

➔ TODAY'S VERSE

John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.



➔ FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.
What makes Nicole Amsler smile? "Anybody walking through my front door," said the 50-year-old Noblesville resident. She works remotely as a marketing manager for K2Share, a technology education platform for young adults. She's a mother to three Noblesville graduates. Her two daughters, Delaney and Krista, will graduate this spring from IU Bloomington and Indiana Wesleyan, respectively, and her son, Spencer, will attend Mid-America College of Funeral Services. She loved having "theater kids" visit when her kids were in high school. Now, she spends all her free time doing community theater. In November, she won the Encore Association's award for Best Stage Manager of a Play for "Rumors" at Basile Westfield Playhouse. She is a playwright of a one-act play, "Holiday Cards," which she directed in December at Westfield Playhouse. She produced the recent "Around the World in 80 Days" for The Belfry Theatre and is currently directing Hyperion Players' "God of Carnage," a play on stage Friday through Sunday at The Ivy Tech Auditorium in Noblesville. She runs the marketing team for Epilogue Players. This year, she returned from a 27-year hiatus, returning to acting, taking on the role of Annie in "The Calendar Girls" at Epilogue. She was born in Michigan, left 30 years ago and has lived 13 places. Nicole has "Carpe Diem" tattooed on her ankle, and her next tattoo will be "Die Interesting." She said, "That's my goal: a big, juicy, creative, wild life."

And Another Thing...

1. Hobnob Hoopla! Market

Get set for spring with all the vintage finds, sunny home décor, & warm weather style you need to make the season sing. Hobnob Hoopla! Market is coming up March 24 & 25 at the Boone County Fairgrounds in Lebanon, Indiana.

WHERE: Boone County Fairgrounds - just off Interstate 65 - Lebanon.

DATES & TIMES: Earlybird Shopping - Friday, March 24 : 4-8 pm EDT

Admission: \$10 per person

2. Paused Toxicity

Now that the Environmental Protection Agency has announced shipments of toxic materials to Indiana would be paused, Hoosier Sen. Mike Braun issued the following statement. "The EPA never should have sent one ounce of this material into Indiana without testing it for dioxins in the first place. This halted shipment should stay halted, and the Biden EPA should explain why they started shipping material to Indiana instead of Michigan as originally planned." Last week, Braun and Indiana Rep. Jim Baird sent a letter to the EPA demanding answers to several questions about the agency's decision to send this material to Indiana and if partisan politics was the only reason an in-progress shipment of materials was diverted from Michigan and sent back to East Palestine.

3. Spring Out Of Winter

Beginning Saturday night, Sunday morning, remember to set your clocks forward an hour. Daylight Savings Time may be annoying and rough, but it does signal that we will be looking forward to better weather, cookouts, outdoor sports, and family fun!

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper



NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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Photo provided by Indy Kids Sale

Carmel mom Lori Chandler celebrates the 18th year of Indy Kids Sale, which she owns and operates, and will be open to the public for shoppers on Friday and Saturday at Finch Creek Fieldhouse in Noblesville.

Let The Kids' Consignment Sales Begin



BETSY REASON
Columnist

It's just three days until Daylight Saving Time begins and only 11 days until spring officially arrives.

For a lot of families, this time of year means getting rid of outgrown and unwanted kids clothes, toys their kids don't play with anymore and no-longer-needed kids gear. And for some moms, it means consign-

Want TO GO?

What: 18th annual Indy Kids Sale offering new and gently used children's clothing up to teen sizes, toys, furniture and gear.
When: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday (half-price sale).
Where: Mojo Up Sports Complex at Finch Creek Fieldhouse, 16289 Boden Road, Noblesville.
Cost: Admission and parking free. Bring your own bag or purchase one at the door.
Good to know: Payment forms include cash, MasterCard and Visa.
Info: <http://www.indykidssale.com/>
Indy Kids Consignment Sale - Indy's Favorite to Shop, Save & Earn
Indy's Favorite to Shop, Save & Earn
www.indykidssale.com

ing their items and/or shopping for deals at the local biannual kids' consignment sales.

For us, it's a good time for my daughter to re-organize her closet and dresser drawers and make piles of items that she has outgrown or no longer likes to wear.

We started consigning at kids sales when my 16-year-old daughter was a toddler. Just a couple of years before that, I met Fishers mom Lori Chandler, who lives in Carmel now, and who turns businesswoman twice a year as the owner of Indy Kids Sale. The sale opens this Friday and Saturday for the public at Mojo Up Sports Complex at Finch Creek Fieldhouse in Noblesville.

Chandler and her husband, Mike, with the help of volunteers and employees, operate the consignment sale each spring and fall at Finch Creek. Pub-

➔ See BETSY Page A4

Sheridan Youth Assistance Supporters

We are three months away from the 3rd annual golf outing to raise funds for the youth and families of Sheridan Youth Assistance.

Please pass along the information for a fun day on the golf course with the SYAP team! Registration is now OPEN for our Golf Outing June 12, 2023 -- <https://syapgf.wedoauctions.com> and "buy tickets" today!

On Monday, June 12, 2023 Sheridan Youth Assistance will be hosting a Charity Golf Tournament at Plum Creek Golf Club with a 10:00 a.m. shotgun start. With your help they will be able to raise a generous amount of funds for the youth and their families in the Sheridan community. provided some amazing

resources for our youth this past year. Register as an individual, a team or be a sponsor! Check out the attached flyer for details.

The event will be a full 18 holes of golf, box lunch, dinner, raffle prizes, and Hole in One Vacation Prizes. Funds generated from this summer event will be used to provide positive opportunities and experiences students will only have because of your support.

Save the Date for Saturday, September 16 - our annual Denim and Lace fundraiser at West Fork Distillery in Westfield.

Check out the annual report to learn how we served the youth in Sheridan in 2022. <https://youthassistance.org/sheridan-news>

Hamilton County, Working For Us



MARK HALL
The Timesheet

Welcome to the Timesheet. This column is a report of work done on behalf of the people of Hamilton County. It's to be informative too, a place to learn about projects and how county

government works.

