

TODAY'S VERSE

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY
People who call our community their own.

What makes Faith Hittle smile? "My family," said the Miss Hamilton County 4-H Fair 2022 Queen a year ago. Hittle, a 2022 Hamilton Heights High School graduate, will crown the 2023 Hamilton County 4-H Fair Queen this Friday night at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Noblesville, where this year's 4-H Fair is July 20-25. The 10-year 4-H'er and daughter of Joshua and Billie Hittle and former member of Husky 4-H'ers 4-H Club, completed 164 projects in 4-H, Baked Food Preparation in the Foods project being her favorite. She also enjoyed 4-H Camp counseling. At Heights, she was a member of National Honor Society, varsity softball, varsity cheerleading, FFA, Student Government, Spanish Club, Bring Change to Mind Club and Key Club. A year ago, her plans were to attend Manchester University, where she would play softball while studying pre-med to become a pediatric orthopedic surgeon with a minor in Spanish. What does it mean to Hittle to be crowned queen? A year ago, upon being crowned, she said: "It means so much to me. Because I remember looking up to the past queens and knowing that I wanted to be them one day because their kindness is unmatched and the responsibilities that they have now I want, too."

And Another Thing...

1. ROAD OPENING AND ROAD CLOSURE - 146th Street and Allisonville Road Project

Please be advised, beginning on or after Tuesday, July 18, Sowers Drive connection to Allisonville Road will be open to traffic. At the time of opening Sowers Drive, Lynn Avenue will then be closed to all traffic at 146th Street. Local traffic will need to use Sowers Drive to access the Willow Crest Addition.

2. LANE RESTRICTIONS - 146th Street and Allisonville Road Project

Please be advised, beginning on or after Monday, July 17, between the hours of 9am and 3pm, 146th Street between the White River and River Road within the existing construction limits, will be under lane restrictions for the paving of a 90' stretch of median. This is a one-day restriction. Only the left-hand lane for westbound traffic will be restricted, where it is currently milled.

3. Hobart Mayor Brian Snedecor has pledged his endorsement for Suzanne Crouch for Governor.

Of Crouch, Snedecor said, "As Mayor of Hobart, I have had the distinct privilege to work with Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch on issues important to Northwest Indiana. I have found Suzanne to be responsive to cities and towns throughout the state. Suzanne thoroughly understands the daily issues that communities are facing. With that said, Suzanne has the vision, experience, and energy to work with communities for fiscally effective solutions!" Snedecor is in his fourth term as Mayor of Hobart.

The TIMES

Hamilton County's Own Daily Newspaper



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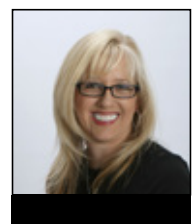
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The Times photo by Betsy Reason

A "Road Closed" sign is posted on Eighth Street at Mulberry Street, just south of the Mill Top Banquet and Conference Center, during construction of the Reimagine Pleasant Street project that will improve east-west connectivity and accessibility in Noblesville.

All Roads (Seem To) Lead To Construction



BETSY REASON
From The Editor's Desk...

It seems like everywhere we go, there is road construction in Noblesville, Fishers and Westfield.

Whenever I get ready to go anywhere lately, I make sure to map out our route ahead of time to avoid construction and save time.

For instance, when we go to Conner Prairie, we try to avoid the Allisonville Road and 146th

Street intersection whenever possible, especially during rush hour, due to construction of a roundabout at the intersection. Instead, we travel Indiana 37 south to 141st Street west (temporarily right-in, right-out), to Allisonville Road, then south to the Fishers living history museum. But when we drive home from Conner Prairie, we trace our tracks east on 141st Street but turn north on Herriman Boulevard and head for Noblesville.

Not only have there been lane restrictions of Allisonville Road just south of 146th Street but watch for a two-night lane restriction for removal of reflective pavement markings on

146th Street, and a one-day lane restriction in the westbound lane on 146th Street between River Road and the White River, for the paving of the median.

In Noblesville, when I drive to Noblesville Wastewater to pay a monthly utility bill, I usually drive on Pleasant Street west, crossing over Eighth Street. But with the construction under way for the Pleasant Street Extension, drivers can no longer cross Eighth Street on Pleasant Street, which is closed beginning at 10th Street.

The City of Noblesville's Reimagine Pleasant Street

See BETSY Page A6

NFD Responds To Residence Fire



Photo courtesy of Noblesville Fire Department

Fire and EMS units were dispatched by the Hamilton County Dispatch Center. Upon arrival, crews could see large amounts of smoke emanating from the upstairs bedroom window. Shortly after 8:40pm on Monday, July 10th, a resident of 6055 Mill Oak Drive noticed smoke coming from the garage. The homeowner was able to safely exit the house and call 911. Crews were able to quickly enter the home and locate the seat of the fire. The fire was marked under control a short time later. There were no injuries to civilians or firefighters. NFD was assisted by the Noblesville Police Department. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. NFD would like to remind residents to sleep with their bedroom doors closed. Sleeping with your door closed can reduce exposure to toxic smoke and help limit the spread of flames.

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 6:28 a.m.
SET: 9:18 p.m.

High/Low Temperatures
High: 86 °F
Low: 69 °F

Today is...

- Go West Day
- Fool's Paradise Day
- Bean 'n' Franks Day

What Happened On This Day

- 1985 Live Aid benefit concert.
- 1977 Kinney, Minnesota declares its secession from the U.S
- 1937 Krispy Kreme Doughnuts is founded.

Births On This Day

- 1942 Harrison Ford American actor
- 1940 Patrick Stewart English actor

Deaths On This Day

- 1954 Frida Kahlo Mexican painter
- 1024 Henry II Holy Roman Emperor

Woofstock Survivor 5K & Dog Walk To Raise Over \$65,000 For Survivor Program

Sponsored by Cosmo's Superior Foods, Canine Cloud Nine & Smitten Kitten Cat Café.

The Woofstock Survivor 5K & Dog Walk will return to Fishers, Indiana, on Saturday, August 12! Join the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC) at Four Day Ray for this festive 5K supporting the Survivor Program.

The Woofstock Survivor 5K & Dog Walk welcomes two and four-legged participants to run, walk or jog through downtown Fishers to help animals in need. Race participants will receive a groovy t-shirt, psychedelic finisher medal and post-run refreshment. Stick around after the 5K to visit with vendors, grab an event selfie and meet adoptable dogs!

As the only open admission, truly no-kill shelter, HSHC's Survivor Program takes in abused, neglected and sick animals and helps them through care and recovery until they find their happily ever after. In addition to healing some of the most brutal cases, the program funds the costs associated with rescuing animals at-risk of euthanasia in surrounding shelters.

"There's nothing glamorous about this part of the job. We see some of the worst hit-by-car, parvo and neglect cases in the state," said Community Engagement Manager, Lily

See WALK Page A6

INSIDE TODAY

- Service Directory.....A3
- EarthTalk.....A3
- Tim TimmonsA4
- Indiana Facts & Fun.....A7
- Indiana News.....A8

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Take family walks - it's good exercise and good for conversation. 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



TODAY'S QUOTE

"When in doubt, look intelligent."
-Garrison Keillor

HONEST HOOSIER

O Canada . . . where are my blue skies?



