

➔ **TODAY'S VERSE**
Isaiah 55:11 So shall my
word be that goeth forth out
of my mouth: it shall not
return unto me void, but it
shall accomplish that which
I please, and it shall prosper
in the thing whereto I sent it.



➔ **FACES OF
HAMILTON COUNTY**

People who call our community their own.
What makes Craig Thurston smile? "My family," said the 49-year-old Noblesville resident. His wife's name is Ashley and he has two stepkids, Dylan, 14, and Gwen, 8, and two sons, George, 5, and Colter, 4. He was born in Kokomo and moved to Noblesville after second grade in the summer to start third grade at Hinkle Creek Elementary School. He graduated in 1991 from Noblesville High School. He started playing guitar late, at age 19, while attending Indiana University Kokomo. From there, he went to Indiana University Bloomington and studied music with Atanas Tzvetkov as his guitar instructor. Craig plays ukulele, mandolin, bass, keys and harmonica. He performs regularly, on the first and third Thursday, at Grindstone Public House. His next performance is tonight. He didn't start a family or get married until he was in his 40s. He said, "My greatest achievement is my family."

And **Another Thing...**

1. Trout stockings taking place across Indiana

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources is stocking nearly 50,000 trout across the state in preparation for trout fishing season. Thirty-three bodies of water across 21 counties will be stocked before opening day Trout bite a variety of artificial baits such as spinners and flies, but natural baits such as worms and bee moths tend to be the most popular. To find a stocked stream near you, see the 2023 trout stocking plan at bit.ly/INFishStocking. The bag limit for trout in inland waters other than Lake Michigan and its tributaries is five per day with a minimum size of 7 inches. To fish for trout, anglers age 18 and older must have an Indiana fishing license and a trout/salmon stamp.

2. Indiana Ranks Top 15

Did you know that Indiana ranks 11th in the nation for skilled trade professionals to work? That's according to a survey conducted by Today's Homeowner. They measured the average pay for 10 jobs, the expected growth and the places that are hot spots for skilled trades. In part, the study found that Indiana skilled jobs paid about \$54,000, that Indiana had overall unemployment of 4.7 percent and almost 250,000 skilled trade job opportunities.

3. 2023 fishing and hunting licenses

Indiana fishing and hunting licenses are now available for purchase for the upcoming seasons. They are valid April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, works from across the country.

4. NTT Indy Car Series

To celebrate 50 days out from the 107th Indianapolis 500, 50 representatives from IMS, the NTT INDYCAR SERIES and local race teams will work with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful to plant more than 80 native trees along Georgetown Road from W. 30th Street to W. 38th Street. Staff from participating NTT INDYCAR SERIES teams and manufacturers include: Arrow McLaren, Chip Ganassi Racing, Dale Coyne Racing with RWR, Juncos Hollinger Racing, Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing, Team Penske and Team Chevy. The 107th Indianapolis 500 is scheduled for Sunday, May 28. Fifty days out from Race Day is Saturday.

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper

NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA

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Photo provided by John Stewart

John Stewart announced on Wednesday that K-Trails Equestrian Adventures – which he has owned and operated for six seasons – would no longer operate the horse barn at Hamilton County Parks & Recreation's Strawtown Koteewi Park in Noblesville.

K-Trails Will No Longer Operate Koteewi Park Horse Barn In '23



BETSY REASON
Columnist

Noblesville's John Stewart said he's enjoyed the "great ride."

But he said that K-Trails Equestrian Adventures -- which

he has owned and operated for six seasons -- would no longer manage the horse barn at Hamilton County Parks & Recreation's Strawtown Koteewi Park in Noblesville.

"We have loved the experience and believe we positively impacted the community," he said. Stewart will continue to operate K-Trails Global Adventures, focusing on upscale global riding excursions.

"We have made this decision so that we can focus on a new business offering curated riding holidays at western ranches and global destinations, including Patagonia, Iceland, New Zealand, India, Mongolia, Italy, Kenya and South Africa," Stewart wrote in a letter on Wednesday to customers on the K-Trails

website and social media.

"We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Hamilton County Parks and Recreation for partnering with us over the past seven years to provide horse-back riding experiences, pony rides, corporate events, birthday parties, cowboy cookouts with western entertainment, cowboy dining and campfire and s'mores and more to the public. It has been an honor to work with such a dedicated and supportive team," Stewart wrote.

His main goal in opening the business in 2017 was to introduce people to horses in an educational and enjoyable manner, and to provide employment opportunities to young people

➔See BETSY Page A6

Month Three For Hamilton County



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 our county government works.

As your employee, it's important to me that you know what is being worked on as transparently as possible in government. You hired me as your 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 three is complete. This month has been a whirlwind of listening, learning, note taking and analysis. I've begun

➔See TIMESHEET Page A6

Poll Workers Needed for the Primary Election

Republicans and Democrats Both Needed & Encouraged to Apply

The Hamilton County Election Office is in need of poll workers for the Primary Election on May 2 -- namely, inspectors, clerks, and judges.

"You must be a registered voter in Hamilton County to volunteer," says County Clerk Kathy Williams. "The jobs do require some training, but they are paid, as are meals. Plus, it's a great way to learn more about our democratic system and give something back to your community."

Hamilton County is still looking for Republican Inspectors.



KATHY WILLIAMS

These people are in charge of the precinct and must attend a

➔See WORKERS Page A6

➔ **INSIDE TODAY**

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➔ **OBITUARIES**
Gary "Ziggy" Zeiger



➔ **TODAY'S HEALTH TIP**

If you have diabetes, it's important to do aerobic AND weight training. 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 atthetimes24-7.com



➔ **HONEST HOOSIER**

Did you hear that the lame-brains at PETA want Easter eggs replaced with painted rocks? Yeah, that's what we want -- a bunch of 5-year-olds throwing rocks at each other!



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



➔ **TODAY'S QUOTE**

"If you win a Super Bowl before you're fired, you're a genius and everyone listens to you. But a coach is just a guy whose best class in grammar school was recess and whose best class in high school was P.E. I never thought I was anything but a guy whose best class was P.E."

-John Madden

➔ **TODAY'S JOKE**

A dietician was speaking to a large crowd and explaining how some foods are bad while others are very bad. Then the dietician asked if anyone knew what the most deadly food was? Someone near the back piped in quickly, "wedding cake!"



➔ OBITUARIES

Gary “Ziggy” Zeiger

October 30, 1956, Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Gary S. “Ziggy” Zieger, age 66, of Cicero, Indiana, passed away on Tuesday evening, March 28, 2023. Born October 30, 1956 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he was the son of the late Frank J. and Bernadette R. (Dawso) Zieger.

After graduating from South Hills High School in Pittsburgh, he hit the ground running. Gary was a union painter who traveled all over the country perfecting and mastering his craft. He was a 32-year member of Local 47, and proudly served two terms as Vice President. He was also a member of the Sons of the American Legion, K.V. Elliott Post 67 of Sheridan, Indiana.

Ziggy learned early in his career that all work and no play will age you quickly. He loved being outdoors and always gravitated towards activities that let him spend time outside. Being on the water, whether it was fishing, swimming, or boating, was always high up on the list, as were gardening and riding the roads on his motorcycle. Ziggy also loved to play golf, especially at Pebble Brook. Now, sometimes the stars align, and life gives you a freebie. For Ziggy, it was when he discovered that Pebble Brook would let him play for free if he retrieved balls for them... it might very well be the first time Ziggy ever cried in public.

Ziggy's family was, without a doubt, the most important thing in his life; and included in that group were his friends and neighbors. He was always the first one to show up whenever anyone needed some help, humbly sharing his talents, and wasn't going to leave until the job was complete. When the task at hand was done, there was no better way to relax than playing cards with his friends, especially when it came to his weekly poker games.

