

TODAY'S VERSE

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Barry Dixon smile? "Old cars," said the Noblesville resident, a 1981 graduate of Noblesville High School. Barry plays in two bands, upright bass with Big Wally & the Homewreckers, a rockabilly band; and electric bass in Fast Cadillac, a classic-rock band, that will play at 2:30 p.m. Saturday during the Battle4Betty Battle of the Bands fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness month from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Ralph Lehr VFW Post 6246 in Noblesville. There will be a silent auction, raffle, \$10 pulled pork and chicken plates, T-shirt sale, cash bar and free admission, and vote with tips for your favorite bands that include Fast Cadillac, Roughouse and Strawberry Jam. Barry's wife, Michelle Menchaca Dixon, a 1989 NHS grad, is helping organize the Team Betty Indiana chapter of the Remember Betty Foundation, which raises money to help minimize the financial burden for parents with breast cancer. Barry and Michelle met when he was 29 and she was 21, and they were married a year later in 1993. They own a 1955 Cadillac and are the second owners of the car, which has a 331 V8 engine and manual transmission. Barry is a Freemason of more than 20 years and founder of the Lucky Teter Rebel Run Car and Vintage Motorcycle Show, which helps the Noblesville Masonic Lodge's Angel Fund. Best things in life? "Family, cars, music and my wife." For more about the Battle of the Bands and happenings in and around Noblesville, read the Betsy Reason column in today's edition of The Times.

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.

The TIMES

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Photos courtesy of IDEC and Hamilton County

Top Left; Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt. Top Right; Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch. Bottom; Mary Wessler (President of Wessler Engineering), Les Archer (President of Reynolds Construction), Sonny Beck (President of Beck's Superior Hybrids), Commissioner Christine Altman, Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch, Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt, Council President Ken Alexander, Jim McGoff (CEO of Indiana Finance Authority)

Hamilton County Breaks Ground On Regional Utility District Water & Sewer Service Expected to Spur Development in Baker's Corner Area

Hamilton County and the State of Indiana broke ground today on the Baker's Corner/US31 Infrastructure Investment Project. The \$45 million project will extend sewer and water utilities to the Baker's Corner area, just north of Westfield on US-31. "This is the beginning of a transformational project to the northern part of Hamilton County," says County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt. "We envision this bringing high quality development that capitalizes the US-31 Corridor and brings in high earning jobs. We're talking commercial, residential, and potential mixed-use devel-

opment." The Indiana Economic Development Corporation has already designated 80 acres of land in the area for agricultural businesses. The project's district boundaries for water and sewer will stretch from 216th Street north to 296th Street and from US-31 west to Spring Mill Road. All total, the area will encompass 42-square miles. For comparison, the City of Carmel is 49-square miles, Noblesville is 36-square miles, and Westfield is 32-square miles. The utility expansion will be funded with \$25 million from Hamilton County's share of the American Rescue Plan Act, \$10

million in bonds, and \$10 million from the State of Indiana. "The State Revolving Fund is a perfect match for projects like this and helps support communities in furthering economic and residential development," says Jim McGoff, Indiana Finance Authority chief operations officer who also oversees Indiana's SRF program. An additional \$20 million from the state will allow Hamilton County to create The Hamilton County Regional Utility District which is working with Indiana American Water to pump water from the Sheridan area. The project is expected to be complete by the end of 2024.

First Friday Fall Fest, Soup Cook-off Tonight, Potter's Bridge Fest, Church Rummage Sales



BETSY REASON From The Editor's Desk...

Pumpkins, apples, leaves changing colors are all signs of fall. And we have a great list of fall activities, from Noblesville Main Street's First Friday Fall Festival tonight to Potter's Bridge Fall

downtown Noblesville, featuring live music, shopping, hayrides, trick-or-treating and more. Soup cook-off contestants include Ninth Street Bistro, Alexander's on the Square, Gatewood Vegetable Farm, The Nesst, Syd's Bar & Grill, Texy Mexy and Uptown Cafe. Also, Main Street is hosting annual Scarecrow Decorating Contest is taking entrants at noblesvillemainstreet.org. 2. Explore nature and history in new ways in 1836 Prairietown as the outdoor areas are open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, during the 2023 season. Tickets are available now for the 40th anniversary of Headless Horseman outdoor Halloween program every Thursday through Sunday, through Oct. 29 at Conner Prairie in Fishers. Take

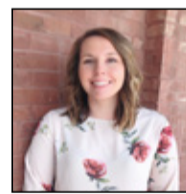
Festival this weekend, opening of Conner Prairie Headless Horseman Festival and more. Read all of the details for events in and around Noblesville with our Times list of 30 things to do this weekend and beyond:

1. Bring the family to Noblesville Main Street's First Friday Fall Fest and Soup Cook-Off from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. today in

➔ See BETSY Page A6

Hamilton County Marks National Recovery Month With Anniversary Of C.O.P.E.

On the heels of National Recovery Month in September, the Hamilton County Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs has a lot to celebrate. The county's Community Overdose Prevention Effort (C.O.P.E.) coalition identified and helped 35 residents battling substance use disorders get the treatment they needed in its first year being funded by a Division of Mental Health and Addiction grant. "Our Quick Response Team is dispatched to the home of



KELLY GUNN

➔ See C.O.P.E. Page A6

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 7:47 a.m.
SET: 7:23 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
High: 71 °F
Low: 56 °F



Today is...

- Garlic Lovers Day
- World Cerebral Palsy Day
- World Smile Day



What Happened On This Day

- 2007 First successful human powered attempt to circumnavigate the world. Englishman Jason Lewis set out on the journey, also called Expedition 360 on July 12, 1994, from Greenwich, London.
- 1995 First exoplanet orbiting a Sun-like star discovered. Swiss astronomers Didier Queloz and Michel Mayor announced the discovered the exoplanet called 51 Pegasi B or Bellerophon.
- 1981 Assassination of Anwar Sadat. The third president of Egypt, Sadat was killed by members of the terrorist group Takfir Wal-Hajira during a parade held to commemorate the 8th anniversary of Operation Badr.



Births On This Day

- 1955 Tony Dungy American football player, coach
- 1846 George Westinghouse American engineer, inventor

Deaths On This Day

- 1989 Bette Davis American actress
- 1542 Thomas Wyatt English poet

INSIDE TODAY

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HONEST HOOSIER

When did Halloween become such a big holiday?



TODAY'S QUOTE

"On Hallowe'en the thing you must do is pretend that nothing can frighten you An' if somethin' scares you and you want to run Jus' let on like it's Hallowe'en fun."
-From an Early Nineteenth Century Halloween Postcard

TODAY'S JOKE

What monster is the best dancer?
The Boogie Man.

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Not receiving enough sleep can lead to increased appetite and obesity. 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 www.thetimes24-7.com.



