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Delayed Wednesday Word and brief hiatus

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Wednesday Word is being delivered late this week on Thursday, Feb. 6. The Wednesday Word will take a brief hiatus next week on Feb. 12. The Indiana State Library regrets any inconvenience.

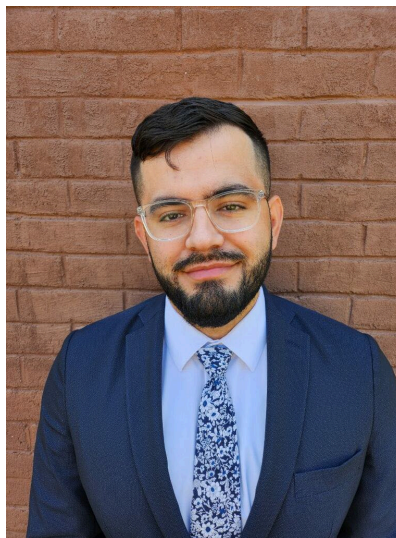
In this issue

- [Indiana library jobs](#)
- [In the news](#)
- [Upcoming workshops and important dates](#)
- [Indiana State Library names ISL Bicentennial Research Fellow](#)
- [Indiana Historical Bureau's Digital Initiatives celebrates 2024 accomplishments](#)
- [St. Joseph County Public Library hosts 33rd annual Science Alive this weekend](#)
- [Vinegar valentines](#)
- [State Library announces 200th anniversary escape room and trivia programming](#)

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Indiana library jobs

Indiana State Library names ISL Bicentennial Research Fellow



Last year, in honor of the Indiana State Library's then upcoming 200th anniversary, the Indiana State Library Bicentennial Committee, in conjunction with the Indiana State Library Foundation, established an ISL Bicentennial Research Fellowship to be awarded in 2025. Researchers and historians with a focus on Indiana history were encouraged to apply. The Bicentennial Research Fellowship Review Committee recently awarded the week-long research grant to Emiliano Aguilar.

Emiliano Aguilar is a political and labor historian of the United States, specifically the Latina/o Midwest. His manuscript-in-progress explores how the ethnic Mexican and Puerto Rican

Upcoming workshops and important dates

[What's Up Wednesday - "Sorry, I Don't Speak Librarian: Finding Your Voice and Writing for Your Audience"](#)

When: Feb. 12, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Where: Online

[Virtual Webmaster Roundtable](#)

When: Feb. 18, 2-3 p.m.
Where: Online

[Using TeachingBooks at the Public Library](#)

When: Feb. 19, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Where: Online

[Benjamin Harrison Escape Room](#)

When: Feb. 20, 12-1 p.m.
Where: Indiana State Library

[Indiana Disability Resource FINDER Webinar](#)

When: Feb. 25, 10-11 a.m.
Where: Online

[Indiana State Library Bicentennial Architectural Tour](#)

When: Feb. 25, 12-1:30 p.m.
Where: Indiana State Library

[What's Up Wednesday - Bookmarking Success: Partnering with the School Care Team to Enhance Library Impact](#)

When: Feb. 26, 10-11 a.m.
Where: Online

[What's Up Wednesday - ILF and Advocacy](#)

When: March 12, 10-11 a.m.

This week's new Indiana library jobs



[Library Services Librarian](#)
Brownsburg Public Library

[Adult Librarian](#)
Johnson County Public Library

[Tech Team Manager](#)
Vigo County Public Library

Those who would like their Indiana library job posting to be listed in the Wednesday Word must submit the position and its description to the Indiana State Library. Click [here](#) for submission guidelines and to submit.

In the news



[City Council approves a portion of \\$100M needed in bonds for Allen County Public Library](#)

Allen County Public Library

[Brook Iroquois Washington Public Library plans Family Fun Day](#)

Brook Iroquois Washington Public Library

[Brook Iroquois Washington Public Library Board of Trustees 2025 meetings set](#)

Brook Iroquois Washington Public Library

[Friends of library planning Valentine's sweet sale](#)

Brown County Public Library

[3D Printing Expo returns to Carmel Library](#)

Carmel Clay Public Library

[County council seeks Greenwood](#)

community of East Chicago, Indiana navigated machine politics in the 20th and 21st centuries to further their inclusion in municipal and union politics. His work has appeared in The Metropole, Belt Magazine, Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History, the Los Angeles Review of Books, Indiana Magazine of History and the Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History. A native to East Chicago, he is a proud board member of the Calumet Heritage Partnership and now lives in South Bend, where he is an assistant professor of history at the University of Notre Dame.

