



NEW MEMBER OF THE ACP

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Toyota Indiana welcomes two vehicles to lineup

PRINCETON, Ind. (April 28, 2021) — With its 25th anniversary right around the corner, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana (TMMI) is poised to celebrate with gusto as it announces an investment sure to drive the team through the next 25 years and beyond.

Today, Toyota announced an \$803 million investment and 1,400 new jobs at the Princeton, Ind., auto-manufacturing plant in preparation to introduce two all-new, three-row SUVs designed with the active Gen Y American Family in mind. What's more, only one will bear the Toyota name. The other will officially introduce the Lexus line to Toyota Indiana.

But, clout and luxury isn't all the investment will bring. While these new vehicles will be announced at a later date, both will join a diverse, electrified product portfolio and will help the company get another



step closer to Toyota's global aim towards carbon neutrality by 2050—all this while furthering its mission of mobility and happiness for all.

Speaking of happy, these new additions will have customers bursting at the seams when they get a glimpse of the cutting-edge technology featured in both vehicles. When on sale, customers can expect a semi-automated driving system—which will allow for hands-free driving in certain conditions—a remote parking system

allowing the driver to park and unpark from outside the vehicle using a smartphone, and a digital key that turns a user's smartphone into their key and allows them to share it digitally. Both the Lexus and Toyota versions will offer seating for up to eight passengers.

And, the Princeton automaker aims to achieve this goal with not only the type of vehicles produced but the production process itself.

SEE TOYOTA/PAGE 12

2021 legislative session concludes

In April, the Indiana General Assembly completed our regular business for the 2021 legislative session. Below are some statistics and highlights from my time in Indianapolis.



VANETA BECKER (R-EVANSVILLE)

The Indiana Senate and House of Representatives introduced 410 bills and 601 bills, respectively.

Of the 220 bills that passed the General Assembly, 92% passed the Senate with bipartisan support and 54% received unanimous support.

This session, my colleagues and I spent many hours crafting House Enrolled Act 1001, our state's next two-year budget, which seeks to help our communities rebuild after the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and provides flexibility for future budgets. I am pleased to see that Indiana has made a quick recovery, which can be shown through the additional \$2 billion projected in April's revenue forecast, giving us the ability to increase funding in key areas, particularly for schools.

I commend the federal government for passing the American Rescue Plan, and for providing Hoosiers with funding via stimulus checks to assist them in the midst of the pandemic. This funding has allowed us to provide for schools trying to adapt to new expectations in these strange times.

K-12 education remains a priority of mine, and I'm happy to see that our schools are receiving a historic level of funding for K-12 education, with \$5 billion in new funding going to schools across the state. That number includes \$150 million set to help schools address learning loss during the pandemic.

Even though we are appropriating a historic amount for K-12 education, I am disappointed with how the General Assembly has handled the use of taxpayer dollars for private and charter schools. I believe the voucher program

SEE SESSION/PAGE 12

Evansville to switch water disinfectant May 10 through June 28

EVANSVILLE, IND. — It happens twice a year, in spring and summer. The Evansville Water and Sewer Utility (EWSU) will temporarily change the disinfectant used in the water treatment process. This brief, scheduled change in disinfectant is a standard water treatment practice to keep water mains clean and free of potentially harmful bacteria throughout the year.

Beginning Monday, May 10, and continuing through Monday, June 28, 2021, EWSU will be using free chlorine rather than the regularly used disinfectant (chloramine) during this period. This is the first of two disinfectant switchovers, with the second switch coming in August. A separate notice for the second switchover will be issued.

Here's what you should know

WHAT IS CHLORAMINE?

Chloramine is a disinfectant used in drinking water to remove bacteria and virus-

es that can make you sick. It is made up of chlorine and ammonia. EWSU has used chloramine as the disinfectant in its water treatment process since 1999.

WHAT IS FREE CHLORINE?

Free chlorine is a slightly more potent disinfectant than chloramine, and it is used to remove more resistant bacteria and viruses that may be found in the water distribution system.

Why would EWSU Convert from Chloramines to Free Chlorine?

State drinking water guidelines recommend that utilities using chloramine periodically switch to free chlorine for a while. The temporary use of chlorine will ensure that a proper level of disinfectant is maintained throughout the network of water mains and pipes that deliver your drinking water.

Free chlorine is a more aggressive disinfectant than chloramine. This temporary change in the water treatment

process denies bacteria the ability to form resistance to the usual disinfection treatment process. Switching to free chlorine is a proactive step to ensure that we maintain optimal disinfectant levels in the water distribution system.

As always, the drinking water will be regularly monitored to ensure that the water delivered meets or exceeds federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

WHY DOES EWSU USE CHLORAMINES MOST OF THE YEAR?

While chlorine is an effective disinfectant, using chlorine alone creates byproducts that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulates. These byproduct levels can be significantly and cost-effectively reduced through the use of chloramine. Also, chloramine has less smell than chlorine and remains in the

SEE WATER/PAGE 12



WHAT WE BELIEVE IN

We consider ourselves to be a beacon of light for community

BY STAFF THE OF THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER

Over the years the City County Observer has strived to serve as a “community watchdog” by sounding the alarm when our citizen’s rights are in danger of being violated by our elected and appointed officials. We encourage our elected and appointed officials to always consider the welfare of this community. We realize that a community can have no greater ambassador of goodwill than one which keeps its citizens informed about the accomplishments, failures, and triumphs of their elected and

appointed officials.

The primary focus of this publication is built upon the foundation of our readers for contemporary information in order to enhance their quality of life. Our mission is to provide vital information concerning social, entertainment, dining, and lifestyle articles for your educational reading pleasure. We will strive to report and inform our readers about important issues that help shape their lives. We will educate and inform you about the competence and triumphs of area restaurants, dining venues, and social

atmospheres. We encourage you to send any and all information to our email to inform our readers about important issues that help shape their lives. Articles concerning weddings, anniversaries, social gatherings, concerts, and other activities are appreciated.

The Constitution of the United States of America is our Beacon of Light. The first amendment to the U.S. Constitution states, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people to

peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

The right to assemble and to see redress of grievances is enshrined in our constitution. Over the past twelve months, we have witnessed both peaceful and violent protests throughout our country. Recently outside groups of anarchist agitators attempted to foment lawlessness and unrest to advance their own objectives and cause anarchy.

We are a nation born of the revolutionary spirit of protest, coupling expressions of grievances against

injustice with the desire to be free. However, the publisher and staff of the City-County Observer deplore the theft, looting, and burning of the U.S. Capitol building caused by the random acts of lawless anarchists and thugs. In fact, we believe these lawless thugs should be arrested and thrown in jail.

Since the “defund the police” movement has taken hold in some large American cities, violent crime has increased more than 300% in many of those cities. The City-County Observer strongly opposes the “defund the police” movement.

City-County Observer to Association of Community Publishers

BY DOUGLAS FRY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY PUBLISHERS



The Association of Community Publishers (ACP) is proud to announce that the City-County Observer of Evansville, Indiana has been accepted as a publishing member of the association. ACP has represented community publishers for over 60 years. The City-County Observer exemplifies the high standards of integrity, honesty, and determination to sup-

port its community.

The Association of Community Publishers represents publishers of community papers from coast to coast, reaching millions of homes on a weekly, biweekly, or monthly basis. These

papers are united in providing the best advertising coverage to their clients and valuable advertising information to their strong and loyal readership base.

ACP is a member-driven organization, led by an elected board of directors who set the group’s direction in carrying out that mission. Policies, activities, and administration of the organization are directed by the board and a variety of committees focusing on

specific areas of the industry and organization.

Day-to-day operations are conducted by a professional staff headquartered in upstate Tennessee and New York. Membership in ACP assures members the opportunity to network and learn from the best the community publishing industry has to offer!

We would like to welcome the City-County Observer to the ACP (Association Of Community Publishers).

THE BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER

PODCAST LIBRARY

World-class sales training is now as close as your laptop. ACP and TLI are happy to provide this program designed to help you close more sales and cover issues of interest to frontline salespeople and managers.

ADS

Advertising Distribution Services (ADS) is the largest classified and display advertising network available in North America, offering national exposure to advertisers at affordable pricing.

