

➔ TODAY'S VERSE
Psalm 119:9-11 "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." (NIV)



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

What makes Bekah Vanderpool smile? "Seeing all the kids have fun at the things we organize," said the 16-year-old, a Carmel High School junior and president of Hamilton County 4-H Junior Leaders. She headed up Junior Leaders' annual Halloween Carnival, Haunted House and Hayride on Tuesday night at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Noblesville. Bekah organized all of the kids' games and helped with the candy for the event, which attracted more than 500 families, a record attendance, according to Lisa Hanni, Purdue Extension Hamilton County program assistant. Bekah is the daughter of Charlie and Andrea Vanderpool and is heading into her ninth year of 4-H. Bekah dressed in costume as an M&M candy at the Halloween party. Why 4-H? "My grandma was an Extension Leader for one of the counties in Indiana. So it's kind of like a family thing we've done. All of my sisters are doing it (4-H)." She joined Carmel 4 C's 4-H Club before getting involved with Junior Leaders, which is her biggest involvement in the 4-H program. During the Fair, she shows 4-H Arts and Crafts and Sewing, the latter of which is her favorite project. Favorite food at Fair? "Elephant ears." Favorite activity at Tuesday's Halloween party. "Cake walk." What she likes most about Junior Leaders? "I have a lot of fun." Enrollment is now open to join Hamilton County 4-H for the 2024 year, now through Jan. 15, with the theme, "Let's Have S'More Fun." Enroll in 4-H and earn a s'more kit. Stop by the 4-H Office in the Exhibition Center at the 4-H Fairgrounds 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Enroll online at <https://in.4Honline.com>. Also, order poinsettias now through Nov. 14 from any Hamilton County Junior Leader at \$10 per 6-inch pot with pickup in early December.

And Another Thing...

1. Volunteers Needed:

The Westfield-Washington Historical Society is in need of volunteers to host the opening of the Museum and Barker Cabin. The Museum and Barker Cabin are open Saturdays from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. For those who have not volunteered for one or the other, training will be provided. Please consider helping the Historical Society by volunteering to be a Museum or Barker Cabin host. We need two volunteers for Saturday 23rd immediately. Text Jeff Beals at 317-460-4844 or email jbeals@wwhs.us to be scheduled.

2. Halloween Fun For The Whole Family

The First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville would like to invite our community to a free Trunk-or-Treat event in the church parking lot. * Bring your little ghouls and goblins and enjoy lots of treats, a make-n-take craft, music, movie and a brown bag hotdog dinner. Bring the whole family and wear your costumes! October 28 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Noblesville 1207 Conner Street. *In the event of inclement weather, festivities will be inside our fellowship hall.

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Reimagine Pleasant Street Offers Some Updates

Recent and Upcoming Work
The City of Noblesville is sharing updates, details, and interesting aspects about the Reimagine Pleasant Street project to keep you updated on our progress. We encourage you to follow the project on X and Facebook!

Tour Winners
Two lucky Noblesville residents recently toured the Reimagine Pleasant Street job site.

Upcoming Events
Noblesville Main Street's First Friday/Fall Fest
Noblesville Main Street's First Friday/Fall Fest will be held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6, on the square, and we hope to see you there! Stop by the Reimagine Pleasant Street space to ask questions, get free swag, and even take part in a roundabout tricycle race!

State of the City
Mayor Chris Jensen will

➔ See STREET Page A5

Enroll In Fall Break Camps Today!

Following the Hamilton Southeastern Schools calendar, Fishers Parks is excited to again offer Fall Break Camps October 16-20! All Fall Break Camps are at the Maker Labs inside the Fishers Parks HQ (8100 E. 106th Street). Register now to secure your spot for the following camp options:

Stained Glass Camp
8:30 a.m. to noon each day | Ages 12+

During this fun and informative day camp guided by Master Repurposers, learn the process of creating stained glass from start to finish using the copper-foil technique. No prior experience is required, and all supplies are included in the cost of registration. Campers will finish the week with their very own custom, framed stained-glass piece.

Art Camp with Indianapolis Art Center
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 1 to 5 p.m. each day | Ages 6-9 or 10-14

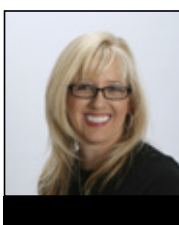
Offered in partnership with Indianapolis Art Center, this art camp is modeled after IAC's summer art camp programs. Each day, campers will participate in hands-on, start-to-end art activities to explore techniques in painting, drawing, and building. The week will coincide with a student-led art show for friends and family. All supplies are provided in the cost of registration.



Photos provided by Michelle Dixon

This Saturday, three bands – Fast Cadillac, RoughHouse and Strawbury Jam – will perform at Battle4Betty Battle of the Bands, a fundraising event, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the VFW Post at 654 S. Ninth St., Noblesville. Admission is free to the family-friendly event.

Battle Of The Bands At VFW To Benefit Breast Cancer Patients



BETSY REASON
From The Editor's Desk...

Our local Ralph Lehr Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in Noblesville will open its doors to the community this Saturday for an all-day event called Battle for Betty.

Money goes to the eight-year-old Remember Betty Foundation, a nonprofit raising money to help minimize the financial burden for patients with breast cancer and survivors so that they can focus on recovery and quality of life.

It's for a good cause with perfect timing. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Noblesville's Michelle Dixon, who is helping find sponsors and donors for the event, said she was introduced to the Remember Betty Foundation by her 1989 Noblesville High School classmate Lorrena Story who, Dixon said, "asked me if I would be interested in helping her start up an Indiana chapter called Team Betty Indiana.

