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Visit Evansville Names Berggren CEO

JANUARY, 2022
 EVANSVILLE, IN—Visit Evansville is excited to announce the hiring of Alexis Berggren as incoming President and CEO. A nationwide search guided by our local "Visit Evansville" Commission was conducted in recruiting Berggren. Joe Kiefer, II, the Visit Evansville Commission President stated, "We were encouraged that through the national search process we were able to conclude on a local hire with whom we have



Alexis Berggren

years of experience. Alexis has served on the commission for many years and ran the Old National Events Plaza for nearly 5 years. Alexis's experience, leadership, and tenure in the industry are exemplary. "Visit Evansville" has seen our region's occupancy and room rates grow over the last decade with a keen focus on youth sports, including investments at Deaconess Sports Park and Goebel Soccer Complex. With the nearing completion of I-69 and recent Dea-

coness Sports Park synthetic turf investments, the youth sports business, and convention businesses are poised to continue growing. Berggren's vision, existing community relationships and fiscal responsibility makes her well-suited for this new role. We are confident that Alexis will bring the energy, skills, and knowledge necessary to keep our momentum moving forward for years to come. We look forward to Alexis leading our team, with an anticipated start date of January 18, 2022."

Berggren is an Evansville resident with extensive prior managerial experience in the Council Bluffs, Portland, Los Angeles, and New Orleans markets, as well as with the Old National Events Plaza in Evansville. Berggren is well known in the industry and has been active with many management and development associations. She has exhibited skills in building consensus with a collaborative environment and she thrives on leading teams to find innovative solutions and



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McNamara Authors Bill To Protect Young Human Trafficking Victims

JANUARY, 2022
 State Rep. Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville) in the 2022 legislative session will continue her fight to protect young human trafficking victims and strengthen criminal penalties against perpetrators.



State Rep. Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville)

McNamara, chair of the House Courts and Criminal Code Committee, authored a bill to allow young victims to provide recorded video statements instead of physically testifying in a courtroom where they are forced to relive past trauma. McNamara said this change would not only help protect young victims but also remove an emotional hurdle so that more children are willing to testify against their perpetrators. "Thanks to technology, we can take this step on behalf of young victims who deserve justice and room to heal," McNamara said. "This commonsense approach will encourage more victims to testify and ultimately put more traffickers behind bars. In Indiana, we will

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IU President Pamela Whitten, left, with Bill and Mary Stone

Evansville Natives Give \$34.2 Million to Indiana University Medical School Gift Will Establish Child And Adolescent Psychiatry Center

JANUARY, 2022
 EVANSVILLE—A pair of Evansville natives are building on their continued support of health sciences in southwestern Indiana with a major gift to Indiana University School of Medicine. William C. and Mary R. (O'Daniel) Stone announced a \$34.2 million gift to establish the Mary O'Daniel Stone and Bill Stone Center for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at IU School of Medicine—Evansville. The center will seek to fundamentally alter and improve the standard of care for people with bipolar disorder, and dramatically increase access to psychiatric care for the children and adolescent youth of southwestern Indiana. This gift, one of the largest in IU School of Medicine history, follows the 2018 gift of \$15 million the Stones made toward a multi-institutional health sciences collaboration between the University of Evansville, the University of Southern Indiana, and Indiana University. "As natives, we are committed to

Evansville's growth. The key to quality growth is a healthy populace. Mental health is one of the least understood maladies, is often debilitating to individuals, and very difficult for families and communities," said Bill Stone. "This center will allow researchers to make Evansville a center of groundbreaking scientific discovery, while simultaneously training physicians to address the communities' very real needs." The new center will endow three

new chairs and has a fund to support six additional child and adolescent psychiatrists/fellowships—a dramatic infusion for southwestern Indiana, where several counties are without any psychiatric providers. Even in Evansville, this would nearly triple the number of child psychiatrists—improving access, enabling earlier diagnosis and allowing for quicker treatment. The psychiatrists will also be conducting research at the center, with

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Commentary

CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER ENCOURAGES YOU TO SUPPORT THE "REALLY BIG SHOW"

2022 MARKS THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHOW; TICKETS ON SALE NOW

January 2022

The Arc of Evansville will host The Really Big Show with a Roaring 20's theme for its' 20th Anniversary year on February 12, 2022. Returning hosts Jeff Lyons, Chief Meteorologist for 14News, and Marc Scott unveiled the theme during a press event this week. A link to the full press event is now available.

The Really Big Show is a one-of-a-kind event for the whole family, featuring a variety of acts performed by community members and local household names. The Roaring 20's anniversary show will highlight Gina Moore, the Children's Choir of Evansville, the Central High School Choir, Newburgh's own Little Dam Band, plus many more.

Before commencing ticket sales by purchasing the first seats, Evansville's Mayor, Lloyd Winnecke, announced he will once again take the stage as part of the performance. "We are blessed to have so many wonderful organizations in our community. This is not only a really big show, but it's a

really great show and always fun to participate in. I don't know what I'll be asked to do for the February 12th show, but I'll be ready to do it because it supports a wonderful organization,"

Winnecke noted during the press conference.

Guests will enjoy scores of live entertainment acts during The Really Big Show and will also get a glimpse of the incredible work The Arc of Evansville provides. A post-event reception offers themed cuisine and beverage, along with a silent auction and continued fun.

Community partners include Old National Bank, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana Bussing- Koch Foundation, Inc., Shoe Carnival, Atlas World Group, Inc., BKD CPAs & Advisors, Harding Shymanski & Company, Tri-State Fire Protection, VFW 1114 Auxiliary, Warehouse Services, Inc., Alpha Laser and Imaging LLC, Anchor Industries, INC, Baird Private Wealth Management, Felts Lock & Alarm CO., INC, Happe & Sons Construction, Inc., IBEW Local 16, Margaret Boarman, Woodward Commercial Realty,



Event Information

What: The Really Big Show
When: February 12, 2022 at 7:00 PM
Where: Old National Events Plaza, Aiken Theatre Atrium
Tickets: Tickets are \$25.00 available at the Old National Events Plaza box office or at Ticketmaster.com.

May Your Days Be filled With Joy!

By **MARIE WILLIAMS**
 JANUARY 2022

Early in the morning on December 20, 2018, I sent my son a text message wishing him a happy birthday. Little did I know that when he responded, he was in the Charlotte airport waiting for a connecting flight to Evansville. He wished me a happy last day of work before my retirement and said he hoped I could reflect on the joy that my 40+ year



career in Catholic education had brought me. Later that day he surprised me in person when he appeared at the school gathering to wish me well – a special gift my daughter had arranged.

That day and many days since my son and I have discussed the difference between happiness and Joy. We agree that happiness is temporary and circumstantial. Joy comes from deep faith and is experienced even in the darkest of times. Joy persists because faith, hope, and love are everlasting. If we did not love, we would not feel the pain. But Love prevails. And Faith and Joy prevail.

The holidays bring a mix of thoughts and emotions to most people. They are often a happy time. But for many people, the holidays are filled with emptiness and pain. The older one grows, the greater the mix of emotions, because of the greater likelihood that difficulties have been experienced. I know many people

who have experienced great hardships and yet are filled with joy. One of these, in particular, lost a sibling who was very close in age and relationship at Thanksgiving time. She

has survived the loss of other loved ones, job losses, encephalitis, brain surgery, and cancer. Yet she is one of the most joy-filled persons I have ever known. One of my dearest classmates has spent this holiday time in hospice care, yet she too is one of the most joy-filled individuals I have had the privilege to know.

This year my daughter and I flew to Orlando early in December to celebrate my son's birthday and Christmas. Every seat was filled on the 6:20 a.m. flight from Indianapolis. A family of five was the last group to board. The mother and children were seated together in the back, and the dad took the middle seat next to me near the front. He seemed very stressed. I rarely talk to strangers on planes, but I thought this man needed a smile and some kind words. I asked if his wife and the children were seated together. He said, "Yes, but my wife is going to have a difficult flight. We were late because it took so long to clear my son's medications through security. We are on a WISH trip. My son beat cancer, but some of his organs have failed and he needs transplants." I told him I was so sorry to hear that. My heart ached, but I told him that my

niece had been on a WISH trip to Disney and it was a wonderful experience. I shared many of the blessings that my sister had shared with me more than 10 years ago.

When the pilot came on to tell us a radio was not working, and that we needed to wait and might even have to change planes, this courageous father told me that he had never flown before. About twenty minutes later we were cleared for take-off, and we were on our way.

As we neared the end of the flight, I told my seatmate that I would pray for him and his family. He thanked me and then paused. "The name is, Carl," he said. I assured him of

my prayers, and I am still praying. I am confident this family had a happy time at Disney World and I am deeply grateful. My prayers for them are that their Love and Faith will sustain them with Joy in the difficult times ahead.

Lessons from many loved ones, renewed by conversations with my son and seatmate, have caused me to often reflect on the difference between happiness and joy—especially this year. The Christmas season gives us the opportunity to renew our love for family and friends and to reflect on the true joy of the season. Happy holidays are transient, but Love, Faith, Joy and Christmas are everlasting.

