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Vol. 2 No. 11 December, 2021 Evansville, IN

# Danks, Danks, Danks & Danks

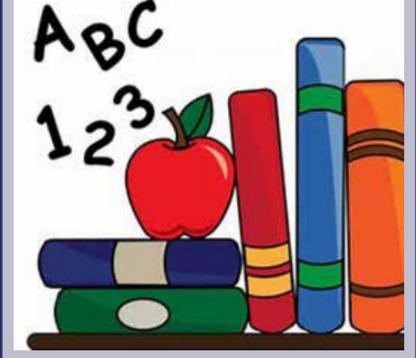


By Mike Smith  
 CCO Staff Writer  
 DECEMBER 2021

Duran Duran, and Hall & Oates topped the charts, computers were the size of your living room, and Raiders of the Lost Ark was smashing box office records. It was the early 80's and Scott Danks and Mike Danks found themselves discussing the future over a beer. Both brothers had settled into their careers but wanted to find something they were passionate about. Discussing their shared interests, which included a love of competition, a disdain for bullies, and raising a bit of hell from time to time, the brothers decided to become lawyers and start their own law firm. Scott and Mike Danks founded Danks and Danks in 1989. In 1994 Danks & Danks expanded its practice to include personal injury with the addition of partner Rick Cory. In 2013, Mike Danks passed while surrounded by loved ones. Scott Danks continues to practice law today and retains his reputation as a prominent and aggressive attorney. Danks & Danks has continued to grow, and in 2017 Andrew Pittman was brought in as a partner. Over the years, the Danks & Danks team of attorneys have built a rock-

solid record of success, in large part due to their passion for the practice of law, extensive knowledge of the local courts, the relationships they have fostered in the community, and the litigation and negotiation skills they bring to the table in every case. In 2018, a new generation of Danks attorneys began, as Scott's two oldest sons, Brandon and Jonathan Danks joined the firm. This week I had the opportunity to sit down with Danks & Danks & Danks (Scott, Brandon, and Jonathan). We spoke about the history of the law firm, the Danks family, the practice of law, and their plans for the future. The Danks' were all born and raised in Evansville. Mike Danks attended Southern Illinois University Law School. Whereas Scott, Brandon, and Jonathan attended the Indiana University Mckinney School of Law. Mike had a deep passion for criminal defense work, his clients, and defending the poor. He felt strongly that everyone deserves to be provided with excellent legal representation, regardless of their financial means. That's why, despite working full-time at Danks & Danks, Mike also served many years as a part-time public defender. Scott discovered that he had a passion for criminal defense work as well  
*-continued on page 17*

## The EVSC Foundation and Public Education announce merger (The consolidated foundation will have a more profound impact on public education)



DECEMBER 2021  
 The EVSC Foundation and the Public Education Foundation (PEF) are joining forces to have a more profound impact on public education in Evansville. The newly unified organization will operate under the EVSC Foundation name. The EVSC Foundation and PEF board of directors have also merged and will serve together so that shared expertise is not lost. "The EVSC Foundation is excited to partner with the Public Education Foundation to strengthen our support for public education. Our combined expertise, resources, and complementary capabilities will help us focus on what we both think is most important: students, educators, and schools," said Jeffrey Berger, Chair of the EVSC Foundation Board of Directors. Both foundations have served EVSC, students, educators, families, donors, and the public  
*-continued on page 17*

## 28th Annual "Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights" will shine in Garvin Park through Jan. 1

DECEMBER 2021  
 The "magical mile of holiday lights" brings the community a welcome holiday tradition while raising essential funds for the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center. Ritzzy's Fantasy of Lights will be open nightly from Thanksgiving through Jan. 1, 5-9 p.m. Sundays-Thursdays and 5-10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The show, which raises crucial funds for the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center, will again feature the popular and naturally socially distanced drive-through format. Touchless ticketing is still an option for visitors in 2021! Tickets can be purchased online at bidpal.net/ritzysfol21 in advance and during this year's event. Tickets are also available in advance from any Ritzzy's restaurant location in Evansville. Guests are encouraged to take advantage of this online option although cash will still be accepted at the gate. Admission per vehicle remains the same affordable price: Up to 6 people \$7; 7-14 people \$10; 15 or more people \$25. For discounted pricing on quantities of 50 tickets or more, contact Carolyn Franklin, Director of Special Events, 812.437.2607 or cfranklin@evansvillerehab.com. Five new displays have been added for a total of 70 holiday scenes that are spaced throughout Evansville's Garvin Park. And this year, ALL of the displays have been transformed with brighter, more energy-efficient LED light bulbs.

Horse-drawn carriage rides will be available nightly, weather permitting. Carriage rides are cash only, paid at the time of arrival and offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations are not required or accepted. Masks are strongly encouraged and all carriage riders are asked to bring their own blankets if they would like one during their ride. For other details on carriage



rides, call Horseshoe Bend Carriage Co. at 812.449.6321. Every effort will be made to post on the Easterseals Rehabilitation Center's Facebook page in advance of 5PM if the carriage rides will not be available due to weather.  
*-continued on page 17*

## Evansville Police Department maintains national accreditation by CALEA

DECEMBER 2021  
 The Evansville Police Department was awarded national accreditation on November 19, 2021, by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). The agency was first accredited in 1994. Following a multi-year self-assessment phase and a meticulous site-based assessment of community engagement, policy, procedures, equipment, and facilities by CALEA assessors, Chief Billy Bolin and Accreditation Manager Captain Scott Doan attended the CALEA 2021 Fall Conference. Each agency being  
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BREAKING NEWS

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# Commentary

## Be thankful for what we have and look forward with hope and anticipation

By Stephen Richard Seitz - Retired Minister  
DECEMBER 2021

**EVANSVILLE** - November and December each year is a time when we are supposed to be thankful for all we have and also to look forward with hope and anticipation. And I do. However, it is sad that not all of us experience what these two months are designed for. Here is where my feelings are today.

For me, November (specifically Thanksgiving Day) brings the reminder that I am blessed with many things: family, friends, and stuff. And I truly am thankful that the genesis of Thanksgiving Day was intended to do just that make me thankful.

At the same time, however, I am sad that thankfulness is not always on my mind directing my behavior. I sometimes get so caught up with the busyness of living that the farthest thing from my heart is gratitude. Instead, I foolishly think only of the harshness of the world, the disappointments either myself or a family member have experienced, or the injustices which befall many people.

Again, for me, December (specifically Christmas Day) brings to mind that real hope lies in whether or not I am truly being guided by the faith which I profess and practice. My faith is not, perhaps, the faith you choose. Be that as it may, whatever your belief system is, my best guess is that it was designed to offer you hope and peace in the here and now. That being said, I still too often develop a Santa Claus

mindset in December which encourages me to concentrate more on buying and giving gifts to family and friends than in anticipating a closer relationship with God now and in the coming year.

By this time you have, no doubt, come to the conclusion that I am far from being a perfect man. I own up to it, I confess it! To my way of thinking, the genius of AA or NA or any of several other "Twelve Step" programs that necessary first step is to admit to yourself that you are not in control of your life! How can you be honest with others when you are unwilling to be honest with yourself?!?! "I'm guilty, I've wronged God and others and, in the process, I've duped myself. I've cheated myself out of the love, joy, peace, and hope which God intends for me to enjoy!"

After sharing my inadequacies, I hope that you will join me in striving to do better in the days and years ahead. This invitation, for me, is that I can live up to who I am and who I am supposed to be as a believer. The invitation for you is, I hope, to come to the realization of the truth made by Augustine over a thousand years ago: "... you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

To my way of thinking Augustine was so very true! There is nothing more important than knowing God. It is what we are made for!

Grace and Peace!

## "Granted" is a worthy community-based nonprofit located in Evansville/Vanderburgh County

DECEMBER 2021

GRANTED is a community-based nonprofit located in Evansville, IN. Two local residents, Carl Wallace and Carolyn Pfaffmann in 1985 founded the organization with a mission to grant once-in-a-lifetime wishes for local children aged 3-18 who have been diagnosed with life-threatening or terminal conditions. Serving a population of over one million people, we work to make wishes come true for children residing in the areas of Southern IN, Southern IL, and Western KY.

Formerly known as Wish Upon A Star, Granted saw its beginnings when Wallace and Pfaffmann joined forces to help Jamie Petty, a child who had been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. She had a dream of visiting Disney World so that she could meet Mickey Mouse, and thanks to the support and efforts of the Tri-State community, that wish came true. Initially intending on giving away the remaining funds to an up-and-coming wish-granting organization, they ultimately decided to use the money for

the gap in service that was brought to their attention, as Jamie was still sick and her family was still struggling in many ways. Thus our organization was born, dedicated to granting wishes and then supporting the families long afterward through a variety of programs.

With plenty of love, perseverance, and careful stewardship, GRANTED has proudly thrived and continuously granted wishes to families in need for more than three decades. In mid-2016, GRANTED was honored to be selected by the incredibly talented professionals from Evansville Design Group as their organization for the 2016-17 Design for Good project and were re-branded as Granted, donning a new look to go with their new name.

Although the brand has evolved throughout the years, its purpose remains the same; to serve our community by helping children in need by granting wishes, and providing love and support to their families, and the leadership plans on continuing to do so for many more years to come.

## New PFAS Program focuses on firefighter safety

DECEMBER 2021

Safety is the common thread in everything we do, from our building and regulated device inspections to the high-quality training provided to firefighters across the state. When it comes to Indiana law, the wellbeing of firefighters and all public safety personnel stands at the center of all legislative priorities supported by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS).

That is why as of June 2020, the use of dangerous Class B firefighting foam for training was prohibited by the Indiana General Assembly due to the presence of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS). Science has shown these materials can cause adverse health effects in people. Too many firefighters today face additional health hazards beyond the daily risks of their jobs, and this is an unnecessary risk for these public servants.

As a result, IDHS and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management have launched a program to collect PFAS foam from Indiana fire agencies. The state is offering the free pickup and disposal of any stockpiled PFAS foam in order to prevent any future health hazards to firefighters.

This important program will roll out in phases.

Indiana fire agencies and airports are asked to report any remaining PFAS foam they may have at their agencies or on their trucks through this online survey form. This will help determine the scale of the program and develop strategies to remove the material. This phase has been active for a few weeks now.

In the coming weeks, a third-party vendor will schedule a time to visit your agency, remove the material and dispose of the foam in an environmentally safe way, not only reducing risk but also saving



departments thousands of dollars in disposal fees. You can download a promotional poster for the effort here.

Currently, a mechanism is not in place to replace the foam with a safer alternative. However, the free disposal of this PFAS foam will save fire agencies money in the end. Potential options to explore include donations from local industry, grant funding or a regional purchasing cooperative.

A couple things to state clearly: this is a no-strings-attached program. Agencies with PFAS foam will not be penalized. The sole purpose of this program is to collect and dispose of this material and remove it safely from all Indiana fire training sites. Plenty of alternatives can replace the PFAS foam in your inventory and eliminate safety concerns for fire agencies.

Other surrounding states have implemented similar PFAS foam collection initiatives, and all have been very successful. This is a temporary program, so all fire agencies are asked to complete the survey form as soon as possible (only once per agency).

Thank you for helping to ensure fire training in Indiana remains safe and innovative while protecting all Hoosiers.

Sincerely,  
Joel M. Thacker  
Indiana State Fire Marshal

## We consider ourselves to be a beacon of light for our community

DECEMBER 2021

Over the years the City-County Observer has strived to serve as a "community watchdog" by sounding the alarm when our citizens' 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.

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 several years, 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 buildings caused by the random acts of lawless anarchists and thugs. In fact, we believe these lawless thugs should be arrested and thrown in jail and given a fair trial under the law.

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. We are a strong supporter of law enforcement and the United States Constitution.



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# Community

## Salvation Army aims to make Christmas merrier for those who go without

By Haley Pritchett  
Reporter for Franklin College Journalism School  
DECEMBER 2021

Red kettles have been catching donations for poverty-stricken families for over 100 years.

It started in 1891 in San Francisco, when Salvation Army Capt. Joseph McFee was concerned by the number of families who would be going hungry on Christmas. He thought back to when he was a sailor in England and donations for the poor would be put in a large kettle pot.

McFee re-created it, in cherry red, for the holiday season. With all the money he raised in that kettle, he was able to host a communal dinner for the needy in his city.

The Salvation Army has kept this tradition alive all across the world—and especially in Indiana. This year, central Indiana's Salvation Army hopes to raise \$3.3 million through its "Hope Marches On" campaign. The organization will be collecting money in those same iconic red kettles that McFee used in 1891.

Maj. Marc Johnson, divisional commander of the Salvation Army Indiana Division, said that along with the kettle the tradition of helping local communities also carries on.