Story is a "BlockHead," a fan following New Kids on the Block, a boy band that was highly successful in the late 1980s and early 1990s, paving the way for future boy bands. Danny Wood is a member of the band, and his mother, Elizabeth "Betty" Wood was diagnosed with breast cancer and lost her battle. The BlockHeads rallied around him, and he decided to honor her memory and put funds raised by BlockHeads and started the Remember Betty Foundation. His sister, Bethany, is a breast cancer survivor and the director of Remember Betty.

"You don't have to be a Block Head to volunteer," Dixon said. This Saturday, three bands

Want TO GO?

What: Battle4Betty Battle of the Bands.
When: 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday.
Where: Ralph Lehr Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6246, 654 S. Ninth St., Noblesville.
How much: Free.
Who are the bands: Fast Cadillac, 2:30-3:30 p.m.; RoughHouse, 4-5 p.m.; and Strawbury Jam, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
What else: 50/50 raffle, silent auction, live auction, cash bar, T-shirt sales, \$10 pulled pork/chicken plate.
Who to contact: Email indiana@rememberbetty.com or call Michelle Dixon at 317-292-1252 or Lorrena Story at 317-965-3901.

-- Fast Cadillac, Roughhouse and Strawbury Jam -- will perform at the fundraising event, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the VFW Post at 654 S. Ninth St., Noblesville. Admission is free to the family-friendly event. Fast Cadillac will perform at 2:30 p.m., RoughHouse at 4 p.m. and Strawbury Jam at 5:30 p.m.

Two special live auction items will be auctioned between band sets, an Epiphone Les Paul Junior Guitar and a signed bottle of Flecha Azul Tequila by actor Mark Wahlburg, past member of the New Kids on the Block band. Silent auctions, 50/50 raffles, and selling meals and T-shirts are among the ways that fundraising will occur.

Food will be available for \$10 per plate. The menu features pulled pork and chicken, coleslaw, baked beans, chips, cookies and brownies.

Event T-shirts are \$15. The event will also have a memory/honor banner in which

➔ See BETSY Page A5

➔ INSIDE TODAY

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➔ TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

If you feel overwhelmed, write down your to-do list and prioritize it. Simplify large tasks into smaller ones. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Times and online at thetimes24-7.com



➔ HONEST HOOSIER

Remember the little rectangle box that had a mask and very thin costume in it we got for trick or treating?



➔ TODAY'S QUOTE

Where there is no imagination there is no horror.
-Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

➔ TODAY'S JOKE

What did Dr. Frankenstein get when he put a goldfish brain in the body of his dog? I don't know, but it is great at chasing submarines.

➔ OBITUARIES

None



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The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 7:46 a.m.
SET: 7:25 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures

High: 74 °F
Low: 65 °F



Today is...

- Global James Bond Day
- Do Something Nice Day
- World Teacher's Day



What Happened On This Day

- 2000 Bulldozer Revolution in former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. President Slobodan Milosevic was overthrown after hundreds of thousands of protesters gathered in Belgrade to protest against recently held elections.
- 1962 James Bond makes his theatrical debut. The fictional British spy with the code name 007 was featured on the big screen for the first time in Dr. No. Based on the 1958 Ian Fleming novel of the same name, the movie starred Sean Connery as James Bond.
- 1947 First televised presidential speech in the United States. Harry Truman, the 33rd President of the US, called on Americans to use less grain to help Europe which was still reeling from the effects of the Second World War.



Births On This Day

- 1958 Neil deGrasse Tyson
American astrophysicist
- 1829 Chester A. Arthur
21st President of the United States

Deaths On This Day

- 2011 Steve Jobs
co-founded Apple Inc.
- 1813 Tecumseh
American tribal leader

13 WTHR 7 DAY FORECAST

62/87 WARM, CLOUDY HUMID	65/74 WARM, LIKELY MORE THUNDER	58/70 WARM, BREEZY, BUMPY LATE	43/59 CLOUDY BREEZY, COOLER	41/58 A.M. RAIN, CLOUDS THICKEN	42/64 MORE SUN, NOT AS COOL	42/66 SUNNY
WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE

Buffalo Wild Wings To Support Local Noblesville Community Through Its Team Up For Kids Campaign

Buffalo Wild Wings Foundation is giving back to communities by donating over \$1 million to local organizations.

This fall, Buffalo Wild Wings will raise over \$1 million to deliver on their mission to "help build communities where all kids can thrive, compete and belong to a team." The donations will benefit the Buffalo Wild Wings Foundation and go towards supporting hundreds of organizations around the country. In Noblesville,

Buffalo Wild Wings is proud to partner with the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville, Inc.

As a thank you, any guest who donates \$5 to the campaign at the register will receive a coupon for 6 free Boneless wings to redeem at their next visit.

"The Team Up for Kids Campaign is a time when our restaurants and our guests come together to support kids in their community and across the country. We are proud to

partner with local organizations who make such a great impact, like Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville, Inc. and other youth nonprofits," said Stuart Brown, Executive Director of Inspire Brands Foundation.

Guests can visit any Buffalo Wild Wings beginning October 1 through October 31 and donate \$5 to make a difference for kids in their community. Donations can also be made online at foundation.buffalowildwings.com.

Hocus Pick-Ups, Humane Society Celebrates Spooky Season With Adoption Special

Someone has bewitched the Humane Society for Hamilton County (HSHC). The animals are running amuck... amuck, amuck, amuck! In hopes of solving this spooky situation, the adoption fee for black dogs and orange cats will be \$31 for the entire month of October, some exclusions apply.

"Our goal is to adopt as many cats and dogs into forever homes as possible, just in time for fall," explained Lily Pesavento, Community Engagement

Manager for HSHC. "We have so many animals in need of loving homes and since the love of a pet is pure magic, we're happy to help conjure up completed families."

Things to know for the Hocus Pick-Ups Adoption Special:

- Those interested in adopting a cat or dog can fill out an application in advance at hshcadoptions.com.

