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June, 2021

Evansville, IN

Talent and the right strategic director matter



BY GREG WATHEN - APR
 CO-CEO OF THE EVANSVILLE REGIONAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
 June 2021
 People, population or talent... regardless of what one might call it, the reality today is that

workforce capabilities are paramount to the fundamental objectives of economic and community development. Talent matters to business attraction as more and more businesses say they could generate additional opportunity if they had workers to fill them.

According to a new report from Oxford Economics... "advances in technology, changing demographic trends, new customer needs and increased competition are radically altering how companies operate in virtually every industry and region of the world, including businesses," in the Greater Evansville region. And these structural shifts are reshaping both the supply and demand for talent across Indiana and the globe.

Yet companies challenged with

hiring new employees often say they are unable to find the right people with the proper skills. Meanwhile, the sources from which talent might be recruited are also realigning. More talent needs to be "home-grown" as the demand for talent will not wane. If the pandemic offered a possible solution it is the fact that remote work is becoming stickier; and, the development of broadband or digital infrastructure demands a greater investment in Southwest Indiana.

As a region, we will need to confront the need to undertake a critical "reskilling" of labor in order to meet the new demands of a highly digitized and interconnected world where higher skills will be required. As Samira Kaderali, Director of Strategic Workforce Planning at American Express puts it, "The

notion of human resources being much more analytic and data-driven provides a foundation for HR to be a strategic partner to the business, to help drive business results - this is the conversation that all the business and HR leaders want to have."

Economists generally agree that economic development and growth are influenced by four factors: human resources, physical capital, natural resources and technology. Highly developed regions have public and private sector partners that are aligned in these focus areas.

Talent development pathways can be somewhat unclear and unequal, limiting the supply of prepared workers. In Indiana, we've focused in the past on a narrow "four-year degree for all" pathway to good jobs as

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Senators' Braun Amendment will outlaw animal-human hybrids

June 2021
WASHINGTON – Senator Mike Braun, Senator Steve Daines, and Senator James Lankford's amendment to the Endless Frontier Act that would make it a crime to engage in chimera research, or the creation of animal-human hybrid organisms, received a vote on the Senate floor tonight.



Rep. Chris Smith of New Jersey introduced the original legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A chimera is an organism that contains cells from two distinct species, such as an animal-human hybrid, created in a laboratory setting. In recent years, research programs involving chimeric organisms have become more prevalent.

"Human life is distinct and sacred, and research that creates an animal-human hybrid or transfers a human embryo into an animal womb or vice versa should be completely prohibited and engaging in such unethical experiments should be a crime," said Senator Braun.

"We shouldn't need to clarify in law that creating animal-human hybrids or 'chimeras' is ethically unthinkable, but sadly the need for that very clear distinction has arrived," said Senator Lankford. "Currently the National Institutes of Health does not do this research, and we need to keep it that way. Researchers who are attempting these horrific once-science-fiction experiments should focus on valuing the dignity of human life, not trying to genetically merge and manipulate humans and animals. I'm glad to stand against this unethical practice with Senators Braun and Daines."

"In trying to compete with China, we shouldn't become like them. It's critical that we draw a bright line against unethical forms of research that fail to recognize the distinct value of humans over animals," said Senator Daines.

While the National Institute of Health (NIH) does not currently fund this research directly, chimera research programs continue in local universities as exhibited by last year's creation of a mouse embryo with 4% human cells.

In 2016, the NIH considered lifting their moratorium on experimentation involving human stem cells in animal embryos. Though the NIH has not to-date lifted that moratorium, chimeric research has continued to advance in private research settings with alarming results.

In April of this year, researchers at the Salk Institute in California created a human-monkey chimeric embryo by injecting human stem cells into embryos from long-tailed macaques. The human cells survived within the monkey embryo and generated additional cells; the researchers noted that all 132 macaque embryos injected with human cells still contained human cells seven days after fertilization.

Acting on the significant ethical concerns and ramifications such animal-human hybrid research has for the sanctity of human life, the senators introduced an amendment to the Endless Frontiers Act which would make it a crime for any person to knowingly 1) create or attempt to create a prohibited human-animal chimera; 2) transfer or attempt to transfer a human embryo into a nonhuman womb; 3) transfer or attempt to transfer a non-human embryo into a human womb; and 4) transport or receive for any purpose a prohibited human-animal chimera.

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E.P.D. K9 Abot passes

June 2021
 It's with great sadness that the Evansville Police Department announces the passing of one of our own. K9 Abot, along with Sgt. Thomas, has been faithfully serving the citizens of Evansville for over seven years.

On May 25, Abot was observed to be suffering from a medical condition and he was rushed to the vet. This morning, May 26, Sgt. Thomas took Abot to a specialist in Louisville, Ky., where it was found that Abot had several tumors around his heart and spleen. These tumors caused some internal bleeding. Because of Abot's internal issues he had to be euthanized.

K9 Abot was laid to rest near his brother, K9 Bobi, at the K9 Cemetery.



Chemo buddies opening Karen's Wig Shop

June 2021
 Chemo Buddies recently celebrated the grand opening of **Karen's Wig Shop**, a place where women facing cancer can come to receive a free wig and other beauty-related services. "Hair loss is by far one of the most traumatic side effects of chemo," said founder Jill Kincaid, "and most people are shocked to find that wigs can cost anywhere from \$50 to thousands of dollars. Through the years of our service in the treatment room, we've heard the same story over and over again about how hard it is to find an affordable wig that fits with their overall look. Today we are so proud to open one of the finest wig shops in our area and be able to offer a peace-filled experience to the ladies in our community facing cancer. To be able to do so at no charge is nothing short of miraculous, and we thank God for blessing us with the supplies and sponsors who made this possible. To our knowledge, this is the only facility of its kind in the country, and we are proud to once again be the first."

"My sister Karen was traumatized by her own wig experience and it was her dream to open a wig shop to make that part of the journey easier for the other women facing cancer. We are so excited to launch this new service in her honor and bearing her name," said Kincaid. "Both hospitals have donated new wigs to get us started, and we also have a sizeable inventory of gently used wigs from previous patients. We offer this service by appointment only so that each woman has complete privacy and can feel comfortable trying on the different styles. We are able to give them 100% of our attention and do everything we can to put them at ease and try to make them feel as beautiful and as pampered as possible. I know that my sister Karen would be very proud of what we've put together."

Karen's Wig Shop joins the extended line of **Chemo Buddies** signature programs which includes treatment room volunteers,



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CONTACT US
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Commentary

Over the years the City-County Observer has strived to be a "Beacon Of Light" for our community



June 2021

Over the years the City-County Observer strived to be the "Community Watchdog" by sounding the alarm when our citizens' rights were in danger of being violated by our elected and appointed officials. We have always encouraged our elected and appointed officials to consider the welfare of our citizens. We must say that the majority do.

We realize that there can be no greater ambassador of goodwill than one which keeps its citizens informed about the accomplishments, failures, and triumphs of our community.

The primary focus of this publication was built upon the foundation of providing our readers with accurate, non-partisan, and contemporary news in order to enhance their quality of life.

Over the years we have strived to report and inform our readers about important issues that help shape their lives.

Our mission is to provide our readers with vital information concerning political, social, educational, sporting, community, and law enforcement articles for your reading pleasure.

We take our mission very seriously. We pledge to continue to not only be a "Community Watchdog," but also to be a "Good Steward of The Public Trust."

We consider it to be an extreme honor and are humbled that our readers consider us to be a "Beacon Of Light." We are also humbled to be your community newspaper.

Finally, we understand that 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 the redress of grievances."

Also, let us not forget that, "When People Fear The Government There Is Tyranny But When The Government Fears The People There Is Liberty!"

The City-County Observer is a member of ACP, Association of Community Publishers.



Cleaner, greener and sustainable energy is a great step forward

BY JOE "JACK" WALLACE
June 2021

It was recently revealed that CenterPoint Energy, the electric and gas utility provider for much of Greater Evansville and Southern Indiana, is embarking on a mission to introduce more renewable energy technology into their generation operations. It was furthermore made known that CenterPoint Energy is adopting a number of Smart Energy strategies designed to provide cleaner power generation through investing in clean technologies and sophisticated management techniques to deliver cleaner, more reliable power to their customer base at competitive pricing. All of this is good news and will make the Tri-State more attractive to companies seeking locations that are not only cost-effective for their business operations but are concerned about environmental issues.

As a former resident who has been living in Southern California and working to advance renewable energy technologies, I applaud these commitments. The large solar generation facilities that CenterPoint Energy is planning have much potential for cost-effective, clean power delivery. We have many facilities like this in the deserts and their status as static generators of electricity has been providing clean energy for over a decade now. Some of the recent projects are actually less expensive to operate than the fossil fuel generation stations that they are replacing.

