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Wanderlust Advocates for End to ALPR Database Contracts in LaGrange County

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In a bold move Joseph Wanderlust addressed the LaGrange County Board of Commissioners, County Council, County Attorney, and Sheriff in a letter urging the termination of the county's contracts for Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) and associated plate-indexing databases.

Wanderlust's letter expresses his support for license plate readers as a technological tool but raises significant concerns about the implications of storing scanned license plates in an indexed, searchable database. "I do not oppose license plate readers as a tool," he stated. "My objection is to what happens next," emphasizing the potential violation of constitutional rights.

Citing recent federal legal decisions, Wanderlust references a ruling in United States v. Kyle, where a historical ALPR database query was deemed a violation of the Fourth Amendment. He also highlights a September ruling that found Bexar County, Texas, liable for its surveillance-driven ALPR program, along with a Ninth Circuit concurrence suggesting that ALPR location histories may warrant judicial oversight.

In addition, Wanderlust points out that Indiana's state constitution may offer stronger protections than the federal Fourth Amendment, referencing the three-factor test established in Litchfield v. State.

Wanderlust's concerns extend beyond legal implications; he draws attention to the unique demographics of LaGrange County, where approximately 43 percent of the population is Amish. He argues that the widespread use of surveillance cameras represents, at best, a blatant disregard for a community whose beliefs discourage photography.

In his plea, Wanderlust called upon the county's leaders to take decisive action: to terminate existing contracts, to cut funding for these surveillance systems, to halt the feeding of scans into the databases, and to delete stored data. He also urged the county attorney to assess the legal exposure before any further database queries are conducted.

The response from county officials remains to be seen as local residents and community members await their decision on the future of surveillance in LaGrange County.

Westview FFA Livestock Skillathon Team Excels in Recent Competitions

By Desirée Beauchamp
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The Westview FFA Livestock Skillathon team demonstrated remarkable skill and dedication at two recent competitions, showcasing their hard work and preparation in the realm of livestock knowledge.

At the Tippecanoe Valley/Fairfield Livestock Skill-a-thon Invitational, held recently, the Westview team secured an impressive 19th overall placement. Leading the team was Ashlyn Martin, who achieved an outstanding 18th place individually. Her performance set a strong tone for the team, with Hadleigh Bontreger following closely in 71st place and Madi Yoder finishing in 83rd.

The team's competitive spirit did not wane, as they moved on to participate in the Indiana Northeast Region Livestock Skillathon. Here, the Westview FFA team improved their standing, earning 17th place overall. Once again, Ashlyn Martin stood out, climbing to 14th place individually in this challenging competition. Hadleigh Bontreger also made strides, finishing in 60th place. Bryndle Bontrager and Madi Yoder rounded out the team's efforts with placements of 84th and 88th respectively.

These successful outings highlight the commitment and teamwork of the Westview FFA Livestock Skillathon team. The members are not only enhancing their knowledge of livestock but also developing valuable skills that will benefit them in their future agricultural pursuits. As they continue to prepare for future competitions, the foundation they are building through these experiences will undoubtedly serve them well.



Westview FFA Livestock Skillathon team members showcasing their dedication and teamwork: Ashlyn Martin, Hadleigh Bontreger, Bryndle Bontrager, and Madi Yoder. Together, they're making a mark in agriculture. (Photo Contributed).

Lakers Take Second in NECC Volleyball

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EMMA, IN (October 10, 2026) -- Lakeland's volleyball team finished second in both the Northeast Corner Conference regular season and tournament after falling to West Noble in the conference championship.

The Lakers opened the tournament with back-to-back 2-0 sweeps, shutting our Eastside and Fairfield to earn a spot in the championship match. Lakeland took the first set against West Noble 25-21 before dropping the second 19-25. West Noble then closed out the match with a 15-5 victory in the deciding set.

Senior Zoey Bowman has led the Lakers offensively, averaging 3.7 kills per set and recording 41 service aces this season. Bowman and fellow senior Madison Larimer lead Lakeland with 23 total blocks.

Senior Abriana Satterfield has been a major contributor in multiple areas, averaging 3.7 digs per set while also recording 40 service aces. Satterfield has also amassed an impressive 400 assists on the season. Senior Mckenzie Carlson has also added 37 service aces.

The Lakers will now turn their attention to the postseason, with sectionals scheduled to begin Oct. 17.

Empowering Dreams: Impact Institute's Adult Education Program

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For over fifty-five years, Impact Institute has been a beacon of hope for countless individuals seeking to change their lives through education. Our mission is clear: to impact lives and pave the way for career and college-ready students. We firmly believe in the transformative power of earning an Indiana High School Equivalency (HSE), which not only can elevate annual earnings by more than $10,000 but also opens doors to career advancement and higher education.

At the heart of Impact Institute's efforts are the inspiring success stories of our students. One such story is that of Jason, who completed the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program just last August. His journey didn't stop there; he quickly transitioned into EMT certification classes, driven by his lifelong dream of becoming an Emergency Medical Technician.

When reflecting on what prepared him for this next phase, Jason credited the ABE program with two crucial elements: understanding the requirements for earning his HSE and enhancing his vocabulary skills. "Two things really helped me," he shared. "The first was learning what I needed to get my HSE. The second was practicing spelling and how to learn vocabulary. I've got to know a lot of different words for training, and the adult ed classes really helped me with that."

Jason's story is a testament to the life-changing impact that adult education can have. Coming from a background with limited access to technology and formal education, he faced significant obstacles. Yet, through determination and the support of Impact Institute, he is confidently on his way to achieving his dreams.

We invite you to become part of this transformative journey. Join us in LaGrange, where we offer free classes at the LaGrange Public Library on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and at the Wolf Community Center in Shipshewana on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome, and walk-ins are encouraged. Connect with us anytime at www.impactinstitute.net or call 888.349.0250 ext 1 to learn more.

Every day, stories like Jason's unfold, and yours could be next.



Graduating students celebrate their achievements at Impact Institute's graduation ceremony, marking the beginning of their next chapter.

(Photo Contributed).