Gary is survived by his loving wife, Pamela Lee (Spargo) Zieger. He and Pam were married on January 4, 2004. Also surviving are his son, Brian Christopher Zieger of Indianapolis; granddaughter, Brianna Zieger; 2 sisters, Susanna Wilson of Livingston, Texas, and Lori Dowiak (David) of Frederick, Maryland; sister-in-law, Vickie Zieger; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank J. and Bernadette R. (Dawso) Zieger; brother, Frank J. Zieger, Jr., and brother-in-law, Bill Wilson. Visitation will be held from 3:00 - 5:00 PM on Friday, April 7, 2023, at Kercheval Funeral Home, 306 E. 10th Street, Sheridan, Indiana.

A celebration of Ziggy's life will take place on Saturday evening, April 8, 2023, at 5:00 pm, at Kercheval Funeral Home of Sheridan.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be presented to Disabled American Veterans (DAV).



Photo courtesy of Hamilton County Emergency Management

Hamilton County Command Truck outside of Johnson County High School

Hamilton County Responds to Assist Johnson County after Tornado

Friday night, the National Weather Service placed much of central Indiana under a tornado watch, meaning conditions are likely. Hamilton County Emergency Management volunteers and staff activated Storm Operations in the county's Emergency Operation Center (EOC). Trained personnel stand ready to coordinate information, activate the outdoor warning sirens, and support municipalities and the county's unincorporated areas.

When a tornado warning was issued for the county's northwest corner, the outdoor warning sirens were sounded for Sheridan and Atlanta. After several thunderstorm warnings, Hamilton County had only a

few reports of trees and power lines down.

The EOC monitored reports of the tornado in Sullivan, but the line of storms had yet to pass through Hamilton County. As it did, reports came in from Johnson County of multiple injuries, homes destroyed, and countless damages to outbuildings and vehicles, especially in Whiteland. Due to large amounts of debris, Interstate 65 was also closed in both directions near the town.

"When we knew the threat to Hamilton County had passed, we reached out to Johnson County offering support," said Shane Booker, Executive Director of Hamilton County Emergency Management.

Hamilton and Johnson counties are in the same homeland security district to leverage resources and support. The team who worked in the EOC transitioned to a response task force with light towers, side-by-side ATVs, a mobile command center, and enhanced satellite communications. Johnson County quickly accepted Hamilton County's offer.

When the team arrived, the response was well organized, with an established command post to help coordinate activities. Hamilton County was assigned the role of logistics. "The team did a great job setting up the command center, deploying to the hardest hit areas, assisting with lighting and donations at the high school, and helping

the fire departments by transporting families out of the damaged areas with our ATVs. We are grateful to the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners and the Emergency Management Advisory Council for providing us the latitude to help others quickly," said Booker. The team supported Johnson County for a few hours and was released to return to the county early in the morning on Saturday.

Hamilton County Emergency Management is a county public safety department with nine staff and 150 volunteers who are ready to provide support and coordination in Hamilton County. To learn more, visit <https://hamiltoncounty.in.gov/em>.

Kevin ‘Woody’ Rider Receives Endorsement From Carmel City Council President Jeff Worrell



Photo courtesy of Kevin Woody

Kevin ‘Woody’ Rider’s campaign for Carmel Mayor has been endorsed by current Carmel City Council President Jeff Worrell.

“I’m endorsing and supporting Kevin ‘Woody’ Rider for Carmel’s next Mayor. In my experience working with Kevin on the council, he has consistently demonstrated a willingness to reach out, collaborate, and discuss important issues with me. He’s not afraid to have tough conversations that impact our city and taxpayers, and he always approaches these discussions with a strategic and collaborative mindset,” said Worrell. “I appreciate that Kevin values my ideas and input, and together, we have worked through many challenges. I have no doubt that Kevin will be an effective and responsive leader and Mayor for our community.”

Worrell points to Rider’s background in owning two Carmel businesses, being on the Plan Commission for twelve years, and on the Carmel City Council for sixteen years.

“I’ll be voting for Kevin ‘Woody’ Rider on May 2. I hope you’ll join me,” said Worrell.

2023 Property Tax Statements

2023 Property Tax Statements are being mailed out this week. The spring due date is Wednesday, May 10th and the fall due date is Monday, November 13th this year.

You may make a payment in the Treasurer’s office by cash or check only.

Credit/Debit cards are accepted only on the county’s website with an addition 2.5% fee or by e-check for \$1.00.

[https://secure2.hamilton-](https://secure2.hamilton-county.in.gov/PropertyReports/index.aspx)

[county.in.gov/PropertyReports/index.aspx](https://secure2.hamilton-county.in.gov/PropertyReports/index.aspx)

The following Hamilton County Banks will start accepting payments Monday, April 10th through Wednesday, May 10th:

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

CCPR Promotes Invasive Species Awareness With Invasive For Native Tree Swap

Throughout April, Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) is offering an Invasive for Native Tree Swap program to promote invasive species awareness. Remove one or more invasive species from your property, and CCPR will reimburse you with one native tree per household. Take a photo of the invasive(s) you have removed and submit your work to naturalresources@carmelclayparks.com for your opportunity to pick up a free native tree.

Removing invasive spe-

cies from parks, neighborhoods, and other natural areas and replacing them with native plants helps better the ecosystem and provide food and habitat to wildlife. Invasive species are non-native to a particular area, meaning they were introduced either intentionally or accidentally. Invasive species out-compete native plants for resources such as water, sunlight, and soil nutrients. This displacement of native species causes harm to the environment, public health, and the economy.

Hamilton County Chamber Luncheon To Host Executive Director Of The Pursuit Institute

Next week Carrie Lively, Executive Director of The Pursuit Institute, will be visiting the next luncheon to share more about the new career and technical education (CTE) district in Hamilton County. The meeting will be at the Hamilton North Public Library in Cicero. The meeting will be held in the Jenkins Room on April 13 from 11:30 am. to 1 pm. The Chamber looks forward to having everyone there.

The Pursuit Institute’s career pathways are highly accessible and designed to serve every corner of Hamilton County. Building



CARRIE LIVELY

and coordinating robust programs directly with education, industry, and community hosts. The Pursuit Institute’s career and technical education pathways are scalable and better positioned to meet local employers’ needs.

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THE TIMES classifieds.



Photo courtesy of Joy Tilson Cobb

Serenity



Photo courtesy of Sheldon Shalley

Nebula and Stardust



Photo courtesy Mark Timmis

The Deep Blue

Nickel Plate Arts To Feature Three Artists Of The Month In April

Nickel Plate Arts is featuring three artists of the month in April. The artists of the month include Sheldon Shalley, Joy Tilson Cobb, and Mark Timmis, and each of their exhibits will each be featured at a different Nickel Plate Arts showcase location. Information on the exhibit dates, receptions, and artist details are available below.



SHELDON SHALLEY

STEPHENSON HOUSE: Sheldon Shalley
Sheldon Shalley’s creative style of painting emerges from one of several methods: pulling images from his dreams, images he meets in meditation sessions, images he sees during Shamanic journeying and images inspired by models and photographs. Shalley is a psychotherapist, and he uses dreams, mindfulness, hypnotherapy, shamanic healing, and energy medicine to help his clients. With these tools, he is able to take these mindful journeys himself, using art to connect with parts of the psyche that can express and heal our painful stories. His art honors his encounters and experiences during his dreams and meditations, which helps him connect with them more deeply. Shalley wasn’t always

an artist—he was taught how to paint in a dream 20 years ago. A dream so vivid that once he shared it with his dream group, they told him he had to paint. While Shalley explained that he didn’t know how, they advised him to “just do what you did in the dream.” He did, and as they say, “the rest is history.”
For his Nebulas and Stardust exhibit, Shalley uses photos of outer space as his inspiration. Quantum Physics suggests that all things and beings are connected and that our minds are connected with a cosmic mind. Carl Sagan, one of our generation’s greatest science educators, popularized one unbelievable fact—we are stardust. Sagan says that most of the atoms in our body were formed inside of stars, supernovae, and neutron star collisions. In fact, scientists who have measured the distribution of essential elements of life in over 150,000 stars in the Milky Way claim that 97% of the human body consists of stardust.
Shalley has created paintings inspired by photos of nebula and stardust to honor our connection to the stars. As an energy worker, he often sees energy in matter. “When working with a client, I may see what is vibrating in their field. All matter is energy at its deepest level,” he says.
The full Nebulas and Stardust exhibit can be seen in the Stephenson House Wednesday through Friday from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You can meet Shalley

during the April First Friday event from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Stephenson House on Nickel Plate Arts campus. Shalley will also host a special Visual Journey of Discovery through Fairy Stardust event on April 22 at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on the Nickel Plate Arts campus during Welcome to Fairyville. These 30-minute creative sessions are for young artists in grades 1-6. No registration required.
Dates: April 5 to 29, 2023