- If you are interested in adopting a dog, bring your current dog(s) with you to

meet.

- All humans in the household must meet with the animal.

- If you rent or lease, bring a copy of your pet policy.

- Bring current vaccine records for every pet you have in the home.

- All adoptions include spay/neuter, microchip, one round of vaccinations/deworming, wellness exam, and a bag of starter food.

- Must present government-issued ID.

City Of Fishers Partners With Greater Indy Habitat For Humanity For Panel Build

The City of Fishers is excited to partner with Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity for a Panel Build event on Friday, October 6 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Holland Park (1 Park Drive).

Nearly 100 volunteers and community partners will assemble wall panels for a future home for a family in need in the Greater Indianapolis area.

"This event symbolizes what Fishers is all about - community, collaboration, and compassion. Through partnerships like this one with Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity and with the help of local business sponsors, we are not just building a home but bringing our community together to work toward a common

cause," said Mayor Scott Fadness.

A board cutting ceremony will take place at 10:30 a.m. with Mayor Fadness, Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity and the future homeowner.

"Homeownership for me and my children would mean lifelong stability," said Briannca, the Habitat for Humanity homebuyer who will build her home alongside the City of Fishers. "I will be the first person in my immediate family to be a homeowner. I will be able to show my children that it is achievable with hard work, and more importantly dedication."

"Habitat's mission to bring people together to build homes, communities and hope will be on

full display this Friday alongside volunteers with the City of Fishers," said Abri Hochstetler, VP of Development & Communications for Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity. "The opportunity for first-time homeownership is becoming more difficult to achieve so we are grateful for the generous support from the Fishers community to help make this dream of homeownership possible for Briannca and her family."

Special thanks to sponsors CRG Residential, Indy Fuel, Meyer Najem and RQAW for contributing funding and volunteers to make this possible.

Learn more about the project at ThisIsFishers.com/HabitatForHumanity.

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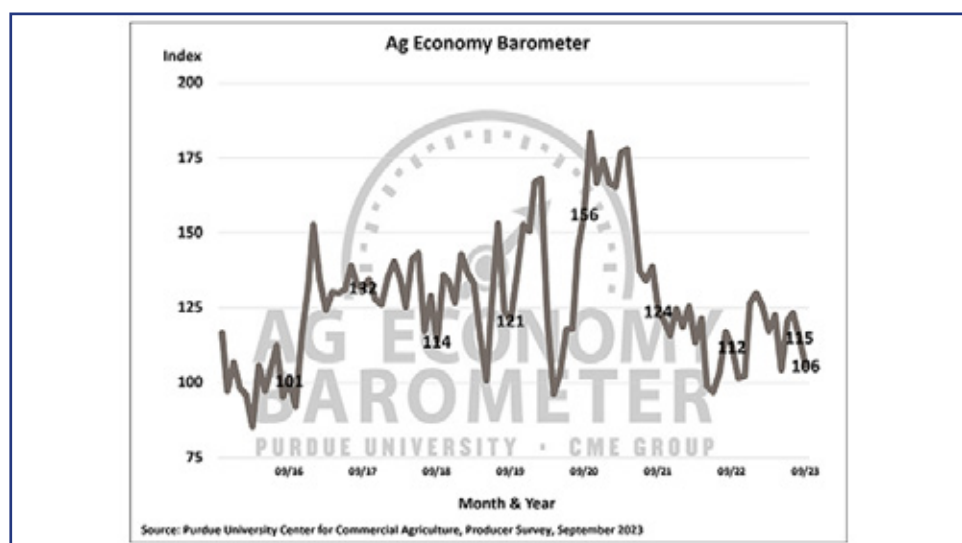
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Weakening Crop Prices, High Production Costs Weigh On Farmer Sentiment

Agricultural producers' sentiment declined for the second month in a row as the Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer index fell 9 points to a reading of 106 in September. Producers expressed concern about their current situation as well as future prospects for their farms. The Current Conditions and Future Expectations indices both declined 10 points to a reading of 98 and 109, respectively. Notably, all three indices stand below their readings from one year ago. This month's Ag Economy Barometer survey was conducted from Sept. 11-15.

"Weakening prices for major crops and ongoing concerns about high production costs and interest rates weighed on producers' minds this month," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture.

Producers continue to point to high input costs as a top concern for their farming operations in the year ahead. One-third of respondents in this month's survey cite it as their number one concern, followed by rising interest rates, chosen by 25% of respondents, and lower crop and/or livestock prices, chosen by 22% of farmers. The percentage of producers choosing lower crop and/or livestock prices has increased since the beginning of the year when just 16% of producers cited it as a



Graphic courtesy of Purdue/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer/James Mintert

top concern.

There was a small uptick in the Farm Capital Investment Index, up 2 points to a reading of 39 in September; however, three-fourths of producers still said now is a bad time for large investments. The primary reasons among those who feel that way are rising interest rates and the high cost of machinery and new construction. Notably, 40% of producers who feel it's a bad time to invest cited rising interest rates as a key reason, up from 35% last month, and up from 14% when this question was first posed in July 2022. This month there was a slight rise in the percentage of producers who said now is a good time to make investments, citing strong cash flows on their farm operations as a primary reason.

The Farm Financial Performance Index was unchanged in September compared to August, leaving the index at a reading

of 86. In a nod to how variable conditions have been around the country during this growing season, there were small increases in the percentages of producers who 1) expect better conditions and 2) expect worse financial conditions compared to last year.

Producers remain relatively optimistic about farmland values, which Mintert called surprising given the percentage of respondents who expressed concerns about high input costs, rising interest rates, and the risk of lower crop and livestock prices. The Short-Term Farmland Value Expectations Index was unchanged at a reading of 126, while the long-term index rose 2 points to 153. Respondents who expect farmland values to rise over the next five years continue to point to non-farm investor demand for farmland along with inflation as the top two reasons for farmland values to continue rising.

