

# Grant County Promise hopes to make IWU more affordable

By Sean Douglas

At the beginning of October, Indiana Wesleyan University announced their brand-new Grant County Promise, an initiative that will provide financial assistance to the graduates of Grant County high school, public or private.

Marion Chancellor Rod Reed, together with various other leaders at Indiana Wesleyan's main campus, devised the Grant County Promise as a way to make the cost of attending the university more affordable. Preliminary talks began last fall, and after several ideas were discussed, the Grant County Promise was born in the hopes of attracting more



local students to Indiana Wesleyan, regardless of their economic background.

"One of those priorities was to build a deeper connection and opportunity to have a positive impact on Grant County," Vice President of Enrollment Management & Marketing Chad Peters said. "One of the things we know is that Grant County has a diverse

population as far as social economic backgrounds from affluent to people that are first generation, Pell-eligible, more financially-needy students.

"We know a lot of times that students from Grant County will not look at Indiana Wesleyan because of perceived costs. Our goal is to make IWU an affordable option for Grant County residents to at least take a

look at a university right in their backyard."

With the Grant County Promise, incoming freshmen who meet admission requirements will receive a minimum of \$10,000 per year for their entire collegiate career, and it could be more depending on outside sources such as Federal Pell Grants, Indiana State aid, and any government assistance. Even without any other financial aid, students who qualify for the Grant County Promise will receive up to \$40,000, as long as they maintain satisfactory academic progress.

"We love the city of Marion and Grant County and want to serve our families well in this area," Reed said

in a statement. "We want families to know that Indiana Wesleyan University is an affordable option for them to earn an excellent college education close to home. I encourage our county students to submit their applications free of charge and learn how IWU can help them become part of the Wildcat family."

Those who qualify for the Grant County Promise are also encouraged to apply for the FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid – to make sure they are getting as much financial aid as they can.

"We want to make sure we maximize their potential aid both from Indiana Wesleyan and outside sources,"

Peters said. "Our goal is that we would enroll more students from Grant County here at IWU," Peters said. "[We want to] keep them local so they can make an impact on our community."

The Grant County Promise will officially go into effect beginning in the fall of 2021 and will be available to all incoming Grant County freshmen. The admission application process is now open and students are encouraged to apply to IWU as soon as possible by visiting indwes.edu/apply-iwu where they can submit their information through either the IWU application or the Common App.

# Grant County taxpayers to find out the cost of three new communications towers

By Alan Miller

Grant County taxpayers should learn Monday how much they will be paying to build three communication towers that officials say are needed to help the county's new Central Dispatch Center operate at its highest efficiency.

Bids will be opened at 10 a.m. Monday in the Grant County Council chambers



for what officially is known as the Grant County Public Safety Communications Infrastructure Project. Pyramid Consulting, which designed the project, has es-

timated the cost at \$3.7 million.

The bid opening is open to the public.

Grant County Council members, who oversee county finances, have said they were not aware of the need for the towers until the central dispatch center was preparing to open in June.

The council already has held one preliminary hearing on a proposed county-

wide income tax to pay for the towers because no funding was provided in the 2021 county budget.

Government leaders say the 300-foot-tall towers are needed to boost the signal for radio transmissions to first responders in southern Grant County. Currently, dispatchers must contact some first responders with cellphones.

Sites for two of the towers

have been selected; one of them on property owned by Randy Ballinger in southeastern Grant County, and the other on land that adjoins the former Liberty School at the intersection of Ind. 26 and Ind. 37. Pyramid Consulting is still seeking a third site near or within the Marion city limits.

Specifically, according to legal notices published in local newspapers, the bids

are for three communication towers, a fiberglass equipment shelter, a diesel-fired generator, an electrical transformer, furniture, chain-link fence, cast-in-place concrete and an electrical service disconnect switch on a pole.

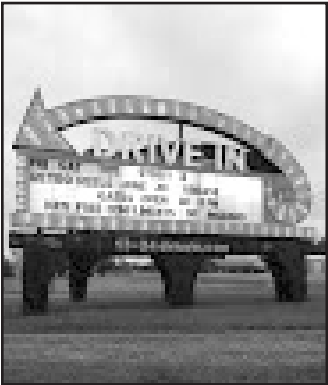
Separate bids have been requested for labor only and material only on the three-legged, self-supported towers.

# Spooky nights at 13-24 Drive In

Officials from The 13-24 Drive In are presenting Spooky Nights at the Drive In on Friday and Saturday nights during the month of October with a special Halloween night feature of "Beetlejuice."

Spooky Nights at the Drive In are sponsored by Autumn Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, B. Walter & Co., and Lundquist Appraisals & Real Estate.

The Drive In concession stand has added new hot



beverages to the concessions list: spiced apple

cider, rich chocolate hot cocoa, and chai tea latte at \$2 per beverage. Tickets to each film are priced at \$6 per vehicle. Purchase tickets to Spooky Nights films at 1324DriveIn.com/movies.

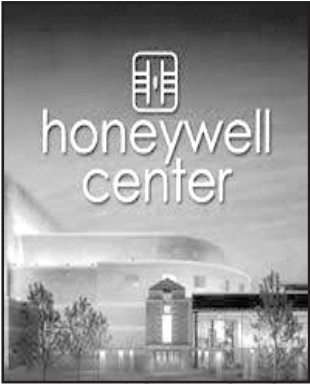
Films in the Spooky Nights lineup include:

On Friday, Oct. 16; "Ghostbusters" (1984) on Saturday, Oct. 24; "Casper" on Friday, Oct. 30; and "Beetlejuice" on Saturday, Oct. 31.

# Jim Brickman to present virtual holiday; will benefit the Honeywell Center

Grammy-nominated songwriter and pianist, Jim Brickman will present a virtual tour this holiday season with "Comfort & Joy at Home 2020."

A portion of each ticket purchased to this live, virtual event will benefit the Honeywell Center, a part of the Honeywell Foundation. Fans and their families can enjoy this unique virtual concert experience from the comfort of home while supporting the Honeywell Center during this unprecedented time.



Join Brickman for his virtual "Comfort & Joy at Home LIVE!" concert on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 8 p.m.

Guests can access the virtual concert via a Zoom link emailed directly to the ticket-buyer. Guests are invited to enjoy a one-of-a-kind personal concert experience with Jim Brickman and support the Honeywell Center.

Ticket prices include \$40, \$75, and \$125 with opportunities for an Interactive Zoom Breakout Room, Meet & Greets, and Christmas gifts delivered to your door. Tickets are available exclusively at JimBrickman.com/Wabash.

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