MARK TIMMIS

MEYER NAJEM: Mark Timmis
Mark Timmis has been involved in the arts since the 1970s. After attending Indiana University for undergrad, he received his Master of Arts degree from Western Michigan University. He taught as an art professor in Evansville before transitioning into the IT field.
Timmis took a 15-year hiatus from exercising his artistic abilities before moving back into it as a hobby. Having wanted to get back into art for some time, he got a small studio at The Stutz in Indianapolis and decided to see where his creativity would take him. Some of his first pieces are included in his

Mark Timmis: One Man Show exhibit and were inspired by artist Robert Motherwell.
Being a very process-oriented person, Timmis feels that is where his worlds of technology and art connect. “Painting for me is creating a problem and solving it, plain and simple,” he says. “While it brings a lot of satisfaction, it can also bring terror.”
Timmis doesn’t begin creating any of his paintings with an end in mind; he embraces the present moment and loves to see what surprises will come along the way when he allows himself to be in the flow, focusing fully on his creations and playing around with different types of paints, textures, techniques, and colors in each piece. He embraces the belief that his artwork is the only thing in his life that he can honestly say is all him.
“Our experiences inform every aspect of us, and I make art to fill a place in me that belongs only to me,” Timmis says. “A place where no one can tell me what is right or what is wrong. I own it. It is me, and I am it.”
His full exhibit can be seen at Meyer Najem, located at 11787 Lantern Road in Fishers on the 2nd floor, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. You can meet Timmis at his free public reception in June (exact date and time TBA) in the Meyer Najem 2nd floor gallery.
Dates: April 3 to June 29, 2023
FOUR DAY RAY: Joy Tilson Cobb
Growing up with parents

who were both musicians, art has always been a thread throughout Tilson Cobb’s life. Her parents encouraged her to start with a foundation in music, so she decided to first learn how to play the piano.
Tilson Cobb also took voice lessons and eventually learned how to play the harp and saxophone. She went to college to be an opera singer or musical theater performer, but she never pursued either career due to her focus on her family after marriage. As an adult, she began finding new ways of expressing her creativity and fed her passion through the art of quilling, crocheting, designing window treatments, and learning the intricacies of wallpaper.
Tilson Cobb’s experience as a studio assistant for an artist who did silk painting and had designed a clothing line is what guided her in what she truly wanted to do. Her newfound love for colors and her natural talent for replicating led her to try watercolor painting, needle felting, and wet felting, and she even began studying renaissance scrolls—but she realized these practices did not have the ability to fulfill her passions.
Acrylic pouring is something Tilson Cobb saw on the internet when she was researching abstract art inspiration for a large painting she was making for a beach condo. She felt inspired by those who would freely go through the process, putting it all out there and sharing their work with others. Not only did she benefit from watching the process of these other artists, but

this inspiration is also what ultimately led to the creation and naming of her exhibit.
“You can get pretty results as a beginner, even if you don’t see yourself as an artist,” Tilson Cobb says. “Free Flowing [is the exhibit title] because it



JOY TILSON COBB

not only describes the art itself—the flowing water feel of most of my work—but also the process has to be free flowing. The paints combine in unpredictable ways as they’re poured onto the canvas, and that’s when you need to be willing to let go and possibly head in another direction than what you’d planned. It’s a cliché, but you really do have to ‘go with the flow!’
The full Free Flowing exhibit can be seen at Four Day Ray Brewing, located at 11671 Lantern Road in Fishers, Sunday and Monday from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Friday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. You can meet Tilson Cobb at her free public reception on Monday, May 22 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Four Day Ray.
Dates: April 1 to June 29, 2023

ekō Solutions Unveils Its Gateway Park Model RV With Inaugural Sponsorship At The Monster Energy AMA Supercross Championship

ekō Solutions (“ekō”), a division of Land Bet-terment and a Fishers Indiana-based company specializing in state-of-the-art, eco-friendly dwellings unveiled its newest repur-posed shipping container, the Gateway Park Model RV, at the recent Monster Energy AMA Supercross Championship at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on March 11, 2023. At the same event, ekō’s spon-sored professional moto-cross racer, Josh Cart-wright, stayed on location in a Gateway Park Model while competing.

“Having our Gateway Park Model RV, which is built from repurposed shipping containers, on location at the Monster Energy AMA Supercross Championship is a new endeavor for us, and we could not be more pleased with the positive response. In fact, our sponsored

professional motor cross racer, Josh Cartwright stayed in the Gateway Park Model which was parked right in the paddock on the event grounds. Josh was able to sleep and live right at the track making his weekend of competing a whole lot simpler. He was very pleased with the quality and comfort of the unit. This was a great example of the conve-nience and functionality of the Gateway Park Model, in addition to its durability and affordability. We can see this being a perfect solution for all kinds of athletes, fans and travel and outdoor enthusiasts,” said Peter Rodriguez, ekō Solutions’ President.

ekō’s Gateway Park Model units can be in-stalled in a vast amount of property types such as existing residential prop-erties, RV and mobile home parks, campsites and even

events requiring temporary on-site housing for athletes and their support crews. These units are easily deployed through quick and simple utility connec-tions. The Gateway Park Model RV measures 160 square feet and includes 1 bedroom and 1 full bath.

ekō Solutions already offers an extensive line of shipping-container housing solutions to include mobile workstations, mobile bathrooms, mobile dog grooming, containerized food stands, ekō farms, hunting retreats and mod-ular homes. ekō Solutions even dispatched its models to Western Kentucky in December 2021 to pro-vide housing for displaced families impacted by the deadly tornado outbreak.

Now, the Gateway Park Model RV adds even more variety and function to the Company’s already com-pelling offering.

Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra And Conner Prairie Announce Spectacular 2023 Kroger Symphony On The Prairie Season

Mark your summer calendars and start planning the good times now! The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and Conner Prairie are pleased to announce the 2023 season of Kroger Symphony on the Prairie starting June 23 at the Conner Prairie Amphitheatre in Fishers. Fans will be thrilled with an exciting line-up that offers a fun-filled musical summer experience for the whole family.

Tickets to the general public will go on sale April 11. Buy tickets on the ISO’s website beginning April 11, 2023. Tickets may also be purchased at central Indiana Kro-ger stores, at the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office at 45 Monument Circle, Indianapolis, or by calling the Box Office at 317-639-4300.

NEW in 2023: Purchase tickets to three or more concerts and automatically receive a 10% discount! No code needed. Discount calculated at checkout.

Season highlights include 12 performances by the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, including Open-ing Weekend June 23-24 featuring the beloved Music of Harry Potter conducted by Enrico Lopez-Yañez; a live-to-film performance July 7-8 of the legendary Indiana Jones and the Raid-ers of the Lost Ark featur-ing the iconic soundtrack by composer John Williams; Arrival from Sweden: Mus-ic of ABBA accompanied by the ISO July 14-15, and the patriotic Star-Spangled Symphony celebration June 30-July 3 complete with fanfare and fireworks.

The 2023 season also fea-tures the popular Face2Face with the music of Billy Joel and Elton John, The Mar-shall Tucker Band, TUSK: the Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band, two nights of Queen with Gary Mullen and the Works, and much more! There’s some-thing for everyone with 25 concerts to choose from.

2023 Kroger Symphony on the Prairie schedule

- *Denotes concerts featuring the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra
- June
 - *June 23-24: The Music of Harry Potter
- Conductor Enrico Lo-pezz-Yañez takes you on a fun-filled adventure with a delightful program that ex-

plores the wizarding world through its most iconic music.