"The time is always right to do what is right."
 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 1965 commencement address at Oberlin College

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Community

Football Pick 'Em, \$20,000 Jackpot Party Highlight Bally's January Member Activities

January 2022

(OPEN TO QUALIFIED BALLY REWARDS MEMBERS)

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

GIFT GIVEAWAYS

(Invited Bally Rewards Members To Receive A Free Gift Or Bonus Free Slot Play)

Wednesday, January 5: Hand Mixer

Thursday, January 6: Choice of Marathon, Walmart, Amazon, Texas Roadhouse, Macy's, VISA Gift Card

Saturday, January 8: Sunbeam Heating Pad

Wednesday, January 12: 10-Piece Glass Food Storage Set

Thursday, January 13: Choice of Marathon, Walmart, Amazon, Texas Roadhouse, Macy's, VISA Gift Card

Saturday, January 15: Choice of Marathon, Walmart, Amazon, Texas Roadhouse, Macy's, VISA Gift Card

Wednesday, January 19: Bamboo Cheese Board Platter

Thursday, January 20: Choice of Marathon, Walmart, Amazon, Texas Roadhouse, Macy's, VISA Gift Card

Saturday, January 22: Elite Gourmet Panini Press

Wednesday, January 26: 3-Piece Glass Bakeware Set

Thursday, January 27: Choice of Marathon, Walmart, Amazon, Texas Roadhouse, Macy's, VISA Gift Card

JACKPOT

BONUS OFFER

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, January 7, 8 & 9, 2022

Grand Earning Sunday – January 16 from 6 AM – 10 PM.

Guests earn points for bonus slot play. 100 points earned = \$5 bonus slot play, 250 points earned = an additional \$5, all the way up to 10,000 points earned = an additional \$100 bonus slot play. Club members go to the Players Club to check point balances and receive free play rewards between 10 AM – 10 PM CT.

\$20,000 Jackpot Party – Friday, January 21

During the month of January, hand-pay jackpot winners will receive an invitation with a drawing entry. Entries are to be deposited into a drawing bin, located at the Players Club, between 6 AM – 8 PM on January 21. Five names will be drawn every half hour from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM. Each winner receives \$1,000 in Free Slot Play.

Bad Beat Drawings –

Saturdays, January 22 & 29

Invited Poker Players will check in at a promotional kiosk on Saturday drawing dates between 12:30 PM –

2:30 PM and again from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM to receive one entry into the Bad Beat Drawings. Guests must have had rated poker play between September 2019 and March 2020 to qualify. A total of \$25,000 will be awarded each drawing time from the prior Bad Beat Poker Jackpot funds. Drawings at 3 PM & 8 PM each drawing day. Drawings are announced from the Players Club and winners must be present to win.

Winter Riches Scratch & Win

Friday & Saturday, January 28 & 29, from 2 PM – 8 PM 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 reveal their free play or cash prize, up to \$20,000. Each scratch-off is a winner.

Monthly Email Drawing – Bally Rewards members submit their email addresses to enter a monthly drawing for \$1,000 Bonus Free 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 New Year's Day Menu served from 8 AM-10 AM CT

Guests can enjoy breakfast selections on New Year's Day, including

French Toast (\$10), Oatmeal (\$6), Veggie Omelet (\$14), Ham & Cheese Omelet (\$14), Biscuits and Gravy (\$9), Two Egg Breakfast (\$13).

Tap House Burger of the Month - \$13.00

Chipotle Veggie Burger - A Chipotle Black Bean burger patty served on a toasted brioche bun with shredded lettuce, Pico de Gallo, guacamole, cheddar and pepper jack cheeses, and chipotle ranch.

Tap House Beer of the Month - \$4.50/Pint

Samuel Adams Winter Lager - This dark wheat lager of sweet, roasted malt pairs beautifully with the earthiness of the Black Bean Burger. The wintry mix of spices in the beer tames the spicy, southwestern flavors of the burger to create a perfect combination.

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.

JANUARY 6 – Andrea Wirth

JANUARY 7 – Bob Green

JANUARY 8 – Bob Green

JANUARY 13 – Andrea Wirth

JANUARY 14 – Matt Clark

JANUARY 15 – Matt Clark

JANUARY 20 – Andrea Wirth

JANUARY 21 – Matt Clark

JANUARY 22 – Bob Green

JANUARY 27 – Andrea Wirth

JANUARY 28 – Bob Green

JANUARY 29 – TBA

Avoid Donation Scams With Careful Research

January 2022

Attorney General Todd Rokita is advising Hoosiers to do careful research before donating to charities in order to avoid being scammed or having their contributions used in ways they might disapprove.

As the calendar changes from 2021 to 2022, many charities are soliciting donations in an effort to finish the year on the strong financial footing and build a solid foundation for the months ahead. Scam artists are aware of this, and they often pose as charities in order to trick prospective donors into misdirecting their gifts.

"There is something distinctly re-

pulsive about fraudsters who scheme to take advantage of Hoosiers' good-hearted generosity," Attorney General Rokita said. "Everyone should endeavor to help less fortunate neighbors and give to worthy causes. As we do that, though, we should take steps to ensure we're not padding swindlers' pockets rather than truly helping the needy."

The Indiana Attorney General works to track down, investigate

and bring to justice the criminals who perpetrate illegal scams. He works just as hard to help Hoosiers avoid becoming victims in the first place.

To that end, Attorney General Rokita offers the following tips:

- Research any charity to which you are considering donating.

- The FTC suggests searching online using the charity name plus words like "complaint," "review," or "scam." Don't be fooled by names

that sound like well-known charities.

- Be sure to ask how much of your donation will go directly to the program you want to help — and do your own research to confirm.

- Beware of charities that pop up after recent disasters.

- Make sure you are dealing with the real charitable organization. Be leery of year-end appeals from unknown or unfamiliar organizations you receive by phone, mail, email, and/or social media.

- If reached by phone, do not agree to donate money without further research into the organization.

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Community

Evansville Raises \$30,000+ On 2021 Giving Tuesday

January 2022

Evansville, IN – State Farm Insurance Agent Paul Watzlavik and his wife Holly Watzlavik today announced a second \$10,000 matching gift to the Ivy Tech Evansville Foundation for 2022 Giving Tuesday campaign, challenging other donors to consider giving to Ivy Tech, and doubling their contribution through the match, said Ivy Tech Foundation Executive Director Erica Schmidt.

On this year's Nov. 30 Giving Tuesday, the Watzlaviks and State Farm Insurance provided the first \$10,000 matching gift. Dozens of donors to the college met the challenge on Nov. 30 raising \$10,191. And with another gift announced today by Dr. Frank L. Hilton, the total raised for Giving Tuesday 2021 stands at \$30,091. Hilton's gift has been designated for nursing and health science students.

Today, the Watzlaviks, State Farm Insurance, and Cody Layson, an intern for the company and an Ivy Tech student, presented the \$10,000 matching monies to the



(image L-R) Ivy Tech Chancellor Daniela Vidal, Dr. Frank Hilton, Ivy Tech Student and State Farm Intern Cody Layson, Holly and Paul Watzlavik, State Farm Insurance, Vanessa Fritz, and Ivy Tech Foundation staff Nathan Jochum, Liesl Disch, and Erica Schmidt.

Ivy Tech Foundation to be used for the greatest needs of students.

Watzlavik said the reason he and his wife and State Farm wanted to provide the matching gift was to make certain that everyday pressures and obstacles students face to completing their degree can be reduced or removed. "When we

started supporting Ivy Tech, we started with a scholarship and we saw firsthand the difference we were making," Paul said. "But after learning more about additional needs of students like transportation, maybe even help with bills, and then better understanding how quickly technology and

teaching methods are changing, we wanted to create an endowment that supported the college's most pressing needs – which could be any one of those things or all of those things in that particular year. An endowment is truly an investment in the good work happening at Ivy Tech."

Toyota Trinity Stormwater Park Enters Next Phase, Title & Sponsor

January 2022

Community partners announced the title sponsor and launch of the next phase of the Toyota Trinity Stormwater Park Project.

The next phase of the project involves the installation of the stormwater storage facility and water line replacement, along with the development of urban park space.

The park is being developed as a collaborative effort between the City of Evansville, Evansville Water

and Sewer Utility, the University of Evansville (UE) Center for Innovation & Change, and Toyota.

"This is a testament to our community's collaborative spirit," said Mayor Lloyd Winnecke. "Our schools, water utility, businesses, architects, and designers came together to provide a unique, sustainable solution to improve our city's infrastructure and quality of life."

Over the past four years, UE student Robert Lopez has taken lead

on the project, working with several community partners both as a high school student and now through a college ChangeLab course.

Lopez and classmate, Caro Haynie, pitched the project during UE's High School Changemaker Challenge when they were juniors at Bosse High School.

"Working on this park has been nothing short of a life-changing experience," Lopez said. "Starting

as a junior in high school, I've been able to take this idea from sketches on a whiteboard to presenting a virtual 3D walk-through to the Mayor, and UE's Center has been there the whole way. Without this project and the amazing team at the Center, I wouldn't be who I am or where I am today. I only hope that someday I can inspire someone the way they inspired me and help them change their community too."

Avoid Donation Scams With Careful Research

Continued from Page 3

• Don't assume solicitations on social media or crowdfunding sites are legitimate — or that hyperlinks are accurate — even in posts shared or liked by your friends. Contact your friends offline and request information about links they share.

• It is generally safer to donate as part of a longstanding familiar relationship with a charitable cause than to respond to out-of-the-blue

solicitations.

• When donating online, use a browser to navigate to a reputable charity's verified website — and donate there rather than through a third party or "middleman" collectors, who often skim off a sizeable portion of donations even if they are legitimate.

• Legitimate, secure donation websites should begin with "https" (or feature a lock icon) rather than just "http."

• Take your time and don't overshare. Do not share personal information or financial information in response to unsolicited emails, texts or phone calls.

• Never feel rushed to donate. • Be skeptical of solicitors who try to play on your emotions through heart-rending stories or images. Remember that legitimate charities do not use pressure tactics.