As a body, the Hamilton County Council deals with large volumes of information. We are responsible for approving budgets, financial plans, and personnel financial decisions among several other areas. The information we review is often confidential. Protecting the confidential information is part of the job and a responsibility that I take seriously. This column will not share confidential or sensitive information.

As your employee, it's important that you know what is being worked on and it's just as important to be transparent in government. You hired me as

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➔ INSIDE TODAY

- Tim Timmons.....A4
- EarthTalk.....A4, A5
- Service Directory.....A5
- Indiana Facts & Fun.....A6
- Indiana News.....A7

➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Walking at least six miles per week can help reduce age-related memory loss.

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

On this date in 1945, Allied Forces firebomb Tokyo, killing 100,000 and destroying the capital city. That's as many or more than were killed in Hiroshima and more than died in Nagasaki. Yet we never hear much about this. Wonder why?



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

➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

"Worst damn-fool mistake I ever made was letting myself be elected vice president of the United States. Should have stuck with my old chores as Speaker of the House. I gave up the second most important job in the government for one that didn't amount to a hill of beans."

-John "Cactus Jack" Garner, 39th Speaker of the House

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

How can you tell if a potato is not from Ireland? When it's a French fry.

➔ OBITUARIES

None



3 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

38/57 NOT AS WARM	39/56 WINDY, WET, BREEZY FEEL	34/51 BREEZY & COOLER	29/56 MAINLY SUNNY	41/69 BREEZY WINDY	44/53 PARTLY CLOUDY	35/46 COOLER
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED



Photo courtesy of Hamilton Heights High School

Hamilton Heights High School February Coffee Bean Award recipients (l-r): Addison Gilmore, Raechel Hunter, Camryn Runner, and Joannah Blueher. Not pictured: Jocelyn Mendez Rivera. These students were nominated by a student or staff member for positive words and actions that are having a transformative impact on others and lifting the overall school culture.

Hamilton Heights High School Honors Students

Hamilton Heights High School would like to recognize the following students who were named as Coffee Bean Award recipients for the month of February.

Joannah Blueher, Addison Gilmore, Raechel Hunter, Jocelyn Mendez Rivera, and Camryn Runner. These students were among 15 who were nominated for their showing extra kindness, compassion, have overcome adversity, and/or who have been a positive light to those around them in February.

The name and award was inspired by *The Coffee Bean*, a book, written by Jon Gordon and Damon West that delivers a simple, yet powerful message on positive change. All students nominated receive a certificate of recognition. At the end of the month, the names of the students who were nominated during the

month are included in a drawing where the first five names drawn are called down to the office to enjoy a hot chocolate or coffee and a donut.

"The program evolved from a similar program for staff under the same name," explained Lori Watson, HHHS School Counselor. "The objective was to encourage more acts of kindness, positivity, school spirit, and help foster a closer sense of community at the high school."

The monthly award program officially rolled out in January with Cassidy Felger, Taylor Harley, Kendall Herrell, Ethan Hodson, and Isabella Woody the first recipients. Students and staff can nominate students. Nomination forms can be downloaded at <https://www.hhschuskiies.org/domain/82>

Local Students are Named To Dean's List At Tufts University

Tufts University recently announced the dean's list for the Fall 2022 semester.

Among students earning dean's list honors is/are:

Angela Chen of Carmel, IN, Class of 2025

Claire Wilkinson of Fishers, IN, Class of 2023

Dean's list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Tufts University, located on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, Massachusetts,

and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions. A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across the university's schools is widely encouraged.

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THE TIMES

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8:30 - 9:00 AM
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LWC

Photo provided

The Noblesville Library is nearing completion of Phase 1 renovations, which means our main entrance is set to reopen. While we've remained open throughout renovations, we're very excited to share these new updates, including: improved traffic flow and expanded parking, increased access to green spaces, outdoor amenities for all ages, plus an updated front façade, meeting rooms, and lobby. Join us in celebration with the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce and HCLA, learn more about our upcoming Indiana Room expansion, and enjoy coffee and refreshments.

Carmel Marathon Presented By Franciscan Health Sold Out For Third Consecutive Year

For the third consecutive year, the Carmel Marathon Presented by Franciscan Health has sold out. The 13th annual Carmel Marathon Weekend, held on Saturday, April 8, 2023, in Carmel, Indiana, also hosts the Carmel Half Marathon, Indiana Spine Group 10K, Indiana Members Credit Union 5K, and a marathon relay.

The Carmel Marathon Weekend has garnered national attention as a fast and flat race, conditions ideal for Boston Marathon qualifying times, personal records and elite runners aiming to qualify for the 2024 Olympic Marathon Trials. In 2021 the entire marathon field had an average finish time of 3:59, a rare result from a non point-to-point course. The

2023 event will host multiple returning champions and includes the largest elite field in its history.

In addition to the elite runners, more than 30 participants will head to the start line keeping their streak alive as finishers in the 12 previous years of the event. The average age of the streakers is 54, with the oldest to be 72 on race day. The Carmel Marathon Weekend streakers will be recognized on race morning during opening ceremonies.

The event has again been awarded with the Road Runners Club of America (RRCA) Championship designation. This year the largest running association in the United States chose the Carmel Half Marathon as its

Central Region Championship event, and the marathon distance will host the 2023 RRCA Indiana State Championship Event for Indiana. RRCA Championship Events are designated annually at the State, Regional, and National level through a competitive bidding process.

The event has also enjoyed the growth of strong corporate partnerships. Franciscan Health, an event partner since 2014, has returned in a multi-year agreement including medical support and presenting sponsor rights for the full marathon. Indiana Spine Group extended its three-year partnership through 2025, continuing its title sponsorship of the 10K event as well as its role as presenting sponsor

of the post-race Pancake Village, a free and popular offering for all race participants. Both health organizations have a local presence in Carmel along the race course.

"We're really excited and thankful about another sellout in our marathon," said Todd Oliver, race director for the Carmel Marathon Weekend. "There are a lot of spring marathon options so hitting our 1,200-person capacity three years in a row indicates we are on the right track."