"People can be assured that what they are giving at their local location is staying to help their neighbors who need the help," Johnson said. According to Welfare Info, one out of five Hoosiers living in Indianapolis experiences poverty. This number is significantly higher than the state's overall poverty percentage of 14.6%. The 2020 census found that the United States poverty rate is 11.6%, meaning that 37.2 million American citizens are under the poverty line.

The Salvation Army annually helps more than 23 million Americans overcome poverty through a range of social services that expand beyond the kettle.

It offers its Angel Tree Program during the holiday season as well. The purpose of the program is to provide presents for parents who might not be able to fill underneath the tree otherwise. Families will provide donors with a Christmas list, and donors will go out and shop and leave the presents with the Salvation Army to distribute.

"We've been having this program for over 40 years now, and it's always been just tremendous feedback," Johnson said. "It really helps people know that, you know, there are people who care about you."

Johnson says that all this work could not be done without the loyal volunteers and donors the Salvation Army has. The organization is still taking volunteers for those who want to get involved, especially during the holiday season. It even still has slots open to ring the bell next to those iconic kettles.

"The Salvation Army helps connect people," Johnson said, "especially at Christmas time."



## "Peace Zone" is empowering those living with mental health challenges

DECEMBER 2021

"Peace Zone" is located at 410 Mulberry Street in Evansville and was founded in 2012 by Beth Barchet and Rick Paul of Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. with the vision of empowering those living with mental health issues through a welcoming peer-run recovery center that is open to the public.

In addition to mental health, Peace Zone also offers services to those with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse issues. After receiving a grant from the state of Indiana (through the Division of Mental Health and Addiction), Peace Zone first opened its doors on February 28th, 2013, as the first in the state to be associated with a mental health center. With over 1200 visits in its first four months of operation, Peace Zone was a success!

As a peer-run organization, meaning that individuals in recovery are active in running the organization, the Peer Advisory Council helps provide direction and leadership for the day-to-day operations and the Board of Directors provides financial and strategic oversight to keep procedures running smoothly. Although each individual person's story and recovery process is unique, members can find comfort in knowing that they are not traveling the road alone and that recovery is possible for everyone.

Peace Zone offers community education and outreach, daily support groups, Wellness Recovery Action Planning courses (WRAP), arts empowerment with a weekly Art Buddies group, and peer mentoring. Certified Recovery Specialist and Peer Wellness Outreach Coordinator, Michelle Krack, makes weekly visits to Southwestern Behavioral's



Stepping Stone, Deaconess CrossPointe, St. Vincent the mental health court program, and the Evansville State Hospital to tell her inspiring recovery story and provide information about Peace Zone to the public.

Certified Recovery Specialists, including Lisa Cheatem, facilitate routine conversations and guidance to peers in need of recovery support. According to Program Coordinator and Office Manager, Evan Plock, the ever-present goal of Peace Zone is to help individuals achieve their full potential in their recovery journey, to provide a welcoming sense of community, to inspire members to participate in recovery programs and to educate the public and decrease the stigma surrounding mental health issues.

Peace Zone is located at 410 Mulberry Street, Evansville, Ind and is open Tuesdays noon-4 PM, Wednesdays & Thursdays 9 AM-4 PM, and Fridays 9 AM-2 PM.

Monetary donations are accepted via PayPal/mail and clothing/toiletry donations can be brought to Peace Zone, as a staff is preparing care packages for those in need during the holidays.

**FOOTNOTE: The City-County Observer urges you to support this most worthy non-profit community organization. You can contact us at PZOfficeManager@peaceevansville.org.**

## Sen. Braun's Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act passes House

DECEMBER 2021

**WASHINGTON** - The Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act of 2021, first introduced by U.S. Senators Mike Braun (R-IN) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH), passed the House of Representatives. This bipartisan legislation now heads to the President's desk to be signed into public law.

The Hire Veteran Health Heroes Act of 2021 directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to create a program that will help actively recruit medical personnel, who are within one year of completing their military service, to remain in federal health care in departments like Veterans Affairs.

Representatives Robert E. Latta (OH-05) and Kathleen M. Rice (NY-04) introduced companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"I'm proud to see the House of Representatives pass this important legislation and move it one step



closer to becoming law. The VA Inspector General has reported that staff shortages are a challenge for solving problems in Veteran care. This bill will empower the VA to proactively recruit active duty medical personnel who are separating from the military at the conclusion of their contract or at retirement to improve health care services for Veterans. We owe it to our brave veterans who deserve the absolute best services available. God bless the men and women of the United States Armed Forces," said Senator Braun.

## Two-thirds of Indiana counties lack enough childcare, report says

By Claire Castillo  
TheStatehouseFile.com

DECEMBER 2021

**INDIANAPOLIS** - More than 1 million Hoosiers live in places called "child care deserts," where children outnumber care providers by as much as three times.

Early Learning Indiana, a child education organization, recently released an interactive map that details how many children are in need of care by county. The Early Learning report shows that more than two-thirds of Indiana counties lack significant capacity, able to offer care for fewer than half the children who need it.

Two counties in northwest Indiana, Warren and Fountain, particularly highlight the problem. Warren County has 308 children who might need care with a maximum capacity of 62. Fountain County has 751 children who might need care with a

maximum capacity of 187.

The Indiana Chamber of Commerce believes that "the lack of affordable, high-quality childcare across Indiana is negatively impacting efforts to attract and retain workers." In a Chamber preview of the 2022 legislative session, Indiana Democrats indicated a desire to have surplus tax dollars directed to early childhood education to help.

"It actually is more expensive to care for an infant than it is for a year of tuition at a four-year public institution," said Rep. Terri Austin, D-Anderson, in a statement to The Statehouse File. "We've got to help get women back into the workforce. They have dropped out because of the child care shortage."

**Footnote: Claire Castillo is a reporter for TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.**

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# Community

## Continuing long history, public protests still used to initiate change

By Haley Pritchett  
TheStatehouseFile.com  
DECEMBER 2021

**INDIANAPOLIS** - Sixty-six years ago on Wednesday, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man on an Alabama bus. Her seemingly simple protest helped inspire many more to come during the Civil Rights Movement.

Confront the Climate Crisis stands outside the Indiana Statehouse during a protest demanding more climate action legislation.

Since 1955, Americans have been fighting injustice, often in the form of protest. Last year during the Black Lives Matter Movement, scholars raised questions about whether or not protesting actually brings about change.

Some Hoosiers who have protested across the state argue it certainly does in their eyes.

Susan Olzak, emerita professor of sociology at Stanford University, dove deep into this question in the December American Sociological Review and in many cases agrees.

In her study, Olzak finds that the act of protesting leads to community empowerment, which signals a threat to elites and authorities, which then increases their like-

lihood of making compromises, leading to change.

"Protest achieves desired outcomes when it signals the importance of an issue and empowers an aggrieved community to take action," she said in the study. "These processes, in turn, pose a threat to existing elites and authorities, raising the cost of maintaining the status quo, which provides incentives for authorities to make concessions."

Haley Bougher, director of education and advocacy for Women4Change in Indianapolis, says protests provide a platform for voices in marginalized groups who are often silenced and ignored.

While pro-abortion-rights protesters gathered on Oct. 2 in downtown Indianapolis in response to a new Texas abortion law, anti-abortion advocates assembled nearby for a counter-protest.

"It is a way for lawmakers and folks in power to finally hear people," she said. "It is unfortunate it has to be that way, but it seems like that's sometimes the only way those folks are heard."

Bougher has been attending

protests since high school and says that even when the goals of a protest are not accomplished, she still thinks the act has an impact.

"Even if those demands aren't met, you still feel some sort of gratification," she said, "like you were heard that day."

Aaron Welcher, a co-founder of the Greater Indianapolis Multifaith Alliance, said to him, protesting absolutely makes a difference on a personal level but also on a political level.

Haleigh Inscore and Sarah Austin stand with their signs at an Oct. 2 abortion rights rally in downtown Indianapolis.

"That doesn't mean all protests are successful or that all protests end up really being able to get the change they need and the change they want, but if you look at the history of protests, the Civil Rights Movement was built on protest, the LGBTQ-plus community was built on protest," he said.

A statistic that stood out to Welcher from the BBC is that it only takes 3.5% of the population actively participating in protests to ensure serious political change.

Danielle Nimitz, who supports



Women4Change, the Equality in Indiana organization, racial uprising, climate action, and youth activism groups. She said that a lot of justice work requires money, but with income inequalities, not a lot of people have the freedom to support organizations financially.

"And (protesting is) a virtually costless attempt to support these people who are on the ground, in the Statehouse, and in different locations advocating for these solutions and these changes," she said.

Nimitz wants people to know that protesting is not always the first instinct of organizations.

"Sometimes protest is the option that you have to go to get people to listen, to get those results, and to see your issues in the Statehouse and in your community to the forefront of conversations," she said.

**FOOTNOTE:** Haley Pritchett is a reporter for TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

## Trail Heads - Southwest Indiana partners with USI to bring bike parks/trails to Evansville area (Fundraising initiative underway to complete project)

DECEMBER 2021

**EVANSVILLE** - Trail Heads - Southwest Indiana recently received approval from the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees and USI Foundation Board to move forward with a project that would bring 20 miles of trails and more than 22 acres of bike parks to property owned by USI and its foundation. The new trails would be located across the university's 1,400-acre campus located just outside the city of Evansville.

Trail Heads - Southwest Indiana is a local non-profit based out of

Boonville, Indiana, with a mission to develop quality trails and trail support programs throughout southwest Indiana. Trailheads also offer bike-related activities such as weekly rides, bike maintenance, and trail work for local students, including those in the communities of Boonville, Jasper, Lynnville, Newburgh, Oakland City, and Santa Claus in Indiana.

"While this trail system would offer a much-needed hub for local trail users, the scale and variety of features in this project would also help the University of Southern Indiana stand out as one of the

premier campuses in the country for bike trails," said Brad Scales, Executive Director for Trail Heads. "We hope the local and regional communities will get behind this project and help to make it a reality."

Trail Heads will begin fundraising immediately to raise matching funds towards an approximately \$1 million grant through the third round of Indiana DNR's Next Level Trails grant program. If awarded full funding from a third-round grant by the DNR Next Level Trails program, construction would begin by fall 2022 and take about



two years to complete.

"We look forward to collaborating with Trail Heads on this project that will create an experience not found in most Midwestern college campuses," said Jim Wolfe, Director of Facility Operations and Planning. "We hope to draw more of the community, near and far, to the USI campus, while also providing more outdoor recreational activities for our students."

To donate to the TrailHeads - Southwest Indiana USI project, visit [give.classy.org/usitrails](http://give.classy.org/usitrails). Charitable donations may also be deductible on tax returns.

For more information about the project or Trail Heads - Southwest Indiana visits [www.trailheadsbike.com](http://www.trailheadsbike.com) or contact Brad Scales, Executive Director at 812-217-6340 or [contact@trail-heads.org](mailto:contact@trail-heads.org).

## Deer hunting continues into January

DECEMBER 2021

Multiple deer hunting seasons are ongoing or will be starting soon. Firearms season ended on Nov. 28, and archery season lasts until Jan. 2, 2022. Muzzleloader season for deer hunting is open Dec. 4-19 and deer reduction zone season runs through Jan. 31, 2022. Remember to stay aware

of your surroundings and wear hunter orange if you plan to enter areas where hunters may be present.

Questions about deer seasons and regulations can be directed to the Deer Hotline by email at [INDeerHotline@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:INDeerHotline@dnr.IN.gov) or by phone at 812-334-3795, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET, Monday through



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# Community

## Giving Tuesday is an incredible day to give back! And this year it's 2X as powerful!

DECEMBER 2021

A generous group of donors has given \$20,000... and is challenging YOU and other compassionate friends to match their gift with an additional \$20,000. Your generosity will go twice as far to offer help and hope to our community's less fortunate!

And hope is something we could all use more of right now. As many people are still trying to rebuild their lives after setbacks they've suffered

during another difficult year, it's important for our community to rally together to help one another!

Because of the Matching Challenge, your Giving Tuesday gift will double the blessings of food, safe shelter, and much more for those in our care here at your Evansville Rescue Mission...

- Hot meals – 1 meal is just \$2.93
- Beds + blankets
- Hygiene items
- Clothing

Counsel + prayer  
Job training  
Best of all, a chance to be transformed through God's love!

Double your impact on Giving Tuesday by supporting our ministry to local hungry and homeless! What better way and day to give back and bless others? Your gift will go 2X as far!

Thank you, and God bless you!  
**Tracy L. Gorman**  
President/CEO



P.S. Your Giving Tuesday gift will give MORE when it doubles through the Matching Challenge! More help to hungry and homeless neighbors. More healing for our neighbors who are hurting and in need of a fresh start. More hope for those taking the first steps to change their lives. Give now to make you're Giving Tuesday gift go 2X as far!