TODAY'S JOKE

Why don't oysters share their pearls?
Because they're shellfish!

OBITUARIES

None



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



13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

69/86 HUMID, 25% CHANCE	70/90 HUMID, 25% CHANCE	70/86 70% CHANCE	68/86 MAINLY SUNNY, 10% CHANCE	66/86 85% CHANCE	66/83 CHANCE RAIN	64/86 MAINLY SUNNY
THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED

Meeting Notes

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023 - 6 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS/CITY HALL/ONE CIVIC SQUARE

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. AGENDA APPROVAL
3. INVOCATION
4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
5. RECOGNITION OF CITY EMPLOYEES AND OUTSTANDING CITIZENS
6. RECOGNITION OF PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL
7. COUNCIL AND MAYORAL COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS
8. CONSENT AGENDA
 - a. Approval of Minutes
 1. June 19, 2023 Regular Meeting
 2. June 29, 2023 Special Meeting
 - b. Claims
 1. Payroll \$3,541,436.14
 2. General Claims \$2,768,719.81
 3. Wire Transfers \$37,202,483.72
 9. ACTION ON MAYORAL VETOES
 10. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - a. Finance, Utilities and Rules Committee
 - b. Land Use and Special Studies Committee
 - c. All reports designated by the Chair to qualify for placement under this category.
 11. OTHER REPORTS - (at the first meeting of the month specified below):
 - a. Carmel Redevelopment Commission (Monthly)
 - b. Carmel Historic Preservation Commission (Quarterly - January, April, July, October)
 - c. Audit Committee (Bi-annual - May, October)
 - d. Redevelopment Authority (Bi-annual - April, October)
 - e. Carmel Cable and Telecommunications Commission (Bi-annual - April, October)
 - f. Economic Development Commission (Bi-annual - February, August)
 - g. Library Board (Annual - February)
 - h. Ethics Board (Annual - February)
 - i. Public Art Committee (Annual - August)
 - j. Parks Department (Quarterly - February, May, August, November)
 - k. All reports designated by the Chair to qualify for placement under this category.
 12. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Second Reading of Ordinance D-2671-23; An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Amending Chapter 8, Article 5, Sections 8-2, 8-37, 8-47, and 8-48 of the Carmel City Code; Sponsor: Councilor Worrell. Remains in the Finance, Utilities and Rules Committee
 13. PUBLIC HEARINGS
 - a. First Reading of Ordinance D-2672-23; An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Authorizing and Approving an Additional Appropriation of Funds from the Operating Balance of the 2023 Department of Community

Services Budget; Sponsor: Councilor Finkam.

- Synopsis: Appropriates funds received from Hamilton County for lien payments that were deposited into the General Fund into the 2023 Department of Community Services ("DOCS") budget.
- b. First Reading of Ordinance D-2673-23; An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Authorizing and Approving an Additional Appropriation of Funds from the Operating Balance of the General Fund to the 2023 Parks Department Budget; Sponsor: Councilor Ayers.

Synopsis: This ordinance appropriates \$55,500 in unexpended 2022 encumbrances for design services for the Monon Boulevard Spray Plaza.

 - c. First Reading of Ordinance D-2674-23; An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Authorizing and Approving an Additional Appropriation of Funds from the Parks and Recreation Non-Reverting Capital Fund (#103); Sponsor: Councilor Finkam.

Synopsis: Appropriates \$249,700 to fund design services for the White River Greenway North Extension, with all expenses to be reimbursed by the READI Grant.
 14. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Resolution CC-07-17-23-01: A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Approving Certain Matters in Connection with the Expansion of the City Center Redevelopment Area; Sponsor: Councilor Worrell.

Synopsis: Resolution approves (1) a resolution of the Carmel Redevelopment Commission removing certain area from the existing Carmel Downtown Economic Development Area, and adding such area to the City Center Redevelopment Area and (2) a related Carmel Plan Commission resolution.
 - b. Resolution CC-07-17-23-02: A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Terminating the Real Property Tax Abatement Granted to ATAPCO, Inc; Sponsor: Councilor Worrell.

Synopsis: Per the request of ATAPCO, Inc., this Resolution terminates the partial real property tax abatement granted to the company in 2019.
 - c. Resolution CC-07-17-23-03: A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Terminating the Partial Personal Property Tax Abatement Granted to Braunability; Sponsor: Councilor Worrell.

Synopsis: Per the request of Braun Corporation d/b/a Braun-Ability, this Resolution terminates the partial personal property tax abatement granted to the company in 2019.
 15. AGENDA ADD-ON ITEMS
 16. OTHER BUSINESS
 - a. City Council Appointments
 1. Carmel Audit Committee (two-year term); One appointment.
 17. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 18. ADJOURNMENT

Carmel Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

9:00 a.m. Docket No. PZ-2023-00136 DP/ADLS: The Edge at West Carmel.

The applicant seeks site plan and design approval for a new development with an apartment complex (252 units), and one future commercial out-lot. The site is located at 11335 N. Michigan Road. It is zoned B-3/Business & Residential and is located within the US 421 Overlay zone. Filed by Rick Lawrence with Nelson & Frankenberger, LLC, on behalf of REI Real Estate Services, LLC.

9:15 a.m. (SUA, V) Hope Church Special Use Amendment and Variance.

The applicant seeks the following special use and development standards variance approval: Docket No. PZ-2023-00134 SUA UDO Section 2.05 Education Special Use required in S2. Docket No. PZ-2023-00132 V UDO Section 1.07

Transportation Plan compliance required, Request to only dedicate street right of ways.

The site is located at 2500 E. 98th St. and is zoned S2/Residence. Filed by Rick Lawrence of Nelson & Frankenberger, LLC on behalf of Hope Church of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, Inc. and Northpoint Homeschool Academy.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Request for Qualifications Hamilton County Special Projects for 2023 and 2024 Construction and General Contracting Services

Project Location: Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, Hamilton County Historic Courthouse, Hamilton County Jail Complex, and the Hamilton County Health Department. Noblesville, Indiana

Response Due Date: July 21 by 4:00 PM

Hamilton County is requesting qualifications (the "RFQ") for professional Construction Management Services ("CM Services") for the following interior and exterior renovations:

- Exterior brick work, renovation, and rehabilitation
- Repair and/or replace windows
- Design and oversee the construction of a storage facility for the Hamilton County Health Department
- Install a new HVAC system and remove the existing HVAC system

These services are being requested at the following locations (a non-exhaustive list): the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, the Hamilton County Historic Courthouse, the Hamilton County Jail Complex, and the Hamilton County Health Department. The RFQ is being issued to solicit certain documents from qualified firms to perform professional services for the above-mentioned project as outlined in this RFQ.

A response to this RFQ is not a guarantee that the firm responding will be awarded a contract to perform CM Services, but only that the responding firm wishes to be considered.