Personally, I invested in rooftop solar on the carbon-neutral home we built when we moved to Palm Desert. In our case, our rooftop system paid for itself in roughly five years. With the 20+ year life of the solar panels, we are already enjoying the financial benefits of solar ownership. The ability to do this is enhanced by time-of-use billing that enables us to sell our solar power to our local provider during the day and to buy our evening power at reduced rates after the sun has gone down. Time-of-use rate structures accelerate the adoption of clean power at the residential level and there is little or no transmission required when the power generation is literally on the roof.

Smart Energy strategies often utilize multiple power generation sources along with managed energy storage solutions like batteries and pumped hydropower. In a pumped hydropower station, solar panels pump water into a reservoir that is utilized later for power generation much like a dam does



when the power demand is needed. Storage is vital to an integrated solution to be reliable. One of the things that California could do a better job on is reliability, as storage has not kept up with the transition to renewable power. As we all know, solar does not work when the sun is down and wind power does not work when the wind is not blowing at a sustained speed above what it needed to spin the blades. In most large wind turbines the minimum wind speed to sustain generation is between 12 and 14 miles per hour. Wind turbines also need to be throttled down when wind speeds are so high that the dynamic forces of rotation literally can destroy the turbines. Energy storage of some type is vital to an effective Smart Energy strategy.

When I was an engineering student at the University of Evansville, my interest was to seek a career in the nuclear power industry. During my junior year, the accident at Three Mile Island set off an emotional national reaction that was fueled by a movie named The China Syndrome. The American public went into a media-fueled paranoia that has led to the near demise of nuclear energy. That is a crying shame because nuclear energy has zero greenhouse gas emissions and has literally generated safe, clean energy now for more than half a century. I will not be the least bit surprised to see nuclear come back into the Smart Energy strategies of power providers. Quite frankly, Hollywood manipulated the minds of Americans to rob us of clean energy long ago.

CenterPoint Energy is embarking upon a series of investments and strategies that have the potential to slowly transition Greater Evansville from dirty, expensive solutions to clean, affordable power. This is a path to prosperity that I most certainly want to encourage.

Freedom shouldn't keep costing this much

By Michael Leppert, MichaelLeppert.com
June 2021

I can't be sure if people are saying it more or if I'm just hearing it more, but the describing of unfortunate American phenomena as "the price of freedom" is landing on me more than it once did.

Michael Leppert is a public and governmental affairs consultant in Indianapolis and writes his thoughts about politics, government and anything else that strikes him at MichaelLeppert.com.

"Freedom's just another word for nothin' left to lose," was famously sung by Janis Joplin in "Me and Bobby McGee." The song goes on with "nothin', it ain't nothin' honey, if it ain't free." Yea, I know Kris Kristofferson wrote it, but most of us hear Joplin's voice on this one. And while I get the sentiment in the song, that sentiment couldn't be more wrong. Freedom is expensive. Wildly so.

What is the number one, stated reason given by those who continue to resist getting vaccinated? Personal *freedom*. That, by the way, was and is the number one reason for resistance to mask-wearing too. Of course, the cost of that freedom is far from free. Without question, this has cost American lives by the thousand, not to mention dollars by the trillion.

This week has been one of the deadlier weeks in the realm of mass shootings, sadly illustrated by Wednesday's massacre in San Jose, California. Gov. Gavin Newsom pointed out the feeling of "sameness" the massacre brings and asks a very simple question that must have a profoundly complex answer. He asked, "What the hell is wrong with us?"

Part of the answer to the governor's question is that the idolization of the right to bear arms has run amok. Simultaneously in this example, our collective desire to be part of a true community has been racing in the other direction.

Sebastian Junger, the best-selling and award-winning journalist and filmmaker has a new book out that studies the tension between the two. *Freedom*, according to Google Books, attempts to address the history of how "humans have been driven by the quest for two cherished ideals: community and freedom."

America just doesn't work for me when, as a people, we strive for either one without the other.

Junger's books asks the question, "what does the concept of freedom mean to the average American?" That question apparently brings answers from all over the spectrum. The concept is often connected to self-governance, the ability of a people to choose its course through governing principles achieved through some version of democratic participation. I have worked in and around government for more than half of my life, so I tend to see things through that lens. So, that's one perspective. There are plenty more.

People touting the virtues of freedom loudest these days are on the political right, of course, and rarely do they speak of community. For example, the unfringed right to bear arms trumps the nearly 40,000 members of the American community who die each year as a direct result of that freedom. If our national gun policies matched the will of the community, instead of attempting to satisfy those only concerned with personal freedom, gun laws and regulations would certainly change.

The same applies to the community perspective on the pandemic. If, as a people, we were equally concerned with the well-being of the community as we are personal freedom, more of us would have avoided infection and survived COVID-19. In this arena, "freedom" feels like a political ad more than a virtue. I have been a mask-wearer and got my shot as soon as possible, and trust me, I don't feel like I sacrificed all that much.

Peter Marshall, former chaplain of the U.S. Senate said, "May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right." That's how I see it. But from people speaking passionately about it today, that's not what I hear.

Today's freedom-loving Americans are as wrong about "what is right" with regard to gun policies as they are about the COVID-19 response. Many who are fighting like hell for the freedom to shoot, ironically are also fighting for the right to not take a shot. Both "freedoms" lack any commitment to community, which is what makes them both so generally unattractive. But specifically, they are both expensive - to all of us. We don't talk about that enough. Maybe if we did, if it were commonly known what these freedoms actually cost, people would have an easier time

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Be True To Your School

BY JOHN KRULL
TheStatehouseFile.com
June 2021

FRANKLIN, IN - A building sits on the spot where I graduated from college. On that day, 40 springs ago, my college - the one where I now teach - held its commencement ceremony outdoors, under a tent. The ground upon which I received my diploma now is occupied by a lovely building devoted to nurturing the fine arts.

That's how time works. Things change.

I don't remember many of the details of the ceremony itself - who the speaker was, what the speaker said or even the moment when I walked across the stage and grasped my diploma.

What I do recall is the swelter of emotions within and around me. I knew I was leaving something and some people and that I was launching into something new and unknown.

Those were strange and unsettling days.

The country had been in upheaval for much of the four years I was in school. Gas shortages, rising inflation and slowed job growth - what was called "stagflation" at the time - had turned the economy into a quagmire.



Commentary

Iranian extremists had seized American hostages and held them for more than a year. All my peers were old enough to remember Vietnam. In my dorm, we had several long chats about the possibility that we'd be sent off, again, to fight another endless war.

We had a new president. These days, Americans remember Ronald Reagan as an avuncular figure, a man of easygoing, genial charm.

As he rose to power, though, he carried with him a reputation as a bomb-thrower, one who escalated rather than defused tensions wherever he went. In the late days of the campaign that elevated him to the Oval Office, a joke made the rounds.

"What's sandy and glows in the dark? Iran, if Reagan is elected."

Trading jibes about nuclear holocaust was a way to deal with the anxiety of the time. That unease was not diminished when an unbalanced young man with an unhealthy attachment to a teenage actress shot Reagan and several other people.

The president survived, but there was a sense that the world could come apart at any moment.

That sense was heightened by the insularity of my college days.

Mine was a small school. Fewer than 80 of us crossed the stage that long-ago May day.

Those were, as now, difficult days for small colleges. Many went under during the late 1970s.

At the time, my school seemed always on the edge of disaster, kept alive, as my southern Indiana relatives and ancestors would say, "only by main will and determination."

The fact that our college seemed on the edge of extinction toughened us in some ways. In others, it blinded us to larger realities.

I do remember thinking, as I slipped into my cap and gown that day, that I was about to leave my little pond for the ocean. The thought both exhilarated and terrified.

I had accepted a teaching fellowship to go to grad school in St. Louis. Where that would lead, I did not know. I was filled with inchoate longings to write, to lead a life of the mind and engage with ideas and events, but the how of getting there eluded me.

I could not imagine how a guy from such a small place could find work as big as his dreams.

I did not know, as I sat there in my robe, that the offer to write during the coming summer for The Indianapolis News - the offer that opened up exactly the life I wanted - was only days away. I had not yet come to appreciate the ways that life and the world can surprise, even astonish, one with possibility.

Instead, I sat there as graduates always have and always will, reflecting on where I had been and the people I had known - and pondering what lay ahead.

On that day in those uncertain times, I thought about how the future seemed to stretch out, all those unknown days ahead that would be filled with hope and dread, joy and sadness, opportunity and peril.

The future beckoned, and it frightened.

As it always does and always will.

