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USI Votes To Make D-1 Jump

FEBRUARY 2022

The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees, after careful review and consideration, gave approval for the University to make formal application to the NCAA for reclassification from Division II to Division I athletics. The vote was unanimous, 9-0.

"Indiana is my home state. Evansville is my hometown. The University of Southern Indiana is my alma mater. I can't imagine my life without their influence," said Ron Romain, USI Board of Trustees Chair. "I believe we have a duty to be forward thinking, to embrace change and to make our community and the state better. The unanimous vote of this Board indicates how strong support is for this move."

The decision comes after months of deliberation by the Board and substantial input from the University which began in Fall 2021. As



part of the exploratory process the Board received the results from across the campus community of an internal survey, which included more than 2,200 responses. Additionally, the Board received a report from the DI Exploratory Committee made up of 25 individuals representing the USI governance bodies, faculty, staff, students, alumni, student athletes, coaches

and community members. The report was based on the NCAA Readiness Assessment which serves as the foundation for a strategic plan should an application be made by an institution to be considered for DI membership. Finally, the Board received information from external consultants on the national landscape in intercollegiate athletics, including con-

ference realignments, the NCAA Constitutional Convention and their observations as experts in these arenas.

"In our 56 plus year history, there have been many firsts. Our founders envisioned public higher education for our area and brought it to life in 1965," said USI President Ronald S. Rochon. "Today, in 2022, USI envisions a future that includes competing at the highest level of athletic play, Division I. This move will serve to elevate the University athletically and academically. This is a proud moment for this institution; for our students, faculty and staff; for our more than 47,000 alumni; and for this community and the State of Indiana."

Rochon said this move was initiated when Division I conference officials sought out the University for inclusion. The move is also aligned

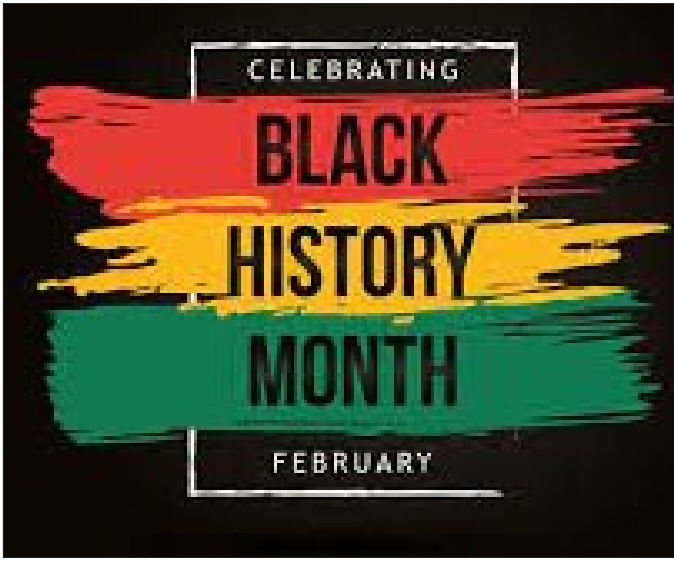
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EVPL Observing Black History Month With Programming, Educational Displays

FEBRUARY 2022

Evansville, IN – The Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library will observe Black History Month with a series of programs and displays that explore the history of Black Americans, the advocacy led by modern Black Americans, and the central role Black Americans have played in U.S. history.

"Black History Month is an opportunity to highlight and dive into the history and heritage of Black Americans," said EVPL CEO-Director Scott Kinney. "We hope our programming, displays, and activities will become opportunities for a n d discus-



about gram- be found brary's

Bundles around History will be to re- and pick EVPL lo- cation during February. These bundles, which are curated packs of movies, books, and/or CDs, will have materials by Black creators or about Black history.

Additionally, displays at EVPL locations will highlight Black History Month with books and infographics. At EVPL Central, library users can learn about the impact of healthy lifestyles with an interactive display curated by local activists and founders of the Keep Rolling Campaign, DeAndre Wilson.

The Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library has served our community for more than a century. With eight locations throughout Vanderburgh County, immediate access to hundreds of thousands of digital resources, and a dedicated team of library professionals, EVPL strives to create opportunities for you to discover, explore, and connect with your library. For more information, visit evpl.org.

Ricketts Brings Passion, Leadership To D-Patrick

FEBRUARY 2022

By Michael L. Smith, Jr. City-County Observer

When you walk into D-Patrick Auto Sales, located on the corner of the Lloyd Expressway and Green River Road, the first thing you'll notice is the fact that you are immediately met with a warm smile and a greeting by one of their sales team member. D-Patrick employees welcome you like you are family, and one of the main reasons is that D-Patrick is a local family-owned business.



The D-Patrick sales team is primed to help each and every person who walks through the door, in large part due to the excellent leadership and training provided to their employees by Evansville native and General Manager of D-

Patrick, Tony Ricketts.

Tony was born in Evansville, In, and was raised here until the early 70s until his father bought a farm in Spencer County, Indiana next to Lincoln Park, near Santa Clause.

Ind. Tony recalled "that the farm that he grew up on was originally the Thomas Lincoln farm. So, I like to tell people that Abraham Lincoln and I spent our formative years in the same place, just separated by time."

When he was fourteen his family moved to Santa Clause, Ind because his dad owned a restaurant/gas station there. Tony said, "working at my dad's restaurant/gas station is where my love for cars started. Really it all began with my grandpa, who lived in Evansville, he was a car collector.

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Commentary

USI Is Ready For NCAA D-1

FEBRUARY 2022
BY CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER STAFF

The University of Southern Indiana (USI) campus on Evansville's Westside has been transformed during the last few decades from a commuter campus to a fully equipped campus with state-of-the-art classrooms, advanced degrees, student housing, and a plethora of athletic facilities that are only exceeded by big nationally recognized programs. USI has always been competitive in every NCAA Division II intercollegiate that they participate in and starts most years with realistic visions of winning another national championship in multi-sports. If the USI Trustees elevate the ath-

letic teams to NCAA Division I, Evansville may become one of the smallest markets to have the distinction of being home to two Division I teams. That is a worthy distinction for the people down at "Visit Evansville" to tout as worth a visit. We feel that the University of Southern Indiana is most certainly NCAA Division I ready as NKU, Belarmine, or any of the other teams that have made the transition. From

a facilities perspective, USI already has established an impressive collection of on-campus facilities that many NCAA Division I universities would love to have. Millions of dollars have been invested and much will be expected. The City-County Observer would like to encourage USI to grab for the brass ring and become Evansville's second NCAA Division I athletic program. This move will have positive impacts on campus life and even

will serve to enhance academics. Go for it USI. The alumni, student-athletes, coaching staff, faculty and staff, student body, and the people of our region will be proud that you did! Finally, we would like to publicly recognize the efforts of the charismatic USI President Ronald S. Rochon, USI Board of Trustees Chair Ronald Romain and his board members, and USI Athletic Director Jon Mark Hall and his staff for the outstanding work they quietly did behind the scene to ensure that USI will be in a position to continue to provide our community with the educational, economic, cultural, and athletic offerings that will make us proud in years to come.



The Fight For The First Amendment Goes On

FEBRUARY 2022
By John Krull
TheStatehouseFile.com

INDIANAPOLIS—It continues to amaze me that so many Americans seem to think the American Revolution was a mistake. Perhaps it shouldn't. Every year or so, researchers play the same trick on Americans. They survey a group of us and ask us if we would support the principles set forth in the Bill of Rights without identifying them as part of the U.S. Constitution.

Sometimes, they dress up their questions in modern language. Other times, they just offer their queries in the Constitution's original language. It doesn't matter. The result is almost always the same. Inevitably, an appallingly large portion of those polled—sometimes, as many as two-thirds or even three-quarters—say they couldn't possibly approve of something so radical. Freedom of thought, freedom of conscience and freedom of expres-

sion seem particularly to terrify many of us. The notion of allowing people to encounter ideas and then just be able to make up their own minds about those ideas appears to scare many Americans right down to their stocking feet. We're seeing evidence of that now with the burgeoning epidemic of book banning across the country. The one that has drawn the most

attention, of course, has been the decision by the McMinn County School Board in eastern Tennessee to ban "Maus," a Pulitzer-Prize-winning graphic novel by Art Spiegelman. The novel tells the story of Spiegelman's parents' internment in the Nazi death camp Auschwitz during World War II. It portrays the imprisoned Jews as mice and their Nazi



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Sometimes Doing Nothing Is The Better Choice

FEBRUARY 2022
By Jesse Kauffman

One of the reasons I have a passion for resilience and crisis planning is because working through potential situations before they happen enables people and organizations to make better decisions during an actual crisis or emergency. In an emergency, there is often a bias for action, and if you haven't worked through what those actions should be beforehand, and who should be performing those actions, chances are you'll make things worse simply because you felt the need to do something, that doesn't help the actual emergency you're trying to work through. Each of us has a natural tendency towards one end or the other of, let's call it the "Take Action" spectrum. Some of us have a bias for quick action, some of us have a bias for analysis paralysis. Like everything in life is at the extreme of either approach is rarely optimal, which is why pre-planning actions to various scenarios for business continuity and crisis management purposes, or for business growth initiatives, is so critical. If your goal as a business is to minimize surprises and interruptions and maximize efficiency and growth opportunities, it is paramount that you incorporate a planning process into your operations, and most importantly, that you FOLLOW THAT PROCESS when the world throws you a curveball. Why is it so important to rely on the prework you've done? Because choosing to move forward with an



action to appear to be doing something has a much higher likelihood of causing negative impacts to your organization in the long run. For a perfect example that we can all relate to, let's look at mask mandates and the pandemic. Prior to 2020, it was widely accepted, and included in federal and state government and organizational crisis management plans, and in hospitals, that masks are not effective at slowing the spread of viruses. And at the beginning of the COVID-19 panic, the approach to using masks was in-line with the pre-pandemic planning and scientific understanding of mask effectiveness. But as the pandemic grew in size and severity, the pressure on the government, business, and political leaders to "do something" also grew. Unfortunately, the metrics used to judge the performance of those leaders aren't built on long-term outcomes but are instead built on short-term changes. This made mask mandates an easy win for those leaders, as masks are easily visible and make people feel like they're doing something. This despite the scientific evidence available then and now pointing out that masks are at best minimally effective only in highly controlled laboratory situations while providing no tangible protection in real-world use cases. The primary studies used to justify widespread masking look at very limited time scales all conducted only between March and June of 2020, with small data sets, no control groups, and a study structure heavily

biased to show a favorable benefit to masking. Yet even with their built-in statistical biases, they show little or no real-world impact when using masks, especially among the low-risk demographics like children and young adults who are most likely to be required to wear masks due to school or work requirements. Studies conducted with far more scientific rigor to eliminate common causes of statistical biases show no benefit to masks for reducing viral spread in situations outside of tightly controlled laboratories. But in mid-2020 with the pandemic, leaders were rewarded for showing that they were willing to try anything, to "take action", not for taking a measured ap-

proach consistent with their existing planning and long-settled medical knowledge of how viruses spread. Now we're two years of masking with no measurable benefit to the issue they were supposed to help, but with tremendous amounts of the measurable negative long term impacts to the educational and emotional development of kids and young adults, expanded negative social impacts, and alienation among grown adults, negative employment hiring and retention efforts, and overall an increased and growing levels of apathy and animosity towards other pandemic related mitigation efforts that have been shown to truly be

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Community

At Midpoint Of Indiana's Legislative Session, Some 500 Bills Have Died

FEBRUARY 2022
By Taylor Wooten
TheStatehouseFile.com

INDIANAPOLIS—As the Indiana General Assembly reaches the midpoint of the session, any bills that have not had third readings in the chamber they began in are now dead.