Contact for questions regarding this RFQ:
Mr. Steve Wood
Title: Building and Grounds Superintendent
Phone Number: 317.776.8446
Email: steve.wood@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

INTRODUCTION

Potential firms shall be required to submit the following documents:

1. A response to this RFQ as outlined herein.
2. One (1) original, three (3) copies, and one disc or flash drive of the response are to be submitted.
3. All submittals shall be titled: Request for Qualifications for the Hamilton County Special Projects for 2023 and 2024: Construction and General Contracting Services
4. All submittals shall be made to: Hamilton County Board of Commissioners
c/o Mr. Lee Buckingham
Title: Director of Administrations
Address: 1 N. 8th St., #157
Noblesville, IN 46060
Pre-selection information:
 1. The firm shall be properly licensed in Indiana to provide the CM Services requested.
 2. A contract with terms similar to a standard AIA terms will be executed between the selected firm and the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners. The County reserve the right to modify, amend, or replace the AIA contract with a County drafted contract.
 3. The County reserves the right to reject any or all RFQs, to waive any informality or irregularity in any RFQ received, and to be the sole judge of the merits of the respective RFQs received.

Section 1: The Project.

The Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County (the "Commissioners"), Indiana seeks CM Services to begin a project for the renovation and modernization of existing space to accommodate the needs for the County government's continued growth, updating existing systems, updating and installing new HVAC systems, removing old HVAC systems, brick work, and other similar construction services (the "Project").

The scope of Project is:

- a. Renovate, rehabilitate and other brick work on the current historic courthouse, judicial center, health department center and jail complex.
- b. Update and/or replace certain windows at the current historic courthouse, judicial center, health department center and jail complex.
- c. Install a new HVAC system and remove the current HVAC system at the Hamilton County Jail Complex.
- d. Renovate and modernize the County Council offices.
- e. Work with design and architect team to design additions to the Hamilton County Health Department offices and facilities to promote health and safety guidelines.
- f. Work with the "Design Package or Packages" provided by the design and architect for the Project, meeting the "basic services" as defined within the standard AIA terms.
- g. All of the scope of the Project shall likely be performed and completed while continuing the operations of the Hamilton County government at all Project locations/sites.

In order to complete the project, the Commissioners are seeking a qualified professional CM Services firm with experience in the construction, renovations and modernizations of judicial facilities and design of government use space. The potential firm must have the experience to ensure the continued operations of Hamilton County throughout the duration of the Project. The Commissioners expect that the selected firm will provide recommendations and services to work with the conceptual design, prepare construction documents and specifications of the renovations and structures.

The final project scope will be determined through a scoping period with the selected firm, during which the selected firm will be required to provide site analysis, design, operation of the project site during construction, and construction analysis to create a final scope and budget. The scoping period is anticipated to be a very intense and fast-paced process, with the goal of achieving a final schematic design and budget in the fall of 2023.

Upon receiving a satisfactory scoping schedule from the selected firm, the County will move forward with the Project and selected firm. If the selected firm is unable to produce satisfactory deliverables and budget, the County will begin a new scoping period with another firm or cancel the RFQ process all together.

Section 2: Qualification Information Required (10-pages maximum)

1. Informational Cover Letter
2. Identification, Qualifications and Key Staff
 - a. Provide the firm name and office location from where the work will be performed. Include the name and contact information for the person authorized to negotiate the proposed contract.
 - b. Describe the project team, organizational structure and individuals responsible for the delivery of the key tasks.
 - c. Include a listing of the proposed subconsultants and the tasks to be completed by the prime and each subconsultant.
 - d. Describe the capacity of the team to complete the required work elements.
3. Describe experience in the construction and construction management of courthouse construction/renovations, or other similar projects, projects and a description of space for other government uses. Include references for the projects noted. List up to four county courthouse projects and similar government projects.
 - a. Provide references for projects included in the project experience section.
 4. Your firm's project understanding and approach to the project.
 - a. Address your firm's understanding of the services requested and approach to completing the design requirements. Describe your proposed innovative ideas, cost containment measures, energy efficiency and/or sustainable design suggestions, staging and sequencing of work to accommodate operating government offices, seamless design of building additions, quality control procedures, etc.
 5. Presuming you are selected by July 24, 2023 include a Proposed Project Schedule.

TL20546 7/5 7/6 7/12 7/13 4t hspaxlp

Letters

Duke Power Says Thank You To All

Dear Editor,
The storm that ripped through Indiana June 29 proved to be one of the most devastating to ever hit Duke Energy's Indiana system. It was followed by multiple waves of storms for several days that added to the destruction. Approximately 330,000 power outages occurred as more than 150 miles of power lines and more than 200 utility poles succumbed to the storms' violent winds. Only Hurricane Ike in 2008 caused more damage in our Indiana service area.

We're grateful to our customers who waited patiently for their power to be restored. Storms are rarely convenient, disrupting evenings, holidays and weekends. However, they also have a way of bringing out the best in our communities. We brought in more than 1,000 additional workers to supplement our statewide workforce, and

when they needed lodging or staging areas, Indiana University, Indiana State University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and DePauw University opened their campuses.

To those line workers, damage assessors, vegetation crews, call center representatives and others both at home in Indiana and outside our service area, thank you for your long hours and dedication. When it was most needed, you all answered the call for help.

As we put this storm in the record books and hope not to repeat it soon, we will long remember the way our communities and employees came together to respond.

Stan Pinegar
President
Duke Energy Indiana

Mark LaBarr
Duke Energy Government and Community Relations Manager
Hamilton County

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Duke Energy Foundation Gives More Than \$200,000 To Hunger Relief Programs In Indiana Communities

Funding will help 25 nonprofits and organizations increase their capacity to serve Hoosier families impacted by food insecurity.

The Duke Energy Foundation is awarding more than \$200,000 in grants to local food pantries and community organizations to feed Hoosier families in need. The grants will support the purchase of canned goods, fresh produce and essential supplies to address food insecurity across the company's Indiana service territory.

"Too many Hoosiers struggle with economic instability and food insecurity," said Stan Pinegar, president of Duke Energy Indiana. "When people don't

have enough food to meet their needs or are uncertain of where their next meal might come from, it weighs heavily on families and communities. With these funds, we hope to curb the number of Indiana families experiencing hunger and support local organizations extending a helping hand to their neighbors in need."

The Center for Lay Ministries is the recipient of a \$6,000 Duke Energy Foundation grant to support Clark County, Ind., residents who struggle with food insecurity. Each month, the nonprofit organization provides food for more than 1,100 individuals and their families.

"These funds will allow

us to meet the increased needs of local families this summer while kids are home from school and food costs are rising," said Kara Brown, executive director of the Center for Lay Ministries. "The support of partners like Duke Energy is instrumental in helping us continue to serve our clients with compassion, dignity and respect."