FOOTNOTE: John Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism and publisher of TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

Sen. Mike Braun: The federal government should not reform local police departments

BY UNITED STATES SENATOR, MIKE BRAUN

June 2021

Commentary

Over the past year, I have spent many hours listening to law enforcement officers and police groups, and as discussions of policing reform continue to dominate the news and threaten to upend the policing profession and the protections afforded to those who wear the badge, two things are very clear to me: No one does a more difficult job than our nation's law enforcement, and the federal government is not where these discussions should be taking place.

Last year, I signed on to U.S. Sen. Tim Scott's JUSTICE Act, a reform bill that had the support of many national and state law enforcement groups.

In June of last year, as violent riots broke out in our cities, Senate Democrats used the filibuster to kill that bill so they could exploit this issue for political gain at the ballot box in November.

Last year, the United States had a strongly pro-police administration in the White House. The dynamic of the debate in Washington has changed drastically in a year.

And now, those same Senate Democrats have returned to the negotiating table under threat of eliminating the filibuster that they used to shut down Republicans' good faith efforts last year.

Though top Democrats in Congress have tried to replace the radical left's rallying cry of "Defund the police" with bureaucratic baloney as much as they can - likely after discovering the vast majority of Americans know that defunding our police is as foolish as it sounds - their end goal is the same: to divert funds away from police, make our communities less safe and demonize those who protect and serve.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer last year blocked a resolution in opposition to defunding the police. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has spoken of "rebalancing" police budgets and directing funds away from law enforcement and into other priorities.

Vice President Kamala Harris has called for diverting police funds away from departments and "reimagining" police departments across the country.

What's the difference between "defunding the police" and "rebalancing" and "reimagining" their budgets to include less resources for enforcing laws? Nothing but rhetoric.

No one wants to improve policing in this country more than law

Freedom shouldn't keep costing this much

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giving community a chance.

Gun violence costs America between \$230 and \$280 billion dollars every year. The pandemic has been priced at \$16 trillion. When acting as a community, and not every-person-for-themselves freedom lovers, both would be cheaper. For everyone.

FOOTNOTE: Michael Leppert is a public and governmental affairs consultant in Indianapolis and writes his thoughts about politics, government and anything else that strikes him at MichaelLeppert.com.

The City-County Observer posted this article without opinion, bias or editing.

Protecting Religious Freedom During Public Emergencies



BY VANETA BECKER
STATE SENATOR-EVANSVILLE
June 2021

Religious faith plays an integral role in the daily lives of Hoosiers across the state, and even more so during times of crisis.

The unpredictability of the COVID-19 pandemic surely put an undue stress on many of us, and due to local and state restrictions, a number of Hoosiers were unable to take part in their normal religious activities, sometimes for months.

Senate Enrolled Act 263 addresses this issue by prohibiting state and local governments from restricting the right of the people to worship in person during disaster emergencies. Furthermore, other limitations on religious organizations during a disaster emergency will only be allowed if they are no more restrictive than those imposed on other businesses and organizations deemed "essential services."

During an emergency, churches and other religious organizations are among the most essential services in our communities. They provide soup kitchens, shelters, financial assistance, outreach and rehabilitation programs, on top of regular religious services. I believe allowing them to continue this good work in times of crisis is crucial to communities across Indiana.

enforcement, and yet, in these negotiations, Democrats have continued to make sticking points out of issues law enforcement groups have deemed nonstarters.

While law enforcement has resoundingly rejected calls to modify or end qualified immunity, Democrats have continued to push for ending this protection. I oppose any reform to the current doctrine of qualified immunity, which I believe extends critical protections for law enforcement officers who are forced to act in split-second scenarios when lives are on the line.

Any federal reform package that cannot garner the support of law enforcement is not the right solution to me, and considering that 12,000 of America's 18,000 police agencies are local departments, it raises the question why the federal government is the venue for these negotiations at all.

Because Republicans came to the table in good faith in 2020 with solutions and were rejected by Democrats whose end goal is the dissolution of law enforcement as we know it, I do not believe the federal government should be the source of reform measures for police departments.

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Community

Tri-State Food Bank announces 3rd Annual 24 Carrot Challenge



June 2021

EVANSVILLE, IN - Tri-State Food Bank's 3rd Annual 24 Carrot Challenge is back! Challenge host Claire Ballard from Claire and the HOT96 Morning Show will go live on-air June 1st through June 24th to mobilize and energize individuals and businesses around the community to join in the fight against Tri-State hunger. Listeners can make a donation in support of the challenge by texting the word CARROT to 71777.

This year's goal is to raise \$40,000 by June 24th to help Tri-State Food Bank provide 280,000 meals for children, families, and individuals facing hunger in the Tri-State area.

"120,920 people in our service area are projected to face hunger this year in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic," says Tri-State Food Bank Development Director, Brooke Schleiter. "That's 120,920 too many. So, this year's 24 Carrot Challenge is more important than ever, and we are excited to kick things off on June 1st."

Details about the 24 Carrot Challenge can be found online at www.tristatefoodbank.org.

About Tri-State Food Bank

Established in 1982, Tri-State Food Bank is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to feeding the hungry by collecting 14.6 million pounds of food annually and distributing it to 240 food pantries and feeding programs in its 33-county Tri-State service area. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for our community's food insecure families and children by providing adequate food and nutrition through its network of local charities and organizations feeding the hungry.

FSSA Accepting 2021 Golden Hoosier Award Nominations

June 2021

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, in collaboration with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's Division of Aging has announced that nominations are now being accepted for the 2021 Golden Hoosier Award.

"Every year, it amazes me how many thoughtful and selfless Hoosiers we have in our state," Crouch said. "Despite all the challenges we faced as a state over the past year, we still had numerous Hoosiers who were going above and beyond to better their communities. The best thing about Indiana are her people, men and women who often look to their neighbor and see how they can help them, especially during times of need, and I am proud to honor the Golden Hoosiers every year."

Crouch said that the award began in 2008 and annually honors Hoosier senior citizens for their lifetime of service and commitment to their communities.

To be eligible for the Golden Hoosier Award, the nominee must currently be an Indiana resident, aged 65 or older and have been a volunteer in the community for the past three years.

The deadline for submitting applications is Saturday, June 19, 2021. Nomination forms can be accessed electronically at in.gov/lg/2732.htm. A ceremony honoring those selected will be held virtually later this year.

The Division of Aging is a program of the Indiana Family & Social Services Administration. If you have questions about Aging programs and services, visit us online at www.IN.gov/fssa/aging.



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Senators' Braun Amendment will outlaw animal-human hybrids

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This amendment is endorsed by the following groups:

Family Research Council, March for Life Action, National Right to Life, Senate Pro-Life Caucus, Susan B. Anthony List, US Council of Catholic Bishops, White Coat Waste Project

Watch on YouTube

Senator Braun on the amendment:

In recent years, research involving human-animal hybrids has become much more prevalent.

For example, in April, researchers in China created a monkey-human hybrid embryo that they allowed to grow and study for weeks.

I have serious ethical concerns with this type of human chimera research continuing. My amendment would ban the practice, by applying the NIH's current anti-chimera policy universally.

Due to the dangerous and offensive nature of this research, my amendment imposes criminal penalties on those that participate in this unethical research.

We must act now. Just this morning, the International Society for Stem Cell Research, an international standards-setting body, issued guidance that permits the creation human-animal hybrids.

I ask that my Senate colleagues reject this foreign position and maintain our NIH's ethical standards.

All life is sacred. It is Congress' responsibility to enact common-sense bioethics restrictions that protect human and animal life from unethical experimentation.

I ask that you vote yes on Amendment 1771.

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Evansville Sports Complex Update - Local Sports Returning to Normal

Contributed by Tim Fulton
DIRECTOR OF SPORTS FACILITIES,
EVANSVILLE SPORTS COMPLEX
June 2021

Summer is finally here!

After a season mostly lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the sports world is finally returning to normal. This Spring has seen the welcomed return of high school spring sports and local youth leagues throughout the area. Soon, we will be hearing the crack of the bat at Bosse Field as the Evansville Otters begin their 2021 Season! Deaconess Sports Park and Goebel Soccer Complex, which could only operate on a significantly scaled-back season in 2020, are among the best sports facilities throughout the Tri-State, returning to life with the chants, cheering, and jeering league and tournament play. Yes, folks, sports has returned, and we have all looked forward to this moment for quite some time...

Southern Indiana Cub Softball League Makes Return to Deaconess Sports Park

The resumption of high school sports spurred the return of the Southern Indiana Cub Softball League for the 2021 Season. Twenty-six 10U, 12U, and 14U girls fast-pitch teams affiliated with their respective high schools took to the Deaconess Sports Park fields this Spring for league play. This annual league has been supported by local high school coaches for several years and gives players that feed into their school programs a chance to play and develop their skills, together. "This league is a great development tool for our younger players. Our Cub players get the opportunity to play together and develop team chemistry



far before they ever step onto the high school field. The league introduces these kids to the school-affiliated competition, which is advantageous for us as high school coaches," according to Cate Simon, head coach of North Softball.

