

TODAY'S VERSE

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.



FACES OF HAMILTON COUNTY

People who call our community their own.

What makes Emily Hideg smile? "Making other people smile," said the Fishers resident, who was found playing music with her family at Conner Prairie Headless Horseman Halloween festival in Fishers. The family band, Sweet Tunes, performs at 6:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. nightly in the Conner Prairie Bayt Pavilion near the Apple Store during the festival, which continues Thursdays through Sundays through Oct. 29. Last weekend, they played a lot of fun Halloween dance music. Emily will turn 21 on Oct. 28 and is the daughter of Mik and Karey Hideg and has a brother, Alex, 25, and Luke, 17. A look back, she was found in 2020 performing jazz music with her dad, Mik Hideg, and his friends, Jim Faux and Tony Martin, at the Noblesville Farmers Market. The family has two different bands, Sweet Tunes and Jump For Joy and write their own music. "We play everywhere, but mostly in daycares for kids and old-folks homes or retirement centers (to bring a little energy in," she said. She was home-schooled since kindergarten. "I'm an inventor of sorts; I love to make things..." Musically? "I taught myself how to sing, I taught myself how to play the drums. I taught myself how to play ukulele. I taught myself kalimba. I'm teaching myself ocarina and guitar, and I'm teaching myself cajon. "I've taught myself all. I've never taken a lesson." She said her dad taught her how to play the drums. She loves to bake, especially strawberry bread, and she loves to hike. Favorite kind of music? "Swing music. I love swing music so much."

And Another Thing...

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

Please be advised, beginning on or after Wednesday, October 25, lane restrictions and a full closure of 146th Street will be in place as follows: October 25 at approximately 11am: Single lane restriction for the westbound right lane of 146th Street for material staging. October 25 at approximately 9pm: Both directions of 146th Street between Allisonville Road and River Road will be closed to set all 4 bridge beams. October 26 at approximately 6am: Both directions of 146th Street open to all traffic. Detour route will be River Road, SR-32, and Allisonville Road. Law enforcement officers will be on-site to keep our crews safe. Please use extreme caution while driving through this construction zone

2. Noblesville First UMC Rummage Sale Thru Friday

Shop at United Methodist Women's Rummage Sale 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today and 8 a.m. to noon Friday at Noblesville First United Methodist Church, 2051 Monument St., Noblesville. Proceeds fund ministries that benefit women, men, children and those with special needs in Noblesville and around the globe.

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Ross Grand Opening Supports Club Kids



Photos courtesy of Boys and Girls Club of Noblesville

Youth from the Tom and Soni Sheehan Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville were given important roles during the grand opening of Hamilton Town Center's new Ross Dress for Less store. In addition to cutting the ribbon signifying Ross' official opening, Club Kids helped accept the store's generous \$2,500 donation to the Club's Power Hour homework help and tutoring program. With 94% of 2022 Club Kids' parents reporting their students' performance in school improved through Power Hour, the Boys & Girls Club is excited to use Ross' impactful donation to continue helping youth succeed academically.



Photo courtesy of Erin Keller for Carmel Community Players

Ameetha Widdershins (as Nikki), Joe Wagner (as Sebastian) and Malcolm Marshall (as Ryan) rehearse for Carmel Community Players' comedy, "aMUSED," directed by Kelly Keller of Fishers, opening Friday and continuing through Oct. 22 at The Switch Theatre in Fishers.

Fishers Play Director Brings Local Playwright's Comedy To The Switch



BETSY REASON From The Editor's Desk...

Kelly Keller is thrilled to present "aMUSED," a fast-paced comedy by local playwright Megan Ann Jacobs of Indianapolis. The play opens Friday and is onstage through Oct. 22 at The Switch Theatre in Fishers.

"Megan has written a great play, and we are honored to put her work on stage," Keller said.

He's worked with Jacobs before when she directed him in "Coping with Autumn," which she also wrote. The play was performed in May 2022 at Arts for Lawrence's Theater at the Fort.

"As a gift, she gave the cast the 'aMUSED' script. I read it and really liked it," Keller said.

"I love Megan's writing. She writes about ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances.

Kelly Keller performed on stage in his first community theater production nine years ago in nine small roles.

He's now directing his ninth show.

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"I love Megan's writing. She writes about ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances.

Want TO GO?

What: Carmel Community Players presents the fast-paced comedy, "aMUSED," by Megan Ann Jacobs and directed by Kelly Keller of Fishers.

When: Oct. 13-22, 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays (Oct. 13, 14, 20, 21) and Thursday (Oct. 19), 2:30 p.m. Sundays (Oct. 15 and 22).

Where: The Switch Theatre at Ji-Eun Lee Music Academy, 10029 E. 126th St., Suite D, Fishers.

How much: \$18, \$13 on Thursdays.

Tickets: https://carmelplayers.org/ or 317-815-9387.

Her writing is easily accessible, and she tells great stories," he said.

The play is about two individuals, a muse and a lawyer, who both have suffered traumatic losses and are "stuck," Keller said. "Both need help in moving on." When the two meet, they are at odds with each other. "The devious but charming

See BETSY Page A6

See BUDGET Page A6

Fishers City Council Approves 2024 Fishers City Budget

2024 budget includes property tax rate decrease, historic investment in neighborhood vibrancy

Fishers City Council approved the proposed 2024 Fishers City Budget this evening at the October City Council meeting. Tonight's vote follows the September City Council meeting's public hearing and first reading, alongside several public meetings held since August 2023 to provide details of the proposed budget to members of the City Council and the public.

The 2024 budget showcases a significant investment in operational excellence, health, safety, and quality of life. Notably, property tax rates will decrease for the third consecutive year, marking the lowest rate since 2020.

"The adoption of the 2024 budget reflects our unwavering commitment to the people of Fishers to continue building a smart, vibrant, and entrepreneurial community all while holding ourselves accountable to fiscal responsibility," said Mayor Scott Fadness. "By prioritizing historic investments in neighborhood vibrancy, we're directly enhancing the lives of residents. This budget isn't just a financial plan; it's an investment in the pulse of the city - our community, neighborhoods, and schools."

Highlights of the 2024 Fishers City Budget include:

Major Project Investments Pivotal projects in 2024 include the completion and openings of the Fishers Municipal and Art Center, the Fishers Event Center, and completing the SR 37 and 141st Street Interchange. Also, construction for the Fishers Community Center at Johnson Farm is slated to begin in 2024.

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 7:53 a.m.
SET: 7:14 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures

High: 78 °F
Low: 54 °F



Today is...