The September survey included several questions posed to corn and soybean growers to learn more about their perspective on cover crops. Just over half (52%) of corn/soybean growers said they currently plant cover crops on a portion of their acreage and, from this group, nearly half (47%) said they used cover crops on no more than 25% of their acreage. Among those corn and soybean growers who reported having used cover crops, 41% said they had used cover crops for five years or less, while 14% said they've been using cover crops for more than 20 years. Respondents who use cover crops cited improvements to soil health and erosion control as primary reasons. Farmers who tried planting cover crops but ultimately chose to discontinue their use cited low profitability, lowered crop yields, insufficient soil benefits and a lack of resources to plant cover crops.

Big Head Todd And The Monsters To Play Palladium On Jan. 18

Tickets on sale 10 a.m. Friday at TheCenterPresents.org.

Known for their exciting live shows, rockers Big Head Todd and the Monsters will make their debut appearance at the Center for the Performing Arts on Jan. 18.

The band has become an American institution after more than three decades of writing, recording and touring, delivering over 3,500 performances with a jam-friendly sound that draws from blues and country music. Their 1993 breakout album *Sister Sweetly* went platinum on the strength of enduring radio staples like "Broken Hearted Savior," "It's Alright" and "Bittersweet." The Colorado quartet consists of guitarist-vocalist Todd Park Mohr (also on keys, sax, harmonica), Brian Nevin (drums, percussion), Rob Squires (bass, vocals) and Jeremy Lawton (guitar, keys, vocals, steel guitar). The performance is set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, at the Palladium, 1 Carter Green, Carmel. Tickets starting at \$35

Want TO GO?
WHAT: Big Head Todd and the Monsters
WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18
WHERE: The Palladium at the Center for the Performing Arts, 1 Carter Green, Carmel, IN 46032
Tickets: From \$35, on sale 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 6
Purchase and information: TheCenterPresents.org (317) 843-3800

will go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 6, online at TheCenterPresents.org, by phone at (317) 843-3800, or in person at the Palladium's Fifth Third Bank Box Office.

Presale access is available Wednesday for Center donors (\$250 or more) and series package subscribers, and Thursday for subscribers to the Center's eNews mailing list. The performance is part of the Center's Katz, Sapper & Miller Pop/Rock Series and the 2023-2024 Center Presents Season, presented in partnership with Allied Solutions.

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Indiana Gubernatorial Candidate Eric Doden Speaks Out Against IEDC's LEAP District Pipeline Plan

By Casey Smith
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Republican gubernatorial candidate Eric Doden said he's "deeply concerned" about a major plan to divert billions of gallons of water from the West Lafayette region to a massive — and controversial — high-tech park planned in Boone County.

His apprehension comes one week after the Indiana Economic Development Corp. (IEDC) released early results of tests conducted at the Wabash Alluvial Aquifer — which officials hope to tap for a massive high-tech campus 35 miles away.

Officials want to pipe 100 million gallons of water daily from the aquifer to the LEAP Lebanon Innovation District. Wabash-reliant residents are afraid the proposal could jeopardize their water supply.

The Fort Wayne businessman echoed those fears on Tuesday, emphasizing that the public has only seen preliminary data, "handpicked" by the IEDC. He said the full dataset from the water study should be released to independent experts for review, as local leaders have requested.

"Any state-sponsored project demands a high level of accountability," Doden said in a news release. "With a resource as vital as water at stake, Hoosier taxpayers deserve greater transparency than IEDC provides."

The quasi-public agency made an executive summary, touting "abundant" water, available last week. Texas-based environmental consulting firm INTERA is conducting the ongoing analysis under a \$2.9 million contract.

Doden argued the IEDC water study is not independent, however, and maintained that "the same organization trying to divert the water for its own project paid for it."

Investigators drilled 17 exploratory boreholes — all finished as monitoring wells — along with two test wells to conduct two aquifer tests. They found that the aquifer had hydraulic conductivity of 450-550 feet daily at the site. That measures how well water passes through soil or rock.

The two wells combined could support — at maximum — a pumping rate of 45 million gallons daily, according to an IEDC video presentation about the study results. The executive summary said they could "sustainably" support 30 million gallons daily.

"This is the latest example that shows Indiana desperately needs a long-term vision to grow our small towns into thriving communities," Doden continued. "The LEAP project would divert natural resources from a smaller region to support a larger one — a decision without regard for, or belief in, our small coun-

ties and towns. We can and must be a state where all 92 counties thrive, and Indiana needs new leadership to achieve this vision."

Chambers remains steadfast. But Brad Chambers, former Indiana Secretary of Commerce and leader of the IEDC, defended the LEAP project that largely defined his tenure. The GOP gubernatorial candidate told the Indiana Capital Chronicle on Tuesday that the IEDC hired "a preeminent and widely-respected water resource expert with national experience."

Chambers said the study concluded that "abundant resources are available to support the LEAP project, and more importantly not negatively impact other communities."

"The LEAP Innovation District is a transformative project that will grow jobs, wages and improve the quality of life for a large region of our state, which we've already seen demonstrated by (ELi) Lilly's nearly \$4 billion commitment to building new facilities there," Chambers said in a written statement.

"There was intentionality to the project both in locating it between our largest workforce center and one of our premier research institutions, Purdue University, and also in tackling a longstanding central Indiana water need that's been studied

and not addressed for decades," he continued.

Chambers stepped down from the cabinet-level position in August — after two years on the job — to vie for the governor's seat.

"Creating opportunity for Hoosiers across the state requires a bold vision, and I believe we can do that while also protecting our critical resources. If the study indicated harm for any Hoosier community, we wouldn't have moved forward with the project," Chambers said. "Unlike the career politicians who want to pit communities against each other, as governor, I'll lead to build the economy of the future to bring prosperity to rural, suburban, and urban Hoosiers, together."