ANNUAL EVENT AND TRADE SHOW

This event is “the” educational and social gathering of the year for ACP Members. This ADS-supported conference is all-inclusive featuring TLI’s professional training certification courses and upper echelon motivational and industry speakers in some of the nation’s greatest cities.

LINK AND LEARN

The community paper industry has developed Link & Learn, a series of educational materials designed to inform publication staff and train sales representatives.

CIRCULATION AUDITS

Circulation audits give credibility to the community publication industry. ACP pays for third-party audits for qualifying members through Circulation Verification Council

(CVC). CVC is an independent, third-party reporting audit company.

PEER AND SHARE MEETINGS

Network, share ideas, find solutions. These calls enable a group of members to work together as a team to develop their skills, share best practices, and solve common problems while making each other more successful.

FITS

Free Information Training Sessions (FITS) are offered to all members as an ACP benefit. Whether you are looking for a topic for your sales training, a quick jump-start for ideas, or training for staff members FITS is where you’ll start.

AWARDS COMPETITION

Be the Best of the Best! Get your staff and publications the recognition they deserve. These annual awards provide an opportunity to showcase your graphics, writing, photography, and design skills and creativity.

PROFESSIONAL CONNECTIONS

ACP serves the community publishing industry by acting as a facilitator to connect members seeking help. Whether it is advice, answers to questions, or the wise counsel of people within the industry who has tackled similar issues in their own operations.

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FREE

COMMENTARY

Indiana's Black community is more at risk for COVID-19 ... yet hesitant to get the vaccine

BY CAROLINA PUGA MENDOZA AND ALEXA SHRAKE
THESTATEHOUSEFILE.COM

COM INDIANAPOLIS

As eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine opens up for all Hoosiers, those who identify as white and Asian are taking the lead in getting vaccinated while some minority groups are falling behind.

According to the state's vaccine dashboard, 6% of available vaccines have been claimed by those who identify as Black in Indiana. Data from the Kaiser Family Foundation shows just 22% of those who are Black have been vaccinated in the state.

While COVID-19 has affected all of the nation regardless of race, Black people are being hospitalized almost three times more than white people, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

To get more people to vaccinate, Indiana has been seeking community leaders to help educate about the COVID-19 vaccine. To accomplish that, the state is using \$9 million from federal grants to help minority groups by having translators and advertisements.

However, problems built up in the community due to years of systemic racism and inequality in the health system have left Black people skeptical of the process, and they are experiencing other roadblocks.

Staff members of the Indianapolis Urban League displaying their first dose card of the COVID-19 vaccine. Photo provided by the Indianapolis Urban League.

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS?

Individuals within the African-American community are at a higher risk of getting

COVID-19 than other groups, according to the CDC.

Income, education, health care access and mistrust are just a few of the factors that prevent minority communities from getting the vaccine and that cause them to get sicker.

Economic disparity plays a big role in why Black Hoosiers are being vaccinated at a lower rate. In 2019, for example, the national poverty rate for Black households stood at 18.7% compared to 7.3% for white households, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

The economic difference can be seen in the lack of transportation in predominantly Black neighborhoods or internet and phone service that are needed to schedule and make appointments.

Dr. Roland Walker, a Gary pediatrician, spoke at the governor's COVID-19 press conference in March about the necessity of local leaders to convince members of the Black community to get vaccinated.

Walker said he has seen pharmacies go to suburban communities by highway exits rather than in urban communities, making it hard to get to vaccination centers.

"Some of these vaccine programs are through some of the big chain pharmacies, but these pharmacies don't come into the inner city anymore," Walker said.

WHY THE HESITANCY?

The reluctance to get the vaccine administered also can be tied to the health care system's long history of using Black people for testing and research, often against their wills or without their knowledge (the Tuskegee

experiment is just one example), leading to mistrust that has caused some vaccine hesitancy.

In addition, Black people face health care discrimination and are less likely to access health care services.

According to Walker, patience and time are needed to convince them to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

"You got to understand that people are fighting hundreds of years of mistrust and misuse and abuse, and they're trying to get past that," Walker said.

According to the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, 49% of Black people plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine, but 31% are unsure of getting it.

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

Indiana officials are reaching out to community leaders to spread information and reassurance about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Rep. Robin Shackleford, D-Indianapolis, chair of the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus, said the IBLC is trying to reach out to the Black community to encourage them to get the vaccine. The state is trying to provide resources through churches and community groups.

Shackleford said she received her vaccine on March 5 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

"I would just encourage the minority community to go get [the vaccine]. I think for the challenges and fear that they have, that would override like if you did get COVID and have the possibility of death," Shackleford said. "I highly recommend getting the vaccine."

Similar efforts include the Indianapolis Urban League, a social service and civil rights organization, opening its facilities as a vaccination site in Northwest Indianapolis.

Anthony Mason, CEO of the IUL, said that hosting COVID-19 vaccinations at the IUL will help people trust the process and be more willing to get the shot. He understands the hesitancy and reluctance of getting the vaccine due to the history of racism in the health system.

"As we progress towards vaccines being made available to the community, you know, we have a strong interest in being a part of that process, whether it was as simple as encouraging and promoting vaccination or ... us hosting vaccinations here to help people to maybe trust more in the process," Mason said.

The organization has opened its doors beyond COVID-19 information to include COVID-19 testing, flu shots, voter information, census information and more.

Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett announced the beginning of a COVID-19 Community Ambassador program to keep Hoosiers updated on vaccine information. The program is made possible through a partnership with the Office of Public Health and Safety and the Marion County Public Health Department.

"Communication from trusted leaders at all levels is critical to ensuring our residents of all backgrounds feel safe and confident in receiving a potentially life-saving vaccine," Hogsett said. "This effort allows the power of connections to be at the forefront of disseminating critical vaccine information. Neighbor to neighbor, we can dispel myths and remove barriers to get our city on a healthier path."

Carolina Puga Mendoza and Alexa Shrake are reporters for TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

It's time to pass the 'Protecting the Right to Organize (Pro) Act'

WRITTEN BY CHRIS HORN
SOUTHWESTERN CHAPTER PRESIDENT OF SIALF

In 2020, American heroes in grocery stores, the U.S.P.S., hospitals & more became known as "essential workers." risking their lives by working in unsafe conditions. As the Covid-19 crisis continues into 2021 & deadly workplace risks remain, it is imperative to give workers more voice & power.

The solution is to pass the "Protecting the Right to Organize ("PRO") Act", the most significant worker empowerment legislation since the New Deal. If passed, it would increase penalties for employers that violate workers' rights; protect strikes & other protest activity; and, streamline the initial collective bargaining agreement process. Under

the current National Labor Relations Act, independent contractors don't have the right to organize, and therefore those workers can't hold corporations accountable for unfair illness or workplace injury policies, nor can they bargain for better pay or safety.

However, for the first time in modern history, we have the chance to reverse this. The PRO Act would hold employers accountable & institute civil penalties for violations of the law, including back pay & damages. It would put the decision of Union formation back where it belongs—in the hands of workers. Call senators Mike Braun & Todd Young at (866) 832-1560 to pass the PRO Act.

THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSIONER

If you have questions, concerns or suggestions pertaining to county governmental issues contact me.



Ben Shoulders

812-435-5241
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Community News

Secretary Of State Sullivan announces re-election campaign

Indiana Secretary of State Holli Sullivan announced her candidacy to seek election to a full term in office as Indiana Secretary of State at the upcoming Indiana Republican Party State Convention, scheduled for June 2022 in Indianapolis.

"I am running for Secretary of State to bring my proven record of conservative leadership to defend the integrity of Indiana's elections," Secretary Sullivan said. "Hoosiers deserve

a Secretary of State who will fight for our future by standing up against an overreaching Federal government, and threats at home and abroad, to keep our elections safe."

Secretary Sullivan is an automotive engineer, small business owner, wife, and mother. Before taking office as Secretary of State in March, she served eight years as State Representative for northern Evansville



Holli Sullivan

and Newburgh. As the current Vice-Chair of the Indiana Republican Party, Sullivan supports conservative causes and candidates across the state.

At the Statehouse, Sullivan built a legislative record of fighting and winning battles for Hoosiers, including passing funding for election cybersecurity improvements ahead of the 2020 elections. On the House Roads, Transportation,

& Infrastructure Committee, she championed the successful passage of Indiana's fully funded, 20-year infrastructure plan. Dedicated to protecting Hoosier tax-dollars, she served as chair of the key House Ways & Means Budget Subcommittee where she worked to pass another balanced budget in 2021.