Halfway through the Indiana General Assembly's 2022 legislative session, some 500 bills have already been put to rest.

Photo by Juan Vargas from Pexels.

Senate bills need to have reached the third reading in the Indiana Senate by Feb. 1, while House bills needed to have reached the third reading in the House by Jan. 31. You may take a moment of silence for about 500 bills, which have been voted down, pulled from the schedule, never made it out of committee or never even received a committee hearing.

A total of about 200 Senate bills have died, and 300 House bills have died. The casket will close on the 2022 legislative session by March 14.

Here we go again

Some bills that are filed every

year will have to be reborn again in the next session.

For example, Senate Bill 75, a cold beer sales bill, has been attempted in various forms by Sen. Phillip Boots, R-Crawfordsville, for years. The bill has died again this year, so Boots may need to have another go at getting cold beer sold in grocery and convenience stores during the next session.

The initiative to get marijuana legalized in Indiana will also have to wait, with all bills in the legislature that regulate, decriminalize, or legalize cannabis dying this session.

The Senate Democrats released a statement on the failure of the legislature to pass marijuana legislation.

"While nearly 40 other states are creating industries and jobs and using hundreds of millions in cannabis tax revenue on schools, mental health, crime prevention and drug recovery programs, Indiana is spending millions on policing, prosecuting and holding our communities back," said Sen. Rodney Pol, D-Chesterton in the statement. "It's past time for this legislature to listen to the vast majority of its constituents and make progress on cannabis reform."

Conflicting Legislation

Many bills in the legislature cover the same topic, but with different partisan perspectives. In the Indiana General Assembly's Republican supermajority, the bills that align with Indiana Republican wishes have strangled their opposition.

Bail was a point of contention, with a bill seeking to get rid of pre-trial bail for nonviolent misdemeanor arrests dying while a Republican-authored bill limiting charitable bail organizations is still trucking.

Two bills authored by Democrats, Senate Bill 71 and Senate Bill 221, sought to remove absentee voting restrictions and requirements. Both of these bills have been killed by the legislature, but a bill restricting mail-in absentee ballots by Rep. Tim Wesco, R-Osceola, has passed in the House and is headed to the Senate.

In response to the midpoint of the session, Senate Minority Leader Greg Taylor, D-Indianapolis, released a statement.

"I have mixed feelings about where we are at this point," Taylor said. "We've seen a mashup of legislation pass out of the Senate:

some good, some bad and some very bad."

Some Indiana Black Legislative Caucus priorities fail

Several anti-discrimination bills, many authored by lawmakers within the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus, also died this session. Among the dead bills are one requiring implicit bias training for employers and one that would outlaw race-based hair discrimination.

House Bill 1414, the bill that would remove the requirement for pre-trial bail, is by IBLC member Rep. Ragen Hatcher, D-Gary.

Two bills that would create safer conditions for incarcerated women and change the use of restraints on pregnant, delivering or post-partum incarcerated women failed this year. House Bill 1272 was authored by Rep. Renee Pack, D-Indianapolis, and House Bill 1179 was authored by Vanessa Summers, D-Indianapolis. Both were legislative priorities for the IBLC.

Lawmakers will have the opportunity to rework and resurrect some of these bills beginning this fall when bills can begin to be filed for the 2023 legislative session.

Kiefer's Local Ties Benefit Visit Evansville

FEBRUARY 2022
By Michael L. Smith, Jr.

This series of interviews aims to find Evansville locals making a positive impact on the community through their hard work and bravery to showcase their amazing contributions.

This week I had the opportunity to speak with Joe Kiefer II, Evansville Teachers Federal Credit Union Financial Advisor and the President of the Board of Commissioners of "Visit Evansville".

Tell Us About a Little about Yourself & Your Work

I'm married to a lovely woman named Emily. She's from Louisville, KY. We met there when I was going to grad school. We have three beautiful daughters: Adeline, who is five and a half; Josie, who is 2 and a half; and Isabella, who was born September 2021. #GirlDad

It can be a wild household, but it's fun. The girls have been a great experience for me, and it's terrific being a parent. My family and my girls mean everything to me. Everything I do inevitably comes back to them. They are my Why!

I work as a Financial Advisor with Evansville Teachers Financial Group (ETFG) located at Evansville Teachers Federal Credit Union. I guide individuals and families through the income planning process, typically for retirement. Ideally, we are working with them throughout the transition into retirement and everything that comes after. It's about relationships at ETFG - we are with our clients every step of the way! Additionally, I was just promoted to Program Manager on January 1, 2022. As Program Manager, I am responsible for leading the Evansville region's Advisor and Administrative Teams. This includes strategic plan-

ning; recruiting; and developing personnel, while creating a working environment that surpasses members' needs.

I was born and raised in Evansville. I attended Methodist Temple for pre-school on Lincoln Avenue, then to St. Ben's, and finally Memorial High School. So, a lot of my life was spent on Lincoln Avenue. After high school, I went to Bellarmine University in Louisville. (I always joke about how my life story might sound a little better if I went to the University of Evansville.) I earned a bachelor's degree in Economics & Business as well as a Master's of Business Administration. My experience away from home was valuable. I loved my time in Louisville and at Bellarmine; I learned a lot and created a lot of friendships. But I always had this sense of hometown pride and felt a calling to come back to Evansville. Luckily, I have a lot of families here which made coming back an easy decision.

I'm also the Booster Club president at Memorial High School. We are expanding the club this year into more of a full-fledged Booster Club - formalizing the experience some. We've got young people getting involved and even some of the older folks, the OGs so to speak, are coming back out to help. It's been super exciting to be part of this expansion and to get that energy back up. Most importantly the additional revenue we can raise will go to scholarships and help offset the hidden costs of

tuition.

The skills I've developed at ETFCU, at the Booster Club, and having coached at Memorial for 6 years are all very transferable to "Visit Evansville". I was appointed to the "Visit Evansville" Board of Commissioners back in 2015. Where I started to where I am now, as President of the Board, has involved a lot of learning and a lot of change. It's a dynamic Board and staff. We have a lot of influence in the community. There are a lot of Boards in the community that is more "behind the curtains", where people don't really get to see what they are accomplishing for Evansville

and Vanderburgh County. What makes "Visit Evansville" unique is the level of transparency. We are often that front page paper kind of storyline, which can be exciting! We are the official tourism arm of the community and are charged with telling Evansville's and our surrounding region's story to those who don't live here. That comes with a lot of responsibility. We are a quasi-governmental agency - we are funded by tax dollars, specifically innkeepers' taxes. That's the bulk of our revenue. Our main purpose is to increase tourism to Evansville - particularly overnight tourism. Stay at our hotels, shop at our stores, and eat at our restaurants. That tourism target is vast and includes conventions, leisure markets, sports, entertainment, etc. Tourism is exciting! Most people can get behind tourism without being asked - people tend

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Community

Kiefer's Local Ties Benefit Visit Evansville

Continued From Page 3

to understand the necessity for it. That innate support for our core mission makes this a very lively organization.

How is "Visit Evansville" trying to accomplish its goals within the community?

I can talk a little about some recent projects and strategies. When we hired Jim Wood, our previous CEO, we decided that we wanted a playbook. We felt, at the time, we were reactive when we wanted to be proactive. Not that we didn't have good projects - we had some amazing projects we were able to support financially - Mesker Zoo and the Deaconess Aquatic Center are two recent examples. Regarding our longer-term planning and vision, we wanted to ensure we were taking a proactive approach. We wanted to create a specific plan. So, that's where this 10-year playbook came in. Jim Wood and his staff at the time did a wonderful job of putting that playbook together with the Board.

Now that we have Alexis Berggren coming in, we have this playbook that tells us what the community needs to succeed over the next ten years - how to draw more tourism in and how to leverage what we are already good at. Although we have the playbook, we also must recognize we need the people - people who can go out and execute the vision. The staff we have on our team is beyond fantastic for exactly that. They are hard workers; they have an innovative mindset that keeps us continually asking how and why. I trust our tourism reach under Alexis and her staff will expand and become more diverse.

In terms of projects, our bread and butter right now are youth sports and the Deaconess Sports Park. Obviously, the pandemic has come down hard on parents and kids, but despite the hardships we still have people engaging in youth sports and using the Sports Park. People are still traveling for sports despite the pandemic. Disclaimer - we are doing everything possible to be as safe as we can while facilitating the demand. Luckily, we have a facility in Evansville that can capture that energy and desire. That's a huge thing we are going to continue to leverage. We are looking to expand the park and are currently doing a project to replace the

turf. We want to maximize the time our kids can be out there playing, which will bring more people into the city. Right now, we are working on rendering some new ideas as we expand and potentially add some fields. It's going to be vibrant. Although it's a little early to be revealing too much about those plans, I am amped for it!

How has the pandemic impacted you & your organization's work for the city?

As we all know, the pandemic has been a huge drain on everyone physically, mentally, and emotionally. ETFCU Financial Group saw substantial growth despite the hard times. A lot of the market was—and still is—stagnant, but our team managed to grow in terms of staff; assets under management; and clients. A lot of that growth must be credited to our amazing team, but we must also credit our ability to be present with our clients in a safe manner. Evansville Teachers Federal Credit Union has done an excellent job of providing a safe work environment while allowing us to continue to work in the office and meet people face-to-face. Maintaining that face-to-face connection with our clients is important. We have an outstanding culture. We aren't making transactions, we are creating and maintaining relationships.

With "Visit Evansville", it was some of the same things helping us succeed. We have a great culture at "Visit Evansville". Our staff desires to be successful and we (the board) want to provide the tools to allow that to happen. It has been challenging. Tourism was one of the hardest-hit industries of the pandemic. The biggest brunt of that hit was from a convention standpoint, with some of our biggest events like Frog Follies being canceled or postponed. Those were massive, sell-out weekends that we lost. We also lost smaller events that used to fill the gaps between bigger events. It was a heavy hit. Organizations in that realm deal with a lot of liability when hosting events. They were (and are continuing to be) very cautious bringing people together from different parts of the country.

We have managed to remain competitive in certain areas, areas that have helped us weather the storm so to speak, like the Deaconess Sports Park and the Goebel Soccer fields

and other events orchestrated by Eric Marvin and Sports Corp. If we had lost those events the situation would have been even worse. The successes in those areas have kept us afloat. Parents and kids, they aren't willing to sacrifice sports. They are going to find a place no matter what to keep that part of their travel schedule. If we can facilitate that - capture those opportunities while maintaining a safe environment - it would be silly to pass that up. Reflecting on where we stand today (after shutting down the economy and seeing the tourism and leisure industries being crushed) I'm tickled to be where we are. We are very well positioned to commission projects that are going to bring to Evansville into the future.