"As a lifelong resident of Indiana, I've always had a love and appreciation for my roots in East Chicago and my years living in Hammond, Whiting and now South Bend. I appreciate the opportunity as an Indiana State Library Bicentennial Research Fellow to share the rich stories of the Calumet Region and the long history of our state's Latino community," said Aguilar.

The Indiana State Library looks forward to Aguilar's stay at the library.

Indiana Historical Bureau's Digital Initiatives celebrates 2024 accomplishments



Digital Initiatives director Justin Clark and Indiana Historical Bureau historian Emily McGuire presenting on the Indiana State Library's digital initiatives at the 2024 Indiana Genealogical Society conference in Fort Wayne. Photo courtesy of the Allen County Public Library.

In 2024, Digital Initiatives, a division of the Indiana Historical Bureau, which is a division of the Indiana State Library, partnered with Indiana organizations and participated in impactful programs that empowered individuals to learn about Hoosier history.

Where: Online

[Youth Services Leaders Virtual Roundtable](#)

When: March 18, 2-3 p.m.

Where: Online



Welcome to Digital Collection Highlights. Every other week, librarians at the Indiana State Library share images from the library's ever-growing digital collections. Visit the [Digital Collections](#) page to view the latest additions.

Vinegar valentines



Valentine's Day traditionally brings to mind the giving of cards to loved ones, but for a period between 1840 and the early 20th century sending a card that insulted the recipient was very popular. Called vinegar - or comic - valentines, these cards were meant to let someone know that you disliked them. The valentines were also inexpensive, with most of them only costing a penny. They were also usually sent anonymously, so the person never knew who despised them. To add

[Public Library board member](#)
Greenwood Public Library

[Girl Scout Brownie Troop explores history at Hamilton East Public Library's Crossroads Discovery Station](#)
Hamilton East Public Library

[Meet the Artists 2025: Celebrating 37 years of Black art](#)
Indianapolis Public Library

[February loaded with JCPL programs at all branches](#)
Jasper County Public Library

[Middletown Library offers up to \\$1,000 in prizes for Winter Reading](#)
Middletown Fall Creek Township Public Library

[Gallery: Deluxe Fashion Show at the Monroe County Public Library](#)
Monroe County Public Library

[Monticello-Union Township Public Library recognizes full service of former board member](#)
Monticello-Union Township Public Library

[NCHCPL Children's Department temporarily closing Feb. 10](#)
New Castle-Henry County Public Library

[Peabody Public Library hosting Teens Anti-Valentine's Day Party next month](#)
Peabody Public Library

[Library workers get resolution in their honor](#)
Vigo County Public Library

[Wolcott Public Library encourages adult reading during 2025 garden-themed adult winter reading program](#)
Wolcott Public Library

Is your library making news?

[Email](#) news links for inclusion in the Wednesday Word's "In the

The division completed its fifth National Digital Newspaper Program cycle, which provided researchers with the Gary American from 1927-1963, the Berne Witness/Adams County Witness from 1895-1917 and 1925-1926 and the South Bend News-Times from 1923-1931. The cycle, a period of more than two years when the titles were digitized, took place from 2022-2024. The cycle consisted of scanning microfilm, creating digital images, creating metadata to accompany the images and publishing the images on the Chronicling America website. All 10 newspaper batches, comprised of more than 10,000 pages each, have been approved by the Library of Congress and made available to researchers on Chronicling America. They can be found here:

- [Gary American \(1927-1963\)](#)
- [South Bend News-Times \(1924-1929\)](#)
- [Berne Witness \(1896-1917\)](#)
- [Adams County Witness \(1925-1926\)](#)

Digital Initiatives also continued its work with libraries and institutions across the state to digitize materials for Indiana Memory. These projects included Indiana Landmarks launching a [digital collection for its Black heritage oral history program](#), Knox County Public Library continuing work on its [Black History in Knox County collection](#) and [Ball State's collections](#) becoming part of Indiana Memory.

Additionally, Justin Clark, the Indiana Historical Bureau's Digital Initiative's director, spoke across the state about Indiana Memory and Hoosier State Chronicles. This included presentations at the annual Indiana Genealogy Society conference, the Indiana Association of Historians and a panel on digital humanities held at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Please visit [Hoosier State Chronicles](#) or [Indiana Memory](#) to see the latest additions to the digital collections.

insult to injury, the valentines would also be sent without a stamp which meant the recipient would have to pay the postage on delivery.

Vinegar valentines could be playful or sarcastic, but they could also be crass and cruel. The image on the valentine was often a caricature and the verses included would be scathing. There were vinegar valentines that insulted someone's appearance, their profession or almost any other social failing.

