

THE NEWS SUN

SERVING NOBLE AND LAGRANGE COUNTIES

Life
Local
musicians
gather for
concert, A5



Rain returns
MORE WEATHER, PAGE A6.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 21, 2021

Kendallville, Indiana

NEWS - SUN . COM

\$1.50

Community leaders meet Ivy Tech chancellor

BY JOE MCQUEEN

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KENDALLVILLE — Ivy Tech Community College Fort Wayne and Warsaw campus' new chancellor finally had the chance to meet with community leaders since taking office in August.

Leaders from the Impact Institute in Kendallville gathered to meet Chancellor Kim Barnett-Johnson to discuss her vision for the college and northeast Indiana.

"I came here today to meet the community and learn more about who they are and what their needs are," Barnett-Johnson said.

She said her goals for the event were for attendees to learn more her. This is the fourth meet and greet she has held since becoming chancellor.

She's hoping to learn the different desires of the community and develop a vision for the college.

"I believe it should not be

about what I think our vision should be, but instead more about what the community needs and what the region needs," she said.

As chancellor, she hopes to identify gaps in areas that are missing and build more learning centers around the region.

She said one of the main issues facing the college is attracting new students into the school.

Colleges and universities across the country have been struggling with enrollment for the past few years and Ivy Tech has been part of that trend.

"Not as many students are choosing to go college right out of high school," she said. "We find some are choosing to go later in life."

Hosting meet and greets are a way for the college to get the message out about what it has to offer.

Colleges have begun focusing more on trying

SEE IVY TECH, PAGE A2



STEVE GARBACZ

The historic Iddings-Gilbert-Leader-Anderson block on the west side of North Main Street stands before a cloudless sky Wednesday afternoon.

Design Time Kendallville will seek architect for facade work

BY STEVE GARBACZ

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KENDALLVILLE — Now that Kendallville has been awarded the \$2 million PreservINg Main Street, it needs to find an architect skilled in historic preservation to help design the city's large-scale facade project.

The city is still in the process of rounding up which building owners in the downtown corridor want to participate in renovating their buildings, with Kendallville asking them to put up a match of just 15% in order to get 85% of the cost covered by state grant dollars.

Once the city has a roster of building owners who have the cash and are ready to move forward, the next step will be working with them to do a technical design of the upgrades they'd like to make.

At Tuesday's Kendallville City Council meeting, consultant Shannon McLeod of Priority Project Resources — who has been assisting Kendallville on the PreservINg Main Street and previously helped the city get its \$600,000 streetscape

“We have to solidify exactly what we're going to do with those funds.”

— Consultant Shannon McLeod

grant — gave an update on what happens next in the process.

After the city successfully made its general pitch and being awarded the grant, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs now has \$2 million with Kendallville's name on it. Now, the state just needs a detailed plan of what the city wants to do with that money, McLeod said.

"The money has been set aside and earmarked for you," she said. "We have to solidify exactly what we're going to do with those funds."

The grant must be used for historic facade upgrades in the

downtown historical district and in order to prepare that project, Kendallville is going to need professional help.

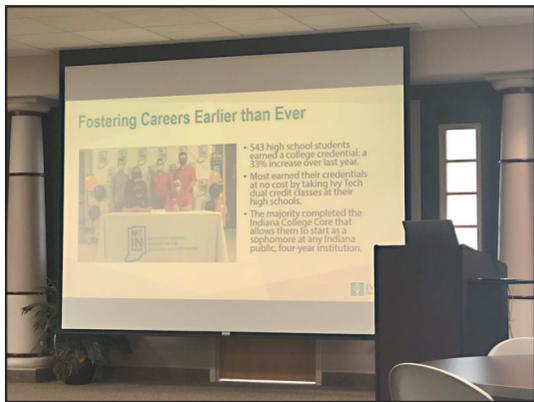
Unlike the city's 50/50 matching facade grants, the state grant requires a more thorough engineering and budget forecast, primarily because the work will have to be competitively bid to contractors.

In the local facade grant through the Kendallville Redevelopment Commission, building owners generally seek smaller maintenance and replacement items and then simply get quotes from area providers, or even can do the work themselves with the city helping to pay for materials.