What motivates you to continue your good work?

I'm the type of person who likes to stay busy. I'd be a little freaked out if I wasn't involved with things, especially within the community I live and grew up in. I'm blessed to be 32 years old and President of the Board of "Visit Evansville", and I don't take that for granted. Part of the community aspect is pride in the place you live. If I had stayed in Louisville after college I would have gotten involved there as well, but I still feel this sense of hometown pride for Evansville. That can't be created—it's organic and unique to each community. It makes it a bit easier when you can say, "Hey, I was born here." I want to be able to say someday that I was part of the growth here. There are a lot of fantastic things going on in the city.

I constantly want to grow, not be stagnate. I'm motivated by having a voice. I want to clarify; I never seek a situation where I am given a voice. What I seek is an opportunity to earn a voice, to earn influence. I've worked hard in every role I've been in. I dig in. I don't just show up to the Board meetings and coast through. I want to be involved and figure out how things work, how the organization works. More importantly - ask why things work the way they do. Understanding the Why, participating in the Why - that is the key. I want to bring new and fun ideas. I stay positive and try to infuse those things into the culture. I believe when you have that kind of attitude you will be successful in life.

I'm not one who is going to be in-

involved in twelve or thirteen different things and unable to devote sufficient time to any of them. I'm going to be involved in three or four different things, and I'm going to give 100% of myself to those endeavors. That's what motivates me - having a voice, being involved in the community, meeting new people, and making new connections. We have an amazing community.

What can our community do to better support "Visit Evansville"?

Attitude is everything. When it comes to loving and being involved in your community, I'm going to borrow a saying from one of my clients: "Joe, I'm not a half glass full or a half glass empty kind of guy. I'm the guy that's just happy he has a glass!" That really stayed with me. If this is your city, your community, don't get lost in the negativity and the complaining. Instead, focus on the good - focus on what you can do to help better it. Having the right attitude is so important. Even if you don't like what Evansville has to offer, focusing on the negatives and complaining without action isn't going to do anything. It's not going to better the community. If you want something changed, get involved, make your voice heard.

The truth of the matter is we can build amazing facilities; we can create awesome events. But word of mouth is one of the biggest aspects of getting people involved and generating growth. Having the right mentality and attitude about your community enables that community to sell itself. Tell people about the things you like or care about. Try to stay positive and support what the community does.

If USI or UE is having a big game and you like sports, try to make it to those games. When the visiting team comes to Evansville and sees a rowdy crowd supporting the home team they think, "Wow, this is a strong community." It doesn't have to be sports-related, it can be any of the events we put on, like Frog Follies or a bridge tournament. We are also welcome to new ideas. Get out and offer up what you think will make Evansville a better place. Share stories with people or get involved in the community wherever you can. Have a positive attitude and support the events you want to see more of in Evansville. That's huge.



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Community

Vanderburgh County Lawmakers Support Bill To Alleviate State's Nursing Shortage

FEBRUARY 2022

STATEHOUSE – Vanderburgh County lawmakers are working to alleviate the state's severe nursing shortage and support Hoosier nurses by supporting legislation recently advanced by the Indiana House.

State Rep. Matt Hostettler (R-Patoka) said by 2031, Indiana will need 5,000 additional nurses and nursing programs will need to increase their graduating classes by 1,350 each year to meet this need. This is in addition to the current 4,300 nursing job openings statewide.

"This legislation would help ensure we grow our nursing workforce so that we can meet our state's needs," Hostettler said.

He said this legislation would boost the health care workforce pipeline by providing flexibility to Indiana's nurses seeking licensure.

The legislation would also give flexibility to nursing programs and nurse educators to help meet workforce needs, and help nursing students working to obtain the required hours to be licensed.

State Rep. Wendy McNamara (R-Evansville) said the bill would allow nursing programs to increase enrollment at faster rates, accept clinical simulation hours, and reduce

the required amount of experience needed for a registered nurse to become a nursing instructor, all while maintaining high-quality training for all nursing students.

"Giving nursing students, educators and programs more flexibility will increase the talent pool in our state," McNamara said. "With many students looking for more opportunities, this legislation is a common-sense approach for Indiana and has bipartisan support."

State Rep. Tim O'Brien (R-Evansville) said pandemic-related proto-

cols prolonged the process for many nursing students seeking licensure, and this bill would give nursing students and registered nurses more freedom to grow and join the workforce.

"The nursing shortage in our state affects all Hoosiers," O'Brien said. "That's why we want to encourage more students to consider and pursue this important field, and improving the pathway to becoming a nurse is a critical part of that."

The bill shares broad support from hospital systems, nursing schools, long-term care facilities, the Indiana Nurses Association, Indiana Hospital Association and Indiana Health Care Association.



BOLDER People Podcast Installation Now Available On Streaming Platforms

FEBRUARY 2022

BOLDER People, a new podcast from the University of Southern Indiana Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) hosted by USI Professor of Gerontology Dr. Katie Ehlman, has released its third episode to streaming platforms.

BOLDER People explores the dynamic lives of older adults in southwestern Indiana and strives

to preserve the narratives of elders. In its third installment, "Janeane Vickers & the Patchwork of Life," Ehlman talks with Janeane Vickers, breast cancer survivor, educator, and former Mesker Park Zoo docent, about resiliency through breast cancer treatment, advice for formal and informal caregivers, her passion for volunteer work and more.

"This episode of the BOLDER People is unique from the others because of Janeane's numerous skills, hobbies, and interests," BOLDER People Producer and USI public relations and advertising student, Leah Flake '22, says. "The title

plays along with Janeane's interest in quilting, but it also represents the human experience. We go through life collecting elements which

make us unique, and when we piece it all together, it creates a patchwork of our life—an expression of who we are."

BOLDER People is available to download or stream for free on Apple Podcasts and Spotify. New episodes are available monthly. The podcast is produced on the USI campus with help from USI faculty, students and staff.



Tools 4 Teaching Now Open

FEBRUARY 2022

Tools 4 Teaching is a woman-owned business that was started to help support the community. Owner, Julie Burczyk, was a former public-school teacher who wanted to open a store that could support teaching whether that be in the classroom or at home. With two young kids at home, it was important for Julie to create a place to provide tools to help all learners. Tools 4 Teaching has over 8,000 different items including teaching materials and décor for the classroom along with educational toys, games, puzzles, crafts, and more to be used at home. There is an educational focus on all products, so the kids can be learning while playing without even realizing it. Many skills such as cognitive or fine motor skills are necessary for kids to learn, and there are many fun

things to help support all types of learning at Tools 4 Teaching.

Tools 4 Teaching also has a section dedicated to local talent. Whether you are looking for storytelling and puppet tips from Mary Jo Huff, illustration inspiration from Kristi Valiant, or yoga and mindfulness from Carrie Rice, this amazing local talent can be found at Tools 4 Teaching.

After all local needs to support local, which is an important mindset for Julie. Tools 4 Teaching sponsors many local events for kids including the HOP-N-ING Program at Easterseals Rehabilitation Center and The Fairy Tale Ball for Ark Crisis Children's Center. Check Tools 4 Teaching LLC on Facebook and Instagram, and their website is www.tools4teaching.biz. They are located at 401 S Green River Road.




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Community

Future of Indiana Abortion Rights At Risk

FEBRUARY 2022

INDIANAPOLIS—Indiana currently sits as one of the top five states with the highest number of anti-abortion provisions passed in 2021. That trend could continue, with Speaker of the House Todd Huston, R-Fishers, indicating last week during a legislative preview that he has placed anti-abortion legislation on his priority list for the 2022 session.

The U.S. Supreme Court recognized the constitutional right to abortion in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. However, the Guttmacher Institute, a pro-abortion-rights group, says that since 2010, the abortion landscape has continued to grow increasingly restrictive.

A report from the Center for American Progress, the nonpartisan policy institute, says that 2021 has already seen the highest number of abortion restrictions enacted in a single year.

With the 2022 legislative session starting in January, here are some things Hoosiers should know:

What are Indiana's current abortion laws?

A patient must receive counseling, where they are given alternatives to abortion. They must then wait 18 hours before the procedure is provided.

The parent of a minor must consent before an abortion is performed.

Public funding is available for abortion only in cases of life endangerment, rape, incest or when the patient's long-lasting health is in danger.

An ultrasound must be performed before the abortion, and the provider must offer the image to the woman.

How many women in Indiana are getting abortions?

The Charlotte Lozier Institute, an anti-abortion organization, says that there were 7,637 abortions reported in Indiana in

2019. Women in their early 20s (ages 20-24) made up 30% of that group while 28% of abortions were performed on women ages 25 to 29 and 27% were on women in their 30s. Ten percent were performed on girls under the age of 20, and another 3% were performed on women ages 40 and older.

Currently, there are abortion centers in Merrillville, South Bend, Fort Wayne, Lafayette, Indianapolis and Bloomington. The Guttmacher Institute found that in 2017, 96% of Indiana counties had no clinics that provided abortions, and 70% of Hoosier women lived in those counties.

What is the process for a Hoosier woman to obtain an abortion?

There are different organizations around Indiana that perform abortions. Planned Parenthood in Indianapolis offers the abortion pill, in-clinic abortion, pre- and post-abortion patient education, referrals for other services, and sedation options. A woman who wants to have an abortion must make an appointment, be given their alternative options and then wait 18 hours to make their decision.

Which states currently have the most restrictive abortion laws?

Texas, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio are at the top of Planned Parenthood's list. Texas recently made headlines for its abortion laws nationally. Its new law says that abortions cannot be completed after six weeks of pregnancy, and there are no exceptions for rape or incest. Citizens will be the ones in charge of reporting illegal abortions, and they will be rewarded \$10,000 for each one they find. The Supreme Court has refused to block the Texas law and is fueling hope for opponents in other states.



Pro-abortion-rights protesters reacting to a new law in Texas attend a recent rally on a rainy Saturday in downtown Indianapolis.

The Fight For The First Amendment

Continued From Page 2

tormenters as cats.

The school board voted, 10-0, to prevent eighth graders from reading the tale.

That decision provoked an intense reaction. Bookstores in Tennessee and from places as far away from the state as California made plans and launched campaigns to provide every young person in the county with a free copy of Spiegelman's book.

The author himself also weighed in.

"This is not about left versus right," Spiegelman told *The Nashville Tennessean*. "This is about a culture war that's gotten totally out of control."

He's got a point.

These days, it does seem like Americans at every point on the ideological compass have grown increasingly testy about dealing with ideas and expressions with which they do not agree.

The "Maus" debate shows that. It used to be that one of the few things Americans could agree upon was that we believed Nazis were bad. Just about any story that featured a fascist as the villain was bound to be okay.

But it's not just Nazis we can't agree on now.

In other places around the country, school boards and parent groups have demanded that books dealing with LGBTQ issues be suppressed. Still others try to bar people from reading books with anti-war themes, such as "Slaughterhouse-Five" by Indiana's own Kurt Vonnegut.