OBITUARIES
None

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7 DAY FORECAST

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THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED



Photo Courtesy of Clay Carmel Parks & Recreation

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation To Host Annual Sensory Friendly Trick-Or-Treat This Fall

A sensory friendly event with no loud music, costumes that cover the face or scary decorations.

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation (CCPR) will host its annual Sensory Friendly Trick-or-Treat on Saturday, October 21 from 1-3 p.m. at River Heritage Park, 11813 River Rd. This event is designed for individuals with disabilities and their families.

During the Sensory Friendly Trick-or-Treat Trail, there will be no loud music, scary decorations or costumes that cover the face. CCPR's adaptive program volunteers will dress in non-frightening costumes, pass out treats and host other fun fall activities.

"Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation strives to provide programming for all members of our

community," said Kelvin Solares, Inclusion Program Supervisor. "Holidays, like Halloween, can be very overwhelming for individuals with sensory needs. We are excited to offer Sensory-Friendly Trick-or-Treat again this year to remove barriers and provide an accessible way to celebrate."

The trails at River Heritage Park are fully accessible to individuals with mobility aids or wheelchairs. CCPR requests all trick-or-treaters bring their own bag or basket for candy and wear friendly costumes that are non-frightening (refrain from wearing masks that cover the full face).

The cost to participate is \$10 per trick-or-treater; accompanying family members are free. Pre-registration is required. Sign up today!

Hamilton County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt Honored As 'County Commissioner Of The Year' At AIC Annual Conference

Hamilton County Commissioner Mark Heirbrandt was awarded 'County Commissioner of the Year' at the Association of Indiana Counties' (AIC) annual conference. This prestigious award celebrates dedication and exceptional service.

"Commissioner Heirbrandt's accomplishments truly stand out among the rest. This award reflects his outstanding contributions and his tireless commitment to his county," said AIC Executive Director David Bottorff.

This is Heirbrandt's second award recognizing his unwavering passion for improving Hamilton County and the lives of the people he encounters every day. In 2022, Heirbrandt was bestowed the award of 'County Commission-

er of the Year' by the Indiana Association of County Commissioners (IACC).

Heirbrandt took office as Commissioner in 2013. Throughout his tenure, he has spearheaded numerous transformational county projects that have significantly impacted Hamilton County's constituents and visitors.

One of Heirbrandt's main initiatives is energy efficiency, and he has played an instrumental role in securing major funding and fostering extensive partnership collaborations towards this goal. Thanks to his dedication, Hamilton County taxpayers now enjoy a savings of \$25 million over a span of twenty-five years. Moreover, the county currently maintains over 600 miles of roads and more

than 300 bridges.

In addition to Heirbrandt's accomplishments, he is an active member of numerous boards and organizations, including the Indiana Association of County Commissioners (IACC), where he currently serves as President. In this capacity, Heirbrandt represents elected county commissioners from all 92 counties in Indiana and leads the IACC's Board of Directors in shaping policies and legislative goals.

Heirbrandt's dedication to public service extends to his involvement with organizations such as the Humane Society, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the City of Westfield Public Safety Merit Board, and the Big Cicero Regional Drainage Board.



MARK HEIRBRANDT

His contributions have earned him recognition as Advocate of the Year by the Humane Society of Hamilton County and the Exceptional Leadership and Service Award from the Hamilton County Leadership Academy.

Under Commissioner Heirbrandt's leadership, the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners has received five state-wide awards, a testament to their outstanding accomplishments in service to the community.

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Celebrating 100 Seasons Of Purdue Football At Ross-Ade Stadium Part 3



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

The 1940s for Purdue football was a roller-coaster ride that saw the Boiler-makers field one of their

poorest teams, then 12 months later one of their greatest.

Coming off a 1-8 record in 1942, Purdue's fortunes changed dramatically when the Marine Corps and U.S. Navy sent some very talented football players to campus for training before going off to fight in World War II. Combined with a handful of civilians, the Boiler-makers went 9-0 and earned a share of the Big Ten championship with Michigan.

The decade also birthed Purdue's Cradle of Quarterbacks tradition with a teen-ager who shocked the nation in 1945.

Bob DeMoss led the Boiler-makers to a 4-0 start and a No. 9 national ranking entering a trip to No. 4 Ohio State. Purdue races to a 28-0 lead and goes on to a 35-13 victory.

Best Ross-Ade games of the 1940s

Oct. 2, 1943: Purdue 40, Illinois 21 – Tony Butkovich scores four touchdowns and rushes for 207 yards on just 12 carries against his former teammates.

Lafayette Journal and Courier sports editor Gordon Graham wrote that two of the former Fighting Illini, All-American guard Alex Agase and fellow co-captain John Genis were spotted on the Illinois bench visiting their friends when the score had grown to 34-7. When Illinois scored two quick touchdowns, Purdue coach Elmer Burnham had to summon Agase and Genis back into the game.

Oddly, each team fumbled 10 times. The Fighting Illini and Boiler-makers combined to lose 15 fumbles.

Purdue would go on to outscore its nine opponents 214-55 that season. To read more about the 1943 Boiler-makers, pick up a copy of Cory Palm's "Perfect Warriors."

Oct. 25, 1947: Purdue 14, Illinois 7 – DeMoss' 6-yard touchdown pass to Bob Heck in the third quarter stunned the reigning Big Ten and Rose Bowl champions, who had come in with a 10-game winning streak.

Graham compared this victory to three of the biggest in school history: the 30-16 win over Michigan in 1929, the 7-0 triumph over Northwestern at Soldier Field in 1931 and the 35-13 victory at No. 4 Ohio State in 1945.

Nov. 20, 1948: Purdue 39, Indiana 0 – Here's a lead paragraph from Graham that readers would never see today:

"The cattle were lowing contentedly in the barns of 'Cow College' today, but students were still emitting piercing shrieks of elation of Purdue's 39-0 rout of a futile Indiana eleven in a game which threatened records at Ross-Ade Stadium Saturday afternoon."

It not only was the most lopsided defeat in the Purdue-Indiana series since 1902, the victory also ended Indiana's four-year possession of the Old Oaken Bucket. Harry Szulborski rushed for 197 yards on 34 carries, while Norb Adams picked up 148 on 24 rushes.

As for Graham's reference to "Cow College?" Here's this from the Nov. 18 front page of the Journal and Courier:

"An airplane was flown over the campus several times Thursday noon, and thousands of handbills were dropped. The bills, about 5x8 inches and in varied colors, and with

'Courtesy Bloomington Herald' printed at the bottom, had the following to offer:

"What the hell can you expect with a kid prexy from deah old Oxford with a bunch of hick students with no spirit with an inexperienced high school coaching staff with eleven old men? IU 40, Cow College 0."

Top players of 1940s Ross-Ade

Alex Agase – An All-American both at Purdue and Illinois sandwiched between a two-year stint in the Marine Corps during World War II.