• Always donate by credit card rather than cash or other methods,

to ensure you can access the protections available through your credit card company.

• Make sure you haven't signed up for a recurring donation if you didn't want one.

• Lookup a charity's report and ratings on these websites:

- CharityNavigator.org
- CharityWatch.org
- Give.org
- Guidestar.org


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Community

Evansville Native C. L. Stambush Tours Edge Of India; Shares Story In New Book

January 2022

Evansville native C. L. Stambush narrates her 5-month, 7,000-mile journey in her new book *Untethered: A Woman's Search for Self on the Edge of India – A Travel Memoir*

Never having ridden a motorcycle before, C. L. Stambush buys a Bullet motorcycle to travel the dangerous edge of India. Along the way she is reshaped as she encounters friendly families and ominous men, confronts culture clashes, hijras, and bandits, experiences monsoons, scorching deserts, and homicidal drivers, crashing her motorcycle and learning about herself as she loses her camera, her way, and her self-control—crossing lines she never imagined possible.

The suspenseful and honest prose of *Untethered* immerses readers in India's diverse culture while vividly conveying the harrowing and triumphant journey of a woman alone, in a world where women don't travel alone, discovering her true grit.

C.L. Stambush is a journalist, writer, and editor who has lived, worked, and traveled in more than 20 countries. Her work has appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Far Eastern Economic Review*, *Travelers' Tales*, as well as national and international newspapers.

She is the recipient of awards, scholarships, and residencies from Hedgebrook Writers Colony, Ropewalk Writers Retreat, Split Rock Arts Program, and Indiana University Writers' Conference, where an early chapter from this book was judged Best Creative Nonfiction by Scott Russell Sanders.

She lived in Europe, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Asia for six years, traveling by foot, train, truck, bus, boat, camel, donkey cart, and motorcycle. After returning to the United States, she was recruited to become a national motorcycle safety instructor where she trained hundreds of people (many of them women) to ride safely during her fourteen-year tenure.

C. L. Stambush Story

She grew up in southern Indiana surrounded by lush nature and vibrant women who filled her life and imagination with stories, a legacy



C.L. Stambush

that she honored to carry on.

Like many of us, her journey as a writer began with reading and writing stories as a little kid hoping to convey her feelings and connect with a larger world. She wrote her first book—bound with pink yarn and filled with images colored and cut from my books—when she was four or five. It was the story of a lost chick in search of her place in the world, and it's one she has been writing, in one form or another, her whole life.

While she writes professionally today, as the senior writer and editor for a university magazine, she has not always been fortunate enough to earn a living doing what she's passionate about. Her first job was baby-sitter, then horse-stall cleaner, waitress, drugstore clerk, grocery cashier, housecleaner, factory worker, medical proofreader, journalist, motorcycle instructor, writing professor, and a few other things she either can't recall or not telling.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT HER LIFE

- She worked on a pharmaceutical assembly line for nine years.
- She received my master's of creative nonfiction from Sarah Lawrence College, graduating summa cum laude.
- When she was 32, she sold her furniture, clothes, car, and bought a backpack and one-way ticket to Frankfurt, Germany. She didn't know how to change money, ride a train and didn't have a clue as to what she was doing.
- She traveled and lived in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia for six years—living in India for four of them.
- She rode a motorcycle—outside of ABATE of Indiana's one-week training course in Evansville, Indiana, prior to buying a Royal Enfield Bullet motorcycle and riding it solo around India.
- When she left America for Germany, she planned to be in Europe for six months to a year. She remained abroad for six years before coming home to live.
- While abroad, she traveled by foot, train, truck, bus, boat, camel, donkey cart, and motorcycle.

The City-County Observer highly recommends that you read *UNTETHERED: A Quest for Boldness Along the Edge of India*. It's a must-read.

You can purchase "UNTETHERED" in paperback for \$19.99 on Amazon Kindle. If you would like to speak to Miss Stambush personally contact her at 1-812-306-1432. You can also contact her at connie@clstambush.com.



Invested in the community

We strive to be a catalyst in the community by leveraging everyday opportunities and resources to achieve extraordinary outcomes. That's why we invest in initiatives that not only improve people's lives today, but also build a strong foundation for tomorrow.

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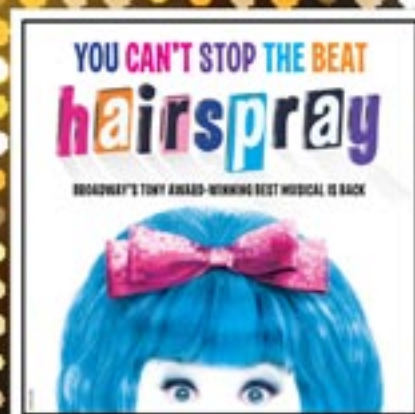
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Community

Bipolar Disorder Doesn't Define Me

Peace Zone Peer Wellness And Outreach Coordinator Shares Memoir

January 2022

By **MICHELLE MAY KRACK**
Peer Wellness And Outreach
Coordinator For The "Peace
Zone" Evansville, IN

Bipolar disorder found me at thirty-one years of age. A happily married wife of twelve years and a mother of four children ages eleven, nine, seven, and two. I have had the support of my husband, Tim, for forty-three years. Bipolar disorder was not readily discussed at the time of my diagnosis. Little did I know I would become a messenger of hope and strength for my family, some of which had similar diagnoses and substance abuse issues. My disorder does not define who I am. It is in God's plan to place me where I am today. Great faith has carried me through some of the most difficult and darkest times of my life. My family has been my staunchest support through it all.

I was blessed growing up knowing my maternal and paternal grandparents and great-grandmothers. Examples of ethical, hardworking, and diligent people, I owe my life to them and wish they could see the work I am doing now.

I grew up surrounded by beautiful woods that were my playground, in rural Posey County, Indiana. For the most part, I was a happy-go-lucky young girl. I was an average student and enjoyed art over other school work. I kept a locked diary. My writings contained the dark secret I kept growing up. There were whispers of my dad's bipolar and I learned early

how to survive the roller coaster life that was the norm with my dad. After one particularly distressing episode when I was in high school, I screamed running from the house, "I am not going to live like this!" This became the turning point for me.



Michelle May Krack

I never showed signs of the illness until the year I had many stressors including Tim almost dying from meningitis and my two-year-old being badly burned. This helped tip the scale that brought on the bipolar. There were sleepless nights. I exhibited manic behavior such as having tea parties in the wee hours of the morning of a school day with my daughters. I believed my husband was Jesus, then the devil. I scared the wits out of my children and Tim. There were hallucinations. I took my clothes off in the fenced-in view of my yard while to neighbors screaming "I need help!"

The doctors who saw me in the emergency room thought I had schizophrenia but with the family history, it was determined I had bipolar disorder. The genetic disorder had been passed down from my father and his father, triggered by life's stressors. Tim was so afraid I would not take the medication but I accepted the illness and the fact that I had to take the medicine daily and be diligent with therapy. I had no desire to repeat the way my dad had lived and realized how it could affect my family. There was that lived experience of what hell was like and I did not want to repeat it. There is no apology for the illness I have. It was

not up to me to have bipolar disorder.

Personal responsibility is integral while on the road to recovery. That recovery had been mine for ten years. Subsequently, a carbon monoxide exposure in a school cafeteria, where I worked, disrupted the normalcy I had enjoyed for nearly a decade. The carbon monoxide brought on the mania, extreme anxiety and agitation, severe headaches, sleepless nights, physical limitations, and even suicidal thoughts. I didn't have a plan. I only wanted the pain and mental and physical suffering to end. The nightmare lasted a year. It seems I have recovered fully except for a nervous tic. I beat the odds of the doctor saying, "She may always have the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning." My initial treatment for bipolar was twenty years with lithium. My dad took it as well, though his struggles with alcoholism rendered it useless. The chronic lithium therapy eventually ravaged my kidneys to stage three kidney disease. I had to be put on different medications. Daily, I take Saphris and lamotrigine (Lamictal). It has been the perfect "cocktail" for one. Only five weeks after I started the medication did I notice a change in the way my brain was working. It was like a light bulb had gone off. Focus and recall allowed me to enjoy reading and I began writing and writing my story. There was a feeling of purpose and determination that I had never experienced before. I wrote the book in five months' time. The message was clear. YOU do not have to live like this. Alone. Suffering. There is hope and recovery.

The name of the book is Michelle May Crack!: A Personal Memoir of Bipolar Disorder. May is my maiden name, with my married name Krack

pronounced "crock" but commonly mispronounced "crack." My story has suspense, mystery, romance, action, and humor. My dream was to write the book and that dream came true. My future hope is that it's made into a movie. To date, my children- although predisposed genetically- do not show signs of bipolar disorder. Of course, there has been some situational depression or anxiety that can be expected in life. My family is straightforward about our mental health. That is paramount. We are there for one another.

I found my purpose when I began mentoring at the Peace Zone Recovery Center eight years ago. I have never felt happier or more fulfilled (except with my family) working with people with mental health and substance abuse issues. My lived experience helps me with insight to help others. Challenges are met head-on with understanding, compassion, and a desire to give hope to others. I have learned that adversity makes a stronger person. We learn from our past.

I am thankful for my journey in life and that I can help others and would like to leave this message, "Let purpose and determination empower you."

Michelle's memoir, Michelle May Crack!: A Personal Memoir of Bipolar Disorder, is available through Amazon and Kindle. It also can be found at Your Brother's Book Store, Blue Stocking Social book store, and Posh on Main Street. It can also be found at USI, U of E, Ivy Tech, and local Evansville high school libraries. Copies are also available at the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library and Willard Library.