## Year-end resilience planning for your own organization

By Jesse Kauffman, Lead Consultant, Everyday Business Resilience Group  
DECEMBER 2021

We're closing in on the end of year two of a worldwide change in the way organizations of all types and sizes operate. With year-end activities in full swing, both typical business activities along with unique activities due to the ongoing pandemic response around the globe now's a great time to take some basic steps to ensure your own organization is more resilient for 2022.

Let's look at some actions you and your organization can take over the next few weeks to minimize the potential for negative impacts from potential business disruptions.

**Action 1:** Ask your key partners, vendors, and suppliers to share their business continuity and crisis management plans with you.

The last thing your organization needs during a crisis is for a critical supplier to also suffer a crisis at the same time! While you're trying to guide your organization through an interruption, you want to know that the companies and people you depend on are able to continue to provide the goods and services that you need to maintain your own operations.

Take some time to review the

business continuity and crisis management plans of your critical vendors to ensure that they have the plans and processes in place to manage their own interruptions and crisis and that their ability to support you as a client is included in those plans. And if they don't have any plans in place? Give them my contact info!

**Action 2:** Document (if you haven't yet) and review the lessons your organization has learned this year.

With all of the change that's happened in the last year, on top of all of the change that happened the previous year, chances are you've been swamped just keeping everything going. The next few weeks are a great time to document what you've learned, to review it, and to incorporate it into your own planning. It can be easy to lose track of lessons learned as the pressures of daily operations pick up.

The lessons from the challenges you've worked through the need to be captured so that you can incorporate them into both emergency planning and into making your daily operations more efficient. The focus on critical processes that emergencies drive likely enabled you to see ways to improve your business that you otherwise

would have missed. Take advantage of those observations and make them work for your benefit!

**Action 3:** Plan a test of your own business continuity or crisis management plan focusing on a risk that hasn't happened over the last two years.

If your organization is still in operations at this point in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic, then your focus has likely been completely on risks associated with the pandemic, specifically around illness, emergency regulations from government agencies, and labor shortages. But as we've seen with the supply chain impacts around the world, there are ripple effects from the initial impacts that can take months to become visible.

Chances are, you know your organization has a risk, or risks, that are still present, and that you haven't had a chance to mitigate due to the efforts required to deal with COVID impacts. If you plan an exercise, even a basic table-top exercise, you can take the first step to mitigating risk to your business by getting a realistic idea of what the impact of an untested risk can be to your business. And as we've

seen with the global supply chain struggles, there's an excellent chance that what you learn from running an exercise will help you mitigate those risks no matter when or where they happen.

In conclusion, these next few weeks are the perfect time to prepare your business, and yourself, for the upcoming year. Hopefully, these 3 actions will help you have a successful 2022, not only ensuring the resilience of your business during a crisis but ensuring that resilience is present for your business every day.

**FOOTNOTE:** Jesse has 17+ years of experience in industries including, appliances, plastics, nutrition, and pharmaceuticals, across all aspects of business operations. He is currently helping companies ranging from large global corporations to and small local businesses. He and his wife, Josi, are proud parents of 3 wonderful kids and are trying their best to prepare for the upcoming holidays. Contact Jesse at 812-568-0515 and [jesse.kauffman@everydaybusinessresilience.com](mailto:jesse.kauffman@everydaybusinessresilience.com) if you have any questions pertaining to his article.

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# Community

## Hot lead or cold water

**GAVEL GAMUT** By Jim Redwine  
DECEMBER 2021

Charles Brill's account of the November 27, 1868 incident between Black Kettle's Cheyenne tribe and U.S. 7th Cavalry troops led by Lt. Col. George Custer is entitled, *Conquest of the Southern Plains: Uncensored Narrative of the Washita and Custer's Southern Campaign*. Brill's 1938 publication relied on eyewitness accounts from aged Indian survivors of the conflict. Brill personally took Cheyennes Magpie and Little Beaver and Arapaho Left Hand along with government interpreter John Otterby, a.k.a. Lean Elk, to the site of the attack. This article relies on the 2001 republication of Brill's accounts by the University of Oklahoma Press re-titled *Custer, Black Kettle, and the Fight on the Washita*.

The fertile Washita River valley area on the western edge of Indian Territory (Oklahoma) had been a common peaceful wintering ground for numerous Indian tribes for countless years before 1868. There was an abundance of water, game, shelter and vegetation. It was also an area set aside for the Indians in several treaties with the United States between Black Kettle's Cheyenne and other tribes. On the bitterly cold, snow-covered morning of November 27, 1868 the Indians' only concerns were keeping warm and tending to their horses. Then Custer's seven hundred mounted soldiers came charging at the sleepy Indians from all sides with rifles blazing and sabers slashing.

Black Kettle was alerted by a woman who had been tending to the horses and first saw the approaching soldiers. When she yelled out "Soldiers, soldiers!", Black

Kettle fired a warning shot with his rifle to awaken the camp. Then Black Kettle drew his wife, Medicine Woman, up behind him on his pony and attempted to flee as he and Medicine Woman shouted warnings to the camp. He and Medicine Woman were then shot and killed. Magpie, one of the eyewitnesses Brill relied upon, heard Black Kettle's warning shot and exited his lodge just as he heard a trumpet blast from the nearby trees and then saw the mounted soldiers charging into the village from all sides. Magpie was shot in the leg but managed to escape death by entering the freezing water and hiding in the brush along the banks.

As reported by Brill at page 159: "From every side came the heavy report of carbines. Occasionally an Indian rifle answered. But these were notable for their infrequency. So sudden had been the attack, only a few of the red men had opportunity to arm themselves. Most of those who did so had only bows and arrows. They were powerless to offer serious resistance. Flight was their only objective.

Those villagers whose tepees stood nearest the stream fared better than their friends in the center and on the south side of the camp. First to dash through the icy waters of the Washita and scramble up the opposite bank found themselves running into scouts and sharpshooters who had deployed in the timber there. They also encountered troopers, mounted and dismounted. Seeing escape shut off in that direction, the fugitives accepted the only avenue left open to them, the channel itself. It was misery to wade its ice-fringed waters, but it was either that or

bullets.

Women and children, as well as braves, plunged into the stream. Most of them were scantily clad. Many were without moccasins on their feet. Frequently the water reached to the armpits of adults who had to carry the children through these deep pools to prevent their drowning. Desperately they splashed their way beyond the lines of their enemies."

Sometimes the fog of history eventually is pierced by uncomfortable facts. The Washita massacre was originally reported as a great military victory over savage foes by courageous heroes. Those reports originated from the "heroes". The facts managed to slowly ooze out over a great deal of time. Those facts established the betrayal of morality and violations of treaties. They do not tell us, "Why?" The reasons may be explained by Pawnee attorney and scholar of law and history Walter R. Echo-Hawk in his book on bad court cases involving Native American treatment by the dominant white culture.

In the Courts of the Conquerors, *The 10 Worst Indian Law Cases Ever Decided* contemplates the roots of the doctrine of Manifest Destiny and its raison d'être, *The White Man's Burden*:

A popular justification for colonialism among the colonizing nations was the white man's burden. Originally coined by Rudyard

Kipling, the term is a euphemism for imperialism based upon the presumed responsibility of white people to exercise hegemony over nonwhite people, to impart Christianity and European values, thereby uplifting the inferior and uncivilized peoples of the world. In this ethnocentric view, non-European cultures are seen as childlike, barbaric, or otherwise inferior and in need of European guidance for their own good. As thus viewed from European eyes, colonization became a noble undertaking done charitably for the benefit of peoples of color."

See p. 16

The concept of exterminating Native American culture as justified because it was replaced with the blessings of Christianity and civilization is hardly a new idea. The Romans by force of arms visited their supposed superior culture on "lesser" peoples as have many dominate societies for thousands of years. The germ of "destroying a culture to save it" is easily discovered by any powerful society that wants to take what some weaker society has. However, that there was ample precedent for the massacre at the Washita does not expiate Custer's assault and does not obviate the moral imperative to remember it.

For more Gavel Gamut articles go to [www.jamesredwine.com](http://www.jamesredwine.com)

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## Shop, give local this holiday season

By State Rep. Tim O'Brien  
(R-Evansville)

DECEMBER 2021

TV commercials and email advertisements are reminding shoppers frequently about Black Friday deals. While it's fun to search for discounts, two other days make a big difference in our communities, Small Business Saturday and Giving Tuesday.

Saturday, Nov. 27, is a great day to support our hardworking neighbors who run, manage and operate their own small businesses. Whether enjoying a meal out at a locally owned restaurant or purchasing homemade desserts for holiday get-togethers, we can all do our part to support small businesses this year and beyond. Downtown Evansville is hosting a Small Business Saturday event from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., including special free shopping bags, live music, pop-up vendors, free gift wrapping and numerous sales. In addition to downtown restaurants being open, local food trucks Bruce Li and QB's BBQ will be available.

After the shopping weekend, Tuesday, Nov. 30, is an opportunity to support nonprofits that give so

much to our community. Giving Tuesday, launched in 2012, is a "global generosity movement unleashing the power of people and organizations to transform their communities and the world," according to its website. Visit [greatnonprofits.org](http://greatnonprofits.org) to search for charities to support. I recently visited YouthFirst, which helps to strengthen youth and families through programs to prevent substance abuse, promote healthy behaviors and maximize student success. I learned about their Youth First Social Workers, which are specialized mentors available to assess and address student, family and school needs. YouthFirst is always in need of volunteers and donations. Visit [youthfirstinc.org/](http://youthfirstinc.org/) support to get involved.

Local businesses and nonprofits give so much to our community, and I encourage you to join me in supporting them this holiday season and all year long.

**FOOTNOTE: State Rep. Tim O'Brien (R-Evansville) represents House District 78, which includes portions of Vanderburgh and Warrick counties.**

## Indiana Department of Health partners with Purdue University to ensure equitable access to health services

DECEMBER 2021

**INDIANAPOLIS** - The Indiana Department of Health has partnered with Purdue University on a new initiative that aims to ensure Hoosiers have better access to the resources they need to improve their health.

The two-year Indiana Healthy Opportunities for People Everywhere (I-HOPE) initiative will deploy teams across the state to facilitate community-level conversations, resulting in strategies to address the factors that prevent people from living their healthiest lives. The work will examine longstanding risk factors, as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Hoosiers' health. The effort is being funded by a \$34.8 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"Chronic disease, food insecurity, opioids, obesity and smoking were challenges for Indiana before the pandemic, and the last two years of isolation and treatment delays have only made them worse," said State Health Commissioner Kris Box, M.D., FACOG. "As we amplify pandemic recovery efforts, it's more important than ever to understand and respond to the factors that make it difficult for people to get healthy and stay healthy, such as limited access to healthcare, affordable housing, transportation, childcare, and safe and secure employment. I-HOPE will help us do that."

During the two-year project, the teams deployed by Purdue Healthcare Advisors at the Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering will collaborate with I-HOPE partners working on projects statewide, as well as with 30 Indiana counties that have been most impacted by the pandemic. The initial focus areas will include Cass, Daviess, Elkhart, Lake, and Wayne counties, then will expand to Adams, Allen, Blackford, Clark, Clinton, Delaware, Fayette, Grant, Jackson, Jay, Jefferson, Kosciusko, La Porte, Madison, Marshall, Noble, Orange, Ripley, Scott, St. Joseph, Sullivan, Switzerland, Tipton, Vanderburgh and Vigo counties.

The I-HOPE initiative is independent of, but will complement, the work of the Governor's Public Health Commission, which was established in August to examine Indiana's public health infrastructure. The 15-member commission is charged with analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of Indiana's current public health system and identifying ways to improve funding and equitable delivery of public health services in the future, with a focus on legislation.

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# Community

## Spotlight on president of the Evansville City Council: Ron Beane

By Michael L. Smith, Jr.  
City-County Observer Community News Writer  
DECEMBER 2021



This weekly series of interviews aims to find Evansville local movers and shakers that are making a positive impact on the community through their amazing contributions.

This week I had the opportunity and pleasure to speak with Ron Beane, the current President of Evansville's City Council, about himself as well as the work he does with the Council to help Evansville prosper.

**QUESTION:** Tell Us About Yourself and What You Do at the City Council?

My name is Ron Beane, Evansville born and raised. I had a three- or four-year sabbatical out in southern California just after high school. I went to junior college out there, came back to Evansville and attended the University of Southern Indiana. I spent twenty years working for the city, ten years with the Parks Department, and ten years with the Building Commission. The last five years of that time were spent as Building Commissioner, which led up to my retirement. Other than that, my brother and I own Paul's Tavern over on the east side, so I've got experience with running my own business. I did that for ten years and then I started selling food wholesale as well as home delivery.