Agase won three league titles with the Cleveland Browns during a six-season pro career. He would return to Purdue as head coach in 1973. His biggest wins were 31-20 at defending national champion and No. 2 Notre Dame in 1974 and a 16-14 triumph over No. 1 Michigan in 1976.

He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame as a player in 1963 and is a member of Purdue's all-time football team.

Tony Butkovich – Came to Purdue with Agase in 1943 and broke a 21-year-old Big Ten scoring record with 78 points (13 touchdowns) in nine games before heading off to the Marine Corps.

Butkovich rushed for 833 yards on 142 carries for amazing averages of 119 yards per game and 5.9 yards per carry. He earned first-team All-America and first-team All-Big Ten honors.

He was killed in action at Okinawa in 1945.

Dick Barwegen – The guard was voted MVP of the 1943 team and a two-time first-team All-Big Ten selection in 1943 and 1946.

In six of his eight NFL seasons, Barwegen was named first-team All-Pro

or chosen to play in the Pro Bowl. The Chicago Tribune ranked Barwegen 51st in its Top 100 Chicago Bears of all-time.

Bob DeMoss – The father of Purdue's Cradle of Quarterbacks was a four-year starter who threw for 2,759 yards and 23 touchdowns during an era when the passing game took a back seat to running the football.

With the exception of spending 1949 with the New York Bulldogs, DeMoss was at Purdue from 1945 to his retirement as an assistant athletic director in 1992. As an assistant and head football coaches, he tutored Dale Samuels, Len Dawson, Bob Griese, Mike Phipps and Gary Danielson.

Harry Szulborski – A four-year starter at halfback from 1949 to 1949, Szulborski set the career rushing record of 2,478 yards. Only Mike Alstott (16) and Otis Armstrong (13) had more 100-yard rushing games than Szulborski's 11.

He led the Big Ten in rushing as a sophomore (851 yards) and a junior (989).

Welcome to the NFL

In between getting sacked seven times (six by Khalil Mack), former Purdue quarterback Aidan O'Connell had modest success in his first start with the Las Vegas Raiders.

As the 12th Boilermaker to start an NFL game at quarterback, O'Connell was 24 of 39 passing for 238 yards with an interception. He also rushed for a touchdown in the Raiders' 24-17 road loss against the Los Angeles Chargers this past Sunday.

The Raiders announced it was the second-most passing yards in his NFL debut with the team but did not state who holds the record.

"I think the magnitude of each play is what I'm

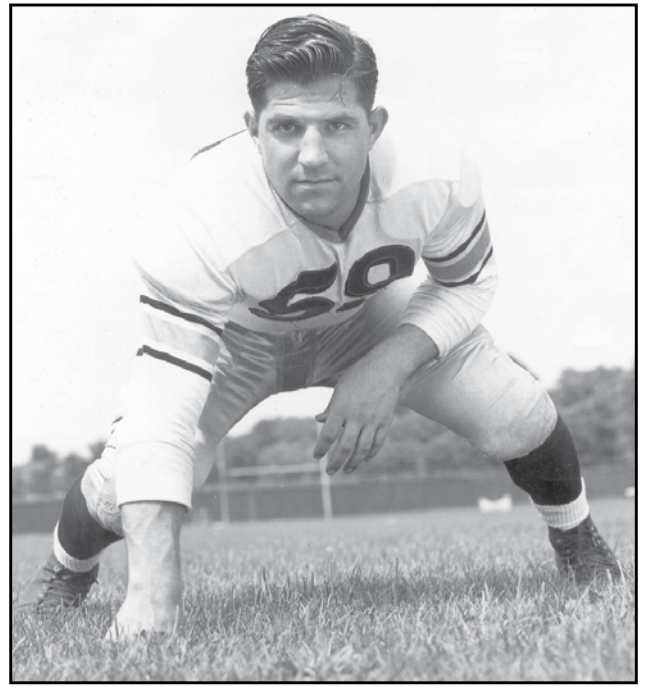


Photo courtesy of Purdue Athletics

Alex Agase

learning, and what I learned today is how important each play is, how important each drive is," O'Connell told raiders.com. "Just have to do my job on each play, even if it's a little bit harder one play versus another. Just got to focus, can't look ahead or can't look behind. Each play, one play at a time."

Here's how the other Purdue quarterbacks fared in their first NFL starts:

Len Dawson: 2 of 4 for 25 yards and 3 rushes for 31 yards in Pittsburgh's 7-6 loss at Philadelphia on Dec. 1, 1957.

Bob Griese: 11 of 22 for 101 yards, 2 INT in Miami's 24-0 loss to Kansas City and Dawson on Sept. 24, 1967.

Mike Phipps: 11 of 25 for 170 yards, 1 INT and 4 rushes for 57 yards in Cleveland's 14-10 loss at Cincinnati on Nov. 15, 1970.

Gary Danielson: 17 of 32 for 129 yards, 1 INT in Detroit's 13-10 win at Baltimore on Dec. 11, 1977.

Mark Herrmann: 18 of 32 for 188 yards, 1 INT in Denver's 13-11 loss at Seattle on Jan. 2,

1983.

Scott Campbell: 18 of 38 for 275 yards, 1 TD and 2 INT in Pittsburgh's 30-24 win over Buffalo on Dec. 15, 1985.

Jim Everett: 7 of 20 for 56 yards, 2 INT and four rushes for 13 yards and a TD in the Los Angeles Rams' 26-13 victory against New Orleans on Nov. 23, 1986.

Drew Brees: 15 of 19 for 160 yards, 2 TDs in San Diego's 34-6 victory at Cincinnati on Sept. 8, 2002.

Kyle Orton: 15 of 28 for 141 yards, 1 INT in Chicago's 9-7 loss at Washington on Sept. 11, 2005.

Curtis Painter: 13 of 30 for 281 yards, 2 TDs in Colts' 24-17 loss at Tampa Bay on Oct. 3, 2011.

David Blough: 22 of 38 for 280 yards, 2 TDs, 1 INT in Detroit's 24-20 loss to Chicago on Nov. 28, 2019.

- Kenny Thompson is the former sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier and an award-winning journalist. He has covered Purdue athletics for many years

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THE TIMES



Photo courtesy of Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office

Center front: Rachel Jefferson (sex crimes deputy prosecutor and SVT supervisor). Back row (l-r): Mary Hutchison (sex crimes deputy prosecutor), Elizabeth Pagel (sex crimes deputy prosecutor), Shari Blessing (domestic violence deputy prosecutor), and Jana Teter (domestic violence deputy prosecutor).

Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office Launches Special Victims' Team

Team Will Seek Justice for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, & Child Abuse

The Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office has launched a Special Victims' Team (SVT) in an effort to provide justice for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, and other related crimes.

The SVT is comprised of a highly trained and specialized team of prosecutors and support staff who will collaborate to address the unique needs of victims in these sensitive cases. The initiative underscores the Hamilton County Prosecutor's commitment to prioritize the safety and well-being of its community members.