- *June 30-July 3: Star-Spangled Symphony
- Your favorite patriot-ic celebration complete with fireworks! Featuring Conductor Alfred Savia and vocalist Vanessa Thomas
- July
 - *July 7-8: Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark in Concert featuring the ISO led by former ISO Assistant Conductor Jacob Joyce. The original film will be shown on the large screens as the orchestra performs the soundtrack. Program starts at 8:30 p.m.
 - *July 14-15: Arrival from Sweden: Music of ABBA with Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly leading the ISO
 - *July 21-22: Broadway under the Stars
- Join Principal Pops Conductor Jack Everly for this exciting performance of all your Broadway favorites featuring vocalists Victor Robertson, Katie Swaney, AshLee Baskin, and Jim Hogan.
- July 28-29: Face2Face: A Tribute to Elton John & Billy Joel
- August
 - Aug. 4: Greatest Love of All: A Tribute to Whitney Houston (not associated with the Estate of Whitney Houston)
 - Aug. 5: Tusk: The Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band
 - Aug. 11: The Fab Four: The Ultimate Tribute
 - Aug. 12: Here Come the Mummies with Rock E Bassoon (featuring musi-cians of the ISO!)
 - Aug. 18: Marshall Tuck-er Band
 - Aug. 19: Unforgettable Fire: U2 Tribute Show
 - Aug. 25-26: One Night of Queen with Gary Mullen and the Works
- September
 - Sept. 1: Aeromylth: The Ultimate Aerosmith Tribute Experience
 - Sept. 2: Pyromania: The Def Leppard Experience
 - Sept. 3: Voyage – The Ultimate Journey Tribute Band
- Know before you go:
 - The July 15 concert featuring Arrival from Swe-den: Music of ABBA with the ISO includes a 6:30 p.m. ‘Teddy Bear’ per-formance with ISO musicians at the small shelter near the playground. No additional purchase necessary.

- Gates open at 6 p.m. and concerts begin at 8 p.m. each night unless otherwise noted. The film performances of Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark in Concert begin at 8:30 p.m.
- Date-specific tickets may be purchased via the official ISO website. Attendees must have tickets (mobile or hard copy) to enter each performance. Children two years old and under do not need a ticket.
- In addition to purchas-ing online, patrons may scan a QR code at Central Indiana Kroger stores to receive a discount when they purchase tickets on the ISO website. Tickets are also sold at the ISO Box Office located on Monu-ment Circle. Patrons are advised to use one of these three methods to purchase tickets.
- Tickets can be down-loaded to phones as mobile tickets for all ISO concerts at Conner Prairie. Like-wise, patrons can print their tickets at home and bring them.
- Table rentals, reserved seating, and tickets to the Huntington Bank Sunset Lounge are available in limited quantities. Reserved seating tickets and table reservations (a maximum of ten per table) will go on sale to the general public April 11. Visit the ISO website for the list of shows that have reserved seating available.
- Patrons may carry in their own food and bever-ages and purchase refresh-ments on-site including beer, wine, and spirits.
- Three large LED screens enhance the stage view from every location on the lawn.
- Reserved parking is \$40 for each show and provides easy-access parking. Re-served parking is available for individual concerts.
- Groups of 30 or more may purchase discounted tickets to Kroger Sympho-ny on the Prairie at a 10% discount. For group sales, contact the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Box Office at (317) 639-4300.
- For more information on any Indianapolis Sym-phony Orchestra indoor or outdoor presentation, contact the Hilbert Circle Theatre Box Office at (317) 639-4300 or online at India-napolisSymphony.org.



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Having A Conversation With the Future



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

For the regular eight or nine of you who read these scribbblings, you may recall that I've written a time or two about AI – artificial intelligence. According to the experts at IBM, AI combines computer science and data to enable problem solving. According to sci-fi fans, AI is Skynet from the Terminator movies, the evil force that takes over the world and goes to war with us mere humans.

Which is it? I truly have no idea. So I decided to do what us newspaper types do best – go straight to the source. I interviewed ChatGPT, a language model developed by OpenAI. To be clear, I “interviewed” a computer. Terrifying? Exciting? Some of the answers with pretty negative connotations for the aforementioned mortals were couched with terms like “could . . . if . . . as of now” and the like. Not exactly reassuring, but hey, you be the judge.

And a special thanks to County Councilman Mark Hall for clueing me in on AI – and causing a few nightmares about cyborgs.

(Oh, one other thing. Since I was chatting with someone, uh, something much smarter than me. I decided to ask it about another world-ending concern I have. It's toward the end.)

Is AI a threat to humanity?

I'm not sure what you mean by "AI." Can you please provide more context or clarify your question?

Sorry, I mean AI, artificial intelligence.

The impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on humanity depends on how it is developed, deployed, and regulated. AI has the potential to bring significant benefits to society, including improved healthcare, transportation, and education. However, it also presents certain risks and challenges, such as job displacement, bias and privacy concerns, and the possibility of unintended consequences.

There is a debate among experts about whether AI is a threat to humanity. Some argue that if left unchecked and unregulated, AI could pose an existential threat to humanity, potentially leading to the development of superintelligence that could be difficult to control. Others believe that AI will continue to evolve as a useful tool that can be harnessed to solve some of the world's biggest problems.

Regardless of whether AI is seen as a threat, it is essential to continue to study and develop it responsibly, with appropriate ethical considerations and safety precautions in place. This will help to ensure that the potential benefits of AI are maximized while minimizing any risks or unintended consequences.

Can AI be weaponized unintentionally?

AI can be weaponized unintentionally if it is not developed and deployed responsibly with adequate safeguards in place. For example, if AI systems are designed to be autonomous and can make decisions on their own, they may poten-

tially be used for unintended purposes, including military applications.

Additionally, if AI systems are not tested thoroughly or if there are vulnerabilities in their programming, they may be susceptible to hacking or other forms of cyber attacks, which could be used to weaponize them. In such cases, the AI systems could be used to cause harm to people or to disrupt critical infrastructure.

To mitigate the risk of unintentional weaponization of AI, it is important to develop and deploy AI systems responsibly, with appropriate safeguards in place. This includes testing AI systems thoroughly to identify and fix any vulnerabilities, ensuring that they are used for their intended purposes, and implementing ethical guidelines and regulations for their development and use.

Will AI develop feelings and emotions?

As of now, artificial intelligence (AI) is not capable of developing feelings and emotions in the way that humans do. While AI systems can simulate emotions, they are not truly experiencing them in the way that humans do.

Emotions are a complex aspect of human psychology, involving not just subjective experience but also physiological responses, cognitive processes, and social and cultural factors. While AI systems can be programmed to recognize and respond to emotions in humans, they do not have the subjective experience of emotions themselves.

That being said, some researchers believe that it may be possible to create AI systems that can simulate emotions and develop a degree of emotional intelligence. These systems would be designed to recognize and respond to human emotions in a more nuanced and empathetic way, potentially improving the human-machine interaction. However, even if such systems were developed, they would still not be experiencing emotions in the way that humans do.

I write for a daily newspaper. May I quote your responses?

Yes, you may quote my responses in your newspaper article as long as you attribute them to me, ChatGPT, a language model developed by OpenAI. Additionally, please keep in mind that my responses are based on the current state of knowledge and may not reflect the views of any specific individual or organization.

Where do you see AI going in the next year? And after that, in the next five? And after that in the next 10?

As an AI language model, I do not have the ability to predict the future with certainty. However, based on current trends and developments in the field, I can provide some general insights into where AI may be heading in the next few years.

In the next year, we can expect to see continued progress in the development and deployment of AI systems across various industries, including healthcare, finance, and transportation. We may also see more progress in the development of conversational AI and natural language processing, as well as increased focus on ethical considerations and responsible use of AI.

In the next five years, we can expect to see significant advances in AI technology, particularly

in the areas of machine learning, computer vision, and natural language processing. We may also see more widespread adoption of AI systems in industries such as education, manufacturing, and agriculture, as well as increased use of autonomous systems such as self-driving cars and drones.