- Freethought Day
- National Farmer's Day
- World Sight Day



What Happened On This Day

- 1979 Douglas Adams's Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Hits the Bookstores. The first in a "trilogy of five", the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, or H2G2, is a popular comedy science fiction novel that was first created as a radio show in 1978 for BBC Radio 4.
- 1964 First Multi Person Space Flight. Soviet spacecraft Voskhod 1 carried 3 cosmonauts for the first time to space. It was also the first time the crew did not wear any space suits for the duration of the flight.
- 1960 Nikita Khrushchev's Famous Shoe Pounding Incident. The First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union removed his shoe and pounded it on the table during a UN General Assembly meeting in New York.



Births On This Day

- 1875 Aleister Crowley English magician, author
- 1537 Edward VI of England

Deaths On This Day

- 1999 Wilt Chamberlain American basketball player
- 1997 John Denver American singer-songwriter, guitarist, actor

INSIDE TODAY

- Service Directory.....A4
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- Tim Timmons.....A4
- Indiana Facts & Fun.....A7

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Fat has over twice the calories per unit weight as carbohydrates and protein. 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



TODAY'S QUOTE

"There is a fifth dimension beyond that which is known to man . . . a dimension as vast as space and as timeless as infinity. It is the middle ground between light and shadow, between science and superstition, and it lies between the pit of man's fears and the summit of his knowledge. This is the dimension of imagination." -Rod Serling

HONEST HOOSIER

It's a good time to remember to thank a farmer. We'd be pretty hungry without them!



TODAY'S JOKE

What monster plays tricks on Halloween? Prank-enstein!

OBITUARIES

None



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



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56/77 P.M. BATH & STORMS
52/58 MOSTLY CLOUDY
48/58 BREEZY, MOSTLY CLOUDY
46/56 FEW BARS
43/58 STAY COOL
WED THU FRI SAT SUN MON TUE

Carmel International Arts Festival Announces Winners From Fall Event



Photo courtesy of Beth Maier

Left, Pictured with Jill Gillmer, President of the CIAF Board of Directors, Mayor Jim Brainard, Zhen Zhong Duan and Meg Osborne, Meg and Associates, event management. Right, Best of Show Laura Gutzwiller.

The Carmel International Arts Festival is pleased to announce the winners in this year's competition of juried artists. The September festival featured competitors in nine different mediums.

2023 CIAF Award Winners are as follows:

Best of Show Laura Gutzwiller - Fiber

1st Place Carrie Baxter - 2D

2nd Place Charlene Marsh - Painting

3rd Place Douglas Becker - Glass

Mayor's choice Zhen Zhong Duan - Painting

Ceramics:

Tanya Leslie - Best in Medium

Brian Moore - Honorable Mention

2D

Joel Fremion - Best in Medium

Ila Catherine Hofacker - Honorable Mention

Painting

Randall Scott Harden - Best in Medium

Heather Miles - Honorable Mention

Wood

Nadia Ogle - Best in Medium

Mark Hillgoss - Honorable Mention

Photography

Kyle Spears - Best in Medium

Kate Tillman - Honorable Mention

Fiber

Shawn Thomas - Best in Medium

Kent Epler - Honorable Mention

3D

Scott Maya - Best in Medium

Ryan Slattery - Honorable Mention

Glass

James Wilbat - Best in Medium

Angelo Fico - Honorable Mention

Jewelry

Robert Nilsson - Best in Medium

Ray and Amy Bridewell - Honorable Mention

See more pictures of the 2023 Festival and winners on the CIAF Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CARMEIntArtsFestival/>

The Carmel International Arts Festival brings more than 140 amazingly talented artists to Carmel for this two-day event. These artists come from all over the United States. Over 30,000 people attend this annual event.

Next year's festival will take place September 28 and 29.

Amazing Teen Talent Awarded During Carmel International Arts Festival

The Carmel International Arts Festival is pleased to announce winners from this fall's competition. There were 148 entries from Carmel High School and University High School, both in Carmel, IN. This is up from 100 last year and from 66 in 2021.

In total, \$16,700 in scholarships were awarded: CIAF funded 9 scholarships totaling \$14,500; Carmel Arts Council funded 2 awards of \$100 each (total \$200); Indiana Artisans funded 4 "People's Choice" awards at \$500 each (\$2,000 total).

Scholarships awarded include the following: CIAF Scholarships (Judge Juror Professor Vance Farrow, Herron Art School)

"Rosemary Waters Excellence in Arts" (\$2,500) was Alex Altenburg (University HS) - mixed media sculpture of baked clay & wire

"Best of Show" was Ava Galante (CHS) - colored pencil "Street Scene"

Ella Lipnik (CHS) - pastel "Women in Blue"

Isabel Lopez (CHS) - acrylic "Ukemoohi's Lunch"

Abby Vance (CHS) - colored pencil "Under the Sea"

"Innovation in the Arts" (\$1,500 each) Lexi Bunting (CHS) - mixed media (embroidery & photo), Emily Comparini (Univ HS) - paper sculpture "Dragon", Erika Lawrence (CHS) - copper & resin "Bubbles Treading Wa-

ter" and Kate Sampson (Univ HS) - digital illustration "Mind's Eye".

Carmel Arts Council Awards (Judge Joyce Burrell)

Alex Altenburg (Univ HS) - posca pens "Girl on Bridge"

Olivia Wright (CHS) - charcoal "Falcon"

Indiana Artisan People's Choice - (over 1,300 votes were cast by festival goers visiting the gallery)

Aubrey Halbig (CHS) - colored pencil "Girls Braiding Hair"

Oliver Jackson (Univ HS) - photo "Bridge"

Kate Sampson (Univ HS) - oil on canvas "Lake Scene"

Olivia Wright (CHS) - charcoal "Falcon"

See more pictures of the 2023 Festival and winners on the CIAF Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CARMEIntArtsFestival/>

Next year's festival will take place September 28 and 29.