While the full marathon has hit its capacity limit, a waitlist option is available. The Carmel Half Marathon is expected to sell out as well. For more information and registration, please visit Carmel-Marathon.com.

Tonya Hyatt Announces Run For Westfield Office

According to a press release, Tonya Hyatt's campaign for Westfield Clerk Treasurer has officially kicked off.

With her impressive background in finance and unwavering commitment to Westfield, Hyatt leads by example. Hyatt has more than 15 years of experience in finance and accounting, with a proven history of working collaboratively with departments and leaders across large organizations. She has served as a Senior Financial Analyst and an Accountant at large healthcare organizations, where she excelled

in environments experiencing high levels of growth. Hyatt's experience will allow her to hit the ground running, and she has a fresh approach to identifying areas of potential improvement and untapped opportunities.

"I will work respectfully with all City Council members and the newly elected Mayor to bring balance and order to Westfield," Hyatt said. "This is a critical time for our community. I'll lead with integrity and a conservative approach to finances."

As a community-focused leader, Hyatt firmly



Tonya Hyatt

believes in giving back to the community she calls home. Currently, she serves on a Youth Assistance Board, volunteers for Hamilton County Tourism, and coaches young girls through Girls

on the Run. She has been a finance committee member for the Boys & Girls Club, a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, a board member for Arts Place, as well as many other volunteer roles.

Hyatt is excited to bring her expertise to Westfield. Hyatt and her family have chosen to build a life because of the opportunity to get involved in a growing city with so many family focused amenities and an outstanding school reputation. Hyatt and her husband Dave have two children who attend Carrey Ridge Elementary.

Indiana Main Street Communities To participate In Community Transformation Workshops

Noblesville is one of 21 sites around the state of Indiana that will participate in Community Transformation Workshops.

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs today announced 21 Indiana Main Street communities will participate in Community Transformation Workshops. The workshops will be held from March 2023 through December 2023 with the assistance of Main Street America consultants.

"I am excited that these Indiana Main Street organizations are being provided another resource to help strengthen their

communities," said Lt. Gov. Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agricultural and Rural Development.

"By utilizing opportunities like the Community Transformation Workshops, communities can continue their efforts to support economic and cultural growth."

The 21 organizations are required to participate in the workshops sponsored by OCRA's Indiana Main Street program. The two-day workshops will help programs to become or stay accredited through Main Street America.

Additionally, the workshops provide services to assist the organizations to define community-in-

formed and market-driven strategies that can direct and strengthen its revitalization efforts.

"The Community Transformation Workshops are a great opportunity for our Main Street organizations," said OCRA Executive Director Denny Spinner. "Each community can learn more about how to best carry out efforts for economic development and community engagement in their unique city or town."

The 21 communities participating include Huntingburg, Greensburg, Lebanon, Lawrenceburg, New Albany, Muncie, Logansport, North Vernon, Franklin, Auburn, Pendleton, Kokomo, New Castle,

Aurora, Jeffersonville, Corydon, Crawfordsville, Columbia City, Coatesville and Greencastle.

All participating communities have demonstrated the effective implementation of the Main Street Four Point Approach. This approach will help each community and their Main Street organizations identify and build on their greatest economic strengths through targeted community development strategies.

For more information on the Indiana Main Street program, visit in.gov/ocra/mainstreet. For more information on Main Street America, visit mainstreet.org/home.

Farmer Sentiment Dips In February

The Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer dipped 5 points to a reading of 125 in February. Farmers' perspectives regarding both current conditions on their farms and expectations for the future also weakened. The Index of Current Conditions fell 2 points to 134 and the Index of Future Expectations declined 6 points to 121. The Ag Economy Barometer is calculated each month from 400 U.S. agricultural producers' responses to a telephone survey. This month's survey was conducted February 13-17.

"Increased concern over the risk of falling output prices, rising interest rates and uncertainty over the future growth of U.S. agricultural exports is weighing on producers' minds," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue's Center for Commercial Agriculture.

Producers' expectations for their farms' financial performance in 2023 compared to 2022 weakened in February. The Farm Financial Performance Index declined 7 points to a reading of 86. Farmers continue to point to concerns about higher input costs (38% of respondents), rising interest rates (24% of respondents) and lower output prices (18% of respondents) as their biggest concern for the year ahead.

Agricultural exports have been a key source of growth for U.S. agriculture for decades. Beginning in 2019, the Ag Economy Barometer survey routinely included a question asking producers about their expectations for agricultural exports in the upcoming five years. Since peaking in 2020, when just over 70% of respondents said they expected exports to increase in the upcoming five years, the percentage of farmers looking for exports to grow over time has drifted lower. In February just 33% of survey respondents said they expect exports

to increase, which leads Mintert to suggest that a lack of confidence in future agricultural export growth is contributing to weakened sentiment among producers.

Despite strong farm income, the February reading of the Farm Capital Investment Index changed little, rising 1 point to a reading of 43. This month 72% of producers said it is a "bad time" to make large investments in their farming operation, while just 15% reported it is a "good time" to make such investments. The disparity between producers' responses to the question and actual farm equipment sales continues to be focused on costs. Of those who said now is a "bad time" to make large investments, 45% of respondents said it was because of an increase in prices for farm machinery and new construction, while 27% of respondents said it was because of "rising interest rates."

Producers' expectations for short-term and long-term farmland values fell in February but remain positive. The Short-Term Farmland Value Index declined 1 point to 119 while the Long-Term Farmland Value Index dropped 5 points to 137. Although both indices remain above 100, indicating a positive outlook on farmland values, the percentage of producers who said they expect values to decline over the next five years reached 19% this month, the highest percentage since this question was first routinely included in barometer surveys in 2019. Still, over half (56%) of respondents expect values five years from now to be higher than today. This month just 33% of respondents said they expect values to rise in the next 12 months, while 14% said they expect values to weaken.

Each February, the barometer survey includes a question focused on farm growth, asking respondents about the annual growth rate they expect for their farm over the next five years. This year 49% of respondents said their farm either

had "No plans to grow" (33%) or "Plan to exit or retire" (16%). Of those respondents who expect their farms to grow, 19% expect it to grow by "Less than 5% annually," and 22% said they expect it to grow by "5% to 10% annually."