In the next 10 years, we can expect to see even more profound changes brought about by AI, including the potential for significant advances in areas such as robotics, virtual reality, and quantum computing. We may also see the emergence of more advanced forms of AI, such as artificial general intelligence (AGI), which would be capable of performing a wide range of intellectual tasks at a human level or beyond.

However, it is important to note that the development of AGI is still a long-term goal and subject to significant uncertainty and debate in the AI research community.

Overall, the future of AI is likely to be shaped by continued advances in technology and research, as well as by ethical considerations and societal debates around the responsible use of AI.

In the fictitious "Terminator" movie series, robots take over the world in a war against humanity. Is a future like that possible?

The scenario depicted in the "Terminator" movie series, where robots take over the world in a war against humanity, is a fictional one and not a likely outcome of current developments in artificial intelligence (AI).

While AI does present certain risks and challenges, including the possibility of unintended consequences and the potential for misuse or weaponization, there are many reasons to believe that a future where robots take over the world is unlikely.

First, AI is not inherently malicious or benevolent; it is a tool that can be used for a wide range of purposes, depending on how it is developed and deployed. As such, the development and deployment of AI can be guided by ethical considerations and regulations to minimize any potential risks.

Second, even if advanced AI were to emerge in the future, it would likely be designed and programmed with specific goals and limitations, rather than being a general-purpose intelligence capable of taking over the world.

Third, the scenario depicted in the "Terminator" movie series relies on many assumptions and exaggerations about the capabilities and limitations of AI, as well as about the likelihood of certain events and actions taking place.

Overall, while it is important to take AI risks seriously and to develop and deploy it responsibly, there is no reason to believe that a future where robots take over the world is a likely outcome of current developments in AI.

If you were human, what precautions and safeguards would you put into place regarding AI now, and its future development?

As an AI language model, I do not have personal opinions or preferences. However, I can provide some insights into the precautions and safeguards that experts in the field of AI are currently recommending for the responsible development and

deployment of AI.

Some key precautions and safeguards include:

1. Ethical guidelines: Developing ethical guidelines for AI research and deployment, and ensuring that AI systems are designed and used in ways that are consistent with these guidelines.
2. Transparency: Ensuring that AI systems are transparent in their decision-making processes, so that the reasons for their decisions can be understood and audited.
3. Accountability: Establishing accountability for the actions of AI systems and their developers, so that responsibility can be assigned in case of unintended consequences or misuse.
4. Human oversight: Ensuring that AI systems are subject to human oversight and control, so that they can be monitored and modified as needed to ensure safety and ethical use.
5. Safety testing: Conducting safety testing and risk assessments for AI systems, to identify and mitigate potential risks and unintended consequences.
6. Privacy protection: Protecting the privacy and security of individuals and their data, and ensuring that AI systems are used in ways that respect these rights.

Overall, these precautions and safeguards are aimed at ensuring that AI systems are developed and deployed in ways that are safe, ethical, and aligned with human values and interests.

At the Bern Supercollider, what is the likelihood that a black hole will be created that will destroy the earth?

There is no likelihood that the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN, commonly referred to as the "Bern Supercollider," will create a black hole that could destroy the Earth.

The LHC is a particle accelerator designed to investigate the fundamental properties of matter and the universe at very small scales. It does this by colliding subatomic particles together at high speeds and energies. While these collisions can produce a variety of exotic particles and phenomena, they do not pose a risk of creating a black hole that could threaten the Earth.

The reason for this is that any black holes produced by the LHC would be very small and short-lived, and would not have enough mass or energy to pose a danger. In addition, there are many layers of safety and monitoring in place to ensure that the LHC operates safely and without risk to the environment or public health.

Overall, the idea that the LHC could create a black hole that could destroy the Earth is a common misconception that is not supported by scientific evidence or theory.

Thank you for chatting with me today. I enjoyed and appreciate it.

You're welcome! It was my pleasure to chat with you and answer your questions. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any more questions in the future. Have a great day!

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.

Indy Airport South Runway Reconstruction Project Resumes

Residents may notice more aircraft in the skies over their neighborhoods.

The Indianapolis Airport Authority is continuing its multi-year, multi-phase \$190 million construction project at the Indianapolis International Airport (IND) to enhance capacity by reconstructing Runway 5R-23L and Taxiway D. This project also includes the addition of LED runway and taxiway lighting.

In this second phase of construction, from now to approximately late October 2023, the runway will be closed temporarily for reconstruction. As a result, aircraft will use the airport's runways (5L/23R) and (14/32). The increased use of these runways may cause some citizens to notice more aircraft in the skies near their homes or places of business.

"Although the south runway will be temporarily closed for reconstruction, we do not anticipate any flight delays for travelers," said Keith Berlen, IAA sr. director of operations and public safety. "We have coordinated with the airport's commercial and cargo airlines to help minimize disruptions, and have a solid plan in place that was executed well during the first phase of construction last year."

This construction investment will be instrumental for both passenger and cargo aircraft and the future of aviation operations at the Indy airport. Last year, the IAA completed the project's first phase and earned high praise from the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure with the Envision Platinum Award, the institution's highest award for sustainability and resiliency. It is the first airfield project in the world to receive this prestigious recognition.

"We continue to maintain the Indy airport's critical infrastructure, and doing so in a way that ensures the airport remains a valuable public asset over time," said Mario Rodriguez, IAA executive director. "Our award-winning operations and engineering teams, along with our business partners, are delivering a project that meets the airport's needs to accommodate the more than 8 million travelers who fly out of the Indy airport each year."

The IAA plans to spend approximately \$38.6 million with 34 diverse businesses for phase one and two. The construction project will create more than 3,200 jobs and the IAA anticipates more diverse business participation as the project proceeds with phase three in 2024.


Runway 5R-23L and Taxiway D are critical infrastructure at the Indy airport. Runway 5R-23L is a 150-foot-wide-by-10,000-foot-long runway that supports most cargo operations at the airport, along with a significant amount of commercial airline traffic.

Periodic updates on the project will be available at IND.com/SouthRunway



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Ecologically-Conscious Farming And It’s Potential

Dear EarthTalk: What exactly is permaculture and how is it good for the environment?

A buzzword in sustainability circles, permaculture—historically combining “permanent” and “agriculture”—describes ecologically-conscious farming to create sustainable ecosystems for future generations, using methods such as conservation tillage, proper drainage, and polyculture (growing more than one crop species in the same space, at the same time). The Australian organization Permaculture Visions notes that “natural energies... [and nature’s eight] reliable patterns that collect, store and move resources around” make it possible for humanity to use less energy to create comfortable living.”

More recently, the word combines “permanent” and “culture” to describe sustainable land use in general, especially in ways that prioritize the knowledge of indigenous peoples. The podcast Green Dreamer has highlighted numerous indigenous voices offering ways to reframe the discussion of nature, permaculture and humanity’s potential responses to the climate crisis. The publication Tenth Acre Farm describes its aim as “working with nature to be low maintenance and highly productive.”

Simply put, permaculture is a method of cultivation that uses multiple tools to minimize human impact

EARTHTALK

on the environment by mimicking the zero-waste feedback loops of naturally-existing systems. Much of permaculture is guided by three ethics and several major principles that help us to be good eco-stewards and support ourselves with native species, while disturbing the least amount of land. It introduces the idea of human responsibility in maintaining ecosystems, encourages greater consideration of the impact of human activities on the environment, and reduces waste associated with production intended only for sale.

The Habiba Organic Farm in Egypt puts these principles into practice, converting a former desert settlement, where crops are difficult to grow, to arable land on which many desert-viable plants have been cultivated. Similarly, in India, coconut trees, neem trees and legumes were planted to diversify areas that had been subject to slash-and-burn agriculture for 20 years. Among most current permaculture programs, resilience (especially to growing threats of climate change), cooperation and educational/volunteering opportunities are key elements that define the project and connect it to the permaculture ethos.