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Meeting Notes

Carmel Common Council Meeting Agenda

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16 - 6 P.M. COUNCIL CHAMBERS/CITY HALL/ONE CIVIC SQUARE

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
2. AGENDA APPROVAL
3. INVOCATION
4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
5. RECOGNITION OF CITY EMPLOYEES AND OUTSTANDING CITIZENS
6. RECOGNITION OF PERSONS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL
7. COUNCIL AND MAYORAL COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS
8. CONSENT AGENDA
a. Approval of Minutes
1. October 4, 2023 Regular Meeting
b. Claims
1. General Claims \$2,049,332.81
2. Wire Transfers \$2,555,871.99
9. ACTION ON MAYORAL VETOES
10. COMMITTEE REPORTS
a. Finance, Utilities and Rules Committee
b. Land Use and Special Studies Committee
c. All reports designated by the Chair to qualify for placement under this category.
11. OTHER REPORTS - (at the first meeting of the month specified below):
a. Carmel Redevelopment Commission (Monthly)
b. Carmel Historic Preservation Commission (Quarterly - January, April, July, October)
c. Audit Committee (Bi-annual - May, October)
d. Redevelopment Authority (Bi-annual - April, October)
e. Carmel Cable and Telecommunications Commission (Bi-annual - April, October)
f. Economic Development Commission (Bi-annual - February, August)
g. Library Board (Annual - February)
h. Ethics Board (Annual - February)
i. Public Art Committee (Annual - August)
j. Parks Department (Quarterly - February, May, August, November)
k. Presentation from the Carmel Police

Department Crisis Intervention Unit
1. Presentation from Bike Carmel
m. All reports designated by the Chair to qualify for placement under this category.
12. OLD BUSINESS
a. Fourth Reading of Ordinance Z-683-23; An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Establishing the Conner Prairie Innovation District Planned Unit Development District; Sponsor: Councilor Aasen. Sent to the Land Use and Special Studies Committee (10/16/23 Meeting Date).
Synopsis: Ordinance Establishes the Conner Prairie West Innovation District Planned Unit Development Ordinance (the "Conner Prairie PUD"). The Ordinance would rezone the real estate from S-1 Residential and Legacy PUD (Ordinance Z-501-07) to a Planned Unit Development district allowing the expansion of the Conner Prairie Museum onto the site in a style and character as depicted on the attached Concept Plan and Character Imagery.
b. Second Reading of Ordinance D-2678-23; An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Establishing the Appropriations for the 2024 Budget; Sponsor(s): Councilor(s) Worrell and Campbell. Introduced and held over until the next meeting.
Synopsis: Establishes 2024 appropriations for the City of Carmel.
c. Second Reading of Ordinance D-2679-23; An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Fixing Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees of the Carmel City Clerk for the Year 2024; Sponsor(s): Councilor(s) Finkam, Campbell, Worrell, Ayers and Aasen. Introduced and held over until the next meeting.
Synopsis: Establishes 2024 maximum salaries for employees of the Carmel City Clerk.
d. Second Reading

of Ordinance D-2680-23; An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Fixing Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees of the Carmel City Court for the Year 2024; Sponsor(s): Councilor(s) Aasen and Worrell. Introduced and held over until the next meeting.
Synopsis: Establishes 2024 maximum salaries for employees of the Carmel City Court.
e. Second Reading of Ordinance D-2681-23; An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Fixing Salaries of Appointed Officers and Employees of the City of Carmel, Indiana, for the Year 2024; Sponsor(s): Councilor(s) Campbell, Finkam and Worrell. Introduced and held over until the next meeting.
Synopsis: Establishes 2024 maximum salaries for employees of the Executive branch.
f. Second Reading of Ordinance D-2682-23; An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Fixing Salaries of Elected Officials of the City of Carmel, Indiana, for the Year 2024; Sponsor(s): Councilor(s) Campbell, Finkam and Worrell. Introduced and held over until the next meeting.
Synopsis: Establishes 2024 salaries for Carmel's elected officials.
13. PUBLIC HEARINGS
a. First Reading of Ordinance D-2677-23; An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Vacating Portions of Northridge Subdivision, Broadway Avenue and East 104th Street; Sponsor: Councilor Green.
Synopsis: Vacates 18 lots in Northridge Subdivision and approximately 211' of right-of-way along Broadway Avenue, and approximately 792' of right-of-way along East 104th Street, part of the northeast quarter of Section 11, Township 17 North, Range 3 East.
b. First Reading of Ordinance D-2683-23;

An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Authorizing and Approving an Appropriation of Funds from the ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (Fund #176); Sponsor(s): Councilor(s) Aasen and Nelson.
Synopsis: Appropriates funds in the ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund for the provision of government services pursuant to the ARP Plan adopted by the Common Council.
14. NEW BUSINESS
a. Resolution CC-10-16-23-01; A Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, to Limit the Rate for Taxes Payable in 2024 and Authorize Necessary Temporary Borrowing Among City Funds; Sponsor(s): Councilor(s) Finkam, Campbell, Worrell, Aasen, Ayers, Green, Hannon, Nelson, Rider.
Synopsis: A resolution finding that the City's 2024 property tax rate should not exceed 0.7877, which is the same as the 2023 rate, and recommending how the DLGF should allocate the 2024 property levy among City funds; and also permitting temporary borrowing among funds during 2024; and also authorizing appeal to the Department of Local Government Finance for permission to increase the City's 2024 ad valorem property tax levy in excess of the usual maximum allowable amount.
b. First Reading of Ordinance D-2684-23; An Ordinance of the Common Council of the City of Carmel, Indiana, Amending the 2023 Salary Ordinance; Sponsor: Councilor Rider.
Synopsis: This ordinance amends the 2023 salary ordinance by adding the position of Operations Manager to the Carmel Department of Community Services.
15. AGENDA ADD-ON ITEMS
16. OTHER BUSINESS
17. ANNOUNCEMENTS
18. ADJOURNMENT

Speaker, Spending and Border Debate



VICTORIA SPARTZ Guest Column

Wall Street and K Street have dominated the DC political arena for decades, a direct cause of

should be treated like a tour of duty--not a career--and that the longer a Member stays in the DC swamp, the more likely they are to become part of it.

Agricultural Checkoff Transparency

As the House continues to debate 12 individual appropriations bills, Rep. Spartz offered an amendment to the FY2024 Ag appropriation that would ensure no taxpayer dollars flow to "checkoff" programs without proper transparency.

Checkoffs are fees mandated on farmers by Congress and used by many boards against small farmers to promote barriers of entry and regulations benefiting large agricultural monopolies, mainly controlled by Brazil and China in some Ag sectors.

- Rep. Victoria Spartz represents the Indiana 5th District, comprised of the north side of Indianapolis, Marion, Carmel, Anderson, Noblesville, Fishers and parts of Kokomo. She is the first Ukrainian-born person ever elected to Congress.

our nation's ongoing leadership and debt crises. Needless to say, the influence of these powerful special interest groups led to the very "motion to vacate" we saw in the House last week.

We must stop governing by crisis and start governing by leadership to deliver for the American people on the crushing national debt and border security.

Term Limits Constitutional Amendment

Rep. Spartz testified in the House Judiciary Committee markup in favor of legislation that would establish a constitutional amendment prescribing term limits for Members of the House and Senate.