Hill and Crouch weigh in

Former Indiana Attorney General Curtis Hill, who is also running for governor, said he has also spoken with "dozens of farmers, residents and business owners throughout Boone County, and they have major concerns that have yet to be addressed."

"If water has to be brought in from 53 miles away to make the project work, then the project itself is not feasible," he told the Capital Chronicle.

"Over-ambitious growth without the infrastructure or resources necessary to keep the project from disrupting

local agriculture and way of life is detrimental to the region," Hill continued. "I echo the concerns of Boone County residents who believe this project is doing more harm than good, and the guaranteed economic consequences outweigh the potential benefits. Precautions need to be taken to ensure that the environmental and economic disruptions are mitigated, but until then, this project should not continue."

Fellow Republican gubernatorial challenger Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch was less direct, but she pointed to concerns she raised about the project "months ago."

In a social media statement posted Aug. 1, Crouch said she was hearing "growing concerns from farmers and other constituents" over the loss of farmland in the LEAP district and that she asked the Indiana Department of Agriculture to conduct an economic analysis of lost farmland.

Still, she said she "is not opposed to the LEAP district or others like it," and applauded the "investment and jobs it will bring to our state."

"I've spoken with local elected officials in Boone and Tippecanoe Counties, and I understand their concerns and frustration about the lack of transparency from the IEDC," she told the Capital Chronicle on Tuesday.

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun — also part of the

crowded group seeking the Republican nomination in Indiana's 2024 gubernatorial race — did not reply to the Capital Chronicle's request for comment about the LEAP district and water pipeline project.

During an August campaign stop in Lafayette, though, Braun said he believed the state's desire to move forward with the project without proper long-term planning has led to much of the backlash.

"Sometimes when you get so ahead of your skis, you spend all that money, you think that you would have researched, is there a local water supply," the senator said, as reported by the Journal and Courier. "When you get the state involved in becoming a real estate investor, I would hope that whoever's doing it was smart enough to see if you had the most basic resource we need and that you're not going to have to pump it from maybe 40 miles away to get it where it's supposed to be."

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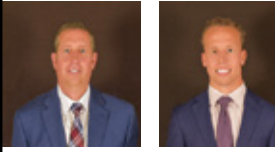
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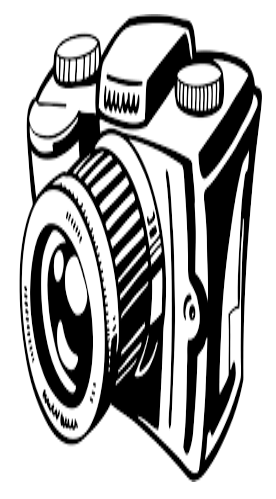
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Is It The Spooky Season, Or Just Silly?



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

Scatter-shooting while wondering whatever happened to Abe Martin . . . * * *

DID YOU hear

that when it comes to money we're spending more and more and more and more on . . . no, not talking about government. I'm talking about Halloween. According to the National Retail Federation, we the people are going to pony up \$12.2 billion on candy corn and costumes.

As Tom Carnegie would say, that's a new track record.

The record it broke was just a year old at \$10.6 billion.

Here are more facts and figures from the retail organization.

- 73 percent of consumers are expected to participate in the holiday
- Per-person spending is projected to be \$108.24
- Seven in 10 of us plan to hand out candy
- A little over half of us (53 percent) plan to decorate our home or yard
- Half of us are going to wear a costume

· A third of us are going to a Halloween party

· A quarter of us are taking the little ones trick-or-treating

And when it comes to costumes, the kids are going as Spiderman, a princess or another superhero at a cost of \$1.4 billion. Us grown-up types are more expensive. We're going to spend \$2 billion to dress up like witches, vampires or Barbie.

But wait, it gets sillier. We're going to spend \$700 million on pet costumes.

The older I get the more I understand why my grandpa would just shake his head sometimes. * * *

THREE CHEERS

for Noblesville's Victoria Spartz. The rookie Congresswoman released a statement that basically said if the House does not address the obscene and ridiculous spending by the end of this year – she would resign.

For that, she took a fair amount of heat from WIBC's Rob Kendall. Normally I'm pretty much in agreement with the WIBC crew – but Kendall is off base on this one.

The very definition of insanity comes into play here – keep doing the same thing and expect a different outcome. I respect the hell out of Spartz for saying she has tried as hard as she can but her colleagues simply won't stop running up the bill for future generations.

Maybe it'll take a member of Congress walking away to finally return some semblance of financial responsibility to

our government. I don't know if it will or not. All I do know is that nothing else is working. * * *

HOW 'BOUT them Millers! OK, so maybe a 3-4 record on the football field isn't much to write home about. But at this point a year ago, NHS was 2-6. And the years before that they finished 2-8, 2-8 and 1-9. In fact, the Millers haven't had a .500 season since 2014 and haven't had a winning season since going 7-5 in 2001 – a real odyssey.

Think about that for a second. No one on the team today was alive the last time NHS wrapped up a winning season.

That's incredible.

Granted, the cards are stacked against the Black and Gold this week when undefeated Brownsburg comes calling, but hey, stranger things have happened. After that winless Avon wraps up the regular season for NHS. And in sectional, a favorable draw might mean another win or two.

For the once-proud program, this counts as progress. Let's keep our fingers crossed. * * *

SPEAKING OF sports, yours truly made a big-time error in a recent story about Julia Kozicki. Apparently, my eyesight isn't the only thing going and I misheard her when she was talking about her time at NHS. The Millers won state back then, but unlike what I wrote, Julia wasn't on the team.

Sorry for the mess up!