Busy Summer Ahead

Deaconess Sports Park is heading into Summer with several significant events in the upcoming weeks. The fun will begin in June with the USA Elite Select Vette City Showcase, which will bring many out-of-state teams to the Evansville area for a four-day event. July will see the return of the USSSA Great Lakes World Series, which will bring 250 teams to an event played at Deaconess Sports Park, Newburgh Girls Softball, Henderson and Boonville. This week-long event will begin on Monday, July 12. In August, Deaconess Sports Park will host the USSSA Conference Pocket City Dual Major, a four-day men's and women's softball event that will bring some of the best players in the country to Evansville. We will also see the USA Softball Men's E/Rec Northern National return along with the Women's C and D National on Labor Day weekend.

Goebel Soccer Complex is wrapping up a strong Spring

season with many soccer and lacrosse games and two soccer tournaments, the Sporting Southern Indiana Showcase and the Spring Classic. Looking ahead, we will see the Veteran's Invitational Tournaments hosted by Indiana Fire Juniors South, as well as some smaller events throughout the Fall season.

These regional and national events, combined with the regular weekend events, will keep the team at Evansville Sports Complex on their toes for the summer as things genuinely return to normal.

Sports Officials Needed

Now that youth sports are coming back, so is the need for sports officials to work the games.

There is an increasingly severe shortage of officials in all sports. The last few years have seen a sharp decline in quality officials in almost all sports. There's an urgent need for sports officials in this nation. We need more people stepping up to do the tough job of ensuring sports are fairly played, well-managed, and that the playing environment is kept safe for all participants and spectators. As an association, we have to do a better job of providing resources that help

recruit new sports officials, retain those already working, instill excellence and celebrate the officiating experience.

The issue with spectator and parent behavior continues to drive away newer officials - especially younger officials who are just getting their start.

"If we don't figure out how to turn this around in the short-term, we will see more and more canceled games because there aren't enough officials to cover them all. This issue is in all sports, at all levels," said Mike Golini, president of the Tri-State Umpires Association.

Evansville Sports Complex Has BIG Plans

As announced in March, Deaconess Sports Park* is getting a vital upgrade in synthetic infields, which will improve the playability of the fields. "Adding the synthetic infields to Deaconess Sports Park will attract more traveling teams to the tournaments we host each year which will increase the tourism economic impact the facility already generates for Vanderburgh County," said Jim Wood, president of Visit Evansville.

*Deaconess Sports Park is owned and operated by the Evansville Vanderburgh County Convention and Visitors Bureau and was developed using Tourism Capital Improvement funding derived from lodging tax assessed to local hotels. The facility aims to attract sports teams and visitors to the area to generate an economic impact for the local economy.

Sen. Mike Braun: The federal government should not reform local police departments

--Continued from Page 3

Indiana on this issue has it right. In April of this year, Indiana's state government unanimously passed a police bill that was signed into law by Gov. Eric Holcomb.

Rather than foolishly defunding the police or punishing all cops for the misconduct of a tiny handful of officers, Indiana's law focused on empowering the Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board to decertify officers who are found to have abused their power and provided funds for repairs and updates to the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy's training facility.

Indiana's law includes de-escalation training requirements, prohibits chokeholds under certain circumstances, criminalizes an officer turning off their body camera to conceal criminal behavior, requires that police agencies request an officer's employment record during the hiring process, and most importantly, earned the support of our state Fraternal Order of Police, the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Indiana Sheriff's Association.

That's the kind of reform that works best: the kind that's designed with the officers who serve our communities engaged and negotiated by local representatives who are most accountable to the communities these decisions will impact.

Federal reform that cannot garner the support of law enforcement will be ineffective and put us further down the path toward defunding the police that has already jeopardized those who protect and serve our communities so much.



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SWIRCA Brewfest 2021 tickets on sale now

June 2021

EVANSVILLE, IN – The 17th Annual “SWIRCA BrewFest” will take place at Historic Bosse Field on Saturday, October 16, 2021, from 6-9 pm. Brewfest is the only festival around that features craft, domestic, and imported beers, wines, and spirits all in one place. Vendors from all over the Midwest come to share their craft and passion for making outstanding adult beverages while also supporting a great cause.

To celebrate Brewfest’s return, SWIRCA & More will be offering special ticket pricing for General Admission and SIP tickets. Tickets are on sale now with Early Bird General Admission tickets at \$25 and SIP tickets for \$45. General admission tickets will increase to \$30 starting June 1 and will increase again to \$35 on July 1. SIP tickets will increase to their pre-event price of \$50 on July 1. VIP tickets will be \$70 and Designated Driver tickets will be \$10. Patrons are encouraged to take advantage of these special ticket prices.

VIP ticket holders will receive an extra hour of tasting beginning at 5 pm, a special



entrance line into Bosse Field, access to an exclusive VIP area with special food, a private bar with specialty drinks, a souvenir tasting glass, premium parking, special entertainment, and massage therapists to ease those tired muscles. If VIP is not your style, but getting an extra hour of tasting sounds good, the “SIP” ticket is right for you. SIP (Somewhat Important Person) ticket holders get into the event at 5 pm but will not receive the other perks exclusively held for VIP. There will also be a great merchandise to purchase at the event including lanyard koozies, t-shirts, and hats. This year Brewfest is encouraging patrons to bring their own pretzel necklaces to wear and eat during the event. The winner of the Best Pretzel Necklace

Contest will receive two general admission tickets to Brewfest 2022.

General Admission ticket holders will receive unlimited beverage tastings, an exclusive commemorative glass, food from local vendors, and entertainment. Tickets can be purchased online at www.swirca.org/brewfest and at the SWIRCA & More offices located at 16 W. Virginia Street. This unique festival is a charity event to help raise funds for SWIRCA & More. Join us to celebrate a fun-filled evening of food, drinks, and entertainment.

Southwestern Indiana Regional Council on Aging (SWIRCA & More) is a not-for-profit, 501(c)3, a public service organization that focuses its efforts on empowering seniors and people with disabilities to remain living safely in their own homes by providing information and support services. SWIRCA & More is Indiana’s 16th Area Agency on Aging covering a six-county area including Gibson, Perry, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh and Warrick counties. For more information on SWIRCA, visit www.swirca.org or call 812-464-7800.



Gov. Holcomb statement on Pandemic-Related Unemployment Insurance Programs

June 2021

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - The Governor’s Office has received several requests regarding the future of the pandemic-related unemployment insurance programs. Governor Eric J. Holcomb offered the following statement:

“I’ve asked the Department of Workforce Development to complete a demographic analysis of unemployed Hoosiers over the past 16 months so I have the best information available to make an informed decision about whether the state should continue to participate in federal pandemic unemployment programs. Part of that analysis is to compare our workforce now versus before the start of the pandemic. Our unemployment rate stands at 3.9 percent, which is near pre-pandemic levels, and our labor force mirrors pre-pandemic levels, when we also had worker shortages. We must concentrate on building the right pathways to match people with the skill sets employers need and to attract more people to join our workforce.

“In the meantime, I’ll issue an executive order early next week that will reinstate the requirement that unemployment insurance claimants actively seek employment and be available for work, which we have waived since the beginning of the pandemic. I’ve also directed DWD to assure we are providing all needed support services for those who are out of work.”

Attorney General’s Office files court brief reiterating proper limits to Governor’s authority

June 2021

The Office of the Indiana Attorney General has filed a court brief that reiterates that Indiana Supreme Court precedents hold that the Governor may not - without the consent of the Attorney General - call another branch of state government to account before a third branch of state government.

These legal issues arose when the Governor unlawfully sued the Indiana General Assembly following its override of the Governor’s veto of House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1123, which enables the legislature to call itself into emergency session following a declaration of a state emergency.

The Governor’s constitutional responsibility in regard to HEA 1123 concluded with his veto of the provision.

“Indiana law vests the Attorney General with the authority and responsibility for setting a single legal policy on behalf of the State,” the brief states. “Indiana courts, meanwhile, have authority to

resolve concrete and justiciable legal disputes... If HEA 1123 imposes a concrete injury on a

private party that challenges the statute’s validity in a justiciable case, Indiana courts will resolve that dispute.” The brief argues that the Governor’s unauthorized lawsuit did not meet those tests.

Furthermore, the brief states, “The Rules of Professional Conduct expressly contemplate the Attorney General’s authority on this count. They acknowledge that lawyers under the supervision of the Attorney General may be authorized to represent several government agencies in intragovernmental legal controversies in circumstances where a private lawyer could not represent multiple private clients. These Rules do not abrogate any such authority.”