Early vinegar valentines were just single sheets of paper that were folded and sent by mail. Later, manufacturers produced them in postcard size. By the mid-19th century, they made up almost half of all valentine sales in the U.S. In 1895, an article reported that an average of 25,000,000 of these valentines circulated each year.

Vinegar valentines did have their detractors who felt the valentines were offensive, vulgar or obscene. Newspapers would print articles chastising people for buying and sending the valentines.

Vinegar valentines waned in popularity after 1910, but in some locales, they still sold well into the 1970s.

This vinegar valentine, "[You are on the road to destruction](#)," comes from the Indiana State Library's Edith L Moore Collection.

State Library announces 200th anniversary escape room and trivia programming

news" section.

To be featured in the Wednesday Word, please [email](#) a press release and a photo.



State Library blog



Follow the [Indiana State Library's blog](#) for weekly posts covering all aspects of the State Library.

Indiana library employees who would like to contribute a guest blog, please send an [email](#) with an idea.

Miss an issue of the Wednesday Word?

Back issues of the Wednesday Word are available [here](#).

Free training for librarians and library employees on LinkedIn Learning



Indiana Library Passport



The Indiana Library Passport, a creative digital experience that

St. Joseph County Public Library hosts 33rd annual Science Alive this weekend



The St. Joseph County Public Library invites families and science enthusiasts of all ages to attend the 33rd annual Science Alive - a celebration of exploration and learning - this Saturday, Feb. 8, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Main Library, located at 304 S. Main St. in South Bend. Event highlights include interactive exhibits from nearly 40 local organizations, including the Potawatomi Zoo and Notre Dame's College of Science; live stage shows, like "Wild Weather" with WNDU and "Zoo to You" with the Potawatomi Zoo; hands-on activities, including vegetable stamping art; and the opportunity to meet presenters, enjoy face painting and capture memories at the photo station.

Food trucks will be available from 11 a.m.-2:00 p.m. They include St. Joe Coffee Co., A Bite With Mee and Franky's Tacos.

The stage show lineup will take place in the Leighton Auditorium and includes "Wild Weather" with WNDU; Kate the Chemist, as seen on Stephen Colbert and The Today Show; "Zoo to You" with the Potawatomi Zoo; "Buzz, Bloom and Beyond" with The Botany Shop; and Paleo Joe.

"Science Alive continues to inspire curiosity and ignite imaginations, bringing the wonders of science to life for our community," said Daniel Lichty, communications manager at the St. Joseph County Public Library.

Science Alive is completely free, and no registration or library card is required. Parking is available in the library patron lot, nearby streets, and three downtown garages.



The Indiana State Library has announced a series of engaging events to coincide with its 200th anniversary this year. The program slate includes escape rooms and trivia contests.

On Feb. 20, the library will present the "Benjamin Harrison Escape Room." The public is invited to join an immersive escape room experience where teams will seek a hidden treasure: a rare picture book about Benjamin Harrison, the 23rd president of the United States. The escape room is perfect for puzzle lovers and history buffs alike. Register [here](#).

The Indiana State Library will also host two trivia games. The "Indiana Trivia Game" will take place on [April 17](#) and [Aug. 20](#). The games will consist of Indiana trivia about history, arts, entertainment, sports and more. The winning team will win a gift basket filled with Indiana goodies. Teams can register via the links above.

A second escape room, the "Hoosier Women Escape Room," will take place on May 15. In this escape room, participants will be tasked with unraveling the mystery behind the disappearance of a set of photographs featuring notable Hoosier women. As teams navigate through the immersive experience, their mission is to recover the stolen photographs, piecing together the stories of the inspiring women. Register [here](#).

encourages everyone to visit libraries across the Hoosier state, is open to Indiana residents and outside visitors alike. The passport has more than 170 libraries and branches to explore.

Read more about the passport [here](#). Libraries interested in joining the Indiana Library Passport – free of cost – should contact the [communications director](#) at the Indiana State Library.

“We’re fortunate to collaborate with so many local organizations who create amazing experiments and experiences. This event highlights the innovative science happening right here in our community and makes it accessible and fun for families,” Lichty said.

For more details and the full schedule, click [here](#).

“We hope that you’ll join us for these thrilling and exciting events! Testing your Indiana intellect with escape rooms and trivia is a great way to help us celebrate our 200th anniversary,” said Michelle Sharp, collections and outreach manager at the Indiana State Library.

These lunch break programs are free and open to the public. The Indiana State Library is located at 315. W. Ohio St. in downtown Indianapolis. Information about additional bicentennial programs and events will be released at a future date.

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