

Moers Endorses Musgrave For Mayor

MARCH 2023
By Diana Moers
Vanderburgh County Prosecutor

The position of Mayor of a major city like Evansville is not an entry-level government position. As a long-time government employee, I can tell you it is critical to have someone with experience when dealing with the many tasks an administration is faced with- that's why Cheryl Musgrave for Mayor has my support; her resume and accomplishments speak for themselves.

Take a look! Cheryl will support and lift up law enforcement. Public safety is a number one priority and I trust Cheryl to make sure we have all the resources to keep Evansville safe.



AG Rokita Terminates Large Robocall Operation

MARCH 2023

Attorney General Todd Rokita this week obtained judgments shutting down a massive robocall operation that has blasted billions of illegal robocalls to people across the country, including in Indiana. In 2019 and 2020 alone, the defendants b o m b a r d e d Hoosiers with more than 25 million robocalls.

"Winning the war on robocalls requires constantly staying on offense and tracking the latest technologies the scammers are using to carry out their schemes," Attorney General Rokita said. "We have pledged to do that since we first



took office, and we continue to make good on that promise."

Defendants, in this case, include John Caldwell Spiller II and his business partner Jakob Mears, the owners of Texas-based Rising Eagle Capital Group LLC and JSquared Telecom LLC, as well as Rising Eagle Capital Group-Cayman.

The Office of the Attorney General sued the defendants in June 2020 alleging violations of the federal Telephone Consumer Protection Act and the federal Telemarketing Sales Rule, as well as various state consumer protection laws. The complaint alleged that defendants used their

companies to perpetrate scams involving extended car warranties and health care services, among other things.

The defendants also spoofed calls to mislead consumers and called people on Do Not Call lists. The 25 million Hoosiers called in 2019 and 2020 included more than 13.5 million calls to people whose numbers were on the Do Not Call Registry and 5 million calls to Hoosiers on Indiana Do Not Call List.

In achieving the successful multistate settlements, Attorney General Rokita worked with attorneys general in Arkansas, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, and Texas..

Mears and Spiller are now permanently banned from 1) initiating or facilitating any robocalls, 2) working in or with companies that

Continued On Page 7

UE Students Lead New Band Program at Joshua Academy

MARCH 2023

EVANSVILLE, IN Since 2019, a small number of students in the University of Evansville's Music Conservatory have been leading a new band program at Joshua Academy in Evansville, Indiana. The group took a temporary hiatus in 2020 through the pandemic, but picked the program back up in 2021 and has steadily grown its participation and capabilities.

Joshua Academy principal Arvenda McDonald reached out to UE Music Conservatory faculty member Fran Vile, UE Clinical Assistant Professor of Music, with an idea to start a band program at the academy. She had found a closet filled with old instruments and wondered about the possibility.

Fran in turn reached out to Erin Lewis, Executive Director of UE's Center for Innovation & Change, and said "Is this possible?" And Erin said, "Let's make it a ChangeLab." Fran took it from there, and instrumental music education students began the Joshua Academy band program in the fall of 2019.

A ChangeLab is a project-based course offered at the University of Evansville where students can earn academic credit while working on passion projects that help improve the community. So far this year there are 20 ChangeLabs being of-

fered on topics ranging from music education, food access, data analytics for the National Forest Service, environmental sustainability, and many more. More than 100 students are registered in these courses.

For this course, UE music education students worked with Joshua Academy to grow a music program from the ground up. Beginning with assessing viability of current instruments to recruiting the first few students to the program, and even arranging music to suit their capabilities, the project has been a success so far.

"Music is flourishing at Joshua Academy," said Will McDonnell, a senior music education major at UE. He and his colleague Luke Robertson, also a senior music education major, have led the project beginning in 2021.

The group meets at 7:00 in the morning before classes begin. Together, with Vile's advice, McDonner and Robertson have navigated the challenges of recruiting, scheduling, communicating between students and parents, and finally teaching students what music is and how to read it and play an instrument.

It doesn't always go smoothly, and plans don't always work out

Continued On Page 7

Senate Passes Bill 464 Adults Can Be Charged For Crimes Committed As Minor

MARCH 2023
By Xain Ballenger

The Indiana Senate recently passed a bill Tuesday that would allow an adult to be arrested for a crime they committed as a youth.

The bill is authored by Sen. Stacey Donato, R-Logansport, Sen. Aaron Freeman, R-Indianapolis, and Sen. Eric Koch, R-Bedford, and revolving around adult court jurisdiction over delinquent acts.

Senate Bill 464 provides that a juvenile court would not have jurisdiction over a person if they committed a crime between the



ages 12 and 18 but were 21 or older when charged with the offense.

This would apply to felonies like murder, attempted murder, kidnapping, rape, criminal deviant conduct, robbery (if committed while armed with a deadly weapon and resulting in bodily injury), and child molestation.

Sen. Greg Taylor, D-Indianapolis, outlined his opposition with an example: If a 15-year-old committed one of those felonies and was charged at age 23, then the juvenile court would have no jurisdiction. But if that person were caught at 15, then they could go to juvenile court.

"That is just flat-out wrong," Taylor said.

The bill passed, 31-13.

Comics and Puzzles
ARE HERE!

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ALTHOUGH I HAVE A DISCLAIMER FOR CERTAIN ATHLETES: KIDS DRIVING AND AUTOMOT DRIVING FOR MISTAKES TOTALLY UNPREDICTABLE.

←

CHECK OUT PAGE 8 FOR COMICS, SUDOKU AND CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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Mitch Daniels' Telling Exit

MARCH 2023
By John Krull
 Words matter to Mitch Daniels. They always have.

Daniels makes clear that he sees himself in the latter category—of people who want to get things done.

nation of the talent and energy that grateful immigrants can bring.
 “And I would have tried to work

playing with the debt ceiling and other fundamental commitments to the American people are undermining the foundations of the na-

The just-retired Purdue University president and former Indiana governor took pride in penning his speeches and other pieces of writing that bore his name. He wanted to be able to own what he said and have what he said matter.

That's why it would be a mistake to stop reading his statement announcing he would not run for the U.S. Senate in 2024 after the first sentence, which said:

"After what I hope was an adequate reflection, I've decided not to become a candidate for the U.S. Senate."


The reason one should keep reading the announcement is that it offers, in polite language, a searing indictment of Daniels' own Republican Party in particular and the current American political scene in general.

Daniels builds his argument by referring to the leader once considered the secular saint of the GOP, Ronald Reagan. Daniels notes that Reagan observed that two kinds of people run for office—those who want to be somebody and those who want to do something.



Daniels makes clear that he sees himself in the latter category—of people who want to get things done.

Then, in an eloquent section, he spells out exactly what he would have liked to accomplish. I'm going to quote from it at length because the words matter.



The truth always does.
 “Had I chosen to compete, given my age, I would have done so on an explicitly one-term basis. I would have returned any unspent campaign funds to their donors, closed any political accounts, and devoted six years to causes I think are critical to the long-term safety and prosperity of our country.

"These issues include saving the safety net programs, so that we can keep promises we have made to older and vulnerable Americans and avoid a terrible national crisis of confidence and betrayal; in so doing, to avoid crushing our economy and today's younger citizens with the unpayable debts we are on course to leave them; to confront firmly the aggression of a would-be superpower who holds in contempt the values of personal freedom and individual dignity central to our national success and our view of a just society; to secure our borders without depriving the

nation of the talent and energy that grateful immigrants can bring.

"And I would have tried to work on these matters in a way that might soften the harshness and personal vitriol that has infected our public square, rendering it not only repulsive to millions of Americans but also less capable of effective action to meet our threats and seize our opportunities."

Several things stand out about these paragraphs.

The first is that the issues Daniels prioritizes are ones upon which Americans used to agree. Likely, most of us still do. We want to care for and protect the vulnerable, defend freedom and the human spirit and establish a sane and just path for good people eager to build better lives for themselves and their families to pursue the American dream.

Our disagreements in the past generally have been about how we should reach these goals, not about the goals themselves. We have quarreled about means, not ends.

That's no longer the case.

The second thing is that Daniels believes the social contract that holds this country together is imperiled. When he talks about keeping promises and avoiding crises of confidence and betrayal, he's making a case—an irrefutable one—that the political games we're

playing with the debt ceiling and other fundamental commitments to the American people are undermining the foundations of the nation.

The last point is more implied than overtly stated.

Daniels isn't running because he doesn't think his political party and this nation's political culture are interested in solving, rather than exploiting, problems. Therefore, serving in the U.S. Senate would be a waste of his time.

When one looks at the candidate most Republicans are lining up behind—U.S. Rep. Jim Banks, R-Indiana, who rarely has found a conspiracy theory he didn't embrace or a national divide he didn't want to widen—it's difficult to argue that Daniels' implication is mistaken.