I'm currently the President of the City Council of Evansville, which means I preside over all the meetings. I still only get one vote, just like everyone else on the Council, and I do not have control over what gets put on the agenda. Any City Council member can submit anything they want to be put on the agenda. Presiding over the meetings and keeping things as civil as possible is really the big thing.

**QUESTION:** So, you retired into working on the City Council? Doesn't sound like much of a retirement!

I found in my years as the Building Commissioner after getting comfortable on the job, it was the job that I enjoyed most out of my entire working career. I found myself working with developers, builders, the trades, all different forms of government, and it was very rewarding. I enjoyed getting things done. We put a lot of time toward the ending of the completion of the medical school when it was being built, because they had run into some problems, but we managed to help, and they got it open on time. It's an example like that, where problems must be solved and decisions must be made, and I found I really enjoyed those aspects as Building Commissioner. So, my retirement plan was basically I didn't want to just stop and not do anything in the community, and City Council was something I already had prior experience with from sitting in on meetings. I knew it was something I could both handle and enjoy because I would be staying involved in the process and in the community. Decisions that they make, that we make, can either help or hinder the progress of Evansville. Personally, I'd rather see the continued growth, the continued smart planning for the future for Evansville. So that was my plan and that's why I ran to join the City Council.

**QUESTION:** How has being President differed from your time as a regular At-Large City Councilor?

The main thing that I find, is that it is my responsibility to keep a lid on things during the meetings. But we still have to give people the opportunity and the time to speak. We have kind of unwritten rule that public speakers get three minutes to speak, but if someone is not making new points or is simply rehashing the same thing over and over, we have to call them on it. But if someone is making new points or reading in a document and they're only part way through, I'll let them finish. I always want to be respectful, and these people have taken the time to come down to speak their mind, and we certainly don't want to discourage the public from coming to speak. It's important that we listen to what the public has to say.

**Footnote:** Ron Beane is an Evansville native, a former business owner, attended the University of Southern Indiana, and is the current President of the City Council of Evansville.

Michael L. Smith, Jr is a profile writer for The City-County Observer and is currently completing classes at Ivy Tech Community College in pursuit of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism. If you know someone who deserves to have a spotlight shined on their contributions to the community, please email the author at [msmith1221@ivytech.edu](mailto:msmith1221@ivytech.edu).

## Meet Zac Heronemus - the Executive Director of Aurora

By Michael L. Smith, Jr.  
Staff Writer for the City-County Observer  
DECEMBER 2021



This week I had the opportunity to speak with Zac Heronemus, the Executive Director of the non-profit organization Aurora, Inc. about their work helping those in our community who are experiencing homelessness, as well as Aurora's upcoming special event on 11/18, "The Homeless Experience Project: 48 Hours in the Life".

**QUESTION:** Tell Us About Yourself And Your Organization

My name is Zac Heronemus, and I've been with Aurora, Inc. as Executive Director since January 20th of 2020, right before Covid hit. Prior to that, I served on the Board for about 2 years and 4 months. I've been working in the public service sector for pretty much my whole adult life, both in government and non-profits.

At Aurora, we are the lead homeless services agency in the city of Evansville, and what that means is we leverage housing programs that no other organization in the community really has access to. We partner with the federal government, the state of Indiana, the city of Evansville, United Way, and various corporate partners to carry out our programs and provide case management. We focus on housing plans, income plans, and restorative life plans that provide wrap-around services for those men, women, children, and seniors who are experiencing homelessness.

Our primary focus is stabilization from the onset and depending on what the individual or family's needs are in the assessment, we will provide navigation and convening of services. Whether that is help with mental health, substance abuse, job skills, financial literacy, the possibilities are endless. When it comes down to our work, a lot of our success is really a byproduct of our professionally trained social workers who manage all our client's cases, network with them, and convene the services that not only help to restore lives but ensure greater success and likelihood that we won't see the same people experiencing homelessness again.

**QUESTION:** How Has The Pandemic Impacted You And Your Organization?

It affected us in a few different ways. The first was obvious, revenue. We had to cancel all our events and people were a lot more reluctant to spend or give their money for social services. Not only was Aurora impacted but the whole non-profit community was significantly impacted in that manner as well. So, we weren't unique in that aspect, but I can tell you that there's likely no more essential a service than Aurora regarding helping the most vulnerable people in the community, and those are the people who don't have housing, the people that are in shelters or on the street. When you think about those in shelters or in congregate settings, the likelihood that you could catch Covid-19 would significantly increase. So, we focused on two things to really ramp up the services we provided.

First, we were able to leverage around 1.5 million dollars to keep about 370 households, both individuals and families, from experiencing homelessness by not being evicted. We have been able to carry that out from October 2020 to the present. Second, we played a strong role in a partnership with Mayor Winnecke's Commission on Homelessness, the Catholic Diocese of Evansville, Echo Housing, Deaconess Hospital, and St. Vincent Ascension, alongside the Rescue Mission and all our shelter partners. That partnership's focus was to isolate individuals that were either suspected to be or confirmed as Covid positive from those congregate settings.

**Footnote:** Zac Heronemus is also Evansville's 3rd Ward City Councilor and the Executive Director of the non-profit organization Aurora, Inc. He is an alumnus of the University of Southern Indiana where he earned his Master's degree in Public Administration.

If you or anyone you know is experiencing homelessness and need access to help/resources, you can contact Aurora, Inc. at (812) 428-3246 or [info@auroraevansville.org](mailto:info@auroraevansville.org).

Michael L. Smith, Jr is a profile writer for The City-County Observer and is currently completing classes at Ivy Tech Community College and in pursuit of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism.

If you know someone who deserves to have a spotlight shined on their contributions to the community, please email the author at [msmith1221@ivytech.edu](mailto:msmith1221@ivytech.edu).

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# Education

## HOLA announces Ivy Tech scholarship for Latino students

DECEMBER 2021

**EVANSVILLE** - Brant Flores owner of PMG Landscaping and president of the board of directors for HOLA, a Southwest Indiana organization with the mission of enhancing cultural diversity and ensuring the success of Latinos in the region, today announced, that the organization is donating \$5,000 to Ivy Tech Community College Evansville.

The funding will be used to create the Dream Big Scholarship Fund for Latino students attending Ivy Tech, who have financial needs, but may not have access to state and federal aid. In making the announcement, Flores said one of the pillars of the organization is to support Latinos in their educational endeavors. Brant Flores said, "the HOLA

organization was designed to evolve as the needs of the Latino community in Southwest Indiana progresses. Horace Mann said 'Education is the great equalizer' and our people are ready to take on the challenge of bettering themselves to achieve their potential and we think that the best partner in this endeavor is Ivy Tech." The \$5,000 came from the proceeds of the annual HOLA Festival held this last August. "We want to thank the Southwest Indiana community for attending and supporting our event at Bosse Field that allowed us to contribute to this special need," Flores added. HOLA will continue to raise funds and hopes to contribute to this fund annually.

Ivy Tech Evansville Chancellor Daniela Vidal said the gift is especially important on this Giving Tuesday. "We also want to

announce that HOLA's donation and the number of students we can serve was just increased, as we will match that \$5,000 with funding from donors who have a similar mission - for a total of \$10,000 to be used for Latino students in need. "One special donor who is contributing to a fund he established for this same cause through the Ivy Tech Foundation, is Casey Trela, director of financial aid," said Erica Schmidt, executive director of the Foundation. "He works on the frontlines and sees the financial burden that is an obstacle, that students face," Schmidt added.

This will be an opportunity for our students to get their start at Ivy Tech and earn a degree or credential that is needed for the high-demand jobs in our community while addressing a



growing unmet need," she said.

The check was accepted by Erica Schmidt, executive director of the Ivy Tech Foundation. Interested students can learn more by going to <https://link.ivytech.edu/HOLA>.

## USI campus joins Dementia Friendly America<sup>®</sup>

DECEMBER 2021

The University of Southern Indiana campus has officially joined the Dementia Friendly America<sup>®</sup> (DFA) network of Communities, joining the ranks of other universities nationwide that are leading efforts to be more dementia-friendly.

The USI Community's designation is part of the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP), a five-year grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In addition to dementia education, the GWEP is also focused on developing a workforce to maximize patient and family engagement and integrate geriatrics into primary care.

"According to Dementia Friendly America<sup>®</sup>, more than 5 million Americans and 15 million caregivers are living with Alzheimer's disease, so most of us have been impacted personally," said Lisa Fournier, GWEP Project Coordinator. "We look forward to working with stakeholders at USI and on the west side of Evansville to create an environment in that reduces stigma and improves understanding of the social and environmental challenges of those living with dementia, including caregivers."

Earlier this year, the GWEP spearheaded efforts for two cities in southern Indiana - Petersburg and Rockport - to join the DFA network. These communities,

in partnership with the USI GWEP, recognized National Family Caregivers Month in November with a series of free workshops on a variety of topics, including dementia awareness, healthy eating, storytelling and community resources. Recordings of the sessions are at [USI.edu/caregiversmonth](https://www.usi.edu/caregiversmonth).

Fournier and her team are hopeful the efforts underway at USI will eventually spread so that the wider community can also work toward being dementia-friendly.

"The USI Dementia Friendly Community initiative is another way to improve the lives of the individuals we serve," said Dr. Paul Arthur, Assistant Professor and Chair of Occupational Therapy at USI. "We believe the USI Dementia Friendly Community will enhance the well-being of Vanderburgh County residents, which in turn will benefit the residents and caregivers within our community."

According to Dementia Friendly America, a dementia-friendly community is "informed, safe and respectful of individuals with the disease, their families and caregivers and provides supportive options that foster quality of life."

Deaconess Clinic, the Alzheimer's Association and two Area Agencies on Aging (SWIRCA & More and Generations) are collaborating with the USI GWEP dementia-friendly initiatives across the region.

"Our goal is to engage



key community leaders and members to improve the care of people living with dementia," said Robin Arnold, Clinical Quality Improvement Analyst at Deaconess Clinic and member of the USI GWEP team. "Especially in

the area of early diagnosis, there is so much we can do to offer support and education."

For more information and meeting schedule, visit [USI.edu/dfc/usi-community](https://www.usi.edu/dfc/usi-community).

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# Education

## Students can compete for a chance at a 4-year tuition scholarship in Changemaker Challenge

DECEMBER 2021

**EVANSVILLE** - The University of Evansville (UE) is pleased to announce the upcoming High School Changemaker Challenge, sponsored by Toyota. Any high school junior or senior is invited to participate for a chance to win a four-year scholarship, with the top prize offering full tuition. UE believes everyone can be a changemaker, and positive change doesn't have to wait until college. The Changemaker Challenge, created by the University's Center for Innovation and Change, encourages the younger generation to identify and solve challenges in the world through innovation and creativity. Students will share their unique ideas (products, services, or programs) in the form of a 2-minute video, and scholarships will be awarded to first through third place. Once they enroll at UE to continue their education, students can continue designing and

implementing their ideas to make a lasting difference. Video recordings describing students' ideas must be submitted by Wednesday, December 8. On December 15, the top 20 finalists will be announced on the UE website. The final round will be held on UE's campus on January 25, 2022, and scholarships will be presented to the winners. To submit your video, please visit [evansville.edu/cc-hs](http://evansville.edu/cc-hs). The competition is open to any high school junior or senior, and they may compete individually or in teams of up to three. Home school and club entries (e.g. Scouts, Boys and Girls Club, 4-H) will also be eligible. To qualify for a scholarship, competitors must also attend the in-person final round on campus in Evansville, Indiana. A separate Changemaker Challenge, beginning at a later date, will be virtual and geared towards a national and global audience that cannot compete in

person. Competitors may be eligible to receive special prizes for forming ideas that:

- Increase girls' access and exposure to science fields (e.g. a summer camp for girls interested in physics)
- Address or mitigate climate change (e.g. decreasing air pollution, rooftop gardens)
- Increase access to physical activity or health options (e.g. more dance classes or recess in schools, fitness trails, creative outdoor play options)
- Provide creative ideas to improve quality of life in Evansville's Promise Zone

Winning students who choose UE as their college destination will receive four-year scholarships to attend UE as listed below:

- 1st place: Full tuition
- 2nd place: \$23,000 tuition
- 3rd place: \$18,000 tuition



Students that participate will receive ongoing support from the UE Center for Innovation and Change, including online training and connections to faculty experts. To submit your video or learn more about the High School Changemaker Challenge, visit [evansville.edu/cc-hs](http://evansville.edu/cc-hs) or email Brooksie Smith, the Center's associate director, at [bs267@evansville.edu](mailto:bs267@evansville.edu).