"The creation of the Special Victims' Team is a significant step forward in our ongoing efforts to provide the highest level of care and support to survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse in our community," says Hamilton County Prosecutor Greg Garrison. "This specialized unit will enable us to better investigate, prosecute, and support victims,

ensuring they receive the justice they deserve."

Hamilton County's SVT is made up of three sex crimes deputy prosecutors, two domestic violence deputy prosecutors, a victim assistant, and a secretary. Its members have undergone specialized training to effectively handle the unique challenges presented by cases like these.

"Our team is here to ensure survivors receive the support they need throughout the legal process, from reporting the crime to the resolution of their cases," says Rachel Jefferson, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and supervisor of the SVT. "These crimes often go unreported due to the sensitive nature of the cases and the fear and trauma experienced by survivors. We hope the creation of this team will better educate the public, encourage reporting, and improve case outcomes so we can seek justice for these survivors and better hold offenders accountable."

Brain Trust



DICK WOLFSIE
Funny Bone

I love to walk up and down the bookstore aisles occasionally removing something from the shelves to sample, hoping it fits my tastes. The people at Barnes and Noble are totally okay with this, but that habit has gotten me kicked out of Kroger about six times.

Recently, I decided to search the shelves for a book that might help me address a problem I am facing. My memory is not what it used to be. I tried Prevgagen but that was a total waste of money. They tout the product as made from jellyfish, one of the few animals in the world with no brain.

I did find one book: Keep Your Brain Alive: 83 Neurobic Exercises. For a fathead like me, this is the perfect read. The author contends that there is not enough unpredictability in our lives. We get into a rut because our brains take the easiest paths—the routes we are most accustomed to. Dr. Katz throws in some cerebral references to axons, dendrites and synapses to make it all sound very scientific, but it was lost on me. On a biology exam in college, I labeled the parts of the inner ear but it turned out it was a picture of a woman's reproductive system. I did get partial credit.

This book encourages you to use each of your senses in new and innovative ways. One of the author's suggestions is to brush your teeth with your non-dominant hand, thus creating new neural pathways. I tried it one night and found the experience instructive. I then used my other hand to clean the toothpaste out of my nose and inside my ear.

In order to enhance your appreciation of good food, says Katz, stick plugs in your ears. This

permits you to fully enjoy what is on your plate, focusing only on taste. I totally forgot to tell Mary Ellen I was doing this so I didn't hear a word she said during dinner for almost a week. Fortunately, she didn't notice the difference. The book also suggests that to fully experience the texture of food, you should hold your nose when you eat. My wife did notice this on that first night when she had prepared what I assume was a delicious dinner. She was not happy, but I got a nice note from Grub Hub thanking me for all my subsequent take-out orders 10 nights in a row.

There is also a chapter on sex. Dr. Katz encourages you to have a romantic dinner with your partner, and "to be sure to enjoy some flowers and candles." I choked down a few rose petals, but the candles made me gag. For another novel experience, Dr. Katz suggests you switch cars with a nearby friend for a day so you can have a new tactile experience behind the wheel. Of course, remember to tell your neighbor before you do this, or you can then look forward to really feeling something new: your hands cuffed behind your back.

My favorite suggestion is to eliminate the traditional grocery list. Instead of jotting down the name of each item, write a description instead so you can fully appreciate its qualities. I tried that. On my shopping list I wrote: "It's about the size and shape of a soccer ball, tannish, heavily veined and dimpled."

I was talking about a cantaloupe, but it sounded a lot like my rear end.

- Dick Wolfsie spent his career sharing his humor, stories and video essays on television, radio and in newspapers. His columns appear weekly in The Paper of Montgomery County. E-mail Dick at Wolfsie@aol.com.

Noblesville Teacher Earns National STEM Honor

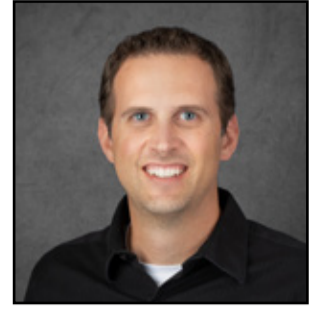
Noblesville Schools announced today that Noblesville High School (NHS) teacher Andrew Wilkins has been nationally recognized with an Outstanding Teacher Award from Project Lead the Way (PLTW).

The science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) organization awarded the distinction to only 38 educators in the United States in recognition of the teachers' transformative college and career classroom learning experiences.

Wilkins has been an NHS educator for over 18 years and is currently an engineering teacher and chair of the NHS Applied STEM department. Under his leadership, PLTW student enrollment has grown by 140% at NHS and NHS has been recognized for six consecutive years as a national PLTW distinguished school.

Wilkins is also responsible for earning NHS over \$400,000 dollars in funding to expand STEM pathways and has developed strong relationships with area STEM businesses and organizations in support of students.

"Andy is a strong education leader who is passionate about growing students' abilities to succeed in the careers of today and tomorrow,"



ANDREW WILKINS

said Dr. Craig McCaffrey, principal of Noblesville High School. "We are so fortunate that he chooses to share his gifts with our students and are proud to see him recognized in this way."

In addition to dozens of traditional math and science courses, Noblesville Schools offers 17 different PLTW courses across all grade levels K-12 with students exploring robotics, biomedical, cybersecurity, aerospace engineering, construction, energy, weather and much more.

All ten of the district's schools are recognized as PLTW Distinguished Schools, with Noblesville High School and Noblesville East Middle School receiving the top national honor for six years in a row.

Wilkins holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics education from Taylor University and a master's in education from Indiana Wesleyan University.

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Photo courtesy of HHMS

HHMS 7th Grade Volleyball team coaches/members front row left to right: Chloe Stuart, Klaeh Griffith, Olivia Mackey, Megan Waldron, Reagan Van Kirk, and Lovaiyah Miller. Back row left to right: Coach Shay Garrison, Camille Powell, Elena Tebbe, Miia Mann, Riley Suarez, Olivia Murphy, and Coach Sami Rash.



Photo courtesy of HHMS

HHMS 8th Grade Volleyball team coach/ members left to right: Coach Kelly Smith, Maddie Jewell, Katie Uhrick, Peyton King, Lillian Frann, Audiella Cento, Celeste Wiegman, Illiana Boyer, Kylie Hilton, Caitlin Dougherty, Grace Knoll, and Aleaha Trump.

HHMS 7th And 8th Grade Volleyball Teams Win MIC Championship

Hamilton Heights Middle School's 7th and 8th Grade Volleyball teams rose to the challenge of tournament competition to each capture and bring home their first

Mid-Indiana Conference Championship title.

The Lady Huskies 7th grade team beat Northwestern in two sets 25-10 and 25-8 and Kokomo 25-4 and 25-3

to reach the final bracket. The Huskies went on to beat Western 25-9 and 25-14. "The girls played aggressively and most importantly, had fun while playing," said

Coach Shalyn Garrison.