Leasing of farmland for solar energy production is a hot topic in many parts of the U.S. Since the spring of 2021, the barometer survey has periodically included questions about the discussions farmers are having with solar companies. In both the January and February 2023 surveys, just over 10% of respondents said they had discussed a solar lease with a company. Of those who indicated they had been in discussions, nearly half (48%) of respondents said they were offered a lease rate above \$1,000 per acre, up from a low of 27% and a high of 35% in previous surveys. This month's survey findings suggest companies have started to increase lease rates they are willing to pay.

Read the full Ag Economy Barometer report at <https://purdue.ag/agbarometer>. The site also offers additional resources – such as past reports, charts and survey methodology – and a form to sign up for monthly barometer email updates and webinars.

Each month, the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture provides a short video analysis of the barometer results, available at <https://purdue.ag/barometervideo>. For more information, check out the "Purdue Commercial AgCast" podcast available at <https://purdue.ag/agcast>, which includes a detailed breakdown of each month's barometer and a discussion of recent agricultural news that affects farmers.

The Ag Economy Barometer, Index of Current Conditions and Index of Future Expectations are available on the Bloomberg Terminal under the following ticker symbols: AGECCBARO, AGECCURC and AGECCFTEX.

Attorney General's Office Checking 'Youth Gender Clinics'

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita is seeking answers from several medical facilities in Indiana about possible sterilization procedures performed on vulnerable children in order to "transition" them to a gender other than their biological sex.

Doctors, clinics and hospitals are increasingly prescribing puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and even surgeries to children without disclosing the known risks.

"Our kids are precious gifts from God," Rokita said. "We should all be concerned about the physical and chemical procedures being performed upon these minors, which in most cases are irreversible."

In a letter, Rokita asked medical-facility administrators to provide answers to a series of questions.

Although some children may express a desire to adopt a different gender, they are not mature enough to address such an impulse by making such life-changing decisions that will forever alter their bodies.

"We all love our children and want nothing more than to keep them healthy and safe," Rokita said. "But every parent knows that our kids' brains are not fully developed until adulthood, and they can change their moods and their minds daily."

To permit minors to undergo gender transition surgeries, Rokita added, could legitimately be considered child abuse.

"The state has a very compelling interest in protecting these young Hoosiers and their parents," Rokita said. "And that's why we're collecting this data."

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THE TIMES classifieds.

Indiana Chamber To Host 59th Annual Human Resources Conference In May

The Indiana Chamber of Commerce's 59th Annual Indiana HR Conference and Expo in May offers a wide variety of in-depth workshops and sessions on critical HR challenges in 2023. Top industry services and products also will be showcased at the full market expo.

"Human resources issues are paramount to every business, and that has been magnified since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic," says Indiana Chamber President and CEO Kevin Brinegar. "Many HR topics are front of mind right now, and what makes this conference so beneficial for attendees is they can build their own agendas to ensure they're learning topics most relevant to their particular role."

The three-day program, sponsored by Frost Brown Todd, will take place May 1-3 at the Indiana Convention Center in downtown Indianapolis.

The keynote on May 2 will feature Indianapolis-based home remodeler and seller Mina Starsiak Hawk from HGTV's hit series, "Good Bones."

Also on the agenda: digital networking, mentoring resources, plus continuing education credits and access to industry leading and expert speakers as well

as the always popular Paws and Think Therapy Dogs. New this year will be talent acquisition and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) tracks and a discussion of HR issues through the C-level lens. Another new feature is the HR Hangout Hub, a place for attendees to reset, relax and explore available resources. The new Hangout Hub will feature a bookstore, aromatherapy, donation station and more.

The keynote speaker on the morning of May 3 is Andrea Butcher, who will highlight three ways to maximize the power in the pivots in your leadership (and your life) based on the outcomes of more than 50 conversations with executives on her leadership podcast, Being [at Work].

The 2023 Ogletree Deakins Human Resources Professional of the Year Award also will be presented during a luncheon awards presentation on May 3. All full-time HR practitioners in Indiana who have made significant contributions to their organizations through the past year were eligible for nomination. During the luncheon, Derrin Slack, founder and CEO of ProAct Indy, will address outward inclusion through guided conversations and

exercises.

Additional conference sponsors include diamond sponsors Marathon Health and Salary.com; platinum sponsors ARG Financial Group, Clair and United Healthcare; gold sponsors HRD – A Leadership Development Company, IU Health Plans, Lauth Investigations International, Northwest Radiology Network and Northwind Pharmaceuticals; and silver sponsor Shepherd Financial.

The conference is presented in partnership with ClearPath Mutual and the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

Cost for the full three-day conference is \$449 for Indiana Chamber members; \$549 for non-members if purchased before April 1. Full price breakdowns and attendance options can be found at [www.indianahrconf.com]www.indianahrconf.com.

An all-day post-event session on May 4 focuses on Mental Health First Aid and is available for up to 30 participants. Mental Health First Aid teaches how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. Contact info@wellnessindiana.org for more information.

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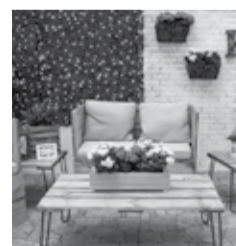
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MARK From Page A1

your Hamilton County Councilman, and my hope is that you'll choose to be informed by regularly reading this column, getting involved, and by asking questions. Council meetings are at 7:00 PM the first Wednesday of every month at the judicial center in downtown Noblesville. They are also available to watch online for those unable to attend in person. Here is where my time this past month has been spent.

Month two is in the books. Personnel Committee meetings consisted of new hire approvals, compensation adjustments, new positions, and lots of detailed discussions on benefits and county Human Resources procedures. Highway Committee meetings included detailed reviews of pending projects and approvals of funding for several.

I've learned that the public meetings are a product of hours of work behind the scenes. To serve well, one must be informed well. Keeping up with the reading, email, helping taxpayers with issues or questions, meeting with department heads, committee meetings and conversations with other council members all require time.

