



Will MD transfer bolster Hoosiers' rushing attack?

SPORTS, 1B

Times-Mail

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Pharma company expands in city

Simtra buys 65-acre property with plans to make cancer drugs

Boris Ladwig

The Herald-Times

USA TODAY NETWORK

Pharmaceutical company Simtra has bought a 65-acre property from Cook Group, including a 300,000-square-foot facility, to expand its Bloomington operations, potentially to manufacture cancer drugs.

The company bought the property at 301 N. Curry, which is on Bloomington's northwest side. The site is east of Profile Parkway and the Ivy Tech and Cook Medical campuses. Cook, a local medical device maker, had bought the former General Electric property in 2017 for \$6.5 million.

Rhonda Luniak, director of communications for Simtra BioPharma Solutions, said via email that the companies were not disclosing financial specifics about the deal at this time. Local property records show the Curry Pike property most recently had an assessed value of \$10.7 million.

Simtra primarily operates high-tech machines that fill syringes with medications to treat chronic conditions such as diabetes and life-threatening illnesses such as cancer.

"The addition of this site provides Simtra significant flexibility to rapidly expand its manufacturing footprint in the United States to respond to growing capacity demands from both new and existing customers," the company said in a news release.

Luniak said the site "has the potential to support additional high-quality jobs" but could not provide any immediate details. The company said in the release it is "evaluating a project to design and install manufacturing lines at the site, including the company's first U.S.-based commercial-scale capacity for oncology-focused injectable drug products."

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Summers are so hot even the corn sweats

Ryan Murphy

Indianapolis Star | USA TODAY NETWORK

Indiana summers are so hot that even the corn sweats. By late July, the Midwest's most abundant crop is prospering and perspiring enough to cause a slight bump in humidity levels.

The water absorbed through corn plants' roots exits tiny holes on their leaves called stomata. Once that moisture evaporates, it makes the nearby air more humid. The effects are spread throughout the state, but the impact is higher near where corn is grown, said professor Dan Quinn, the corn specialist at Purdue University Extension.

The level of humidity produced by corn sweat is hard to quantify, Quinn said, but researchers know it only takes a kernel of the blame for the Midwest's sticky summers.

An acre of corn transpires between 3,000 and 5,000 gallons of water per day at peak perspiration. An inch of rainfall, by comparison, introduces about 27,000 gallons of water to an acre of land.

"So in reality, is it contributing to higher levels? Sure, but it's often a much smaller percentage than what we actually think of," Quinn said. The main driver of the region's summer humidity is southern and westerly winds, he said.

Peak perspiration season comes just as the corn comes to tassel in late July or early August. And just as it is for people, corn sweats more when it's hot and humid, Quinn explained. On particularly scorching days or during a dry spell, corn leaves curl up to reduce the amount of moisture baking off.

All plants sweat to some degree. Corn is a particularly sweaty crop, Quinn said, and it's especially so when it's a high-yield variety like those preferred by farmers.

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Scott Grondin, of Scottsdale, Arizona, exits a cornfield during Day 1 of RAGBRAI 52 on July 20 in Hartley, Iowa.

AYRTON BRECKENRIDGE/THE DES MOINES REGISTER

IU launches basic AI course for students, faculty, staff

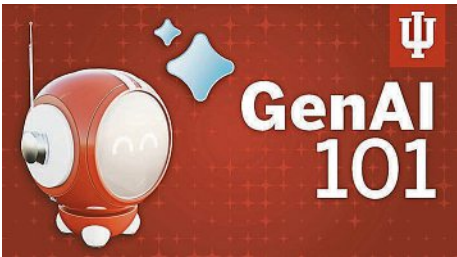
Brian Rosenzweig

The Herald-Times

USA TODAY NETWORK

Generative AI is rapidly transforming the workforce that college students are graduating into, and Indiana University is looking to give students a better toolkit for navigating it. On July 22, the university announced the launch of GenAI 101, a self-paced online course designed to equip IU students, faculty and staff with valuable AI skills tailored to the evolving workforce.

The course will be free to all IU students, faculty and staff and will cover AI skills like prompt engineering, AI-as-



Indiana University is launching GenAI 101, a self-paced online course.

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sisted productivity and how to fact-check AI-generated content.

The GenAI 101 program will be headed by Brian Williams, faculty chair of

the Kelley School of Business' Virtual Advanced Business Technologies Department. Williams believes that generative AI can be an asset to students from a variety of academic disciplines.

"I think about AI like a car," Williams said. "And for this skills-based course, we're just learning a little bit about how to drive the car."

How will the course be taught?

The program was built using resources from IU's top-ranked Kelley Direct MBA online program. Prerecorded videos from Williams introduce key concepts, while an AI tutor built by IU



Williams

faculty helps to conversationally interact with students and reinforce key concepts. While the course does cover some basics of how generative AI works, Williams says it's more focused on practical application and use.

Williams said the course is divided into bite-sized videos of about 30 minutes. He says a student could complete the course in three to five hours, but it's designed to be asynchronous and work for a variety of schedules.

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