You can reach Michelle personally at mmkrack@twc.com.

Be Well Helpline Provides Service To 25,000 Callers

January 2022

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration today announced that its Be Well Crisis Helpline has surpassed 25,000 calls, a milestone in its ongoing efforts to provide Hoosiers with free, confidential mental health counseling and resources.

The support line is available through Indiana 211 and enables Indiana residents to speak with trained, compassionate counselors 24/7. Approximately 59% of callers have received a referral for additional mental health or substance use services or requested additional crisis counseling. FSSA also announced that federal funding will allow the agency to operate the Be Well Crisis Helpline through

at least March of 2023.

"FSSA is proud of the important and continuing role our crisis counselors have played to connect with Hoosiers and provide them with the resources they need to support their mental health," said Dan Rusyniak, M.D., FSSA secretary. "We remain committed to providing free, confidential and easy access to this resource for Hoosiers in any time of need."

FSSA's Division of Mental Health and Addiction initially launched the Be Well Crisis Helpline in July 2020 in response to the increased stress, anxiety and isolation Hoosiers were experiencing because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the helpline's inception, counselors have invested more than 5,823 hours in helping Hoosiers man-

age their mental health. Individuals who call the crisis helpline seek support for several distress reactions including anxiety or fearfulness, issues with sleep, isolation, intrusive thoughts, difficulty concentrating or making decisions, fatigue and sadness.

There continues to be a growing need for the Be Well Crisis Helpline as the number of calls received reached an all-time high of 2,228 in October 2021. Counselors have reported that not only is the call volume increasing, so is the critical nature of the calls. The most prevalent issues Hoosiers are experiencing recently include depression, anxiety, feelings of being overwhelmed, and loneliness.

"As Hoosiers continue to cope with

the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, along with other stressors brought on by everyday life, it's clear that resources such as the Be Well Crisis Helpline are still needed to support the overall well-being of individuals statewide," said Kelsi Linville, DMHA's director of crisis services.

Indiana residents can speak with a trained mental health counselor by dialing 2-1-1 or the toll-free number, 866-211-9966, entering their ZIP code and selecting the option for the Be Well Crisis Helpline. In addition, Be Well Indiana's website contains supplemental resources including blog posts and videos offering tips for maintaining mental health as well as self-screening tools. For more information, please visit BeWellIndiana.org.

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Community

IAC Accepting Applications For Annual Grants

January 2022

(Indianapolis, Indiana) The Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) and its Regional Arts Partners announced today the opening of applications for two grant programs: The fiscal Year 2023 Arts Project Support and Arts Organization Support.

"Indiana's arts organizations, art projects, and artists are critical to the vibrancy, connectiveness, and economic development of our communities," said Miah Michaelsen, IAC Executive Director. "These grant programs make it possible for Hoosiers all over the state to have access to arts opportunities, and our Regional Arts Partners work alongside us to promote and expand participation in the arts in Indiana through their direct services."

Applicants for both programs apply through their respective Regional Arts Partners.

About the Arts Project Support Program

Arts Project Support grants provide nonprofit organizations with

funding to support a specific arts activity, such as a one-time event, a single production, an exhibition, an educational workshop, or a series of related arts activities such as art classes or training sessions.

The objectives of the Arts Project Support Grant Program are to provide the general public access to quality arts activities, with particular attention to underserved communities, and to support Indiana artists who are a vital part of Indiana's economy and community life.

Projects must occur between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, to be eligible for FY23 Arts Project Support.

Applications for Arts Project Support are due March 9, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. eastern time through the IAC's online grant system. Learn more and access the guidelines.

About the Arts Organization Support Program

Arts Organization Support grants provide annual operating support for nonprofit arts organizations' ongoing artistic and administrative functions.



The objectives of the Arts Organization Support Grant Program are to align with the IAC's Public Funding Imperatives and to provide quality arts and cultural activities to the public, with particular attention to underserved communities. The Indiana Arts Commission defines "underserved" as people lacking access to arts programs, services, or resources due to isolated geographic location, low income, age, race/ethnicity, cultural

differences, disability, or other circumstances.

Applications for Arts Organization Support are due March 9, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. eastern time through the IAC's online grant system. Learn more and access the guidelines.

Organizations new to Arts Organization Support must complete an Eligibility Questionnaire by January 18, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. eastern time.

SW Indiana Communities Ready For Growth

January 2022

Communities across all 17 regions in Indiana will receive \$500 million as part of a new, innovative state grant aimed at increasing quality of life and attracting top talent, according to local lawmakers.

On Tuesday, Gov. Eric Holcomb announced \$50 million will go to counties in the Southwest, including Gibson, Posey, Vanderburgh, and Warrick. The communities, led by the Southwest Indiana Regional Development Authority, submitted a regional development plan as part of a competitive grant process through the Indiana Regional Economic Acceleration and Development or READI initiative.

"Congrats to all four counties for collaborating to receive the maxi-

um amount in READI funding," said State Rep. Tim O'Brien (R-Evansville). "The goals and projects envisioned by the Southwest Indiana Regional Development Authority, including new developments and an indoor sports complex, are impressive and should be a driver for regional tourism and a growing workforce."

During the 2021 legislative session, State Reps. Cindy Ledbetter (R-Newburgh) and Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville) voted for a

record investment in READI in order to encourage communities to partner and create a plan for the future. O'Brien was not in office yet but said he supports this initiative.

"This initiative will continue to make Southwest Indiana a great place to work, visit and raise a family," Ledbetter said. "Enhancing our region's amenities will help attract new workers and address labor shortages. Growing companies need highly skilled employees and enhancing our quality of life will en-

courage the best and brightest to consider a move to the area."

Regional development plans across the state included housing, trails, broadband, childcare and wellness initiatives, workforce development programs, and telling Indiana's story to the world. McNamara said the plans enumerated a nearly 10:1 capitalization leverage ratio from private and public sources as compared to the state investment.

"Both urban and rural areas will benefit from the projects thoughtfully proposed for our region," McNamara said. "By investing in talent attraction and retention, this funding should have a snowball effect, creating additional investments and economic growth in our communities."



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Education

ITCC Distinguished Alumni Nomination Period Open

January 2022

Evansville, IN – Ivy Tech Community College is now accepting nominations for its annual Distinguished Alumni Award. To nominate Ivy Tech alumni for this award, go to: link.ivytech.edu/nominatealumni by January 28, 2022.

The Ivy Tech Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest

honor given to recognize Ivy Tech Alumni. Selected through a highly competitive process, recipients are selected based on their

lasting impact on their community and on Ivy Tech through outstanding professional, philanthropic, or volunteer accomplishments.

Each year, one distinguished alumnus are selected for each of the 19 campuses throughout the state. Each person is honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award at the Distinguished Alumni Celebration.

"The alumni honored at this event represent the very best of what an Ivy Tech education makes possible," said Ivy Tech Foundation Executive Director Erica Schmidt.

Eligibility Requirements include:

Awardees must be graduates of Ivy Tech Community College, having received an Associate Degree, Technical Certificate, or Certificate.

Awardees must have made significant contributions to their community through professional, philanthropic, or voluntary action.

Nominations will be accepted by alumni, Ivy Tech

staff, and community members. Alumni may self-nominate if so desired.

Expectations of Awardees:

Each awardee will be expected to attend the awards ceremony in December in Indianapolis to accept their award, except in extraordinary circumstances. If travel

expenses inhibit an awardee from attending, the Foundation office may be able to assist with expenses.

Awardees are expected to submit a high-resolution headshot and to participate in a short informational interview with Foundation staff, to aid in the promotion of the Ivy Tech Distinguished Alumni Awards.

In the year following the awards ceremony, Distinguished Alumni may be invited by their local campus to be recognized at commencement, attend college events as a VIP, or to be celebrated as an ambassador of the college.

Selection Process:

No more than one awardee will be selected from each of Ivy Tech Community College's 19 campuses.

Only complete nomination forms will be considered.

Selection Timeline
Nominations are accepted year-round.

Nominations are reviewed annually in April.

Awardees will be notified by mail in May.

The awardees will be honored at the Distinguished Alumni Awards in December in Indianapolis.



In-Person Commencements For Classes Of 2020, 2021 Held At Southern Indiana

January 2022

The University of Southern Indiana recently held four Fall Commencement ceremonies in the Screaming Eagles Arena.

Two ceremonies recognized members of the Class of 2020 were unable to participate in their regularly scheduled Commencement Exercises due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, while two ceremonies recognized members of the Class of 2021.

All ceremonies was held in person. Graduates and guests was required to follow safety protocols including wearing a face covering, practicing good hand hygiene and maintaining adequate physical distancing while inside the Arena. A live stream of each ceremony was provided to those people that couldn't attend the graduation events.

Class of 2020 Commencement Exercises

For the class of 2020, Commencement Exercises for the Romain College of Business and the College of Liberal Arts started at 9 a.m. The ceremony for the College of Nursing and Health Professions and the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education was held at noon.

Students who completed their degree programs in the Spring of 2020 and the Fall of 2020 were extended the opportunity in August to participate in an in-person Commencement ceremony. A total of 335 members of the Class of 2020 will participate in these special ceremonies.

Ronald S. Rochon, PhD, USI President, will deliver Commencement remarks during both ceremonies.