The fact is we now live in an era in which too many of our leaders prefer fights to solutions.

That Mitch Daniels chose not to run for the Senate says a lot about both today's Republican Party and America as it stands.

None of it is good.

FOOTNOTE: John Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism and publisher of TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students. The views expressed are those of the author only and should not be attributed to Franklin College.

Becker Co-Authors SB-4 For Improved Public Health

MARCH 2023
By State Senator Vaneta Becker

Having a healthy population is key to our state's success. By preventing health problems, rather than just treating them, Indiana can foster healthier families and a stronger workforce.

That's why I co-authored Senate Bill 4, which would incentivize local health departments to improve the quality of their services by establishing the Local Public Health Services Fund grant program.

The grant program would support local health departments that opt-in to provide "core public health services" recommended by the Governor's Public Health Commission.

These services include screening for childhood lead exposure, inspecting public buildings for sanitation, part-

nering with schools to support student health, preventing tobacco use, and reviewing suicide, child, and overdose fatality reports.

Under SB 4, no county could accept this grant funding for expanded health services unless the elected county commissioners and county council agree. The bill further states, "A county that accepts additional funding to provide core public health services does not transfer any authority under the statute in operating the local health department to the state department in return for additional funding."

This bill would be a big step forward in improving the overall health of Hoosiers and promoting collaboration between local health departments and the Indiana Department of Health.

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- Continued, proper funding for our police and fire departments.
- Improving and preserving our parks and pools.





missy mosby
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A large, stylized yellow sun with many rays is the central focus. Below the sun, two white gift boxes with blue ribbons are shown. One box is open, revealing a blue interior. The background is a bright yellow with subtle rays emanating from the sun. At the bottom, there are blue, stylized clouds. The overall theme is positive and forward-looking, representing a 'gift' of sustainable energy.

The CenterPoint Energy logo is located at the bottom center. It consists of a solid blue circle to the left of the company name. The name 'CenterPoint' is in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) to its upper right. Below 'CenterPoint', the word 'Energy' is written in a larger, bold, black, sans-serif font. A thin blue horizontal line separates 'CenterPoint' from 'Energy'.

Community

School Book Ban Bill Passes In Marathon Senate Session

MARCH 2023
By Xain Ballenger and Ashlyn Myers

INDIANAPOLIS—On the last day before a short session break, lawmakers in the Senate Chamber passed controversial Senate Bill 12, which seeks to create rules around “materials harmful to minors” in Indiana public schools.

Near exact copies of SB 12 have been seen by the Senate for the last three years. Last year, a similar bill passed through the Senate but was not heard before the House Chamber.

The bill received significant opposition during committee meetings from organizations such as the ACLU and the Indiana Parent Teacher Association, which were concerned with the lack of legal protection for teachers and librarians and the bill’s First Amendment implications. TheStatehouseFile.com reached out to both organizations for additional comments but did not hear back by press time.

In a statement, Indiana State Teachers Association President Keith Gambill said, “While SB 12 may sound like common sense legislation, it’s not. This misguided and misleading legislation would have far-reaching negative consequences for Indiana’s education.

‘SB 12 opens teachers and librarians to criminal prosecution over their choice in educational materials. Rather than locally addressing issues over content, educators, knowing they could be arrested, will shy away from any materials that could be remotely considered controversial. This bill limits teachers’ ability to challenge and engage their students—creating a poorer educational experience for everyone involved. ISTA will continue

to urge legislators to listen to the majority of parents and educators on this issue and oppose SB 12.”

Author Sen. Jim Tomes, R-Wadesville, reflected the majority opinion when he said his bill only seeks to protect “little tykes” from accessing inappropriate material in their schools.

The main issue for opponents was that the bill’s language did not define “inappropriate” or “harmful,” leaving it up to people’s subjective opinions and subjecting schools and librarians to the constant threat of legal trouble. While Democrats said they also want to keep children safe, they’re concerned that the bill really just goes after books with LGBTQ subjects.

Sen. J.D. Ford, D-Indianapolis, the General Assembly’s first openly gay member when he was elected in 2018, unsuccessfully asked for details about what materials had been found at what Indiana schools and by whom.

“Last year when we heard this bill in the Senate Education Committee, we heard parents—particularly the Purple Parents—testify that they believe that LGBTQ material is harmful to children, even though it doesn’t really meet the definition that is contained within our current state,” he said.

On its website, Purple for Parents of Indiana says it “informs, advocates, and engages Hoosiers to protect children from harmful agendas saturating the education system.”

“I think the crux of this bill is who

gets to determine what’s inappropriate,” Ford said.

“If you’re talking about maybe explaining the lifestyle [of LGBTQ relationships] is one thing, but the books I’m talking about ... these books are just full-bore graphic pictures and illustrations,” Tomes said.

Other Democratic legislators questioned why Tomes wasn’t more specific in his language. Much of the discussion dealt with a perceived difference between the intent and the letter of the bill.

Sen. Andrea Hunley, D-Indianapolis, said, “I’ve also been sitting here wondering, why did we use the phrase ‘inappropriate’ instead of saying ‘pornographic’? Why didn’t we just say straight out, ‘We don’t want pornographic texts.’”

Tomes did not openly share what materials he was worried about but several times said he had specific examples of books with inappropriate details. After reaching out to his press secretary, TheStatehouseFile.com acquired the following book titles:

“Gender Queer” by Maia Kobabe, an autobiographical comic depicting the author’s experiences with gender identity.

“This Book is Gay” by Juno Dawson, a book answering common questions of LGTBQ youth.

“Sold” by Patricia McCormick, a fictional account of child trafficking.

“Dead End” by Jason Myers, a gritty teen romance.

Kobabe’s book has reached the top of multiple book-ban lists. The American Library Association’s annual

State of America’s Libraries Special Report put “Gender Queer” as 2021’s No. 1 challenged book. Dawson’s “This Book is Gay” is No. 9 on the list.

As of 2022, Bookriot.com reported that Florida, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and Utah had all enacted bills increasing book censorship, similar in nature to SB 12.

Sen. Greg Taylor, D-Indianapolis, said he worried the same thinking would be applied to books regarding race and police brutality, such as the popular book “The Hate U Give” by Angie Thomas. Thomas’ book is No. 5 on the ALA’s list. He referenced committee testimony given by a parent who wanted to ban a book because of its descriptions of drug use and use of the N-word.

“Where are we going here? That book and that movie was an inspiration to young black men in the entire country, and her idea was it shouldn’t be in public school or public school libraries,” Taylor said.

Sen. Michael Young, R-Indianapolis, stood in support of the bill. He shared that the day before, he had a young woman shadowing him at the Statehouse. He discussed SB 12 with her and told her that he couldn’t show her specific examples of harmful materials because they were so inappropriate.

“I told her if you really want to see it, go to your school library, maybe they’ll carry it,” Young said. “There you can look at it and there’s no problem.”

Senators Ron Altling, R-Lafayette, Vaneta Becker, R-Evansville, and Jon Ford, R-Terre Haute, were the only Republicans to vote against the bill’s passage. The final vote was 37-12. The bill now heads to the House with Rep. Becky Cash, R-Zionsville, as a sponsor.

Lawmakers Hope To Update Curriculum, Raise Scores

MARCH 2023
By Xain Ballenger

The Indiana Senate passed a bill Tuesday requiring schools to define “the science of reading” and to implement curriculum based on those findings.

Under Senate Bill 402, authored by Sen. Aaron Freeman, R-Indianapolis, and Sen. John Crane, R-Avon, a school would report information regarding its reading and writing curriculum, remedial programs, and administrative contact information on the school district’s website.

The bill also would mandate that the Indiana State Board of Education and the Indiana Department of Education implement an academic standard for

reading based on the science of reading and not what is known as the three-cueing model.

The science of reading is reading instruction that draws on research from developmental psychology, educational psychology, cognitive science and cognitive neuroscience.

Three-cueing is the method young learners use when they extrapolate the meaning of words from their context in sentences, their letters, etc. Long used in teaching children to read, it has more recently come under criticism as a less effective method.

Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, the bill states that a superintendent or the equivalent for a charter school must adopt a

curriculum that is based on the science of reading. Beginning July 1, 2024, the state could review teacher preparation programs to make sure they are aligned with the guidelines. After June 30, 2025, teaching licenses would no longer be granted to individuals without passing a foundation of reading examination.

Freeman spoke to why he authored the bill, saying the state has moved away from the practice of sounding words out and

phonics.

“Sixty-seven percent of Indiana fourth graders and 73% of Indiana eighth graders are not proficient in reading. Ninety percent—nine out of 10—African American eighth graders are not proficient in reading. Houston, we have a problem. Indiana we have a problem. United States of America, we have a problem,” Freeman said.

The bill passed unanimously, 45-0.