"Indiana's elections are free, fair, and secure," Secretary Sullivan said. "Now more than ever, we need lead-

ership in the Secretary of State's office to protect public trust in our democracy and Indiana's record as a national leader in election security."

The Office of Secretary of State will next appear on the ballot in 2022. Sullivan will seek election for a full term in office as the Republican nominee for Secretary of State in that year, to be chosen by the majority of delegates of the Indiana Republican State Convention.

Vanderburgh County Clerk's office adds online records request option

Vanderburgh County Clerk Carla Hayden announced a new online option today, which allows the public to request and pay for certain documents with a credit or debit card, then have them mailed to their location.

"With the new Real ID requirements, more people than ever need certified copies of their marriage license or divorce decree, but coming to our office or getting a cashier's check or money order and mailing it is not always practi-

cal," Hayden said, "So, we have teamed with Fidlar Technologies using their web-based product Official Records Online to offer an online means for requesting and paying for these documents." Certified copies are needed for most official purposes, including applying for a Real ID. Those doing genealogical research often request uncertified copies.

Official Records Online can be accessed using a link on the

Clerk's website or by going directly to the Official Records Online website at www.officialrecordsonline.com,



Carla Hayden

then selecting "Indiana" and "Vanderburgh County". There, the requestor selects the document needed, whether they need a certified or uncertified copy, and the number of copies requested. Next, they provide some identifying information for the document, such as names and dates of marriage or divorce. Finally,

the requestor provides mailing information and credit card information. Users will pay the usual fees for copies, certification, and mailing, plus a \$10.00 service fee.

"We will continue to take requests in-person, by mail, or by phone, but this provides a fourth option for those who wish to use it," Hayden said, "Although I expected it to be a popular option for those who live far away, our very first online request came from someone in Evansville."

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Visit Evansville releases results from 10-Year Tourism and Destination Management Master Plan

Visit Evansville (Evansville Convention and Visitors Bureau) unveiled its' 10-Year Tourism and Destination Development Master Plan at its April 26th Visit Evansville board of directors meeting. The \$140,000 study was awarded back in October 2020 to the Minneapolis consulting firm Convention, Sports, and Leisure, International (CSL, Int'l). John Kaatz, Principal, and Tyler Othen,

Senior Manager of CSL, Int'l, presented the study's findings to the Visit Evansville board of directors. The master plan included a comprehensive evaluation of Vanderburgh County's assets and infrastructure. It also identifies opportunities in multiple sectors for projects and investments that could potentially elevate Evansville and Vanderburgh County as top-tier visitor destinations one day.

According to John Kaatz, "These types of investments can be transformational over the 10-year timeframe considered by the Plan. The Plan is designed to position Evansville and the surrounding region for growth in numerous (tourism-related) business sectors," said Kaatz.

In the Evansville-Vanderburgh County area, the visitor industry plays an important (an essential) role in our local and regional economic health. Visitors inject new dollars into our economy, with only limited use of our public infrastructure. Visitor spending generates new tax revenue, which reduces the tax burden on our residents. One of the outcomes of this Plan is to grow our tax base by attracting more visitors to the area.

With the pandemic hopefully in our rearview mirror, we are beginning to see a recovery in visitation to Evansville. In 2020 our hotel occupancy for the month of March was 43% where just this past March our hotel occupancy was at 57%. In 2021 the recovery has begun, and this Plan is designed to help the Evansville/Vanderburgh region tourism segment grow exponentially post COVID. Now at the same time, competition for the visitor industry market share remains fierce. Throughout our state and region, communities that compete directly with Evansville will continue to invest in tourism infrastructure that will draw tourists to their communities which in turn will have a



significant return on their investment.

The overall objective for the creation of a 10-year tourism and destination management master plan is to enhance the Evansville/Vanderburgh County's tourism industry by identifying projects that will not only be attractive in growing our tourism economy but will improve to the overall quality of life for the residents that call the greater Evansville/Vanderburgh County home.

The Evansville/Vanderburgh County master plan included an extensive community and stakeholder outreach, including survey results from area residents, business and political leadership interviews, and discussions with numerous meetings, conventions, and sports clients. This study cross-referenced other studies that had taken place in Evansville/Vanderburgh County over the past several years. The tourism master plan also included an in-depth industry performance review which identified demand for various tourism sectors and overall economic growth initiatives for the region. To learn how peer cities have successfully attracted millions of visitors and residents in recent years by establishing strong reputations as work and play destinations, a benchmarking analysis was prepared. It also compared current and future tourism trends nationally so we can capitalize on any new and emerging trends.

Listed are some of the master plans future recommendations:

To attract new and larger sporting tournaments, adding turf to the existing fields at Deaconess Sports Park. A study should be conducted to expand Deaconess by adding four to six additional mixed-use baseball fields.

Building a new indoor athlete training facility for local athlete development at the Evansville Sports Complex

The addition of a 125,000-175,000 sq. ft. Sports Fieldhouse located at the Evansville Sports Complex where Deaconess Sports Park and Goebel Soccer Complex are located would help accommodate basketball, volleyball, pickleball, futsal and mat sports. This facility would attract tournaments from around the region and become a huge economic generator for Evansville/Vanderburgh County. This would give the complex a sports campus-like feel.

There are significant opportunities to grow outdoor adventure-based tourism and create attractions that are also beneficial assets for the local population through investment in Burdette Park and Wesselman Woods.

The development of trend-forward outlets in the cultural districts (Downtown Evansville, Haynie's Corner Arts District, NoCo, Franklin Street) is essential for Evansville's tourism economy and overall economic growth. These outlets include breweries, distilleries, arcade bars, and unique art and cultural experiences that enhance night-

life and live entertainment.

To create a tribute to the Evansville area's (specifically the Lincoln Gardens area) diverse and unique history dating back to the 1800s, using wayfinding signage, landscaping, and other initiatives to highlight the area's recent commemoration as a historical site.

The best way to create a pedestrian-friendly connection from Downtown Evansville to the Ohio Riverfront is to place a planned investment in large destination spaces along Riverside Drive.

Near-term improvements to the Old National Events Plaza, including production technology to accommodate post-COVID events, will allow for more in-person, virtual, or hybrid participation.

Creating a new visitor experience center in the downtown area should be explored.

The development of a new large-scale festival for the region should be considered — targeting themes that could include family entertainment, a music festival with top-name entertainers, or a festival built around health and wellness.

Visit Evansville's board of directors and staff remain very committed to doing all that we can to continue to grow our tourism economy. As our tourism offering continues to improve and grow, they will contribute to the overall appeal that makes Evansville a great place to work and live.



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McNamara: Local graduate gains experience at the statehouse

STATEHOUSE (April 14, 2021) — Evansville Central High School graduate Logen Sitzman is gaining experience as an intern with State Rep. Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville) and her fellow members of the Indiana House of Representatives during the 2021 legislative session.

Sitzman, an Evansville resident, is the son of Mark and Sandy Sitzman. He graduated from the University of Evansville with a bachelor's degree in communications in December 2020.

"I am grateful for this

internship opportunity because I have the chance to watch Indiana's legislators work behind the scenes," Sitzman said. "Getting to see the ins and outs of the legislation is extremely rewarding."

As a legislative intern, Sitzman corresponds with constituents through phone calls, letters and emails while also staffing committee hearings.

"Gaining hands-on experience is a very important part of learning and developing the skills needed to be successful," McNamara said. "Our



interns help so much throughout the session, and I look forward to seeing where the future takes Logen."

Each year, the Indiana House of Representatives offers paid internship opportunities to college students, law school students, graduate students and recent college graduates for the duration of each legislative session.

Visit IndianaHouseRepublicans.com/internship for more information about the House Republican Internship Program.

State Rep. Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville) represents House District 76, which includes portions of Posey and Vanderburgh counties.

UE AAUP releases statement on sexual assault and sexual harassment

EVANSVILLE — The following statement has been endorsed by the membership of the University of Evansville (UE) chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP):

The University of Evansville chapter of the AAUP would like to express its compassion and support for all of the victims of sexual assault and sexual harassment within the UE community. Such violence is entirely at odds with the values of the university and there can be no tolerance for such behavior on any UE campus.