This month in addition to the County Council public meeting, I attended Cicero and Noblesville town council meetings, I also attended the Indiana County Council Association meeting in New Castle. The ICCA serves as an educational and legislative service to county councils across Indiana. This session focused on council best practices and a comprehensive legislative update on forty-four bills moving through the statehouse

that have potential impact on county government's ability to provide services to citizens.

Unfortunately, the construction climate is such that two bids this past month both exceeded budgeted estimates. Frankly, it's ugly. Government has strict procurement guidelines so one of the projects must be rebid because the bids were too far beyond the projects estimated budget. The second project could be awarded but it still came in millions of dollars over estimated costs. This left the county in a trick bag. The sunk costs exceeded the cost overruns by a 3-1 margin leaving the county very little choice. We can incur the bigger cost, unwind the project, and still have the traffic problem or suck it up and find a way to cover the new higher project costs. These are very tough choices, in part because they can put pressure on the budget and harm our ability to pay for future needed projects. Let me be clear here, what's happened to these two projects is not an unforced error, rather it's a product of vendors having plenty of work and increasing their bids to manage their risk of future cost of labor increases between the time they bid the work and the time to start project execution.

This month's work also included an evening shift ride-a-long with a sheriff's deputy, and learning more about the challenges faced by our police first responders. Additionally, I had the privilege to spend time with the team at the "Heart and Soul Clinic" in Westfield, learning about their free healthcare

services and touring their facility. I spent several hours meeting with the county attorney and representatives from one of the consulting firms the county presently uses to finance debt. Topics included debt financing, our strong AAA bond rating, the county tax rate, and how to keep it flat, as well as how it compares to the various school tax rates around the county. Lastly of note this month, I spent time with the executives from Bastian Solutions, congratulating them on their decision to remain in Hamilton County, keeping over 600 jobs here at home.

This is my time sheet. This is where my time went during month two. There are several projects in the queue for 2023 and while my job is primarily the financial oversight of the county budget it is important to understand the Board of Commissioners priorities and balance them with the stewardship of taxpayer dollars. That is the job, and I am excited to do the people's business.

As a taxpayer myself, and listening to so many of you, our employers, it's important for the taxpayers to have access to all the information you want. I work for you and although you may not choose to do a deep dive into what your County Council does, it's important that you always can do so. Feel free to contact me at 317-832-1104 or mark.hall@hamiltoncounty.in.gov with questions, feedback or if you would like to talk about county business.

-Mark Hall is a successful businessman, husband, father and grandfather. He is serving his first term on the Hamilton County Council.

Hammer Questions New Battlefield

I was reading a story about this plan to forgive college student loan debt. It made me think of the day I made my last college loan payment - and how absolutely drunk I got that night. Paying off that boat anchor was like the 4th of July, Christmas and VE Day all rolled into one! I also was recalling how hungover I was after the big celebration. Even my hair hurt. The agony was so bad that just thinking about it now made the pain seem a little too real all over again.

I guess I was more lost in thought than I realized because I about jumped out of my seat when I realized a really, really large shadow was in my door, taking up the whole door frame. Sure enough, the huge shadow was John Hammer, an old friend I hadn't seen in a quite a while.

"How closely are you following all this news out of China," he asked in that deep, gravelly voice of his.

"Well, hey to you too John," I said, trying to catch my breath. "It's been, what, a year or so since you stopped by?"

If you don't know the man called the Hammer, he's as hard as tempered steel and has a neck that's as red as a fire engine but a heart that bleeds pure American. He's bigger than a tree house and his hands are as big as catcher mitts. And somehow, despite his size, he moves with the stealth of a cat.

"Look, Timmons, I'm not one much for conspiracy theories, but this China stuff is getting a little weird."

"How's that, John?"

"OK, everyone knows about the spy balloon thing - and in fact, a lot of people laughed that off," he said. "Everyone said that there wasn't anything that balloon could see that satellites didn't already have their eyes on. But tell me this, what about the reports that said it could collect cell phone data?"

"Look John, I seriously doubt that China needs a balloon to do that."

"Maybe, maybe not," he said. "But we know that a balloon can spend a lot more time over a specific space - like this one did over the 341st Missile Wing in Montana. And did you know Timmons that an article in PLA Daily called the altitude where that balloon was the "new battlefield?"

"John, what's the PLA Daily?" I asked.

"The PLA is the People's Liberation Army."

I stared. "It's like our armed forces, Timmons. It's their army, navy, air force, space force and everything. Don't you keep up on this stuff?"

Apparently not.

"You know me, Timmons. I'm not some nut wearing aluminum foil hats. But back in the 1940s, we had some pretty big clues that Japan was going to attack us. I'm not saying China is, but we do know they've been building up their nuclear arsenal. We know that Taiwan could be a big issue. We know that the head general of our Air Mobility Command wrote a memo saying we'd be in a war with China by 2025. We know."

"Hang on there, John."



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

I jumped in. "What about being in a war? Who said that?"

"It's a four-star general named Mike Minihan," Hammer said. "Timmons, I thought you were in the news business?"

I had nothing.

"I'll tell you this, Timmons. I don't know what I don't know. But you got all that, plus what's pretty much been confirmed about COVID-19 starting in a lab over there and you got both the U.S. and China doing some saber rattling. . . . Add to that the weakest administration we've had in Washington in a long time and it just feels a little like things are starting to build up. I hope I'm worrying about nothing. I hope I'm wrong."

With that Hammer left as quietly as he came and that old hangover really was feeling a bit too real again.

-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 timmons@thetimes24-7.com

BETSY From Page A1



Photo provided by Indy Kids Sale

The 18th year of Indy Kids Sale, owned and operated by Carmel mom Lori Chandler, will be open to the public for shoppers on Friday and Saturday at Finch Creek Fieldhouse in Noblesville.

lic hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, with designated items half price on Saturday.