However, I will reiterate what a pleasure it was to talk with the former Noblesville mayoral candidate. She is a class person and a credit to the community. It's no wonder the Chamber's Women in Noblesville selected her for this year's Woman of Impact honor. * * *

MOST HOOSIERS

are well-acquainted with Abe Martin. The folksy cartoon was created by Frank McKinney "Kin" Hubbard and appeared in newspapers around the state and nation. Recently, a state historical marker dedicated to Kin and Abe was unveiled at the Abe Martin Lodge in the Brown County State Park. Abe used to share his wit and wisdom with things like, "We're all mighty unselfish when it comes t' handin' out advice we could use ourselves."

-Two cents, which is about how much Timmons said his columns are worth, appears periodically in The Times. Timmons is the chief executive officer of Sagamore News Media, the company that owns The Noblesville Times. He is also a proud Noblesville High School graduate and can be contacted at timmons@thetimes24-7.com.

BETSY From Page A1



Photo courtesy of Betsy Reason

While Michelle Dixon of Noblesville is soliciting sponsors and donors for this Saturday's Battle4Betty Battle of the Bands at the Noblesville VFW, her husband, Barry Dixon, is performing as a member of the Fast Cadillac band at the fundraiser.

attendees can purchase a ribbon and write a name on the ribbon and place it on the banner.

In 2022, Remember Betty provided financial assistance to more than 100 families.

Dixon is a member of Team Betty Indiana, which in 2022 raised nearly \$9,500 as a newly formed team. "The money raised at Battle for Betty will go regionally," she said.

Team Betty has had a few events or fundraisers on a smaller scale for St. Patrick's Day, floral design classes at Oberer's Flowers, Paint and Sip and selling Remember Swag and Apparel.

Dixon has been reaching out to the community for support, for businesses and organizations to donate gift baskets for the auctions. In turn, the event will share the generosity of donors on social media as well as posting donors' names at the event.

Dixon said they were brainstorming about how to bring Remember Betty to the public and generate interest and more donations. That's how Battle 4 Betty / Battle of the Bands got started.

Organizers contacted local bands "that we knew had a local following," she said. The three bands playing Saturday for the fundraiser were all willing to donate an hour set for the Battle of the Bands. "We are so grateful to our three bands, Rough-House, Strawberry Jam and Fast Cadillac (the latter of which features her

husband, Barry Dixon on electric bass).

"The winner of the Battle will be determined by most tips received," Dixon said. Each \$1 tip equals one vote.

Monetary sponsorship donations at or more than \$250 will have their company or organization name displayed during the event and on the event T-shirt. Sponsorship donations will be used toward the cost of food and supply costs for the event.

"We would like to recognize and thank our sponsors who have donated to the event so 100 percent of our donations collected can be utilized by Remember Betty," Dixon said. Besides the VFW Post, sponsors include Greenvista Landscaping, Bill Kitchens Body Shop, Story's Collision, Gerber and Co. Foods.

Dixon said, "I agreed to help Lorrena because I had an aunt who was affected by breast cancer and several close friends that have gone through breast cancer treatment, surgeries, chemo, reconstruction surgeries that are either in remission or currently battling."

For more information or to make a donation, email indiana@rememberbetty.com or call Dixon at 317-292-1252 or Lorrena Story at 317-965-3901.

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

Growing More Food On Less Land



Dear EarthTalk: What are some ways to grow more food on less land given that human population is growing as the amount of arable land shrinks?

It's no secret that Earth is facing a daunting challenge: With human numbers expected to swell to 10 billion by 2060 and the amount of arable land shrinking at a rate of about 23 hectares per minute (!), finding sustainable ways to produce more food on less land is a pressing concern. Fortunately, innovative solutions and practices are emerging to address this issue and ensure food security for future generations.

Perhaps the best developed kind of "future farming" is vertical farming, in which crops are grown in stacked layers instead of horizontally like at conventional farms. Controlled environments in vertical farms allow for year-round cultivation, precise control over factors like temperature and humidity, and significant water savings. They can be and often are indoors. In fact, multiple floors in tall buildings in big city centers could be devoted to this agricultural technique. Producing food closer to its consumers reduces transportation costs and emissions, reducing everyone's carbon footprint from farm to table.

One of the ways vertical farms make do with less water than conventional farms is through hydroponics, whereby plants are grown in small amounts of nutrient-rich water instead of soil, maximizing land use efficiency and offering faster growth and crop turnover cycles. Hydroponic farming has already shown to be ideal for small or residential growers looking to produce a steady flow of herbs and vegetables.

Besides vertical farming and hydroponics, there is much we can do to optimize conventional farming to make it more future-proof. Farmers can use advanced technologies like GPS, sensors and drones to optimize crop management, making their lives easier and their

harvests more abundant. By precisely tailoring irrigation, fertilization and pest control to specific areas of a field, farmers can maximize yields and minimize resource usage. This approach ensures that every inch of arable land is used efficiently.

Another way to make the most of conventional agriculture land is to diversify the landscape and crop output. To wit, agroforestry and permaculture are holistic farming practices that integrate trees, crops and livestock on the same piece of land. These systems mimic natural ecosystems and can greatly increase food production while conserving soil, water and biodiversity. Likewise, forward-looking farmers are starting to incorporate techniques like cover cropping, crop rotation and no-tilling to enhance soil health and reduce the need for chemicals while enabling higher crop yields without expanding agricultural land.

Those of us who are not farmers can play a big role in solving the impending food shortage crisis the world faces. One way to be part of the solution is to reduce food waste and advocate the same to others. The United Nations estimates that over a third of all food produced globally is lost or wasted each year. By reducing waste, we can make better use of the food we already produce, alleviating some of the pressure on arable land. Another way to help is to eliminate animal products. Plant-based diets are generally less land-intensive than diets heavily reliant on animal agriculture—and require fewer resources to produce equivalent caloric and nutritional values.

