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Vol. 5 No. 1

January 2024

Evansville, IN

Mayor Terry Gives Inaugural Address

JANUARY 2024

By Stephanie Terry

Before I begin, I just want to pause...

What a moment.

What a moment...for me, for you, for our city.

There were some who said that we would never get to this moment.

And, years ago, in sadder parts of our city's history, there were even some who worked hard to try to make sure that this moment never happened.

And yet...here we are.

We're here because of the ones who fought back against unwritten rules. They believed it was possible for a woman to serve as Mayor.

And we're here because of the ones who spoke up against cen-

turies of injustice. They knew it was possible for an African American to lead the City of Evansville.

I stand here today as the 35th Mayor of this city because of all of them and it is truly one of the greatest honors of my life. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for believing in me.

Now, I know, it's an extraordinary responsibility...but I'm ready.

And, I know what comes next. I'll get to show others what is possible as I work to change lives and neighborhoods. Being the first, I'll also be held to higher standards... and that's okay.

Because I'm ready. I knew when I made the decision to run it was about something bigger than me. Even on the toughest days, I stayed the course because I knew

I was doing what God had placed on my heart to do.

To my family and friends..., where would I even be without all of you? You supported me, lifted me, and guided me at times in my life when I felt overwhelmed, or at a crossroads. Your faith in me, along with your love...it's brought me, it's brought us to now, to today. Marques, Myles, and Denereo thank you for your patience, courage, and love. To my Mom and Dad, who would have thought a little girl from Mulberry Street in the center city of Evansville would be the Mayor? Thank you for raising me to trust God, serve others, and believe that I could accomplish anything my heart desired. I love you all. I know all of my grandparents- Jesse & Rosie Esters, Martha Landours, Jethro Landours, Clark & Bettye Johnson, and George and

Connie Clemmons are all rejoicing and smiling down from heaven.

Thank you to the Mayors who came before me.

Mayor Winnecke, Mayor Weinzapfel, Mayor Lloyd, and Mayor Vanderveer. The dedication and care you put into your work is reflected in the city we have today. From the Riverfront to the Ford Center to the I-U Med School Campus. You have left me with a strong foundation and lots to build on. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your service to our great city.

To our new City Council members...I can't wait to start our work together. When I look at all of you and see the breadth and depth of your talent... and the unique skill sets and experiences you bring, I cannot help but have

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Burton Seeks Democratic Nomination For SR Seat In District 77

JANUARY 2024

Current 4th Ward City Councilman, Alex Burton (D) announces his candidacy and is seeking to become the next State Representative for



District 77 in the 2024 Election following Rep. Ryan Hatfield's decision to run for a Judgeship.

"I'm grateful for Rep. Hatfield's service, advocacy, and representation. Our community has benefitted greatly from his leadership and I'm confident that he will continue to passionately serve us. I admire all that he has been able to accomplish."

Burton says that his candidacy is focused on advocating and legislating sound policies that ensure Indiana's economy thrives,

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Vanderburgh County Commissioners Initiate Veterans Memorial Coliseum Improvements

JANUARY 2024

The Vanderburgh County Commissioners are proud to initiate infrastructure improvements to the Soldiers and Sailors Coliseum (Veterans Memorial Coliseum, The Coliseum, Evansville Coliseum) and invite the public to contribute to the preservation efforts.

A symbol honoring the bravery and sacrifices of our veterans, the Veterans Memorial Coliseum has been a landmark in our community for many years. Infrastructure improvements aimed at conserving it will soon begin. The Board of Commissioners will open bids at their meeting on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. in Civic Center Room 301 for the first phase focused on interior stabilization. The kickstart of these crucial improvements will be funded by \$6 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

As the Commissioners begin this restoration, the public is invited to help in honoring the legacy of the Coliseum and its historical documentation. Individuals are encouraged to share their memories including pictures and videos of concert and event memorabilia as well as personal snapshots and videos taken of themselves, friends,



and family at the Coliseum by submitting them to commissioners@vanderburghgov.org. These contributions will aid in preserving the collective memories and experiences of this beloved landmark.

The Commissioners also extend an invitation to the public to join the Coliseum's renovation journey by subscribing to the Veterans Memorial Coliseum YouTube channel, where updates will be shared. A special thank you goes out to Dr. Mark Royer for creating the first video showcasing drone footage capturing the building's exterior.