The Lady Huskies 8th grade team beat Northwestern in two sets 25-16 and 25-13. The second game of the day they bested Kokomo in

two close sets 25-21 and 25-21. The team fought hard to take down Western in three sets 16-25, 25 to 21. They started off the third set down 2 - 8 with rallying for

a comeback win 15-11. "The 8th grade team fought back several times during the day to get the win," said Coach Kelly Smith. "The girls never gave up!"

Thousands Of Hoosier Kids Missed Between 10 And 18 Days Of School Last Year, Per New Data

By Casey Smith
Indiana Capital Chronicle

About 40% of Hoosier students missed 10 or more school days last year, and nearly one in five were absent for at least 18 days, according to new Indiana data.

A presentation before the Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE) on Wednesday highlighted the staggering statistics that state leaders said should warrant immediate action.

Student absences have been on the rise since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in Indiana and across the nation, data shows. Although Indiana's latest numbers show slight improvements, absentee rates during the 2022-23 school year were still 8% higher than before the pandemic.

"It's October — the first quarter is gone. We have to draw attention to this right now. And there's no time to wait," said Indiana Secretary of Education Katie Jenner. "I think this is really a rally cry for us to look at our parents, families, caregivers, and also our community leaders to come up with some solutions that might help."

Indiana fared better than most other states for chronic absenteeism — defined by the rate of students who missed at least 18 school days, either excused or unexcused. That's equal to 10% of the academic year.

But in the last three years, the rate of Hoosier students who have been chronically absent more than doubled compared to before the pandemic.

Education experts note that being absent as few as three days out of the

school year affects test scores and overall academic performance. The student demographic groups with the largest gaps in state language arts and math testing since the pandemic are more likely to be chronically absent.

Jenner told the Indiana Capital Chronicle this summer that high rates of absenteeism are likely contributing to the state's dismal literacy rates, for example.

By the numbers

According to the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), roughly 221,000 Hoosier students were considered chronically absent during the 2022-23 academic year.

More than 400,000 students missed at least 10 days of school — which, per Indiana statute — made them "habitually absent."

A school day is considered missed if a student is there for less than half of the day.

To put those numbers into perspective, state leaders emphasized that 3,086 school buses could be filled with kids if all of Indiana's chronically absent students came to school on the same day.

"We're trying to help people understand that we're not talking about a small amount of people," said John Keller, IDOE's chief information officer. "When you think about it that way, that's a big number."

Keller added that Indiana is "far away" from chronic absentee rates in the 2018-19 school year, when just 11.2% met that definition.

The rate rose to 18.5% in 2020-21 — the first year

after the pandemic — and topped out at 21.1% in the 2021-22 school year, according to state data.

The 2022-23 data indicates that 19.3% of students were chronically absent from school.

The issue is especially worsening among high schoolers, Keller noted.

State education department officials said the highest chronic absenteeism rates came from the most vulnerable students who were homeless or suffered from displacement, including children in foster care. Housing instability, in addition to mental health challenges, are also driving absentee numbers up, they noted.

Low-income status also increased a student's likelihood of being chronically absent. A lack of transportation is additionally thought to be contributing to missed days at some schools.

Black students saw the largest percentage of chronic absenteeism of any racial or ethnic group last year. Only White and Asian students had below the state average.

"I feel like what happened with COVID is that a lot of parents saw that their kids didn't have to actually come into the building, and then a lot of them passed. They felt that maybe they don't have to be there as often." — Board member Erika Dilosa

Still, chronic absenteeism was higher in some schools than in others. Kenner said in 84 schools, 50% of students were chronically absent. Another 270 schools recorded one out of every three students as chronically absent, while

547 schools had one in four students.

Statewide, 1,651 Hoosier schools had at least one out of every 10 students marked as chronically absent, according to state data.

Rates were typically highest in high-poverty urban school districts and charter schools, while suburban schools reported lower rates.

Gary Community Schools had the highest chronic absenteeism rate among the state's public school districts at about 66%.

Chronic absenteeism was higher than 40% in Muncie and South Bend schools and over 30% in Anderson, Richmond, Indianapolis Public Schools and at least two dozen other districts.

Multiple rural districts had high rates, too, including 43.2% in Cannelton, 37.5% in Madison and 32.1% in Medora.

Rates were mostly lower in suburban districts like Carmel Clay — at 8.4% — and in Zionsville, which recorded a 7.3% rate of chronic absenteeism.

How to get more kids in school?

SBOE officials doubled down on Wednesday that absenteeism is a problem without a single solution, though.

To start, Jenner said an "Early Warning Dashboard" is in the works to direct resources to at-risk students. The system will be piloted for some schools this academic year. She said the goal is for the dashboard to be ready for all schools by the start of the 2024-25 school year.

Included in the dashboard — which will be connected to Indiana's existing GPS

dashboard — will be data on attendance, as well as information about which students at risk. Granular data could provide details about absences at the individual classroom and teacher levels, Jenner said.

"The reality is that culture eats policy for breakfast," Jenner said, adding that while illness and quarantines kept many students home during the pandemic, the slow rebound in attendance suggests missing school has become a new normal. "So, if we have a national culture of chronic absenteeism, we could sit as a board and pass a number of policies today, but the culture is not there."

Jenner said the state education department also plans to dive deeper into the academic performance statistics of students who are not chronically absent: "I think there's more information that we need to know, and that will be helpful."

Board member Pat Mapes said IDOE additionally needs more information from schools to better understand local responses to absenteeism that might or might not already be in the works.

"When you're not there and present every day, you're not going to get the same quality of education," he said.

Another board member, Erika Dilosa, said the pandemic likely created a new — but dangerous — status quo for students and families.

"I feel like what happened with COVID is that a lot of parents saw that their kids didn't have to actually come into the building, and then a lot of them passed,"

Dilosa said. "They felt that maybe they don't have to be there as often."

Board member William Durham suggested that new penalties be put in place to compel students back into the classroom. It's currently up to each Indiana county prosecutor to decide how to enforce truancy laws.

"In my opinion, there has to be a way to hold parents of minors accountable for those students not coming to school — other than they're sick, or whatever the case may be. I don't know what can be done about that," Durham said. "But in my opinion, something has to be done, because in my household growing up, it was not an option."

Byron Ernest, also on the board, cautioned the state's education and political leaders to take a closer look at the issue and the various causes before codifying any responses, however.

"The thing that I want to implore us — and any legislators that are looking at this report — is let's not knee-jerk policy that we think could work, but it won't," Ernest said. "We need to make sure that we really study the root causes ... and we've got to figure this out and really look at it from the complexity that it is."

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BETSY From Page A1



The Times photo by Betsy Reason

It's pumpkin time. Bring the family to Noblesville Main Street's First Friday Fall Fest and Soup Cook-Off from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. today in downtown Noblesville, featuring live music, shopping, hayrides, trick-or-treating and more. Also, Russell Farms is open daily through Oct. 31 with kids activities and hayrides to the pumpkin patch.

the haunted hayride to see the Headless Horseman, stroll the Trail of Terror in the corn field, enjoy the Magnificent Midway, Barrel Train Rides, Sleepy Hollow Marionette Show, fortune telling, live music performances, magic show, food, and more. Apple Store is open all month. Reserve hayride times and buy admission tickets in advance at connerprairie.org.