The faculty is committed to working alongside students, staff, administrators, and



community members to create a safe and healthy environment for everyone at the university. This can only be done through the complete eradication of the scourges of sexual assault and sexual harassment. Central to the task of preventing such

abhorrent actions is the creation of a university-wide culture of accountability and self-awareness.

We must all know how to correctly identify and report sexual assault and sexual harassment. We must all learn how to aid and empow-

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- E-mail us at ueaaup@gmail.com

er victims of sexual assault and sexual harassment. We must all take responsibility for bringing to justice those who would seek to commit or enable sexual assault or sexual harassment. The work to be done is substantial and each aspect of it will be difficult, but this is all the more reason why everyone needs to be involved in its completion.

Contact(s): Daniel Byrne, Secretary-Treasurer UE AAUP, ueaaup@gmail.com, 8122055889

Hatfield advocates for a focused response on unemployment benefits

INDIANAPOLIS — State Rep. Ryan Hatfield (D-Evansville) today addressed the rise in identity verification issues that are preventing Hoosiers from filing unemployment vouchers.

The Indiana Department of Workplace Development (DWD) handed the work of verifying identities to a private website — ID.me — in June 2020. The new process requires applicants to have access to both a smartphone and a reliable internet connection. If the process is attempted and fails, calls for assistance can face wait times of 4 to 7 hours.

"In the middle of an unprecedented need for unemployment assistance, a new variable was introduced to the process," Hatfield said.

"And unfortunately, it's only made things worse. Preventing fraudulent claims is vital to work, but the solution can't create more problems than it solves.

"The past year has brought a great need to thousands of Hoosiers across our state. In times of crisis, they deserve to know that their government is working reliably and efficiently to get them the help they need. I'm calling upon the DWD and Governor Holcomb to take swift action to resolve these issues and will offer my own assistance in any way I can."

Unemployment applicants in need of assistance on resolving issues should visit <https://www.in.gov/dwd/indiana-unemployment/fraud/id.me/> for more information.



Hoosiers from around the state to begin reviewing arts grant applications

(INDIANAPOLIS) — The Indiana Arts Commission (IAC), in partnership with its Regional Arts Partners, announced the annual grant review process will begin today, April 19, 2021.

The IAC received 428 applications that will be going to review for its Arts Project Support and Arts Organization Support grant programs. Reviewing the applications are 167 peers from

around the state specializing in all levels of non-profit management, budgeting and finance, programming, development, and creativity.

Due to the pandemic, these panels will be held virtually. Applicants and members of the public may still monitor the grant review panels, but, as in years past, may not provide comments during the review process.



To view dates, times, and orders in which applications will be reviewed, please

click on the corresponding program link below. The link will also give you the information needed to access the live panel.

Applications recommended for funding will be reviewed by the IAC's Programs, Grants and Services Committee on May 27, 2021, with final funding approval made by the full Commission at its June 25, 2021, Quarterly Business Meeting.

Homeland Foundation Scholarships available

Indiana college students who volunteer with a public safety organization can now apply for the FY 2022 round of the Indiana Homeland Security Foundation scholarship.

The Indiana Homeland Security Foundation scholarship offers higher education financial assistance for Indiana students who wish to pursue a degree.

A full-time student with at least 12 cred-

it hours per semester is eligible for a \$2,000 scholarship and a part-time student with at least six hours per semester is eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship. The scholarship must be used during the awarded school year, and the funds are intended solely to reimburse eligible student educational expenses.

Eligible applicants include Indiana residents who are an incoming or continu-



ing student who:

Attends or will be attending an accredited Indiana college.

Must have a grade point average of 2.8 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Volunteers at a pub-

lic safety organization such as fire, law enforcement, emergency management or emergency medical services (validated by the chief executive). The Indiana Homeland Security Foundation scholarship, visit the IDHS website at dhs.in.gov/foundation-security-foundation-scholarship.htm.

Applications can be submitted here. New users to the iGMS compliance system must complete the New User Form.

For help or questions, please enter a Grants Support Ticket.

EPA awards \$10.5M to clean 473 school buses in 40 states

First DERA Funds for alt-fuel and electric buses offered

WASHINGTON (April 20, 2021) — Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded approximately \$10.5 million to replace 473 older diesel school buses. The funds are going to 137 school bus fleets in 40 states, each of which will receive rebates through EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) funding. The new buses will reduce pollutants that are linked to asthma and lung damage, better-protecting health and air quality in communities across the country.

"The rebates provide children with a safe and healthy way to get to school by upgrading older diesel engines in our nation's school buses," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. "Through the Diesel Emissions Reduction

Act, EPA is equipping local school districts with cleaner-running buses, helping them along the route to healthier kids and communities."

Yesterday, Vice President Kamala Harris and Administrator Regan toured the Thomas Built Buses manufacturing plant in High Point, NC, which produces electric school buses.

"I always take immense pride in seeing the positive impact that DERA continues to have across this country," said Senate Environment and Public Works Chair Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE). "By replacing dirty diesel engines with cleaner American-made alternatives, DERA allows communities to breathe easier while also supporting manufacturing jobs here at home. DERA is also proof that Congress can come together to pass lasting solutions that are good for our planet. I'm thrilled that EPA is awarding nearly 500 school bus



replacements today—several of them electric for the first time—because of our recent bipartisan reauthorization of this program.

With President Biden in the White House and Michael Regan at the helm of EPA, I'm excited for the opportunity to grow programs like DERA that strengthen our economy and address the climate crisis."

The 2020 Rebates are the first year in which EPA is offering additional funds for alt-fuel and electric bus replacements. This year, five fleets plan to replace 16 old diesel buses with electric buses. Applicants scrapping and replacing diesel buses with engine model years 2006 and

older will receive rebates between \$20,000 and \$65,000 per bus, depending on the fuel type of the replacement bus. EPA has implemented standards to make newer diesel engines more than 90 percent cleaner, but many older diesel school buses are still operating. These older diesel engines emit large amounts of pollutants such as nitrogen oxides and particulate matter, which are linked to instances of aggravated asthma, and other health effects or illnesses that can lead to missed days of work or school.

Since 2008, the DERA program has funded more than 1,300 projects across the country, reducing diesel emissions in more than 70,000 engines. A comprehensive list of the 2020 DERA School Bus Rebate recipients can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/dera/awarded-dera-rebates>.

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UE ChangeLab projects receive honorable mentions at Civvys

Two ChangeLab projects of the University of Evansville Center for Innovation & Change received honorable mentions at the fourth annual American Civic Collaboration Awards, or Civvys. The event was hosted live from Washington, D.C. on Monday, April 19.

“We are thrilled to see the positive impact of our student and faculty-led ChangeLab projects recognized not just in our local community, but also at the national level,” said Erin Lewis, director of the Center for Innovation & Change. “Both teams that participated in these award-winning projects worked diligently across disciplines to create powerful change through innovation and inclusion.”

As an Ashoka U Changemaker Campus, UE gives students the opportunity to create a lasting impact in the community through ChangeLabs, which are courses that connect the classroom with the world. Students work together in teams to turn an idea into reality, bringing positive change to businesses, nonprofits, and communities throughout the world.

The first honorable mention was for “COVID Between the Coasts,” a collaborative ChangeLab project between UE, Que Pasa, Midwest?, and WNIN. Hypothesizing that news media largely reported on the pandemic from the east and west coasts, this team conducted research to

assess COVID-19 exclusively in the Midwest. The project was led by Darrin Weber, PhD, assistant professor of mathematics; and Tamara Wandel, PhD, associate professor of communications.

Evansville Adaptive Watersports also received an honorable mention at the 2020 Civvys. At UE’s first Community Changemaker Challenge, Philip Jacobs presented a winning idea that would support local residents with disabilities by providing accessibility to watersports. After the event, the ChangeLab

project was guided by a team of four undergraduate and graduate UE students: Jamie Born, Jalyn Davis, Brooksie Smith, and Ashlyn Thompson. Evansville Adaptive Watersports successfully launched last fall, and the disabilities served include autism, spina bifida, paraplegic, brain injuries, and more.

The Civvys highlight best practices in civic collaboration in America, and awards are given at the national, youth, and local levels. The 2020 awards brought a record-set-

ting number of entries, and finalists were selected by the Civvys Review Committee.