About the Veterans Memorial Coliseum: Built between 1916 and

1917, the Coliseum was conceived to address two vital community purposes: commemorating local veterans of the Civil and Spanish-American wars and simultaneously offering a venue for conventions, entertainment, and public gatherings. Its significance expanded in 1971, when it was rededicated as a monument honoring veterans from all wars, leading to its esteemed recognition from the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. Once considered a premier event location in Evansville, the Coliseum played host to numerous iconic entertainment performances, leaving an indelible mark on the collective memories and history of our community.

USI Announces 2024 Hall Of Fame

JANUARY 2024

University of Southern Indiana Athletics is pleased to announce the selection of the 2024 USI Athletic Hall of Fame class that will be inducted during homecoming week in February. The class of six individuals and one team were selected by a nine-member USI Athletic Hall of Fame Committee.

Any Screaming Eagles fan was eligible to nominate student athletes or teams on the 10th anniversary of their last season of competition, or a coach/administrator who has been

separated from USI Athletics for two years.

This year's class includes Cris Brunson '06 (Men's Basketball 2001-05); Susan Ellsperman '13 (Women's Soccer 2009-12); Will (Billy) Harris '04 (Men's Basketball 1999-2004); Michael Jordan '14 (Men's Cross Country/Track & Field 2009-13); Jeffrey McClure '14 (Men's Soccer 2009-12); Ellen Young '11 (Women's Basketball 2008-11); and the 1982 NCAA Division II Elite Eight Men's Soccer Team.

"I continue to be amazed by the

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Commentary

A Father And A Son

JANUARY 2024

By John Krull

His lived experience instilled in him a lasting ambivalence regarding circles of power and prominence, the two spheres that journalists most often probe. He thought those realms were dangerous places for human beings of modest birth to explore. He had come by this wariness honestly.

He was a child of the Great Depression. Those years marked him in ways that stayed with him all his days.

When he was a toddler, a family tragedy placed him and his older brother in an orphanage for years. Another family agreed to care for his younger brother, then moved away without leaving a forwarding address, my infant uncle still part of their household.

When my grandfather had weathered the worst of the ordeal, he brought his two older boys home and tried to locate the younger one. In the search, he found the authorities less than enthusiastic about helping a man struggling in hard times just to stay upright.

Dad took from all this that it was unwise, even unsafe, to count on impersonal authority to care about

people who didn't count for much. He also decided that many forces were too big to fight and that many hardships simply had to be endured, rather than resisted.

Although he did not think in those terms, my father was a fatalist.

He believed dreams were hostages, weapons that could be used to break his heart. He never let himself want anything too much.

If a worldview such as his denied him the upper reaches of life's pleasures, it did give him a peculiar source of strength. When something went wrong for him, he did not waste much time on self-pity.

He just focused on how to live with misfortune.

When I was young and my interest in the ways the world worked—particularly why some people had power and others didn't—began to grow, Dad struggled to come to terms with my fascination.

For years, he saw it as evidence that I was much more my mother's son than his. Mom had been a civil rights activist before they married and continued to care about seeing all people fairly treated long after she and Dad divorced.

It was a matter of joking friction in

their troubled marriage when I was little that Dad voted for Richard Nixon in the 1960 presidential election while Mom cast her ballot for John F. Kennedy.

Dad's vote wasn't a partisan one. He just didn't trust people at the top of the ladder to care much about those on the lower rungs. He was wary of JFK, just as he would be guarded, even scornful, during the presidencies of both Bushes and Donald Trump. He thought of their existences—and their interests—as foreign from his own.

Early on, he doubted whether my career would take hold. He thought dealing with politicians was like dancing barefoot in a fire. Eventually, no matter how careful I was, I was bound to get burned.

When that didn't happen, his concern evolved into mystification.

After he came to an event where I served as master of ceremonies and host to many of the state's dignitaries, Dad pulled me aside.

"I don't know how you got so you could do all this," he said. "I don't think it was your mother."

He paused.

"And I know it sure as hell wasn't me."

He was mistaken about that.

Parents teach their children things without knowing it.

I didn't inherit my father's fatalism.

Perhaps that is because my childhood was not the ordeal his was.

Other qualities, though, did come from Dad.

Like him, I tend not to get distracted by self-pity. I'm not as disciplined about it as he was—my instinct to accept and endure wasn't forged in fires as hot as his was—but my determination to see things as they are is his.

When I encounter a setback, I indulge in a brief period—briefer and briefer as I grow older—of feeling sorry for myself.

Then I accept the challenge for what it is and step forward to meet it.

Dad died earlier this year. He met his end, not surprisingly, with stoicism.