3. It's football weather, and Noblesville Millers are taking on the Brownsburg Bulldogs in varsity football at a Noblesville home game at 7 p.m. today at Beaver Stadium.

4. Brush up on your Shakespeare for "As You Like It," presented by a roving troupe of Commedia dell'arte performers, 8-10:30 p.m. today and Saturday and Oct. 13 and 14; and 2-5 p.m. Sunday and Oct. 15 at Mud Creek Barn Theatre at 86th Street and Mud Creek Road.

5. Shop at the First Presbyterian Church Fall Rummage Sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the church on Conner Street in downtown Noblesville. Find gently used clothing for adults and children, jewelry, purses, shoes, linens, household goods, puzzles, books, CDs and DVDs, small furniture, lamps, holiday decor, garden and sporting equipment. All sales benefit church missions.

6. Catch the last two Noblesville Farmer Markets at 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays through Oct. 14 at Noblesville Farmers Market at Federal Hill Commons in Noblesville. Fishers Farmers Market is open 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays through the summer at Nickel Plate District Amphitheater in Fishers.

7. Russell Farms in Noblesville is open daily through Oct. 31 for hayrides to the pumpkin patch, corn maze, petting zoo, miniature golf, kids activities, bounce houses, pedal tractors, country store and more. Admission is \$12.50-\$15. For schedule, visit https://www.russell-farms.com

8. Kick start the holiday season with the return of the Fishers High School Band Boosters' Christmas in October Craft Fair, a fundraiser for FHS Tiger Band program, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at FHS. This juried event will feature 135 craft vendors and artisans lined up with handmade crafts, decorations and gifts.

9. Hop aboard the Nickel Plate Express for an array of excursions, including Wizard Express on Saturday, Fall Brunch Express, Oct. 14, Chugga Chugga at 5 p.m. Oct. 15, Arcadia Fall Market Express on Oct. 21. Plus BBQ express and Reindeer Express.

10. Enjoy a special autumn day at Potter's

Bridge Park during the 24th annual Potter's Bridge Fall Festival from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday on Allisonville Road in Noblesville. Listen to live music, visit more than 100 arts, crafts and food booths, with free admission to the community.

11. Bring your furry friend and help support the Humane Society for Hamilton County during Barktoberfest, a Westfield Welcome event 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Asa Bales Park in Westfield. Find pet-related vendors, food vendors, pet portraits, caricatures, activities for humans and dogs, canine agility course, adoptable pets and pet costume contests at 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m., and design your own collar bow with Westfield High School Animal Club. The Humane Society for Hamilton County will collect items frequently needed in the shelter, such as canned dog and cat food, 55-gallon trash bags, and plush dog toys. Donating earns attendees a raffle ticket for a chance to win one of three gift baskets worth more than \$100 each. Raffle tickets from the Humane Society will be \$5 per ticket.

12. Come out to support breast cancer patients and survivors and enjoy live music during the Battle4Betty Battle of the Bands fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness month from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday at the Ralph Lehr VFW Post 6246 in Noblesville. Silent auction, raffle, \$10 pulled pork and chicken plates, T-shirt sale, cash bar and free admission, and vote with tips for your favorite bands that include Fast Cadillac, Roughhouse and Strawberry Jam.

13. Dine in or carry out at Hamilton County Great Banquet Chicken Dinner Fundraiser 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday at Refuge Christian Church on East 196th Street in Noblesville. Dinner includes chicken leg quarter, green beans, mashed potatoes, roll and beverage for \$12, with desserts at \$3 each (check or cash only).

14. Central Indiana Vintage Vehicles car club invites car buffs to show off their vintage vehicles on the Courthouse Square during the weekly Saturday afternoon and evening Cruise-in. Lawn chairs and old-car conversations invited.

15. Enjoy live music featuring Jason and Robin on Saturday, Dead Squirrels on Saturday, Jason and Robin on Oct. 12, John Gilmore on Oct. 14, Craig Thurston on Oct. 19, Jeff Brown on Oct. 21, and Disagreeable on Oct. 28 at Grindstone Public House in Noblesville.

16. Enjoy live music with Rhino Down at 7



Photo courtesy of Conner Prairie

Take the haunted hayride to see the Headless Horseman with tickets available for the 40th anniversary of Headless Horseman outdoor Halloween Festival every Thursday through Sunday, through Oct. 29 at Conner Prairie in Fishers. At press time, hayrides still available on Thursdays and Sundays, with festival tickets available on all dates. Visit www.connerprairie.org to reserve your tickets.

p.m. today, Celtic Rain on Saturday and Ghosts on Maple on Oct. 28, Jason Salyers on Nov. 3 at Primeval Brewing in downtown Noblesville. Also, travel to the countryside to hear live music with Jamie Owens at 1 p.m. Saturday, The Jenna Rose Duo at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, The Juan Douglas Trio at 1 p.m. Sunday, Ciara Hasket at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 13, Steve Fulton at 1 p.m. Oct. 14, Jesse Jones at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 14 at Spencer Farm Winery in Noblesville. Visit spencerfarmwinery.com.

17. Kids dress in costume and participate in Trunk or Treat at 6:30 p.m. Saturday with a free movie, "Hocus Pocus," to start at 8 p.m. outdoors at the Noblesville Moose Lodge. Bring chairs and blankets for the movie.

18. Dress up in your horror or Halloween costume and enjoy three rounds of Horror & Halloween Trivia at 8 p.m. Saturday at Nippers Grill & Tap in Carmel.

19. Donate and shop at United Methodist Women's Rummage Sale Oct. 8-13 at Noblesville First UMC. Donation drop-offs only 1-5 p.m. Sunday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday and 8-11 a.m. Tuesday; and shop 3-7 p.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and 8 a.m. to noon on Oct. 13. Proceeds fund ministries that benefit women, men, children and those with special needs in Noblesville and around the globe. The sale welcome furniture no larger than what two people can carry, and no building materials.

20. Create a Creepy Halloween Tree during a Paint Night from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Oct. 13 at Kiln Creations in downtown Noblesville, with fee charged. Reserve tickets in advance at kilncreations.net

21. Experience live theater with Carmel Community Players' production of "Amused," a comedy directed by Kelly Keller of Fishers, Oct. 13-22 at The Switch Theatre at Ji-Eun Lee Music Academy in Fishers. Tickets at carmelplayers.org

22. Bowl a lucky strike during Pinheads' Halloween Bash beginning at 10 a.m. Oct. 14 at the bowling center. Join to play Cosmic Bowling with princesses, superheroes and villains. Photo opportunities with your favorite characters. Pizza, lemonade and desserts. Check in at 9:45 a.m. for bowling shoes and lane assignments.