FOOTNOTE: Students at the University of Evansville shape powerful and enduring change. UE is the first in Indiana to be designated as an Ashoka U Changemaker Campus, and its changemaking culture empowers students to improve the world around them as UE Changemakers. UE has an array of majors in business; engineering; the arts and sciences; and health science programs. UE has a diverse student body that represents 44 states and 52 countries. U.S. News & World Report recognizes UE as the #4 Best College in the Midwest among private schools.



Ivy Tech now enrolling for summer, fall classes; events planned

EVANSVILLE, IN — Ivy Tech Community College Evansville Campus, along with the Princeton and Tell City Career & Technology Centers are now enrolling.

Summer classes start June 7 and fall classes begin August 18, and more in-person classes are planned, as the college dials back up following the quarantine last spring, and subsequent re-opening of campus for several lab classes last summer, said Chancellor Daniela Vidal. “By fall, we expect that any student wanting to take an in-person class will have that opportunity. We will also remain flexible for our students’ needs and continue to offer IvyOnline classes, as well as a blend of in-person and virtual offerings. The

Learn Anywhere model will continue, allowing students to choose their course delivery method on a week to week basis.”

Express Enrollment Days are planned May 24-27 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. At Express Enrollment, students can learn about financial aid, assessment options, connect virtually with an advisor and register for classes. Learn more and RSVP at IvyTech.edu/eeday.

“Ivy Tech offers the most career focused program in the state including high demand career fields like healthcare, information technology, supply chain, busi-

ness, and advanced manufacturing, all at the lowest cost in the state,” Vidal said.

Padres Estrellas Planned for Hispanic and Latino Families May 22

Ivy Tech, in coordination with HOLA, is offering Padres Estrellas -- a free event designed to help Hoosier Hispanic and Latino communities to provide college and career support to students and families.

In particular, this event will assist students and families in enrolling their 8th grade students in Indiana’s 21st Century Scholars program, before the June deadline. The 21st Century

Scholars Program provides a free college opportunity for all enrolled, who meet the requirements. The event will be Saturday, May 22, from 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.

At Padres Estrellas, sessions will be conducted on filling out the application, as well as information available on English Language Learner classes, and free workforce credential programs. Fun activities are planned for children and area food trucks will be present.



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Health Insurance Marketplace calculator helpful to Hoosiers

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Department of Insurance wants Hoosiers to know about a helpful tool they may use when taking advantage of the Special Enrollment Period for health insurance on the Federal Affordable Care Act Exchanges on HealthCare.gov. The Health Insurance Marketplace Calculator, developed by the Kaiser Family Foundation, will estimate health insurance premiums and subsidies for people purchasing marketplace coverage.

You can find the Health Insurance Marketplace Calculator on the Indiana Department of Insurance Open Enrollment Fact Sheet webpage, along with information you should know to get coverage for 2021. With the calculator, you can enter your income, age, and family size to estimate your eligibility for sub-



sidies and how much you could spend on health insurance. You can also use the calculator to estimate your eligibility for Medicaid. As eligibility requirements may vary by state, please contact your state's Medicaid office or a local Indiana Navigator for Marketplace enrollment questions. The 2021 Special Enroll-

ment Period was extended until August 15 giving consumers additional time to take advantage of new savings through the American Rescue Plan. New and current enrollees now have additional time to enroll or re-evaluate their coverage needs with increased tax credits available to reduce premiums. Hoosiers seeking to take advantage of this Special Enrollment period can find out if they are eligible by visiting HealthCare.gov

New Harmony announces Festivals in Utopia events

The New Harmony Business Associates Education and Activities Fund has announced its slate of Festivals for 2021. We are so thrilled to be able to resume our wonderful festivals in New Harmony that so many missed last year," said Jane Griffiths, the association president in 2021. "We are known throughout the Tri-State area as the home to great festivals and fun and this year's events will be some of the most exciting, we have held! We can't wait to get started!" Festival events are dependent on Health Department approval at the time of the events.

New Harmony's Festival Season kicks off with the 19th annual Golden Raintree Antiques Festival June 12-13. The Golden Raintree is a New Harmony tradition! Antique vendors and craft artisans will feature their wares inside and out! Saturday hours 9-5 and Sunday 9-4.

Kunstsfest is the Tri-States' biggest festival and celebrates New Harmony's deep German heritage! This year's festival on September 18 & 19 will feature a German Bier Garten, great German food and music, as well as over 200 vendors! It is a sight to

behold and tons of fun for Germans (or just those who want to be at Kunstsfest) of all ages. Children events and heritage artisans will demonstrate their crafts.

New Harmony has been an artistic cultural center for many years. Arts in Harmony is a festival dedicated to celebrating and featuring art of many forms. Vendors will line the streets showcasing their art (and selling it to!), workshops and demonstrations will be conducted both days, and special emphasis will feature artists of various cultural backgrounds. Don't miss both days October 16 and 17th.

If a small town Christmas right out of a Hallmark Movie is your style, do not miss Christmas in New Harmony December 4 & 5th. A Christmas parade Saturday morning kicks off a host of events including a tour of some of New Harmony's beautiful homes decorat-

ed for Christmas, a host of topflight vendors featuring Christmas items, and of course — lots of food and shopping at New Harmony's charming shops and eateries. Candyland with Santa Christmas tree lighting Friday night at Red G.

"We hope folks will come and enjoy the weekend in one of America's Dozen Distinc-

tive Destinations (America's Trust for Historic Preservation)" during any or all of our festivals!" Kent Schuttee, President of the Business Associates added. Take a historic tour, enjoy the festivals, and the charm of New Harmony this year.

All festivals are free and ample parking is available. For more information, see all of the festivals and event information at visitnewharmony.com. Vendor applications and information can be accessed at visitneharmony.com/calendar or by emailing festivalsinutopia@gmail.com.



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Sports

Parker posts low round on final day of MVC Championship

FLOSSMOOR, Ill. — Freshman Carson Parker was the low scorer on Tuesday when the University of Evansville men's golf team completed the 2021 Missouri Valley Conference Championship at Flossmoor Country Club.

Parker rounded the final 18 holes in 77 strokes to record the Purple Aces low round of the day in the third and final round. Coupled with his effort on Monday, Parker wrapped up the tournament with a 247, tying for 39th.



Leading UE in the final standings was Isaac Rohleder. His 3-round tally of 235 put him in a tie for 21st. After going 9-over through the first nine holes, Rohleder improved on the back nine, going 2-over on his way to an 83 on Tuesday. He had two birdies in the final nine holes. He was followed by Michael Ikejiani, who placed 38th with a 246. Ikejiani had his low round of the championship on the final day, carding a 6-over 78. A blazing start to the day

saw him record a birdie on the second hole before shooting even par through the opening nine holes.

Carson Parker was third on the team, tying for 39th while Jessie Brumley came home

in a tie for 41st. He finished Tuesday's round with an 84 with his final tally coming in at 248. Spencer Wagner rounded out the Evansville contingent. His 252 put him 43rd.

As a team, Evansville

finished in 9th place with 972 strokes. Loyola held off a furious rally by Illinois State to clinch the team championship. The Ramblers paced the Redbirds by 21 strokes following Monday's action, but a 286 by ISU put them in contention on Tuesday. It was the lowest team round of the entire tournament. Loyola did just enough to win, scoring a 304 to finish with 896 strokes. ISU finished at 899. Devin Johnson of LUC was the medalist. His 216 edged the competition by five shots.

Aces place five on MVC Swimming & Diving Scholar-Athlete Team

The Missouri Valley Conference announced the 2021 Swimming and Diving Scholar-Athlete Team following the completion of the conference championship.

Five student-athletes from the University of Evansville's women's swimming and diving squad earned scholar-athlete team honors. Representing the Purple Aces were Emily Vasquez (3.90 GPA), Sarah Kempf (3.88 GPA), Margaret Franz (3.60 GPA), Allison McDonald (3.50 GPA), Sage Moore (3.35 GPA).

The Missouri Valley Conference had an outstanding 63 student-athletes overall on the scholar-athlete team



this season.

Scholar-Athlete honors require athletes to have completed at least one year and maintain either a 3.3 grade-point average and obtain all-conference honors, achieve a 3.5 grade-point average and finish top-16 in an individual event at the conference championships, or maintain a 3.8 grade-point average and participate in the MVC championship (including non-scorers).