That wouldn't fly for the Main Street grant, which is technically federal money funneled through the state to local communities.

McLeod said the city will request qualifications from architecture firms interested in the job and then a review panel will select one to

SEE ARCHITECT, PAGE A6



JOE MCQUEEN

A presentation slide about the opportunities offered to students at Ivy Tech Community College Fort Wayne and Warsaw campus.

Community Foundation names 10 Lilly Scholarship finalists

FROM STAFF REPORTS

LIGONIER — The Community Foundation of Noble County recently interviewed its 10 finalists for the full-ride Lilly Endowment Scholarship award for 2021.

This year, Central Noble Jr./Sr. High School leads the pack with six finalists, with West Noble having two and East Noble and Canterbury High School each having one student in the running.

East Noble students have won four of the past five Lilly scholarships awarded in Noble County, but students from other schools hold nine of the 10 finalist spots this year. Past East Noble students to win the scholarship include Anna Becker getting it in 2020, Michael Bender in 2018, Sahil Patel in 2017 and

Lucas Graden in 2016.

Central Noble's Jocelyn Winebrenner claimed the four-year scholarship award in 2019.

The Community Foundation of Noble County recently interviewed the 10 top honor students in the final phase of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship nomination process for Noble County. The students were selected to interview based on their applications submitted in September to the community foundation which were reviewed by a panel of judges representing the central, east and west part of Noble County.

The Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship provides four years of

SEE LILLY, PAGE A6



CONTRIBUTED

This year's Noble County Lilly Endowment Scholarship finalists are, from top left Kolton Bailey, AnnaBella Brown, Audrey Brumbaugh, Diego Flores, Aletha Hoover. Bottom row, from left, are Jackson Hoover, Will Hoover, Seth Knepper, Christopher Miller and Joshua Prater.

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Central Noble OKs teacher pay hike

BY JOE MCQUEEN

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ALBION — Staff members at Central Noble Community School Corporation should expect their pay to increase soon.

The Central Noble Teachers' Association agreed to a contract with the corporation to increase its base pay by \$1,500 for the 2021-2022 school year and \$1,700 for the 2022-2023 school year.

This year's agreement will make the starting salary for teachers \$38,500

for this school year. Starting teacher salaries will increase to \$40,000 next year.

The top teacher salary will increase from \$69,996 this year to \$71,696 next year, an increase of 2.4%.

Staff benefits will remain the same along with annual leave. Health insurance premiums will be split with the corporation covering 69% and employees paying the remaining 31%.

What's new in this year's contract is an annual

day buy-back program. This allows employees who have accrued a minimum of 25 sick days and up to 49 sick days on June 30 to sell them back up to five of that year's days at \$100 per day.

Employees who have accrued a minimum of 50 days of that year can choose to sell up to nine days at the same rate. Any annual days remaining will be added as sick days.

The pay increase for this school year will begin

on Nov. 25 and next year's increase will start Aug. 25, 2022.

In other business, Superintendent Troy Gaff spoke to school board members about the current state of the school's football field.

He told them that the field became flooded with water recently and that the field still remains very soft and wet.

He examined the field this week and said they

SEE CN, PAGE A6

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10 DAY FORECAST

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
☁	☁	☁	☁	☁	☁	☁	☁	☁	☁
30%	0%	0%	30%	30%	0%	30%	30%	0%	20%
61	55	58	57	60	67	65	64	61	60
39	40	38	47	47	54	53	48	46	

Wednesday's Statistics

LOCAL
HI 72
LO 58

FORT WAYNE
HI 75
LO 59

SOUTH BEND
HI 75
LO 62

INDIANAPOLIS
HI 73
LO 61

Rain is back in the forecast for today as a cold front pushes through. Today's high will be in the lower 60s and lows will drop to 39 on Thursday evening.

Sunrise Thursday 7:58 a.m.

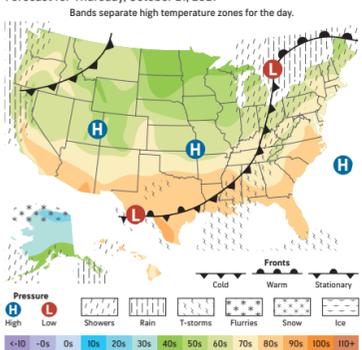
Sunset Thursday 6:53 p.m.