## Future Indiana teachers encouraged to apply by Jan. 31



DECEMBER 2021

**STATEHOUSE** - Vanderburgh County lawmakers encourage local students planning to pursue a career in education to apply for the state's teaching scholarship. State Rep. Tim O'Brien (R-Evansville) said applications are

now being accepted for the 2022-2023 Next Generation Hoosier Educator Scholarship, which pays \$7,500 per year for up to four years to students earning a teaching degree and who commit to teaching in Indiana for at least five years. The deadline to apply is Jan. 31. "Investing in our teachers is integral to achieving the best education for our students," O'Brien said. "Hoosiers with a passion for teaching should consider applying for this scholarship." The scholarship is available to 200 high-achieving high school and college students each year who either graduate in the top 20 percent of their class or earn a score in the top 20th percentile on the

SAT or ACT. To continue earning the scholarship in college, students must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid each year, earn a 3.0 cumulative GPA and complete at least 30 credit hours per year. Current college students who apply must be able to use the scholarship for at least two full academic years. "Indiana must continue to recruit high-achieving students to pursue a career in teaching," said State Rep. Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville). "Scholarship recipients must commit to teaching in a Hoosier classroom for at least five years, which helps Indiana retain top-notch educators." In 2020, 439 students applied for the scholarship, with applications from 231 high schools in 84 counties.

Nearly three-quarters of applicants were Indiana high school seniors with the remainder comprised of current college students. "Hundreds of Hoosier students have benefited from this scholarship since its launch in 2017," said State Rep. Matt Hostettler (R-Patoka). "Past recipients are already making a positive impact on our state's education system." Last year, Vanderburgh County's recipients were Taylor Gerth, of Mater Dei High School, Grace Martin, of Reitz Memorial High School and Abigail Woebkenberg, of Central High School.

## Ivy Tech Community College new hires

DECEMBER 2021

**EVANSVILLE** - Ivy Tech Community College Evansville has several recent new hires. They include: **Danielle Artis** is now a student service professional at Ivy Tech Community College. She holds a master's degree in liberal studies and a bachelor's degree in history with a minor in psychology from the University of Southern Indiana. She most recently served as an adjunct faculty member for Ivy Tech Community College and a family case manager for the Department of Child Services. Outside of work, Artis serves as publication secretary for

Bethany Apostolic Church. **MacKenzie Baber** is now an accounts receivable clerk at Ivy Tech Community College. She holds an associate degree, certificate, and technical certificate in business administration from Ivy Tech Community College. In addition, she holds a certificate in human resources management from Ivy Tech, and an Indiana cosmetology degree and license. Baber previously served as a personal assistant to a local entrepreneur, lead scheduler and office administrator for F&P Construction, and salon owner and operator for Hairbender Kenzie. **Alexandra Hoffman** is now



college connection coach for Gibson County at Ivy Tech Community College. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Indiana State University. She most recently served as an academic advisor at Ivy Tech Community College in Terre Haute. Prior to that, Hoffman was public programs manager/summer camp director at the Terre Haute Children's Museum. Outside of work, Hoffman serves as fraternity advisor for Chi Omega and is a Sunday School teacher at the United Church of Christ.

## Shakespeare in American communities

DECEMBER 2021

We connect youths across the country to Shakespeare's plays by supporting performances and workshops in schools and in the justice system. **Now Accepting Applications!** Applications are now being accepted for the 2022-2023 granting cycle, for activities occurring between August 2022 and July 2023. **How do we do this?** Shakespeare in American Communities is a theater program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. Through grants to theater companies that produce Shakespeare's works, this program supports high-quality productions and educational activities in middle schools, high schools, and juvenile justice facilities throughout the United States. **How to apply** Applications are now being accepted for the 2022-2023 granting cycle, for activities occurring between August 2022 and July 2023. Visit [shakespeare@artsmidwest.org](mailto:shakespeare@artsmidwest.org). Arts Midwest accepts proposals annually starting with an intent to apply in December and deadline in mid-February. **Program impact** 120 theater companies and organizations across the United States have taken part in Shakespeare in American Communities since the program's inception in 2003. Selected companies have presented 34 of Shakespeare's 37 plays, as part of the Schools program. To date, the program has supported more than 14,500 performances and 54,000 educational activities at more than 11,500 schools and juvenile justice facilities in 4,700 communities in all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia.

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Sports

DECEMBER 2021 EVANSVILLE/VANDERBURGH COUNTY HIGH SPORT SCHEDULES



Weekly Schedule table for Vanderburgh County High School, listing dates, times, teams, event descriptions, and locations.

Weekly Schedule table for Memorial High School, listing dates, times, teams, event descriptions, and locations.

Weekly Schedule table for Memorial High School, listing dates, times, teams, event descriptions, and locations.

Weekly Schedule table for North Huskies, listing dates, times, teams, event descriptions, and locations.



Weekly Schedule table for Henderson County Senior High School, listing dates, times, teams, event descriptions, and locations.

Weekly Schedule table for Madison County High School, listing dates, times, teams, event descriptions, and locations.

Weekly Schedule table for Memorial High School, listing dates, times, teams, event descriptions, and locations.

Weekly Schedule table for North Huskies, listing dates, times, teams, event descriptions, and locations.

HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULES CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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Advertisement for Harrison Law Firm, LLC, featuring a portrait of Joseph H. Harrison, Jr., Attorney-at-Law, and contact information including the address (Curtis Building, Suite 205, 915 Main St., Evansville, IN 47734) and phone number (812-491-9350).

# Sports

## DECEMBER 2021 EVANSVILLE/VANDERBURGH COUNTY HIGH SPORT SCHEDULES



Weekly Schedule

Date	Time	Team	Event Description	Location	Home/Away
12/01/2021	5:30 PM	Baseball (Boys F)	Evansville Central High School	Evansville Central High School	H
12/01/2021	5:30 PM	Baseball (Girls JV)	Evansville Mater Dei High School	Evansville Mater Dei High School	A
12/01/2021	7:00 PM	Baseball (Girls V)	Evansville Mater Dei High School	Evansville Mater Dei High School	A
12/02/2021	5:30 PM	Baseball (Boys F)	Evansville Mater Dei High School	Mater Dei High School	A
12/02/2021	6:15 PM	Swimming (Boys V)	South Spencer High School	JOQUATIC CENTER	H
12/02/2021	6:15 PM	Swimming (Girls V)	South Spencer High School	JOQUATIC CENTER	H
12/03/2021	5:30 PM	Baseball (Boys V)	Vincennes Lincoln High School	ESD	A
12/03/2021	5:30 PM	Baseball (Boys JV)	CANESBORO - Vincennes Lincoln High School		H
12/04/2021	9:30 AM	Swimming (Girls V)	Evansville North High School	JOQUATIC CENTER	A
12/04/2021	9:30 AM	Swimming (Boys V)	Evansville North High School	JOQUATIC CENTER	A
12/04/2021	9:30 AM	Wrestling (V)	Flint Central High School	Large Gym	H
12/05/2021	5:30 PM	Baseball (Boys F)	Evansville North High School	Evansville North High School	A
12/05/2021	5:30 PM	Swimming (Boys V)	Heritage Hills Middle/High School	Heritage Hills Middle/High School	A
12/05/2021	6:15 PM	Swimming (Girls V)	Heritage Hills Middle/High School	Heritage Hills Middle/High School	A
12/07/2021	5:30 PM	Baseball (Boys JV)	Evansville North High School	Large Gym	H
12/07/2021	5:30 PM	Wrestling (V)	Jasper High School	UHF Main Gymnasium	A
12/07/2021	7:00 PM	Baseball (Boys V)	Evansville North High School	Large Gym	H
12/08/2021	5:30 PM	Baseball (Girls JV)	CANCELED - William Henry Harrison High School - Evansville	PJ Reed High School	H
12/08/2021	6:00 PM	Baseball (Girls V)	William Henry Harrison High School - Evansville	Large Gym	H
12/09/2021	1:00	Wrestling (V)	Evansville North High School	JOQUATIC HIGH SCHOOL	A
12/09/2021	5:30 PM	Baseball (Boys F)	Evansville Mater Dei High School	Large Gym	H
12/09/2021	6:15 PM	Swimming (Girls V)	Evansville North High School	JOQUATIC CENTER	H
12/09/2021	6:15 PM	Swimming (Boys V)	Evansville North High School	JOQUATIC CENTER	H
12/10/2021	5:30 PM	Baseball (Boys F)	Evansville Mater Dei High School	Mater Dei High School	A
12/11/2021	7:30 AM	Wrestling (V)	Zionsville Community High School	Zionsville Community High School	A
12/11/2021	9:00 AM	Baseball (Boys F)	South Spencer High School	South Spencer High School	A
12/13/2021	5:30 PM	Swimming (Girls V)	Flint Central High School	FLINT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	A
12/13/2021	5:30 PM	Swimming (Boys V)	Reid and North	FLINT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	A
12/13/2021	6:00 PM	Baseball (Girls JV)	NORTH POSEY HIGH SCHOOL	NORTH POSEY HIGH SCHOOL	A
12/13/2021	7:30 PM	Baseball (Girls V)	NORTH POSEY HIGH SCHOOL	NORTH POSEY HIGH SCHOOL	A
12/14/2021	5:30 PM	Wrestling (V)	Gilson Southern High School	Gilson Southern High School	A
12/15/2021	5:30 PM	Baseball (Girls JV)	Evansville Central High School	Evansville Central High School	A
12/15/2021	7:00 PM	Baseball (Girls V)	Evansville Central High School	Evansville Central High School	A
12/16/2021	5:30 PM	Baseball (Boys F)	Evansville Central High School	Evansville Central High School	A
12/17/2021	4:00 PM	Wrestling (V)	William Henry Harrison High School - Evansville	William Henry Harrison High School - Evansville	A
12/17/2021	5:30 PM	Baseball (Boys JV)	Castle High School	Large Gym	H
12/17/2021	7:00 PM	Baseball (Boys V)	Castle High School	Large Gym	H
12/18/2021	1:00	Baseball (Boys V)	Bosses High School	Bosses High School	A
12/18/2021	7:30 AM	Wrestling (V)	William Henry Harrison High School - Evansville	William Henry Harrison High School - Evansville	A
12/18/2021	8:30 AM	Swimming (Boys V)	Jasper High School	Jasper High School	A
12/18/2021	8:30 AM	Swimming (Girls V)	Jasper High School	Jasper High School	A
12/18/2021	5:30 PM	Baseball (Girls JV)	WEBSTER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL	PJ Reed High School	H
12/18/2021	7:00 PM	Baseball (Girls V)	WEBSTER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL	PJ Reed High School	H
12/20/2021	3:45 PM	Baseball (Girls V)	DUNSBORO HIGH SCHOOL	DUNSBORO SPORTS CENTER	A
12/20/2021	5:30 PM	Baseball (Boys V)	DUNSBORO HIGH SCHOOL	DUNSBORO SPORTS CENTER	A
12/21/2021	8:00 AM	Wrestling (V)	FERRIS OBER TRADITIONAL HIGH SCHOOL	FERRIS OBER TRADITIONAL HIGH SCHOOL	A
12/21/2021	5:30 PM	Baseball (Girls JV)	Heritage Hills Middle/High School	Large Gym	H
12/21/2021	7:00 PM	Baseball (Girls V)	Heritage Hills Middle/High School	Large Gym	H
12/22/2021	8:30 AM	Swimming (Girls V)	Bloomfield High School	Bloomfield High School	A
12/22/2021	8:30 AM	Swimming (Boys V)	Bloomfield High School	Bloomfield High School	A
12/22/2021	8:30 AM	Wrestling (V)	FERRIS OBER TRADITIONAL HIGH SCHOOL	FERRIS OBER TRADITIONAL HIGH SCHOOL	A
12/23/2021	9:30 AM	Wrestling (V)	Mount Vernon HS (Pine)	Mount Vernon HS (Pine)	A
12/28/2021	9:30 AM	Wrestling (V)	Evansville Mater Dei High School	Evansville Mater Dei High School	A

# Evansville Otters release their 2022 regular season schedule

**DECEMBER 2021**  
**EVANSVILLE** - The Evansville Otters will open their 27th season when they host the New Jersey Jackals at Bosse Field on May 13, kicking off the 2022 Frontier League regular season for both teams.

The Otters host the Jackals during Opening Weekend as part of a nine-game homestand to start the season for Evansville. They will also host the travel team of the Frontier Greys and the Quebec Capitales throughout the following week. The homestand will be Evansville's longest of the season.

The Frontier League released the schedule for its 29th season, featuring 16 organizations playing a full 96-game schedule, and including the Frontier League debuts of the Quebec Capitales, Trois-Rivieres Aigles, and the Ottawa Titans out of Canada. Overall, the 2022 season will have the most regular-season games in the league's history.

Plus, the traveling Frontier Greys make a return to the Frontier League circuit. The Greys are based on the former Zanesville Greys, who won the first Frontier League

championship. The team's name is a tribute to the author Zane Grey who wrote several Western and baseball stories in the early 1900s. The Redheaded Outfield is one of his better-known novels.