THE PEOPLE’S COMMISSIONER

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

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Community

United Caring Services Hires New Executive Director

MARCH 2023
EVANSVILLE – The Board of Directors recently announced that Va Cun will be assuming the role of Executive Director, at United Caring Services.



Va's career spans academia, higher education administration, and the nonprofit sector. The unifying themes of her professional work are equity and social justice. Moreover, she brings a wealth of experience and knowledge from her roles working with first-generation, low-income university students at the University of Southern Indiana to founding a micro nonprofit, Southwest Indiana Yoga Project, advocating for holistic health in underserved communities. She joins United Caring Services (UCS) from her most recent position as Director of Development with United Methodist Youth Home, where she led both internal and external communications as well as oversaw all fundraising-related strategies and activities. Her passion, energy, and commitment to our community uniquely position her to lead the expanding work of UCS.

The mission of United Caring Services is "to provide values-based, low barrier, sustainable, and high-quality homeless shelters, services and solutions". As homelessness becomes an increasingly visible issue in southwest Indiana, we are excited that Va will work alongside community partners to provide shelters, services, and solutions to unhoused individuals. "United Caring Services is a transformative agency both for those who are served and for our community. I am honored to lead and serve so that together, we may realize the vision of 'a collaborative community of caring,'" said Executive Director Va Cun.

United Caring Services began as a day shelter and has grown to include both men's and women's night shelters, a medical respite program, white flag services and low-income apartments. A Diversion Center will open this year. "Each of our executive directors has helped this growth. We are enthused by Ms. Cun's competence and commitment as we continue to expand, offering more services and bringing to reality additional projects that will help solve homelessness in our community," stated Stephanie Weiner, Chair of the UCS Board of Directors.

Va holds a Master of Arts in socio-cultural Anthropology from the University of California-Berkley and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and French from Indiana University. She is also an advisory board member with the Vanderburgh Community Foundation and a community volunteer at Crossroads Christian Church.

Evansville African American Museum Receives \$100,000



MARCH 2023
EVANSVILLE— On Monday, January 23, Commissioners Cheryl Musgrave and Ben Shoulders presented the Evansville African American Museum with a \$100,000 Check from the American Rescue Plan funds.

Kori Miller, Executive Director of the Museum stated he is thankful to the Vanderburgh County Commissioners and Vanderburgh County Council for understanding the significant contributions of the culture and arts community to our city and that these funds will definitely help offset funding lost during Covid, and with the completion of the Porterhouse renovation project.

Rokita Sues ATF To Protect Hoosiers' Gun Rights

MARCH 2023
Attorney General Todd Rokita today sued the Biden administration to challenge a recent rule by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) that infringes on Hoosiers' gun rights.

Specifically, the new ATF rule treats pistols equipped with stabilizing braces as short-barreled rifles subject to federal regulation. This policy contradicts more than a decade of agency practice, during which the ATF repeatedly assured manufacturers and the public that attaching a stabilizing brace to a pistol would not alter its regulatory or statutory classification.

"As long as I'm attorney general, we will never willingly cede Hoosiers' cherished liberties to the whims of federal bureaucrats," Attorney General Rokita said. "This is a clear case of overreach by the executive branch, and we fully expect to prevail in this lawsuit."

Individuals with disabilities often rely on stabilizing braces to use their pistols. Others who benefit from the devices are those with below-average physical strength and beginners learning to use firearms.

The new federal regulations require anyone using pistols with stabilizing braces to provide their fingerprints to the ATF, be registered in a federal database and pay applicable taxes, among other things.

In addition to Indiana, 24 other states and various private businesses and individuals have joined in this lawsuit against the Biden administration. Attorney General Rokita thanked West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey for his work organizing the multistate coalition.

"By standing together, the individual states can stop the federal government from riding roughshod over our people's freedoms," Attorney General Rokita said. "Standing up to tyranny is a time-honored American tradition. It requires us not only to resist broad sweeping power grabs but also to combat the incremental chipping away of rights."

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Community

SIRDA Awards READ! Funds To 7 Projects

MARCH 2023

The Southwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA) obligated an additional \$6 million in Regional Economic + Acceleration Development Initiative (READI) grant funds toward seven transformational projects. In total, the RDA has obligated more than \$41 of the \$50 million in total for projects throughout the Evansville region.

"READI funding is helping the Evansville Region to make purposeful investments in our future" said Tara Barney, CEO of the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership (E-REP). "We are prioritizing the importance of quality of place along with supporting our region's key economic clusters."

The projects receiving READI funds include:

Ohio Township Park – Warrick County, \$3,000,000 READI Award

A 20-acre visionary park and green space to be developed alongside a new fire station and community center. The park features a giant modern playground, a large engaging splash pad and slide, outdoor fitness stations, running and walking trails, sport courts, event lawns, and much more. Located a mile east of Interstate 69, this park will be connected to the Warrick Wellness Trail plus shopping, restaurants, hotels and workplaces.

Brittlebank Park – Posey County, \$1,000,000 READI Award

Two new trails and design work for an inclusive playground to support the improvement and expansion efforts at Brittlebank Park in Mount Vernon. There is planning for a loop trail around a pond, a connector trail, as well as improvements to access and parking. The connector trail will provide a safe and accessible route between the park and nearby West Elementary.

University of Evansville's Multidisciplinary Mental Health and Wellness Clinic – Regional, \$750,000 READI Award

The development of a community-based clinic for the University of Evansville's new Doctor of Clinical Psychology (PsyD) program, in which students and faculty provide psychotherapy and psychological testing to clients with mental health problems. The facility will be located on Talbot Square, immediately across Lincoln Avenue, which was purchased by the University. This investment will allow the PsyD program to double its class of incoming students after 3 years, provide increased opportunities for students, and improve the quality of care delivered by expanding the clinic's focus to include other allied health care students.

Koch Family Children's Museum of Evansville (cMoe) – Vanderburgh County, \$580,000 READI Award

cMoe's Strategic Plan will expand

the idea of play in the region, with the READI portion of the project focusing on their internal exhibit enhancements, expansion, and new exhibit additions. This project creates expanded experiences for all who benefit from cultural and recreational experiences: families, children, schools, youth-serving organizations, "Museum for All" users, and more.

Cluster Development – Regional, \$249,000 READI Award

E-REP will conduct both a regional assessment and strategic roadmap for two key industry growth sectors: Advanced Manufacturing and Health/Life Sciences. This project will focus on catalyzing cluster development to facilitate accelerated economic development and growth for our regional employers and their direct supply chain. Cluster Development will take a deep look into both industries and identify how the region can build capacity and scale for its most impactful employers.

I-69 Corridor Planning – Regional, \$249,000 READI Award

The Evansville Metropolitan Area has a unique accelerator arriving over the coming 7-10 years in the Ohio River Crossing I-69 Bridge, which will connect the bi-state region with the National I-69 corridor and eventually Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. This project not only addresses a solution to long-term, cross-river mobility, but it plays to the Evansville region's strengths of being in the logistical

center of the United States. E-REP will work closely with stakeholders to create a master plan and ensure the corridor and Ohio River Crossing are highly integrated into the Regional Development Plan.

Victoria Woods Trail – Warrick County, \$200,000 READI Award

Two miles of beautiful trail to connect Victoria Woods – a 400-home neighborhood – to nearby Friedman and Vann parks, as well as the Castle school system and other neighborhoods. Beginning at Warrick Trails current system off Roslin Rd., the new trail will feature scenic water views and a canopy of trees. It will cross over a charming pedestrian bridge into Victoria Woods and connect to the Prime Foods Trailhead in Boonville, increasing access to quality-of-place amenities.

The Evansville Regional Economic Partnership (E-REP) on behalf of the RDA will continue to work with the awarded projects on next steps and review additional projects for READI eligibility. While the request for proposal deadline has passed, E-REP highly encourages anyone with a potential project to reach out to its Economic Development team to better assess and align with resources. Email info@evvregion.com with any questions or inquiries.

E-REP provides the most up-to-date information about READI through its website atevansvilleregion.com/readi-program.

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Community

USI To Host Nursing Leadership Conference

MARCH 2023

Corinne Hancock, a globally recognized expert in building world-class leaders, effective teams, and cultural proficiency in chaotic environments, will be the keynote speaker at the University of Southern Indiana's 20th annual Nursing Leadership Conference on April 5.

USI is collaborating with the Indiana Organization for Nursing Leadership (IONL) and the University of Evansville to offer this event. The conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. in Carter Hall, located in University Center West, and will conclude at 3:30 p.m. following Hancock's keynote.

Hancock has worked on over 50 international projects with leading organizations across for-profit, non-profit and governmental sectors such as the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development. She was on the front lines, building teams in high-pressure, stressful situations as the Director of Clinics for Project CURE and as a contracted State Department leadership coach. She has brought together diverse teams to train leaders, create community-based projects and deliver medical care in remote areas.