Indiana State Police seek recruits for Capitol Police Section

June 2021

The Indiana State Police Capitol Police Section is now accepting applications. Individuals who are interested in beginning a rewarding career as a Capitol Police Officer may apply online at <http://www.in.gov/isp/2367.htm>. This website will provide a detailed synopsis of the application process as well as information on additional career opportunities with the Indiana State Police Department.

Applications must be received via online submission by **11:59 pm (EDT) on Tuesday, June 15, 2021**. Applications received after the deadline will **not** be accepted.

Basic Eligibility Requirements and consideration factors for a Capitol Police Officer:

1. Must be a United States citizen.
2. Must be at least 21 years of age when appointed as a police employee. (Appointment date is **December 10, 2021**)
3. Must meet a minimum vision standard (corrected or uncorrected) of 20/50 acuity in each eye and 20/50 distant binocular acuity in both eyes.
4. Must possess a valid driver’s license to operate an automobile.
5. Must be a high school graduate as evidenced by a diploma or general equivalency diploma (GED).

The academy begins on August 30, 2021. The starting salary for a Capitol Police Section Probationary Officer is \$44,497 a year. The Indiana State Police Capitol Police Section also offers an excellent health care plan, which includes medical, dental, vision, and pharmacy coverage for both current and retired employees along with their families. The State maintains short-term and long-term disability plans for full-time employees after six (6) months of continuous employment. As an Indiana State Police Capitol Police Officer, you are automatically enrolled in the Public Employees Retirement Fund (PERF). The State will contribute to your retirement account.

Interested applicants can obtain additional information about a career as a Capitol Police Officer by visiting <http://www.in.gov/isp/2367.htm>.

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EPA takes action to bolster state and tribal authority to protect water resources

June 2021

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced its intent to revise the 2020 Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Certification Rule after determining that it erodes state and Tribal authority. Through this process, EPA intends to strengthen the authority of states and Tribes to protect their vital water resources.

"We have serious water challenges to address as a nation and as EPA Administrator, I will not hesitate to correct decisions that weakened the authority of states and Tribes to protect their waters," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. "We need all state, Tribal, local, and federal partners working in collaboration to protect clean water, which underpins sustainable economic development and vibrant communities. Today, we take an important step to realize this commitment and reaffirm the authority of states and Tribes."

"States and Tribes have relied on the Clean Water Act for almost 50 years to protect our waters and people, and EPA's action is essential to restoring that historic authority," said Oregon Governor Kate Brown. "The prior administration's rule was not only harmful to the environment, it was corrosive to state, federal, and Tribal partnerships. Communities rely on clean water, businesses rely on clean water, and our environment is dependent on clean water. We welcome this important step by the Biden-Harris Administration to restore a strong, collaborative approach to protecting one of America's most precious resources."

EPA intends to reconsider and revise the 2020 CWA Section 401 Certification Rule to restore the balance of state, Tribal, and federal authorities while retaining elements that support efficient and effective implementation of Section 401. Congress provided authority to states and Tribes



under CWA Section 401 to protect the quality of their waters from adverse impacts resulting from federally licensed or permitted projects. Under Section 401, a federal agency may not issue a license or permit to conduct any activity that may result in any discharge into navigable waters unless the affected state or Tribe certifies that the discharge is in compliance with the Clean Water Act and state law, or waives certification.

The agency's process of reconsidering and revising the 2020 CWA Section 401 Certification Rule will provide an opportunity for public and stakeholder input to inform the development of a proposed regulation and will include sustained dialogue with state and Tribal co-regulator partners and local governments around these issues. EPA will begin a stakeholder engagement process in June to hear perspectives on this topic and how to move forward. More information will be available at: www.epa.gov/cwa-401.

While EPA engages with stakeholders and develops a revised rule, the 2020 rule will remain in place. The agency will continue listening to states and Tribes about their concerns with the implementation of the 2020 rule to evaluate potential administrative approaches to help address these near-term challenges.

Technician. Academy at Ivy Tech announces new "Respect is Learned In The Pits®"

Sponsor: Ivy Tech Community College Evansville
June 2021

EVANSVILLE, IN – Technician. Academy is excited to welcome Ivy Tech Community College Evansville as the newest sponsor for this year's Respect is Learned® In The Pits contest.

"We are so excited to partner with the Technician. Academy and be represented in this year's NHRA U.S. Nationals. The opportunity this chance affords our students is invaluable - even if they do not win the competition," said Ivy Tech Chancellor Daniela Vidal. "For our faculty and students to be able to see the team in the pits in action and view the race from the stands is a chance in a lifetime."

The annual Respect is Learned® In The Pits contest gives college automotive students the chance to work hands-on in the pits with three-time NHRA Top Alcohol Dragster World Championship Team, Randy Meyer Racing (RMR). Since 2017, six automotive students have joined RMR in Indianapolis at the NHRA U.S. Nationals where they gained real-world experience and valuable connections to the automotive racing industry. This year, two more students will be selected to win this internship opportunity.

"This opportunity wouldn't be possible without sponsors like Ivy Tech and MotoRad," said Technician. Academy Founder, Shawn Collins. "Encouraging students to pursue automotive repair as a career and gain hands-on experience is so important in an industry that's short on technicians and quality training. Respect is Learned® In The Pits is one of our ways of liberating the industry, and we're excited to have Ivy Tech on board."

Ivy Tech Community College Evansville and the Ivy Tech Foundation are proud to sponsor this initiative and help provide these students with once-in-a-lifetime learning experiences.

"There are thousands of open positions in Indiana in the automotive industry, and competitions like this, and programs like Ivy Tech's Automotive Technology Program, prepare students for successful futures and help fill open positions with skilled technicians in Indiana automotive shops," said Chris Kaufman, program chair at Ivy Tech Evansville. Ivy Tech offers short-term certificates in sequences of technical and professional courses that are industry focused that build upon each other leading to an Associate of Applied Science degree in Automotive Technology, he added.

Stay tuned for additional opportunities and updates from Technicians. Academy and Ivy Tech Community College Evansville. To learn more about the Respect is Learned® In The Pits contest, visit www.technician.academy or contact the team at info@technician.academy.

For additional information about Ivy Tech's Automotive Technology Program go to IvyTech.Edu/evansville/automotive.

ABOUT TECHNICIAN.ACADEMY:

Technician. Academy offers personalized online courses as well as blogs, how-to tips, and industry insights to automotive technicians. EXTEND GROUP, a solutions-based marketing agency in Evansville, IN, introduced Technician. Academy in 2016 to provide a single location for accurate training and content that is valuable to the automotive technician of today and tomorrow. For more information, please contact Technician.Academy and EXTEND GROUP at 855.306.8818 or by email: info@technician.academy.

ABOUT IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

Ivy Tech Community College serves communities across Indiana, providing world-class education and driving economic transformation. It is the state's largest public postsecondary institution and the nation's largest singly accredited statewide community college system. It serves as the state's engine of workforce development, offering high-value degree programs and training that are aligned with the needs of its communities, along with courses and programs that transfer to other colleges and universities in Indiana. It is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

Milo steps down as Secretary of Career Connections and Talent

June 2021

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - Gov. Eric J. Holcomb recently announced Indiana Secretary of Career Connections and Talent Blair Milo is stepping down to launch a new entity designed to assist women and minorities engaged in entrepreneurship.

"Communities across the state have been able to strategically focus on how to collaborate regionally to harness the talent of Hoosiers and make strides in connecting education institutions with employers working to grow so that the entire state flourishes, thanks to the commitment of Secretary Milo," Gov. Holcomb said. "I had a vision for connecting communities, growing regionalism, and sharing best practices, and she brought it to life."

Milo was named the first Secretary of Career Connections and Talent in 2017. She has led the 21st Century Talent Regions initiative, resulting in 80 Indiana counties forming 14 regions to plan and implement strategies for attracting, developing and connecting talent. She has also been instrumental in creating the Indiana Talent Network, which

connects stakeholders statewide in sharing best practices for equitable talent policies and strategies.

"It has been my honor to join Governor Holcomb's team and work alongside a host of public servants to connect Hoosiers to a sense of earned success and employers to the talent needed to grow," Secretary Milo said. "I am grateful for the opportunity to witness first-hand the opportunities for entrepreneurs in Indiana, and I'm excited to continue that work moving forward."

As Secretary, Milo also served on the Governor's Workforce Cabinet and led outreach to local, regional, and statewide business and education leaders and communities across the state. Earlier this year,

--Continued on Page 14



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TSA testimony to the Evansville City Council May 24, 2021

June 2021
 My name is Julie Robinson, and I am the Vice President of the Tri-State Alliance. I would like to thank the council members for considering tonight's resolution, and I would like to encourage them to approve tonight's Pride month resolution unanimously.

