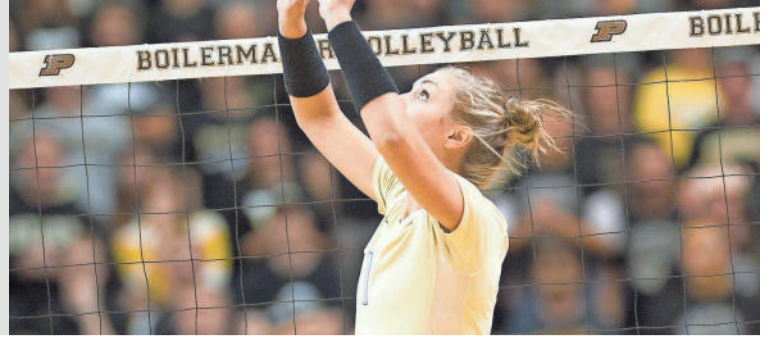


SPRING QUESTIONS

Who will be the setter just one decision facing Purdue volleyball coach Dave Shondell, SPORTS 1D



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| LAFAYETTE - WEST LAFAYETTE |

A GANNETT COMPANY

Worst town in Big Ten? OK, got it

We could get all defensive about the latest survey that ranked West Lafayette dead last among 14 college towns with Big Ten Conference schools.

The for-what-it's-worth factor might be enough of a shield for the local ego against the shot from 10 ESPN, Big Ten Network and regional sports media analysts in a posting last week at Athlon.com. Consider the source when 10 guys in a profession that has fine-tuned the art of tearing through a free halftime buffet start comparing the particular merits of what's on your town's main streets.

DAVE BANGERT
@DAVEBANGERT



Even so, it's not easy contemplating last place, especially when the pundits rub salt in the click-bait wounds: "There isn't a whole lot to do, both indoors or out. ... If you like brick and Greek parties, then this is your place. Otherwise, continue down I-65 to Indy or Chi-town."

Sounds like reason enough to grab Gerry DiNardo, former Indiana University football coach and current Big Ten Network talking head, next time he's at Purdue University and show him around town.

But here's the thing: What the BTN/ESPN guys said, it's nothing we haven't heard before.

That's probably why West Lafayette didn't see some sort of Bat Signal go out over the Village area bar district during last weekend's Grand Prix festivities as sign of distress from Mayor (and noted Batman freak) John Dennis.

As Dennis will tell you, Greater Lafayette has been saying the same things — often worse — about its own college community curb appeal for several years now during Community of Choice studies that point out the highs and lows here versus in comparable cities.

And, as Dennis will also tell you, a fix is

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Fewer arrests

Police report small number of people booked into jail during Grand Prix. **Local, 3A**

line of defense



USDA seeks to involve agriculture to combat climate change

By **Christopher Doering**
Gannett

WASHINGTON — The federal government is offering incentives to get farmers, ranchers and forest land owners to help combat global warming.

The Agriculture Department Thursday unveiled a

host of voluntary programs and initiatives to encourage agricultural producers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon storage and generate clean and renewable energy in their operations. The de-

partment is hopeful the programs will help reduce emissions and boost the capture of carbon by more than 120 million metric tons of carbon dioxide per year by 2025 — the same as taking 25 million cars off the road.

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