The Frontier League will open its season in May as the largest professional, independent baseball league in North America and its second season as an MLB Partner League.

The 2022 schedule will be a full-season format with East and West divisions. The West Division features Evansville, Florence, Gateway, Joliet, Lake Erie, Schaumburg, Windy City, and Washington. The East Division features Frontier, New Jersey, Ottawa, Sussex County, New York, Quebec, Trois-Rivieres, and Tri-City.

Teams play either three or four series against their divisional rivals while facing the eight teams from the other division at least once each.

The Otters' schedule includes home out-of-division matchups against New Jersey, Frontier, Quebec, New York, and Tri-City. Evansville will travel to Ottawa, Trois-Rivieres, and Sussex County.



Evansville will play 72 games within the West Division, splitting four home and road series against Lake Erie, Gateway, and Florence, playing nine games with six at home against Windy City and Joliet, and playing nine games with six on the road against Washington and Schaumburg.

Evansville is scheduled for nine weekend home series at Bosse Field in 2022, which will be the 107th anniversary of Bosse Field.

The Otters will have four six-game homestands, and Evansville's final regular-season homestand will be Aug. 23-28 against Joliet and Florence.

Evansville will travel to Washington and Florence to conclude the regular season.

2022 also includes the return of Frontier League all-star events July 18-21.

# University of Evansville Aces well-represented in postseason MVC Awards

## Four UE players earn league recognition

**DECEMBER 2021**  
**NORMAL, IL** - Four University of Evansville volleyball players were recognized by the Missouri Valley Conference on Thursday when the league announced its postseason awards.

Highlighting the day was the naming of Giulia Cardona as the MVC Freshman of the Year. She is the first Purple Aces player to receive one of the league's specialty awards. Alondra Vazquez and Melanie Feliciano earned spots on the All-Conference First Team while Cardona earned a nod on the second team. Cardona along with Taya Haffner were named to the All-Freshman Team. The recognition earned by the UE squad this year was more than any other season in the history of the program.

"I am very proud and happy for the four players that received individual awards. They have worked very hard and are extremely deserving," UE head coach Fernando Morales said. "This team is very fun to coach and watch and it is a total team effort from player one through 16. Everyone is pushing each other to be better and that is why these four student-athletes have been so successful this year."

Cardona completed one of the top freshman seasons in the entire nation. The first player to be named the MVC Freshman of the Year for UE completed the regular season leading the MVC and all freshmen in the NCAA in service aces with an average of 0.50 per set. Her seven aces



against Indiana State was the first time a Valley player did so against a league foe since 2009. She also completed the regular season ranking third in the league with 3.90 kills per set. Cardona earned three MVC Freshman of the Week honors in a row earlier in the season. The All-MVC Second Teamer was also named to the All-Freshman squad.

For the first time in its MVC tenure, the Aces saw two student-athletes recognized on the All-Conference First team. For the second season in a row, Alondra Vazquez earned the first team honor while pacing the conference with 4.21 kills per frame. Her average finished the year in the top 30 nationally. UE's leader in digs this season was named the MVC Player of the Week on two occasions while garnering MVP honors at the PFW Invitational and Dunn Hospitality Tournament. Vazquez currently has 1,367 career kills, which is 5th on UE's all-time list.

Joining Vazquez on the First

Team is Melanie Feliciano. A Second Team player in 2019 (along with Vazquez), Feliciano saw her season take off once conference season arrived. Entering league play, she averaged 3.09 kills/set, but a strong conference campaign saw that season average rise to 3.38. She was named the MVC Player of the Week on October 11. Feliciano was the MVP of the Eagle Challenge in September at Morehead State.

Taya Haffner joined Cardona on the All-Freshman squad. Her average of 10.68 assists per game paced the MVC and ranked 28th in the NCAA. Her top effort saw her finish with 60 assists in the home finale versus UNI. Haffner opened the season in her hometown of Fort Wayne, Ind. at the PFW Invitational and averaged 12.33 assists and 3.00 digs on the way to MVC Freshman of the Week honors. This was the first time UE had two players named to the All-Freshman Team in the same season.

# Sports

## Carroll signs talented group to Aces baseball for 2023

DECEMBER 2021

**EVANSVILLE** - Coming off a resurgent 2021 campaign, University of Evansville head baseball coach Wes Carroll, along with pitching coach A.J. Gaura and assistant coach Keirce Kimbel, have signed a talented group of seven players for the 2023 campaign.

"I'm excited to announce this talented 2022 recruiting class. Our coaching staff has worked hard putting together the future of Aces baseball," said Carroll on the crop of newcomers. "This group is not only talented on the field but excels in the classroom as well. I really like the balance of players we are adding with 4 pitchers, 3 position players, and a legit 2-way player. Every member of this class has a high ceiling to help our program compete in the Missouri Valley Conference for years to come."

**Caden Crawford, First Baseman, Liberty Township, Ohio (Cincinnati Hill Christian Academy)**

Coming to Evansville from Liberty Township, Ohio, first baseman Caden Crawford brings an impressive bat and a strong glove to the Aces infield. This past spring, Crawford led all of the Miami Valley Conference with six home runs, batting .367 with 33 RBI and stealing eight bags. In his prep career, Crawford has launched eight homers across two seasons, while helping lead CHCA to the Division III state championship just five months ago.

"We are really excited about the addition of Caden to the 2022

recruiting class," said assistant baseball coach Keirce Kimbel. "Caden is a physical kid that displays a lot of athleticism and has the chance to have power at the D1 level. He should be a staple in our lineup for years to come."

**Max Hansmann, Right-Handed Pitcher, Elmhurst, Ill. (York High School)**

Joining the Aces from the Chicagoland area, Hansmann brings a talented right arm to Evansville's pitching staff. With an impressive breaking ball, Hansmann looks to add even more strength to a burgeoning crop of pitchers for the Aces, while also getting it done in the classroom, where Hansmann holds a 4.45 GPA on a 4.0 scale at York High School.

"We're excited to be able to add a guy like Max to our pitching staff," said Evansville pitching coach A.J. Gaura. "He's a high character guy both on and off the field. His ability to compete at a high level and spin a breaking ball should allow him to have an impact early in his career."

**Elias Hachem, Right-Handed Pitcher, Oak Park, Ill. (Mount Carmel High School)**

A tall right-hander from the Chicagoland area, Elias Hachem joins Hansmann in adding to the Aces pitching staff depth. With a fastball that tops out over 90 miles per hour, Hachem posted a 3-0 record with a 1.54 ERA in seven appearances for Mount Carmel last spring.

"Elias is a great addition to our pitching staff as brings a physical presence to the mound," said Gaura

on the northern Illinois product. "At 6'7" 235 lbs, he has a FB that really gets on hitters and breaking ball that projects to have wipeout potential. I'm excited to watch him develop both on and off the field over the next 4 years."

**Andrew Payton, Catcher, Martinsville, Ind. (Martinsville High School)**

Joining the Aces from Martinsville, Ind., Andrew Payton is a stout addition behind the plate. A season ago, Payton recorded a fielding percentage of .968 with 213 putouts and 55 assists to help lead Martinsville High School.

"Andrew has been on our radar since his Freshman year at Martinsville," said Carroll on the Indiana native. "He is an elite catch and throws guy behind the plate. AP is a competitor and leader on the field. I look forward to him being on campus next fall."

**Willard Peterson, Left-Handed Pitcher, Evansville, Wis. (Evansville High School)**

Going from Evansville, Wisconsin to Evansville, Indiana, Willard Peterson joins the Aces pitching staff. A 6'2" left-hander, Peterson brings a fastball that averages 88 miles per hour.

"Willard is a big strong LHP from the state of Wisconsin that is just scratching the surface of his potential," said Gaura on the Wisconsin addition. "He possesses high level pitch characteristic that should allow him to develop into a front-line starter or power back end bullpen arm during his time here at UE."



**Kannon Stull, Outfielder, Jeffersonville, Ind. (Jeffersonville High School)**

Coming to Evansville from just down the Ohio River, Kannon Stull adds another impressive glove and bat to the Aces outfield. This spring for Jeffersonville High School, Stull ran up a .383 batting average with 21 RBI and 12 extra-base hits.

"Kannon is an athletic outfielder who possesses the five tools needed to compete in the MVC," mentioned Carroll on the outfielder. "He will continue to develop those tools here at UE and will make an impact on our roster."

**Jack Taczy, Left-Handed Pitcher, Fox River Grove, Ill. (Cary-Grove High School)**

With a high 80s fastball, Fox River Grove, Illinois' Jack Taczy enters the fold for the Aces. The 6'3" lefty adds another talented arm to the Aces pitching staff heading into the 2023 season.

"Jack is an exciting LHP that we are looking forward to watching grow in our program," said Gaura on the Illinois native. "He already possesses the ability to throw 3 pitches for strikes and control the running game. I'm excited to be a part of Jack's development as he continues work in the weight room and discover just how good he can be."

## USI basketball teams picked to win GLVC East Divisions

DECEMBER 2021

**EVANSVILLE** - University of Southern Indiana Men's and Women's Basketball have been picked to win the Great Lakes Valley Conference East Division in the preseason polls released today. The preseason poll was voted upon by the league's 15 head coaches.

USI Women's Basketball, which is picked to win the East for the second-straight year, received 15 points and three first-place votes. The Screaming Eagles were followed by Lewis University, who received 14 points and 2 first-place votes, and the University of Indianapolis, who was third with 10 points. The East Division was rounded out by the University of Illinois Springfield (six points) and McKendree University (five points).

The 2021 GLVC Tournament finalists, Truman State University and Drury University were forecasted to win the Central and West Division, respectively. USI missed the GLVC Tournament (won by Drury) last spring due to COVID.

USI Women's Basketball finished the COVID-shortened 2020-21 schedule with an 11-5 overall and



GLVC record, winning the GLVC East Division. The Eagles, who return all five starters and all but one player from last year's squad, are led by first-team All-GLVC senior guard Emma DeHart (Indianapolis, Indiana) and second-team All-GLVC junior forward Hannah Haithcock (Washington Courthouse, Ohio).

DeHart posted a team-best 16.1 points, 2.7 rebounds, and 3.3 assists per game, while Haithcock averaged 12.0 points and a team-best 6.9 rebounds. DeHart, currently, ranks 21st all-time in scoring with 905 points, 95 points away from becoming the 19th USI Women's Basketball player to reach 1,000 points.

USI Men's Basketball, which is picked to win the GLVC East for the second-straight year, were forecast

to place first with 13 points and three first-place votes. The Eagles were followed by Illinois Springfield with 11 points and two first-place votes and Lewis with 11 points. The East Division was rounded out by UIIndy (eight points) and McKendree (7 points).

The University of Missouri-St. Louis was picked to win the Central Division with 15 points and three first-place tallies, while the 2021 GLVC Tournament finalist Drury was forecast to win the West with an identical 15 points and 3 first-place votes.

USI Men's Basketball, which also received votes for the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) preseason top 25 poll, concluded the 2020-21 campaign with a berth in the NCAA Division II Midwest Regional, advancing to the semifinals after missing the GLVC Tournament due to COVID. The Eagles were 12-5 overall and 11-4 in the GLVC last year in the COVID-shortened schedule and won the GLVC East Division title.

USI, which returns four of five starters and a 10 of 14 players this fall, is led in to 2021-22 by junior

guard Jelani Simmons (Columbus, Ohio), who was named to the NCAA II Midwest Regional All-Tournament team with 13.5 points per game. Second-team All-GLVC senior guard Mateo Rivera follows with 12.9 points, 6.4 rebounds and 4.1 assists per contest.



## Otters accepting internship applications for 2022

DECEMBER 2021

The Evansville Otters have listed multiple paid summer internships for the 2022 season at Bosse Field.

As an intern at Bosse Field, selected applicants will receive an incredible experience, learning the everyday happenings of a minor league baseball team.

At this time, the Otters will have internships available in box office/ticketing, group hospitality and sales, marketing/community relations, groundskeeping, broadcasting, and stadium/food and beverage operations.

Learning more information and applying can be done at [teamworkonline.com](http://teamworkonline.com).

Those interested also can send a cover letter and resume to:

Evansville Otters  
Attn: Internship Program  
23 Don Mattingly Way  
Evansville, IN 47711

Interviews will start in the coming weeks.

For more information, email Travis Painter at [tpainter@evansvilleotters.com](mailto:tpainter@evansvilleotters.com).

## All-America honors as Lady Eagles finish 15th

DECEMBER 2021

**ST. LEO, FL** - Led by freshman Cameron Hough (Olney, Illinois), University of Southern Indiana Women's Cross Country raced to a 15th-place finish in a 34-team field Saturday morning at the NCAA Division II Championships.