-CONTACTS: Vertical Farming for the Future, usda.gov/media/blog/2018/08/14/vertical-farming-future; Reducing food loss and waste: Taking Action to Transform Food Systems, un.org/en/observances/end-food-waste-day.

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STREET

From Page A1

be giving his State of the City on Tuesday, Oct. 31, at the Embassy Suites and Conference Center. Register today to hear from Mayor Jensen about major projects like Reimagine Pleasant Street and what is coming next for Noblesville. * * *

Video Miniseries

We've kicked off a video miniseries highlighting some of the project's key aspects. * * *

Massive Bridge Beams Set

A major milestone was recently achieved when 35 massive prestressed concrete beams were set

for the new bridge over the White River. * * *

Eighth Street Paving

The new roundabouts along Eighth Street are really taking shape as crews have been paving and installing curbs. The road remains closed until hardscape, landscape, signage, and pavement markings are installed so drivers can safely navigate the road. Check out the video below to see the progress as we get ready for Eighth Street to reopen in November. Drivers should be aware of the traffic pattern when Eighth Street opens in November.

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THE TIMES

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HONEST HOOSIER



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on National Geographic's
Traveler historic destination
list in 2008

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03

Bartholomew

Number $\%$ Stumpers

1. What percentage of Bartholomew's total population is made up of Jonesville residents?
 \geq
2. How many art galleries are there throughout Columbus and Bartholomew County?
 \leq
3. How old is Bartholomew County?
 \geq
4. How many colleges are located in Columbus?
 \leq

Answers: 1. About 0.22% 2. 8 3. Approximately 197 years 4. 3

Did You Know?

- Bartholomew County was founded Feb. 12, 1821 and was named after Joseph Bartholomew.
- The county seat, Columbus, has three colleges, IUPUI Columbus, Ivy Tech College, and Harrison College.
- Bartholomew County had an estimated population of 81,163 in 2015.
- Columbus is a hub for unique art and contains eight different art galleries.
- The county's smallest city, Jonesville, has an estimated population of 185 individuals.

Got Words?

Bartholomew County is filled with unique architecture, historic cities and numerous art galleries. Why and how do you think art plays a role in the lives of Bartholomew County residents and individuals throughout Indiana?

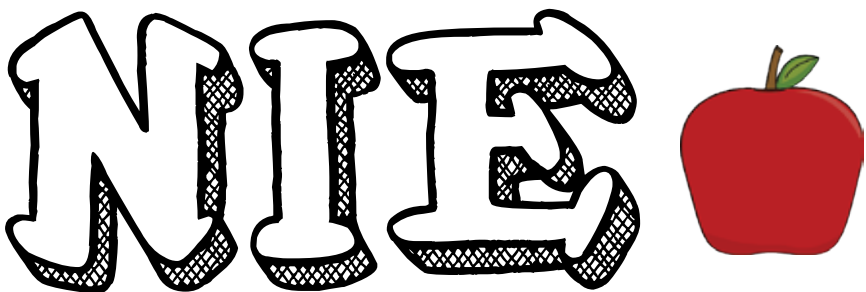
Word Scrambler

Unscramble the words below!

1. WTOORHMBLEA
2. AECTRIEHCTRU
3. NLOJLISEEV
4. TRA IGLESRLAE
5. UCUMBOLS

Answers: 1. Bartholomew 2. Architectur 3. Jonesville 4. Art Galleries 5. Columbus

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A7

New Military Advisory Board To Boost Purdue's Online Learning 2.0 Initiative

A new Purdue Online Learning 2.0 Military Advisory Board will help identify avenues to advance Purdue's overarching objective of educating and supporting more military-affiliated students, especially through the unmatched continuum of online educational programs Purdue offers.

Purdue President Mung Chiang said the aim is to better understand the educational needs of military veterans and uniformed personnel and to remain a trusted partner in meeting those needs with high-quality, innovative online programs delivered at scale.

Chiang's Online Learning 2.0 initiative consists of two coordinated efforts: Purdue Global as a virtual campus for working adults with an emphasis on bachelor's degree completion and workforce training and Purdue University Online as the online extension of the West Lafayette campus with an emphasis on graduate-level degrees and certifications serving working professionals.

Purdue has a goal of doubling military-affiliated online learners by 2026. Purdue Global serves approximately 10,000 military-affiliated students, including uniformed personnel, veterans and eligible dependents. Purdue University Online serves hundreds of military-affiliated students.

The new advisory board includes an impressive and diverse group of retired senior military leaders, some of them with Purdue ties. The board members include Navy Fleet Master Chief April Beldo, Navy Vice Adm. Kendall Card, Air Force Maj. Gen. Theresa Carter, Army Lt. Gen. Karen Gibson, Coast Guard Adm. Charles Ray,



Photo courtesy of Purdue University

(Top row, from left) Frank Dooley, chancellor of Purdue Global; Dimitrios Peroulis, senior vice president for Purdue University Online; Vice Adm. Scott Van Buskirk; Vice Adm. Kendall Card; Adm. Charles Ray; and Mung Chiang, Purdue University president. (Bottom row from left) Lt. Gen. Karen Gibson, Fleet Master Chief April Beldo and Maj. Gen. Theresa Carter. (Not pictured, Lt. Gen. Chris Weggeman and Senior Executive Service Steffanie Easter)

Navy Vice Adm. Scott Van Buskirk, Air Force Lt. Gen. Chris Weggeman and Navy Senior Executive Service Steffanie Easter. Ray, Weggeman, Gibson and Carter are Purdue alumni, and Carter is a member of the Purdue Board of Trustees. Gibson currently serves as sergeant at arms of the U.S. Senate.