Rep. Spartz argued that serving in Congress

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'Finish The Job': Lawmakers Push For Better Higher Education Cost, Debt Data

By Leslie Bonilla Muniz
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana lawmakers on Tuesday reviewed the results of a "first-of-its-kind" request of higher education cost and debt data — and found it lacking.

The data was riddled with holes from institutions unable to submit the desired data in the correct format or within the narrow timeframe allowed, and peppered with limitations.

"I think we don't have the data to say anything at this point," said Rep. Jeff Thompson, R-Lizton, at the interim study committee on fiscal policy's sole meeting Tuesday. He is vice-chair.

Policymakers should reframe their requests and allot more time for data collection, said the nonpartisan agency tasked with conducting the analysis.

Legislators also critiqued the universities for declining to present before the committee, pointing to the institutional representatives observing silently from the back row of the room.

Student loan debt down

The interim committee asked more than a half-dozen public higher education institutions for student loan debts, alumni salaries, staff salaries,

program provision cost and more.

It made its initial request in August and gave the institutions — including Ivy Tech Community College, Ball State University and multiple Purdue University campuses — less than six weeks to hand over data in mid-September. But they worked up to Monday night on some elements, Indiana Legislative Services Agency Fiscal Analyst Austin Spears told lawmakers.

Spears cautioned multiple times that the institutions often defined and recorded metrics differently, complicating his agency's attempts to compare data across institutions. Small program sizes at given degree levels also meant small — and volatile — sample sizes, he said.

Still the agency found that the average Hoosier higher education student owed less in debt in 2022 compared to a decade prior, even without accounting for inflation.

Those who obtained short-term certificates from Ivy Tech in 2012 owed more than \$8,000 on average, but 2022 graduates owed less than \$1,000 on average, according to Spears' slides. Vincennes University reported a drop from about \$11,000 in loan debt to \$8,000 during

that time period.

Students who obtained long-term certificates and associate degrees in 2022 also owed less debt on average compared to 2012, also in non-inflation-adjusted dollars — except at Ball State University.

Spears noted smaller loan debt declines for bachelor's degrees, and a "mixed bag" for master's and doctoral degrees.

Student costs, staff pay disparities

The Legislative Services Agency also examined the cost to students to complete different degrees, with tables noting each institution's most and least expensive programs. But even that information came with caveats.

Oddly high and low dollar amounts — like a \$40,000 short-term certification in multimedia design at the Indiana University regional campuses — prompted Spears to warn of possible "data issues."

Ball State wasn't able to provide the data required and was excluded, and Vincennes could only offer partial information.

Rep. Ed DeLaney, D-Indianapolis, also observed that the costs reported were "sticker prices."

"That's not what everyone pays," he said, after

scholarships.

What students and their families actually owe, DeLaney said, is "the essential question."

The Legislative Services Agency also collected data showing massive disparities between student-facing faculty — even excluding adjunct educators — and administrators.

Spears said formatting this information was also challenging, as some institutions may have converted faculty pay to full-time salaries differently, and may or may not have included other benefits in those calculations.

One school takes lawmakers up on offer

Seven institutions submitted narratives fleshing out their data, but just one presented before the committee Tuesday, prompting rebuke from some legislators.

Ivy Tech's vice president of legal and public affairs, Mary Jane Michalak, told lawmakers the community college was working diligently to lower costs beyond just tuition and fees.

"That is a huge cost to students, and that is a cost that is not transparent to students when they ... sign up for a class," Michalak said. She cited research showing that students who

can't afford materials often go without.

Ivy Tech, after years of planning, has negotiated prices for course materials, with the next school's rate set for \$17 per credit hours. Last year, even at a slightly higher rate, the program saved students nearly \$74 million.

Just 123 eligible students opted out of the initiative, according to Michalak.

She said Ivy Tech has also stopped including loans by default in student financial aid packages, and sends letter annually showing students how much in debt they've already racked up. Students are now taking out less in loans, she said.

Lawmakers thanked her for the presentation — and turned a mild ire to those that hadn't presented.

"The offer was made to all the universities but only Ivy Tech was the one that took you up," Rep. Cherish Pryor, D-Indianapolis, said.

"That is correct. But there are several sitting in that back row back there," Chair Travis Holdman, R-Markle, said. But he noted that all had filed narratives.

"I appreciate your cover that you're offering. But I'm gonna go back to: I think it would have been nice," Pryor said. "... Par-

ticularly since a significant amount of the funding does come from the Indiana General Assembly. And it is our responsibility to be good (keepers) of the state dollars, and eight minutes is not a lot of time to ask to present for us."

The committee at first had no recommendations, but Sen. Fady Qaddoura, D-Indianapolis, said that might reflect poorly upon the body.

DeLaney advocated for an immediate update to the analysis using full data, adding that if lawmakers tried to compare the current attempt to an update two years from now, they wouldn't be comparable. "Let's finish the job," he said.

The committee adopted a recommendation to have stakeholders convene and settle on parameters for data collection, and to hopefully have that data before the group meets again next spring.

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BBB Tip: Fall Home Maintenance - Get Ready For The Winter

The air is getting more relaxed, and the leaves and cornfields are turning yellow. Fall is here. With the change in weather comes a list of home maintenance that all homeowners should tackle before the icy stuff sets in. BBB offers these tips when preparing your home for the colder weather:

Clean those gutters. A build-up of leaves and other debris can cause your gutters and downspouts not to drain correctly. Improper draining can make water spill over your gutters, leading to foundation/basement damage and damage to your fascia boards. In the winter, ice dams can form that can let snow melt underneath your shingles.

Inspect your roof. Inspect your roof for loose or damaged shingles and make any necessary repairs. Damaged or loose shingles can let in water and ice during the winter, creating interior damage.

Test your smoke and carbon dioxide detectors. Making sure these essential safety tools are in proper working condition is manageable and vital to ensuring the safety of those in your home. The National Fire Protection Association offers excellent information on installing and maintaining smoke alarms.

Check your window and doors for air leakage. Adding caulk and weather stripping helps prevent cold air leakage into your home and prevents spiders and insects from entering. Also, check where pipes and wires enter your home.

Organize your garage. You will undoubtedly use your garage a lot more in the colder months. Get rid of trash and clutter, and make sure your snow shovel and other winter-use items are easily accessible. Fill/repair any cracks or holes you see to prevent bugs and rodents from entering that will be seeking refuge from the cold.

Inspect your driveway. The frequent freezing and thawing conditions in many areas, along with tree roots and ground shifting, can cause driveways to develop areas of needed repair. Fall is a great time to fill cracks and seal coats to prevent wintertime water/ice damage.