In addition to Hancock's presentation, there will be sessions with the Community Safety Coalition, Indiana State Nursing Association, and the Indiana Professional Recovery Program.

"The learning outcome of this conference is for attendees to implement effective management and leadership strategies in their healthcare practice and within their organization," says Anita Hagan, Director of the USI Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning. "We are excited to welcome Corinne as our keynote speaker and are interested in learning how her expertise from working in chaotic environments will help us thrive and build effective healthcare teams."

USI designates this activity for 5.5 contact hours. CE hours will be available for nurses, physicians, pharmacists, social workers and health facility administrators. CE hours will also be available for Indiana-licensed marriage and family therapists, occupational therapists, occupational therapist assistants, and dental professionals.

The cost to attend is \$130 for public admission and professionals, \$60 for current graduate students and \$20 for undergraduate students.



UE Students Lead New Band Program

Continued From Page 1

the way they expect. But that hasn't kept the program from being successful. When things get particularly challenging, McDonnell says, "We're going to push ahead and see how much music we can make."

In its first semester, six Joshua Academy students "met" instruments and chose their favorite to learn, practiced and rehearsed regularly, and then performed a concert at the end of the year. The following semester, the group nearly doubled. And, thanks to grant funding received by the school, several brand-new instruments were made available.

"The real-world experience in music education is invaluable," said Vile. "Students leading this program hope to teach music professionally and building this band program has given them experiences that they would never get reading textbooks and studying theory in the classroom."

"We are so impressed and proud of what these students have accomplished," said Lewis. "These types of community-building projects are what ChangeLab is all about. Teaching young people how to read music and play instruments is an experience that will benefit them for years to come."

The Fall 2023 semester will be the third semester for this program. This program has been nominated for a Leadership Everyone award.




Rokita Terminates Large Robocall Operation

Continued From Page 1

make robocalls, or 3) engaging in any telemarketing.

The court also ordered monetary judgments totaling more than \$244 million for Spiller and Mears combined — though these payments will be largely suspended in favor of the permanent operational bans and because of their inability to pay.

Attorney General Rokita's legal action in this matter isn't over. The attorneys general are continuing their cases in this same litigation against Florida-based Scott Shapiro, Michael Theron Smith Jr., and Health Advisors of America Inc. These defendants allegedly worked with Mears and Spiller to make illegal robocalls targeting consumers who never asked to be contacted by Health Advisors



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Comics & Puzzles

TANK
McNAMARA

by Bill Hinds

1 I CAN'T BELIEVE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL HAS MADE LUNG GARCIA'S ROCK-THE-BABY PITCH ILLEGAL JUST TO SATISFY A PITCH CLOCK.

JUNIOR HAS SPENT A YEAR LEARNING TO COPY THAT WINDUP.

WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT, SHORTER GAMES OR ENTERTAINING GAMES?

THEN A BACKWARD WINDMILL.

TURN SO HIS BACK IS TO THE BATTER.

STRAIGHT-UP LEG KICK.

ROTATE WITH THROWING ARM DROP.

START THROW BUT SLOW ALMOST TO A STOP.

DELIVER A SLOW, HIGH-ARCHING BALL.

YOU WANT ENTERTAINING? YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN SIFTY MCGUIRE'S TRAIN-ARRIVING-AFTER-THE-STATION-CLOSES PITCH.

HE WOULD START WITH A FORWARD WINDMILL.

AND THAT WAS HARD TO HIT?

BY THE TIME IT REACHED THE PLATE, MOST BATTERS WERE ASLEEP.

TEACH ME!

GET FUZZY



by darby conley

WHO. LAME TV SHOW.

NO, I RECORDED MY PROGRAM, SO I'M FAST-FORWARDING THE ADS.

DON'T THAT GO AGAINST YOUR PROFESSIONAL OATH?

MY WHAT?

WHATEVER YOU CALL THE OATH YOU TOOK WHEN YOU GOT A JOB IN ADVERTISING. LIKE THAT OATH HIPPO CRITICS TAKE.

...UHH...

OR IS THAT JUST A HIPPO THING? LIKE, IS THERE A HIPPO CABBIE OATH AND A HIPPO CASHIER OATH AND SO ON AND SO ON?

HIPPOS DON'T HAVE OATHS... THE HIPPO CRATIC OATH IS FOR HUMAN DOCTORS.

OH YEAH? SO DO HUMAN ACCOUNTANTS TAKE THE MONKEY PLUMBER OATH?

AND HEY, CAN YOU RECOMMEND ANY GOOD CATERERS? THEY HAVE TO HAVE TAKEN THEIR NAKED MOLE RAT CIVIL ENGINEER OATH, OF COURSE.

CLEARLY YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HIPPOCRATIC MEANS.

OH MY. DOESN'T BEING RUDE TO A CONSUMER GO AGAINST AN ADMAN'S BEAVER DENTIST OATH?

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg March 12, 2023

ACROSS

1 "1,000 songs in your pocket" device

5 Troublesome tykes

9 Bread unit

13 Desert mound

14 Begin

15 "Why We're Polarized" author Klein

16 With 62-Down, biometric reading from the eye

17 Oscar honoree

18 Talk up

19 Boldly punctuates a performance

22 Org. for the Timberwolves and Trail Blazers

23 "Immediately!"

24 It's 100% settled

26 What (aptly?) holds up government projects

30 Honey or hot tar

31 Palindromic kitchenware brand

32 Like some diets that eschew pasta

35 "Look ___ talking!"

39 70 degrees F, e.g.

41 "Goodness me!"

42 Termite's home

43 Cold drink with a Blue Raspberry flavor

44 Exfoliating sponge

46 "I've solved the puzzle!"

47 Apt letters missing from "de_eptl_"

49 Unexpected winter break

51 Ancient Eurasian trade route

56 Aunt, to Mom

57 "Rules rules"

58 Deteriorate

63 Tiger : cub :: sheep : ___

65 Home of India's Lotus Temple

66 Green Tex-Mex topping

67 Watery blue

68 Set a maximum for

69 Name in operettas?

70 Gossip to dish

71 Incoming flight stats

72 Back in the day

DOWN

1 "___ it my way" (Sinatra lyric)

2 (Belly rubs ... warm milk ... what a dream!)

3 Russian church topper

4 Tyrant

5 React to chicken pox

6 Defeated in chess

7 Ad that generates hype

8 Casserole legume

9 "___ er rip!"

10 O3

11 A Caribbean island

12 Like a major flaw

14 Took a chair

20 Elegant waterbird

21 Susan Wojcicki, to YouTube

25 Finish off, as a drink

26 Indian bread in seyal phulka

27 "Suit" at a company

28 Foam on the water?

29 Voice-over artist's bane

33 Earlier in time

34 NFL officials

36 Begin to fail ... or a hint to the last word of 3-, 8- or 28-Down

37 Work safety grp.

38 "Don't leave me!"

40 Quick kiss

45 It's fired at a fire

48 www.gatesfoundation.____

50 Gizmo

51 Dressed dish

52 Turk's neighbor

53 Madagascar primate

54 Face-planted

55 Stuffed grape leaf

59 "So it's come to ___"

60 Far from a flop

61 Garden entrance

62 See 16-Across

64 Vampire ____

Find The
Answers To
This Month's
Puzzle on
Page 14

3/12

Mind in the Gutter by Jared Goudsmit

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13					14					15				
16					17					18				
19					20					21		22		
		23					24				25			
26	27				28	29			30					
31					32			33	34		35	36	37	38
39			40			41					42			
43						44					45		46	
				47	48					49		50		
51	52	53					54	55			56			
57					58					59	60		61	62
63				64		65						66		
67						68						69		
70						71						72		

Sudoku Pacific

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

7		2		6				1
				8	3			
	4					5		
		7	9		5	1		
3				6		8		2
				3	9		4	5
			1					7
				1	4			
8					3		6	4

3/5

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Education

UE Announces Investiture Of Mousa, Obaze

MARCH 2023

The University of Evansville's (UE) Schroeder Family School of Business Administration announced the investiture of two faculty members during a ceremony on Wednesday.

Rania Mousa, Ph.D. was named the Mead Johnson Nutrition Endowed Chair in Business and Yolanda Obaze, Ph.D. was named the Guthrie May Endowed Chair in Business.

Mead Johnson Nutrition

In 1993, the Mead Johnson Nutrition Endowed Chair in Business was established at the University of Evansville through a generous gift from Mead Johnson Nutrition and the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation seeking to participate as responsible neighbors and members of the communities where its people live and work and where its facilities are located. The company understands its obligation to participate in and enhance the life of those communities. Originally known as the Bristol-Myers Squibb Chair, the Mead Johnson Nutrition Endowed Chair in Business is dedicated to building on the strengths of the University's business school. The goal is to give students the opportunity to study with an outstanding professor who will inspire them to achieve greater levels of excellence and make a life-transforming difference in their academic careers. This endowed chair honors Mead Johnson Nutrition's long-standing relationship with UE which began when the University moved to the City of Evansville in 1919. Throughout the years, representatives of the company have supported the UE as trustees, advisory board members, volunteers, and students. Mead Johnson has employed hundreds of University alumni.