The first time this city council passed an LGBT civil rights ordinance was in November of 2011, with a resolution introduced by Democrat Connie Robinson and Republican Dan McGinn and approved by then- mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel. The ordinance was approved unanimously.

Since then, the city council has stepped up numerous times to take stands on domestic partner benefits with a resolution introduced by Jonathan Weaver and Missy Mosby, took a stand against the anti-LGBTQ marriage constitutional amendment effort in Indiana, and even strengthened the city's civil rights ordinance.

Tonight's vote recognizes LGBTQ citizens, teenagers, taxpayers, and voters as equal citizens of the City of Evansville. Which is why this ordinance should pass unanimously.

However, I would like to note that this is not just a simple check mark for a pro-LGBTQ vote during your 4-year term. We have talked quietly for quite some time about the need for updates and changes to the local human relations ordinance, to members of this council and sponsors of this resolution.

There is still real work to be done, and I challenge the council to also do the real work to promote equality for LGBTQ residents and workers in Evansville.

So again, I thank you for taking a stand tonight... and I encourage you to continue the work that is needed for LGBTQ rights locally.

Julie Robinson, TSA Vice President
501 John Street Suite 5, Evansville, IN 47713
3statealliance@gmail.com, Facebook.com/TriStateAlliance

Local health orders lift as new law takes effect

By TAYLOR DIXON FOR THESTATEHOUSEFILE.COM
 June 2021



Across the state, local health orders are being lifted after the General Assembly met earlier this week to override Gov. Eric Holcomb's veto of Senate Enrolled Act 5.

SEA 5 takes power from local health departments and says that they should make decisions in collaboration with county councils or other county officials. Almost immediately after the law passed, the Indianapolis city council voted to keep all existing health orders, such as keeping indoor restaurants at 75% capacity and keeping a mask mandate.

Mindy Waldron, Allen County Health Department director, said SEA 5 will slow down the process of health departments making emergency health orders. Photo provided.

Other counties, like Tippecanoe and Elkhart, had their health orders undone by the override.

Dr. Virginia Caine, director and chief medical officer of the Marion County Public Health Department, said that the department has been working closely with both health and local state officials to find the safest ways to protect public health.

"The ability to make quick decisions at a local level is critical to protecting Hoosiers during a public health crisis," Caine said in a statement.

Mindy Waldron, Allen County Department of Health administrator, agreed, saying that most counties work with local officials when making these decisions, but SEA 5 will slow down the process.

"In public health, we utilize a lot of information to make sound decisions, and we usually base that on science-based and fact-based information when we issue these emergency orders. We're experts in this area and it's what we do each day, and so to rely on others who do not have that knowledge base concerns us as public health officials," Waldron said.

Allen County was not directly affected by SEA 5 because health officials there dropped their mask mandate to an advisory when Holcomb announced the advisory in April.

However, some Republicans argued that SEA 5 allows for a more balanced system, comparing community leadership to the state level.

"SEA 5 brings important balance with regard to personal freedoms and public health. Since the onset of the pandemic, Gov. Holcomb has relied on his advisors—including his state-level public health officer—to provide him with the information he needs in order to make decisions on how to lead our state," Senate President Pro Tem Rodric Bray, R-Martinsville, said in a statement.

"SEA 5 creates the same setup at the local level and allows action to be taken quickly if needed. We fully expect our local leaders to heed the advice of those with expertise around them, including local health officers. However, our local elected officials were elected to lead their communities, just like the governor leads the state, and those local officials are ultimately accountable to the voters."

FOOTNOTE: Taylor Dixon is a reporter for TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

Detective of the Month is Jonathan Helm

June 2021
 Detective Helm has been selected as the Detective of the Month for April 2021 for his exemplary dedication to his job and work ethic throughout an extremely busy month. Throughout the month of April, he arrested 18 juveniles and had been assigned 29 cases. The high number of arrests that he personally took care of directly affected the patrol officers by keeping them from being tied up on time-consuming runs and detention bookings.




Not only did he respond to calls for assistance, but he also volunteered for several runs to keep patrol available for other calls. In fact, Detective Helm made such an impact that it was the patrol chain of command who nominated him to receive this recognition.

Detective Helm is a stellar example of the positive impact one person can make, not only within his own unit but also to other units during the same process. This shows how important teamwork is and what a difference it can make.

Congratulations to EPD Detective Jonathan Helm for a job well done!!

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UE receives accreditation for Nurse Anesthesia Program

June 2021
EVANSVILLE, IN
 - The University of Evansville (UE) has received accreditation for the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice program from the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs. UE earned accreditation for five years, which is the maximum amount awarded to new nurse anesthesia programs.



"Achieving this accreditation status is extremely rewarding and exciting for our program," said Melissa Fitch, DNP, CRNA, who serves as program director. "We look forward to welcoming future students to the University and preparing them for successful careers in the field of nurse anesthesia."

The Nurse Anesthesia program at UE is a nine-semester graduate program. Students receive a blend of classroom lecture and lab exercises from faculty members who possess many years of experience as certified registered nurse anesthetists, or CRNAs. During the second and third years of the program, students work directly with licensed practitioners in the tri-state region and obtain over 2,000 clinical hours providing anesthesia for many types of procedures, including general anesthesia, regional anesthesia, sedation, and invasive monitoring line placement.

Students in the first cohort of the program began their classes in January. The application for the second cohort with January 2022 entry will be open June 1 through August 31. For more information, visit evansville.edu/crna.

The demand for CRNAs is growing across the United States. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment is projected to grow by 31 percent through 2026, which is much faster than the average for other occupations. In 2020, the average salary for a CRNA was \$189,190.



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 Regional University in the Midwest. For more information, please visit evansville.edu.



\$9 million available to USI students through Federal Pandemic Relief

June 2021
 The University of Southern Indiana has been awarded just over \$9 million dollars as part of the most recent pandemic federal relief package - Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds III (HEERF III). Based on eligibility, USI will distribute the funds to students, including incoming students who enroll for the first time in Fall 2021.

The Department of Education has allowed universities to determine award amounts based upon established federal eligibility criteria. USI's goal is to provide as many eligible students as possible with an award. Given the total amount of HEERF funds that have been provided, it is anticipated that all eligible students, undergraduate and graduate students, including those students who are enrolled in online courses, will receive substantial one-time financial awards from this fund.

Many students will benefit from this one-time funding and USI is grateful to have the opportunity through HEERF III to serve the financial needs of our students. For questions about this program or about other possible financial aid programs at USI, visit the Financial Aid website or contact the Financial Aid office at finaid@usi.edu.

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Entertainment

“On The Roof” Music Series returns to the Rooftop Art Deck in Downtown Evansville



June 2021

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

anceled 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 7p.m.-10 p.m. All shows are free and open to all ages.

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

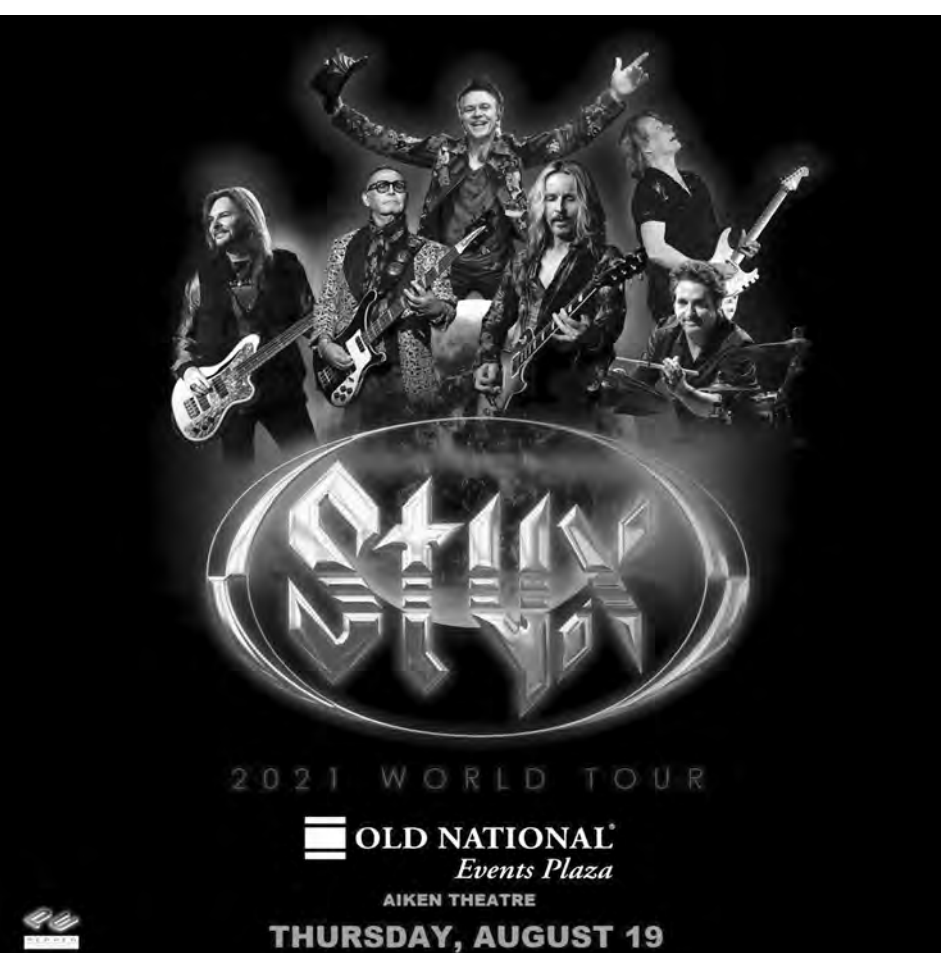
Aug. 27: Nero Angelo Hip-Hop Series

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 Street in Downtown Evansville.