Schedule HVAC maintenance. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, preventive care can help save you up to 25% in energy costs. Having your heating system serviced and filters replaced will ensure your system

works efficiently. Cover up your outdoor water fixture (s). Spigot covers are reasonably priced at your local hardware store and help keep the exterior pipes from freezing. Empty hoses of any water and move them indoors.

Protect pipes. Insulate pipes in unheated areas, like attics, basements, and crawl spaces. Running a slow drip of water from faucets during extremely cold weather can also help prevent pipes from freezing.

Prepare the garden and yard. Trim trees and bushes away from your home to prevent heavy snow or ice damage. Clean up leaves and debris to prevent pests from finding shelter.

Store patio furniture and other outdoor items. Put away or cover outdoor furniture, grills, and other summer items to protect them from winter weather.

Stock up on winter supplies. Have salt or ice melt, shovels, and other winter supplies on hand for snow and ice removal.

Sweep your chimney. If you have a fireplace, clean and inspect the chimney before using it. Ensure the damper works properly to prevent drafts when the fireplace is not in use. Having the soot and possible blockages or creosote build-up helps reduce the risk of a chimney fire and can improve the efficiency of your fireplace.

Reverse ceiling fans. In the colder months, you want your fan to move the warm air down, which means having your blades turn clockwise.

Test backup generators. If you have a backup generator, test it to ensure it's in working condition in case of power outages.

Review your emergency plan. Review your family's emergency plan, including how to stay warm, communication, and evacuation procedures in an emergency.

Check for BBB Accreditation for any professionals you may hire. Go to BBB.org to check the trustworthiness of a business. Do a general online search on a company to see what reviews and other information may be available.

For more information and to learn how to protect yourself, Google "BBB 10 Steps to Avoid Scams". If you spot a scam, whether you have lost money or not, report it to BBB's Scam Tracker at BBB.org/ScamTracker and the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. Your story can help protect consumers from similar scams.

Global Warming Triggers More Violent Human Behavior

EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: What's the connection, if any, between the onset of global warming and an increase in violent human behavior?

It's not uncommon to hear talk about the dire consequences of global warming—rising-sea levels, extreme weather and ecological disruptions. But there's another dimension to this crisis that doesn't get much attention but is equally concerning: the link between global warming and increased violent behavior.

Indeed, a new study from University of Washington and Boston University researchers that surveyed data from 100 U.S. cities found that hotter-than-normal days—which we are getting more of every year thanks to global warming—coincide with higher incidences of gun violence. Several other previous studies underscore the connection between warmer temperatures and violence, with murder, rape and assault rates higher across the board during warmer-than-average stretches of days, months, seasons and years.

How does this add up? Researchers believe that prolonged exposure to climate change-related stressors can lead to anxiety, depression, and even post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)—and that those experiencing these mental health issues may be more susceptible to engaging in violent behaviors as a coping mechanism or due to their altered mental state.

According to Iowa State University psychology researcher Craig Anderson, higher temperatures cause the brain to divert resources to other parts of the body in order to cool down. When this happens, parts of the brain are not running at full capacity, making it harder to process new information, manage emotions and control impulses. People who are hot are also more likely to perceive others as behaving aggressively, which increases the odds of hostile confrontations. "Heat stress primes people to act more aggressively,"

reports Anderson. "We can see this play out on a larger scale across geographic regions and over time."

While it's clear that hotter temperatures can rile people up more than usual, the ripple effect on society at large is more troubling. The predicted decline in crop yields and scarcity of drinking water in a fast-warming world could act like a multiplier effect on our tendency to get short-tempered when we heat up, and regional violent conflicts over essential resources—food and water—are the likely result.

Historians point to the 2011 civil war in Syria as an example of climate change catalyzing violent conflict. Prolonged warming-induced droughts there contributed to crop failures and displacement of rural communities which exacerbated existing social and political tensions creating an environment that erupted into full-scale civil war. These types of conflicts are likely to become more and more common as we continue to add more and more greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere.

One way to minimize warming-induced violence at the meta level is to reduce warming by reducing our carbon footprints. And we can also take other steps to ensure a more peaceful future regardless of our ability to rein in emissions. Building resilient communities and food systems can go a long way towards reducing violence in the face of climate-related stressors. And we should prioritize mental health services and support systems to assist individuals in coping with the psychological impacts of climate change.

-CONTACTS: Analysis of Daily Ambient Temperature and Firearm Violence in 100 US Cities, <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2799635>; Climate as a risk factor for armed conflict, <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-019-1300-6>.

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Tips For Husbands Who HAVE To Go To Fall Festivals



TIM TIMMONS
Two Cents

Fall means turning leaves, cooler temps, football, saying so long to summer . . . it used to mean that school

just started but now is the beginning of the second grading period . . . but I digress. For us warm-weather lovers it signals the beginning of our bodies losing their warmth. I don't expect to have warm feet again until June.

It also means fall festivals.

All across the state it seems like most communities – big, small or a few pumpkin spices in between – have their own.

From Oktoberfests to Persimmons to Turning Leaves, Covered Bridges, Apples, Pumpkins, Arts, Foliage, Harvest Moon, Headless Horsemen, Corn Mazes, Harvest, Settlers, GermanFests, Chili Cook Offs and, oh yeah, fall . . . there's a festival for everyone.

A lot of us will be heading to one (or more!) of these. Truth to tell, I used to hate it. Hate with a passion. Back in the day, I would rather play softball, watch sports on TV or work in the garage.

But, and please don't tell my wife this, they aren't as bad as they used to be.

So chances are high that we're going to spend a few weekends wandering around the great Hoosier state visiting some of these. Most will be pretty crowded, shoulder-to-shoulder crowds. So please allow me to offer a few thoughts on the do's and don't's for the husbands in attendance – whether they want to be or not.

• First, if you see something that catches your eye, do not stop in mid-stride to look. Chances are there's some schmuck of a husband behind you who

isn't watching where he's going. See the problem that's coming?

• Ditto if you change your mind and wheel around on a dime. Your sudden reversal could result in a collision with the aforementioned schmuck and the chain-reaction that ensues won't be pretty.

• Have a dog you love and adore? Good for you. Leave it at home.

• When you inevitably run into friends, don't gather as a group in the middle of the walkway. Seasoned festival goers understand and just go around you. The schmuck of a husband gets confused and that causes a logjam.

• If there is a shuttle and a long line waiting, don't try to cut in. Hell should have a special corner set aside for those people.

Ditto for those who don't observe common courtesy in the parking lot and drive like Mario Andretti to the parking spot you've patiently waited on.

