



65, sun and clouds

MORE WEATHER, PAGE A6.

State

Judge puts Indiana's new abortion law on hold pending review, A2

THE NEWS SUN

SERVING NOBLE AND LAGRANGE COUNTIES

FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 23, 2022

Kendallville, Indiana

KPCNEWS.COM

\$1.50



Two new window clings featuring short bios of Kendallville residents of historic note were put up Thursday in the windows at BettyLou Designs and Graphics at 119 S. Main St. The two clings were part of

Window to the past

Kendallville adds more historic bios to downtown storefronts

BY STEVE GARBACZ

sgarbacz@kpcmedia.com

KENDALLVILLE — More of Kendallville's history is on display now after a second round of window clings featuring residents of note from the city's historic were hung Thursday morning.

It's a second round of window clings, taking the city to 22 total.

The historic window cling program is part of a humanities project required as part of the city's \$2 million Preserving Main Street grant. As part of that larger project, Indiana Humanities provided a \$10,000 grant that allowed Kendallville to establish a historic trail in downtown, recognizing important buildings and people from the city's past.

Aside from six historic markers on landmarks in downtown, in June

the city had 13 black and white window clings put up in storefronts.

Those window clings will include a photo of the individual, birth and death dates, information on their accomplishments and/or unique story, along with other key facts.

Once up, the city established a guided historic walking tour for people who wanted to walk Main Street and learn more about the city's buildings and residents.

The bold window clings have been a hit in the downtown, leading to the city generating a second round of historic residents to allow more storefronts in on the action.

The nine new window clings have gone up in seven buildings including:

- Christian Community Center, 112 S. Main St. — Russel Frehse, local historian
• BettyLou Designs and

Graphics, 119 S. Main St. —

Laurence D. Baker, state representative who made the peony the official state flower, and Dick Cole, founder of the Cole Foundation

• Family Shears, 130 S. Main St. — Charles E. Redman, U.S. ambassador to Sweden and Germany

• Compliance Advantage, 116 S. Main St. — John DeCamp, the voice of Purdue, and Herman Krueger, builder and merchant

• Kendallville City Hall, 234 S. Main St. — Frances Dingman, nurse and physician known as "Aunt Fanny"

• Jansen Law, 228 S. Main St. — Chester Dekko, founder of the Dekko Foundation

• Atz Law Office, 202 S. Main St. — Ralph Atz, founder of Atz Ice Cream

Northeastern Center evolves with new strategic plan

BY SHERYL PRENTICE

sprentice@kpcmedia.com

KENDALLVILLE —

Northeastern Center has provided mental health care to residents in DeKalb, Noble, LaGrange and Steuben counties for 45 years. The center and its board of directors have always operated with strategic plans, but that plan needed a makeover to improve the quality of life for the community.

CEO Steve Howell said the board and staff rolled up their sleeves in 2020 and worked with consultant True North through the pandemic to develop a three-year plan that would improve quality of life in the community.

"The process started in 2020. We wanted to invest in a robust strategic plan we are better able to serve the four counties," Howell said.

By May 2021, the strategic plan evolved into three phases. The first phase was an organizational assessment, which Howell termed "the good, the bad and ugly." Interviews, focus groups and surveys with staff, stakeholders and customers were used to gather information about every aspect of the center.

The second phase was diving in to analyze the data and develop action steps to be carried out in the third phase, implementation. The



YOUR COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER

plan was finally finished in July and approved by the center's board of directors in August.

"Covid delayed things bit in 2020 but not much," Howell said. "I didn't think that it would take 12 to 15 months. It's just a complicated, complex business. We heard from customers and their families. The assessment phase took the longest, six or seven months. The assessment uncovered things to do better."

The 18 pages of the three-year strategic plan helped the staff and board to focus on the intentionality about what the center does every day. Goals were divided into the Four P's: People, Program, Plan and Process.

The plan leaves the center's mission intact: "The agency's mission is to help individuals achieve emotional and mental wholeness through accessible, affordable, and quality behavioral health services."

The board adopted a new vision statement that better reflects the center's goals and direction for the future: "Vision: As the premier

SEE NORTHEASTERN, PAGE A2

East Noble runs through \$38.9 million 2023 budget

BY STEVE GARBACZ

sgarbacz@kpcmedia.com

KENDALLVILLE — East Noble is looking to spend a little more in 2023 in hopes of giving out teacher raises, purchasing some new buses and paying down debt, all while the district's tax rate looks likely to shrink a bit more.

It's budget season and on Wednesday, the East Noble school

board got an update about the proposed spending plan for 2023.

In total, East Noble is budgeting about \$38.9 million for next year.

Chief Finance and Operations Officer Brian Leitch guided the board through their annual budget presentation, highlighting key points of the spending plan.

Leitch reminded board members that budgets are plans and that

doesn't mean the district has to or will spend 100% of these amounts and, hopefully, won't overspend its totals either.

School funding comes from two sources. The first, and bigger of the two, is state funding that is calculated on student population and a complex funding formula that, in general, provides about \$6,000 per students plus or minus

depending on multiple factors. Those funds pay for the "education fund," which covers most in-classroom expenses for schools.

The other source is property taxes, which nowadays covers the "operational fund" including day-to-day operating expenses, maintenance, technology and capital purchases, as well as debt payments.

The 2023 educational fund clocks in at \$25,688,468, the majority of which is funding for "regular programs," typical K-12 instructional including teacher salaries, totaling \$16.29 million. Building administration is the next largest bucket at about \$2.1 million, with special education at

SEE EN, PAGE A6

Inside

Table with 2 columns: Category and Page Number. Includes Classified (B5-B6), Life (A5), Obituaries (A4), Opinion (B3), TV (B4), Sports (B1-B2), Weather (A6).

Vol. 113 No. 224



Read online

For breaking news, story updates and more, read online any time at kpcnews.com.

Info

The News Sun

P.O. Box 39, 102 N. Main St.

Kendallville, IN 46755

Telephone: (260) 347-0400

Fax: (260) 347-7281

Classifieds: (toll free) (877) 791-7877

Circulation: (260) 347-0400

Fire departments struggling with daytime runs

BY MATT GETTS

mgetts@kpcmedia.com

AVILLA — If you're going to have a medical emergency, it might be best to schedule it for the evening.

Of course, no one schedules a medical emergency. But area fire departments are struggling to find volunteers able to leave work to handle such calls in the daytime.

Avilla Fire Chief Chad Geiger is concerned.

So it Orange Township Fire Chief Harold Cummins.

Geiger reported during Wednesday's Avilla Town Council meeting that his department had 42 calls for service during the month of August.

Eight times, there were no volunteers available.

Cummins said twice in the last month or so, his department did not have anyone available for priority 1 medical runs. Priority 1 medical runs are the most serious, involving difficulty breathing, seizures and heart issues.

"There wasn't anybody around," Cummins said.

Both said the problems are most severe during the daytime hours when volunteers are working their regular jobs.

"Daytime calls are bad," Cummins said.

Orange Township has a couple of

volunteers during the day, but if their work takes them out of the area...

There are mutual aid agreements between departments. Geiger said in a couple of instances, members of the LaOtto Volunteer Fire Department were able to respond to critical calls that happened in the Avilla area in August.

Cummins' department has similar agreements.

"We rely on Johnson Township if they can get somebody," Cummins said. "But they are scarce, too."

Cummins said it is a struggle to find volunteers who work second or third shift to respond in the daytime. That

SEE DAYS, PAGE A6



7 06804 15702 4