Women's golf selected to Columbus Regional

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — Set to take part in its first-ever NCAA Division I Women's Golf Championship, the University of Evansville women's golf team is heading to the Columbus Regional, which will be hosted by Ohio State University.

The OSU Golf Club — Scarlet Course will host the tournament from May 10-12 with a single round played each day. Each round features start times between 8 a.m. and 10:48 a.m. ET with play beginning on the #1 and #10 tees.

Evansville clinched its spot in the field with last week's exciting victory at the Missouri Valley Conference Championship in St. Charles, Mo. The Purple Aces defeated Northern Iowa in a sudden death playoff hole to finish with the victory. Along with the team success, senior Sophia Rohleder earned the individual championship, joining Kayla Katterhenry as the only UE players to do so in program history.

"It's everything I can imagine and more. It really did not

set in until now, but it's a great feeling," Rohleder said. "I'm so excited and just ready to play again."

A watch party was held for the team on Wednesday afternoon during the selection show, which was carried live by the Golf Channel. The UE program played a large role in the show, including a live shot of the team during the introduction of the show, a live interview with head coach John Andrews as well as video of the team reacting to their pick.

"It means a lot to me and Coach (Jim) Hamilton. He built this program and this is what it has been leading up to for a long time," Andrews exclaimed. "The tournament will be the same: they will still play 18 holes and the golf ball will be the same size. We're just playing against bigger competition. We're going to go out and play golf."

Columbus was one of four regions in the championship with each site hosting 18 teams and six individuals. Duke is the top seed in UE's region.



Vetter's no-hitter helps UE clinch weekend sweep

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — For the first time in her University of Evansville career, Izzy Vetter threw a no-hitter to spearhead a dominant 11-1 victory over Bradley to clinch the weekend sweep on Sunday at Cooper Stadium. Vetter had a masterful effort for the Purple Aces (23-19, 11-12 MVC), striking out five Braves (17-20, 10-14 MVC) batters while allowing one run and two walks. UE's offense erupted for 11 runs in the 5-inning win, led by Alyssa Barela, who hit a 3-run home run. Eryn Gould registered her 11th long ball of the season to lead off the game. Jessica Fehr had another multi-hit day, going 2-3 with a pair of RBI. Hannah Hood also had two runs batted in.

Evansville pounced on the Braves early, scoring three runs in the first inning without picking up a hit. UE drew four walks in the frame including a pair with the bases loaded by Marah Wood and Hannah Hood. Katie McLean also scored on a wild pitch to contribute to the big start.

Eryn Gould got the offense rolling once again in the second. After being hit by a pitch in the first, Gould got a hold of her 11th home run of the year to make it a 4-0 game. McLean followed that with her second walk of the game before a Haley Woolf double to deep center put them on second and

third. With one out, Jessica Fehr added a double of her own to score McLean and Woolf.

Lindsay Renneisen picked up UE's fifth walk of the afternoon to set the table for Alyssa Barela, who belted her third long ball of the year to push the lead to 9-0. Bradley's right fielder got a glove on the ball against the wall, deflecting it out of the park. Bradley ended UE's shut-out bid in the top of the fourth with a single run coming on a sacrifice fly, but Evansville countered with a pair in the bottom of the inning to lead by 10 runs.

Hannah Hood had an at-bat in that sequence, which symbolized the entire weekend. In an at-bat that took 14 pitches to complete, Hood won the battle, hitting an RBI single. Jenna Lis had an RBI groundout later in the frame to cement the 11-1 lead, which would eventually be the final score. Vetter took care of business in the fifth on the way to her first UE no-hitter and her 13th win of 2021. It marked the Aces first no-hitter since February 16, 2019 when Emily Lockhart threw one against Southern in the finale of the Roul's Deli MVC-SWAC Challenge in Louisiana.

A trip to Missouri State next weekend will complete the regular season for UE. The Aces and Bears meet up with a Friday doubleheader before a single game on Saturday.

USI Cheer Team finishes fourth at nationals

The University of Southern Indiana Cheer Team recently finished its virtual performance for the 2021 UCA & UDA College Cheer & Dance National Championships and the Screaming Eagles recorded a fourth-place finish in the Small Coed Division I Virtual Finals.

Under the direction of second-year Head Coach Megan Murphy, USI had qualified

for the finals, which it did successfully with a strong Senior Night performance on April 11 at the Screaming Eagles Arena.

The fourth-place finish marks the Eagle's highest placement at nationals since they finished second in 2014. They finished fifth in the Small Coed Division II competition 2020 national championships in Orlando, Florida.



Winders secures auto mark in 5000m, two others record provisionals

University of Southern Indiana Men's Track & Field added an NCAA II automatic mark and two additional provisional qualifiers at the GVSU Extra Weekend Meet Friday night.

Freshman Titus Winders had an incredible run under the lights to secure a spot at the NCAA Outdoor Championships with his automatic qualifying time of 13 minutes, 54.64 in the 5000 meters, earning him 12th place in the event as well. Winders' 5000m time was 1 minute, 27 second improvement from the first race out about a month ago. Winders is currently sitting at 14th fastest in the nation and second all-time in the USI record book. Winders even snatched the USI freshman record away from Johnnie Guy, previously set back in 2013 (14:17.48).

Junior teammate Gavin Prior added



an impressive performance with his own provisional qualifying time of 14:27.86 in the 5000m as well. Prior's 5000m time was nearly an eight-second personal best.

The final provisional qualifier went to freshman Silas Winders for his efforts in the 1500m. Winders finished seventh in the event with a new seven-second personal record of 3:48.80. Winders' time slots him at 35th in all of Division II at the moment and fourth all-time in school history. Silas like his brother Titus, broke a USI freshman record which was previously held by Tyler Schickel since 2013 (3:49.45).

Other Notables: Both Junior Arie Macias (1:55.91) and freshman Jacob Wisniewski (1:55.44) picked up personal records in the 800m.

Sophomore Cameron Cox recorded a near 15-second personal best in the 5000m (14:49.84) while fellow sophomore teammate Taylor Mills showcased a 26-second improvement (14:52.56).

Last, junior Mathew Scales shaved off close to 22 seconds for his best 5000m time (15:06.89) while freshman teammate Ethan Goddard had his own 27-second improvement between meets (15:17.30).

Comastri, Winders set provisional marks in the 5000m

University of Southern Indiana Women's Track & Field recorded two new NCAA II provisional qualifying marks at the GVSU Extra Weekend Meet Friday night.

Junior Jennifer Comastri had the first spectacular performance of the night as she chased down a provisional qualifying time of 16 minutes, 15.29 seconds earning runner-up in the 5,000 meters. Comastri's 5000m time was a 12-second personal best and was nearing the automatic qualifying standard (16:10.04). Comastri boosts all the way up to fifth in the nation currently and second all-time in USI outdoor track & field.

Teammate Hope Winders also came away Friday

with a provisional mark as she paced under the NCAA II Standard (17:10.15) in the 5000m with a 17:04.68. Winders' 5000m time has her 38th on the Division II performance list and sliding into seventh all-time in Screaming Eagles' history.

Other Notables:

Freshmen McKenna Cavanaugh (11:11.64) and Audrey Comastri (2:18.13) recorded new personal records in the 3000m steeplechase and 800m, respectively.

Junior Megan Wagler had a 19-second improvement when all was said and done in the 5000m with a time of 18:10.59.

Up Next: The Eagles will prepare for the GLVC Outdoor Championships held in Rolla, Missouri May 7-9.

USI plans to add swimming and diving by fall 2022

University of Southern Indiana Athletics has announced the formation of new Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving varsity athletic programs, with an anticipated start of intercollegiate competition in the Fall 2022 athletic season.

"There is a strong and passionate swimming and diving community in our region, and we are thrilled to implement a new program to allow students to represent USI in the sport they love," said Jon Mark Hall, Director of Athletics. "Our new Swimming and Diving teams will join our 17 varsity athletic programs in regularly competing for conference and national championships at the Division II level."

Swimming is the eighth most popular sport for girls and the 10th most popular sport for boys nationwide, according to the National Federation of State High School Associations. In 2018-2019, 4,383 girls participated on 239 teams and 3,944 boys participated on 233 teams.