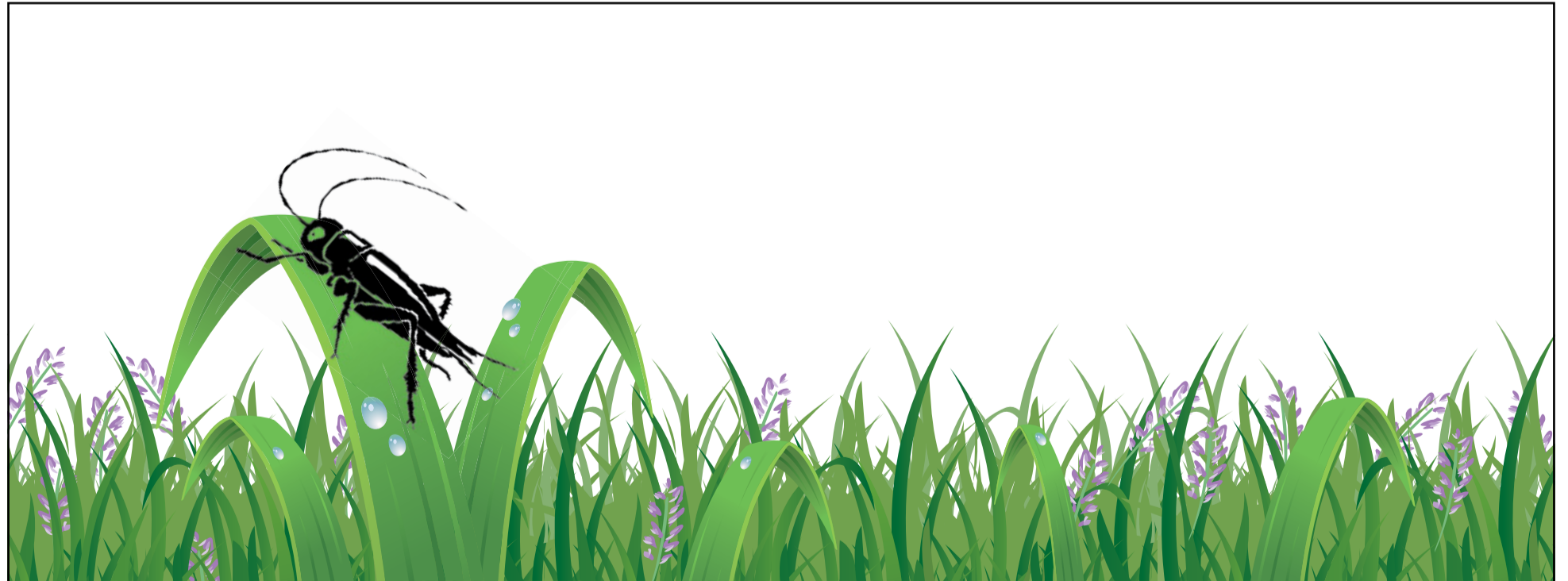
• Do the event organizers a favor and when you finish that lemon shakeup or elephant ear, find a trash can. Not only does it help keep the place clean, but whether there should be or not, dogs are running around. Step on a squishy lemon rind and you get a sinking feeling for at least a second or two.

• Speaking of food, just understand that the prices are going to be ridiculous. Standing there griping about it isn't going to change anything.

• Also understand that fried grease is the order of the day. So are antacids.

Ah fall . . . love this time of year.

-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.



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BETSY From Page A1

muse has met his match in the smart and unflinching lawyer. It's a beautiful story of dealing with loss, honoring those we love and finding your way."

When Carmel Community Players was seeking submissions from local directors for the 2023-24 season, Keller submitted the play.

"I thought it would be a great fit for their two primary venues, The Cat or The Switch, which require loading in of a set the week before a show opens."

Keller said audiences will love the play's characters. "They will love Sebastian, the muse. He's irreverent and mischievous. You never know what he might do next. They will love the story that Megan has written, and the common themes will resonate."

Kelly Keller performed in his first community theater production, "It's A Wonderful Life" for Mud Creek Players in 2014, and had nine small roles. His wife, Tanya, worked with director Jim Williams who was the show's assistant director and mentioned the need for some help.

"I had done ballet with my daughter and several of the ballet dads, like Ryan Shelton (of Noblesville) suggested to me to get into community theater," Keller said. "I loved my first show. I was welcomed warmly by Jim and the female lead, Andrea Odle. They educated me on my aspects of theater."

Keller said, "I love the opportunity to tell a story, whether on stage, directing or as crew, and transport an audience member from their daily struggles to another place for a couple of hours. The joy of seeing someone lose themselves in a show is intoxicating."

As a play director, he loves the opportunity to bring all of the elements -- acting, lighting, sound and more -- together for an immersive experience.

This show, as do all shows that are loaded in, has the challenges associated with moving into a different space than where the show has been rehearsing. Challenges include having to build a set in a different location, transport it, assemble it, and do the sound and lights.

Additional challenges have come, with a cast member who contracted Covid and unexpected absences from the cast and crew.

However, he said, "What has been easy has been the cast. We had a great turnout at auditions and equally great choices for casting. The cast we chose has embraced the play and worked collaboratively to produce an excellent production. We are anxious to show off our work and our local playwright."

Keller said the cast and crew have been very committed to the production.

"When I had an emergency out-of-town work trip come up, they rehearsed on their own."

Meet THE CAST

Sebastian, Joe Wagner; Nikki, Ameetha Widdershins; Ryan, Malcolm Marshall; Anita, Wendy Brown; and Tyler, Austin Uebelhor

Meet THE CREW

Director, Kelly Keller; Assistant Director and Producer, Jeremy Ried; Stage Manager, Tanya Keller; Set Design, Kelly Keller; Set Build, Charlie Hanover, David Muse; Set Decoration, Tanya Keller; Costume Design, Karen Webster-Cones; Sound Operator and Light Operator, Carly Tanner; Light Design and Sound Design, Kelly Keller; Properties, Eric Bowman; Program and Poster Design, Lori Raffel; and photography, Erin Keller

When a cast member got Covid, we figured out how to have him at rehearsal virtually and walked him around on a mobile device. When our rehearsal location was unavailable due to road construction, one of our cast members offered her house for rehearsal and rearranged her furniture to match our set layout."

The play is set in a New York apartment. "Our set designers have created a space that is warm and welcoming," Keller said. "Audience members will immediately feel at home. Our award-winning costumer has chosen costumes that match each character's personality. She includes color palettes for each cast member that matches their character."

Keller is originally from South Bend and is a senior director for DMI digital transformation services in Indianapolis.

Keller has gotten his family involved in this show as well. His wife, Tanya, has helped build the set, read lines and provided line notes at rehearsal and is stage managing the production. Daughter, Erin Keller, a professional real estate photographer who often takes photos for local community theaters, took the cast and crew headshots and character scene dress rehearsal photos.