Mead Johnson Nutrition Endowed Chair in Business Rania Mousa, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Accounting, holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting from the American University in Cairo, Egypt. She also holds a Master of Business Administration from the Illinois Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. in Accounting from the University of Birmingham in England. Mousa has been teaching at the University of Evansville since 2010. She teaches courses in Financial Accounting, Accounting Information Systems, Computer Accounting, and Forensic Accounting. Mousa's doctoral research centered on examining the implementation process of open

standard reporting technologies in the United Kingdom's His Majesty's Revenue and Customs and Companies House. Her research has expanded to cover a wide range of areas, including accounting information systems, financial and non-financial reporting technologies, electronic government, financial inclusion, and pedagogical research in forensic accounting and accounting education. Over the last 13 years, Mousa has published 14 peer-reviewed publications, including 11 papers and three book chapters. During her tenure at UE, Mousa has received multiple awards, including the Schroeder Dean's Research Award in 2017 and Teaching Award in 2019. In August 2022, she received the American Accounting Association's Forensic Accounting Section's Best Teaching Innovation Award for a fraud case she created. This year she has received the 2022-2023 UE Global Scholar Award allowing her to present her paper on Grameen America's remarkable response to the COVID-19 pandemic at the University of Bologna in Italy.

Guthrie May Endowed Chair in Business

The Guthrie May Endowed Chair in the Schroeder Family School of Business Administration was established by the University of Evansville to honor Guthrie May for his long-standing devotion, effective leadership, and financial support to the University of Evansville, with the intent of promoting teaching excellence and community outreach by the Guthrie May Endowed Chair in the Schroeder Family School of Business Administration. Guthrie May graduated from Evansville College in 1931. Guthrie and his wife, Alice '34, were tremendous friends of their alma mater. This fact is best exhibited by the gift of their home, the May House, to UE to be used as the President's residence. To previous generations, the "American Dream" meant home ownership. Prior to World War II, the vast majority of Americans did not own their homes. More than anyone else, Guthrie May brought the "American Dream" of home ownership to Evansville. He built more than 7,000 homes in Evansville and in other communities across the country. He also was involved in the development and construction of shopping centers, business condominiums, and residential con-



dominiums. Guthrie May's involvement with community leadership is clear from the many boards on which he served and the activities in which he participated. He was a member of the University of Evansville Board of Trustees, the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporations Board of Directors, the Administrative Board of Trinity United Methodist Church, the Board of Directors of United Way of Southwestern Indiana, Evansville's Future Board of Directors, Metropolitan Evansville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Evansville Board of Realtors, the Evansville Rotary Club, Citizens National Bank Board of Directors, and many other boards. He was the recipient of many honors and awards from various charities and the local community.

Guthrie May Endowed Chair in Business Yolanda Obaze, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Supply Chain Management. She also serves as the Director of the Center for Logistics and Supply Chain Management. Obaze obtained both her MBA and Ph.D. from the University of North Texas. Obaze was instrumental in creating and implementing the Logistics and Supply Chain Management (LSCM) program and continues teaching a significant

portion of the curriculum. She ensures the efficient running of the Center through cross-industry collaborations. Obaze currently serves as the Academic Advisor for the LSCM student organization, the Business Professional of America student chapter, and the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity at UE. In 2018, she received the Schroeder Dean's Service Award. She is passionate about her research in the humanitarian logistics field. Her doctoral research centered on the community-based context of humanitarian logistics and supply chain management. She continues her research by helping many of the community-based companies in the Evansville area. Obaze serves on the Board of Directors for both the Evansville Association of the Blind and the Potter's Wheel Ministries. Her research work also extends to Aces Haven, the on-campus food pantry that addresses food insecurity among students and the local community. Obaze received the Schroeder Dean's Research Award in 2019 and was a 2020 UE Global Scholar Award recipient. In 2019, she was awarded the Annual Decision Sciences Institute's Best Theoretical Paper Award for her work on social supply chain management.

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Education

USI Online Sports Management Earns Ranking

MARCH 2023


The University of Southern Indiana's online Sport Management graduate degree program has been ranked 10th nationally as part of the Top 49 Online Sports Management Programs by Intelligent, an independent organization that ranks colleges and programs across the country using aggregated publicly available data without advertising or affiliate relationships with schools. The program also received the award for Best Intercollegiate Athletic Focus.

Intelligent evaluates programs on the basis of flexibility, faculty, reputation, affordability and strength. Each program received an Intelligent Score on a scale of 0 to 100 with USI's program receiving a score of 92.37.

According to Intelligent, the global sports industry is worth \$489 billion and is expected to continue to grow over the next decade. It also estimates an increasing demand for many sports management jobs with the top 10% earning around \$82,000 annually. Increasing participation in high school and college athletic programs is also expected to drive the need for more athletics scouts over the next few years. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts more than 45,000 new jobs in this field, an increase of 26% by 2030.

USI's Master of Science in Sport Management holds specialized accreditation through the Commission of Sport Management Accreditation (COSMA). The program is currently accepting applications for March, May, June and August starts with 2022-23 tuition of just \$419.06 per credit hour.

Learn more about USI's graduate Sport Management program online, by emailing graduate.studies@usi.edu or by calling 812-465-7015.



Indiana Partners With Ivy Tech To Offer Opportunities

MARCH 2023

The State of Indiana and Ivy Tech Community College today announced a new partnership that will offer state employees an affordable education with no upfront tuition costs.

"This is an investment in our state employees that provide them with more flexibility to pursue education opportunities that ultimately contribute to a stronger workforce," said Governor Eric J. Holcomb. "We are grateful for this partnership with Ivy Tech that will ease the up-front financial burden for our employees to enroll in courses."

The state will join Ivy Tech's Achieve Your Degree (AYD) program. Rather than paying for tuition expenses at the time of enrollment – which can be a barrier for some employees seeking to earn degrees and certificates – the state will pay Ivy Tech directly upon an employee's successful completion of a course. State employees already have education reimbursement of up to \$5,250 per year. Ivy Tech's full-time annual tuition is less than \$4,500, and the agreement with Ivy Tech means that employees won't have to be reimbursed, but rather can enroll and begin taking classes with no upfront costs. Additionally, the College will provide the state with a rebate of up to 5% of the net tuition paid, which means the state will benefit from an even lower education cost.

All Ivy Tech campuses across the state are participating in the program.

"The State of Indiana is once again leading by example, this time by providing tuition assistance to employees, making it easier for individuals to pay for higher education," Ivy Tech Community College President Sue Ellspermann said. "Programs like Achieve Your Degree can help businesses build their own talent pipeline through recruitment of individuals without a degree and helping those individuals learn the skills necessary to advance."

Partnering with Ivy Tech Community College offers state employees access to more than 70 academic programs, as well as opportunities to receive associate degrees, short-term certificates and workforce certifications in various fields. Additionally, Ivy Tech's Ivy+ Tuition and Textbooks model provides students with free textbooks for required courses through the spring 2023 and a flat rate tuition cost for students who enroll in more than 12 credits.

On-site application assistance and academic advising are provided by Ivy Tech faculty and staff to accommodate state employees' busy work schedules and to ensure appropriate course schedules. Ivy Tech will also provide individualized advising, financial aid and tutoring to foster employee success.


Through partnerships such as the Achieve, Your Degree program at Ivy Tech, the State of Indiana can skill-up its current workforce and encourage employees to earn free credentials through on-campus and online coursework.

Tuition reimbursement and assistance are available up to \$5,250, to all State of Indiana employees of executive branch agencies who: have been employed full-time continuously with the state for at least 12 months prior to submitting their Education Reimbursement program application;

have not received disciplinary action in the 12 months prior to the end of the course; and

have completed the course with a satisfactory grade of at least a "C" or above (or an equivalent "pass" grade).

As part of its NextLevel State Workforce initiatives, the State of Indiana will continue to pursue partnerships, policies, and programs that continue to make the State of Indiana a competitive, engaged, and flexible workplace.



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Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Missy Mosby, Krista Lockyear, Treasurer

Education

2022 UE Graduates Achieve Strong Outcomes

MARCH 2023

EVANSVILLE - After surveying the class of 2022 graduates, the University of Evansville (UE) is pleased to report that 98 percent of graduates were employed or pursuing further education within six months of graduation. The median salary of those employed full-time was \$55,000.