23. Noblesville Main Street's free Music & All That Jazz series, sponsored by Gordon Insurance, features live music, Cohen-Rutkowski Project, Oct. 14, on the Courthouse Square in downtown Noblesville.

24. Enjoy live comedy with September's Show-

case tonight and Saturday featuring Old Saints Improv Weekend with Eric Hook and Tomas Gerson, Sam Miller at 8 p.m. Oct. 17, at The Brick Room Comedy Club on Maple Avenue and Ninth Street in downtown Noblesville. Visit thebrickroom.cc for tickets.

25. Indiana Artisan and Carmel Creative Writers will co-host Art-Inspired Words, an evening of readings inspired by a piece the writer found, 5-7 p.m. Oct. 19 in Community Room A of the Carmel Clay Public Library, and the public is invited to attend.

26. Dare to visit Little Haunt on the Prairie at Ghoul Creek Park 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 19 at Hamilton County Parks & Recreation's Cool Creek Park in Westfield/Carmel. Spooky, yet age-appropriate Halloween activities from preschool and older. Dress in costumes, enjoy nature interpretation, entertainment, hayride, food for purchase, trick-or-treating, craft stations, spooky nature trail, Halloween games, live owls with Take Flight Wildlife, marshmallows at a campfire ring and more. Cost is \$5 per person, under age 2 free. In addition, please bring a nonperishable or canned food item to donate to Amanda Strong Food for the Needy.

27. Shop with local painters, illustrators, makers, seamstresses, bakers, candle makers, ceramists, authors and others without storefronts during Autumn Alley Art Market from 5-9 p.m. Oct. 21 at Noblesville Square.

28. Attend the annual Halloween Kids Night from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Oct. 23 at Noblesville Jim Dandy, with a coloring contest, face painting and kids activities.

29. Dare to take the fourth annual Cicero Haunted Trail on Oct. 27 and 28 at Red Bridge Park, with kid-friendly hours 4:30-7:15 p.m. and frightening hours 7:30-10 p.m. All proceeds benefit Cicero Parks. Seeing sponsors.

30. Wayne-Fall Lions Club invites the community to attend a Ham & Bean Dinner 4:30-7:30 p.m. Oct. 28 at the Club, at Deshane Ave., and Victory Chapel, featuring ham and beans, cornbread, cole slaw, desserts and drinks and hot dogs, all for a donation for Lions Club Christmas for families in this area who need assistance.

-Betsy Reason writes about people, places and things in Hamilton County. Contact The Times editor Betsy Reason at betsy@thetimes24-7.com. For Hamilton County Bicentennial events, visit www.hamcourns200.com. Mark your calendar for 1-5 p.m. Dec. 3 for a Bicentennial Bash for the community at Ivy Tech.

C.O.P.E. From Page X

someone who has survived an overdose within 24 to 72 hours after the event," says program coordinator Kelly Gunn. "The non-emergency, multidisciplinary team is made up of a law enforcement officer for safety, a medical first responder for vitals, and a peer recovery specialist who is in active recovery themselves. Together they offer to set up treatment for the person."

Last year, 170 people were referred to C.O.P.E., the Quick Response Team made 121 home visits, and 35 people enrolled in the program. One of those participants, 70-year-old Marsha (name changed to protect privacy), contemplated suicide after she was arrested for drunk driving. "I've been an alcoholic my entire life," she says. "I thought it was incurable and I would eventually die from the disease. I just didn't want to live like that anymore."

Help came in the form of a Quick Response Team. "I looked out my window and there stood a police officer, a firefighter, and a woman. I thought they were coming back to get me, but it turns out they were there to help."

If it weren't for them, I wouldn't be here now." The Quick Response Team helped Marsha find online treatment at Aspire Indiana Health. She has been sober since November. Marsha now has a network of tight-knit friends, goes to support meetings several times a week, and is working to repair a fractured relationship with her daughter. "If this team shows up at your front door, please let them in," Marsha implores. "Listen to what they have to say. You don't have to fight for your sobriety alone. Isn't it worth your life to give it a try?"

More than 115 members representing more than 50 agencies and businesses now support Hamilton County's C.O.P.E. program. Peer recovery coach Jennifer Bellah says it's that kind of support that makes it possible for individuals to recover. "The days following an overdose are very dark days and to have a hand to reach out to and offer support can be just the help you need. I know it was for me. There is a better way and together we can offer love and support to those lost in addiction."



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Purdue Researchers Develop A New Type Of Intelligent Architected Materials

Purdue University civil engineering researchers have developed patent-pending intelligent architected materials that can dissipate energy caused by bending, compression, torque and tensile stresses, avoiding permanent plastic deformation or damage, and may also exhibit shape memory properties that allow them to have actuation capacity.

Avoiding damage makes the material reusable and improves human safety and structure durability in products across several industrial sectors.

Pablo Zavattieri, the Jerry M. and Lynda T. Engelhardt Professor in Civil Engineering, leads the research team that has developed this new class of intelligent architected materials.

"These materials are designed for fully recoverable, energy-dissipating structures, akin to what is referred to as architected shape memory materials, or phase transforming cellular materials, known as PXXM," Zavattieri said. "They can also exhibit intelligent responses to external forces, changes in temperature and other external stimuli."

Intelligent architected materials such as these have a wide range of potential applications due to their unique properties.

"These materials can change from one stable configuration to another, making them versatile and valuable for various applications including earthquake engineering, impact-resistant structures, biomedical devices, sporting goods, building structures and automotive components," Zavattieri said.

Versatility and scalability

Virtually any material, including polymers, rubber, concrete and more, can be utilized to make the Purdue intelligent architected materials as long as they are designed to remain in the elastic regime.

"While it's true that more brittle materials present greater design challenges, consider this: One of my PhD students successfully crafted a single-unit cell using concrete, a material known

for its brittleness in tension," Zavattieri said. "Creating these intelligent materials is all about effective design, making material choices remarkably versatile."

Zavattieri and his team also have proven the materials' scalability.

"We have produced intelligent architected materials as large as 12 inches, which are ideal for applications like building and bridge construction to absorb and harness energy," Zavattieri said. "Conversely, we have created materials with unit cells smaller than the thickness of a human hair. This scalability opens up a world of possibilities from macro to micro applications."

Drawbacks of traditional lightweight cellular materials

Cellular or foam materials are characterized by a porous microstructure or interconnected beams, columns or trusslike structures, with both solid spaces and empty spaces that form a lattice or honeycomb arrangement. Examples found in nature include bone, cork, foam, honeycombs, sponge and wood.

"Manufacturers have applied the concept of cellular structures to create lightweight lattice structures in the aerospace industry, to enhance crash energy absorption in the automotive industry and to design protective packaging for delicate items in the transportation industry," Zavattieri said.

He said most of these materials have a single stable configuration.