Grants were awarded to the following local organizations:

Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana (Statewide) - \$10,000

Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County (Hamilton County) - \$10,000

Westfield Washington Schools (Hamilton County) - \$15,000

Foster Success Selects New Board Leaders, Members

Statewide nonprofit Foster Success has selected its new Board of Directors' Officers and added Amber Williams, from Westfield. The Indianapolis-based organization provides educational, financial and social support to teens and young adults transitioning out of Indiana's foster care system.

"Foster Success welcomes the new board members who are graciously donating their time and variety of expertise," Foster

Success President and CEO Dr. Maggie Stevens said. "We also want to thank our outgoing board members Erin Brothers, Kevin Brown, Lolita Campbell, Freedom Smith and Grace Worley. They helped guide the organization during a period of incredible growth, and we are grateful for their service."

Williams serves as Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Belonging for the Ivy Tech Community College system. She previously

was the statewide Executive Director for Employee Diversity, Equity and Belonging; full-time faculty member of Psychology; Program Chair for Social and Behavioral Sciences; and Phi Theta Kappa honor society faculty advisor for Ivy Tech Community College - Kokomo. She earned her Master of Arts in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from Middle Tennessee State University and Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Evangel University.

The Times

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Bubba Has, Um, Well, Problems



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

"Timmons, I can't remember being this down."

The voice on the other end of the phone was clearly Bubba Castiron, a guy I loosely call a friend and one who is about 47 cards short of a full deck. Normally, he calls and tries some gimmick with a fake voice that takes oh, about half a millisecond to see through. Not today though. This was clearly his nasally dull twang with no hint at deception.

"What's wrong, Bubba?"

"Well, sir," he began. "I just found out that I have E.D. and I don't know what to do about it. I mean this stuff is, well, you know, real important to me - and the missus - and we're just at our wits end."

I put my head in my hands. How do I get into these situations? If Bubba was having problems in the bedroom, why in the world would he tell me? Besides that, what do you say to someone after they tell you that?

"Gosh, Bubba, I'm real sorry to hear that. I expect that."

"I'm sorry Timmons, I shouldn't unload all this on you. But I've been watching the news on the Donald getting indicted. What a crock of-"

"Hey there, Bubba," I jumped in, thankful for the change in subject.

"I'd suggest we all just wait and see what happens next with Trump. The details of the indictment will come out soon and then we'll have a better-"

"Oh hell, Timmons," Bubba shot back. "You know where this is going. It's Russia, Russia, Russia all over again. The Democrats keep going after Trump and going after Trump. The man didn't do anything that a bunch of others haven't done, including Hillary, Pence and the senile big guy himself, Biden. I mean c'mon man, that Durham feller admitted that they never had any correspondent evidence on that there crossfire hurricane investigation."

"Corroborating."

"Huh?"

"Never mind."

"These guys have been going after the greatest president in U.S. history ever since he stepped off that golden elevator and announced he was running for the top job," Bubba said.

Thing is, I'm not a Trump fan. The man is arrogant, pompous and as self-centered as they come. But it sure does seem that he is the target of one smear campaign after another - and most have been found out to have little to no substance.

"And then you look at the folks throwing their hat in the ring for president," Bubba continued. "Everyone always talks about election choices being the lesser of evils -

but this is getting ridiculous. What if Biden gets back in? Hell, he's lost now, what will he be like in five or six years when he's closer to 90 than he is 80? And Pence? He was on his way to losing the governor's race before the Donald snatched him out of Indiana and put him in the White House."

Bubba paused.

"I don't know Timmons, this whole thing has got me lower than a snake's belly in a wagon rut."

"I get it, Bubba. Between that and your bedroom problem I can see-"

"What bedroom problem?"

"You said you were having problems with E.D., didn't you?"

"Timmons, you media types don't know nothing. I've got Electile Dysfunction. I'm plain sick of all the politics."

"Electile? Electile? That's not even a word, Bubba. Why do I even bother? Goodbye!"

I jammed the disconnect button but before my finger got there I heard Bubba yelling, "We got him again, boys!"

-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.

Indiana Launches South Korea Office In Support Of Increased Relationships With Future-Focused Korean Industries

IEDC aims to build on significant momentum in energy, electric vehicle, semiconductor sectors with expanded global presence.

Indiana Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers today announced the opening of a new Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) office in Seoul to build on the growing industry ties and economic momentum between Indiana and South Korea. The office, which officially opened July 1, marks the IEDC's second new office expansion this year and its eighth international office, reinforcing the state's commitment to global engagement.

"Indiana's new Seoul office underscores the importance of the state's deepening relationships with Korean companies and their increased interest in a dynamic Hoosier workforce and economy," said Sec. Chambers. "With over \$6 billion of recently announced capital investment from Korean companies and their JV partners, an IEDC office in Korea is a further commitment to building high-tech, future-focused investments and job opportunities to the Hoosier state. After visiting with government and industry leaders in Seoul twice over the past year, I'm confident that Indiana and South Korea share similar visions for our futures and that investing in our growing partnership will deliver mutually beneficial results in industry and innovation."

The IEDC's Seoul

office, which will be managed by Narai Kim and Max Kim, will focus on attracting new foreign direct investment in future-focused sectors, such as energy, mobility, hard tech, advanced manufacturing and life sciences, and building on the industry and innovation partnerships between Indiana and South Korea. The Seoul office will be led by director Narai, a 15-year veteran in international business-to-business, business-to-government and government-to-government projects in the advanced manufacturing sector. She has experience collaborating with governmental organizations around the world to support the technology transfer and licensing programs with a focus on the battery, materials and aerospace sectors. Narai will be joined by manager Max whose background stems from the manufacturing and energy sector with experience in market research and project management for global companies.

Today's news builds on the growing economic relationship between Indiana and South Korea, following two state-led economic development trips to Korea within the last year. In August 2022, Gov. Holcomb and Sec. Chambers traveled to Seoul to target opportunities for investment in energy and electric vehicles, and in March 2023, Sec. Chambers led a delegation to Seoul to participate in the Inter-Battery Conference - Korea's leading battery

exhibition. Indiana was one of eight states invited by the U.S. Embassy in Seoul to exhibit within the conference's U.S. pavilion.

Indiana is home to 14 South Korea-based companies - a number that continues to grow with recent investment announcements from companies like Jaewon Industrial, which is establishing its first U.S. location in Kokomo to support chemical recycling for lithium-ion battery manufacturers; Soulbrain MI, a tier one supplier for the EV industry that is investing \$76.5 million to establish operations in Kokomo; and Samsung SDI, which is investing in two major joint ventures to build new EV battery manufacturing facilities with Stellantis in Kokomo and with General Motors in New Carlisle. Additionally, South Korea hosts operations of six Indiana-based businesses.

At the IEDC, Narai and Max join a robust team of business developers in Indiana and globally, focused on creating the economy of the future in Indiana by advancing high-tech sectors, such as agbiosciences, industry 4.0, life sciences, semiconductor fabrication and design, and electric vehicles. In 2022, the IEDC secured \$22.2 billion in new industry investments, including \$15.5 billion from companies establishing new operations - either as a startup company or as an established business investing in Indiana for the first time.