He has a birthday coming up, my first without him. I miss him, but I often don't show it, even to those closest to me.

Yes, I am my father's son.

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.

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

ISP Promotes Human Trafficking Awareness Initiative In January

JANUARY 2024

The Indiana State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division (CVED) is partnering with the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) for CVSA's Human Trafficking Awareness Initiative January 8 -12, 2024. During this annual human trafficking initiative, ISP's CVED personnel will raise awareness about human trafficking by distributing outreach materials to commercial motor vehicle drivers while conducting commercial motor vehicle inspections.

CMV drivers, crisscrossing America, are in a unique position to identify potential incidents of human trafficking and raising their awareness and providing drivers the tools to identify and report signs of human trafficking is the goal of this campaign. CVSA's Human Trafficking Awareness Initiative will be conducted across North America: US January 8 -12, 2024, Canada February 19-23, 2024, and Mexico March 11-15, 2024.

According to the United Nations, human trafficking is the recruitment,

transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of people through force, fraud, or deception with the aim of exploiting them for profit. Men, women, and children of all ages and from all backgrounds can become victims of this crime, which occurs in every region of the world, including North America. Human traffickers often use violence, fraudulent employment agencies, and fake promises of education and job opportunities to trick and coerce their victims.

The Human Trafficking Awareness Initiative is part of CVSA's Human Trafficking Prevention Program. The program seeks to reduce human trafficking throughout North America through coordinated enforcement and investigative and educational awareness measures within the commercial motor vehicle industry.

CVSA and the Indiana State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division collaborate with Truckers Against Trafficking (www.truckersagainstrafficking.org) to engage and equip the commercial vehicle indus-

try in the fight against human trafficking.

To report suspected human traf-

ficking, please call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888 or text INFO to 233733.

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Community

USI's 10th Annual French Film Festival Begins Jan. 19

JANUARY 2024

The University of Southern Indiana College of Liberal Arts and World Languages and Cultures Department will host the Albertine Cinémathèque French Film Festival on Fridays beginning January 19 through February 23. All films will be shown with English subtitles and will begin at 7 p.m. in the Wright Administration Building, Room WA1. Showings are open to the public at no charge.

"This year, our festival theme is The Secret Self: Uncovering Identity in Francophone Cinema. This theme of grappling with identity is especially pertinent on our campus," said Dr. Alexandra Natoli, Assistant Professor of French. "College is a time when students may struggle profoundly with their own senses of identity and selfhood, occasionally forced to negotiate between the person they are on



campus and the person they are around their families. With this theme, we seek to explore permutations of a theme which is both deeply personal yet universally applicable."

Through the generosity of Villa Albertine for gifting the Albertine Cinémathèque Festival Grant to USI, six films have been selected for the series: L'innocent, Saint Omer, Josep, Casablanca Beats, Monsieur Klein and La Gravité.

"As educators, we particularly value films which speak to a wide variety of lived experiences in the Francophone world," said Dr. Jessica Garcés Jensen, Associate Professor of French. "We seek out films which encourage students and community members to question preconceived ideas about who speaks French, what they look like and where they live."

Terry Schedules First Traveling City Hall Meeting For Feb. 22

JANUARY 2024

The first Traveling City Hall of the Terry administration will be held in partnership with United Neighborhoods of Evansville on Thursday, February 22, at 5:30 p.m. in the C.K. Newsome Community Center. It will precede the regular United Neighborhoods of Evansville meeting, scheduled for 6:30 p.m., where Mayor Terry also will speak.

"One of the best parts of running for mayor was having the opportunity to hear directly from the people of Evansville – to hear

their concerns, answer their questions, and to just listen to what they have to say about our city," Mayor Terry said.

"The Traveling City Hall is an opportunity for me and the department heads from across the city to continue not only doing that, but to take their concerns back to the office the next day and do what we can to ad-

dress them in real time."

Mayor Terry's administration will host quarterly Traveling City Hall meetings throughout 2024, with each being held in a different part of the city, in conjunction with different community partners.

"United Neighborhoods of Evansville is excited to partner with Mayor Terry's administration

for the first of her Traveling City Hall programs," said Joe Ballard, United Neighborhoods of Evansville operations manager. "This kind of direct dialogue between citizens and city officials is critical to a strong, thriving Evansville, and we're proud to be part of making that happen."

Future Traveling City Hall meetings will be held in May, August, and November 2024. The dates, locations, and community partners associated with those events will be announced at the February 22 event.