Today's drawing by: Savannah Bontrager



Submit your weather drawings to: Weather Drawings, Editorial Dept., P.O. Box 39, Kendallville, IN 46755

Forecast for Thursday, October 21, 2021



Advisory Level

Advisory level refers to the current guidelines the county must follow. A county must remain at a lower Weekly Two-Metric Score for two consecutive weeks to move down to a lower advisory level.

Weekly 2-Metric Score

- Blue (0 and .5)
- Yellow (1 and 1.5)
- Orange (2 and 2.5)
- Red (3)

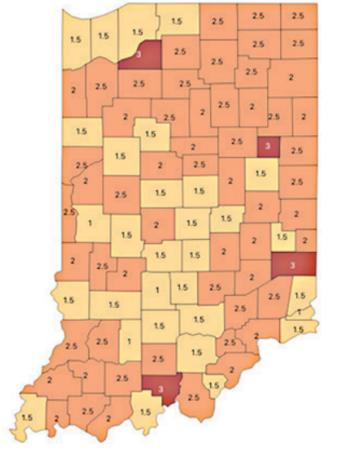
Weekly Cases Per 100,000 Residents

- Less Than 10 new cases(0)
- 10 to 99 new cases(1)
- 100 to 199 new cases(2)
- 200 or more(3)

7-Day All Tests Positivity Rate

- Less than 5% (0)
- 5% to 9.9% (1)
- 10% to 14.9% (2)
- 15% or greater (3)

The ▲ indicates a disclaimer alert for the county. Hover over the symbol for additional details.



INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

COVID-19 ratings across the state improved again this week, the fourth-straight after peaking in September. Locally, LaGrange County improved from red to orange, with the region of the region remaining stuck in that second-highest rating for now.

Statewide COVID ratings improve, LaGrange too

BY STEVE GARBACZ

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INDIANAPOLIS — For the fourth consecutive week, the statewide COVID-19 picture looks a little better.

Indiana's still a far cry from the low levels of virus activity it was seeing back in June, but the statewide situation is getting better coming out of a surge brought on this summer by the delta variant of COVID-19.

Statewide ratings improved again this week, with fewer counties seeing very high spread of the virus and now about a third of the state's 92 rated yellow, representing moderate spread of the virus.

Across Indiana, the number of counties rated red for very high spread of the virus dropped from eight to four, while the number of counties in orange for high spread also dropped from 69 to 57.

This week, 31 counties are now rated yellow, representing moderate spread, the second-best rating. No counties have hit blue, for low spread, and the state hasn't had any in that best rating since Aug. 11.

Locally, the four-county area remains painted in orange, although that's an improvement for LaGrange County which broke a four-week streak of red ratings.

LaGrange County continues to see extremely high positivity at 23.36% — highest in the state this week by about six percentage points — but its per-capita case count dropped to 176 per 100,000, which was enough to get it out of the red.

Counties get a red rating if they exceed both 200 cases per 100,000 and 15% positivity rate.

LaGrange County is susceptible to wild swings in its positivity rates as the county tests the least per-capita in all of the state, meaning that when it does detect positive cases, each one influences the percentage swing more than in counties that test much more broadly.

Elsewhere, Noble, DeKalb and Steuben counties all maintained orange ratings for another week. All three counties have been rated orange for the past six consecutive weeks.

Noble County is sitting near a yellow

ARCHITECT: Design costs may total \$200,000

FROM PAGE A1

help design the project and prepare it for bid.

Architecture costs could take up to \$200,000 for that pre-construction, work, representing about 10% of the total grant amount.

Downtown building owners at an informational meeting a week ago questioned how much design work might cost out of the grant total, hoping to keep those costs as low as possible to leave as much money available for construction.

Even if design costs eat up a tenth of the grant total, the city would have \$1.8

million available for physical work. With the 15% match building owners have to put in, that would put the total construction budget at approximately \$2.12 million.

The city is moving aggressively in order to meet the state's two-year timeline for the PreservINg Main Street project. Design work will take place over the winter, with McLeod stating the city would ideally take its project to bid around May.