The sale is huge and has grown to fill the entire 56,000-square-foot indoor youth athletic facility with more than 50,000 items. Consignors, who are mostly moms, tag every item electronically before they dropped off their items last Saturday through Monday. Consignors earn a commission, more if they volunteer at the sale. (Consignors, volunteers and new moms and moms-to-be can also get early access to the sale before the public.) And at each sale, consignors can choose to donate their unused items to Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County, which distributes food and clothing to those in need in the county, or pick up Saturday night.

Chandler's first experience with Indy Kids Sale was as a consignor after seeing an advertisement for the sale that had children's items from about 15-20 families in the front yard of someone's home. She came and shopped and was hooked. She was a shopper and then a consignor for about four years when she learned about the possibility of taking over the sale.

She's an organizer and a deal seeker at heart, so owning the business would be the best of both worlds.

"I remember a day when I thought it'd be amazing, but probably not achievable, to have 250 sellers," she said.

The numbers have surpassed those early dreams. The sale is gaining in popularity every year.

"We had 650 registered for this sale," Chandler said. Indy Kids Sale, which was formerly at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, in the O.V. Winks Building, then moved to the Exhibition Center, finally taking over the entire Center, before moving to Finch Creek during Covid to be able to spread out and have even more space. "It's such a great location for the sale, and we hope to be

here for a long time," she said of Finch Creek.

The spots are filled in less than 12 hours from the time that consignor registration opened on Jan. 11. "Each season, we grow and always have a wait list," she said.

"Our shoppers have also grown over the years. We started with just 100 or so and expect 4,000 to shop this week," Chandler said.

What's Chandler's key to success for her resale event? It's her great team of all local moms, "who really just love being together and putting this event on for the community," she said.

"The rule at Indy Kids Sale is kindness first. We are a family. We truly love being together every six months. I think people see that and want to be a part of that type of community."

Through the years, Indy Kids Sale has grown with the times. "Social media has really come about during the times of this business," Chandler said. "I've had to learn and adapt to using it for my business. We use Facebook and Instagram, primarily as ways to interact with local families that either want to sell their items or need to purchase items for their kiddos."

For Chandler, the kids sale is a year-around job and takes months to prepare for the spring and fall sales.

"I've learned over the years to be flexible. You can plan and plan and plan but there's always something unexpected. Roll with it and just keep going," she said.

Her husband has been invaluable help to her. By day, he's an editor, videographer and producer with his own company, Mike Chandler Media.

But when she needs him for the kids sale, he's all in.

"He has always been so supportive. . . .staying up late at night with me to figure something out or getting up early to set up (for a sale)," Chandler has said. He is in

charge of setup, tear down, IT and lots of pieces in the middle. "His primary role is leading the team that gets all the racks, shelving, tables and more set up and ready for us to take in our consignor inventory. He also sets up all of the computers that act as our cash registers. And during the actual sale, he is on the floor interacting with our shoppers and helping to carry large items out to cars. After the sale, he is in charge of the complete tear down of all the equipment."

She said, "I could not run this business without my husband."

Her kids, Ella, and Jacob, were 3 and almost 1 when she took over Indy Kids Sale. They've grown up with Mom running the business. Ella is now 18 and in her senior year of high school and helps as a cashier. Jacob is 15 and helps his dad with setup, tear down and carrying large items to cars.

"This is a part of their lives every spring and fall," the mom has said. "I hope that they are learning a good work ethic. They know that this is a very busy time, and they are a great help at home and at the sale."

Indy Kids Sale is just the beginning of spring kids' consignment sales. Here are two more in Hamilton County:

-Whale of a Sale is March 23-26 (half-price day for designated items) at Grand Park Event Center, 19000 Grand Park Blvd., Westfield. Visit <http://whale-sale.com/>

-Just Between Friends (JBF North Indy) sale is April 20-22 at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds, 2003 E. Pleasant St., Noblesville. Carmel native and mom Dawn Pfannenstiel has organized and operated the sale for the past 16 years. Consignors are still being accepting.

-Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com.



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Photo Courtesy of Alma Mason

Douglas Huntsinger said Indiana has more Recovery Cafes than any other state.

Recovery Café Offers Mental Health, Addiction Services in Hamilton County

By ALMA MASON
The Noblesville Times

Recovery Café held its grand opening on Thursday at its location in Fishers. The event drew a small crowd, including government officials and others involved in the administration of the facility. Speakers included Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness, Douglas Huntsinger from Governor Eric Holcomb's Office, Hamilton County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt and others.

The main goal of the Recovery Café is to create a community that offers support to people in all forms of recovery. This includes struggles with mental health, trauma, substance abuse and homelessness.

Membership to the Café is offered free of cost but with a few requirements. Individuals must be drug- and alcohol-free for 24 hours, attend a

weekly recovery meeting and volunteer at the Café on a regular basis. In return, members are offered a safe, supportive environment that encourages recovery as well as nutritious meals and other resources to help in the recovery process. Recovery Café Hamilton County is currently equipped to have around 40 members at one time.

"We welcome people from all walks of life," Executive Director Joylynn Foli says. "It doesn't have to be that you're recovering from substances or mental illness. It's really anybody who wants to come and have a safe, loving place."

Recovery Cafés have shown promising results. According to Foli, "Communities with Recovery Cafés see less emergency room visits and accidental overdoses."

Additionally, when

utilizing the resources the Recovery Café offers, "Ninety-five percent of individuals report an improvement in their well-being and mental health," Foli said.

Recovery Café Hamilton County is one of 18 Recovery Cafés in the state, and more are set to open in the coming months.

"Indiana has more Recovery Cafés than any state in the country," said Huntsinger, Director for Drug Prevention, Treatment and Enforcement for the state. "Indiana is a national leader when it comes to helping people enter and sustain recovery, and the work and expansion of our Cafés is a true testament to that model."

Recovery Café Hamilton County is a non-profit organization that relies on donations offered by members of the community. For more information visit recoverycafehc.com

Dear Earthtalk: E-Waste And It's Effects

EARTHTALK

Is It Really Bad For The Planet To Upgrade My Phone Every Two Years?