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2023

Fall Ball Season

When: August 12th/13th - September 23rd/24th, 2023
7 game season to be played on weekends

- NO GAMES played on Labor Day Weekend (Sept. 2nd/3rd)
- Weekday games may be scheduled based on interest or in the event of rainouts
- Single-elimination tournament played September 30th & October 1st

Where: Noblesville Babe Ruth Facility - Logan and Emmerson Fields Forest Park, Noblesville

Who: Everyone - 7th-8th Grade and 9th-12th Grade (based on 2023-2024 School Year Enrollment)

- 7th - 8th Grade League
- 9th - 12th Grade League
- * **Note:** Post HS players are not eligible for Fall Ball
- * 2 Divisions in each league: Travel and Rec
- * **Note:** Travel Division will be limited to 4-6 teams in each league on a first-come, first served basis

Cost: \$80 per individual registration/ \$900 per full-roster team registration
* **Note:** Credit card and processing fees apply and will be added at checkout

How Do I Register? www.noblesvillebaberuthbaseball.com

Registration Deadline: August 6th

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Comparing Virtual Tourism And Actual Tourism



Dear EarthTalk: Is virtual tourism better for the planet than actual tourism?

If you've ever wanted to visit Yosemite National Park, the Great Barrier Reef or Tanzania's Mt Kilimanjaro but couldn't afford the costs or time away, virtual tourism might be just right for you. This latest trend in travel, which entails exploring destinations via virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technologies, has gained popularity in recent years—especially during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when most leisure travel shut down completely. As concerns about environmental sustainability grow, there is a debate about whether virtual tourism might be better for the planet than actual tourism.

One of the primary advantages of virtual tourism is its potential to reduce carbon emissions associated with travel. Traditional tourism often involves long-haul flights, road trips and other modes of transportation that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. By enabling people to experience destinations virtually, there is a reduced need for physical travel, resulting in decreased carbon footprints. This aspect of virtual tourism aligns with global efforts to mitigate climate change and preserve natural resources.

Moreover, virtual tourism can help alleviate the strain on fragile ecosystems. Popular tourist destinations often face challenges related to over-tourism, which leads to overcrowding, habitat degradation, pollution and disruption of local communities. By diverting some travel demand to virtual platforms, the pressure on these vulnerable locations can be reduced, allowing them to maintain their ecological balance.

Beyond reducing environmental impact, virtual tourism can also contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage by enabling people to explore sensitive ancient ruins or historically significant sites without the real-world damage caused by thousands of footsteps traversing them. Another benefit is enhanced accessibility and inclusivity. Virtual tourism provides an opportunity for individuals who may not have the means or ability to travel to experience different places, cultures and natural wonders nonetheless.

However, it is crucial to recognize that virtual tourism has its limitations and potential drawbacks. One of the main criticisms is the loss of the sensory and authentic experience that physical travel provides. Virtual reality can mimic visuals and sounds, but it cannot replicate the taste, smell, touch and overall atmosphere of a destination. The emotional and transformative aspects of travel, such as connecting with local communities

and immersing oneself in different cultures, may be diminished in a virtual environment. Also, the destinations themselves that normally rely financially on tourism can lose income.

Furthermore, virtual tourism relies heavily on technology, which has its own environmental footprint. The production and disposal of electronic devices, as well as the energy consumption of servers and data centers, contribute to e-waste and energy consumption. Advancements in renewable energy can help mitigate these concerns, but the overall impact of technology should be considered in evaluating the environmental benefits of virtual tourism. Ultimately, a combination of virtual and actual tourism, along with sustainable practices, may offer the most comprehensive approach to reducing the environmental impact of travel while still enjoying the unique benefits of physical exploration.

CONTACTS: *Virtual Yosemite, virtualyosemite.org; Google Arts & Culture's The Hidden Worlds of the National Parks, https://artsandculture.withgoogle.com/en-us/national-parks-service/parks; David Attenborough's Great Barrier Reef, attenboroughs-reef.com/.*

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Senator Young Offers Latest Moves And Updates

Young, Colleagues Meet With HRSA, CMS Officials to Discuss Organ Transplant Modernization and Reform.

U.S. Senators Todd Young (R-Ind.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), and Ben Cardin (D-Md.) issued a statement following a roundtable meeting held with Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Administrator Carole Johnson along with officials from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to discuss efforts to reform and modernize the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN).

"Today bipartisan senators attended a meeting with administration officials to discuss efforts to reform the OPTN on behalf of the thousands of American families waiting on an organ transplant. This meeting marks an important step forward as we partner with the administration and continue our efforts to improve the transplant system. Members pressed CMS and HRSA officials for a more coordinated, transparent, equitable and accountable system with robust enforcement. Administration officials also discussed the progress on implementing an OPTN modernization plan and offered support for the Securing the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Act, which we will continue to push to pass before the contract process begins this fall. The cost of inaction is unacceptable, as 17 people die every day waiting for a life-saving transplant."

In May, the senators introduced the Securing the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Act, which builds on the initiative announced in March by HRSA to modernize the OPTN by breaking up the monopoly contract that has been used to run the network since 1986. A companion bill has been reported by the House Energy and Com-

merce Committee.

Young, Colleagues Introduce Bipartisan, Bicameral Bill to Maximize CHIPS and Science Act While Maintaining Environmental Protection.

U.S. Senators Todd Young (R-Ind.), Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.), Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.), and Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), along with U.S. Representatives Jen Kiggans (R-VA-02), Scott Peters (D-CA-50), Brandon Williams (R-NY-22), and Colin Allred (D-TX-32), introduced the Building Chips in America Act, which will maximize the opportunity to bring microchip manufacturing back to America while maintaining environmental protections for clean air and water.

Following the passage of the CHIPS and Science Act, companies throughout the semiconductor supply chain have announced plans to invest hundreds of billions in new domestic manufacturing projects. The Building Chips in America Act would ensure federal environmental reviews are completed in a timely manner for these microchip projects supported by the CHIPS and Science Act by streamlining approval for projects currently under construction and others that could be delayed, and by providing the Secretary of Commerce greater tools to more effectively and efficiently carry out reviews.

This will give the administration additional authority to more effectively implement the CHIPS and Science Act and maximize its potential to boost domestic microchip manufacturing, strengthen domestic supply chains, lower costs, and improve national security.

"The CHIPS and Science Act included manufacturing incentives vital to increasing chip production here in the U.S., protecting our national security interests and boosting our economic security at the same time. However, as

implementation proceeds, unnecessary regulatory burdens are threatening to slow down these critical investments in domestic semiconductor manufacturing and pause construction that has already begun," said Senator Young. "The Building Chips in America Act will cut red tape and solidify our nation's ability to successfully onshore chip production as quickly as possible."

"Our CHIPS Law is bringing billions of dollars in investment to Arizona's microchip manufacturing industry—creating thousands of good-paying jobs, many of which don't require a four-year degree. The Building Chips in America Act will ensure these critical projects can continue construction on time while protecting our clean air and water," said Senator Kelly. "I will keep working with my Republican and Democratic colleagues and with Secretary Raimondo and the administration, to ensure the CHIPS Act is implemented to maximize the impact for our economy and our national security."