There even have been attempts to ban what may be the most beloved novel in American literature, Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird."

Critics on one side of the divide argue that Lee's book is too mean to racists and bigots. Critics on the other contend that it shows insufficient regard to the Black characters within its pages.

The one thing these would-be censors all seem to agree upon is that they have the right to make up not only their own minds about the novel, but everyone else's as well.

That's not the way it is supposed to work.

A large part of the reason we have that First Amendment that seems to scare so many Americans is that our founders wanted people to decide for themselves whether they liked an idea or a work of art. The rationale for our public school system was that the schools were supposed to prepare young people to bear the responsibilities of citizenship—one of which is weighing and sorting through principles and expressions to determine their worthiness.

If we shelter students from "dangerous" ideas, we defeat that Jeffersonian purpose. We also waste the students' time and a lot of our money.

More to the point, we attack the idea of America itself. If America stands for anything, it stands for freedom. We are supposed to believe that people not only can think for themselves but that they have the right to think for themselves.

That was the point of the American Revolution.

Some of us still think the revolution was a good idea.

John Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism and publisher of TheState-houseFile.com.

Sometimes Nothing Is The Better Choice

Continued from Page 2

helpful to at-risk demographics.

The learning I'm hoping to share is that if you've taken the effort to do thorough planning when it's time to execute those plans, it's better to be patient and follow the process because as soon as you abandon the process that you established, the likelihood of causing more harm than good just to do something increases exponentially. Be patient, trust yourself and the work you've done to prepare, and stay the course. You, your organization, and the stakeholders that depend on you will come out ahead in the long run.

Jesse Kauffman is the Lead Consultant at Everyday Business Resilience Group. Contact Jesse at 812-568-0515 and jesse.kauffman@everydaybusinessresilience.com





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Community

Rokita Takes Action Against Robocallers

FEBRUARY 2022

Attorney General Todd Rokita today called on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to put measures in place to better prevent foreign-based illegal robocalls aimed at scamming Americans.

"Hoosiers are sick and tired of getting scam calls, along with everyone else in the country," Attorney General Rokita said. "Bad actors who willfully or blindly enable illegal robocalls to have no place in the calling ecosystem. We will continue to fight to stop those calls. We will keep working to protect Hoosiers' privacy and hard-earned money."

In October, Attorney General Rokita filed a first-of-its-kind lawsuit against an Indiana company that allegedly acted as a gateway into the United States for robocallers in India, the Philippines, and Singapore. The robocallers allegedly made more than 5 million phone calls to Hoosiers and hundreds of millions of calls to other states.

Now Attorney General Rokita and a bipartisan group of attorneys general are calling for the FCC to require gateway providers — companies that allow foreign calls into the United States — to take steps to make it more difficult for robocalls to enter the U.S. telephone network. This includes implementing STIR/SHAKEN, a caller ID authentication technology that helps prevent spoofed calls.

Gateway providers, the attorneys

general argue in a letter, should be required to implement this technology within 30 days of it becoming a rule. This step would help eliminate spoofed calls — calls deceptively made to appear to originate from numbers other than their actual source. In December, Attorney General Rokita and a coalition of 51 attorneys general successfully helped to persuade the FCC to shorten by a year the deadline for smaller telephone companies to implement STIR/SHAKEN.

The attorneys general are also asking the FCC to require these gateway providers to take additional measures to reduce robocalls, including:

Responding to requests from law enforcement, state attorneys general, or the FCC to trace back calls within 24 hours.

Blocking calls when providers are aware of an illegal or likely fraudulent caller.

Blocking calls that originate from numbers that are on a "do not originate" list — such as government phone numbers that are for incoming calls only.

Ensuring that foreign telephone companies they partner with are ensuring that calls are being made from legitimate numbers.

The attorneys general are encouraging the FCC to require all phone companies to block calls from any gateway provider that fails to meet these requirements. In 2020, Americans lost more than \$520 million through robocall scams.



Bill Protecting Public Comment At School Board Meetings Supported By House

FEBRUARY 2022

STATEHOUSE (Jan. 26, 2022) – Indiana House lawmakers overwhelmingly voted to advance legislation authored by State Rep. Tim O'Brien (R-Evansville) to ensure Hoosiers' voices are heard at school board meetings.

O'Brien said House Bill 1130, which now goes to the Senate for consideration, would require school boards to allow time for public comment from those physically present at a meeting. He said school boards could set a time limit of three minutes or more and take reasonable steps to maintain order in meetings, like removing a disruptive person.

"Public input is so vital in creating quality learning environments, and the bipartisan support for this legislation shows that it's needed," O'Brien said. "Public comments from parents and the community will help inform school board members when making important decisions, which impact our children's future."

House Bill 1130 is O'Brien's first bill he authored as a new state representative.

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INDIANA

Dear Friends of Visit Evansville,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season and has found a renewed sense of energy and enthusiasm as we tackle 2022. I have begun this year feeling grateful and motivated as I step into a new role with Visit Evansville, and I look forward to collaborating with the many talented staff, clients and partners. As we face another year of uncertainty, we will be relentless in our commitments:

Visit Evansville is dedicated to being a champion for the Evansville area visitor experience. We will be engaged with our hospitality, travel and tourism community to help curate unique and memorable experiences in our city.

We will continue to be strategic in our approach to sales and service while recognizing that the industry is changing and adjusting. We will exercise innovation and creativity to meet unprecedented challenges.

There is a vast network of industry contacts and influencers across our region that can help us drive business and grow opportunities within our charge. We will seek and be available to the feedback of our many stakeholders.

Once again, I am thrilled for the opportunity to lead Visit Evansville and recognize we have a lot of work to do! As we launch a new year with big projects and high expectations, I will be anxious to share our progress. I encourage you to visit our website often and subscribe to our E-Newsletters for the latest announcements. Not only will it help us stay connected, but you'll also be also notified when "Company's Coming" to our region. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me and the team at Visit Evansville with your questions and input!



Best wishes for a successful 2022,

Alexis Berggren
President & CEO



Scan to subscribe to our two monthly newsletters!

E-Tourism: for our industry stakeholders
Leisure: for anyone planning a trip to our area

2022 Event Calendar Highlights - Q1 & Q2

February 10-13, 2022

US Figure Skating Tri-State Synchro Skating Competition
Swonder Ice Arena

February 22-25, 2022

Mid-West RBR Agriculture Services
Old National Events Plaza

March 1-5, 2022

2022 Ohio Vally Conference
Basketball Championships
Ford Center

March 2-4, 2022

Illinois Oil & Gas Association
Old National Events Plaza

March 4-6, 2022

2022 Indiana Open and State Archery Tournament
Goebel Sports Complex

March 11-12, 2022

Delta Sigma Theta Statewide Sorority Event
Old National Events Plaza

March 17-20, 2022

EvilleCon
Old National Events Plaza

March 22-27, 2022

2022 DII Men's Basketball Elite Eight
Ford Center

April 16-17, 2022

USSSA Baseball Super Global Qualifier
Deaconess Sports Park

April 28-May 1, 2022

Ohio Valley Conference Tennis
Championship
Evansville Tennis Center

May 6-8, 2022

Southwest Indiana Soccer Association Spring Classic
Goebel Sports Complex

May 26-29, 2022

PBR Pro Division 20 Rodeo
Ford Center

June 10-12, 2022

USA Swimming Central
Zone Multicultural Meet
Deaconess Aquatic Center

June 18-25, 2022

2022 National Square Dance Convention
Old National Events Plaza

June 18-25, 2022

2022 Professional Disc Golf Association Amateur
World Championship
Various Regional Parks



Outlook on 2022...

Event Room Nights

27,634

Number of Event Attendees

42,678

Total Economic Impact

\$18,857,937

Meeting & Convention Delegate

\$565.51

Average Daily Spend

3.75 Days

Average Stay

Leisure Traveler

\$163

Average Daily Spend

1.5 Days

Average Stay

Education

Register Now For Annual Social Work Conference

FEBRUARY 2022

The University of Southern Indiana Social Work Department and National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Indiana Chapter will present the 20th Annual Spring Social Work Conference in celebration of National Professional Social Work Month. This year's conference will be held virtually from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Friday, March 4, 2022. Online registration is open now until 3 p.m. Thursday, March 3.

This year's conference theme is "Social Workers are Essential Workers" and keynote speaker, Dr. James Marley, will present "Ethics

and the Online World of Social Work." Marley is an associate professor and associate dean for Academics at Loyola University Chicago. His teaching and writing focus on people with serious mental health issues, the role of family in the treatment of serious mental health issues, family interventions and professional ethics.



Designed for social workers, mental health workers and social work students, the conference is an opportunity to earn 5.5 continuing education hours.

Afternoon workshops will provide opportunities to explore various dimensions of social work practice. The full 2022 conference agenda can be found on the 20th Annual Spring Social Work

Conference webpage. Recognition awards will be given to the NASW Region 8 Social Worker of the Year and the Social Work Community Partner of the Year.

Registered participants will receive a Zoom link before the conference date. Conference fee is \$85—USI alumni receive a 10% discount using code "SWAlum22" when registering. Student fee is \$25 with promo code "SWStudent22."

For more information and a full schedule of events, visit usi.edu/conference/annual-social-work-conference.

EVSC Foundation To Host Hangers Benefit Gala

FEBRUARY 2022

The EVSC Foundation is excited to host the fifth annual Hangers benefit Gala on Saturday, March 5 at 5:30 pm. The family-friendly event will take place at Cambridge Golf Course and will include a dinner, program, silent and live auctions and games.

All gala proceeds go to support Hangers, the EVSC clothing resource, funding clothing and basic hygiene products (shoes, coats, uniforms, toothbrushes, deodorant, soap) for the ~2,500 at-need students who visit Hangers annually.

"There are many reasons why families may need our support," says Dave Schutte, Director of Hangers. "From house fires, to homelessness, to a death in the family, life circumstances can change swiftly at any given moment. Hangers lets us act immediately to help families in need and to empower young people with confidence and dignity; the simple gift of clothing al-

lows students to focus on their education instead of their struggle."

Single tickets to the event are \$75, and reserved table seating for eight is \$600. Auction item donations and monetary gifts are also appreciated.

Individuals interested in supporting the program beyond the gala can donate gently-used or new clothing by dropping off items at Hangers (located at the Academy for Innovative Studies - former North High School - by door 27 on Wedeking Ave.).

"A \$150 donation sponsors one child," Schutte says. "Funds raised through the gala will help us continue supporting students in need and even expand our services working with similar agencies who share a common mission of helping young people."

To learn more about Hangers and the Gala, contact Dave Schutte, Director of Hangers, at (812) 483-9474 or dave@evscfoundation.org.



USI To Virtual Faculty Colloquia

FEBRUARY 2022

The University of Southern Indiana College of Liberal Arts will host its second virtual Faculty Colloquia presentation of the Spring Semester featuring Robert Dickes, Assistant Professor of Photography and Digital Imaging, at 3 p.m. Friday, February 25. The public can attend the presentation, "Americana Revisited: A Portrait of Contemporary Society" by visiting USI.edu/lafc to find the webinar link. The presentation will also be live-streamed on the College of Liberal Arts Facebook page and uploaded to the College of Liberal Arts YouTube.

