 200 years of experience advancing scientific and technological knowledge, Rensselaer remains focused on addressing global challenges with a spirit of ingenuity and collaboration. To learn more, please visit www.rpi.edu.

About the National Science Foundation's Small Business Programs

America's Seed Fund powered by NSF awards \$200 million annually to startups and small businesses, transforming scientific discovery into products and services with commercial and societal impact. Startups working across almost all areas of science and technology can receive up to \$1.75 million to support research and development (R&D), helping de-risk technology for commercial success. America's Seed Fund is congressionally mandated through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. The NSF is an independent federal agency with a budget of about \$8.1 billion that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering.

BBB Tip: Data Privacy

Just because Data Privacy Week is over is no reason to forget about computer security. The Better Business Bureau has some tips to help you stay safe.

The possibility of a cyberattack by a foreign country has gone from being the stuff of science fiction to a common threat that is often reported in the news. While it may seem like there is nothing an individual can do to stop a cyberattack, there are some best practices that consumers and businesses can do to help guard against losing important personal information to cyber thieves.

Quite a bit of personal information is already shared on the internet by cell phones, tablets, laptops or any other device that connects through wifi or an internet provider. These access points make it easier to shop, bank, make travel arrangements, and keep in touch with friends or family. When online, safeguard your information to help avoid scams, fraud, and identity theft. Periodically, it is a good idea to review who has your information. The Better Business Bureau and the National Cyber Security Alliance offer the following tips to help secure the privacy of critical information:

- **Share with care.** Posts on social media last a long time. Consider who will see the post, how it might be perceived by readers, and what information it might reveal about the individual posting it.

- **Manage privacy settings.** Check the privacy and security settings on web services and apps and set them to your comfort level for information sharing. Each device, application or browser used will have different features to limit how and with whom you share information.

- **Personal info is like money: Value it.** Protect it. Personal information, such as purchase history, IP address, or location, has tremendous value to businesses – just like money. Make informed decisions about whether or not to share data with certain businesses by considering the amount of personal information they are asking for, and weighing it against the benefits you may receive in return.

- **Make your passwords long and strong.** Use long passwords with a combination of upper and lower case letters, numbers, and symbols – eight characters for most accounts, twelve characters for email and financial accounts. Don't use the same password for multiple accounts, especially email and financial. Keep a paper list of your passwords in a safe place, not on or near your computer. Consider using a password vault application. See BBB's tips for creating a strong password.

- **Keep tabs on apps.** Many apps ask for access to personal infor-

mation, such as geographic location, contacts list and photo album, before using their services. Be thoughtful about who gets that information, and wary of apps that require access to information that is not required or relevant for the services they are offering. Delete unused apps on your internet-connect devices and keep others secure by performing updates.

- **Lock down your login.** For your online accounts, use the strongest authentication tools available. Your user names and passwords are not enough; consider two-factor authentication for key accounts like email, banking, and social media, especially for access on mobile devices.

- **Don't click on unfamiliar links.** Whether at home or at work, don't click on links from unfamiliar sources or unexpected correspondence. One false click can infect a whole computer... or a whole business.

- **Pay attention to internet-connected devices.** Smart thermostats, voice control systems, cars, even refrigerators are just the beginning of the growing list of devices that watch our homes and track our location. Read the privacy policy and understand what data is being collected and how it will be used. Read BBB's tips on smart devices and cyber security risks.

Charitable organizations should be aware of data privacy. Donors and others communicate online with charities via their websites, emails and other online means and need to be informed about what policies are in place to address privacy concerns. BBB Wise Giving Alliance published a blog article containing advice for charities regarding data privacy concerns.

For more information: See BBB's Cybersecurity Resources page.

Check out the National Cyber Security Alliance's Privacy Tips, including special information for teens, parents, older adults, mobile users, and more.

Businesses can learn more about BBB's tips for improved cybersecurity.

Ask the BBB in your area about programs for business leaders and employees.

About BBB Serving Central Indiana:

For more than 100 years, Better Business Bureau has been helping people find businesses, brands and charities they can trust. In 2020, people turned to BBB more than 220 million times for BBB Business Profiles on more than 6.2 million businesses and Charity Reports on 11,000 charities, all available for free at BBB.org. There are local, independent BBBs across the United States, Canada and Mexico, including BBB serving Central Indiana, which was founded in 1916 and serves 46 counties.