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



Old National Events Plaza – Thursday, August 19, 2021 “The Best of Times”... are back!

June 2021

EVANSVILLE, IN – After a series of pandemic-related delays, Styx is coming to Evansville, IN at the Old National Events Plaza on Thursday, August 19, 2021. Tickets start at \$39 plus applicable fees and are available at ticketmaster.com.

For fans who have had “Too Much Time on (Their) Hands” over the last year, Styx has committed to rocking the Paradise together with audiences in Evansville. Drawing from over four decades of barn-burning chart hits, joyous singalongs and hard-driving deep cuts, Styx is looking forward to performing songs from a wide range of stylistic cornerstones.

Live entertainment is back in Evansville, The Esprit de Styx is alive and well, and now it’s time to see for yourself. Tickets on sale now!

What: Styx
When: Thursday, August 19, 2021
Where: Old National Events Plaza

Tickets: Tickets range from \$39 – \$129 plus applicable fees
Tickets available online at ticketmaster.com or in person at the Old National Events Plaza box office.

Bill Engvall returns to Evansville this June

June 2021

EVANSVILLE, IN – Victory Theatre is announcing the addition of a funny man, Bill Engvall, to their summer calendar. Engvall, a Grammy-nominated, multi-platinum selling recording artist and one of the top comedians in the country, will grace the stage of the Victory on June 26 for one show only. Bill can regularly be seen in a recurring role on the hit FOX sitcom **Last Man Standing** playing Reverend Paul. The series, starring Tim Allen,

is currently in its ninth and final season. He was recently awarded “Casino Comedian” of the year at the 2019 Casino Entertainment Awards in Las Vegas, NV.

Bill’s first album, **Here’s Your Sign**, is certified platinum and held the #1 position on the Billboard Comedy Chart for 15 straight weeks. His second album, **Dorkfish**, also debuted at #1 on Billboard’s Comedy Chart, as did his subsequent comedy albums. Bill has written several books, including his

2007 autobiography **Bill Engvall – Just A Guy**. Bill recently wrapped production on **A New Season** where he reprises his role of Coach Z, from **Catching Faith** in 2015. He also had a role in the thriller, **Monster Party**, where three teenage thieves infiltrate a mansion dinner party secretly hosted by a serial killer cult for the social elite.

A native of Galveston, Texas, Bill moved to Dallas and worked as a disc jockey with plans of becoming a teacher. While in a nightclub one evening, he tried his hand at stand-up comedy and found that making people laugh was truly his forte. Soon after, he moved to Los Angeles and went on to star in the Showtime special, **A Pair of Joker’s**, hosted A&E’s **Evening at**



the Improv and appeared on **The Tonight Show** and Late Show with David Letterman. In 1992, Bill won the American Comedy Award for “Best Male Stand-up Comedian.” He appeared in several episodes of **Designing Women** and co-starred in **Delta** and **The Jeff Foxworthy Show**. Bill resides in Southern California with his family. More information is available at www.billengvall.com

Tickets go on sale Thursday, May 27 at 10 am at Ticketmaster.com. Tickets start at \$49.

Funk in the City Announces 2021 Dates Annual Spring Festival Kicks Off Schedule

June 2021

EVANSVILLE, IN – Following a year of challenges with construction and the COVID-19 pandemic, Haynie’s Corner will be full of activity in 2021 with the return of the annual art festivals and more.

Funk in the City has worked with the Reopen Evansville Task Force and the Vanderburgh County Health Department to plan safe, fun events that will be inviting for the entire regional community.

The annual Spring Funk in the City Art Festival was held on Saturday, May 22nd in historic Haynie’s Corner and was a rousing success.

In addition to the annual Spring and Fall Funk in the City Art Festivals, there will be monthly “mini” Funk events that will encourage attendees to shop & eat within the Haynie’s Corner area.

Spring Funk in the City Art Festival

Mini Funk

Saturday, June 26th

1:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Mini Funk

Saturday, July 31st

1:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Mini Funk

Saturday, August 28th

1:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Fall Funk in the City Art Festival

Saturday, September 25th

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Mini Funk

Saturday, October 30th

1:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Admission to the 2021 Funk in the City events will be FREE, however, donations will be accepted and donated to various local charities.

For more information, check out the Funk in the City, Inc. Facebook page or follow us at @FunkArtEville on Twitter.

Funk in the City, Inc. is a local volunteer-driven organization with the mission of providing unique and artistic events and festivals for the tri-state area. Since its founding over ten years ago, Funk in the City has strategically grown its events to attract thousands of festival-goers from around the region and across the country.

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Sports

Announcing 14U Thunder teams for the 2021-22 season

June 2021

The Evansville Youth Hockey Association is proud to announce the Thunder 14U teams for the 2021-22 season.

PLAYER ROSTER FOR THE 14U PURPLE TEAM

Jacob Brackett, Hunter Bullington, John Dalton, Jacob Galloway, Mason Mills, Preston Mushlock, Bryson Oliver, Kyle Otilie, Brycen Parker, Jude Payne, Dayton Piper, Aiden Ridge, Nolan Robb, Obie Wedel, Clayton Willis, Gavin Wolfe, Connor Wurth

PLAYER ROSTER FOR THE 14U WHITE TEAM

Charlie Adams, Mac Barber, Clayton Bayer, Chris Dalton,

William Dugans, Sloan Edmonson, Lucas Gerhardt, Karson Gordon, Maddox Henson, Milo Hills, Elijah Nurrenbern, Ashton Ridge, Aiden Sheward, Damien Wheeler

10U & 12U Tournament announcement for 2021 season

The Evansville Youth Hockey Association is excited to announce that we will be hosting a 10U & 12U Tournament on December 18-19, 2021!

- \$1000 per team
- 3 game guarantee
- 8 teams per age group, divided into 2 even pools
- No required hotel stay
- Saturday and Sunday games only
- Medals given to the winners of

each division

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR THE TOURNAMENT

PURPLE LEVEL IS \$1000

•Title sponsor level. The tournament will be named after your business. For example: "10U & 12U Tournament, Presented by: Your Name Here". Your business name will be on all flyers, advertisements, and Facebook posts, and we will have your logo on a banner during the tournament. We will also include your flyer (or menu) in each team's welcome packet, and put flyers at our check-in/information tables. Your logo will be displayed on the EYHA website for one year,



and we will include an email blast to all EYHA members. Only one purple level sponsor accepted for this event.

BLACK LEVEL IS \$75

•Your logo will be advertised on a banner during the tournament and on the EYHA website for one year, and we will include an email blast to all EYHA members.

Frontier League to Livestream all 2021 games

June 2021

The Frontier League of Professional Baseball announced that it has reached an agreement with Vimeo to Livestream all 2021 regular season and playoff games. Live and archived games will be available through www.frontierleaguestv.com and through the new Frontier League app for Apple and Android devices.

"Providing a centralized streaming platform for fans was a priority for our league," said deputy commissioner Steve Tahsler. "We intend to create more and more compelling content among our teams moving forward as a Major League Baseball Partner League to enable our growing number of fans to engage with the Frontier League. As the largest of the Partner Leagues, we want all fans across our wide geographical footprint to have access."

All 672 regular season games plus all Frontier League playoff games will be Livestreamed, beginning with the Opening Day broadcasts on Thursday, May 27 featuring Équipe Québec at Gateway; Evansville at Schaumburg, Washington at Florence, New Jersey at New York, Southern Illinois at Lake Erie, Joliet at Windy City, and Tri-City at Sussex County.

Fans can enjoy a free trial of the service through May 31. Beginning with games on Tuesday, June 1, season-long subscriptions enabling subscribers to view all games will be available for \$49.99 with monthly subscriptions available for \$24.99. Fans can also view single games at \$4.99 each.