Smartphones have certainly become ubiquitous, with some 85 percent of Americans and 67 percent of adults worldwide possessing one. Manufacturers sell almost 1.5 billion of them per year. And every year these manufacturers come out with upgraded models to lure customers into trading in their old models to get the latest technology at their fingertips. According to the Consumer Electronic Association the average lifespan of a smartphone is 4.7 years, but the average American user replaces their smartphone within three years. This can be, in part, attributed to planned obsolescence by manufacturers. As new smartphones are manufactured, new software updates accompany them; these updates can lead to older phones becoming unusable if they do not have the capacity to accommodate the new software.

Regarding pollution created by the industry, 95 percent of emissions come from the production phase. A culture that requires constant replacements results in ongoing growth of manufacturing emissions. In addition, continuously replacing phones creates e-waste in the form of the phones themselves. In 2019, 50 million tons of waste came from smartphones which constitute about 10 percent

of e-waste globally.

One way to combat e-waste is to recycle. However, according to the World Economic Forum, only about 20 percent of global e-waste is recycled. The Basel Action Network used radio tracking to verify where shipments of e-waste were sent. They found that nearly 40 percent of e-waste from the United States was exported illegally to developing nations where it was unsafely processed or even burned in the open air.

There are steps manufacturers can take to alleviate the environmental burden, one being to introduce "repairable" phones. Currently manufacturers hamper smartphone repair with very high repair prices and restricting third parties from having access to the needed parts. Europe is leading the charge on embracing a circular economy surrounding smartphones that encourages repairs, refurbishments and upgrades instead of replacement. Various European countries have instituted programs to address the problem. France maintains a publicly accessible phone reparability index to help consumers there make smart choices about their smartphone purchases. Meanwhile, Sweden and Austria both offer financial incentives for device repairs to encourage fixing instead of junking old smartphones and other electronics.

Whether or not such programs exist in your neck of the woods, you

can be part of the solution by simply waiting longer to upgrade your phone, which will help reduce the demand on production while lowering your environmental footprint. While it may not seem like much at first glance, keeping your phone for an extra year can reduce your lifetime device usage by 25 percent. When it is finally time to get a new phone, an eco-conscious consumer can turn to companies like Fairphone and SHIFT that offer easily changeable parts and support software upgrades throughout the phone's lifespan.

CONTACTS: How Does Our Smartphone Use Contribute to The E-Waste Problem? blogs.ntu.edu.sg/hp3203-1819s2-u12/how-does-our-smartphone-use-contribute-to-the-e-waste-problem/; E-waste and smartphones: Why disposable devices are the problem, android-authority.com/e-waste-smartphones-1133322/; Repair, don't recycle, if you want to tackle smartphone waste, bigthink.com/the-present/repairing-smartphones-e-waste/; Improving smartphone longevity, <https://www.fairphone.com/en/impact/long-lasting-design/>.

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

EARTHTALK

Dear Earthtalk: More Trees In Urban Areas, Better Environment

What Are The Health And Environmental Benefits Of Planting More Trees In Urban Areas?

Planting more trees in urban areas has numerous health and environmental benefits. Trees are essential to human health, and they provide environmental benefits by reducing air pollution, conserving energy, mitigating the urban heat island effect, and reducing stormwater runoff. According to the Arbor Day Foundation, a single mature tree can absorb up to 48 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO2) annually and release enough oxygen for two people to breathe comfortably

all year.

Trees play a crucial role in improving air quality in urban areas. A study by the U.S. Forest Service found that trees in urban areas remove 711,000 metric tons of air pollution annually, saving the United States \$6.8 billion in air quality-related health care costs. Trees absorb pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and ozone, which can cause respiratory problems and other health issues. Trees also absorb fine particulate matter (PM2.5), which is associated with asthma, heart attacks, and premature death.

Urban forests also help reduce the urban heat island effect, which is when

urban areas are significantly warmer than rural areas due to human activity and infrastructure. Trees provide shade, which helps to reduce surface temperatures, and they also release water vapor through transpiration, which cools the air around them. According to a study published in the journal Landscape and Urban Planning, increasing tree canopy cover in cities can help reduce temperatures by up to two degrees Celsius.

In addition to their health benefits, trees also provide environmental benefits by reducing energy consumption. Trees provide shade, which reduces the amount of energy needed to cool buildings in the summer.

According to federal researchers, properly placed trees can reduce a building's air conditioning needs by up to 30 percent. Trees also act as windbreaks, which can reduce heating costs in the winter, helping to achieve up to a 50 percent decrease in annual heating costs. In fact, just three properly sited trees could save homeowners up to \$250/year overall.

Trees are also essential in managing stormwater runoff. When it rains, stormwater runoff can cause flooding, erosion and water pollution. Trees absorb rainwater through their roots and help to reduce the amount of runoff. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency calculates that

a single mature tree can absorb up to 100 gallons of water per day.

Furthermore, planting more trees in urban areas can improve mental health and well-being. Studies have shown that exposure to nature and green spaces can reduce stress, anxiety and depression. A study published in the Journal of Environmental Psychology found that people who live in areas with more trees and green spaces report better mental health than those who live in areas with less greenery.

We also need trees to absorb all that excess CO2 we have spewed into the atmosphere that is causing global warming. Trees have always been essential to

the survival of humans and other organisms, but maybe never so much as the present given the existential threat posed by human-induced climate change.

CONTACTS: Air pollution removal by urban trees and shrubs in the United States, fs.usda.gov/research/treesearch/14743; Using Trees and Vegetation to Reduce Heat Islands, epa.gov/heatislands/using-trees-and-vegetation-reduce-heat-islands.

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I ndiana

Facts & Fun



22
Floyd

Number $\%$ Stumpers

1. How old is Floyd County?

\geq

2. What percentage of the county does New Albany make up?

\leq

3. What is the population density of the county?

\geq

4. How long ago did the Ohio River flood take place?

\leq

Answers: 1. 200 Years 2. About 10.14% 3. Around 505 per square mile 4. 82 Years

Did You Know?

- Floyd County is the second smallest county in Indiana with only 148.96 square miles.
- New Albany, the county seat, experienced the Ohio River flood in 1937, leaving the town drenched in over 10 feet of water.
- The county was founded in 1819 and named after Brigadier General John Floyd.
- Floyd County has a population of 75,283 residents.
- New Albany is 15.11 square miles and has around 36,372 residents.