"Our nation's economic and national security demands that we bring back—as quickly as possible—American production of strategic commodities like semiconductors, which requires eliminating the unnecessary bureaucratic red tape that stands in the way," said Senator Hagerty. "I am pleased to join Senator Kelly in introducing this legislation to speed up these crucial American projects and advance commonsense permitting reform."

"By investing in Ohio semiconductor manufacturing and Ohio talent, we can restore critical supply chains, help lower costs for Ohioans, and create thousands of jobs," said Senator Brown. "This legislation will help prevent delays to semiconductor manufacturing projects the CHIPS Act made possible and encourage future investments in American manufacturing."

Braun, 4 GOP Senators Seek Answers On Pentagon's \$6 Billion Accounting Error

U.S. Senator Mike Braun (R-Ind.), joined by Senators Josh Hawley (R-Mo.), JD Vance (R-Ohio), Mike Lee (R-Utah), and Roger Marshall (R-Kan.), sent a letter to Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin demanding an explanation from the Department of Defense (DoD) for the reported \$6.2 billion accounting error in U.S. security assistance to Ukraine. As President Biden arrives in Lithuania for a critical NATO summit, the Senators called for limits on military aid to Ukraine and questioned the DoD's accounting procedures.

The letter reads in part: "On June 20, 2023, a DoD spokesperson asserted that DoD had been 'overestimating the value' of U.S. security assistance to Ukraine by a combined \$6.2 billion over fiscal years 2022 and 2023," the Senators wrote.

"These so-called 'valuation errors' are particularly concerning given the nature and scope of U.S. aid to Ukraine—over \$113 billion thus far [...] This is a transparent attempt to bypass Congress for additional funds, while continuing to prioritize Ukraine over more vital U.S. interests, including deterring China in the Pacific."

"By using creative accounting to conceal the actual cost of supporting Ukraine, you appear to be circumventing the American people's elected representatives. Congress, not DoD, possesses the power of the purse," the Senators concluded.

The full letter is as follows:

July 10, 2023
Honorable Lloyd Austin
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Austin, We write to inquire about Department of Defense (DOD) accounting procedures for U.S. security assistance to Ukraine.

On June 20, 2023, a DOD spokesperson asserted that DOD had been "overestimating the value" of U.S. security assistance to Ukraine by a combined \$6.2 billion over fiscal years 2022 and 2023. Specifically, the spokesperson noted that "[military] services used replacement costs rather than net book value" in many cases, and that this sum would subsequently "go back into the pot of money" allocated for Presidential Drawdown Authority (PDA) for Ukraine.

These so-called "valuation errors" are particularly concerning given the nature and scope of U.S. aid to Ukraine—over \$113 billion thus far. By relying largely on PDA for Ukraine security assistance, DOD sends existing equipment to Ukraine and purchases new equipment to replace U.S. stocks. The true cost to American taxpayers for supporting Ukraine is therefore the replacement cost, not the net book value. While accounting consistency is certainly in the interest of good governance—especially given DOD's habitual inability to pass a financial audit—this is a transparent attempt to bypass Congress for additional funds, while continuing to prioritize Ukraine over more vital U.S. interests, including deterring China in the Pacific. This is yet another example of why we do not support further appropriations to Ukraine.

By using creative accounting to conceal the actual cost of supporting Ukraine, you appear to be circumventing the Ameri-

can people's elected representatives. Congress, not DOD, possesses the power of the purse. We will continue to safeguard this constitutional responsibility, and therefore request answers to the following questions no later than August 10, 2023.

- How does DOD justify the use of net book value vice replacement costs when the equipment given to Ukraine must be replaced with new equipment?

- How is DOD calculating the net book value of equipment given to Ukraine?

- Prior to this updated accounting guidance, which military services were using replacement cost and which were using net book value or other methods?

- What is the total replacement cost to backfill U.S. equipment and munitions stocks that have been drawn down for Ukraine?

- If DOD intends to use net book value going forward, but still needs to replace equipment for U.S. stocks based on replacement value, how does DOD propose to fund the full replacement cost?

- Given the apparent difficulties DOD is experiencing with properly accounting for Ukraine security assistance, how would a Special Inspector General for Ukraine Assistance aid you in this effort?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Josh Hawley
United States Senator
JD Vance
United States Senator
Mike Lee
United States Senator
Roger Marshall, MD
United States Senator
Mike Braun
United States Senator

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Indiana State Fair Unveils Additional NEW Exhibits

Indiana State Fair | July 28-August 20, 2023 (closed Mondays & Tuesdays)

The Indiana State Fair today rolled out further details on new experiences guests can expect when visiting the great Indiana State Fair, happening July 28-August 20 (Fair is closed Mondays and Tuesdays).

The Fair announced basketball theme exhibits and events earlier this month, and now adds many more NEW, fun events fairgoers can look forward to only at the 2023 Indiana State Fair.

•**Illuminate!** Don't miss the debut of *Illuminate!*, a custom light show full of oversized lanterns is sure to immerse fairgoers of all ages into a world of wonder in ways that may surprise even the most illuminated! Nestled within Expo Hall, this new exhibit is FREE with paid Fair admission. Experience this spectacular display of lights through the first two weeks of the Fair! July 28-Aug 6, 9AM-9PM: Expo Hall

•**Cornhole Tournament** pres. by Scorebox21 - Get your tossin' arm ready! Please join us for our FIRST Indiana State Fair Cornhole Tournament on July 29! Sign up for your chance at a \$2,000 prize. July 29, 1PM: Purdue Extension Building

•**Otter Adventure** - Come take a splash with this interactive, up-close-and-personal show with the sweetest creatures on the Fairgrounds! Slide in to the MHS Family Fun Park August 2-20 at 11AM, 2PM and 5PM to catch Otter Adventure. Aug 2-20 (times vary): MHS Family Fun Park

•**Swiftly Swine Racing Pigs** - You can't see pigs fly but you can see them RACE! You haven't lived until you've seen these racing pigs compete for the grand prize, an Oreo cookie! Check out

the races on the east end of the Hoosier Lottery Grandstand every Friday through Sunday at 11:30AM, 12:30PM, 3PM, 6PM and 7:30PM! Dates and Times Vary: Main Street

•**Xpogo: Extreme Stunt Team** - You won't want to miss The Xpogo Stunt Team- competitors on two seasons of America's Got Talent! Jumping over 9 feet in the air on next generations pogo sticks while throwing down flips and incredible tricks, Xpogo will THRILL you 'til the final bounce. Catch their performances every day of the Fair in The Backyard!