The survey, conducted annually, is a collaborative effort between the University's Center for Career Development, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, and the Office of Alumni and Engagement. Data was gathered from surveys at the time of graduation, as well as alumni surveys, academic departments, the National Student Clearinghouse, and other methods. Approximately 93 percent of 2022 graduates provided career outcome information.



Outcomes improved over the previous year, as the nation's economy slightly recovered from the pandemic. The class of 2021 outcomes included 95 percent of graduates employed or pursuing further education within six months of graduating.

"From academics to ChangeLab, to research and internships, the University of Evansville provides a robust and comprehensive educational experience that

incorporates a strong foundation of career readiness," said Dianna Cundiff, director of the Center for Career Development. "These essential competencies, including critical thinking, communication and leadership, along with support from our office, prepare students for success in their future endeavors."

For nearly a decade, the Center for Career Development has implemented an "end-to-end" ap-

proach to career success. When prospective student visits campus, they meet with the Center to review career interests, take a free career assessment, and explore future job opportunities. As a student, the Center offers appointments to assist with resumes and cover letters, mock interviews, and career advising. Job fairs are held throughout the year to connect students with local and regional employers. After graduation, the Center continues its outreach to alums to ensure each individual's success.

The University of Evansville is a private, comprehensive university located in the southwestern region of Indiana. Established in 1854, UE is recognized across the globe for its rich tradition of innovative, academic excellence and vibrant campus community of changemakers.

Ivy Tech Entrepreneur's Pitch Wins \$20,000

MARCH 2023

EVANSVILLE, IN - Joshua Marksberry, a student in the Garatoni School of Entrepreneurship & Innovation at Ivy Tech Community College Evansville, has been announced as a winner of a \$20,000 pre-seed investment for his start-up company Catena.

Elevate Ventures, a leader in U.S. venture capital, recently announced 14 winners of its last three 2022 Elevate Nexus pitch competitions, resulting in \$580,000 in investments in Indiana-based start-ups. Each winner received an \$80,000 seed or \$20,000 pre-seed investment to propel them as they create high-growth businesses across the state.

"We are excited and honored to win the Elevate Nexus 2022 pitch competition," said Marksberry, CEO of Catena. "This funding will support the development of two new products: Catena Fortify, which can boost the physical properties of plastics, and Catena

Grow, capable of improving yield and growth as an agricultural fertilizer enhancement."

Catena is a climate and deep tech company led by Marksberry and associated with Ivy Tech Community College and the Southwest Indiana Small Business Development Center. Catena's mission is to improve humanity's quality of life by reducing the cost of goods and services.

Marksberry explains his trajectory: "It all started in the garage. I was trying to tackle the huge issue of food waste in

a sustainable manner, so I had an idea to convert it into Bio-Coal. The goal was to keep Indiana's remaining coal firing power plants alive," he said. "That idea failed because I came to the realization that I would need 3000+ tons of food waste per day to keep one coal power plant in continuous operation. Turns out there was not enough food waste being wasted each day in Indiana to meet that demand.

"So I scrapped that idea and tried to use the carbon I made for something else."

Marksberry said. "Turns out that carbon nanomaterials were also made during our bio-coal process."

Marksberry discovered that these nanomaterials have the potential to solve many of the world's hardest problems. The only problem was that these materials were normally toxic and super expensive. The materials would cost around \$75-300 per gram and because of that they were extensively used in only the automotive and aerospace industries. So he decided to investigate the nanomaterial industry so that they could become more widely accepted and safe for companies to use.

CATENA® FORTIFY™ is a product that can be used as a plastic additive filler that helps increase performance, reduce material usage, and increase the strength of plastics.

The first commercially-ready product will be CATENA® GROW™, Marksberry said. It is an organic nano-fertilizer that will reduce plant cultivation cost, replace the use of conventional fertilizers, and increase plant yield.

Marksberry said Catena's mission is to improve humanity's

quality of life by reducing the cost of goods and services.

The competition was led by Landon Young, Executive Director of Entrepreneurial Programming at Elevate Ventures. He said the team of judges was looking for accomplished teams targeting national or global markets with innovative business models.

Elevate Ventures hosts three pitch competitions each spring and fall in Northern, Central and Southern Indiana. During the fall 2022 competitions, 46 companies were selected among 88 applicants competing.

Ivy Tech Evansville opened the Garatoni School in Fall 2022 with a full cohort of students. The program offers students practical lessons in business start-up and management through partnerships with Regional Innovation and Startup Education (RISE). Students build ecosystems, create a model canvas, work with mentors, and learn from and network with guest speakers and entrepreneurs. The next cohort will begin in Fall 2023. To learn more about Evansville's program go to link.ivytech.edu/create; or to express interest in being a mentor to a student email Chase Coslett, department chair, at ccoslett@ivytech.edu.



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Sports

Otters Looking For 2023 Gameday Staff

MARCH 2023
EVANSVILLE, Ind. – The Evansville Otters are looking for individuals to join the gameday staff for the 2023 season.
The Otters franchise is looking for great candidates to help things run all around Historic Bosse Field.
Our game day staff is vital, as they help create lifelong memories for all who visit Bosse Field for Evansville Otters games!
The current openings for the 2023 season include:
Concession Stand Manager
Cooks
Cashier
Food Prep
In-Stand Waitstaff/Hawkers
Beer Server
Ticket Taker

Ticket Seller
Operations/Cleaning
Ushers
Picnic Attendants
Grounds Crew
Bat Boys
Video Camera Operator
Candidates must be able to meet the following conditions in the work environment:
Have a friendly personality, connecting and assisting fans of all ages.
Be able to walk/stand on their feet for considerable amounts of time between breaks.
Properly take care of their health and stay hydrated during warm, summer months.If you would like to join us for the 2023 season, please visit

evansvilleotters.com/employment and fill out an application. All jobs can also be found and applied for here.The Otters are also hosting a Summer Job Fair on March 14th from 4-6 PM at Bosse Field where individuals can drop off applications and have on-the-spot interviews for 2023 employment.
Applicants must be 15 years of age or older to apply, and resumes are encouraged but not necessary.
Season ticket packages are on sale now for the 2023 season. Individuals who pay in full by March 1

are eligible for exclusive season ticket holder benefits. Find more information here or call us at (812) 435-8686.
Group and single-game tickets will go on sale in the Spring.
The Evansville Otters are the 2006 and 2016 Frontier League champions.
The Otters play all home games at historic Bosse Field, located at 23 Don Mattingly Way in Evansville, Ind. Stay up-to-date with the Evansville Otters by visiting evansvilleotters.com, or follow the Otters on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



Taylor Was The World’s Most Famous Cyclist

MARCH 2023
By Jack Sells
At one point, Indiana had a claim on the fastest cyclist in the world. In consecutive years, Marshall Taylor won a world title and U.S. title in bicycle racing.
The sport at the time was immensely popular—“races attracted more fans than baseball, boxing, and horse racing combined,” according to Marlene Targ Brill’s book, “Marshall ‘Major’ Taylor”—and Taylor was the star.
There’s nothing probable about becoming the best in the world at something. To reach the heights he reached, Taylor needed a combination of skill, determination and luck.
And that alone would make a recount of Taylor’s life worthy of writing. But Taylor’s story is about more than a man born in Indianapolis becoming a world champion. It’s about a Black man, born 13 years after the Civil War, defying racism and sticking with his religious convictions—to the detriment of his career—on the way to immense athletic success.
Who was Major?
As Andrew Ritchie details in his biography on the cyclist, while Taylor’s grandparents had been slaves, his parents were born free. His father fought in the Civil War and

later settled down with his wife and had eight children.
At a young age, Taylor became locally famous for the tricks he was able to do on a bicycle. He wore a uniform while doing so and thus earned the nickname Major. Ritchie writes that Taylor wore “a soldier’s uniform” as “a publicity gimmick designed by Hay & Willits”—the bicycle store Taylor worked for.
But how did Taylor, in the 1890s as a Black teenager who lived on a farm, have a bicycle to develop a skill set?
And how did he get a job in the state capital?
A lot of it came down to luck. His dad secured a job as a coachman for a white family, and after going with him to work sometimes, Taylor became close friends with the son, Daniel Southard. In Taylor’s words, he was “employed as his playmate and companion.” He lived with the Southards in Indianapolis and was even educated alongside Daniel.
“There, at the Southards’, besides learning to read and write from a private tutor, he learned to talk, think and relate to others in ways different from those he would have learned at home or at a simple rural school,” wrote Ritchie.
Taylor received a better education than he would have and got