Dickes' presentation is inspired by the COVID-19 pandemic, Black Lives Matter, the 2020 United States presidential election and many other notable events which occurred in 2019

and 2020. "While in lockdown, I was motivated by the work of Norman Rockwell and how he illustrated the idealism of American middle class in the 1930s through 1970s," Dickes says. "In my case, I want to look at what is real modern-day America. Not with rose-colored glasses, but with a sense of reality. My goal is not to politicize these issues, but to stand neutral and be observant of what I am seeing."

This presentation is part of the Spring 2022 Liberal Arts Faculty Colloquium. Each Fall and Spring Semester, USI faculty members from the College of Liberal Arts present individual, free public lectures featuring their current research. To see the current lineup of speakers for this semester, visit USI.edu/lafc.

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Education

UE Theatre Announces Spring 2022 Season

FEBRUARY 2022

EVANSVILLE, IN - The University of Evansville (UE) Department of Theatre proudly presents the Spring 2022 season with two student-directed productions in the May Studio Theatre and one guest-directed production in Shanklin Theatre. Tickets are now on sale for all performances.

The semester kicks off with *Mac Beth* by Erica Schmidt, based on the play *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare, in the May Studio Theatre. Directed by senior theatre studies major Claire Himstedt from St. Louis, Missouri, this new take on Shakespeare's classic tale of bloody violence explores asymmetry with rebellious teenage girls meeting to stage the play in a parochial school's parking lot. *Mac Beth* begins at 7:30 p.m. on February 10, 11, and 12; and at 2:00 p.m. on February 12 and 13.

Next up is Bertolt Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* with an English version by Eric Bentley, in the May Studio Theatre. Originally written at the end of WWII, it retells the story of a child claimed and fought over by two mothers, resulting in one of the most riveting

trials ever staged. Teeming with political overtones and a sharp look at human nature, it is directed by senior performer *ance* major Obi Roberts of Arvada, Colorado. *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* runs at 7:30 p.m. on February 24, 25, 26; and at 2:00 p.m. on February 26 and 27.

The finale is *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* by Will Arbery in Shanklin Theatre. Guest-directed by Dylan Frederick, a 2014 alum, this 2020 Pulitzer Prize Finalist in Drama is a meticulously fashioned story centering on four alumni of a conservative college. Their reunion spirals into chaos over spirituality, politics, and a nearly fanatical desire to be

understood. This haunting and brilliant play begins at 7:30 p.m. on April 8, 9, 21, 22, 23; and at 2:00 p.m. on April 24.

After graduating from UE, Frederick attended the Yale School of Drama and ultimately made his Broadway debut in the 2021 Tony Award-winning production of *The Inheritance* by Matthew Lopez. Frederick will likely be remembered by UE audiences for playing the role of Master Harold in the 2011 smash-hit production of *Master Harold...and the Boys* by Athol Fugard, directed by John David Lutz. A native of Minnesota, Frederick returns to his alma mater to make his directing debut.



In following industry standards, as established by the Broadway League, all audience members must show proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative test result taken within 48 hours of the date on their ticket. Upon arrival at the theatre, proof of vaccination/negative test result and an ID will be checked before each performance. In compliance with the UE Coronavirus Task Force guidelines, all audience members must remain masked while indoors on campus. Additionally, both Shanklin Theatre and the May Studio Theatre will be seated at no more than 50% capacity.

Single ticket prices for *Mac Beth* and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* are \$12 for all patrons. *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for senior adults, students, and UE employees. UE students may obtain one free student rush ticket beginning at 12:00 p.m. on the day of the performance they wish to attend. Tickets may be purchased by calling (812) 488-2031, Monday through Friday, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

2+2 Dual Degree Program Now At Ivy Tech

FEBRUARY 2022

The program makes it possible for qualified students to earn both an Associate of Science degree in Biology from Ivy Tech and a Bachelor of Science in Human Biology from Logan's College of Health Sciences seamlessly in four years. Logan's nationally recognized Human Biology degree prepares students for a career in the healthcare or science workforce or to enter a graduate program in chiropractic, medicine, osteopathy, podiatry, pharmacy, optometry or dentistry.

"This agreement with Ivy Tech is extremely beneficial for students looking to start their education at a community college then transfer to a well-regarded health sciences university like Logan,"

Logan President Clay McDonald, DC, MBA, JD said. "On average, transfer students from community colleges lose about 40% of their credits, which can set their path to graduation back by over a year. This 2+2 agreement ensures that students graduate

on time with two highly sought-after degrees."



"We are very excited to partner with Logan University to offer more in-demand career opportunities to our graduates," said Ivy Tech Community College President Sue Ellspermann. "Agreements

like these are pertinent to the success our students go on to achieve after their time at Ivy Tech."

Under the provisions of this 2+2 program, qualified students must successfully complete 60 hours of required coursework in Ivy Tech's associate of a science degree program and will then be eligible for admission into the Bachelor of Science in Human Biology program at Logan University. Ivy Tech students are eligible for admission with junior standing to Logan University provided the student has submitted a complete application for admission to Logan, has earned a grade of "C" or better in all courses, and has a 2.0 or higher grade point average on a 4 point scale.

USI Students To Prepare Taxes Through VITA

FEBRUARY 2022

Through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program, University of Southern Indiana students in the Romain College of Business will provide free federal and state income tax preparation on Monday evenings. The service is open to students, faculty, staff and the general public.

The sessions will be held by appointment only in the Business and Engineering Center on the following Mondays: January 31, February 7, 14, 21 and 28; and March 14 and 21. Appointments will be available at 5 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. All participants are required to wear masks or face coverings

during the visit, and social distancing protocols have been implemented to ensure the safety of both the students and participants.

"We are excited to continue to provide free tax preparation to members of our USI and surrounding community with protocols in place to ensure a safe experience for our students and clients," Dr. Brett Buelstel, Assistant Professor of Accounting and Site Coordinator for the USI VITA Program, says. "Our students are excited for the opportunity to serve our community and gain relevant, real-world experience in preparing tax returns."

In VITA programs, the Internal Revenue Service partners with national and local organizations to provide tax services to individuals with low-to-moderate income at no cost to the taxpayer. Accounting students will interview and prepare the taxes of those taxpayers who make an appointment for the service. VITA sites do not prepare Schedule C business forms or Schedule E rental forms. Federal and state tax returns are prepared at the time of the appointment, and all taxpayers must be available to sign their returns. Preparation of returns typically takes 90 minutes to complete.

Individuals are required to bring

their tax information, photo identification cards and Social Security cards for themselves and any dependents. International students must bring their passports and visas as well. The IRS encourages electronic filing and returns will be filed electronically for those who are eligible.

Please bring copies of your prior year state and federal tax returns if they are available. Your tax returns from the prior year are very helpful in preparing correct and complete current year returns. Paper returns will be prepared for those taxpayers who do not qualify for electronic filing or prefer paper returns.

KEEP EVANSVILLE BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

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- Green Teen Council
- Mascot Vandy
- Beautification Programs
- Highway 41 Beautification
- Tree Mitigation
- Volunteer Now

KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

Sports

Lady Aces Ready For Tough Spring Slate

FEBRUARY 2022

EVANSVILLE, Ind. – Competitive games across the board, including a tournament hosted by a 2021 Women's College World Series participant, comprise the 2022 schedule for the University of Evansville softball team.

A balanced, competitive slate will give the Purple Aces valuable experience over the course of the season while preparing the squad for the ultra-competitive Missouri Valley Conference schedule, which saw two programs represent the league in the 2021 NCAA Tournament.

"I am thrilled to be able to release our spring schedule. Aces fans will love to see all of the great opponents we will be playing this season," UE head softball coach Mat Mundell exclaimed. "Our schedule is going to be tough, but we did this intentionally to get our team ready for MVC play."

UE will hit the ground running when it opens the season on February 11 at the Best on the Bayou Classic. Hosted by Louisiana Monroe, the event begins with a matchup versus Stephen F. Austin, who went 35-12 a season ago. The Aces will also face Morehead State, Southern, Mississippi Valley State and SIU Edwardsville in the first weekend of the season.

In what may be one of the most competitive events in program history, Evansville makes the trek to the Easton Bama Bash, which will be held on the University of Alabama campus in Tuscaloosa. UE opens on Feb. 18 against Middle Tennessee State, who won 26 games last year while going 11-8 in Conference USA. The day continues against the Crimson Tide, who won 52 games last season on their way to a berth in the Women's College World Series. Al-



abama also won the SEC Championship and earned a #2 preseason ranking by D1softball.com.

An exciting weekend continues on the 19th with a morning game against Virginia Tech, who is 11th in the 2022 D1softball.com preseason poll. The Hokies were 37-15 in 2021 while earning 23 ACC wins. An at-large team in the NCAA Tournament, Virginia Tech won the Tempe Regional before picking up a win in the opening game of the Super Regional at UCLA. UE faces MTSU and VT twice during the tournament. The month of February comes to a close at the Hub City Challenge in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The Aces face SIU Edwardsville and Southern Miss in two contests each with the fifth game coming against Alcorn State.

March gets underway with a home tournament March 4-6. A competitive field includes Oakland, Green Bay, Morehead State, Creighton and Bowling Green. Oakland went 26-16 last year on their way to the Horizon League

Championship game. The Phoenix of Green Bay were also one of the top squads in the Horizon, winning 23 games. The Blue Jays and Falcons were both .500 in 2021.

Following a midweek game on March 9 at UT Martin, the Aces trek to Murray, Kentucky for their final non-conference tournament. The Racer Classic will feature two games apiece versus St. Thomas and Western Illinois along with a single game versus Murray State. St. Thomas is set for its first Division I campaign, but was extremely successful at the Division III level, going 33-10 last year while finishing with a 5th-place ranking nationally.

Evansville welcomes Tennessee Tech for a March 16 doubleheader before opening Missouri Valley Conference action at home on the 19th against Drake. The home-stand continues on 3/26-3/27 with a series against UNI. The Panthers won 32 games last season on their way to an at-large berth in the NCAA Tournament. Playing in the Columbia Regional, UNI picked up

a win over Iowa State.

April begins with a 3-game set at Loyola on April 2-3. Following a home doubleheader versus Bellarmine on the 6th, UE travels to Normal, Ill. to take on Illinois State on the 9th and 10th of April. Evansville returns to Cooper Stadium on April 15-16 to face Missouri State, who was 26-17 overall last year, but kicked it into gear in Valley play, finishing at 16-6. A 5-game road stretch includes at doubleheader at Indiana State on April 20 before three games at Bradley that weekend.

Home play for the season wraps up as April comes to a close. The Aces welcome Indiana State for a single game on April 27 before defending MVC Champion Southern Illinois comes to town for three games on April 30 and May 1. A trip to Valparaiso on May 6-7 completes the regular season. Missouri State will host the 2022 MVC Softball Championship in Springfield, Mo. It runs from May 11 through the 14th.