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THURSDAY

Indiana the Strong

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023

A12

Ivy Tech Announces Partnership to Increase Access for Working Adults



IVY TECH
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ivy Tech Community College has partnered with Guild, a Career Opportunity Platform, which enables employers in Indiana and across the nation to invest in their employees, unlocking opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Guild matches higher education needs of employers and employees, with pre-determined programs offered through Ivy Tech's online platform, IvyOnline. Many employers pay all or a portion of their employees' tuition and fees, as an employee benefit, while they skill up their workforce. This helps to ensure learners can access their education and learning programs without facing significant financial barriers that present a hurdle to degree enrollment and completion.

"We are pleased to be

able to offer a portfolio of in-demand programs to Hoosiers who work for exceptional companies through this Guild initiative. We are also serving those nationally who have the same needs as our Hoosiers," said Ivy Tech President, Dr. Sue Ellspermann. "Ivy Tech is a perfect fit to offer programs to help individuals advance their knowledge and their careers and to meet the needs of employers."

"We are proud to welcome Ivy Tech Community College to Guild's learning marketplace," said Marty Martinez, Senior Vice President, Learning Marketplace at Guild. "Ivy Tech is an innovator in workforce-aligned learning. Their programs are high-quality, affordable, and uniquely suited to support the needs of working

adult learners."

Companies offering Ivy Tech programs to their employees through Guild include: Kohl's, Regions Bank, Sentara Healthcare, Target, and Walmart.

"With programs offered through Ivy Tech, we're creating a path of opportunity for our associates to grow their careers at Walmart, so they can continue to build better lives for themselves and their families," said Lorraine Stomski, senior vice president of associate learning and leadership at Walmart.

The Ivy Tech Evansville campus serves as the enrollment hub for the Guild initiative, and a similar program—Achieve Your Degree—working with employers to defer tuition payment until the end of the semester. Ivy Tech Evansville Chancellor Daniela Vidal said the Evansville campus volunteered to take care of all enrollment, advising, and financial aspects of the Guild partnership, because of the success of the Achieve Your Degree program work.

"Our team has developed a plan, and employees from these companies are able to seamlessly reach our team members to get concierge service

for all of their enrollment and advising needs," Vidal said. "I look forward to seeing both students and employers skill up with Ivy Tech."

For employers to learn more about GUILD and Ivy Tech, call (812) 492-0175.

About Guild:

Guild unlocks the talent and economic potential of America's workforce for employees and their companies. Guild partners with the nation's largest employers—including Walmart, Chipotle, Discover, Hilton, Macy's, Target, and The Walt Disney Company—to create cultures of opportunity that help them attract and retain top talent, while building the workforce of the future from within. By using Guild's proprietary Career Opportunity Platform to connect workers to a marketplace of education and learning programs that work in the real-world, employees at those companies can gain the skills, knowledge, and guidance they need to build a brighter future for themselves and their families—all without paying for tuition or career services on their own. For more information, visit guildeducation.com/

Forage Enthusiasts to Gather for Annual Meeting and Seminar

The Indiana Forage Council (IFC) Annual Meeting and Seminar will take place Feb. 9, 2023, at CLAAS of America in Columbus, Indiana. The location is the North American distribution hub for the global manufacturer of CLAAS harvesting machines and tractors.

"The yearly event is an opportunity to network with individuals who are enthusiastic about the contributions that forages provide society," said Keith Johnson, professor of agronomy at Purdue University. Scheduled events include a tour of CLAAS of America, a networking dinner and a brief awards presentation.

In addition, featured speakers Brock Kiesler and Matt Tobias will discuss

the production, harvest and marketing strategies they use to produce high-quality hay. As cash-crop hay producers in Floyd and Shelby counties, respectively, they have received recognition for award-winning hay entries in the IFC's hay-quality contest.

Elysia Rodgers, Purdue Extension director and educator, Dekalb County, said, "This will be my last annual meeting as the president of the Indiana Forage Council, having served the last two years. It has been a pleasure to see the changes in the forage industry and meet so many people from across Indiana that have similar interests."

Registration and agenda details can be found on the IFC website and Facebook page.

Indy 500 Green Flag Embarks on Fantastic Global Journey

The green flag for the 107th Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge will experience an epic journey with fun twists as it travels the globe during the Green Flag Relay leading into "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" on Sunday, May 28.