Construction would then likely start in summer 2022.

The city will also be establishing historic preservation guidelines and a commission to manage

them, which is a requirement of the grant.

City officials have stated that group will not dictate what building owners can or can't do with their buildings, but instead would be there to offer historically appropriate recommendations for future upgrades.

Although the commission wouldn't be able to forbid a building owner from making a non-historic change to their property, city leaders said financial support for projects like facade grants or other public funds could hinge on an owner's willingness to try to make historically-appropriate changes to their properties.



NORTHEAST INDIANA MANUFACTURING AWARDS & EXPO

Nominate a Company!

KPC Media Group and the Regional Chamber of Northeast Indiana are partnering for the second annual Manufacturing Awards. We are looking for nominations in the following categories:

- Northeast Indiana Manufacturer of the Year
- Northeast Indiana-Owned Manufacturer of the Year
- Northeast Indiana Internationally-Owned Manufacturer of the Year
- Northeast Indiana "Green" Manufacturer of the Year
- Northeast Indiana Workplace Diversity Award in Manufacturing
- Northeast Indiana "Best Place to Work" in Manufacturing
- Northeast Indiana Small Manufacturer of the Year
- Northeast Indiana Plant Manager of the Year

Sponsored by:



DirectClinic
A South Bend Clinic Partner

Don't be shy, it's **FREE** to participate!

Nominate at kpceventbuzz.com/manufacturing-awards

LILLY: Scholarship provides four years tuition

FROM PAGE A1

full-tuition and required fees awarded to one well-rounded high school senior who resides in Noble County, who will receive a diploma from an accredited Indiana high school by the end of June 2022, and will pursue a full-time baccalaureate course of study at an accredited public or private college or university in Indiana. Community Foundation of Noble County also requires community service, volunteerism, extra-curricular activities, leadership roles and honors and awards and at least a 3.80 high school grade point average.

Students in the running this year include:

- Kolton Bailey – Central Noble Jr/Sr High School
- AnnaBella Brown – Canterbury High School
- Audrey Brumbaugh – Central Noble Jr/Sr High School
- Diego Flores – West Noble High School
- Aletha Hoover – Central Noble Jr/Sr High School
- Jackson Hoover – Central Noble Jr/Sr High School
- Will Hoover – Central Noble Jr/Sr High School
- Seth Knepper – Central Noble Jr/Sr High School
- Christopher Miller – West Noble High School
- Joshua Prater – East Noble High School

Names of the top candidates will be submitted to Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc. for final selection of the recipient. ICI is a nonprofit organization that represents 29 regionally accredited, degree-granting, nonprofit, private colleges, and universities in the state.

The Noble County recipient of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship will be announced in early December 2021. Finalists

not selected for the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the Community Foundation of Noble County.

The Lilly Endowment Community Scholarships are the result of a statewide Lilly Endowment initiative to 1) to help raise the level of educational attainment in Indiana; 2) to increase awareness of the beneficial roles Indiana community foundations can play in their communities; and 3) to encourage and support the efforts of current and past Lilly Endowment Community Scholars to engage with each other and with Indiana business, governmental, educational, nonprofit and civic leaders to improve the quality of life in Indiana generally and in local communities throughout the state. A total of 143 Lilly scholarships are awarded statewide.

School

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Central Noble is still struggling with a shortage of bus drivers.

David Worman, Central Noble's transportation director, told board members the corporation is OK for now, but if they lose any other drivers, they will be hurting.

The investigation into the stolen school bus is still ongoing.

CN: Schools seeing more COVID cases this fall

FROM PAGE A1

will continue to evaluate its condition.

The corporation has recently seen an uptick in COVID-19 cases among students.

This past week, Central Noble saw 9 new positive cases within the corporation, according to the state health department's COVID-19 dashboard.

Gaff said they have seen an approximate total of 65 positive cases among

students this school year, three times the amount they had last year. 10 cases have been among staff.

The state health department reports Central Noble Junior/Senior High School has seen 29 positive cases total this school year, 10 at Central Noble Elementary and five or less cases at Central Noble Primary.

"Students have been impacted by this since they are out of school," he said. "Since fall break is next week, most of

those students will be back in-person since their quarantine period ends."

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