USI Running Series To Host Three Races

FEBRUARY 2022

The University of Southern Indiana will host the 2022 Screaming Eagles Running Series with three races this season, 5K Hearts on Fire, 7K Run into Madness and 10K Spring into Fitness.

The Screaming Eagles Running Series will kick off with the 5K Hearts on Fire race at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, February 12. The 7K Run into Madness race is slated for 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 16. The series will conclude with the 10K Spring into Fitness race at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, April 9. All

family-oriented road races will be held on USI's campus.

Highlights for the 2022 series include the following:

Registration discounts when registering for the entire series

Team (five to 10 members) competition option—top five will score

Virtual option

Alumni discounts for participation

Alumni sponsorship discounts

Student discount

Commemorative award for running/walking the entire

series

Registration for the Hearts on Fire 5K is \$25 (\$20 for alumni) through Saturday, February 5. Registration after Saturday, February 5 is \$30 (\$25 for alumni). A discounted rate is available for registering for all three series races. Registration will also be available on race days. Online registration is available at [USI.edu/running/5k-hearts-on-fire/registration/](https://www.usi.edu/running/5k-hearts-on-fire/registration/).

The focus of the Screaming Eagles Running Series is to increase the health and well-being

of the Evansville community while also providing hands-on experience for students at the University of Southern Indiana. Through these three races, USI will join forces with local organizations and businesses to develop partnerships that will potentially boost community participation on the USI campus.

Sponsors for the 2022 series include Romain Subaru, USI Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education, United Fidelity Bank, 104.1 WIKY, 93.5 The Lloyd, WSTO 96.1 and 107.5 WABX.



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Sports

NCAA Division II Men's Basketball Championship Tickets Now On Sale

Evansville, IN- NCAA Division II Men's Basketball Championship tickets are now on sale through NCAA.com/tickets and the Ford Center Box Office. The 2022 post-season tournament is returning to Evansville, Indiana, for the 27th time. The event will be co-hosted by the Evansville Sports Corporation and the University of Southern Indiana.

The Elite Eight will be held March 22-26 at Ford Center in downtown Evansville. There will be two sessions of quarterfinals games on Tuesday, March 22, with games at 12:00, 2:30, 6:00 & 8:30 PM (CST). The semifinals will be held on Thurs-

day, March 24 with tip times still to be determined. On Friday night, the NABC Reese's Division II College All-Star Game returns this year and will be played at 6 PM (CST). Tickets to the All-Star Game are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, or complimentary with proof of purchase of any ticket to the Division II Championship. The national championship game will be played on Saturday, March 26 at 2 PM (CST) and will air live on CBS.

In 2021, Northwest Missouri

State defeated West Texas A&M to earn the title of National Champion for a second consecutive time. The Bearcats have won three of the last five titles.

In recent NABC rankings, Lubbock Christian from Lubbock, Texas is the top ranked Division II men's basketball team with a perfect record.

Landing number two in the rankings is Nova Southeastern, another undefeated team. Cal State San Bernardino, Northwest Missouri State, and West Liberty round out

the current top 5.

Tickets can be purchased online at ncaa.com/tickets or in-person at the Ford Center Ticket Office. Group tickets must be purchased through the Ford Center Ticket Office. For any questions related to tickets, please contact the Ford Center Ticket Office at (812) 422-1515.

2022 Ticket Prices:

- All Session Adult: \$50
- All Session Student: \$25
- Single Session Adult: \$20
- Single Session Student: \$10
- Under 2 Years: Free

For additional information on this event, please contact Eric Marvin at (812) 375-4701 oremavin@evansvilleports.org.



2021-2022 ALL SIAC GIRLS' SWIM TEAM

First Team

200 Yard Medley Relay

- Nicole Fant (9), Jasper
- Lillian Polley (9), Jasper
- Linzi VanMeter (9), Jasper
- Avery Henke (12), Jasper

200 Yard Freestyle

- Ailyn Zurliene (10), Castle

200 Yard IM

- Ava Butterfield (10), Castle

50 Yard Freestyle

- Chloe Plank (11), Castle

1 Meter Diving

- Sicily Aliotta (10), Memorial

100 Yard Fly

- Madelyn Porter (11), Castle

100 Yard Freestyle

- Chloe Plank (11), Castle

Second Team

200 Yard Medley Ray

- Aubree Meyer (10) Castle
- Elle Dewees (11), Castle
- Caitleen Reyes (12), Castle
- Macy Meyer (9), Castle

200 Yard Freestyle

- Madelyn Porter (11), Castle

200 Yard IM

- Avery Henke (12), Jasper

50 Yard Freestyle

- Nicole Fant (9), Jasper

1 Meter Diving

- Payton Folz (11), Castle

100 Yard Fly

- Caroline Ivie (9), Memorial

100 Yard Freestyle

- Andi VanMeter (12), Jasper

First Team

500 Yard Freestyle

- Ailyn Zurliene (10), Castle

200 Yard Freestyle Relay

- Chloe Plank (11), Castle
- Ava Butterfield (10), Castle
- Madelyn Porter (11), Castle
- Ailyn Zurliene (10), Castle

100 Yard Backstroke

- Ava Butterfield (10), Castle

100 Yard Breaststroke

- Megan Matheis (12), Jasper

400 Yard Free Relay

- Chloe Plank (11), Castle
- Ailyn Zurliene (10), Castle
- Ava Butterfield (10), Castle
- Madelyn Porter (11) Castle

Second Team

500 Yard Freestyle

- Avery Henke (12), Jasper

200 Yard Freestyle Relay

- Nicole Fant (9), Jasper
- Lillian Polley (9), Jasper
- Andi VanMeter (12), Jasper
- Megan Matheis (12), Jasper

100 Yard Backstroke

- Nicole Fant (9), Jasper

100 Yard Breaststroke

- Avery Lasher (9), North

400 Yard Free Relay

- Andi VanMeter (12), Jasper
- Avery Henke (12), Jasper
- Linzi VanMeter (9), Jasper
- Megan Matheis (12), Jasper

SOUTHERN INDIANA ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

SIAC Girls Basketball Standings

SIAC Boys Basketball Standings

SOUTHERN INDIANA							
ALL TIMES EASTERN							
	CONF	AG	OA	DA	AM	Streak	
Castle	9- 0	16- 4	57.9	43.8	14.1	Won 4	
North	7- 2	16- 3	58.7	39.7	19.0	Won 1	
Memorial	5- 2	17- 4	55.2	37.3	18.0	Won 4	
Mater Dei	5- 3	13- 9	47.6	42.3	5.3	Won 3	
Vincennes	5- 4	14- 8	54.5	50.0	4.5	Won 2	
Reitz	4- 4	9- 9	48.5	45.9	2.6	Lost 1	
Central	3- 6	7-15	38.0	45.4	-7.4	Lost 1	
Jasper	2- 6	4-17	35.3	49.6	-14.3	Lost 9	
Harrison	1- 6	3-15	32.7	58.8	-26.2	Won 2	
Bosse	0- 8	0-22	28.0	57.0	-29.0	Lost 25	

SOUTHERN INDIANA							
ALL TIMES CENTRAL							
	CONF	AG	OA	DA	AM	Streak	
Reitz	4- 1	6- 5	62.6	54.3	8.4	Lost 3	
Castle	3- 1	11- 5	59.4	53.3	6.1	Won 2	
Bosse	3- 1	9- 6	69.3	61.9	7.5	Won 1	
Jasper	5- 2	11- 3	56.0	44.4	11.6	Lost 1	
North	3- 2	7- 7	56.6	55.4	1.1	Lost 1	
Harrison	2- 2	7- 7	58.4	54.8	3.6	Won 4	
Mater Dei	2- 3	4- 8	52.4	56.3	-3.9	Lost 2	
Central	1- 2	7- 5	55.7	55.4	0.3	Won 1	
Memorial	1- 4	7- 7	58.9	56.4	2.4	Lost 1	
Lincoln	0- 6	0-15	40.0	60.7	-20.7	Lost 16	

Entertainment

\$20K Box Of Chocolates Giveaway Highlights Bally's February Activities

February 2022

(OPEN TO QUALIFIED BALLY REWARDS MEMBERS)

\$20,000 BOX OF CHOCOLATES GIVEAWAY February 1 - 12

Guests earn points by playing casino games during the promotion dates. The Grand Prize Drawing will be held on Saturday, February 12. To be eligible for these drawings, players must swipe their Rewards card at any promotional kiosk, anytime between 5PM - 7PM CT on February 12, to activate their entries. Drawings will be held at 7PM and 17 winners will be announced starting at 7:30PM. Each winner will select a box of chocolates containing their prize. Winners receive up to \$500 in free slot play, \$500 cash, \$5,000 cash or \$10,000 cash.

THE BIG GAME PARTY

Sunday, February 13, from 3PM to the end of the Game in the Riverfront Event Center

Open to the public, 21 years of age or older. Guests can watch the game on one of the biggest screens in the tri-state with prize giveaways, a "tailgate" buffet, cash bar, and raffle prizes. \$30 General Admission, \$50 VIP, and \$125 Hotel Package Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Bally's Evansville Hotel Front Desk.

GIFT GIVEAWAYS

Invited qualified Bally Rewards Members receive a Free Gift or Free Slot Play.

Wednesday, February 2: Electric Kettle

Thursday, February 3: Choice of Marathon, Walmart, Amazon, Texas Roadhouse, Macy's, VISA Gift Card

Saturday, February 5: Electric Wok
Wednesday, February 9: Dash Camera

Thursday, February 10: Choice of Marathon, Walmart, Amazon, Texas Roadhouse, Macy's, VISA Gift Card

Wednesday, February 16: Rosewater Glass Baking Dishes

Thursday, February 17: Choice of Marathon, Walmart, Amazon, Texas Roadhouse, Macy's, VISA Gift Card

Saturday, February 19: Karaoke Speaker w/ Microphone

Wednesday, February 23: Bally's Logo Black Zippered Pullover Long Sleeved Shirt

Thursday, February 24: Choice of Marathon, Walmart, Amazon, Texas Roadhouse, Macy's, VISA Gift Card

Saturday, February 26: Gift Giveaway Blowout - Choose one of a variety of Gifts or \$20 Free Slot Play

BAD BEAT DRAWINGS

Saturday, February 19

Open to qualified Poker Players who have had rated poker play between September 2019 - March 2020. Guests will check in at a promotional kiosk on the Saturday drawing date between 12:30PM - 2:30PM and again from 5:30PM - 7:30PM to deposit their entries into the Bad Beat Drawing Bin. A total of \$25,000 will be awarded each drawing time from the prior Bad Beat Poker Jackpot funds. Drawings held at 3PM & 8PM. Winners will be announced from the Players Club. Must be present to win.

JACKPOT BONUS OFFER

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, February 11, 12 & 13, 2022

Open to qualified Bally Rewards Members.

Legend, Superstar and Star Bally Rewards members who win a Jackpot of \$1,200 or more will be extended a Bonus Free Slot Play reward. \$300 for Legend Tier, \$150 for Superstar Tier, and \$100 for Star Tier. Jackpot Bonus times are 5PM - 12AM on Friday and Saturday, and 8AM - 5PM on Sunday.