All broadcasts will feature high-quality cameras and unique graphics packages.

Leading up to the regular season, select Frontier League exhibition games will be broadcast as well. Exhibition games currently scheduled for broadcast include Équipe Québec at Gateway, Southern Illinois at Evansville, the Lexington Legends of the Atlantic League at Florence, and Washington at Lake Erie on Friday, May 21; and Lake Erie at Washington at Lake Erie on Saturday, May 22.

The Frontier League of Professional Baseball is an official Partner League of Major League Baseball and the largest independent professional baseball league in North America. The Frontier League features 16 teams and has moved over 1,000 players to MLB Teams in its 29-year history. Please visit www.frontierleague.com.

Scherr-Wells announces assistants for 2021-22 Season

June 2021

EVANSVILLE, IN – Before the summer even begins, University of Evansville head women's basketball coach Robyn Scherr-Wells has rounded-out her assistant coaching staff for the upcoming season.

Along with Kara Carlson, Scherr-Wells has announced the retention of Tyra Buss as Assistant Coach and the promotion of Tanaeya BoClair from Director of Basketball Operations to Assistant Coach.

Following her first season in coaching, Buss continues her position with the Aces following a season that saw marked improvement from Evansville's backcourt.

"It was a no-brainer to retain Tyra in the assistant coach role," said Scherr-Wells. "She has a bright basketball mind and will be excellent on the court in developing our guards. It was apparent quickly that she sees player development in a similar way to me and I am confident that our guards will benefit tremendously from her mentorship."

Joining Evansville prior to the 2020-21 campaign, BoClair handled much of the work behind the scenes. Early on during Scherr-Wells' time as head coach, BoClair made an impression.

"As I spent time with Tanaeya, it became apparent to me that she has such a bright future in women's basketball," said Scherr-Wells. "As she has been working double duty filling in as an assistant as well as serving as our Director of Operations during my transition, it became obvious to me that she deserved to be promoted to the assistant coach role. I am excited to watch her excel in her new role and I know she will be a big asset to our program as an assistant coach."

The Aces have shaped their coaching staff and roster in just over a month, adding six talented new players and rounding-out the coaching staff.



USI to add Swimming and Diving by Fall 2022

BY BENJAMIN LUTTRULL

June 2021

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 conference 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.

For more information about USI Athletics or Swimming and Diving, contact Ray Simmons, Director of Athletic Communications, at (812)465-1622 or rsimmons@usi.edu.



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EVANSVILLE

Talent and the right strategic director matter

--Continued from Page 1

alternative pathways beyond traditional higher education are difficult for individuals to navigate. The entire talent development system suffers from racial and economic inequities that restrict the nation's productive potential as well.

The U.S. corporate sector invests anywhere between \$90-\$590 billion annually in training but it tends to disproportionately go to highly-educated workers, which limits building inclusive talent development. What is the correct path to help those that possess fewer skills and see a clear opening to move forward? How should a clearly-understood regional economic development strategy proceed?

Five areas to consider would be to realign how we view regional economic development as investing in to attract, identify and attract talent. Consider targeting economic development that helps build local talent pipelines. Develop and disseminate new skills-based hiring tools that facilitate more efficient and equitable hiring practices. Test new local talent solutions such as TMap, a data-driven platform that helps to link opportunity with talent. Do not be afraid to experiment with talent initiatives that connect middle schools, high schools, community colleges, higher education institutions, and in-demand skills providers with businesses in key growth sectors.

Economic growth relies on innovation and the only way to have sustained economic growth and widespread increases in living standards is to invent more efficient technologies or deploy technologies that allow people to produce more from the limited supply of labor and physical resources.

Education raises living standards and the economy as not only do educated people produce more as workers - and get paid higher salaries - they produce innovative new technologies. Sustained economic

growth and higher living standards are possible only if you educate your citizens well.

Intellectual property boosts innovation and the economy and people need incentives to take risks. One of the biggest risks in leaving a secure job to start a new business or develop a great new idea would be to fully leverage Indiana's Elevate Venture initiative, which helps to create start-ups and in turn drive Greater Evansville's economy.

If there is one macro-issue where there is unease, it is the potential of high rates of inflation due to the federal government's increasing the money supply too rapidly. We've not seen inflation at this particular level for more than 40 years but a growing number of economists are concerned as to whether the U.S. economy has enough elasticity to absorb all of the debt and only time will tell us that answer. From rising food to gasoline prices, the signs are pointing to possible future constriction and as a demand-driven economy, we could be in for some bumpy times ahead.

Economic development helps to protect the local economy from downturns by attracting to, along with assisting, the region's major employers expand. From the increased presence of both small family-owned businesses to global companies considering new investments in our region, all of this economic activity translates to increased tax revenue for community projects and local infrastructure. Better infrastructure and more jobs improve the economy of the region along with raising the standard of living for all of Greater Evansville's residents.

The economic environment for a region has serious implications for talent and population growth. Though we have much work to do, the Greater Evansville region is on the right path for the future.

Milo steps down as Secretary of Career Connections and Talent

--Continued from Page 7

As Secretary, Milo also served on the Governor's Workforce Cabinet and led outreach to local, regional, and statewide business and education leaders and communities across the state. Earlier this year, the Office of Career Connections and Talent was integrated into the Indiana Economic Development Corp. (IEDC) to provide a critical link between businesses and talent resources, including universities, education institutes, government agencies, as well community and education stakeholders, to make it as easy as possible for employers to cultivate robust talent pipelines, meet hiring goals, and implement training and development programs.

Milo is moving to the private sector to launch the Center for Talent and Opportunity, a partnership with the Sagamore Institute, InnoPower, and Minority Entrepreneurship Institute committed to closing the wealth gap for women and minorities through entrepreneurship.

Chemo buddies opening Karen's Wig Shop

--Continued from Page 1

Shuttle Buddies - which provides free rides to cancer patients to and from treatment, **Student Buddies** - where area schools engage students in how they can make a difference, **The Mermaid Squad** - the summer program where ladies can escape for a little fun, and our premiere event **HOPEFEST** - which is the largest cancer community event in our region and will take place in Friedman Park on August 14.

For more information, please go to our website at ChemoBuddies.org. To schedule a one-on-one wig appointment time for cancer patients, please call our office at (812)598-7910. If you would like to donate a wig, breast prosthetic, or any other accessory, we would love to have them and you can call the above number or email info@chemobuddies.org. We also have a no-contact donation box at the back of our building that is available 24/7. Financial donations are also always welcome.

The Chemo Buddies Story by Jill Kincaid

My sister Karen was a very strong woman, and she was determined to beat cancer. She was also a very private person and didn't like talking about the disease or her prognosis. So, when she told me I could go with her to chemotherapy, I was grateful to be "let in," and happy to keep her company. I told her I would be her buddy for every treatment and that together we would get through this. Whatever the future held, we were in it together. What is chemo like? Imagine going to your doctor's office for a procedure and sitting alone in a large room for 4-8 hours with nothing to occupy your mind except periodic visits from your nurse. Tethered to your IV, moving around is not easy, and the silence of the room leaves your mind to wander.

Silent waiting with an occasional dose of fear: this is the treatment life of a typical chemo patient. It is easy to see the toll that chemo can take on a person's emotional and spiritual well-being in addition to the physical demands.

Karen HATED chemo. Chemo can kill cancer, but it is a horrible ordeal. As we sat there week after week in the chemo treatment room, we began to notice that many patients were sitting alone. Karen began asking me to help take care of the other people around her in the treatment room. (And by asking, I mean she used her ultimate big sister authority voice and TOLD me to do it, lol) Whether they needed a blanket, a drink or help of any kind, if you were at chemo on the same day as Karen, you got to share her buddy.

It occurred to us that some simple changes could make this day so much better. We wanted to create a different environment for the treatment room - one where time doesn't stand still - a room that is less fearful and more life-giving. So, Karen and I co-wrote a proposal to her oncologist that would allow volunteers into the chemo room to serve patients as companions and patient helpers. Since there are no televisions there, we also suggested providing a lending library of iPads.

The organization was founded in the state of Indiana on August 22, 2011 and in January 2012, I put on my yellow apron and began the Chemo Buddies journey. Our motto, that Karen wrote, is, "**Because no one should ever have to go through chemo alone.**" We now have more than 70,000 patient contacts in a year. The need is so much greater than Karen and I could ever have imagined.

Karen passed away on July 25, 2011, from Triple Negative Breast Cancer, so she never got to see our dream become reality. When a patient stops me to tell me what a difference we are making in the treatment room, my heart smiles. To me, this program is creating a living legacy to the kindness of my sister Karen. In the midst of her darkest hour, she was worrying about the others around her who had no one. Both the patients beside her at the time, and the ones yet to come.

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