Designing irrigation that allows water to seep slowly into soil across a large area prevents soil erosion and nutri-

ent leaching. Similarly, composting and reusing “waste” products reduces pollution and improves soil quality. Readers interested in beginning their own permaculture projects (even home gardens) can start by observing their own land to determine land patterns, plant native species, collect rainwater and runoff, and carefully compost their home “waste” (vegetable peels, coffee grounds, eggshells, etc.). “Permaculture site design follows a multi-step process, which starts with observing the landscape through a specific set of both passive and active observations... [and using maps to] think through many possible scenarios and outcomes before [committing] to certain strategies or concepts”, as Tenth Acre Farm puts it.

In a more general sense, permaculture can be incorporated into people’s daily lives in simple ways that identify activities which drain lots of energy and redirecting that energy into productive activities,

CONTACTS: Permaculture Visions, permaculturevisions.com; Green Dreamer, greendreamer.com; Habiba Organic Farm, habibacommunity.com.

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home, and then even compare loan, lease and purchase options for your solar panels based on your results. (In some cases, based on electrical costs in your region and the amount of sunlight your house will get, Project Sunroof’s algorithm might suggest not going solar.)

Once you have an estimate of the number of panels you need, you can start shopping for solar panels. There are a number of different types of solar panels on the market, so it’s important to do your research and compare prices before making a purchase. You should also make sure that the solar panels you choose are compatible with your roof and that they have a warranty.

Also, traditional photovoltaic panels aren’t the only option anymore. Thin-film solar cells are a newer technology that can be incorporated into roofing materials or other surfaces, blending into the roofline unobtrusively. They are made of lightweight, flexible materials and can be easier to install than traditional photovoltaic panels. And if you need to replace an old roof or are building a new house, consider using solar roof shingles, which not only protect your home from the elements but generate electricity in the process

without the need for bulky panels on top of them. These newer technologies tend to be 15-20 percent more expensive than traditional photovoltaic panels but may be right for you depending on your situation.

And remember that the federal government offers a tax credit on 30 percent of the cost of your new solar system as long as it’s installed by the end of 2032. You can also look for additional local and/or state incentives for going solar via the Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (DSIRE), a free online resource that lists all kinds of renewable energy incentives coast-to-coast.

Installing solar panels is a big decision, but it can be a great way to save money on your electricity bills and reduce your environmental impact. If you’re thinking about going solar, be sure to do your research and get multiple estimates before making a purchase.

CONTACTS: Project Sunroof, sunroof.withgoogle.com/; DSIRE, dsireusa.org/.

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BETSY

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and horse enthusiasts, he said.

Stewart hired “hard-working and talented” youth from 4-H, FFA, Scouts and other organizations, as well as people on the autism spectrum and others dealing with mental health challenges.

“It has been a true adventure and labor of love for the entire Stewart family, and we wish nothing but success to the next operator of the barn,” he said.

Stewart, since I’ve known him, has always gotten a big grin on his face and his eyes light up when the conversation turns to youth learning about horses. He started a three-day Wrangler program at the beginning of the fifth season in 2021 for youth and adult wranglers for participants to learn how to gather, feed, groom and tack horses and learn the joy of “muck duty” when they shoveled horse poop while having an awesome experience.

Stewart always said, “A day at the barn is better than a day on the couch playing video games.”

Stewart, 57, who grew up in a Carmel neighborhood, graduated from Carmel High School in 1984 and rode his first horse at Boy Scout camp.

“I liked the way I felt on a horse. I said, ‘Some-day, I want this.’ But it wasn’t until I had my own

kids that I could afford to have my own horse,” Stewart said.

Then Stewart saddled up in 2017 and created K-Trails Equestrian Adventures, which offered trail-riding experiences to all ages at the 800-acre Strawtown Koteewi Park. Guided trail rides, sunset rides, pony rides, corporate outings, family reunions and birthday parties were among K-Trails’ offerings.

The Wayne-Fall Lions Club member and Headless Horseman rider of 16 years at Conner Prairie started the business -- which partnered with Koteewi Stable & Trails at the park -- because he wanted more youth and families enjoying the outdoors and to give kids “a great experience” like he had as a kid.”

Stewart, a Boy Scout and world traveler who has traveled to more than 40 countries in his lifetime, founded K-Trails Global Adventures, which offers horseback-riding experiences around the world, during K-Trails’ third season. Each of the trips, which are more of an “upscale glamping experience,” are focused on cultural experiences where Stewart knows the local host or guide. For example, while travelers might be in the saddle for eight days in India, their overnight accommodations are in a palace.

The Stewart family owns a “hobby farm” near Durbin with more than 50 animals, including horses, goats, chickens, ducks, rabbits, Kune-Kune pigs, dogs and a burro.

He and his wife, Suzanne, of 33 years, have three kids, Julianne, Andrew and Jay Daniel. He opened K-Trails also to provide an opportunity for his own sons, who are on the autism spectrum (and now grown), “to learn about entrepreneurship and working with horses and people.”

Despite owning horses, insurance, labor and running a business that was “very expensive,” Stewart was among a growing number of parents of youth on the autism spectrum who created their own “sheltered employment” opportunities for their children as these children transitioned into adulthood.

He always told me what makes him smile most was “seeing when young people do something that builds their self-confidence.”

The Hamilton County Parks Department will seek a new vendor for the equestrian facility at Koteewi Park.

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

TIMESHEET

From Page A1

addressing questions, most notably, how we operate and why? When we spend taxpayer dollars, how can we spend them more efficiently? Month three also included “doughnut diplomacy”, with several departments, I bought and delivered doughnuts as a collective thank you from us all, and a special thank you for getting me up to speed.

This month’s personnel committee meeting was cancelled, and the work was completed by email. It consisted of new hire approvals, handbook updates, and compensation adjustments.

The Highway Committee meetings included detailed reviews of pending projects, right of way ground acquisitions, updates on letting schedules and discussions of upcoming project funding. Committee highlights included a review of funding for a traffic study on Ollo Road as well as the county’s portion of the cost for a new round-a-bout at 134th and Ollo.

The full council votes April 5th on recommendations from the committees. 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 an investment of time.

In addition to County Council public meetings, I attended a Board of Commissioners meeting, multiple Cicero and Noblesville town council

meetings, a joint Council & Commissioners meeting, the quarterly joint meeting between County and Cicero officials, and I toured the White River Campground as part of my review of a pending funding request to mitigate the risk of sewage spillage. This month also included informative planning sessions with the experts at the Surveyors, Highway, Parks, and Tourism departments.

Of note this month was a meeting with the experts at our Highway Department as a first step to begin working on how we can manage tax dollars at risk in today’s construction climate. The challenge, as mentioned last month, is controlling up front dollars spent (ground acquisition, utility relocation, etc.) so as to not unnecessarily delay a project, and concurrently ensuring that total project financing is in place, even if the final project costs are higher than forecasted.

While I don’t want to delay projects that need to be completed, the Council needs the ability to stop or delay a project if the bids are well beyond our estimated costs but still acceptable under procurement regulations. If the up-front costs we’d lose by terminating a project exceed the higher costs of completing a project, the decision, while still the lesser of two tough choices, could be purely financial in the short term and leave us with the original project incomplete.

This month’s work also included spending half a day at the State House accompanying the State House Chaplain Matt Barnes. We were able to

meet with Representative Goodrich and Senator Baldwin and discuss legislation that impacts County government. I represented the County Council at the “Walkthrough the Life of a Client in Noblesville”, presented by the Noblesville Township Trustee’s office, and at the Annual “State of the Workforce” event, presented by Invest Hamilton County, and at the JANUS Create, Connect & Commit breakfast event, and at two retirement events hosted by the Parks Department and the Commissioners.

This is my time sheet. This is where my time went during month three. There are quite a few 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.

WORKERS

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training session on one of the following days: April 25 at 6:00 p.m., April 27 at 6:00 p.m., or April 29 at 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. Other obligations include picking up supplies on April 29, setting up the polling place on May 1, and working on Election Day. The job pays \$200, plus \$25 for training and \$20 for meals.

The county is also in need of Republican and Democrat judges. This position

requires online training. These individuals will help set up the polling place on May 1 and run the polling place on May 2. These jobs pay \$105, plus \$15 for training, and \$20 for meals. The Democratic judge will be paid an extra \$15 to return election results to the Judicial Center in Noblesville with the Republican Inspector after the polls close.