GRAND EARNING SUNDAY

February 20 from 6AM - 10PM.

Open to all Bally Rewards Members.

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 10AM - 10PM CT.

\$20,000 JACKPOT PARTY

Friday, February 25

Open to Bally Rewards Members who received a hand pay (\$1,200+) between January 1, 2021 - February

24, 2022.

Invited guests check in and activate their entries at any promotional kiosk on February 25, between 5PM - 7PM. Drawings will be held from the Players Club. Five names will be drawn every half hour from 7:30PM to 9:00PM. Each winner receives \$1,000 in Free Slot Play.

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 5PM-9PM at Cavanaugh's On the River.

PREMIUM WEEKEND PARTY

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

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

TO TABLE GAMES PLAYERS

New Bally's Evansville gaming chips are coming to the casino floor. During this transition, all Tropicana Evansville Gaming Chips must be redeemed or exchanged by end of gaming day on Tuesday, May 31, 2022. After this date, Tropicana Evansville Gaming Chips will not be redeemed or accepted at any table game or at the Cashier Cage. If you

have questions, please visit the Players Club.

FOOD SPECIALS

Tap House Burger of the Month \$14.00

The Big Charlotte - A Juicy Beef Burger stacked on Texas Toast with BBQ Pulled Pork, Cole Slaw, Cheddar Cheese, Crispy Onions, Lettuce, and Sweet & Tangy BBQ Sauce.

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

Three Floyds Alpha King - This American Pale Ale's strong hop notes accent the spices of the barbecue sauce. And the malt stands up to the savory pulled pork and seasoned beef burger.

FEBRUARY 3 - National Carrot Cake Day at Cavanaugh's On the River

Buy one piece of Carrot Cake at the regular price and get one piece of Carrot Cake FREE.

FEBRUARY 9 - National Pizza Day at The Deli

\$5 Pepperoni Pizza, all day.

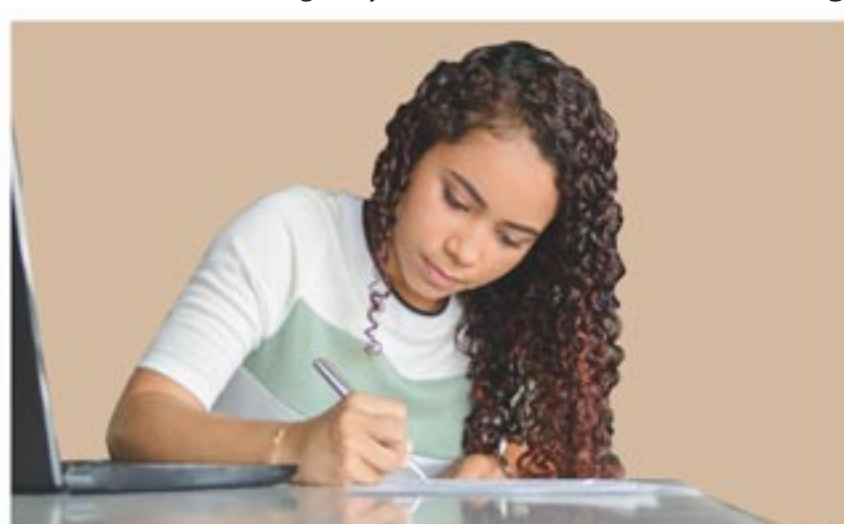
FEBRUARY 14 - Valentine's Day at Cavanaugh's On the River

Each couple dining at Cavanaugh's receives a FREE ROSE.

FEBRUARY 18 - National Drink Wine Day at Cavanaugh's On the River

Wine by The Glass, at half-price, on select wines.

Continued On Page 16



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Entertainment

Comparing Performance Of Our Entertainment Venues During The COVID-19 Pandemic Isn't Reasonable

FEBRUARY 2022

By City-County Observer Staff

Over the last several years the COVID19 pandemic nearly destroyed the entertainment industry by virtue of the fact that to some degree all states, cities, and counties in the United States had some form of restrictions on attendance at entertainment venues large and small. These restrictions ranged from outright closure in coastal cities and states to social distancing in more conservative regions. A good example to show just how damaging the restrictions were to entertainment venues can be made by first eliminating the revenue stream at the box office and followed up by making cost-cutting near impossible through targeted assistance programs with employment requirements. 2020 and 2021 are thus far the worst businesses conditions for entertainment and sporting venues in a century. It is a wonder that any have survived.

To make comparisons right

now to anytime during the pandemic will yield a magnificent number that has absolutely no relevance to the business itself. Making comparisons to 2019 that was before the pandemic may be instructive and aspirational, but the damages done are so massive that comparisons are little more than an academic exercise in futility.

We have been told that a few uninformed individuals have questioned the abysmal performance of Evansville-Vanderburgh County entertainment and sporting venues during the pandemic. Of course, the words were true as such words are all across the nation, but the condescension expressed seemly has absolutely no positive intent or advice.

The reality is that the people of Evansville and Vanderburgh County are once again beginning to enjoy high-quality (two thumbs up) entertainment like the "Off-Broadway" play Anastasia that was at the Old National Events Plaza last week. Concerts,

hockey, colleges basketball, and other entertainment-related events are returning to the Ford Center and the Victory Theatre as well. We are told that the Deaconess Sports Park is also planning several "Youth Sports" tournaments beginning this coming spring. We are pleased to hear that the Evansville Sports Corp. is also making plans to continue improving its Intercollegiate sporting event offerings for the 2022 season. It will take many years to make up for the pandemic-related losses in our local entertainment sector, but at least things are moving in the right direction.

The Evansville Convention and Visitors Bureau, which recently changed its name to "Visit Evansville." "Visit Evansville" has long been an entity that felt the need to hire an outsider to lead it because they believed that it would make Evansville a big player in the national tourism industry.

For more than a decade "Visit Evansville" has had a nationally

recruited CEO tasked with bringing resort-seeking tourists and national conventions to town. The reality is that this decision wasn't the correct one and the results confirm that Evansville is and will most likely remain a regional destination that draws visitors mostly from the "Drive Market."

This brings us to the point that a newly appointed CEO of "Visit Evansville" really needs to be from this region because he or she will have the knowledge of how the "Drive Market" thinks and travels. As there is now an opening for yet another "Visit Evansville" CEO, it's time that the current Board considers taking a chance on a talented home-grown CEO to lead this most important revenue-producing organization. Bottom line, we have tried outsiders for decades and the results have not been as we dreamed. What do we have to lose by hiring someone who knows all aspects of Evansville-Vanderburgh County for this important position?

Broadway in Evansville Features Fiddler; Hairspray

FEBRUARY 2022

Fiddler on the Roof: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 @ 7:30 pm
Hairspray: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 @ 7:30 pm

To renew a subscription, go to www.oldnationaleventsplaza.com, visit the box office or call 812-437-8300. Box office hours are currently limited, please call for available times. Beginning in August, box office hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10am – 5pm.

Being a Broadway in Evansville subscriber offers exclusive benefits including reserved seats of your selection for each performance, advanced renewal for reserved seats each year, and the opportunity to upgrade seats first! This year, our opening performance will also feature a private VIP Subscriber Reception as a thank you and welcome back to our loyal Broadway audiences. Subscribers also receive additional special ticket offers and the chance to purchase tickets to add-on shows before the general public. Tickets are mailed to each subscriber prior to the performance to avoid box office lines and lost ticket insurance is included at no additional charge.

About the Old National Events Plaza

Located in the heart of Downtown Evansville, the Old National Events Plaza is Evansville premier convention center and largest live entertainment theatre. The venue offers affordable and beautiful spaces, easy scheduling and a selection of in-house services. With a beautiful 2,500-seat theatre, spacious 36,000 square-foot exhibit hall, elegant 14,000 square-foot ballroom, and 12,000 square-foot of meeting space, the Events Plaza can accommodate a variety of events ranging from 20 to 10,000 guests.

About Nederlander National Markets



Nederlander National Markets LLC continues the tradition of operating historic theatres, producing and presenting the best in theatrical and concert events, and innovating new ways to engage future generations of theatergoers.

DETAILED SHOW INFORMATION

Fiddler on the Roof: March 23, 2022

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF: Tony®-winning director Bartlett Sher and the team behind South Pacific, The King and land 2017 Tony-winning Best Play Oslo, bring a fresh and authentic vision to this beloved theatrical masterpiece from Tony winner Joseph Stein and Pulitzer Prize winners Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick.

The original production won ten Tony Awards, including a special Tony for becoming the longest-running Broadway musical of all time. You'll be there when the sun rises on this new production, with stunning movement and dance from acclaimed Israeli choreographer Hofesh Shechter, based on the original staging by Jerome Robbins. A wonderful cast and a lavish orchestra tell this heartwarming story of fathers and daughters, husbands and wives, and the timeless traditions that define faith and family.

Featuring the Broadway classics "Tradition," "If I Were a Rich Man,"

"Sunrise, Sunset," "Matchmaker, Matchmaker" and "To Life," FIDDLER ON THE ROOF will introduce a new generation to this uplifting celebration that raises its cup to joy! To love! To life!

Hairspray: April 20, 2022

You Can't Stop the Beat! HAIRSPRAY, Broadway's Tony Award-winning musical comedy phenomenon that inspired the

blockbuster film and live television event, is back on tour! Join 16-year-old Tracy Turnblad in 1960's Baltimore as she sets out to dance her way onto TV's most popular show. Can a girl with big dreams (and even bigger hair) change the world?

Featuring the beloved score of hit songs including "Welcome to the 60's," "Good Morning Baltimore," "It Takes Two," and incorporating "Ladies Choice" from the musical film adaption, HAIRSPRAY is "fresh, winning, and deliriously tuneful!" (The New York Times)

This all-new touring production will reunite Broadway's award-winning creative team led by Director Jack O'Brien and Choreographer Jerry Mitchell to bring HAIRSPRAY to a new generation of theater audiences. Don't miss this "exhilaratingly funny and warm-hearted musical comedy" (The New Yorker).

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Entertainment

REO Speedwagon To Play ONEP

FEBRUARY 2022

Evansville, IN – American rock band REO Speedwagon will fire up the Aiken Theatre stage at Old National Events Plaza on Friday, February 18th, 2022. Hailing from the Mid-

west, the group formed in 1967 in Champaign, IL. During the 1970s and 1980s REO Speedwagon cultivated a following that has spanned generations and achieved significant commercial success. Fronted by iconic vocalist Kevin Cronin since 1972, the group's unre-

lent drive, non-stop touring and recording jump-started the burgeoning rock movement in the Midwest. Platinum albums and radio staples soon followed, setting the stage for the release of the band's explosive Hi Infidelity album in 1980, which contained four massive hit singles including "Keep On Loving You" and "Take It On the Run." That landmark album spent 15 weeks in the No. 1 slot and has since earned the RIAA's coveted 10X Diamond Award for surpassing sales of 10 mil-

Event Information

What: REO Speedwagon
When: February 18, 2022
Where: Old National Events Plaza, Aiken Theatre

lion units in the US.