The flag made its first stop of the 2023 Green Flag Relay in a new location. Dan Smith of NTT DATA, partner of the NTT INDYCAR SERIES and Indianapolis Motor Speedway, carried the green flag on his trip to Antarctica (photo, above), where he supported Robert Swan's Undaunted: South Pole 2023 expedition.

Continuing its international travels, the green flag made a return visit to Sweden, the home country of Marcus Ericsson, defending Indianapolis 500 winner and Chip Ganassi Racing driver. In addition to enjoying action with Huski Chocolate athletes, the green flag traveled to Stockholm for the Idrottsgalan 2023 Swedish sports awards gala Jan. 16 at Avicii Arena. Ericsson was nominated for Performance of the Year.

"The Indianapolis 500 green flag is one of the most important symbols in all of motorsports, signifying the start of the world's greatest race," Indianapolis Motor Speedway President J. Douglas Boles said. "This year, the excitement continues as the green flag journeys to Antarctica, returns to Sweden and embarks on a relay to many other worldwide landmarks before returning to Indianapolis where it will be used to signal the start of this year's race."

To follow the flag's adventures, visit www.ims.com/GreenFlagRelay, which features an interactive map with photographs, video and more. On social media, the campaign can be tracked using the hashtag #GreenFlagRelay. The flag will travel to more fun locations soon, so make sure to look for additional content and updates.

Live coverage of the 107th Indianapolis 500 starts at 11 a.m. ET Sunday, May 28 from Indianapolis Motor Speedway on NBC and the INDYCAR Radio Network. Visit ims.com to buy tickets and for more information.

Do You Know Where Your Unclaimed Money Is?



Attorney General Todd Rokita

Have you checked to see if the state has any of your money lying around? Well, Feb. 1 was National Unclaimed Property Day and Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita reminds Hoosiers to visit IndianaUnclaimed.gov or text CLAIM to 46220 to see what you may have.

"Protecting Hoosiers' liberty is my office's top priority," Rokita said. "Returning unclaimed property to the rightful owners is just one way we carry out this larger mission. Who knows — you might find \$5 or \$1,000, but it's worth a look."

Indiana is the only state where the attorney general oversees unclaimed property.

Last year, Attorney General Rokita's Unclaimed Property Division returned over \$61 million to Hoosiers.

Here are the types of property that might go unclaimed:

- Unclaimed wages or commissions
- Money orders

- Safety deposit box contents
- Savings and checking accounts
- Refunds
- Overpayments such as:

- Credit card balances
 - Cell phone bills
 - DMV payments
- Individuals and/or businesses have 25 years in which to claim money once it is reported to the Unclaimed Property Division. All you must do is supply proof of rightful ownership.

Money isn't the only thing waiting for you in the Unclaimed Property Division. There are some tangible items received from dormant safe deposit boxes. After three years, the division typically

liquidates those items through such means as eBay auctions.

Rokita credited Amy Hendrix, director of unclaimed property, with her effective supervision of the division.

"Throughout our office, staff members do their work with servants' hearts," Attorney General Rokita said. "Our mission is to earn Hoosiers' trust every day."

So be sure to check IndianaUnclaimed.gov or text CLAIM to 46220 to search your name, family, or business.

In addition to the website, you also may contact the Unclaimed Property Division at 1-866-462-5246 or updmail@atg.in.gov.



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Photos courtesy of Indy Airport Fire Department

Indy Airport Fire Department Inducts New Equipment With Old Traditions

Firefighters, retirees and officials at the Indianapolis International Airport (IND) recently celebrated the arrival of two new aircraft rescue firefighting apparatus, which included ceremonial traditions practiced among firefighters dating back to the 1800s. The event demonstrated the fellowship and team connection candidates looking to serve among Indy airport first responders can expect to find.

"These are age-old traditions that signify teamwork, camaraderie, respect for the job and appreciation for the right resources to do that job," said Chief Fred Pervine of the Indianapolis Airport Authority

fire department.

The event kicked off with a wet down, a tradition of using the old fire truck's hoses to wet the new truck. The wet down ceremony dates back to the late 1800s when a new fire apparatus was washed with water from an outgoing apparatus. At the event, all attendees were given a memorial towel to help dry the trucks as a symbol of pride.

"The 'wet down' is like an anointing to symbolize good luck, safe responses, and passing the proverbial torch," said Deputy Chief Steve Summers of the IAA fire department.

The ceremony also included a push-in, a tra-

dition that also dates back to the late 1800s when fire departments used horse-drawn equipment.