Class of 2021 Commencement Exercises

Dr. Silvia Rode, Professor of German and the recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Professor Award, will present the commencement address at the 3 p.m. ceremony. Rode joined the USI faculty in 2007 as an Associate Professor and Chair of World Languages and Cultures. During her tenure as department chair, she spearheaded the creation of a master's degree and two professional certification programs, in addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate courses and advising students and faculty. Rode is also an accomplished researcher, author and presenter, having published two books and currently working on a third covering the cultural and social experiences of German prisoners-of-war at Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky, during the Second World War.

Jenn Horn, Instructor in English and the recipient of the 2020 H. Lee Cooper Core Curriculum Award, will present the commencement address at the 6 p.m. ceremony. A member of the Department of English since 2012, Horn is a First-Year Experience Coordinator for the College of Liberal Arts and has taught courses including English Composition, Humanities, Gender Studies, Mythology and Folklore. She also is a member of the Board of Directors of Demolition City Roller Derby and regularly volunteers as a test proctor and senior project judge at F. J. Reitz High School.

In the ceremonies for the Class of 2021, 760 students will be eligible to receive master's degrees, post-bachelor certificates, bachelor's degrees and associate degrees. As part of the commencement ceremonies, 104 students are graduating with academic honors: 11 will graduate summa cum laude, 34 magna cum laude, and 59 cum laude. Of the graduates, eight are University Honors Scholars—students who have successfully completed the Honors Program—and can be recognized by the white honor cords worn with their regalia.



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Education

UE Awarded Grant For Summer Camp For ALICE Families

January 2022

The University of Evansville (UE) Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion was recently awarded a \$90,000 grant to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. The grant was part of the COVID-19 Crisis Response Fund of the Greater Evansville Region, which provided \$1 million to a total of six organizations in September. The purpose of these funds is to support non-profits that are reconceptualizing systems, environments, and pathways to create a more resilient region.

UE has created "Springboard," a summer day program that seeks to address the preparation gap for under-resourced high school students before graduation. The program will include STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) curriculum, character development, and leadership

training. Intracultural appreciation will also be fostered to improve intercultural competency. Through these efforts, Springboard will improve high school graduation rates as well as college readiness and admission for students from Black and African American ALICE families (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed).

"This grant is going to help us serve the under-represented in our local community in a manner that is both effective and entertaining," said Rob Shelby, PhD, chief diversity officer at UE. "By empowering each student who attends Springboard, we are paving the way for a successful future."



Springboard is a collaborative project between UE and Black Lemonade, Inc., which is a non-profit organization "dedicated to turning sour conflict into sweet and powerful solutions." Black Lemonade originally created a summer camp for grades K-8, but the grant will expand its reach to support students up to 12th grade.

"I'm so glad to share this vision of helping my community advance in ways that oftentimes weren't discussed growing up," said Kaymi Butler, who serves as founder and chief executive officer of Black Lemonade. "This vision, and more importantly its execution, is more than preparing a student for a future career. It's

about instilling in them how to avoid the hate that is often associated with indifference. It's about teaching and showing love, letting go of the stereotypes, and purposefully meeting a person where they are."

The Springboard program will be spearheaded by both UE and Black Lemonade, but current students are developing the curriculum through a ChangeLab titled "Community Race Project." ChangeLabs are semester-long courses in which students work in teams to tackle a local or regional issue and create positive change in the community. The Community Race Project will continue into the spring semester to further prepare for the camp.

Additional details for Springboard will be added to the UE website at a later date and can be found at evansville.edu/cdei.

USI Campus Joins Dementia Friendly America® Network

January 2022

The University of Southern Indiana campus has officially joined the Dementia Friendly America® (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

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.

FOOTNOTE: This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$3,691,706 million with zero percentage financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.



HOLA President discusses partnership with ITCC

January 2022

The staff of CCO sat down with Brant Flores, President of the Board of Directors of HOLA (Hospitality and Outreach for Latin Americans) to discuss the recent partnership between this organization and Ivy Tech Community College.

Staff: Brant, you moved to Evansville from Chicago to establish yourself, your family, and your businesses here in southwest Indiana. Why?

Flores: Evansville is a great community where I have been able to make a difference, I love Chicago, believe me, I still go there a lot, I still have many families and friends, but Evansville gave me the necessary space to settle and grow my aspirations. I now own two companies, PMG Landscaping and Triad Demo and Dismantling, that allow me to give my family the life that I always hoped I would give them. I don't think I would have been able to do the same without the support of the Evansville community, there are many opportunities here, I have worked hard to turn those opportunities into success, no doubt. But the support of the community has been key for my work and that of my team to take hold and successfully run the companies.

Continued on Page 16

"The time is always right to do what is right."
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
1965 commencement address at Oberlin College

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Sports

JANUARY 2022 HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULES



Bosse January Schedule

Boys Varsity Basketball

Jan. 7	Evansville Central	7:00 pm
Jan. 8	Vincennes Lincoln	7:00 pm
Jan. 14	Springfield Southeast (Ill.)	6:30 pm
Jan. 15	Christian County (Ky.)	10:45 am
Jan. 15	Madisonville (Ky.)	7:30 pm
Jan. 21	Owensboro (Ky.)	7:00 pm
Jan. 22	Gibson Southern	6:30 pm
Jan. 28	at South Knox	7:00 pm
Jan. 29	Terre Haute South	12:30 pm

Girls Varsity Basketball

Jan. 5	Evansville North	7:00 pm
Jan. 6	Evansville Central	7:00 pm
Jan. 17	at Owensboro Apollo (Ky.)	7:00 pm
Jan. 20	at Evansville Harrison	7:00 pm
Jan. 24	Castle	7:00 pm
Jan. 27	Evansville Mater Dei	7:00 pm



Central January Schedule

Boys Varsity Basketball

Jan. 4	at Princeton	7:00 pm
Jan. 7	at Evansville Bosse	7:00 pm
Jan. 14	Evansville Christian	5:00 pm
Jan. 15	Robinson (Ill.)	12:30 pm
Jan. 18	at Boonville	6:30 pm
Jan. 21	Henderson County (Ky.)	7:00 pm
Jan. 28	at Evansville Reitz	7:00 pm

Girls Varsity Basketball

Jan. 5	Evansville Memorial	7:00 pm
Jan. 6	at Evansville Bosse	7:00 pm
Jan. 12	Vincennes Lincoln	7:00 pm
Jan. 15	at Bloomington South	1:30 pm
Jan. 20	at Evansville Mater Dei	7:00 pm
Jan. 22	New Albany	4:00 pm
Jan. 25	Princeton 3A	7:00 pm



Harrison January Schedule

Boys Varsity Basketball

Jan. 7	Evansville North	7:00 pm
Jan. 8	at Robinson (Ill.)	7:00 pm
Jan. 14	Christian County (Ky.)	6:30 pm
Jan. 15	Springfield Southeast (Ill.)	4:00 pm
Jan. 21	at Evansville Memorial	7:00 pm
Jan. 22	Jasper	7:00 pm
Jan. 28	at Vincennes Lincoln	7:00 pm

Girls Varsity Basketball

Jan. 5	Evansville Mater Dei	7:00 pm
Jan. 8	Hancock County (Ky.)	1:30 pm
Jan. 18	Evansville Christian	6:00 pm
Jan. 20	Evansville Bosse	7:00 pm
Jan. 25	at Evansville Memorial	7:00 pm
Jan. 27	Jasper	7:00 pm



Mater Dei January Schedule

Boys Varsity Basketball

Jan. 4	Gibson Southern	7:00 pm
Jan. 7	Barr-Reeve	7:00 pm
Jan. 14	Evansville Memorial	7:00 pm
Jan. 18	at Vincennes Lincoln	7:00 pm
Jan. 22	at Boonville	6:30 pm
Jan. 25	Castle	7:00 pm
Jan. 28	at Heritage Hills	7:00 pm

Girls Varsity Basketball

Jan. 5	at Evansville Harrison	7:00 pm
Jan. 8	at Jasper	12:30 p
Jan. 11	at Evansville Memorial	7:00 pm
Jan. 15	Vincennes Rivet	5:30 pm
Jan. 17	North Posey	7:00 pm
Jan. 20	Evansville Central	7:00 pm
Jan. 24	Heritage Hills	7:00 pm
Jan. 27	at Evansville Bosse	7:00 pm



Memorial January Schedule

Boys Varsity Basketball

Jan. 7	Castle	7:00 pm
Jan. 8	Gibson Southern	7:00 pm
Jan. 14	at Evansville Mater Dei	7:00 pm
Jan. 15	at Mount Vernon (Posey)	7:00 pm
Jan. 21	Evansville Harrison	7:00 pm
Jan. 28	Princeton	7:00 pm
Jan. 29	Boonville	7:00 pm

Girls Varsity Basketball

Jan. 5	at Evansville Central	7:00 pm
Jan. 6	at South Knox	7:00 pm
Jan. 11	Evansville Mater Dei	7:00 pm
Jan. 13	Castle	7:00 pm
Jan. 15	Linton-Stockton	1:30 pm
Jan. 20	at Evansville North	7:00 pm
Jan. 22	at North Harrison	1:30 pm
Jan. 25	Evansville Harrison	7:00 pm
Jan. 27	at Evansville Reitz	7:00 pm



North January Schedule

Boys Varsity Basketball

Jan. 7	at Evansville Harrison	7:00 pm
Jan. 8	Jasper	6:00 pm
Jan. 14	Vincennes Lincoln	7:00 pm
Jan. 21	Bloomington North	6:30 pm
Jan. 28	New Albany	7:00 pm
Jan. 29	Terre Haute North	7:00 pm