Hough completed the six-kilometer race in 21 minutes, 22.60 seconds, to finish 33rd in the 256 competitor field and earn All-America honors for the first time in her career. She becomes the 12th runner in program history to earn All-America honors on the cross country course and the first since Jennifer Comastri (Indianapolis, Indiana) garnered All-America honors at the last NCAA II Championship meet in 2019.

Comastri, who was one of the favorites to take home the

individual title Saturday, raced in the lead pack early in the competition and was 17th with 1,000 meters to go before dropping out of the race.

Without Comastri crossing the finish line, the Screaming Eagles slipped seven spots in the final 1,000 meters as they finished with 471 points.

In addition to Hough, USI got an 80th-place finish from sophomore Hadley Fisher (Evansville, Indiana) and a 123rd-place showing from fellow classmate McKenna Cavanaugh (New Albany, Indiana). Freshman Allison Morphiew (Evansville, Indiana) was 151st, while senior Kara Martin (Herrin, Illinois) rounded out the Eagles' top-five finishers with a 159th-place finish.

Sophomore Lauren Greiwe (West



Harrison, Indiana) wrapped up USI's lineup with a 171st-place finish.

USI finishes the 2021 cross country season with a GLVC title and second-place showing at the NCAA II Midwest Regional. The Eagles turn their attention to their indoor track & field season, which begins in early December with some early bird meets.

# Entertainment

## Morgan Wallen announces *The Dangerous Tour 2022 - Kicking off in Evansville with special guest Hardy and Larry Fleet*

DECEMBER 2021

Deemed "the most wanted man in Country" by The New Yorker, MULTI-PLATINUM Country artist Morgan Wallen announced his return to the road with THE DANGEROUS TOUR. Named after his history-making, critically acclaimed Dangerous:

The Double Album (Big Loud/ Republic Records), the in-demand entertainer welcomes special guest HARDY as direct support and also LARRY FLEET. The tour will include a stop in downtown Evansville at the Ford Center on Thurs., Feb. 3, 2022. Tacking 46 cities beginning in

Evansville on Feb. 3, 2022 at Ford Center, THE DANGEROUS TOUR will take over arenas and amphitheatres across the U.S., including making major debuts at Madison Square Garden in New York, NY, Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, TN, and Cellairis Amphitheatre at Lakewood in Atlanta, GA.

Wallen's slated to wrap the 7-month run in Los Angeles, CA, on Sept. 24, 2022, at STAPLES Center.

Tickets for the Evansville show will go on sale to the general public beginning at 10AM on Friday, November 19 at Ticketmaster.com and LiveNation.com.

## Blippi the Musical to make a special stop in Evansville in February

DECEMBER 2021

**EVANSVILLE** - After over 100 performances and multiple sold out shows, Blippi The Musical will delight audiences at Old National Events Plaza on February 23, 2022. Children's YouTube sensation Blippi is set to bring the vivacious, energetic, and educational character from the screen to the stage for an all-ages extravaganza of fun, dancing, singing and meeting amazing new friends! Blippi The Musical brings the loveable character Blippi off the screen through world-class production, audience engagement and amazing music. Children across the world have quickly taken to Blippi's charismatic personality and innovative teaching lessons. In the

live show they will continue to learn about the world around them while singing and dancing along with this one of a kind show. In just a few years since his inception, Blippi has become a global sensation with over 34 million YouTube subscribers and one billion views per month. Blippi is also available on some of the largest premium streaming services such as Hulu, Amazon Prime, Roku, Virgin Media and Kidoodle.

For more information including the full tour schedule, visit <https://blippithemusical.com>

Ticket Information:  
**What:** Blippi The Musical  
**When:** Wed., Feb. 23, 2022 at 6 PM  
**Where:** Old National Events Plaza, Aiken Theatre

**Tickets:** Tickets start at \$28 plus applicable fees and tax (for any guest 2 years plus)

VIP add-ons available – take a photo with Blippi and one of his favorite machines!

Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.com or the Old National Events Plaza Box Office.

For more information about the Aiken Theatre, visit: [www.oldnationaleventsplaza.com](http://www.oldnationaleventsplaza.com).

**About Round Room Live, an Entertainment One Company**  
Round Room Live is a producer and promoter of live entertainment, that specializes in transforming both new and iconic intellectual property into engaging and thrilling live events. Round Room creates unique

live experiences tailored to the distinct character of each property and produces the highest quality productions for audiences around the world.

Their current roster of touring theatrical shows includes: Baby Shark Live!, Blippi The Musical, Peppa Pig Live, and PJ Masks Live! Save the Day. Round Room's Immersive and Entertainment Experiences division is currently touring: Jurassic World: The Exhibition, Mandela: The Official Exhibition and Tupac Shakur. Wake Me When I'm Free – set to launch in Los Angeles in January 2022. In February 2018, Entertainment One acquired a majority position in Round Room Live. Entertainment One is now a division of Hasbro.

## Rock band Kansas to play at Evansville Victory Theatre

DECEMBER 2021

**NASHVILLE, TN** - America's preeminent progressive rock band, KANSAS, will be wrapping up their popular Point of Know Return Anniversary Tour in the United States with one final leg during the winter and spring of 2022 including a stop in Evansville at the Victory Theatre on February 3, 2022. Originally launched as a celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the massive hit album Point of Know Return, the band will be performing the album in its entirety. The tour show-

cases classic KANSAS music including hit songs, deep cuts, fan favorites, and will include selections from the band's latest studio album The Absence of Presence.

Tickets and KANSAS Premium Seat & Merchandise Packages for the most newly announced Point of Know Return tour dates go on sale Friday, October 8, 2021, at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) and the Ford Center Box Office. Point of Know Return dates rescheduled from 2020 are already on sale. Ticket information can be found at

[www.kansasband.com](http://www.kansasband.com).

The KANSAS: Point of Know Return Anniversary Tour premiered on September 28, 2018, in Atlanta, GA. Earlier legs of the Point of Know Return Anniversary Tour have been commemorated with the live album release Point of Know Return Live & Beyond. The live album was released May 28, 2021, by Inside Out Music. Point of Know Return Live & Beyond is available here: <https://kansas.lnk.to/PointofKnowReturn-LiveBeyond>.

In 1977, KANSAS followed up the success of Leftoverture by releasing the album Point of Know Return. Containing the smash hit and million-selling single "Dust in the Wind," along with fan favorites such as "Portrait (He Knew)," "Closet Chronicles," and "Paradox," Point of Know Return became the band's greatest selling studio album. The album peaked at #4 on Billboard's Album charts, reached sextuple-platinum status with more than six million copies sold, and had three Billboard Hot 100 singles.

"We were in the final legs of the latest Point of Know Return Tour in the United States and Europe when COVID halted touring around the world," commented KANSAS drummer and original member Phil Ehart. "With so many Point of Know Return dates needing to be rescheduled from 2020 into 2021 and 2022, it made sense to extend the tour into more cities

in the United States during that time period. When it is all said and done, this tour will have spanned nearly 150 dates and a live album. Next, we look toward KANSAS's 50th Anniversary!"

Throughout the tour, live shows not only culminate with the album Point of Know Return performed in its entirety, but KANSAS also performs classic hits, deep cuts, and fan favorites. In some cases, the band even puts a new spin on a KANSAS classic. The tour will also include select songs from the band's critically acclaimed 2020 studio album The Absence of Presence. The KANSAS musical event has songs for every type of KANSAS fan.

KANSAS is currently comprised of original drummer Phil Ehart, bassist/vocalist Billy Greer, vocalist/keyboardist Ronnie Platt, violinist/guitarist David Ragsdale, keyboardist/vocalist Tom Brislin, and original guitarist Richard Williams. Originally formed in 1973 in Topeka, KS, the band's documentary film KANSAS: Miracles Out of Nowhere is currently being broadcast on AXSTV. KANSAS has released 16 studio albums, including its most recent releases The Prelude Implicit (2016) and The Absence of Presence (2020). With no signs of slowing down, KANSAS continues to 'carry on,' performing in front of large and enthusiastic audiences around the world.



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THIS FULL-PAGE  
BALLY'S AD...**

# Entertainment

## Bally's Evansville Dec. 2021 Happenings

DECEMBER 2021

### PROMOTIONS - Open To All Bally Rewards Members Play \$500 On Us!

Come in between December 1-31 and we'll refund slot losses from \$20-\$500 in future rewards. We will mail your future rewards, split between four separate offers valid February 1-28, 2022. The offer applies to slot loss only, excludes video poker and electronic table games. Free play is not included in the loss amount. Loss amounts are split into \$5 increments.

### This Play \$500 On Us! offer is by invitation only and not for the public.

### 26th Annual Charity Toy Drive Benefitting the Salvation Army December 1-10, 2021

Guests can bring in a toy valued at \$10 or more to the Bally's Evansville Hotel Front Desk from 8 AM - 10 PM CT in exchange for a \$10 Free Slot Play. Customers will receive a voucher to be redeemed at the Players Club. This offer is limited to a maximum of \$50 Free Slot Play per player during the promotion. Free Slot Play will be valid for 48 hours.

### Holiday Scratch & Win December 10-12, 2021

Invited Club Members will receive a mailer advising them to bring their scratch card to the Bally's Evansville Executive Conference Center Mezzanine, Level 2, to see what they have won. Each scratch-off is a winner.

### New Year's Eve 2022 Celebration December 31, 2021

Invited Bally Rewards members will celebrate New Year's Eve with dinner in the Bally's Evansville Executive Conference Center, Walnut Rooms A, and B. There will be 2 seating times at 5 PM and 7:30 PM with a maximum capacity of 500 guests per seating. Legend members will celebrate New Year's Eve at Cavanaugh's On the River, by invitation only. Dinner times will be from 4:30

PM to 10 PM with live music at Cavanaugh's Piano Bar by Matt Clark and Patrick Preston. The Hootz and The Bicho Brothers will provide live entertainment on the sportsbook stage, from 8 PM - 1 AM CT. Party favors will be available for all guests while supplies last.

### \$3 Million New Year's Day Drawing January 1, 2022

Guests earn entries by playing casino games from 6 AM on December 30 - 8 PM on Saturday, January 1. Guests check-in at any promotional kiosk between 6 PM - 8 PM. Drawings for Free Slot Play prizes up to \$1,000. Three guests will each play for a chance to win \$10,000, \$20,000, or a \$1 Million cash prize. Drawings start at 8:15 PM from the Players Club. Must be present to win.

### Gift Giveaways

Invited Bally Rewards members receive a Free Gift or Bonus Free Slot Play.

- Gift Give-A-Way (Sound Bar) - Wed., Dec. 1
- Gift Give-A-Way (Choice of Gas, Walmart or Amazon Gift Card) - Thurs., Dec. 2
- Gift Give-A-Way (Choice of Gas, Walmart or Amazon Gift Card) - Frid., Dec. 3
- Gift Give-A-Way (Weighted Blanket) - Sat., Dec. 4
- Gift Give-A-Way (Outlet Tower) - Wed., Dec. 8
- Gift Give-A-Way (Cross Body Purse) - Wed., Dec. 15
- Gift Give-A-Way (Choice of Gas, Walmart or Amazon Gift Card) - Thurs., Dec. 16
- Gift Give-A-Way (Choice of Gas, Walmart or Amazon Gift Card) - Fri., Dec. 17
- Gift Give-A-Way (Smart Home Doorbell Camera) - Sat., Dec. 18
- Gift Give-A-Way (Food Processor) - Sun., Dec. 19
- Gift Give-A-Way (Emergency Floodlight) - Wed., Dec. 22
- Gift Give-A-Way (Air Compressor) - Wed., Dec. 29

**Monthly Email Drawing**  
Bally Rewards members submit

their email addresses to enter a monthly drawing for \$1,000 Bonus Free Slot Play.

### Football Pick'em Now - January 9, 2022

This promotion will run through the 17 regular season professional football weeks. Guests will complete a Pick'em card to enter for a chance to win bonus slot play prizes.

Prize Awards: First Place = \$50 Bonus Slot Play, Second Place - Fifth Place = \$25 Bonus Slot Play, Sixth Place - Tenth Place = \$10 Bonus Slot Play

### LEGENDARY CELEBRATION

Legend Club Members receive complimentary appetizers and alcohol each Friday from 5 PM-9 PM at Cavanaugh's On the River.

### PREMIUM WEEKEND PARTY

Legend Club Members receive complimentary drinks from 7 PM-12 AM at the High Limit Bar on Fridays and Saturdays.

### FOOD SPECIALS

#### Tap House Burger of the Month

Caprese Burger - Seasoned burger with fresh mozzarella, pesto, roasted tomatoes, and balsamic glaze. \$13.00

#### Tap House Beer of the Month

North Coast Brewing Co. Scrimshaw - A fresh-tasting pilsner that has a subtle hop character and a crisp, clean finish. This pilsner is light and doesn't overwhelm the fresh mozzarella or get lost in the balsamic glaze. \$4.50 Pint

#### New Year's Eve Casino Drink Special

Champagne is offered between 11 PM-midnight. \$2 Ea.