This comedy has strong themes. "It includes some of the hardest challenges we face as people," Keller said. "We've worked hard to find the humor in these situations. In creating the show, we've looked for opportunities to bring the joy and uniqueness these characters have to the stage. We've added bits that reference well-known comedy styles, persons and routines. Our actors have fully embraced this and give everything to their performances."

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



Photo courtesy of Erin Keller for Carmel Community Players

Kelly Keller of Fishers, who performed on stage in his first community theater production nine years ago in nine small roles, is now directing his ninth production, "aMUSEd," onstage Friday through Oct. 22 at The Switch Theatre in Fishers.



Photo courtesy of Erin Keller for Carmel Community Players

Austin Uebelhor as Tyler in Carmel Community Players' comedy, "aMUSEd," directed by Kelly Keller of Fishers, opening Friday and continuing through Oct. 22 at The Switch Theatre in Fishers.

BUDGET From Page A1

Road & Infrastructure
The City will prioritize several infrastructure investments, including roundabout installations at 126th Street and Southeastern Avenue and 96th Street and Allisonville Road, as well as road widening projects including 136th Street from Southeastern Avenue to Prairie Baptist Road. Design for the new 116th Street and Allisonville Road roundabout will launch in 2024 with a 2025 construction.

Trail Connectivity & Engagement
Investments in trail connectivity and addressing trail gaps are central to the 2024 Budget. Three new trail connections are proposed alongside the establishment of a trail node at Hub & Spoke, enhancing connectivity and trailside amenities for residents.

Neighborhood & Community Vibrancy
Historic investments are planned for neighborhood vibrancy and long-term sustainability, including investments in sidewalk repairs across multiple neighborhoods, urban forestry with the planting of 2,000 trees, and the

revitalization of the 96th Street corridor. Neighborhood Vibrancy Grant allocation will increase from \$100k to \$750k, funding projects related to entrance upgrades, pond and greenspace maintenance, sidewalk connections, and community spaces within residential neighborhoods.

Continued Investment in Public Safety & Critical Services

The 2024 budget underscores the City's dedication to ensuring the safety and well-being of residents with the addition of three new firefighters and police officers, two School Resource Officers and a forensic tech. Additionally, the Fishers Health Department will add a new health inspector and public health nurse position.

Educational Innovation

In a first-ever initiative, the budget introduces a Teacher Innovation Micro-Grant Program for Hamilton Southeastern School District teachers, allocating \$500K to foster innovative learning and professional development within the classroom.

Learn more about the 2024 municipal budget at fishers.in.us/Budget.

Jet Access Selects Fishers For New Corporate Headquarters

Jet Access, a vertically integrated, full-service aviation management company, announced today its plans to move its headquarters to Fishers as part of its vision to propel the metro area to a national hub for private and general aviation. Jet Access plans to add 20 new corporate positions by 2025.

"It's an exciting time for Jet Access, and we look forward to bringing our corporate team together to support our future growth," said Jet Access CEO Quinn Ricker. "Fishers is one of the fastest growing business hubs for corporate headquarters and communities in central Indiana and moving to Fishers will allow us to accommodate future

growth." Jet Access currently employs nearly 400 aviation professionals with 260 residing in Central Indiana. Sixty-three corporate employees will relocate from offices around the metro area to the Fishers headquarters.

"Fishers' strong sense of community and momentum continues to bring economic opportunities to our community," said Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness.

"The team at Jet Access has a strong vision for the future of private jet travel and we look forward to supporting that growth."

An economic development agreement was approved by the City of Fishers Redevelopment Commission on October 9.

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Who knew that wind could cause such a stir?

I ndiana

Facts & Fun



04

Benton

Number $\%$ Stumpers

- As of 2016 Indiana had 1,096 wind turbines. What percent of the total turbines were in Benton County?
- How old is Benton County?
- What percentage of Benton County's population is made up of those living in Fowler?
- How many square miles of land in Benton County is used for agriculture?

Answers: 1. Around 51% 2. 178 years 3. Approximately 26% 4. Around 365.9 square miles

Did You Know?

- Benton County was coined the "Home of Indiana's First Wind Farm" in 2008 and now has 560 wind turbines.
- The estimated population of Benton is around 8,854.
- Benton County is considered one of Indiana's top agriculture communities because 90% of the land is utilized for agriculture purposes.
- The county was founded Feb. 18, 1840 and is approximately 406.51 square miles.
- Fowler, the largest town in the county, has an estimated population of 2,317 individuals.

Got Words?

Benton County is responsible for the majority of Indiana's wind-produced electricity. The idea of wind farms has sparked great controversy in recent years. How do you think wind farms benefit and hinder the lifestyles of Benton County residents?

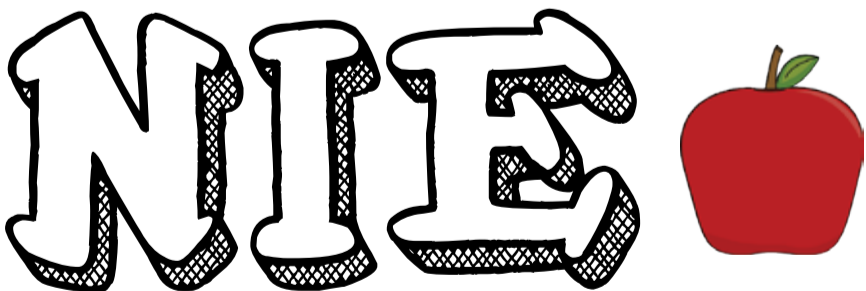
Word Scrambler

Unscramble the words below!

- ETOBNN CYOUTN
- ERUILUCTGAR
- NDWI MAFR
- LFEWOR
- RITETCEYICL

Answers: 1. Benton County 2. Agriculture 3. Wind Farm 4. Fowler 5. Electricity

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A8

Purdue's eXcellence In Manufacturing And Operations Initiative Focuses On Resiliency In The Industry

Purdue University's recently launched eXcellence in Manufacturing and Operations Purdue Engineering Initiative, or XMO PEI, is positioned to strengthen the U.S. advanced manufacturing industry's adaptability for the 21st century across multiple sectors, such as semiconductors, aerospace, defense, biomanufacturing for agriculture, and transportation.

The XMO initiative is building a national coalition of academia, government and industry partners to meet at the intersection of physical, digital and sustainable manufacturing to achieve excellence at scale.

As part of the initiative, Purdue will in November host a summit at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) in Washington, D.C. This event will bring together industry, government and academic leaders to discuss building resilient U.S. infrastructure for advanced manufacturing and operations, which are critical to America's security and economic durability in the era of globalization.