The new Swimming and Diving teams would compete in NCAA Division II and Great Lakes Valley Conference competitions. Currently, the GLVC houses 10 men's and nine women's swimming and diving teams, and more than 400 student-athletes are expected to participate in the 2022 con-

ference championships. USI expects to field a roster of 25 men and 25 women for the combined teams made up of students primarily new to USI.

USI Swimming and Diving would compete and practice in the new on-campus Aquatic Center, scheduled to open in Fall 2021, and would participate in an average of 10 meets per season. Additionally, USI plans to work with the Evansville Sports Corporation and the City of Evansville to bring larger meets, such as GLVC and NCAA Division II Championships, to the Deaconess Aquatic Center in Garvin Park.

"The launch of new programs in swimming and diving represent the culmination of hard work and research from all across our campus community," said Ronald S. Rochon, PhD, USI President. "I'm excited about this new opportunity for our University and the talent it will bring both athletically and academically. I look forward to attending meets in our new Aquatic Center and rooting on our Screaming Eagles as they compete in the GLVC and in NCAA Division II competition."

The hiring process for coaching staff and a facility manager will start in Summer 2021, with season scheduling and recruitment of the inaugural class of student-athletes to begin in Fall 2021.



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TOYOTA

FROM PAGE 1

Toyota Indiana's environmental team has created thousands of metric tons in CO2 savings for the plant and invested over \$4 million on CO2 reduction projects with another \$2.7 million committed for the coming year. All of this ladders up to the products Toyota produces.

"Over the past 20 years, Toyota has led the way with more electrified vehicles on the road than all automakers combined," said Ted Ogawa, president and CEO of Toyota Motor North America. "This investment and new vehicle line-up will allow us

to continue our work with electrification, expand our portfolio to around 70 models globally by 2025, and meet the needs of our customers while we accelerate towards carbon neutrality."

And, the team is well-positioned to take on this challenge. With more than 7,000 employees already, the investment will add another 1,400 and cement its ability to take on two new vehicles.

"Selecting Toyota Indiana for this opportunity shows the confidence Toyota has in our employees to take on new and exciting challenges," said Leah Curry, TMMI president. "Expanding our Toyota family by 1,400 is a challenge we are

eager to accept. This is a testament to the strong workforce in the Southwest Indiana region. We're waiting with open arms to welcome new people and products to the family and can't wait to get started."

The \$803 million investment will be used to prepare the manufacturing line for the new vehicles, production-employee training, as well as provide supplier re-tooling at their facilities. Since the first Tundra—the original TMMI vehicle—rolled off the production line in 1998, Toyota's total investment in the Princeton site is \$6.6 billion. TMMI currently assembles the all-hybrid Sienna minivan, Highlander/Highlander Hybrid

SUV and Sequoia full-size SUV, and has the capacity to assemble more than 420,000 vehicles annually.

"Toyota has been an incredible partner to the state of Indiana for nearly 25 years, and we're thrilled to continue that partnership in order to drive our economy forward," said Governor Eric J. Holcomb. "Indiana is proud to be home to the highest concentration of manufacturing jobs in the nation, while providing a skilled workforce that is contributing to the success of companies across a variety of industries. I can't thank Toyota enough for the role they play in the strength of our manufacturing sector."

WATER

FROM PAGE 1

distribution system longer to prevent bacterial growth. As such, chloramine is a better long-term choice as a regular disinfectant.

WILL I NOTICE A DIFFERENCE IN MY WATER?

During this period, some customers may notice a slight change in the taste or smell of their tap water. Free chlorine may have more of a chemical odor, slightly like that of swimming

pool water. Each customer has his or her sensitivity level to the taste or smell of free chlorine. Many detect no change at all. The mild chlorine taste and smell are typical and pose no health risk.

ARE FREE CHLORINE AND CHLORAMINATED WATER SAFE?

Yes, both chlorine and chloramine are effective and safe for people and animals for drinking, cooking, bathing, watering the garden, and all other standard uses. However, precautions should be taken to remove or neutralize

chloramine and free chlorine during the kidney dialysis process, in the preparation of water for fish tanks and ponds, and for businesses requiring highly-processed water. A dechlorination procedure optimized for chloramine removal will work equally well with free chlorine.

People and businesses that typically take special precautions to remove chloramine from tap water (such as dialysis centers, medical facilities, and aquatic pet owners) should continue to take the same precautions during the

switch from chloramine to free chlorine.

Most customers will not need to take any precautions as the water remains safe to drink and is treated according to state and federal standards.

INFORMATION FOR KIDNEY DIALYSIS PATIENTS

Just like chloramines, free chlorine must be removed from water used in kidney dialysis machines. EWSU has contacted representatives from the medical community to inform them of this temporary conversion. We advise cus-

tomers who are dialysis patients to call their physicians or dialysis centers if there are any questions.

INFORMATION FOR FISH OWNERS

Like chloramine, free chlorine is toxic to fish. Fish owners need to remove chlorine, ammonia, and chloramine from the water before using with tropical fish. Local pet stores carry water conditioners that remove chloramine and free chlorine. If customers have questions, we recommend contacting their pet store for information and detailed instructions.

SESSION

FROM PAGE 1

started with good intentions — to help low-income families have more choice in their child's education — but has since gone too far. The voucher income limit is now at \$147,000 for a family of four to send a child to a private school, which enables wealthier families to take advantage of this and takes money away from public schools at the expense of the taxpayer. I hope we can rein in these programs in future sessions.

To assist those who felt the strain of the pandemic, we have allocated \$100 million in our budget to be put toward mental health and substance abuse recovery initiatives. The budget also appropriates \$500 million for the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative for businesses and communities feeling the impacts of the pandemic, giving Main Streets the confidence to reopen better than ever.

Additionally, as Indiana continues to recover, we have

worked toward increasing Hoosiers' connectivity with one another. To help this, we have provided \$900 million to go to the Next Level Connections Fund, which seeks to improve Indiana's infrastructure needs by funding projects that expand broadband services, create more hiking and biking trails, improve state and local roads and add more non-stop international flights.

I'm also happy to see that we were able to raise the income for those who work with the developmentally disabled to \$15 an hour for each year of the next two years.

Finally, I would like to congratulate my colleagues for passing bills that will help bring a voice to the General Assembly during future emergencies. Senate Enrolled Act 5 establishes an appeals process for Hoosiers to contest local health orders issued during a declared emergency. Our local health departments have acted admirably during the COVID-19 pandemic, however, locally elected officials should ultimately

be the ones making decisions that affect the people who elected them.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our

state's next two-year budget, or other pieces of legislation, feel free to reach out to my office at Senator.Becker@iga.in.gov or 800-382-9467.

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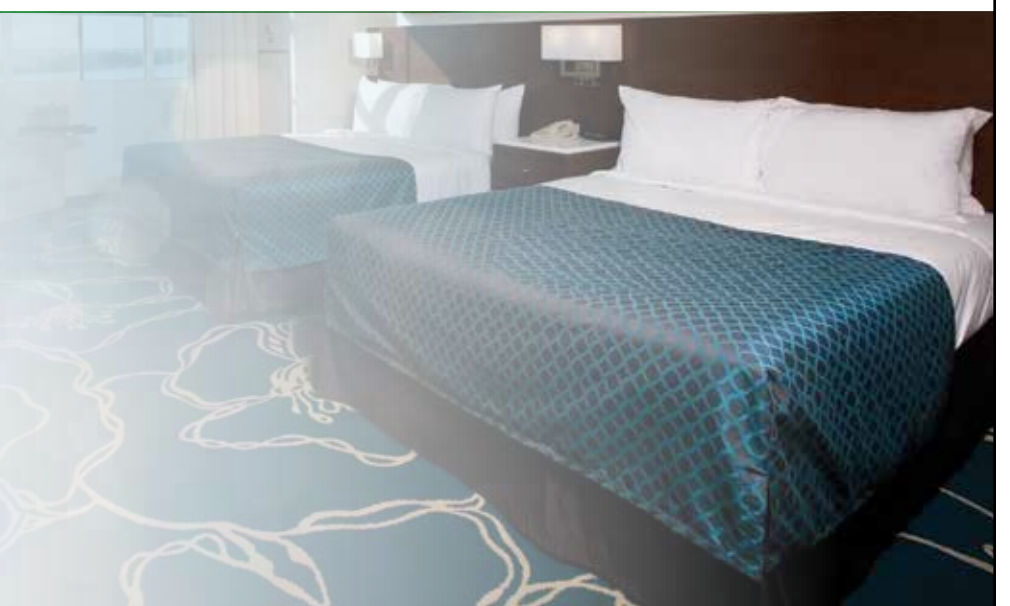
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CIVIC THEATRE UPCOMING SHOWS

Evansville Civic Theatre is proud to announce the second half of its 2020-2021 Season: A diverse lineup mixing online and outdoor productions aimed to thrill and entertain Evansville audiences through the first half of 2021.