•**Daily (times vary): The Backyard & Hoopfest**

•**Parakeet Encounter** - Get up close and personal with friendly parakeets at the State Fair! Bring the whole family to experience a delightful encounter with these colorful birds. The Parakeet Encounter is located just west of the Indiana Young Farmers Building. Daily 9AM-8PM: DNR Building

•**The Rope Warrior** - The Rope Warrior has been performing his interactive and visually entertaining jump rope show all over the world for the last 25 years. Career highlights include: Performances for Boris Yeltsin in Russia, and for Presidents Clinton and Bush at their inaugurations. He has made over 100 national television appearances and currently holds three world records. Dates and Times Vary: Main Street

•**Indiana Musician Showcase** - Enjoy the music of local Indiana musicians performing around the State Fairgrounds in many locations! Stop by The Backyard, Wine Garden and The Taproom.

•**The Mercantile** - Enjoy a new shopping district you won't want to miss!

ekō Solutions Homes Bring Peace Of Mind To Displaced Families At Camp G.R.A.V.E.S.

In December of 2021, the worst tornado outbreak in Kentucky history decimated the Bluegrass State, flattening entire towns and leaving hundreds homeless. The shocking images out of Western Kentucky attracted global media coverage and an outpouring of support from around the world.

ekō Solutions, a division of Land Betterment based in Fishers, Indiana, which specializes in low-cost upcycled shipping container homes, immediately sent four units to Dawson Springs to house families displaced by the storms. Now, nearly two years later, as the news cycle moves on and as the tornadoes fade into memory for much of the public, ekō Solutions continues to help affected individuals and families in Western Kentucky with the tall task of rebuilding their communities and their lives.

Last month, ekō Solutions placed six units on site at Camp G.R.A.V.E.S., a nonprofit organization in Water Valley working to provide short-term housing solutions and a host of educational and employment resources to displaced families. The current plan is to house around 30 families on the site — 14 in tiny homes, 16 in camper sites and six in ekō Solutions container homes.

"After my apartment in Mayfield was destroyed, I didn't know what to do," said Jared Medlock, a Camp G.R.A.V.E.S., resident who recently moved into a new unit provided by ekō Solutions. "Now I

feel like I have some kind of stability under my feet."

That sense of stability comes at a critical time for Medlock, who was diagnosed with brain cancer last year. He says searching for housing while battling cancer was an exhausting and harrowing experience.

"First FEMA arranged temporary housing for me in Murray, but that funding ended last month," said Medlock. "Then my case worker told me about Camp G.R.A.V.E.S., and I was accepted, now I'll be here for the next 18 months."

Medlock will be living in an ekō Solutions container home, which features an open floor plan, full kitchen and full bathroom. He says the home, which was built using the mainframe from an upcycled steel shipping container, will give him space to focus on his health while rebuilding his life.

"It's been nonstop stress, with my health issues and looking for housing, it's been a 24/7 job on its own," Medlock said. "But the container home is awesome, it's a really neat way to do it. When you walk in you just feel at ease. I'd love to buy one for myself one day."

Five other individuals and their families will occupy ekō Solutions homes on the site. They began moving into the units in June.

For more information on Camp G.R.A.V.E.S., and to learn about volunteer opportunities, visit www.campgraves.org

BETSY From Page A1

project will improve east-west connectivity and accessibility in Noblesville by building a bridge over the White River, connecting Pleasant Street from River Road to Ind. 32 and improving Pleasant Street from 10th Street to Ind. 37.

Drivers should avoid Eighth Street in that area pretty much south of the Mill Top Banquet & Conference Center. (By the way, whenever I pass through the 10th and Pleasant intersection, I wonder if folks are still craving the Dairy Queen cool treats, Firehouse Pizza and burritos from El Camino Real as much as I do.)

On the west side of Noblesville, just west of the White River, Indiana 32 has been under construction for a while now to construct two roundabouts, at Ind. 38 and at River Road. Traveling west, to get into the Culver's Restaurant parking lot, or the Ace Hardware in the adjacent strip mall, we drive into the River-view Health Emergency Entrance off of the new roundabout at Ind. 38 and drive to the back of the

hospital parking lot and weave our way into the strip mall's parking lot to get to Culver's and Ace and other businesses there. And access to River Road, from Ind. 32, is only available as "right in, right out" on the southern leg of the road at the intersection.

Heading to Westfield earlier this week, I had forgotten that Ind. 32 was closed on the east side, heading into downtown Westfield, between Willow Creek Way and Grassy Branch Road, for crews to complete a box culvert. The work is expected to be completed by late August, according to the Hamilton County Highway Department. While the official detour is U.S. 31 to Ind. 38 to Little Chicago Road, we detoured south on Carey Road, west on 171st Street to Union Street, back to Ind. 32, to get around the construction.

Tired of all the construction? It's not going to end anytime soon.

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



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Facts & Fun



38

Jay

%

Number

÷

Stumpers

1. What percentage of people live in Portland?

≥

2. How old is Jay County?

≤

3. How many live in the county, but not in Portland?

≥

4. What is the population density of the county?

≤

%

Answers: 1. About 29 percent 2. 183 Years

3. Around 15,030 People 4. 55/sq. mi.

÷

Did You Know?

- Jay County was formed in 1836
- It is the only county in the United States named for John Jay, co-author of The Federalist Papers, Secretary of Foreign Affairs under the Articles of Confederation, and first Chief Justice of the United States.
- According to the 2010 census, the county has a total area of 384.08 square miles (994.8 km²), of which 383.90 square miles (994.3 km²) (or 99.95%) is land and 0.18 square miles (0.47 km²) (or 0.05%) is water.
- The population in 2010 was 21,253
- The county seat, Potland has a population of 6,223

Got Words?

Why do you think it was decided to name the county after Jon Jay and why do you think it's the only county in the United States to bear his name?

Word

Scrambler

Unscramble the words below!

1. AYJ NTUCOY

2. FLSTDRAERI

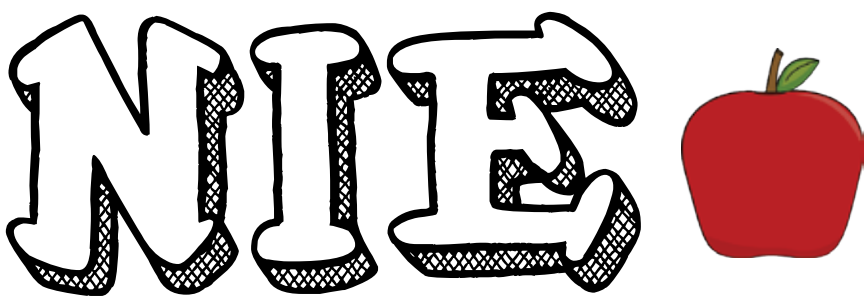
3. SJUCIE

4. QUIUNE

5. DETNUI TESTA

Answers: 1. Jay County 2. Federalist 3. Justice 4. Unique 5. United States

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THURSDAY

Indiana the Strong

Thursday, July 13, 2023

A8



Photo courtesy of Purdue Agricultural Communications

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced plans to strengthen the substantiation of animal-raising claims on food labels, including those related to free-range chickens.