"It was an honor to host distinguished individuals across all military branches who comprise Purdue's first-ever online education military advisory board," Purdue Global Chancellor Frank Dooley said. "Having access to their insights allows us to hone our approach to educating our service members in an effective way."

Dimitrios Peroulis, senior vice president for Purdue University Online, said Purdue is uniquely positioned to impact the world through online education, extending its traditional land-grant mission.

"We take online education seriously at Purdue," Peroulis said.

"The military advisory board's input can assist us in making it work optimally for veterans and uniformed service members."

At their initial meeting, advisory board members suggested focusing on Purdue's reputation for quality and rigor in strong programs Purdue already has, spanning fields such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, data analytics, hyper-sonics, semiconductors and unmanned vehicles. Educational programs in those areas promise to benefit the services as well as service members — during their military careers and post-career — and they have the potential for leveraging world-class Purdue faculty members who conduct cutting-edge defense, homeland security and military research.

Articulating credit for military service and training must remain an important focus, advisory board members said. Dooley noted that credit-granting for life

and work experience is integral to, and a major feature of, Purdue Global. Meanwhile, Purdue University Online may have fashioned a model recently in its new educational partnership with the Navy Test Pilot School, which stacks the intensive Navy training students at the school undergo with Purdue online courses to build graduate degree programs in engineering and technology.

Anytime, anywhere flexibility already is a strong point for Purdue's online programs among military-affiliated as well as nonmilitary students. But active-duty military learners may come with some unusual needs that require additional accommodation. Peroulis pointed to a Navy submariner in an online course he is teaching who will be under water, literally, and out of touch for weeks at a time while deployed. The two had to figure out a way for the student to continue the course with no ability to connect online.

New Free Soil Sampling Program Coming To Life For Indiana Farmers

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and partners throughout the state have worked with the Gulf Hypoxia Program (GHP) to develop a no-cost program with a focus on increasing the knowledge and use of soil sampling as a nutrient management practice to benefit farm operations. The program, titled Indiana's Mississippi River Basin Soil Sampling Program, is open now for applicants.

"Hoosier farmers care deeply about the land and work hard each year to keep their soil healthy," said Lt. Gov. Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "This free program is a great way for farmers to test their soil and ensure the proper nutrients are being utilized on their fields."

ISDA promotes the importance of nutrient management and the principle of the 4R Nutrient Stewardship framework. The 4R framework incorporates using the "Right Source, Right Rate, Right Time, and Right Place" to achieve cropping system goals. The new program focuses on soil sampling and testing because it is a key component, and first step, of developing a plan for nutrient management.

Soil sampling provides an assessment of the soil's fertility which can be used for making fertilizer application recommendations, assessing available nutrients over time, increase farmer profitability and enhance environmental protection by reducing the risk of nutrient loss. This project was developed to help further Indiana's State Nutrient Reduction Strategy efforts.

"This free program for farmers will help them assess their land so they can continue to produce as much food as possible with fewer fertilizer inputs. As a farmer myself, I know how critical that is," said Don Lamb, ISDA director. "This program would not be possible without a few incredible partners whose top priority is assisting Hoosier farmers and keeping Hoosier land in great shape."

This program includes row crop fields, pastures

and specialty crops located within Indiana's portion of the Mississippi River Basin. Participating landowners will be prioritized by fields that have never been soil sampled and fields that haven't been sampled regularly (i.e., within the last 3-4 years). Further prioritization may be implemented based on interest in the program. This program excludes hobby gardens and private lawns. Interested farmers can sign-up online at ISDA's website or by reaching out to soilsampling@isda.in.gov.

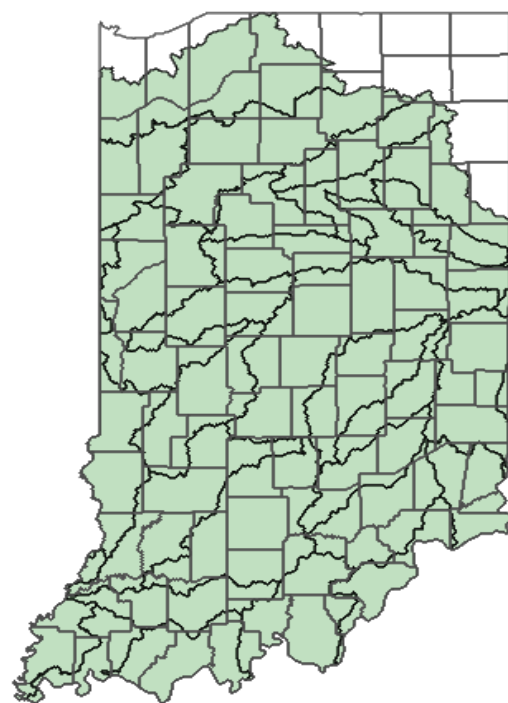
Sign-ups are now open and ISDA is accepting sign-ups until April 17, 2024.

Paul Hodgen, president of the Indiana Corn Marketing Council, is excited to bring this program to fruition. Hodgen is well versed in soil fertility with a bachelor's degree in agronomy, a master's degree in soil science and a doctorate degree in agronomy and soil fertility.

"Regular soil sampling and testing is a critical part of a nutrient management plan to economically produce a crop," Hodgen said. "We look forward to working with ISDA and other partners to help Hoosier farmers continue to make informed decisions on nutrient management. Soil testing is a keystone to sustainably producing a crop. This effort will further our goals for nutrient management stewardship across Indiana. This will help us make smarter decisions about where to apply nutrients and to spread that data across more acres. This program will be a great way to increase the number of farmers who better understand their soils, and it will allow them to make improve management decisions based on good data."

This program was made possible thanks to ISDA, Indiana Soybean Alliance, Indiana Corn Marketing Council, Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance (IANA), Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) members, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, farmers and Certified Crop Advisors.

Below is the map of the eligible area for this program.



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