And finally, the county is

in need of Republican and Democratic Clerks to run the electronic polling pads. This position requires online training. The job pays \$105, plus \$15 for training and \$20 for meals.

If you’re interested in learning more, or would like to apply for a position, please fill out and return this form. <https://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/1351/Poll-Worker-Form>



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Lowery Delivers His First State of Higher Education Address

Outlining the HOPE – Hoosier Opportunities and Possibilities through Education – Agenda

Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education Chris Lowery delivered his first State of Higher Education address this week. This year’s address focused on the Commission’s long-term goals and strategic priorities in its HOPE – Hoosier Opportunities and Possibilities through Education – Agenda.

During his address, Lowery discussed the challenges and opportunities facing higher education in Indiana which include enrollment, completion and graduate retention. In addition, Lowery shared the proven policies, programs and partnerships that address these challenges head-on and will guide the Commission’s work throughout the coming years.

“By staying focused on the key pillars of the Commission’s HOPE Agenda – enrollment, completion and graduate retention – all Hoosiers will have the opportunity to access the hope higher education provides, employers will have access to a better-prepared workforce and our communities will be stronger,” said Lowery.

Enrollment

Just over half – or 53 percent – of Indiana high school graduates in the graduating class of 2020 pursued education beyond high school. While the pandemic exacerbated the decline, this trend was happening for some time. In the previous five years, the total decline was 12 percentage points, and 15 points over the previous decade.

Hoosier adults are also lagging in educational attainment with nearly two million adults with only a high school diploma. Like the college-going rate for high school graduates, there has been a similar decline in adults seeking postsecondary training and education – 13 percentage points in five years.

State lawmakers are committed to addressing college costs through sustained and generous financial aid benefits – nearly \$400 million annually. Last fall, the State Budget Committee endorsed restoring cuts

made in 2009 to the Frank O’Bannon Grant and provided a 35 percent increase to the award to account for inflation. Additionally, the Commission’s efforts to set in motion automatic enrollment for 21st Century Scholarship-eligible students have seen successes in both chambers of the General Assembly.

“I cannot think of a better example of a program that is a beacon of hope for Indiana’s college-going rate than the 21st Century Scholarship,” said Lowery. “Since its creation over 32 years ago, the scholarship has been an extremely successful, nationally recognized promise program. Enrolling all students who are eligible will clear a barrier for Hoosiers and would enable everyone to shift resources toward ensuring students are succeeding in high school, in college and beyond.”

Indiana public institutions have moved the needle on student completion. Over the past five years, on-time college completion has improved by 11 percentage points. And nearly two out of three students complete college within six years.

Progress has also been made in overall statewide educational attainment. Indiana set a goal over a decade ago to have at least 60 percent of Hoosiers with a quality credential beyond high school by 2025. Today, with recently updated data, Indiana is at 54 percent with most of the growth – about two-thirds – due to an increase in awarding certificates, technical certificates and industry certifications, which were not originally counted in 2009.

But, when the 54 percent is broken out, about 41 percent is comprised of 2-year, 4-year and higher degree holders. Indiana has lost ground comparatively in attainment when only accounting for associate degrees and higher. In 2009, the state was ranked 39th in the nation. Today, Indiana is 43rd.

“Now is the time to intentionally move to improve the attainment of associate degrees, bachelor’s degrees and above to move Hoosiers through the talent pipeline for a growth-oriented career,” said Lowery.

Graduate Retention

Indiana is the 14th best in the nation in attracting people to come to the state’s colleges and universities, but 40th best in retaining college graduates. The Commission revised its Outcomes-Based Performance Funding formula to incentivize public institutions to prioritize graduate retention.

“Our colleges and universities are a good value, are bringing people into our state, and the market is speaking,” said Lowery. “But we have to be more intentional about getting students in front of Hoosier employers and getting them to stay here.”

Indiana as a Top 10 State

In addition to highlighting the challenges and opportunities confronting higher education in Indiana, Lowery shared his goal of Indiana becoming a top 10 state in terms of:

- post-high school training and education going rates for youth and adults across all demographics by leveraging tools such as the Frank O’Bannon Grant, 21st Century Scholars program, the Indiana College Core, FAFSA completions, the Workforce Ready Grant, and promoting Indiana institutions’ low tuition and fees, and continuous focus on high quality;
- postsecondary attainment for veterans, individuals with disabilities, and the justice-involved;
- utilization of credit for prior learning to honor the work, training and education already achieved by adult learners;
- the rate at which Hoosiers successfully complete their chosen areas of study; retaining talent once someone has graduated from a postsecondary program; measurable distinction in economic and social mobility and prosperity outcomes;
- as the recognized state for growing or starting a business, based upon the strength of human capital.

“It is going to take a robust and intentional statewide effort to reverse the present trends facing education beyond high school, but I do not fear for the sake of our state,” said Lowery. “I am hopeful because the evidence tells me to be so.”

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast

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Saturday, April 29, 2023

Forest Park Inn

8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

\$5 per ticket

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ONEST HOOSIER



Not a big place, but a good place to call home! Sounds familiar!





26

Gibson

Number

%

÷

Stumpers

1. How many square miles of the county is not made up by Princeton?
- ≥
2. How old is Gibson County?
- ≤
3. How many people in the county do not live in Princeton?
- ≥
4. What is the population density of the county?
- ≤

%

Answers: 1. 494.1 Square Miles 2. 206 Years 3. 25,115 People 4. Around 67/sq mi

÷

Word

Scrambler

- Unscramble the words below!
1. PRKAS
2. NOCNITPRE
3. IUOMNYCNT
4. ONIBGS TOUNYC
5. ODRLNPGUYAS

Answers: 1. Parks 2. Princeton 3. Community 4. Gibson County 5. Playgrounds

Did You Know?

- Gibson County was founded April 1,1813 and named after John Gibson.
- Princeton, the county seat, has the motto “Creating A World Class Community.”
- The county is the seventh largest and oldest county in the state.
- Princeton’s has a population of 8,644 people and 5.06 square miles.
- The county is 499.16 square miles and has a population of 33,759 residents.

Got Words?

Princeton contains multiple parks that contain a variety of playgrounds and ponds. The largest of the 3 is Lafayette Park. What role do you think parks and other outdoor spaces play in a community?

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Thursday, April 6, 2023

A9

USDA Announces Additional Assistance For Distressed Farmers Facing Financial Risk

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that beginning in April it will provide approximately \$123 million in additional, automatic financial assistance for qualifying farm loan program borrowers who are facing financial risk, as part of the \$3.1 billion to help distressed farm loan borrowers that was provided through Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The announcement builds on financial assistance offered to borrowers through the same program in October 2022.

The IRA directed USDA to expedite assistance to distressed borrowers of direct or guaranteed loans administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) whose operations face financial risk. For example, in the October payments, farmers that were 60 days delinquent due to challenges like natural disasters, the pandemic or other unexpected situations were brought current and had their next installment paid to give them breathing room.

"In too many cases, the rules surrounding our farm loan programs may actually be detrimental to helping a borrower get back to a financially viable path. As a result, some are pushed out of farming and others stuck under a debt burden that prevents them from growing or reacting to opportunities," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "Loan programs for the newest and more vulnerable producers must be about providing opportunity and tailored to expect and manage stumbles and hurdles along the way. Through this assistance,

USDA is focusing on generating long-term stability and success for distressed borrowers."

In October 2022, USDA provided approximately \$800 million in initial IRA assistance to more than 11,000 delinquent direct and guaranteed borrowers and approximately 2,100 borrowers who had their farms liquidated and still had remaining debt. USDA shared that it would conduct case-by-case reviews of about 1,600 complex cases for potential initial relief payments, including cases of borrowers in foreclosure or bankruptcy. These case-by-case reviews are underway.

At the same time in October 2022, USDA announced that it anticipated payments using separate pandemic relief funding totaling roughly \$66 million on over 7,000 direct loans to borrowers who used the USDA Farm Service Agency's disaster-set-aside option during the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of these payments have been processed and USDA anticipates it will complete all such payments in April 2023.

