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KOKOMO TRIBUNE

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Crib to Classroom Expo offers resources, activities for families

CATHERINA SHULTZ
KOKOMO TRIBUNE

The Very Early Childhood Education Center in Kokomo is preparing to bring families, community organizations and local resources together during its second annual Crib to Classroom Family Expo.

The free family event will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at Kokomo Memorial Gymnasium, 200 S. Apperson Way.

Stacie Gollner, executive director of the Very Early Childhood Education Center, said the expo grew from an idea she had carried for several years — creating one place where

Just The Facts

WHAT: Crib to Classroom Family Expo

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12

WHERE: Kokomo Memorial Gymnasium, 200 South Apperson Way

parents could learn about services and resources available throughout the community.

“I dreamed about it for about five years,” Gollner said.

The first Crib to Classroom Family

Expo was held last year and brought together about 36 vendors and organizations. More than 200 families attended.

Gollner described the event as “a one-stop shop under one roof.”

Sponsors for this year’s expo include Duke Energy, Ivy Tech Community College, Firefly Children and Family Alliance, Community Development Institute Head Start and Solidarity Community Federal Credit Union.

This year’s expo will again feature organizations offering information and services for children and parents.

See **EXPO** on A2



A colorful inflatable bounce house and slide stand ready for the children who will attend the Crib to Classroom Family Expo on Saturday.

Submitted photo

CLEANUP BEGINS



An aerial view shows floodwaters covering streets, parks and other low-lying areas near homes and Tipton High School. Submitted photos

Tipton County continues recovery effort after August flooding

CATHEIRNA SHULTZ
KOKOMO TRIBUNE

TIPTON — Nearly a month after heavy rainfall flooded roads and properties across Tipton County, residents are still working through the damage left behind.

About 90 homes have been reported damaged, according to Adam DeWitt with Tipton County Emergency Management.

Repeated rounds of rain moved through central Indiana from Aug. 11 through Aug. 17, producing widespread flooding across Tipton County and surrounding areas.

Tipton County Communications E-911 used its Facebook page throughout the flooding to provide residents with updates about road conditions, emergency response and recovery resources.

Several roads were closed or covered by high water during the storms, including portions of State Road 19 and State Road 213 south of Tipton.

A weather station southwest of Tipton recorded 9.47 inches of rain from Aug. 12 through Aug. 17.



Floodwaters surround a pedestrian bridge and cover portions of a park in Tipton.

The station recorded more than 15 inches during August, making it the wettest August in its records dating back to 1971.

The heavy rainfall prompted Tipton County officials to declare a local disaster emergency Aug. 11.

As floodwaters receded, local agencies shifted their attention toward cleanup and recovery.

Tipton County Communications reported that agencies worked together to coordinate food, hygiene products, cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment and monetary donations for residents affected by the flooding.

A 2026 Tipton County Flood Relief Fund was also established through the Tipton County Foundation to help with recovery efforts.

FEMA assistance is available for qualifying residents affected by the storms. FEMA representatives are available to help residents apply for assistance, and residents can also complete applications online at any time.

Tipton County’s Facebook pages provide links and additional information about FEMA assistance.

Indiana 211 also remains available to connect residents with disaster-related resources and community assistance. Residents may dial 2-1-1 or 866-211-9966 for help.

Neighboring Howard County also experienced some flooding during the same weather system. Numerous roads were reported flooded Aug. 12, and the National Weather Service issued a flood warning for Wildcat Creek at Kokomo after several inches of rain fell across the area.

Indiana BMV planning mobile driver’s license

MACKENZI KLEMANN
INDIANA CAPITAL CHRONICLE

The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles is launching an optional mobile driver’s license for Hoosiers who wish to limit what information bank tellers, bartenders and others see when asked to verify their age or identity.

The digital license would not replace a person’s physical driver’s license, but would instead grant Hoosiers the ability to verify their age or identity through a mobile application.

Popular uses include age verification to purchase alcohol or tobacco products, as well as identification for traffic stops or banking.

Hoosiers who opt in would download a mobile application, which uses digital biometrics like a face scan or fingerprint to verify the person on the phone matches BMV data on file to activate and use the license, according to Matt Kestian, BMV general counsel.

The mobile application functions similarly to tap-to-pay debit or credit cards, allowing users to share information with a mobile driver’s license reader.

“You wouldn’t be able to give your phone to your child,” he said.

Kestian told the Interim Study Committee on Roads and Transportation the mobile driver’s license option should be ready within 18 months.

Lawmakers asked questions about a budget for the initiative but the agency said there is not currently a vendor or cost estimate.

Kestian described the mobile license as a “step forward for privacy,” as Hoosiers would be able to confirm their age or identity without sharing extra information like their home address.

“Why does the bar need to know that person’s home address?” he asked. “Right now, if they’re getting a physical driver’s license, that bar has access to that person’s address, date of birth, organ donation status, veteran status — all of the other things that may appear on a driver’s license. They don’t need it.”

Lawmakers directed the BMV to comply with international data security standards in a 2023 law, authored by committee chair Rep.

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WEATHER



Hot, humid, spotty storms.

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Full forecast on A6.

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