his start with a bicycle because of his relationship with the Southards.
His second family eventually moved, and Taylor went back to his home on the farm, but it wasn’t much later that Taylor was once again taken in by someone—professional cyclist Louis “Birdie” Munger—and moved to Massachusetts.
“He had gone from being a ‘millionaire’s son’ with the Southard family to being all but adopted by the man [Munger] who had been the world’s fastest cyclist,” Michael Kranish wrote in “The World’s Fastest Man.”“Throughout his life, this would be a pattern, as he simultaneously faced the most brutal racism but also was embraced by a series of benefactors who were impressed by his talent and treated him without regard to race.”
Being a Black professional cyclist at the turn of the century
Dated from either 1906 or 1907, this was one of many photos of Taylor taken by French photographer Jules Beau (1864-1932). On Taylor’s 1901 trip to Europe, Michael Kranish wrote, “Taylor’s arrival coincided with the introduction of what would be called photojournalism.” Beau took more photos of Taylor than anyone else, according to Kranish.
This image, now in the public domain, is from the Bibliothèque nationale de France, France’s national library, and is a scan of the original picture. It was accessed through Wikimedia Commons: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Major_Taylor,_1906-1907.jpg Photo by Jules Beau.
Taylor was in uncharted territory when, in 1897, he “became the first black cyclist to enter bicycle racing as a full-time professional,” according to Ritchie.
Taylor, while aided by fans and an often supportive press, still faced racism while in his sphere as a professional athlete—from competi-

tors, race organizers and some newspapers. And this was on top of what occurred in the more private realm. There are numerous examples of Taylor being refused entry into a restaurant or hotel when traveling to compete.
Taylor also lost multiple chances to win a U.S. championship or world title. Sometimes this was because of nefarious actions from race organizers and professional cyclist leagues, and other times Taylor chose to take principled stands.
The cyclist faced a particularly infuriating and demoralizing sequence of events in Missouri in 1898.
Taylor traveled to St. Louis to race and couldn’t find a hotel that would allow him to stay there, leaving him to seek shelter with a local family. Not wanting to inconvenience them, Taylor would ride his bike to a restaurant at a train station for every meal.
Or at least he did so until he was told he could no longer eat there. (A Black waiter stood up for Taylor and was fired as a result.)
Then a race got postponed to a Sunday, but Taylor had been clear before that he wouldn’t compete on that day of the week due to his religious convictions. “Taylor had in fact been promised ... that there would be no Sunday racing, and this decision in St. Louis was an obvious and immediate betrayal,” Ritchie wrote.
Taylor wanted to go home to Worcester, Massachusetts, but was convinced to travel to another race in Missouri by a race promoter who said he owned a hotel where Taylor could stay. And yet the man went back on his word, instead saying there was a Black family Taylor could stay with, and Taylor left town, breaking his contract in the process.
Prior to this—before Taylor transitioned to cycling professionally—

Continued On Page 13



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Sports

Taylor Was The World's Most Famous Cyclist

Continued From Page 12

the League of American Wheelmen voted it would no longer accept Black cyclists as members.

Strongly agreeing with the move, a columnist for The Referee, described as “a weekly cycling trade journal with a large circulation” by Ritchie, lambasted those not in favor.

The gist of the racist tirade? The inclusion of African Americans in the league was “an evil which would sooner or later have ruined the LAW in the great southland.”

The columnist made clear he had “no desire to deprecate ... the race,” but that was incongruous with almost every other sentence in the column.

“Were these enthusiastic lovers of the blacks to question those who know, they would learn that the negro has little interest in anything beyond his daily needs, his personal vanity and a cake walk or barbers’ hall now and then,” it read.

Black men were a monolith, according to the writer—illustrated by him description them in the singular. “He is a lazy, happy-go-lucky animal” with “lack-brain carelessness” and “thievish ... proclivities,” he wrote.

While not directed at Taylor, this columnist’s opinions were mirrored by plenty of others when Taylor was a professional athlete.

And the onslaught of discrimination led to Taylor attempting to alter his appearance through an extreme measure—or at least, what would be seen as extreme today.

Kranish’s account includes details of how Taylor and Munger endeavored to change Taylor’s skin color through advertised products.

“Birdie Munger ... tried in various ways to make me white ... and on one occasion by the bleaching process,” according to Taylor. “On that occasion, my hair turned red almost by the action of the cream and the skin was nearly burned off me. Then I thought I was going to die.”

“We told him that we would bleach him and make him white,” Munger said to the Detroit Free Press in 1897. “He took us at our word and submitted to an operation. The mixture was poisonous in the extreme.

“It was a sort of cream, and for days and days we poured it on the lad. His hair turned a sort of red, and his skin did seem to be turning whiter and whiter. But the solution was working to the detriment to the lad’s health, and we had to stop it. He has never been as dark, though, as he was before the operation.”

African Americans during the time felt “pressured to take desperate measures they believed were needed in order to survive a Jim Crow society,” wrote Kranish. “Advertisements in African American newspapers showed before and after pictures of how a black person looked white after the treatment, which was claimed to be ‘harmless.’”

The Journal of Pan African Studies, in 2011, published scholarship on skin bleaching in the 1920s, and said skin bleach “advertisements directed towards men were more likely to emphasize upward mobility than physical attrac-

tiveness.”

This seems to fit with why Taylor underwent the bleaching. Munger said it came down to Taylor being “refused entry to a race owing to his color.”

Major’s major accomplishments Today, the typical American’s knowledge of cycling may be limited to the Tour de France, and while the multi-day, long-distance race was around during Taylor’s heyday, Taylor largely kept to short distances on a track.

Taylor set so many records ranging in distances from ½ mile to 2 miles, that it would be tiresome to list them. (But Kranish did for those interested.) Maybe most notably, in a two-day span in 1898, Taylor set world records in seven different distances.

Kranish also broke down Taylor’s first tours through Europe. In 1901, Taylor got first place 42 times—according to Taylor, 39 according to others—second place 11 times, and third three times.

And the man was similarly dominant the next year, winning 40 races, finishing second 15 times and nabbing third place twice.

The various racing organizations and ways to win championships can be difficult to follow, but in 1899, Taylor was named the world champion in the mile, and in 1900, he became the American sprint champion.

As probably expected, Taylor’s career was full of historical firsts and feats.

Ritchie lays it out: “He was one of the first black athletes to be a member of an integrated professional team, the first to have a commercial sponsor, the first to establish world records. He was the second African-American world champion in any sport, preceded only by George Dixon, the bantam-weight boxer. He was the first black athlete to compete regularly in integrated competition for an annual American championship.”

Taylor’s legacy

During his lifetime, the cyclist reached a level of popularity that meant famous people from other fields followed his career.

Kranish wrote about two separate examples of this. Before Taylor’s 1902 tour in Europe, Booker T. Washington—about a year removed from being invited to the White House by President Teddy Roosevelt—took some students to see Taylor before he got on a boat to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

And in 1916, Roosevelt himself visited Taylor.

“Taking into consideration all the millions of human beings on the face of the earth, whenever I run across an individual who stands out as peer over all others in any profession or vocation it is indeed a wonderful distinction, and honor and pleasure enough for me,” Taylor recalled the former commander-in-chief saying.

“He had become the most prominent black American athlete, and one of the most celebrated black Americans,” Ritchie said, referring to the end of the 1898 season.

Taylor reached some high highs during his life but he faced tough times towards the end of his life. At the end of his career, Taylor turned back on his promise not to race on Sundays. After retiring, he got in-

involved in multiple business ventures that failed and put him in an unfortunate spot financially.

In 1932, Taylor died in Chicago at the age of 53, impoverished and estranged from his wife and daughter.

Because of this, and aided by the fact that cycling’s popularity waned, Taylor’s death went largely unnoticed for a long time. Then, in 1948, a group called the Bicycle Racing Stars of the Nineteenth Century gave Taylor, in Kranish’s words, “a proper memorial.”

Since then, there have been efforts to tell Taylor’s story to the public. The Major Taylor Association is a nonprofit that raises money to preserve a statue of the cyclist in Worcester, Massachusetts, as well as “to educate people about Major Taylor’s life and legacy.”

Forty-one years ago, the Major Taylor Velodrome in Indianapolis was built and is now home to the Major Taylor Racing League and Marian University’s 47-time national champion cycling team.

And in June, the Major Taylor International Cycling Alliance will be hosting a convention named after Taylor in Indianapolis.

Taylor’s legacy to those who know of him is likely the success he had as a Black cyclist, and as Kranish noted, Taylor wrote in his autobiography that he hoped Black kids would “carry on in spite

of that dreadful monster prejudice, and with patience, courage, fortitude and perseverance, achieve success for themselves. I trust they will use that terrible prejudice as an inspiration to struggle on to the heights in their chosen vocations.”

Taylor’s own “patience, courage, fortitude and perseverance” make up the bedrock of how he was able to become the fastest man in the world and why he can now serve as an inspiration to anyone willing to learn about him almost 150 years after he was born.