New Assistance for Distressed Borrowers FSA intends to provide the new round of relief starting in April to additional distressed borrowers. This will include approximately \$123 million in automatic financial assistance for qualifying Farm Loan Program (FLP) direct loan borrowers who meet certain criteria. Similar to the automatic payments announced in October 2022, qualifying borrowers will receive an individual letter detailing the assistance as payments are made. Distressed

borrowers' eligibility for these new categories of automatic payments will be determined based on their circumstances as of today. More information about the new categories that make up the \$123 million in assistance announced today and the specific amount of assistance a distressed borrower receives can be found described in this fact sheet, IRA Section 22006: Additional Automatic Payments, Improved Procedures, and Policy Recommendations.

To continue to make sure producers are aware of relief potentially available to them, all producers with open FLP loans will receive a letter detailing a new opportunity to receive assistance if they took certain extraordinary measures to avoid delinquency on their FLP loans, such as taking on more debt, selling property or cashing out retirement accounts. The letter will provide details on eligibility, the specific types of actions that may qualify for assistance, and the process for applying for and providing the documentation to seek that assistance.

These steps are part of a process USDA announced along with the October payments that is focused on assisting borrowers unable to make their next scheduled installment. Earlier this year, all borrowers should have received a letter detailing the process for seeking this type of assistance even before they become delinquent. Borrowers who are within two months of their next installment may seek a cashflow analysis from FSA using a recent balance sheet and operating plan to determine their eligibility

Tax Resources

USDA will continue to work with the Department of Treasury to help borrowers understand the potential tax implications from the receipt of an IRA payment, including that options may be available to potentially avoid or alleviate any tax burden incurred as a result of receiving this financial assistance.

In early April, USDA will send a specific set of revised tax documents, educational materials and resources to borrowers that received assistance in 2022, including a link to a webinar hosted by a group of farm tax experts to provide education on the options available. USDA cannot provide tax advice and encourages borrowers to consult their own tax professional, but FSA is providing educational materials for borrowers to be aware of the options. USDA has tax-related resources available at farmers.gov/taxes.

Improved Procedures and Policy Recommendations

FSA is finalizing changes to its policy handbooks to remove unnecessary hurdles, improve loan making and loan servicing and provide more flexibility on how loans are structured to maximize the opportunities for borrowers. Additional details on those changes can be found in the linked fact sheet and are the start of a broader set of process enhancements. The fact sheet also provides information on the eight, no-cost legislative proposals included in the Fiscal Year 2024 President's Budget that are designed to improve the borrower experience.

Purdue's College Of Agriculture Rises In National And International Rankings

Purdue University's College of Agriculture has been recognized as the No. 3 college of agriculture in North America and No. 5 in the world in the 2023 QS World University Rankings.

Inaugurated in 2004, QS World Rankings are one of the world's most frequented and respected sources of comparative data about universities. In 2022, Purdue Agriculture was identified as No. 4 in North America, and No. 8 in the world.

The QS 2023 rankings are based on the analysis of over 15,700 individual academic programs at 1,594 universities in 93 countries and territories using five criteria: academic reputation; employer reputation; research citations per academic paper; the H-index, measuring cumulative productivity and impact of authors' scholarly work; and international research network of sustainable partnerships with other higher education institutions.

Karen Plaut, former dean of the College of Agriculture and Purdue's current executive vice president of research, paid tribute to the college's accomplishment.

"The rise in this year's rankings is a reflection of the continued excellence of the College of Agriculture's faculty, students and staff," Plaut said. "Our research community stretches the frontiers of science to address complex challenges in food, life and natural resources, positively impacting our

students, communities and the world."

Purdue Agriculture's recent research success includes bringing in over \$85 million in extramural funding during the last fiscal year. Earlier in 2023, the college received two of seven available USDA Sustainable Agricultural Systems grants, totaling \$20 million, to conduct research in the areas of digital forestry and aquaponics.

"The college continues to set the right example for Purdue as it draws top-flight researchers here from across the globe and works to maximize their scholarly successes," said Patrick Wolfe, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs and diversity.

Bernie Engel, senior associate dean of research and graduate education for agriculture, spoke to the direct impact of rankings like QS. "Our reputation is not only a point of pride for stakeholders, it's often critical to their decision to attend our college, hire our graduates, engage with county Extension educators and partner with researchers," he said.

Ken Foster, interim dean and professor of agricultural economics, expressed gratitude for what the achievement represents. "Purdue's College of Agriculture received this recognition because of the hard work and intellectual capabilities of our faculty, staff and students as well as the leadership of our former dean Karen Plaut and her leadership team," he said.

\$500,000 Grant Targets Lack Of Air-Quality Data In Swine Production



A Purdue University team led by Jiqin (JQ) Ni has received a \$500,000 grant from the Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research to document air-quality issues surrounding pork production in partnership with the National Pork Board.

Particulate matter (PM) at high concentrations can affect the health of both workers and animals, as well as people living and working in neighboring areas. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classifies PM measuring less than 2.5 and 10 microns (much smaller than the width of a human hair)

as the most hazardous. Although the problem is well known, the exact concentrations of such particulate matter within and outside of the swine barns at different times is poorly understood, said Ni, a professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering.

"We don't have enough data. One of the issues is the lack of appropriate measurement technology," Ni said.

Collaborating with Ni on the project are Jae Hong Park, assistant professor in the School of Health Sciences in the College of Health and Human Sciences, and Brian Richert, associate professor of Animal Sciences in the College of Agriculture. Richert specializes in swine nutrition and management and will design the swine barn test environment to operate under a range of controlled conditions and particulate matter concentrations. Park, a certified

industrial hygienist, focuses on aerosol science and technology.

"Anything in the air, that's my target," said Park, who develops both sensors and samplers. For this project, Park will develop a sensor station that consists of several air-quality sensors.

In addition to particulate matter, swine barns generate gases such as ammonia that may attach to dust. "A swine farm and its surrounding area is a very complex environment," Park said.

Particulate matter concentrations change greatly with different ventilations and weather conditions. In summer, swine barns increase ventilation rates by operating more fans and opening inlets and curtains. In winter, the barns operate with minimal ventilation to keep pigs warm. These different conditions affect both indoor and outdoor particulate matter concentrations.

These changing concentrations should be monitored and mapped, but the technologies that can do the job are expensive, difficult to operate and slow to produce results.

"There are many commercially available technologies for particulate matter measurement. But none of them are designed for agriculture and livestock use," Ni said. In the dynamic world of livestock and poultry production, such as swine farms, active animals stir up particulate matter of different sizes and concentrations in the air. Most of the particulate matter will settle quickly, while some will be blown out of the barns through the fans.

"Our objective is to develop a new technology that is low cost, with a faster response and easy to use," Ni said. After carefully selecting particulate matter sensing units from the commercially available models, his team will develop the needed

sensor unit combined with software and a solar power supply.

"In the lab, we can compare these low-cost sensors with the expensive instruments," Park said. The tests involve collecting dust from the swine barn, then blowing it from a cylinder into a test chamber connected to the sensors.

"That will give us confidence that this new technology will generate accurate concentration measurement data," Ni said. "We will develop a laboratory system to calibrate our technology to make sure it is compatible with high-end technology. We will also validate the technology in field conditions."

The first tests will get underway in the controlled environment swine barn at Purdue's Animal Science Research and Education Center. There, researchers will monitor the concentrations of particulate matter at different

locations in rooms that house pigs at all stages of their development, from nursing during lactation to fully grown.

The team also will validate the technology at commercial swine farms in Indiana and Ohio.

"We will have stakeholders closely involved," Ni said. The new technology will be compared against the commercially available instruments in side-by-side tests at different locations.

"We will measure the PM concentration from the air inside the swine barn, near the exhaust fans and several hundred feet away at different distances from the barn," he said.

More modifications and improvements to the system will then follow as needed. Once completed, Park said, the work will have potential applications in barns and housing for not only swine but also poultry and other livestock and for handling powders in the food industry.

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