Food Labels Offer Consumer Choices But Also Confusion About Animal Welfare

Animal-based food products often come packaged in a wide array of information labels, including organic, natural, grass-fed, humanely raised and pasture-raised. "There's some confusion about food labels related to animal welfare," said Purdue University's Marisa Erasmus, associate professor of animal sciences and a specialist in animal behavior and welfare. "It's typically up to the consumer to do their homework and figure out what these different claims mean. Labels do provide consumers with a choice because, in theory, you can choose products that align with your personal and social values." Erasmus' comments follow the U.S. Department of Agriculture's newly launched effort to strengthen the validity of animal-raising claims. Erasmus and her colleagues will be watching to see what additional documentation animal food producers will need to provide regarding food label claims.

In general, she noted, producers need to submit certain claims about their food products to the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service for approval. The FSIS

regulates certain food labels and claims on meat and poultry products. Some claims require that producers submit documentation before approval is granted. "One point of confusion is which claims are associated with animal welfare certification organizations that use third-party verification," Erasmus said. "Producers that work with one of these organizations can put the latter's seal on their products to indicate that the animals were raised according to certain standards. Typically, those standards are intended to offer higher animal welfare than what you would see with a conventional product. But a lot of consumers don't necessarily know what these different seals mean. And the absence of a label claim does not mean that food animals were raised inhumanely."

Other labels have more to do with how people perceive the health benefits of a product and do not relate as much to the animal's welfare. "We definitely want to make sustainable, healthy choices," Erasmus said. "But just because an animal product has an organic label on it doesn't always mean that animal

had a better life than an animal that wasn't raised organically."

The USDA regulates organics through the National Organic Program, which offers a label distinct from those provided by other sources.

The idea of "no antibiotics added" is another claim that can cause confusion.

"This label is confusing because antibiotics are occasionally used to treat live animals or prevent illness, but antibiotics are not added to meat products."

If animals are given antibiotics at some point in their lives, then there is a mandatory withdrawal period. That period allows the antibiotics to pass from the animal's system before any products are created from that animal.

Erasmus and her colleagues work closely with producers in Indiana and across the U.S. to support humane animal production practices and conduct research providing guidelines for animal welfare and management. The Poultry Extension Collaborative provides more details about animal food product labeling in the July 2023 issue of Poultry Press.

Ivy Tech Community College Honors Dr. Christine Herr As Its Statewide Winner Of The Excellence In Dual Credit Instruction President's Award

Ivy Tech Community College honored Dr. Christine Herr of Hagerstown, Indiana as its Statewide Winner of the Excellence in Dual Credit Instruction President's Award, the highest honor for Ivy Tech dual credit faculty. Winners from the College's 19 campuses were also recognized at a special ceremony in June in Indianapolis.

"Dual credit faculty provide students with skills, knowledge, and competencies aligned with clear career pathways and seamless college transfer," said Ivy Tech President Sue Ellspermann. "Dual credit programming taught by credentialed high school faculty is of tremendous value to our students and our state. By helping students earn post-secondary credentials while in high school, we're accelerating Indiana's economic growth and Hoosier prosperity."

The Statewide Winner for the Excellence in Dual Credit Instruction President's Award is a competitive selection process determined by the College's K-14 Awards and Summit Planning Sub-Committee, an extension of the K-14 Academic Advisory Committee. The Committee is comprised of six Ivy Tech Community College program chairs who represent different Ivy Tech campuses and disciplines.

The winner is chosen based on specific award criteria, including their use of creative and/or innovative instructional techniques, engaging students in active learning, retaining students over the course of the semester, mastering and applying methods and techniques of excellence in instruction, and more.

"I am blessed to have two careers in my lifetime that have allowed me to live in a small rural town and work with amazing people promoting agriculture, and I am honored to accept this reward," said Statewide Winner of the Excellence in Dual Credit Instruction President's Award, Dr. Christine Herr. "This event recog-

nizes phenomenal teachers each year who use their gifts to plant seeds and nurture students on a daily basis, helping them grow and leave the classroom a better person."

Ivy Tech Richmond's Director of K-14 Initiatives Melissa Kircher Smith, and Agriculture Program Chair Allison Steele, nominated Dr. Herr for the award. "Dr. Herr's natural passion for encouraging students to appreciate the learning process, combined with her ability to tap into her own education and experience as a veterinarian, make her agriculture and chemistry dual credit classes rigorous, yet enjoyable. It's not unusual to find students checking the garden, performing an experiment, or dancing in the classroom during a visit!" wrote Kircher Smith.

"Our dual credit faculty go above and beyond to ensure our students receive the best value for their education and pair that with innovative approaches to ensure the possibility of a post-secondary credential," said Interim Vice President of K-14 and Strategic Initiatives, Monica Hingst. "This award recognizes instructors who best demonstrate excellence in instruction and exemplifies the mission of Ivy Tech."

The Excellence in Dual Credit Instruction President's Award is modeled after the College's President's Award to recognize College faculty and adjunct faculty members from Ivy Tech locations throughout the state.

A full list of the statewide honorees is included below.

- Anderson: Leah Perry, Science Mount Vernon High School
- Bloomington: Elbert "Buddy" Hart, Design, Lost River Career Cooperation
- Columbus: Robin Perry, Business, Seymour High School
- Evansville: Glenn Goffinet, Automotive & Advanced Manufacturing, Tell City Jr./Sr. High School
- Fort Wayne/Warsaw: Ashley Johnson, Entrepreneurship, DeKalb High School
- Hamilton County: Kim Kaiser, Business & Marketing, Hamilton

Heights High School

- Indianapolis: Rene Walker, Health Sciences, Pike Career and STEM Center
- Kokomo: Amy Lancaster, English, Peru High School
- Lafayette: Melissa Colonis, Math, Lafayette-Jefferson High School
- Lake County: Dawn Combis, Entrepreneurship, Lake Central High School
- Lawrenceburg/Batesville: Colleen Tinchler, Foreign Language, Spanish, Franklin County High School
- Madison: emeka Koren, Science, Madison Consolidated High School
- Marion: Michelle Harrold, Math, Madison Grant High School
- Muncie/Henry County: John Thompson, Chemistry, New Castle High School
- Richmond: Dr. Christine Herr, Chemistry & Agriculture, Hagerstown High School
- Sellersburg: Michael Day, Mathematics, Silver Creek High School
- South Bend/Elkhart: Dee Dee Gerber, English, Mishawaka High School
- Terre Haute: Samantha Woodard, English, Parke Heritage High School
- Valparaiso: Laci Earle, Business, Washington Township High School

About Ivy Tech Community College

Ivy Tech Community College is Indiana's largest public postsecondary institution and the nation's largest singly accredited statewide community college system, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Ivy Tech has campuses throughout Indiana and also serves thousands of students annually online. It serves as the state's engine of workforce development, offering associate degrees, short-term certificate programs, industry certifications, and training that aligns to the needs of the community. The College provides seamless transfer to other colleges and universities in Indiana, as well as out of state, for a more affordable route to a Bachelor's degree. Follow Ivy Tech on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn for the most up-to-date information.

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