"Through our ongoing Save Civic Theatre campaign, people across Evansville have shown us how important theatre is to their lives," said Managing Artistic Director Kevin Roach. "So starting with this weekend's staged reading of Anna Ziegler's BFF, and running through an outdoor production of Robert O'Hara's Barbecue in June,

Evansville Civic Theatre is keeping theatre alive through the pandemic in a manner that is both safe and exciting for our audience."

The half-season opens this Friday, with a staged reading of Anna Ziegler's BFF, presented online and starring Emily Durchholz, Megan Leavitt, and Cory Burdette. Roach is directing the reading.

The full half-season slate includes:

- BFF, by Anna Ziegler — February 26-28, Online
- [title of show], by Jeff Bowen and Hunter Bell — April 16-18 & April 23-25, Online

• The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised], by Adam Long, Daniel Singer, and Jess Winfield — May 21-23 & May 28-30, Outdoors (Location TBA)

• Barbecue, by Robert O'Hara — June 18-20 & June 25-27 Outdoors (Location TBA)

Both the May and June productions are scheduled as outdoor productions, pending the state of the pandemic.

Tickets for all productions can be purchased online at evvcivic.org, or by calling 812-425-2800 between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Tuesday-Friday

On The Roof returns to downtown Evansville

Free concerts will return to Downtown Evansville's most unique venue beginning in May.

The Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana announced the schedule for its outdoor concert series "On The Roof" Tuesday. The free summer performances take place on the Arts Council's Rooftop Art Deck in Downtown.

Dozens of Arts Council events and concerts were canceled in 2020, but as vaccinations rise and health restrictions lift, the concert series is poised for a strong comeback this year.

"People want live music now more than ever," said Arts Council Community Director Zach Evans. "On The Roof" is the perfect way to bring our community together and to get Evansville musicians back to performing live and making money again."

The Arts Council's Rooftop Art Deck is an open-air venue that features views overlooking Main Street in Downtown and artist-designed furniture. In addition to hosting concerts, the roof is also used for meetings, party rentals and other special events.

Here is the 2021 lineup, with more concerts to be announced. Performances are 7-10 p.m. All shows are free and open to all ages.



May 22: Kings Highway June 12: Cage Willis / Kesley Barr June 18: Nero Angelo Hip-Hop Series June 26: Ley Line presented by The Song Show July 3: Corduroy Orbison / Hannah Eveyln Trio July 30: Nero Angelo Hip-Hop Series Aug. 13: Nero Angelo Hip-Hop Series Aug. 21: Angel Rhodes w/ Cher'Rita Horne / Emily Bernhardt Aug. 22: Sunny War presented by Under The Radar & The Song Show Aug. 27: Nero Angelo Hip-Hop Series Sept. 11: Brick Briscoe & The Skinny / Matt Sullivan Sept. 25: Big Ninja Delight and Freddie Bourne

The Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana is a 501(c)3 nonprofit located at 212 Main St. in Downtown Evansville.

Contact the Arts Council at (812) 303-3178 or zach.evans@artswin.org with any questions.

Church in the round: The Gather Again Tour

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Reigning CMA Entertainer of the Year and current ACM Entertainer of the Year nominee Eric Church has his sights set on a return to the road with this morning's announcement of a full arena tour. As first shared with the Church Choir and by Billboard magazine earlier today, The Gather Again Tour will kick off this fall and visit 55 cities throughout the U.S. and Canada, culminating at Madison Square Garden in the spring of 2022.

Making the most of the long-awaited opportunity to "gather again," for the first time in his career Church will adopt an in-the-round setup, with the stage at the center of each arena floor in order to accommodate as many fans as possible. Tickets to all U.S. dates go on sale to the general public Friday, May 7 at 10 a.m. local time at www.EricChurch.com. Church Choir members may access tickets early via pre-sale on Tuesday, May 4 at



Eric Church

10 a.m. local time. On-sale information for the Canadian dates will be announced soon.

Church, praised by Rolling Stone in the lead review of the April 2021 print issue for how he "has maneuvered the Nashville system, remaining dedicated to the power of down-the-center hitmaking even as he's helped expand the parameters of the genre," has passionately taken a leadership role in the industry's return to touring.

"It became very clear to me that the only way to really get back to normal is through vaccinations. You've got to get needles in arms," he shared with Billboard in the April 3 cover story depicting the superstar getting his own second dose of the vaccine after consulting with epidemiologists and industry experts.

"I just want to play shows," he continued. "Politics' job is to divide — that's how you win elections. Those things that unite us are music and

sports. The times when, whether you're a Democrat or Republican or whatever, you throw your arm around the person next to you. We need that. I need that."

Additionally, Church will appear in an upcoming PSA promoting vaccine education, produced by ACM Lifting Lives, The Ad Council, and COVID Collaborative and set to premiere during the ACM Awards broadcast on Sunday, April 18, where Church will also perform a song off his forthcoming Heart & Soul triple album project.

The trio is set for release in the coming weeks, with Heart available everywhere Friday, April 16, Soul available everywhere Friday, April 23, and the middle album, &, available exclusively to the Church Choir on Tuesday, April 20.

For the latest information and to learn how to join the Church Choir, visit www.EricChurch.com and follow on Facebook and Twitter @ericchurch and Instagram @ericchurchmusic.

Moore coming to Ford Center

Friday, June 4th at 7:00pm fans can catch Justin Moore live on stage at the Ford Center. Justin Moore has built a loyal following over the past decade with his traditional Country sound and captivating live shows. Those fans helped boost his fifth studio album, LATE NIGHTS AND LONGNECKS, to the top of the charts upon its release. The lead track from the Arkansas native's LP, "The Ones That Didn't Make It Back Home," and follow up "Why We Drink" both peaked at No. 1 on both Mediabase and Billboard bringing his tally to nine chart-toppers.

Moore's previous project, KINDA DON'T CARE, earned the singer his third consecutive No. 1 album debut and features his chart-topping singles "You Look Like I Need A Drink" and "Somebody Else Will." It served as a follow up to his second No. 1 album release, the GOLD-certified OFF THE BEATEN PATH. Over his 10+ year career, Moore has produced eight No. 1s including

"Point at You," "Lettin' The Night Roll" "If Heaven Wasn't So Far Away," "Small Town USA" and "Till My Last Day" as well as seven Top 10 hits and PLATINUM-certified albums JUSTIN MOORE and OUTLAWS LIKE ME.



Justin Moore

Moore's LIVE AT THE RYMAN album featured duets with David Lee Murphy, Chris Janson and Ricky Skaggs from his sold-out show at the esteemed venue in May 2018. His latest offering We Didn't Have Much" reminisces on Moore's simple upbringing and appreciation of life's most precious moments. The track, penned alongside Jeremy Stover, Randy Montana and Paul DiGiovanni, is the first single off his forthcoming sixth studio album. Due April 23, 2021, STRAIGHT OUTTA THE COUNTRY embraces his trend of country traditionalism, vivid storytelling and signature Arkansas-bred twang across eight tracks. The Valory Music Co. recording artist has earned multiple ACM, ACA and ACC Awards nominations as well as an ACM Award win.

He has shared the stage with Hank Williams Jr., Brad Paisley, Miranda Lambert and routinely traversing coast-to-coast on headline runs. Since quarantine, Moore has been busy hosting his new Justin Moore Podcast with tour manager JR and interviewing guests such as Tracy Lawrence, Jon Pardi, Brantley Gilbert, wrestling champion Diamond Dallas Page and ESPN's Marty Smith.

Tickets go on sale Thursday April 15th at 10:00am CST. Tickets will be available for purchase at ticketmaster.com or the Ford Center ticket office.

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