Girls Varsity Basketball

Jan. 3	Evansville Mater Dei	7:00 pm
Jan. 5	at Evansville Bosse	7:00 pm
Jan. 8	at Jeffersonville	11:30 am
Jan. 11	Evansville Reitz	7:00 pm
Jan. 13	at Vincennes Lincoln	7:00 pm
Jan. 15	at Jasper	1:30 pm
Jan. 19	at Washington	6:30 pm
Jan. 20	Evansville Memorial	7:00 pm
Jan. 25	Gibson Southern	6:30 pm
Jan. 27	at Vincennes Rivet	7:00 pm

Sports

HS SPORTS SCHEDULES

R

Reitz January Schedule

Boys Varsity Basketball

Jan. 4	Jasper	7:00 pm
Jan. 7	at Bedford North Lawrence	7:00 pm
Jan. 11	at Boonville	6:30 pm
Jan. 14	Robinson (Ill.)	8:00 pm
Jan. 15	Centralia (Ill.)	2:15 pm
Jan. 22	at New Albany	7:00 pm
Jan. 28	Evansville Central	7:00 pm

Girls Varsity Basketball

Jan. 3	at Daviess County (Ky.)	7:00 pm
Jan. 6	at Castle	7:00 pm
Jan. 11	at Evansville North	7:00 pm
Jan. 15	Jeffersonville	4:00 pm
Jan. 20	at Jasper	7:00 pm
Jan. 25	Boonville	7:00 pm
Jan. 27	Evansville Memorial	7:00 pm
Jan. 29	Princeton	1:30 pm

Otters Add Perez, 3 Others To Roster

January 2022

The Evansville Otters have signed four players in the early off-season months for the 2022 season, including former Major Leaguer Audry Perez along with Bryan Gonzalez, Yoel Yanqui, and Jake Polancic.

Perez, a Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic native, is a catcher with professional baseball experience since 2008 as a rookie with the St. Louis Cardinals organization.

The backstop was with the Cardinals organization through 2014, recording appearances with the MLB St. Louis Cardinals in 2013 and 2014. Perez served as a minor league call-up

and backed up the likes of Tony Cruz and Yadier Molina.

From 2015-18, Perez played at the high Double-A and Triple-A levels of the Baltimore Orioles farm system.

Perez also played several seasons in the Dominican Winter League and has made international appearances representing the Dominican Republic.

In his minor league career, Perez batted .270 with 275 runs, 693 hits, 132 doubles, 68 home runs, and 376 RBIs. In 10 seasons in the Dominican Winter League, Perez has also tallied an additional 27 runs, 95 hits, 20 doubles, and 48 RBIs.

The Otters also signed catcher Bryan Gonzalez, who is from Venezuela and spent 2017 with the Dominican Summer League Dodgers, a foreign affiliate of the

Los Angeles Dodgers.

Gonzalez also has independent baseball experience, playing in 2019 with the Alpine Cowboys and the Trinidad Triggers, both in the Pecos League.

Overall, in his career, Gonzalez has hit .257 with 33 runs, 14 doubles, 30 RBIs, and 11 stolen bases.

Yanqui, from Cuba, is a utility player who can play first base and in the outfield. Yanqui has three seasons of affiliated experience with the Arizona Diamondbacks and one season of affiliated ball with the Cincinnati Reds, most recently with the Chattanooga Lookouts in 2021 at the Double-A level.

Yanqui's combined minor league totals include a .284 batting average, 192 runs, 353 hits, 67 doubles, 17 triples, 20 home runs, 173 RBIs, and 47 stolen bases.

He also has played multiple seasons in the Dominican Summer and Winter Leagues as well as in the Cuban National Series.

Polancic is a right-handed pitcher out of Canada, who most recently played for the Winnipeg Goldeyes of the American Association in 2021. Before 2021, Polancic spent four seasons in the Arizona Diamondbacks organization.

The right-hander was drafted by the Diamondbacks in the 11th round of the 2016 MLB June Amateur Draft.

Polancic's career totals include 68 appearances, a 6.19 ERA, 107.2 innings pitched, and 107 strikeouts.



High School Swimming Meets At Deaconess Aquatic Center

Date	Event	Schools/Participants	Time
1/4/2022	Boys and Girls	North, Castle, Vincennes Lincoln	6:15p
1/6/2022	Boys and Girls	North, Central, Gibson Southern	6:15p
1/11/2022	Boys and Girls	Harrison, Bosse, Reitz	6:15p
1/15/2022	Boys and Girls	City Championships	9:00 AM
1/18/2022	Boys and Girls	Harrison, Henderson, Bosse	6:15p
1/20/2022	Girls	SIAC Championship	5:30p
1/22/2022	Girls	SIAC Championship	9:00a
1/25/2022	Boys and Girls	Reitz, Central	6:15p
1/27/2022	Boys	SIAC Championship	5:30 p
1/29/2022	Boys	SIAC Championship	9:00 AM
2/3/2022	Girls	IHSAA Sectional Championship	5:30 p
2/5/2022	Girls	IHSAA Sectional Championship	9:00 AM
2/17/2022	Boys	IHSAA Sectional Championship	5:30p
2/19/2022	Boys	IHSAA Sectional Championship	9:00 AM

UE Signs Golfer Romaskin



January 2022

EVANSVILLE, Ind. – University of Evansville head golf coach John Andrews has announced the signing of Daniil Romaskin to a National Letter of Intent to play for the Purple Aces beginning next season.

World Amateur Golf Ranking currently has him rated as the No. 1 Amateur Male Golfer in Russia. His currently world amateur ranking is 531 while he has been as high as 470. Romaskin has excelled in some of the most prestigious tournaments in his country, most recently taking top honors at the 2021 Russian Junior U18 Championship.

"We are very excited to welcome Daniil to our program," UE head golf coach John Andrews exclaimed. "His abilities and experience will fit in extremely well with the veteran group that we have returning next season."

In 2020, he finished first in the

Russian Junior Amateur Tour 3 and the Russian Junior Amateur 2. Taking part in the most prestigious junior tournament in Russia last year – the Russian Junior Championship – he earned a 3rd place finish.

Highlighting his 2019 season was a victory in the Junior Championship of Moscow. Romaskin took second in the Cup of President while finishing third in the Russian Junior Amateur Golf Tour 1 during the season.

Romaskin became a member of the Russian National Golf Team in 2019 and remains part of the squad today. He has been rated as the top amateur male golfer in his home country since 2019. His experience in Moscow dates all the way back to 2013 when he first became a member of the Moscow Golf Team, a team he continues to work with to this day.

The native of Moscow intends to study business at UE.



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Sports

Maddox To Take The Mound For USI

January 2022

University of Southern Indiana Baseball announced the addition of sophomore right-handed hurler Parker Maddox (Columbus, Indiana) to the 2022 pitching staff.

Maddox is a transfer from Iowa Western Community College where he appeared in four games as a redshirt freshman, posting a 3.38 ERA in 5.1 innings of work with two strikeouts. Prior to pitching for Iowa Western, he had a 4.50 ERA in two appearances and three strikeouts on the hill for Ohio University during the COVID-shortened 2020 season.

"Parker is a power arm that is an upper 80s-low 90s mph arm," said USI Baseball Head Coach Tracy Archuleta. "He will compete for a starting spot this spring."

Before moving to the collegiate



level, Maddox was letter winner in baseball at Columbus North High School (Columbus, Indiana). The two-time Perfect Game Pre-

season All-American (2017, 2018) had a 2.39 ERA and 49 strikeouts as a junior (2018) and helped Columbus North to a regional and

sectional championship.

USI, which received votes for the ABCA Top 40 poll, opens 2022 play February 18.

USI Announces The 2022 Hall Of Fame Class

January 2022

EVANSVILLE, Ind. – University of Southern Indiana Athletics is pleased to announce the selection of the 2022 USI Athletic Hall of Fame class that will be inducted during homecoming week in February. The class of seven individuals and one team was selected by an eight-member USI Athletic Hall of Fame Committee.

Any Screaming Eagles fan was eligible to nominate student-athletes or teams on the 10th anniversary of their last season of competition or a coach/administrator who has been separated from the USI Athletics for two years. Special individuals (e.g., Varsity Club members) also were eligible for nominations as well.

This year's class includes Abby Boberg '06 (Women's Track & Field, 2002-05); Danielle LaGrange '12 (Volleyball, 2009-11); Trevor Leach (Baseball, 2007-11); Sara Loete '11 (Softball, 2008-10); Jamar Smith (Men's Basketball, 2008-10); Kathy Wood Vossmer '08 (Softball, 2005-08); Dave Schenk '78 (Baseball, 1977-78) and the 2010 NCAA Division II National Championship Baseball Team.

"I continue to be amazed by the number of outstanding student-athletes and teams this University has had," said USI Director of Athletics Jon Mark Hall. "The Class of 2022 truly represents our growing tradition here at USI. The seven individuals and one team that will be honored in February are truly worthy of this extraordinary honor. I know that the entire USI community is proud of this class and what it accomplished while at USI."

"After being forced to suspend selections last year due to COVID, it is an honor to resume this great tradition of honoring the incredible accomplishments of our student-athletes," concluded Hall.

In addition to the induction of the Hall of Fame Class of 2022, USI is inducting Joanie Jost and Lois Stevens into the Athletic Hall of Distinction for contributions to the success of the University's varsity programs.

Reservations for the February 4, induction ceremony must be made in advance and can be made by calling (812) 464-1846 or emailing Holly Delph at hdelph@usi.edu.