"It's not just advanced manufacturing in the sense of making things in a factory. It's also the supporting operations that you need for creating these resilient supply chains, resilient infrastructure and a resilient workforce," said Stephan Biller, the Harold T. Amrine Distinguished Professor in the School of Industrial Engineering and the Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. School of Business.

Biller and Ajay Malshe, the R. Eugene and Susie E. Goodson Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering, were named XMO PEI co-chairs in May 2023.

Both are members of the prestigious National Academy of Engineering.

"Our biggest challenge is that the U.S. has great scientific innovations, technologies and minds. What we need is infrastructural resiliency and a system for fast and real-world engineering and industrial translation of innovations at scale," Malshe said. "While the U.S. is starting to make notable moves toward building a robust supply chain, we need to be more focused and intentional about resilient manufacturing and operations for the present and future as a matter of national security. We're addressing that through the XMO initiative with a unified national message that 'we make,



Stephan Biller (L) and Ajay Malshe (R) serve as co-chairs of the eXcellence in Manufacturing and Operations Purdue Engineering Initiative.

and we move." To bring about that change, the co-chairs said the country needs to undergo a seismic shift in the manufacturing sector.

Biller said the U.S. needs a manufacturing renaissance, adding, "At the same time we want to do it in a digitally enabled and sustainable way. The renaissance is quite critical for prosperity, for our ability to innovate and for our society. If you only design and then have other nations manufacture this, you're losing your ability to innovate."

Malshe, who is the inaugural director of the Manufacturing and Materials Research Laboratories, echoed Biller's sentiments and added the shift supports a key pillar for economic stability and security.

"I would like to go from 'designing in America and manufacturing elsewhere' to 'designing in America and manufacturing in America.' That's the renaissance I'd like to see, and that's the renaissance we need to build resilience," Malshe added.

The multidisciplinary scope of the co-chairs' research mirrors the junction of disciplines that govern advanced manufacturing and operations today, as it spans physical processes, digital transformation and sustainable production. "The collaborative multidisciplinary approach at Purdue mirrors the endeavors of large and small innovators; most innovation happens in the intersection of disciplines today," said Biller, who has 25 years of experience as a senior executive at companies including General Electric Co., General Motors Co. and IBM.

"I would argue that

there is probably no resiliency without sustainability, because you really have to ensure that you produce in a more environmentally friendly way," Biller said. "If you want the next-generation workforce interested in manufacturing, you better make sure that it's happening sustainably."

Malshe and Biller said the initiative will be an instrument to foster nationwide collaborations from multiple academic disciplines that share a common bond to develop, educate and retrain the workforce in critical industrial sectors.

Biller said accelerating the adoption of innovative technologies and tools in advanced manufacturing, strengthening operations, and bolstering the supply chain must benefit not only large corporations.

"We need to build an advanced manufacturing operations innovation ecosystem that will allow us to help the small and medium-sized businesses that supply the original equipment manufacturers," Biller said. "If you want resilient supply chains and transparent supply chains, we need these small and medium manufacturers to transform in physical, digital and sustainable manufacturing."

Biller cited work underway at Purdue's Dauch Center for the Management of Manufacturing Enterprises, in which he serves as director, as the types of efforts to be supported by XMO PEI.

"In particular, it is contributing to Indiana's electric vehicle product commission initiatives, analyzing transformational risk and opportunities in both innovation and workforce development and helping with courses and

conferences to educate the small and midsize enterprises in digital transformation," Biller said.

Malshe, who has more than 30 years of experience in industry and academia, said advanced manufacturing related to defense and in-space applications, agriculture and food security, transportation, and semiconductors is often not discussed.

"The new space age is upon us, and Space 2.0 will provide colossal returns for America's engineering and scientific sectors," said Malshe. "Today, space commerce, security and exploration are getting seamlessly interconnected to Earth physically, digitally and sustainably."

Conexus Indiana, a statewide organization that exists to promote Indiana's advanced manufacturing and logistics sector, hails Purdue's critical role in the transformation of industry.

"Working with Purdue University, we look forward to accomplishing digital transformation and workforce readiness at scale," Conexus Indiana president and CEO Fred Cartwright said. "Our efforts in digital transformation and workforce readiness, through statewide programs such as Manufacturing Readiness Grants and Catapult Indiana, contribute to building resiliency in these critical sectors."

Along with national alliances, within Purdue the PEI will foster academic alliances across campus with the Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. School of Business, the College of Agriculture, the College of Science, and the Purdue Polytechnic Institute to statewide and national impact.



Photo courtesy of Purdue Agricultural Communications

A chemical applicator drives through a field to spray nitrogen onto a field.

Midwestern Regional Climate Center Develops Soil Temperature Climatology Tool

The Midwestern Regional Climate Center, which is housed at Purdue University, is launching a new tool in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Midwest Climate Hub to provide soil temperature threshold information based on historical data from the last 30 years.

Melissa Widhalm, the MRCC's associate director and regional climatologist, said the Soil Temperature Climatology Tool will be crucial for the agricultural industry to better identify benchmark dates for when specific agronomic activities, such as planting and applying nutrients, should take place.

"Every spring and every fall we get numerous requests from farmers asking us at the MRCC when they should expect to be able to put seed in the ground or apply nitrogen, based on past soil temperatures," Widhalm said. "While this isn't a real-time monitoring program, this does clue in that piece of historical data that we didn't have access to before so we can make better-informed decisions."

Data for the tool was sourced from the North American Regional Reanalysis (NARR), a model produced by the National Centers for Environmental Prediction that generates reanalyzed data for temperature, wind, moisture, soil and dozens of other parameters. Widhalm said using data from NARR

was necessary because several areas across the Midwest lack substantial soil temperature measurements. These soil temperature estimates provide for an accurate historical perspective.

Laurie Nowatzke, coordinator of the USDA Midwest Climate Hub, expressed excitement over the tool's release: "Soil temperature affects so many on-farm management decisions. We consistently hear from producers and agricultural service providers that they need better access to this key piece of climate information. As with many of MRCC's data tools, the Soil Temperature Climatology Tool can help Midwestern farmers plan ahead during complex parts of the season."

While the Soil Temperature Climatology Tool was developed with the farming community in mind, Widhalm said the data this tool provides will be useful for several other production areas.

"This will be helpful for anyone working with soil, whether that is construction companies needing to dig in the ground or a forester needing to haul cut trees across frozen ground," she said. "We want people to understand this tool can be versatile for a multitude of industries."

The Soil Temperature Climatology Tool is available to the public on the MRCC's website.

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