### ENTERTAINMENT

**THE PIANO BAR AT CAVANAUGH'S** - The casual upscale atmosphere of the Piano Bar at Cavanaugh's On the River is the ideal place to enjoy live regional entertainment.

DECEMBER 2 - Andrea Wirth  
DECEMBER 3 - Matt Clark  
DECEMBER 4 - Bob Green



DECEMBER 9 - Andrea Wirth  
DECEMBER 10 - Bob Green  
DECEMBER 11 - Matt Clark  
DECEMBER 16 - Andrea Wirth  
DECEMBER 17 - Matt Clark  
DECEMBER 18 - Bob Green  
DECEMBER 23 - Andrea Wirth  
DECEMBER 24 - Bob Green  
DECEMBER 25 - Bob Ballard  
DECEMBER 30 - Andrea Wirth  
DECEMBER 31 - Matt Clark / Patrick Preston

### About Bally's Evansville

Bally's Evansville is a multi-million-dollar entertainment complex located on the scenic banks of the Ohio River in southwestern Indiana. The single-level casino encompasses 45,000 square feet of gaming space featuring over 1,100 slot games, over 30 live and electronic table games, and a High Limit Room. Accommodations include a 243-room hotel tower and a 95-room boutique hotel. The property also includes a sportsbook, three dining options, three bars, a conference center, a riverfront event center, and a 1,660-vehicle attached parking garage

### About Bally's Corporation

Bally's Corporation is a global casino-entertainment company with a growing omnichannel presence of online sports betting and iGaming offerings. It currently owns and manages 14 casinos across 10 states, a horse racetrack in Colorado, and has access to OSB licenses in 15 states. It also owns Gamesys Group plc, a leading, global, online gaming operator, Bally Interactive, a first-in-class B2B2C sports betting platform, Monkey Knife Fight, the fastest growing daily fantasy sports site in North America, SportCaller, a leading, global B2B free-to-play game provider, and Telescope Inc., a leading provider of real-time fan engagement solutions.

## Zach Williams Tour stops at Old National Events Plaza March 24, 2022 With special guest Anne Wilson

DECEMBER 2021

**EVANSVILLE** - GRAMMY® Award winner Zach Williams and special guest Anne Wilson just announced plans for a thirty-five show tour that will stop in Evansville on March 24. Williams has become one of CCM's leading artists and songwriters by carving a niche with his singular blend of southern rock, country, and faith-filled songwriting, which quickly earned him his first GRAMMY Award® with his debut album, 2017's Chain Breaker. With two additional GRAMMY nods among numerous other accolades, he now returns to the stage to share

his boldly vulnerable and hope-filled sophomore album, aptly titled Rescue Story.

"One of the best parts of my job is getting to travel around the country - worshipping with a new room full of people each and every night," Says Zach Williams. "I can't remember a time in my lifetime when it was more needed than right now. This spring, I am honored to be able to hit the road with my good friend Anne Wilson and bring a great show, a great message, and a great lineup to so many cities around the States."

Lexington, KY native Anne

Wilson is a singer/songwriter whose introductory track, "My Jesus," which she co-wrote with Jeff Pardo and Matthew West, is a warm invitation to experience her Savior in the same intimate way she knows Him. She's currently working on a debut three-track single, also titled My Jesus, for Capitol Christian Music Group. Wilson will begin touring with Williams over the holiday season and through the spring.

Tickets for the tour will go on sale starting today. Fans and AE Insiders can take advantage of a 20% discount on tickets when they purchase by November 14th



by using code INSIDER. For details and tickets please visit [www.awakeningevents.com](http://www.awakeningevents.com) or [www.zachwilliamsmusic.com](http://www.zachwilliamsmusic.com).



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# Danks, Danks, Danks & Danks

-continued from page 1

as family law. Scott practices in other areas as well but most of all takes on cases that keep him in the courtroom. Scott loves to litigate and says that even after more than 30 years of practice, there's never been a day that he doesn't look forward to going to work.

Brandon relayed that he was inspired to become a lawyer by watching his dad. Brandon said that his dad loved going to work, and he never complained about it once stating, "you'll never hear him complain a day in his life, he loves the job." Brandon was inspired by his father's passion for the job, the life being an attorney afforded him, and that his father's career was all about helping others.

Jonathan Danks primarily practices criminal defense and family law. Jonathan remembers playing hooky as a kid so that he could go to work with his dad. Jonathan knew from a young age that the practice of law was something he wanted to explore. While in college, Jonathan worked as an intern in the Vanderburgh Circuit Court with Judge Kiely. Jonathan described his time as an intern with Judge Kiely as, "one of the most impactful experiences of my life." The internship was the first time he was able to observe entire jury trials and see how the courts worked day in and day out. Following his internship, he knew that practicing law was really what he wanted to do. Asked what aspects of the internship left an impression, Jonathan recalled something his father would often say, "Lawyers respect other lawyers, we look out for each other, and you'll find that other attorneys are some of the most fun and interesting people you'll ever meet." Jonathan stated that after seeing for himself how attorneys, judges, and court staff interacted, that this was absolutely true. Asked what aspect of the law Jonathan enjoyed most, Jonathan responded that he loves taking on the most challenging cases, and that nothing feels better than winning the impossible case and getting his clients results that matter.

Andrew Pittman became a lawyer to make a difference and help others. His brother is also an attorney practicing in Indianapolis. Andrew attended the Indiana University Maurer School of Law in Bloomington but would return to Evansville during the summers for internships. He discovered that the Evansville legal community provided a great atmosphere in which to practice. Andrew has now been in litigation for ten years and has gained plenty of experience in front of a jury. He practices primarily in the areas of criminal defense and personal injury law.

Rick Cory grew up on a farm in northern Indiana. After nearly 40 years of practicing exclusively in personal injury law, Rick still works from sunup to passed sundown on nearly a daily basis. Rick was always told by his family members that "you should be a lawyer." Apparently, they were right. Rick likes to think this was due to their awareness of his keen intellect, but they would say it was due to his persistent stubbornness. Rick is a graduate of the Valparaiso University School of Law.

The attorneys said that even though each of the attorneys dedicate their practice to specific areas of law, that they often consult with one another

## Evansville Police Department maintains national accreditation by CALEA

-continued from page 1

reviewed goes before CALEA's 21-member Board of Commissioners where the commission reviews all findings and determines the agencies' accreditation status.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the usual CALEA Conference, where agencies are formally reviewed and awarded in person, was taken online to a virtual format. On Friday, November 19, 2021, the CALEA Commission voted to approve the reaccreditation of the Evansville Police Department. CALEA President Anthony Purcell and Executive Director W. Craig Hartley, Jr. will formally award the Evansville Police Department with accreditation, signifying excellence in public safety and commitment to the community. This is the Evansville Police Department's 9th award of national accreditation.

In 1979, the Commission was created through the combined efforts of four major law enforcement organizations; the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the Police Executive Research Forum.

The purpose of the Commission is to develop standards based on international best practices in public safety and to establish and administer the accreditation process. The accreditation process is how a public safety agency voluntarily demonstrates how it meets professionally recognized criteria for excellence in management and service delivery.

"This award of accreditation does not come easy," said CALEA President Anthony Purcell, Chief of Police, the University of Alabama at Birmingham Police Department. "Agencies must go through a rigorous review and evaluation of their organization and then implement the necessary policy and procedure changes. The process does not stop at that point. By voluntarily choosing to seek CALEA accreditation, the agency commits to an ongoing review of adherence to CALEA's standards. Each community with CALEA accredited agencies should feel confident that their public safety organization is going above and beyond and operating under the highest standards in public safety."

### About CALEA

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., (CALEA®) was created in 1979 as a credentialing authority through the joint efforts of law enforcement's major executive associations: International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); National Sheriffs' Association (NSA); and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF).

The purpose of CALEA's Accreditation Programs is to improve the delivery of public safety services, primarily by: maintaining a body of standards, developed by public safety practitioners, covering a wide range of up-to-date public safety initiatives; establishing and administering an accreditation process; and recognizing professional excellence.

Specifically, CALEA's goals are to: Strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities; Formalize essential management procedures; Establish fair and nondiscriminatory personnel practices; Improve service delivery; Solidify interagency cooperation and coordination; and Increase community and staff confidence in the agency.

The CALEA Accreditation Process is a proven modern management model; once implemented, it presents the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), on a continuing basis, with a blueprint that promotes the efficient use of resources and improves service delivery—regardless of the size, geographic location, or functional responsibilities of the agency.

This accreditation program provides public safety agencies an opportunity to voluntarily demonstrate that they meet an established set of professional standards based on industry best practices and approved by an all-volunteer board of commissioners.

on the law, trial strategies, and how to handle tough cases. This team-based approach means that whether someone is injured, faces criminal charges, needs help with a divorce or child custody matter, or gets involved in business litigation, the attorneys at Danks & Danks have the experience and skills to handle each type of case, and deliver results that count.

Danks & Danks has traditionally taken criminal defense, family law, and personal injury cases for most of the firm's history. The next generation of Danks attorneys said that despite the firm's current success, they had even bigger plans for the future.

Brandon Danks took an early interest in business law and has in short time built a thriving business litigation practice. Jonathan Danks is the first attorney in the firm to become licensed to practice law in Kentucky and has expanded his criminal defense and family law practice to cover Henderson, Owensboro, and Morganfield, Kentucky. Andrew Pittman has expanded the personal injury practice. When asked if Covid-19 has affected their plans for the future, they responded that each of the attorneys have very heavy caseloads. Business slowed down for a short period of time when the Covid pandemic hit, and the local courts closed, but a huge surge of people needing representation due to pent up demand followed.

Scott Danks has always been in high demand. Prior to Brandon, Jonathan, and Andrew joining the firm, he could only take on about forty percent of the people who wanted to hire him. With Jonathan, Brandon, and Andrew joining the firm, Scott has lessened his case load somewhat. The three new attorneys have proven to be highly competent, likable, and are in high demand. Mike, Scott, and Rick always wanted to maintain a small law firm and had little interest in bringing in additional attorneys. It looks like the younger guys may have different ideas.

## The EVSC Foundation and Public Education announce merger

-continued from page 1

education community for years, and look forward to pursuing this mission together moving forward.

PEF has been a public education pillar in Evansville for over 36 years and a leader in student-centered programs like the Summer Musical, House Project, and Technology Showcase, as well as educator grants.

The EVSC Foundation was established in 2008 to support Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation students and educators. It has grown to fund a variety of initiatives like educator innovation grants, whole child student development programs, school assistance funds, and Hangers, a clothing resource for EVSC students.

Kate Reibel, PEF's Executive Director, agrees that the partnership will benefit the community. "We believe it is in the best interest of the youth and educators in our community for these two organizations to come together to inspire and cultivate high-quality, innovative education and extraordinary learning experiences. We plan to honor all of our existing programs and relationships through the transition," she said.

Relationships with donors, current programs, and funding for educators will be thoroughly respected during the transition. The organization will bring together existing educator grant opportunities into a streamlined program and ensure educators get similar opportunities to apply for funds.

"This is an exciting time to partner and build on the strong legacy of both organizations. I look forward to new possibilities and strategic opportunities to enhance public education in Evansville as we work together," said Elisabet Sena-Martin, EVSC Foundation President.

**FOOTNOTE: To learn more about the EVSC Foundation and PEF coming together, please visit <https://evscfoundation.org/>. You can also contact us directly at [info@evscfoundation.org](mailto:info@evscfoundation.org) or (812) 435-0913.**

## 28th Annual "Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights"

-continued from page 1

Bright Lights 5K/1-mile community walk returns this year on Wednesday, Dec. 1. Race and registration information can be found at <https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/Evansville/BrightLights5K>.

The Polar Bear Express will also return this year on Tuesdays leading up to Christmas! Sponsored by Jim Back, CFP, Edward Jones, the Polar Bear Express is \$5 per person and allows riders to experience Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights with Santa as he tells stories about the displays.

More details on Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights are available at [bidpal.net/ritzysfol21](http://bidpal.net/ritzysfol21), or [EastersealsRehabCenter.com](http://EastersealsRehabCenter.com) and [EastersealsRehabCtr.com](http://EastersealsRehabCtr.com) on social media.

**FOOTNOTE: Major sponsors are Ritzy's, IBEW Local 16, NECA, Teamsters Local 215, Electrical JATC, International Union of Painters & Allied Trades (IUPAT) DC 91, Kenny Kent Chevrolet, ABC 25 / CW 7, Evansville Living, Tools 4 Teaching, 104.1 WIKY, HOT96, 93.5 The Lloyd, and 107.5 WABX. Special thanks to the Evansville Department of Parks & Recreation for their continued support of Ritzy's Fantasy of Lights in Garvin Park.**



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