2023 USI ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME CLASS

Abby Boberg '06 (Women's Track & Field, 1988-90): Boberg was a two-time All-American (high jump) and USI's first-ever women's indoor track & field All-American. A three-time GLVC champion in the high jump, Boberg also was USI's first-ever All-American in a field event and her school-records in the high jump stand today.

Danielle LaGrange '12 (Volleyball, 2009-11): LaGrange earned second-team AVCA All-America honors, becoming the third player in USI volleyball history to garner All-America accolades as a senior, while the second-team honor

was the highest All-America award in the program's history to date. She also became the third player in the program's history to earn GLVC Player of the Year honors, in addition to being named the GLVC Scholar-Athlete of the Year for volleyball in 2011. LaGrange, who earned a pair of USI's Female Student-Athlete of the Year awards, earned two first-team AVCA and Daktronics All-Midwest Region honors; was named All-GLVC twice, and became the second player in the program's history to earn an AVCA National Player of the Week honor. She finished her career ranked second all-time at USI in attacking percentage; seventh in block assists; eighth in kills; and 10th in total blocks.

Trevor Leach (Baseball, 2007-11): Leach finished his career as USI's all-time leader in career wins (33), appearances (86), innings pitched (357) and strikeouts (246). He was named honorable mention All-American in 2010; first-team All-Region three-straight years; and first-team All-GLVC twice. Leach was named to the NCAA II Midwest Regional All-Tournament team and became the first USI pitcher to reach double digits in

wins in back-to-back seasons in 2010. He tied USI's single-season record with a 12-1 record and broke USI's career appearance record as a junior (71). Leach also was named preseason All-American by the NCBWA in 2010.

Sara Loete '11 (Softball, 2008-10): Loete finished her career ranked sixth all-time at USI with 104 career RBIs and 61 bases on balls. She earned All-America recognition from a pair of organizations in 2008 after hitting .405 with 10 home runs, and a school-record 54 RBIs. Loete finished her collegiate career with 21 home runs and 112 RBIs.

Off the field, Loete proved to be a leader of the USI Student Athletic Advisory Committee, guiding USI student athletes after the tragic death of Jeron Lewis.

Jamar Smith (Basketball, 2008-10): Smith was named Basketball Times NCAA Division II Player of the Year after leading USI and the GLVC with 21.6 points per game in 2009-10. He finished his two-year career with the USI record of 20.2 points per contest and set the PAC record for scoring with 40 points against the University of Illinois Springfield. Smith, who also set USI's single-game (10) and season record (108) for three-point field goals made, was named All-America by Basketball Times, Division II Bulletin (2009, 2010), NABC (2010), and Daktronics (2010). He also was named first-team All-Region, the Midwest Region Player of the Year, and GLVC Player of the Year in 2010.

The heart of the 2009-10 squad, Smith led the Eagles in a rough time for the program. He held the team together after the NCAA sanctions came down that barred USI from the GLVC and NCAA Tournament and after the tragic death of Jeron Lewis.

Kathy Wood Vossmer '11 (Soft-

ball 2005-08): Wood Vossmer is a two-time All-Region and three-time All-GLVC performer, while also being a three-time Academic All-District and four-time Academic All-GLVC honoree. She finished her career ranked fourth all-time at USI in runs scored (126), sixth in batting average (.362), and sixth in triples (7). One of the toughest and exciting USI softball outfielders, Wood earned second-team All-GLVC honors despite suffering a torn ACL midway through the season and, after missing less than a month with the injury, came back to hit .429 in conference-only games.

Dave Schenk '78 (Baseball 1977-78): Schenk played prior to USI joining the GLVC in the mid-1970s (1977-78). He batted a school-record .421 over two seasons and is one of two USI baseball players to have two .400 seasons. Schenk's .427 batting average still ranks sixth all-time for a single season at USI. He has gone on to play a major role in the development of baseball in the southwestern Indiana area, influencing many of the area's best players.

2010 USI Baseball Team: The 2010 USI Baseball team became the first Screaming Eagles baseball team and the first Indiana baseball program to win an NCAA II championship. The team was dominating, winning the GLVC Tournament and the NCAA II Midwest Regional (hosted at USI) before making a run to the national title by winning four of five in the double-elimination NCAA Division II Championship Tournament. The 2010 squad set a school record with 52 victories and 10 season records; had seven All-GLVC honorees, three All-Region players; and two All-Americans.



Entertainment

My Name Is Not Mom Drops By April 21

January 2022

My Name is NOT Mom takes audiences on a hilarious journey through motherhood with internet sensations Tiffany Jenkins, Meredith Masony, and Dena Blizzard. The comic mom trio shares their take on mothering through the sleepless nights of the toddler years, middle school craziness, and trying not to physically attack a high schooler. This special live event features stand-up comedy, storytelling, and videos from their online community as well as audience interactions to create an up-close and personal experi-



ence. With a combined following of more than 11 million social media

users, the comedian mom group produces hilarious viral parenting videos, expert social media advice,

and Blizzard's daily Facebook Live show,

One Funny Morning. After helping millions of fans get through parenting during a pandemic, the group is now bringing their humor to audiences across the US.

For more information and tickets, visit www.mynamemom.com.

Tickets start at \$32.00 plus applicable fees and tax.

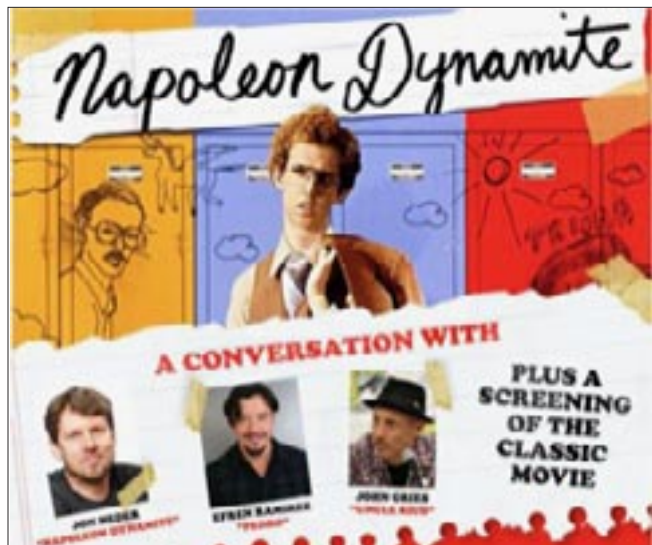
Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.com or the Old National Events Plaza Box Office.

For more information about the Aiken Theatre, visit www.oldnationaleventsplaza.com.

Bring Your Own Tots, Meet Napoleon Dynamite

January 2022

EVANSVILLE, IN – “Napoleon Dynamite” is coming to the Victory Theatre on March 11, 2022. Not just the movie, but Napoleon Dynamite, aka Jon Heder, himself! The beloved indie classic “Napoleon Dynamite” was made almost 15 years ago. Since then, much has changed, but the characters, as enduring as they are endearing, stay in our hearts.



makes us laugh – and laugh hard – over and over again. This unique evening will include a full screening of “Napoleon Dynamite” followed by a lively, free-wheeling, moderated discussion with fan-favorite cast members; Jon Heder (Napoleon Dynamite), Efrén Ramirez (Pedro), and Jon Gries (Uncle Rico).

Tickets will go on sale Wednesday, December 8 at 10 am and start at \$19 plus fees. A limited number of VIP tickets are also available for \$125, which include a premium seat for the show, a signed poster, and a meet & greet with all 3 actors!

January 2022

Deemed “the most wanted man in Country” by The New Yorker, MULTI-PLATINUM Country artist Morgan Wallen announces today (11/15) 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 Thursday, February 3, 2022. Tacking 46 cities beginning in Evansville, IN, on February 3, 2022 at Ford Center, THE DANGEROUS TOUR will take over arenas and amphitheaters across the U.S., including making major debuts at Madison Square Garden in New York, NY, Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, TN, and Cellairisn Amphitheatre at Lakewood in Atlanta, GA. Wallen's slated to wrap the seven-month run in Los Angeles, CA, on September 24, 2022, at STAPLES Center.



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Bonus Slot Play can be claimed at the Players Club on January 16, from 10AM CT to 10PM CT, and will be valid through the following Saturday.

See Players Club for details. Players may not exceed 10,000 points or \$200 in Bonus Slot Play. Live and Electronic Table Games and Sports Betting are excluded from this promotion. Valid only at Bally's Evansville.

\$20,000 Jackpot PARTY

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 21
7:30PM - 9PM CT**

Any member who receives a hand pay between 6AM Sunday, January 1 - 7PM Friday, January 21 will receive an entry into the drawings on Friday, January 21.

Members will have as many entries as they have hand pays.

To be eligible for the drawings, Members must place their entries into the drawing bin located at the Players Club on Friday, January 21, between 6AM - 8PM.

See details at ballysevensville.com.

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\$125 Hotel Package, plus tax, includes one night stay at the Bally's Hotel on February 13 and two Big Game Party Tickets.

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Entertainment

Turner To Play Old National

January 2022

Evansville, IN – Country and gospel artist Josh Turner will take the Aiken Theatre stage in February of 2022. The M C A Nashville recording artist is one of country music's most recognizable hit-makers. From his 2003 Platinum-selling debut *Long Black Train* to his 2017



Man," "Time Is Love," "Why Don't We Just Dance" and "Long Black Train." Josh Turner has been an Opry member for over 10 years and recently

revealed in his 150th performance on the famed Opry circle.

His project, *I Serve A Savior* debuted in 2018 at No. 1 on Nielsen's Top Current Country Albums

Chart and No. 2 on Billboard's Top Country Albums and Top Christian Albums Charts. The "musically brilliant" (Worship Magazine) album remained Top 10 on Billboard's Top Country Albums Chart for 9 consecutive weeks and remained No. 2 on the Top Current Christian Albums chart for 83 weeks.

