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# KOKOMO TRIBUNE

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## Incentives turn focus to upper floors

City, county look to develop downtown's second, third stories

BY GEORGE MYERS  
KOKOMO TRIBUNE

In an effort to move downtown development into the unoccupied upper floors of Kokomo's 19th and 20th century buildings, city and county officials have partnered to offer financing for property owners attempting to convert second and third story space for residential or commercial use.

To assist owners with space conversions, the city will offer its newest redevelopment incentive program, the Upper Floor Incentive Grant. The grant will provide up to \$12,000 per building for conversion into "residential or retail/commercial use within the confines of downtown and/or historically significant buildings." Currently, 78 percent of buildings

in the "Courthouse District" - an area that encompasses the nine blocks surrounding the courthouse - have second or third story space that could be developed for occupancy, according to Susan Alexander, manager of Downtown Initiatives for the Greater Kokomo Economic Development Alliance.

In addition to the city grant, Howard County will offer the Condo

Incentive Program - a one-time, \$2,500 incentive for owners overseeing residential renovations.

"The city and county share a goal to provide a mixed-use, incentive package to enhance economic growth in Kokomo's urban and commercial core," said Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight in a news release. "This partnership spurs retail development and targets the growing de-

**Online:**  
To download documents detailing the new incentive programs, visit: [bit.ly/1Ko5rbZ](http://bit.ly/1Ko5rbZ)

mand for a mixed-use urban living experience."

While the county will provide a set incentive, the city's grant payments will be determined by the size and type of the project. For instance, a

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## DOLLARS AND SENSE

Financial literacy classes help students learn to budget



Tim Bath | Kokomo Tribune

**FINANCIAL LITERACY:** Western Middle School students participate in a financial literacy class last week.

BY LAUREN SLAGTER  
KOKOMO TRIBUNE

One of the first things Charisse Smith asks her students at Western Middle School is, "If I gave you \$20, what would you do with it?"

Their answers give Smith insight to her students' current spending habits and provide a jumping-off point for the financial literacy con-

cepts she covers in her Family And Consumer Sciences (FACS) classes for sixth through eighth graders.

"It's important for them to start developing good habits now," said Smith, who has taught at WMS for six years and said she didn't learn finance when she was in school. "It's interesting to see the spending habits they've already developed."

Balancing a checkbook, paying

and setting aside money for a savings account are all valuable life skills students will need to know when they're on their own, but those concepts may not easily fall into English, math, science or social studies curriculum. Many area schools have found ways to improve their students' financial literacy, and they're highlighting those efforts during National Fi-

ancial Literacy Month in April.

"Oftentimes, whether parents are financially secure or not, it's something we don't teach our children," said Julie Dyson, area coordinator for Junior Achievement, which offers Miami County schools several financial literacy programs. "Then before we know it, they're grown

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## Proposal would delay ed. board changes

■ New plan would allow Ritz to remain leader until term expires

BY LAURYN SCHROEDER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**INDIANAPOLIS** - Democratic state schools Superintendent Glenda Ritz would remain the leader of the State Board of Education for longer than previously expected under a new plan lawmakers proposed Monday.

Republican Gov. Mike Pence and GOP lawmakers have long pushed for allowing the board to select any of its members as chairman, a move that likely would oust Ritz as chairman and end a decades-old law that makes the elected state superintendent the board's leader.

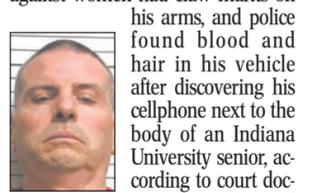
Supporters say the change in leadership addresses well-known dysfunction between Ritz and other board members whom Pence currently appoints.

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## Man formally charged with murder of Indiana student

■ Police say they found man's cellphone next to body of Hannah Wilson

**NASHVILLE, Ind. (AP)** - An Indiana man with a history of violence against women had claw marks on his arms, and police found blood and hair in his vehicle after discovering his cellphone next to the body of an Indiana University senior, according to court documents released Monday.



Daniel Messel Charged with student's murder

Daniel E. Messel, 49, of Bloomington was formally charged with murder Monday in the death of Hannah Wilson, 22. Brown Circuit Judge Judith Stewart ordered him held without bond and appointed a public

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## Authors spotlighted at downtown library

■ Read Local book fair Friday; nonfiction workshop Saturday

BY MARTIN SLAGTER  
KOKOMO TRIBUNE

From local authors looking to make a name for themselves to an author whose works have appeared in classrooms across the country, the Kokomo-Howard County Public Library will be hosting writers of all experience levels this weekend. The KHCPL will host the Read Lo-

cal! Library Book Fair from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Friday at its downtown branch as part of First Friday festivities. During the event, residents will be able to meet around 30 local authors to learn more about their work and get autographs.

With a space dedicated to providing content solely from local authors at all of its local locations, the library is now looking to put faces with the names of many of the titles by Kokomo authors.

"We have dedicated space at the Kokomo-Howard County Public Library to showcase local authors'

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Photo provided

**VISITING:** Kelsey Timmerman, author of popular titles "Where Am I Wearing?" and "Where Am I Eating" will visit the Kokomo-Howard County Public Library for a workshop from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday before hosting a book signing and presentation from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

**INSIDE** CLASSIFIED B5-B10 // COMICS B3 // LOTTERIES A3 // OBITUARIES A2-A3 // OPINION A4 // SPORTS B1-B2

**WEATHER** Morning sun and afternoon clouds • **HIGH** 59 // **LOW** 42 >> More on Page **A8**

>> TODAY'S PAGE ONE DESIGNED BY JUSTIN CHISHAM

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