"Changes in the cellular geometry as a result of an applied load typically will be limited either by the desire to prevent permanent deformation or the fact that it is impossible to return to the original stable configuration," Zavattieri said. "There is an unmet need for a material structure that has a more stable configuration."

Zavattieri said the new intelligent architected materials developed at Purdue redefine the concept of cellular materials.

"We have engineered the topology of their inner building blocks, which are made of beams,



Photo courtesy of Purdue University

Pablo Zavattieri, the Jerry M. and Lynda T. Engelhardt Professor in Civil Engineering, lifts an aircraft runway mat made with new intelligent architected materials developed at Purdue University. In testing, the mats were capable of withstanding over 5,000 landing and takeoff cycles over a 60-day period while showing no signs of failure.

columns, trusses and other elements," he said. "They are able to bend, twist, buckle and deform in highly controlled and programmable ways.

These precisely tailored deformations give rise to emergent properties such as enhanced energy absorption, increased work capacity, morphing capabilities and adaptability. These properties open up innovative possibilities for various applications."

Zavattieri and his colleagues have applied the compliant nature of cylindrical shells to create the materials.

"Energy is dissipated via snap-through mechanisms, allowing for avoidance of plastic deformation," he said. "Simulations were utilized to identify the relations between unit cell design parameters and deformation modes, and this knowledge was carried over to manufacture prototype specimens for validation. It was shown that energy dissipation and peak load capabili-

ties could be optimized by changing ligament lengths and angles of inclination."

Zavattieri's research has been published in the peer-reviewed journals Engineering Structures, Extreme Mechanics Letters, Scientific Reports, Journal of Applied Mechanics, Matter, International Journal of Solids and Structures and Engineering Structures. His research has received funding from General Motors, ITAMCO (Indiana Technology and Manufacturing Companies), the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Air Force.

Aircraft runway mat applications

A collaboration between Zavattieri and ITAMCO has used metal 3D printing materials to develop new aircraft runway mats for temporary or expeditionary flight operations.

The lightweight 3D printed panels consist of a carbon-fiber reinforced metal composite, allow-

ing them to have high stiffness while remaining lightweight. This panel system is an alternative to conventional AM-2 panels and offers improved longevity and mechanical properties. Applications of this technology include rapid deployment of structures or runways for defense, public health and natural disaster response.

Zavattieri and his team validated the lightweight 3D printed panels through field tests.

"The objective of the research is to develop a robust sheet or roll technology that serves as an alternative to the AM-2 mat," Zavattieri said. "AM-2 matting has served the U.S. military well since the Vietnam War, but the materials and technology in the ITAMCO-led research project will offer many benefits over AM-2 matting."

Zavattieri said a portable and lightweight airfield mat must be easy to install and store yet capable of withstanding the stresses of repeated aircraft takeoffs and landings.

"Products made with PXXM geometry have the ability to change from one stable configuration to another stable or metastable configuration and back again," Zavattieri said. "This means the new runway mat could potentially heal itself, resulting in a much longer life span than a runway made with AM-2 matting. Another benefit is that debris on the runway will not hamper the runway's performance with our technology."

"In testing, these mats were capable of withstanding over 5,000 landing and takeoff cycles over a 60-day period while showing no signs of failure. Current conventional runway mats fail at approximately 1,500 cycles. This durability means fewer replacements of the mats, which require fewer financial resources."

Nonpneumatic tire applications

Zavattieri said the U.S. Army has identified a critical need for the development and deployment of nonpneumatic tires, or tires that are not supported by air pressure.

As a result, nonpneumatic tires are not prone to punctures or leaks.

Zavattieri and his research team have developed a computer-based model supporting the use of the Purdue phase transforming cellular materials in the design of a nonpneumatic tire as specified by the Tire and Rim Association standards. He said the results demonstrate feasibility, through modeling and simulation, of PXXM as a dynamic, elastically deformable solution for the design of nonpneumatic tires (NPTs).

"This effort has shown that PXXMs can provide good performance on paved surfaces and provide good adaptability to the off-road environment," Zavattieri said. "For military vehicles of interest, tires are designed to mitigate different-sized obstacles, loading conditions and variable terrain typically encountered in theater like sand, mud, gravel and snow. Modeling and simulation of designs demonstrate a PXXM-based nonpneumatic tire is capable of meeting performance requirements for both on-highway and off-road applications over varying load conditions and can resist loss of mobility due to material loss, up to 20%, resulting from ballistic/explosive threats or road debris. Model results suggest PXXM-based NPTs have the potential to extend vehicle capability and increase the probability of mission completion despite having sustained damage."

Zavattieri disclosed the phase transforming cellular materials and their applications to the Purdue Innovates Office of Technology Commercialization, which has applied for patents to protect the intellectual property. Industry partners interested in commercializing the materials for the marketplace should contact Dipak Narula, assistant director of business development and licensing in physical sciences, at dnarula@prf.org about 2018-ZAVA-68252, 2019-ZAVA-68691, 2020-ZAVA-69072 and 2022-ZAVA-69900.

US Department Of Labor, Labcorp Subsidiary Enter New Agreement

A subsidiary of LabCorp — a global laboratory services provider — has entered into a settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor in which the company will pay \$525,000 in back wages and interest to 205 Black and 13 Asian applicants after a routine investigation by the department alleged hiring discrimination by the federal contractor at its Indianapolis facility.

Findings by the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs of

LabCorp Central Laboratory Services Inc. allege that, from May 3, 2019 to May 3, 2021, the company discriminated against 148 Black applicants for kit production assistant I positions, against 57 Black applicants for sample handling assistant I positions and against 13 Asian applicants for medical technician I positions.

The company provides lab services to the National Institutes of Health Executive Order 11246 prohibits federal contractors from discriminating

in employment based on race, sex, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or national origin.

"Our settlement with LabCorp shows that the Department of Labor will make sure the hiring practices of federal contractors and subcontractors comply with all federal regulations," said Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs Midwest Regional Director Carmen Navarro. "When our evaluations detect failures to

provide equal employment opportunities for all applicants, we will hold federal contractors accountable."

In addition to the distribution of back wages and interest under the agreement, the employer will extend job offers to 34 Black and three Asian class members and make certain its hiring policies and procedures are free from discrimination.

Based in Burlington, North Carolina, LabCorp is a leading global provider of laboratory

services for doctors, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, researchers and patients. The company employs more than 60,000 people who serve clients in more than 100 countries and performed more than 600 million tests for patients.

OFCCP launched the Class Member Locator to identify applicants or workers who may be entitled to monetary relief and/or consideration for job placement as a result of OFCCP's compliance evaluations and com-

plaint investigations. If you think you may be a class member who applied for lab positions between May 3, 2019 to May 3, 2021, please use OFCCP's Class Member Locator to learn more about this and other settlements.

OFCCP enforces Executive Order 11246, Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974. Together, these laws prohibit employment discrimination.

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