All tickets originally purchased for the 2020 tour will be honored at the 2022 performance.

No. 1 release, *Deep South*, Turner has scored multiple GRAMMY®, CMA and ACM Awards nominations and received six Inspirational Country Music Awards.

As one of the youngest members inducted into the Grand Ole Opry, Turner has sold more than 8 million units, topped more than 1.5 billion in global streaming and populated radio with hits like "Hometown Girl," "Would You Go With Me," "Your

Blippi The Musical Comes To Evansville Feb. 2022

January 2022

Evansville, IN – 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 lovable 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>

Tickets are available at Ticketmaster.com or the Old National Events Plaza Box Office. Prices start at \$28. VIP add-ons are available.

For more information about the Aiken Theatre, visit: www.oldnationaleventsplaza.com.

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.

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HOLA President Discusses Partnership With ITCC

Continued from Page 10

Staff: You are very involved with HOLA, in fact, you are the President of the Board. What made you get involved with the organization?

Flores: My heritage is very important to me, I am of Mexican descent, and I am aware of the hardships that my ancestors went through so my children could live in this country the way we live. When I was approached by my some of the board members to join them some years ago, I felt that HOLA was the premier Latino organization in the Tri-State area. I wanted to give back and thought this was a good vehicle to do that. Our immigrant Latino community is a family-loving, hardworking, good wholesome people that need the right chances to make their own piece of the American dream. Evansville needs more diversity, more workers and people that can grow our population contrib-

uting to this community. I believe that my Latino community is the answer, this is a no-brainer! It is a win-win for everyone.

Staff: What is the HOLA Festival?

Flores: The HOLA Festival is an annual event, and next year will be our 6th Festival at Bosse Field. It is a celebration of our heritage and a celebration of two cultures coming together in one of the oldest baseball fields in the country. The old and the new celebrating in harmony! Our sponsors allow us to bring award-winning musical bands that attract thousands of people from a 6-hour radius to Evansville and local food vendors make delicious food from all Latin American countries. We have had in the past around 8,000 people coming in and out at different hours, eating, dancing, and getting to know local organizations, restaurants, food trucks, and other vendors. We

give food vendors free spaces for them to come and sell their food or items while local corporations and businesses sponsor the music and the venue.

Staff: Tell us a little about the new partnership with Ivy Tech.

Flores: HOLA has had a long-term relationship with Ivy Tech, in fact, the first-ever fundraiser that HOLA had was there. We were able to bring Governor Mitch Daniels and Ivy Tech put it together for us. It was a very important step for a very young organization and Ivy Tech helped us. We also made several tours of the campus where we brought many Latinos to "get to know Ivy Tech" and for many of them was transformational. This new partnership has been a long time in the making and is called the HOLA Dream Big Scholarship. We always wanted to create a scholarship for Latinos, but we didn't have a constant stream of

monies that were not earmarked for something different. With the HOLA Latino Festival, we have been able to generate and secure the annual stream necessary to commit this funding for Ivy Tech and the Latino Community. We gave \$5,000 to Ivy Tech and Casey Trela (Ivy Tech's Director of Financial Aid) is matching that with another \$5,000 for a total of \$10,000. These monies will be earmarked for Latinos that need help with their education and cannot get federal or state aid.

Staff: Do you have a date for next year's festival?

Flores: Yes, we do. It will be at Bosse Field on September 24th of 2022! It will be awesome!

Staff: How do people access this scholarship?

Flores: Please get a hold of the Ivy Tech Financial Aid Office and they will love to help anyone that fits the criteria.



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Visit Evansville Names Berggren CEO

Continued from Page 1
service initiatives.

Recently, she worked directly on creating and adopting the Commission's 10-year Master Tourism Plan. Berggren comes with extensive facility management experience as well, which is vital to Visit Evansville as the operator of world-class amateur sporting facilities.

Berggren's knowledge of tourism and events has been building throughout her career in multiple destinations, different market sizes, and experience leading a local community asset in Evansville. She stated: "I want to thank the Commission and local leaders for selecting me to lead Visit Evansville as the President & CEO. Evansville is a growing, dynamic

community that I am excited to advocate for in this role. I will commit my skills, experience, and abilities to continue to grow this region for our population, our clients, and for my family. Visit Evansville has a strong team in place with whom I am excited to collaborate, and I am certain we have the talent and skills to continue to grow this region. Evans-

ville's unique strengths as a central location with convention and gaming facilities, along with its large sports complexes and support local leadership, position it to grow as a destination market for years to come. Continued tourism industry growth improves not only the visitors' experience but enhances the quality of life for all our region's residents."

Evansville Natives Give \$34.2 Million To IU For Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Center

Continued from Page 1

a focus on bipolar and other mood disorders. These researchers will be able to build on the existing strength in neurosciences at IU School of Medicine, harnessing tools and expertise in the areas of genetic analysis, animal modeling and imaging, biological sampling, drug development, and data analysis.

"We are grateful for Bill and Mary Stone's dedication to expanding Evansville's economic growth and advancing research in mental health," said IU President Pamela Whitten. "Through their generosity, Indiana University continues its commitment to transforming the future of health care in the Evansville region and the entire state."

Along with attracting world-class researchers and clinicians to southwestern Indiana, the new center will also be leading the way in providing better treatments through big data. A real-world evidence data lake is planned—a first-of-its-kind comprehensive data platform for psychiatric research and machine learning.

This data lake would draw from millions of patient records

across the United States. Through medical artificial intelligence, a research team in Evansville would identify the most effective therapies and promising innovations by analyzing patient characteristics and prescription patterns that result in optimal outcomes. This data lake would be continuously updated and expanded as new patient data is added, creating a resource for not only treating Hoosier patients but also making southwestern Indiana a national hub for research in child and psychiatric disorders by attracting talented researchers and investment capital to Evansville.

According to the Bowen Center for Health Workforce Research and Policy at IU School of Medicine, Indiana falls far behind the national average for population per provider ratio in psychiatry. In adults, Indiana has about half as many psychiatrists treating patients as the national average. In child and adolescent care, that number is even lower—with a 20,916 to 1 ratio of patients to physicians, versus the national rate of 8,848 to 1.

IU School of Medicine is committed to improving those

numbers, with new residencies established in recent years in northwest and southwestern Indiana. With the new Mary O'Daniel Stone and Bill Stone Center for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the school is positioned to continue that effort to bring better mental health services to all Hoosiers.

"When students and residents train in communities, they are much more likely to make personal and professional connections. Our efforts through our residency program in southwestern Indiana will be bolstered by this gift—offering trainees access to world-class researchers and technology," said Steven G. Becker, MD, associate dean and director of IU School of Medicine—Evansville. "The continued generosity further solidifies the legacy of the Stone family in making Evansville a health sciences destination—one which will have a true impact on the health of Hoosiers across the state."

Evansville will serve as the administrative, clinical care, clinical research and data analysis base for the center. The new center director, clinicians and support staff will work from Evansville,

with the bulk of operations taking place within the new Deaconess Downtown Clinic. This 8,500-square-foot space was built in 2020 with this purpose in mind.

Students from the nearby Stone Family Center for Health Sciences will engage in research and learning opportunities at the new center, along with the residency program at IU School of Medicine—Evansville.

About Bill and Mary Stone
Bill and Mary Stone are natives of Evansville. Mary is a 1978 graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences at IU Bloomington. Bill received his degree in business administration and accounting from Marquette University in 1977. Bill founded Connecticut-based SS&C Technologies, Inc. in 1986 and has remained chairman of the board and CEO since its inception. The company is a provider of services and software for the financial services and health care industries and is home to over 24,000 employees across more than 100 locations in 40 countries. In 2011, the company opened an office in Evansville with over 200 employees.

McNamara Authors Bill To Protect Trafficking Victims

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hold human traffickers accountable for their heinous actions."

Nearly 25 million people worldwide are victims of human trafficking, making it the fastest-growing and second-largest criminal industry, according to the U.S. State Department. In Indiana, there were 140 human trafficking cases reported in 2020, up from 95 in 2017, according to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

Currently, Indiana law requires Hoosiers 15 years old or older at the time of a trial to testify in court. McNamara's proposal would allow survivors 14 years old or younger at the time of their assault to submit a video statement for court procedures if they are younger than 18 at the time of the trial.

The legislation would also increase sentencing for perpe-

trators whose victims are under the age of 18 and rule out victim consent or belief that a victim was at least 18 years old as a legal defense.

"Many human trafficking victims are under the age of 18 and ignorance should not be a defense to avoid prosecution in these cases," McNamara said.

Local organizations and agencies would also begin reporting human trafficking cases to the Indiana Attorney General's Office no more than 30 days after an investigation begins.

In addition, McNamara's bill would close a legal loophole for individuals who pay a victim directly for sex acts. Currently, individuals who offer to or pay for sex acts can only be prosecuted with a Level 5 felony if they pay the trafficker directly. According to law enforcement, it is difficult to prosecute suspects as the ma-

majority of transactions occur between the perpetrator and the victim.

"Under this proposal, a person can be convicted of a felony regardless of who they pay," McNamara said. "We need to close these loopholes and strengthen penalties for criminals feeding this multi-billion-dollar world-

wide industry."

Lawmakers will consider McNamara's bill in the upcoming legislative session, which begins on Jan. 4.

If someone is suspected to be a victim of human trafficking, it should be reported immediately to the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888.

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