Taylor, in a letter that he sent back to a fan who had applauded him for continuing to not race on Sundays, expresses his overarching attitude toward life:

“I am laboring under the greatest temptation of my life, and I pray each day for God to give me more grace and more faith to stand up for what I know to be right. ... I have no fear for the future, for I feel that I will be taken care of, although things seem very cloudy at present. ... Yours in Christ, Major Taylor.”

Footnote: Quotes from Taylor, whether from his autobiography or newspapers covering him, as well as quotes from his contemporaries, came from the three books referenced in the article: “The World’s Fastest Man” by Michael Kranish, “Major Taylor” by Andrew Ritchie, and “Marshall “Major” Taylor” by Marlene Targ Brill.

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Obituaries

February Vanderburgh County Obituaries

For complete obituary go to the Funeral Home’s Webpage

ALEXANDER FUNERAL HOME	
East	
Ronda L. Sapp	Nov. 05, 1969 – Feb. 07, 2023
Martha V. (Jenny) Gray	May 12, 1927 – Feb. 07, 2023
Phyllis Baker	Mar. 22, 1932 – Feb. 08, 2023
Martha V. (Jenny) Gray	May 12, 1927 – Feb. 07, 2023
Leonard A. Badger	Nov. 27, 1941 – Feb. 10, 2023
West	
Keith A. Wright	Aug. 30, 1945 – Feb. 02, 2023
Glenda Mae Dosher	Nov. 19, 1946 – Feb. 06, 2023
Leland Alvin Waitt	Aug. 02, 1952 – Feb. 07, 2023
Jimmy Lee Royalty	Oct. 11, 1992 – Feb. 12, 2023
Martha Jean Sander	Apr. 11, 1929 – Feb. 11, 2023
Norman Hedderich	Nov. 28, 1950 – Feb. 16, 2023
Robert “Bob” Schmitt	Feb. 23, 1941 – Feb 17, 2023
Mary Ann Lindsay	May 31, 1955 – Feb. 17, 2023
Linda Gayle Green	Jan. 24, 1947 – Feb. 18, 2023
Elsie Mae Slaton	Oct. 06, 1933 – Feb. 18, 2023
Mary Ann Lindsay	May 31, 1955 – Feb. 17, 2023
Virgil W. Outlaw	Aug. 02, 1956 – Feb. 19, 2023
Lisa D Wilmes	Oct. 08, 1965 – Feb. 26, 2023
Brian Lee Wittmer	Jun. 16, 1963 – Feb. 26, 2023
Patricia “Trish” Eyre	May 09, 1945 – Feb. 27, 2023
North	
Clyde “Pete” S. Beck Jr.	Feb. 13, 1943 – Feb. 03, 2023
Janie M. Watson	Jan. 22, 1953 – Feb. 06, 2023
Norman Jean Hines	Aug. 02, 1938 – Feb. 09, 2023
Brooke Lovell	Apr. 27, 1967 – Feb. 10, 2023
Ronald L. Ising	Jun. 05, 1947 – Feb. 12, 2023
Dennis A. Stratman	Sep. 06, 1956 – Feb. 16, 2023
Judith A. Wood	Jan. 09, 1949 – Feb. 19, 2023
Gary Lee Schaefer Jr.	Nov. 09, 1964 – Feb. 20, 2023
Arlene M. Horton	Jan. 22, 1940 – Feb. 25, 2023

BOONE FUNERAL HOME	
David Hawkins	Mar. 01, 1965 – Feb. 05, 2023
CoLinda Compton	Jan. 25, 1955 – Feb 06, 2023
Glenn Jones	Dec. 08, 1943 – Feb. 08, 2023
Ronald Glenn “Ronnie” Maier	Apr. 23, 1937 – Feb. 10, 2023
Brandy Greulich	Sep. 14, 1978 – Feb. 11, 2023
Jennie Kelley	Dec. 22, 1925 – Feb. 13, 2023
Judith Young	Aug. 20, 1948 – Feb. 13, 2023
Ima Jean Ping	Apr. 08, 1932 – Feb. 14, 2023
Lodema Mounts	Jun. 12, 1931 – Feb. 14, 2023
Jenora Doucet	Sep. 02, 1937 – Feb. 18, 2023
Bonnie Jamison	May 21, 1932 – Feb. 20, 2023

Jimmie Coakley	Jan. 17, 1936 – Feb. 21, 2023
Cynthia “Cindy” Evans	Nov. 02, 1951 – Feb. 21, 2023
Rose Marie “Peggy” Doss	Nov. 28, 1943 – Feb. 22, 2023
David Woodburn	Feb. 23, 1971 – Feb. 22, 2023
Sally Frickey	July 05, 1950 – Feb. 25, 2023

MASON BROTHERS FUNERAL SERVICES	
Lawrence Edward Carter	Sep. 08, 1971 – Feb. 04, 2023
Donald Ray Barnes	Mar. 22, 1955 – Feb. 08, 2023
Joann Eaves	Nov. 23, 1941 –Feb. 08, 2023
Marjorie Lee Armstead	May 18, 1928 – Feb. 09, 2023
Shirie Lee Warren	July 27, 1961 –Feb. 09, 2023
Daniel Jerome Palmer	Jan. 09, 1978 – Feb. 17, 2023
Terrence Minor Jr.	April 12, 1995 – Feb19, 2023
William Elijah McFarland	Sep. 08, 1945 – Feb. 21, 2023

PIERRE FUNERAL HOME	
Delores Jean Strupp	Jan. 04, 1953 – Feb. 05, 2023
Lisa Jean Angermeier	Sep. 26, 1960 – Feb. 05, 2023
Diane Marie Reese	Aug. 03, 1946 – Feb. 10, 2023
Anita J. Garrett	Sep. 10, 1932 – Feb. 13, 2023
Brandon R. Wigand	June 04, 1962 – Feb. 14, 2023
Barbara Ann Ritzert	Nov. 11, 1946 – Feb. 18, 2023
Robert F. Weinzapfel	Apr. 05, 1938 – Feb. 23, 2023
Leroy A. Will	Jun. 26, 1936 – Feb. 24, 2023
Rosemary Ann Freeman	Jun. 14, 1923 – Feb. 24, 2023
Carol Ann Grannan	Apr. 03, 1946 – Feb. 26, 2023
Richard M. Dile	Feb. 21, 1954 –Feb. 27, 2023
Donna M. Owen	Dec. 04, 1943 – Feb. 28, 2023
Andrew Fox Vibbert	Feb. 23, 2000 – Feb. 28, 2023

ZIEMER FUNERAL HOME	
Franklin M. Ivie	Oct. 24, 1939 – Feb. 01, 2023
Sam J. Campese	Apr. 28, 1923 – Feb. 01, 2023
Donna Michelle Jones	Sep. 26, 1970 – Feb. 03, 2023
Taylor Todd	Jan. 14, 1943 – Feb. 04, 2023
Lue Gowers	Sep. 30, 1939 – Feb. 04, 2023
William LeVon Hutchins	Aug. 10, 1987 – Feb. 05, 2023
Jacqueline L.”Jackie” Koressel	July 04, 1932 – Feb. 07, 2023
Max K. Hamilton	Feb. 17, 1920 – Feb. 14, 2023
Sondra Sue Thomas-Floyd	Apr. 10, 1943 – Feb. 14, 2023
William Carl “Billy” Brown	Feb. 21, 1962 – Feb. 15, 2023
Evelyn Louise(Buxton) Maxfield	Jan. 16, 1931 – Feb. 18, 2023
Grace S. Hert	Oct. 14, 1951 – Feb. 18, 2023
Terry Gayle Sanchez	Aug. 27, 1951 – Feb. 19, 2023
William (Bill) F. Holsey	Nov. 07, 1945 – Feb. 22, 2023
Virginia A. Schnur	Nov. 02, 1931 – Feb. 22, 2023
Dora M Carter	July 10, 1925 – Feb 22, 2023
MaryAnn Evans	Apr. 30, 1930 – Feb. 23, 2023
Janice F. Stobbs	Jun. 24, 1939 – Feb. 27, 2023
Catherine “Kay” Belle Horne	Jun. 01, 1941 – Feb. 28, 2023

Sudoku Puzzle Answer

Mar. '23

7	8	2	5	6	4	9	3	1
9	1	5	2	8	3	7	4	6
6	4	3	7	1	9	5	2	8
2	7	9	4	5	1	8	6	3
3	5	4	6	7	8	1	9	2
1	6	8	3	9	2	4	5	7
4	9	1	8	2	6	3	7	5
5	3	6	1	4	7	2	8	9
8	2	7	9	3	5	6	1	4

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I	P	O	D		I	M	P	S		L	O	A	F	
D	U	N	E		S	T	A	R	T	E	Z	R	A	
I	R	I	S		A	C	T	O	R		T	O	U	T
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			C	O	N			S	N	O	W	D	A	Y
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D	I	R	T		E	T	A	S			T	H	E	N

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