"After returning to the station after a fire call, the horses could not easily back the equipment into the stations," said Summers. "So the horses were disconnected from the fire wagons and firefighters pushed the equipment into the bay themselves."

Indianapolis Fire Department Chaplain Father John McCaslin was also on hand to bless the trucks and all who ride on them. The event topped off with a radio call from the Airport Operations Center, announcing the old trucks officially out of service and

the new trucks officially in.

Pervine said the two trucks are specifically designed for aircraft firefighting, each with the capacity to carry 3,000 gallons of water, 420 gallons of foam concentrate, and 500 pounds of dry chemical firefighting agent.

"They have off-road capabilities, floatation tires, independent suspension, and can pump agents through two turrets while driving," Pervine explained.

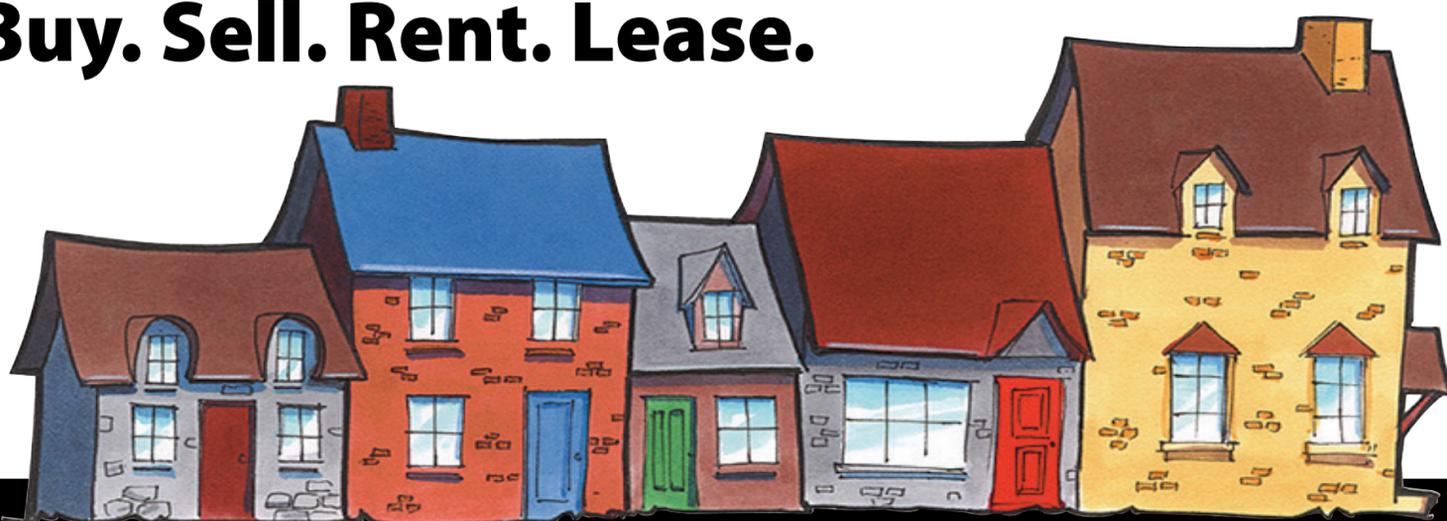
Each truck also has a 50-foot boom and a penetrating nozzle to pierce the aluminum skin on an aircraft or cargo box and flood it with a firefighting agent. In addition, each truck has

a "low attack" feature that can apply firefighting foam under the aircraft, while simultaneously using an agent from the top.

About the Indianapolis Airport Authority

The Indianapolis Airport Authority owns and operates Indiana's largest airport system in the Indianapolis metropolitan area. In addition to the Indianapolis International Airport (IND), its facilities include the Downtown Heliport, Eagle Creek Airpark, Hendricks County Airport-Gordon Graham Field, Indianapolis Regional Airport and Metropolitan Airport. IND generates a \$7.5 billion total annual economic impact to the state of Indiana – without relying on state or local taxes to fund operations. More than 11,000 people work at the airport each day, and nearly 54,000 jobs statewide have a connection to the airport. In 2021, IND served more than 7.1 million business and leisure travelers. IND is consistently ranked, year after year, as the best airport in North America and the nation, based on ease of use, passenger amenities, customer service, local retail offerings and public art. The airport is home of the world's second largest FedEx operation and the nation's eighth-largest cargo facility. For more information, visit IND.com.

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