Got Words?

Fayette County was a vital supply and medical center during the Civil War and was a stop in the Underground Railroad. How do you think the county has been influenced by its critical, historical role in the United States?

Word Scrambler

Unscramble the words below!

1. WEN LYNBAA

2. DOFYL YTUCON

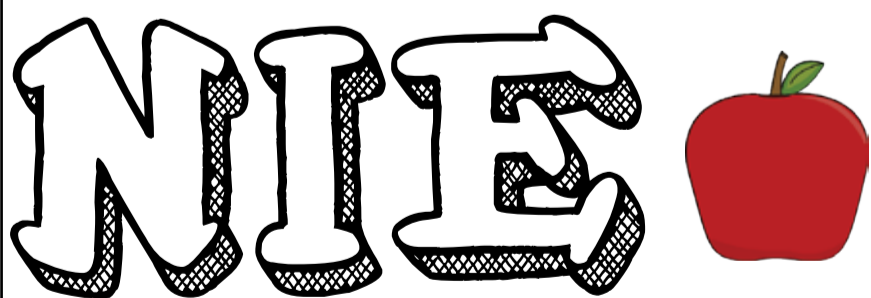
3. OOFDL

4. LIIVC AWR

5. IOOH RIRVE

Answers: 1. New Albany 2. Floyd County 3. Flood 4. Civil War Era 5. Ohio River

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IDDC Launches E-Commerce Web Page As Expansion Of 'In Indiana' Campaign



Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Destination Development Corporation (IDDC) has launched a new e-commerce web page, IN Indiana Store.

The online store will feature apparel and novelty items with original designs focused on what makes Indiana a great place to live, work, play and stay. The web page is a collaborative project with United State of Indiana, a West Terre Haute-based company. "We are excited to

launch the e-commerce web page and take the next step in the IN Indiana campaign," said Lt. Gov. Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "Not only does this give Hoosiers the opportunity to support local businesses, but they can simultaneously showcase their state pride."

Some featured themes in the IN Indiana collection include parks and recreation, loving our mid-west roots, and the unique things that

make Indiana special. From hats to t-shirts and hoodies, there will be plenty of options to put your Hoosier spirit on display.

"We are building a positive momentum for the great state of Indiana and this collection provides the perfect blend

of comfort, quality, and Indiana charm," said Elaine Bedel, IDDC Secretary and Chief Executive Officer. "The IN Indiana Store will allow individuals to put the spirit of Indiana on display in every corner of the state."

The IN Indiana collec-

tion will be available for purchase online at VisitIndiana.com/shop and at the new United State of Indiana store in Broad Ripple at 1051 E. 54th Street, following their grand opening Friday, March 3, and Saturday, March 4. All proceeds from the IN Indiana

collection will go to the IDDC Foundation.

For more information about the IN Indiana Store and wholesale options, go to VisitIndiana.com/shop.

For more information about the "IN Indiana" marketing campaign, go to VisitIndiana.com.

Historic Farms Sought For Rural Preservation Award

Indiana Landmarks and Indiana Farm Bureau welcome nominations for the 2023 John Arnold Award for Rural Preservation. The award recognizes the preservation and continued agricultural use of historic farm buildings in Indiana. Since it was established in 1992, owners of more than 30 historic farms all over the state have been honored with the award.

Anyone, including farm owners, can submit a nomination for the Arnold Award, which will be presented during the Celebration of Agriculture at the Indiana State Fair in August. The nomination is simple and asks for:

- a brief history of the farm and description of its significant historic structures and features, such as the farmhouse, barns, agricultural out-buildings, and landscape elements.
- a description of how the farm's historic agricultural structures are used in day-to-day farming operations, and how they have been preserved or adapted.
- high-res digital photographs of the farm



Photo courtesy of Indiana Landmarks

2022 Arnold Award winner, Beetz Farm in Dearborn Co.

and its preserved historic features. Historic images are also welcome.

The award winner receives an attractive outdoor marker and feature coverage in Indiana Preservation magazine.

Indiana Landmarks named the award in memory of John Arnold (1955-1991), a Rush County farmer who

successfully combined progressive agricultural practices with a deep respect for the historic and natural features of the rural landscape. The John Arnold Award for Rural Preservation honors those who share a similar commitment to preserving the landmarks and landscape of rural Indiana.

Submit nominations for the Arnold Award for Rural Preservation online at www.indianalandmarks.org/john-arnold-award-rural-preservation, or contact Tommy Kleckner at Indiana Landmarks, 812-232-4534, tkleckner@indianalandmarks.org. Deadline for nominations is May 1, 2023.

Applications Are Open For The Gerald Bepko Faculty Community Engagement Award

Faculty at Indiana public and private institutions are invited to apply for the Gerald Bepko Community Engagement Award (Bepko Award), an award presented to faculty members who embody the pillars of community engagement.

The Indiana Commission for Higher Education is encouraging all full-time faculty members who are currently engaged in teaching, research or service commitments that contribute to the greater good of the community to apply for the award. The Bepko Award was established in 2019 to honor the legacy of Dr. Gerald "Jerry" Bepko and his decades of service to Indiana University and the Commission for Higher Education.

"Through scholarly research, pedagogy and service, Indiana faculty work to exemplify the principles of community engagement," said the Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery. "The Commission is proud to recognize the dedication of these educators who

inspire others to play a part in the work that is being done in the state to further deep connections and collaboration within the community."

The deadline to apply for the award is Wednesday, March 22, 2023. Recipients will be announced at the H. Kent Weldon Conference on Monday, April 3, 2023. The application for the Bepko Award can be found on the Commission's website.

About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education plans, coordinates and defines Indiana's postsecondary education system to align higher learning with the needs of students and the state. The Commission also administers Indiana's financial aid programs, including the 21st Century Scholars early college promise scholarship, which celebrated 30 years in 2020. Learn more about the Commission's Reaching Higher in a State of Change strategic plan at www.in.gov/che.



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