Today, REO Speedwagon has sold more than 40 million albums around the globe, and Cronin and bandmates Bruce Hall (bass), Neal Doughty (keyboards), Dave Amato (guitar), and

Bryan Hitt (drums) are still electrifying audiences worldwide in concert with fan-favorites such as "In Your Letter," "Can't Fight This Feeling," "Time For Me To Fly," "Roll With The Changes," and many, many more.



Bally's Feb. Activities

Continued From Page 14

FEBRUARY 22 - National Margarita Day

Half-priced Margaritas on the Casino floor all day.

FEBRUARY 24 - National Tortilla Chip Day at Tap House

FREE chips and salsa with the purchase of each entrée. Dine-in only.

FEBRUARY 24 - National Chili Day at The Deli

Half-priced Chili, all day.

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.

FEBRUARY 3 – Andrea Wirth

FEBRUARY 4 – Matt Clark

FEBRUARY 5 – Bob Green

FEBRUARY 10 – Andrea Wirth

FEBRUARY 11 – Bob Ballard

FEBRUARY 12 – Bob Green

FEBRUARY 14 – Bob Green

FEBRUARY 17 – Andrea Wirth

FEBRUARY 18 – Bob Green

FEBRUARY 19 – Matt Clark

FEBRUARY 24 – Andrea Wirth

FEBRUARY 25 – Matt Clark

FEBRUARY 26 – Bob Green

USI To Move To D-1

Continued From Page 1

with the University's strategic plan goals of promoting USI to a national stage. "This move is directly tied to one of our stated strategic plan goals of elevating the University's visibility and reputation," said Rochon. "We have a long history of forward thinking and bold leaders and initiatives that have brought this institution to where we are now. Today's decision marks one of the most daring and significant moves for the University since achieving its independence in 1985 as a statewide institution."

USI has competed in the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Valley Conference since 1979. The Screaming Eagles have been a competitive member of the GLVC with a winning history, including 10 individual and four team national championships at the DII level. USI student athletes have a proud tradition of academic excellence and Academic All-American status across all sports. With the addition of Swimming and Diving in Fall 2022, USI will have 19 varsity sports competing at the DI level.

"We have a proud tradition in the GLVC as a founding member and have appreciated our strong partnership with conference leadership and the schools we have competed against in this conference," said Jon Mark Hall, Athletic Director. "Our success in the GLVC has allowed us to consider moving to Division I play, and we are excited about the opportunity to compete at that level."

The next step will be for the University to be invited by an NCAA Division I conference. The University will be finalizing discussions with a potential conference partner in the coming days and a public announcement will be made. After a conference partner is determined, the University will then make a formal bid for reclassification within the NCAA prior to a June 1 deadline. Upon acceptance, the transition process takes four years to complete. USI would begin competing in a Division I conference at the beginning of the 2022-23 academic year and would leave the GLVC at the end of this academic year. Although USI may be eligible for conference champions during the four-year transition, the University would not be eligible for NCAA championships.

The move to Division I athletics will require additional funding including application fees, additional staffing and athletic scholarships. The University plans to meet those needs through student fees phased in over time, as well as donor support. Rochon has announced that generous donors have already committed \$1.5 million in leadership gifts. He also committed to a 3% pool for employee raises beginning July 1, 2022, for the 2022-2023 academic year.

"I challenge all of those who support this University and this community and want to make them even better places, to join me in making a wise investment—to support this effort to enhance the reputation and visibility of USI and our community," said Romain. "I understand that supporting athletics may not be for everyone, and the foundation of this great institution is academic in nature, however, we believe this move to Division I will advance USI on all levels."

A formal capital campaign is in the planning stages and the University will seek to mirror, dollar for dollar, funds to support both academics and athletics.

Ricketts Brings Passion, Leadership To D-Patrick

Continued from Page 1

I spent a lot of time helping my grandfather restore old cars." Tony described a litany of cars that his grandfather used to collect and restore, including some older cars like the Model T and Model A. He remembered those times fondly, saying, "My grandfather even collected Edsels, which some people look back on as a failure, but really Edsel was a car that was ahead of their time. His grandpa collected Ford's and various other types of cars as well, like an old Mercedes Benz that he and I would work on together."

Tony graduated from Heritage Hills High School in Spencer County. He attended Indiana University in Terre Haute for a couple of years, where he studied aviation. He enjoyed his time there, learning the ins and outs of airplanes and how to fly them, but after a couple of years I decided that aviation really wasn't the direction I wanted to go." Tony moved back to Evansville and started school at the University of Southern Indiana, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Business."

After Tony graduated college he wanted to go into sales somewhere. He had a passion for cars, so he thought the natural thing to do was to apply for a job at D-Patrick. He applied for a management position and 34 years later he's still there!. Tony said, "D-Patrick has grown by leap and bounds over the year, and how he has been able to grow with the business. "D-Patrick has provided me with a lot of opportunities over the years"

His management and sales skills have served him well over the years. He has dabbled in every aspect of the D-Patrick. He was a salesperson, a finance and insurance manager, then was promoted sales manager."

Tony has received leadership training in Cincinnati, OH with an interesting group of individuals led by Richard Olivier, son of the famous actor Lawrence Olivier. The entire process of this training session was based around Shakespeare's play Henry V. The point of me bringing up this most interesting training session was to show that I know that my job as a leader is to communicate to my team members what is expected of them, and to show them, to guide them how to get there. It's not

about being a boss and yelling at people or making unreasonable demands just because I can, it's about showing people what your expectations are and how they can meet those expectations. We've all got a job to do, we're all on the same team and we all have the same goal."

I asked Tony to tell me about the history of D-Patrick. He told me that one of the things he really loved about D-Patrick was that it is still a local family-owned business. Tony also gave me a brief history lesson about D-Patrick. "The O'Daniel family started the company in the 1930s, during the height of the Great Depression. Joe O'Daniel became the owner of an Oldsmobile dealership, and from there it has grown generation by generation. Slowly they expanded into having multiple car lines and became one of the largest sellers of used cars in this market. D. Patrick O'Daniel took over after Joe and expanded the business even further, and now Mike O'Daniel and his brother-in-law Ray Farabaugh, who are partners, are taking it to the next level." Tony informed me that D-Patrick even has a dealership in the Indianapolis market now, where they have recently opened up in Lebanon, IN.

As the interview winded down, and as the customers continued coming in, I asked Tony if there was one last bit he would like to say before he returned to help his sales team. He pondered the question for a moment, then said, "I'm a person who doesn't really change a whole lot. I've worked at D-Patrick for over 34 years, I've been married to my beautiful wife Heather for 31 years, and I've lived in the same house for nearly 30 years. I have two grown sons in their thirties. My oldest is named Alec and he's a funeral director up in Boonville, married to a wonderful woman named Ariel and I am very proud of both of them. My youngest son's name is Adrian, he works in the building trades here in Evansville, and I'm very proud of him as well. I also have a dog named Skipper who I love. I've been blessed with a happy life and a great job."

There you have it, readers. If you need a car, new or used, come on down to D-Patrick Auto Sales and see Tony Ricketts and his team. They won't steer you wrong!

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GRAND EARNING SUNDAY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2022
6AM - 10PM CT

Open to all Bally Rewards Members.

**THE MORE YOU PLAY,
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Receive Bonus Slot Play, based on the number of points you earn, while playing your favorite slot games with your card inserted in the machine.

Bonus Slot Play can be claimed at the Players Club on February 20, 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.



FEBRUARY 1 - 12, 2022

10 Reward Points = 1 Entry
Legend = 5X Daily | Superstar = 3X Daily | Star = 2X Daily

GRAND PRIZE DRAWING - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

To be eligible for the drawings, swipe your Rewards card at any promotional kiosk, any time between 5PM - 7PM CT on February 12, to activate your entries.

Drawings will be held at 7PM and winners will be announced starting at 7:30PM.

EACH WINNER WILL SELECT A BOX OF CHOCOLATES CONTAINING THEIR PRIZE!

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Earn entries by playing your favorite casino games!

**17 WINNERS! WIN UP TO \$500 IN FREE SLOT PLAY!
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**BIGGEST SCREEN IN THE TRI-STATE! CASH BAR!
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See details at ballysevansville.com

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022

**3PM - END OF GAME
RIVERFRONT EVENT CENTER**

\$30 Ticket, plus tax, includes buffet, giveaways and one raffle entry.

\$50 VIP Ticket, plus tax, includes buffet, giveaways, one raffle entry, up-front comfy seating.

\$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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On the River

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Reservations Recommended

Live Music at the Piano Bar!

FEBRUARY 3, 10, 17, 24 - Andrea Wirth
FEBRUARY 4, 19, 25 - Matt Clark
FEBRUARY 5, 12, 14, 18, 26 - Bob Green
FEBRUARY 11 - Bob Ballard



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Must be 21 years of age or older to dine at the Tap House



SANDWICHES, SALADS, PIZZA, SWEET TREATS, COFFEE AND MORE!

Open daily for guests of all ages.

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NEW BALLY'S EVANSVILLE GAMING CHIPS ARE COMING TO THE CASINO FLOOR!

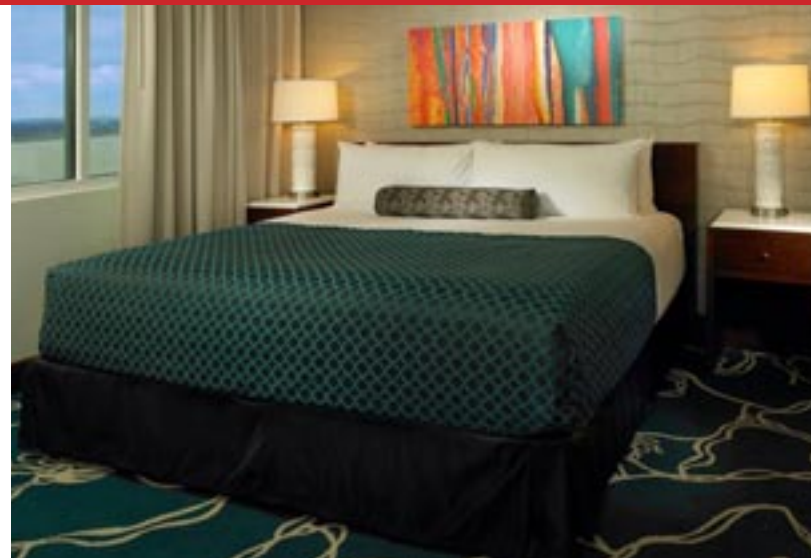
DURING THIS TRANSITION, TROPICANA EVANSVILLE GAMING CHIPS MUST BE EXCHANGED IN ORDER TO PLAY. ALL TROPICANA EVANSVILLE GAMING CHIPS MUST BE REDEEMED OR EXCHANGED BY END OF GAMING DAY ON TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022. AFTER THIS DATE, TROPICANA EVANSVILLE GAMING CHIPS WILL NOT BE REDEEMED OR ACCEPTED AT ANY TABLE GAME OR AT THE CASHIER CAGE.

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