\$31 Million In Trails Grants Awarded Across Indiana Communities

JANUARY 2024

Governor Eric J. Holcomb and Indiana Department of Natural Resources Director Dan Bortner today announced 14 communities will receive a combined \$31.2 million for 28 miles of new trail as a part of the fourth round of the Next Level Trails program.

"Across the state, trails are making connections – bringing people and communities together in ways we've never seen before," said Gov. Holcomb. "The Next Level Trails program has elevated those connections with record trail funding and palpable energy. Through \$180 million across four rounds, we're funding important infrastructure that is making an impact now and will continue to be felt for generations to come."

A \$180 million grant program, Next Level Trails (NLT) is the largest infusion of trails funding in state history. In rounds one, two, and three, a total of \$120 million was awarded to 73 communities to build 190 miles of

trails throughout Indiana. In January, an additional \$29.5 million was awarded to acquire and begin development of the 62.3-mile Monon South Trail.

In the fourth round, grant projects all across the state were

awarded. Examples are two new segments of the Marquette Greenway in northwest Indiana and extensions to the Poka-Bache Trail in Steuben County. Smaller local projects in Evansville, Oldenburg, Yorktown, and Santa Claus also were funded.

"Through Next Level Trails and its \$180 million in grants, Indiana continues making history," said Dan Bortner, DNR director. "Never before in our state have so many Hoosiers come together with the shared mission of connecting communities. Over the last five years, that shared mission, historic funding, and Gov. Holcomb's steadfast commitment have created a tangible impact in the form of nearly 100 miles of new trail open in all corners of our state and more soon to come."

The award announcement was made in LaCrosse. The LaPorte County town was awarded a

fourth-round grant of \$2.1 million to build the Grand Kankakee Marsh Trail, a 3.1-mile trail that is part of the Great American Rail-Trail, which is a planned route from Washington, D.C. to Washington state organized by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC). Approximately 56% of the Great American's 214 planned miles across Indiana are complete.

"We are thrilled to see continued investment in the Great American Rail-Trail in Indiana," said Ken Bryan, senior strategist for external relations, RTC. "Governor Holcomb's \$180 million Next Level Trails program continues to serve as a model for other states, showing the country how to make it a priority to invest in trail and active transportation connections between and within communities."

In January 2022, RTC named Gov. Holcomb as a Doppelt

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THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSIONER

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

Ben Shoulders

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

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DRAWINGS AT 8:30PM, 9PM, 9:30PM & 10PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

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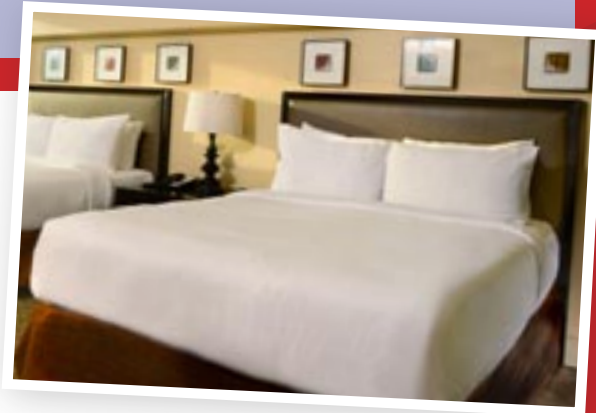
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Community

Mayor Terry Shares 100-Day Plan In Inaugural Address

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faith in our future. The people are counting on you to represent them with passion and commitment.

You may know, this is a Bosse homecoming for me. It's also a homecoming for two of our city council members...are there any other Bulldogs in this place?

We are just the latest to join the ranks of graduates out here changing the world.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to hold this ceremony here. It means a lot to me to show the future generation what's possible. Thank you to E-V-S-C, Assistant Principal Strieter, the Bosse staff, and our planning committee. And, a special thank you to these amazing young musicians who played music to welcome us all into this space. I suspect I will someday read your names as distinguished alumni of this great school..let's give them a round of applause.

To all the young people in the audience, you can achieve whatever your heart desires if you maintain a positive attitude, work hard, be resilient, and surround yourself with people who will support and uplift you.

It's young people like these musicians, and all those here today who inspired me to run for Mayor.

And, this past year, I met citizens who energized me with their ideas and their visions for our city's future.

I listened.

To me, those inspirations and ideas, that collective vision for what our city could, and should be, is the guiding star for our administration and the roadmap for our work ahead.

You made it clear that each of our neighborhoods has a personality...a history...and a set of qualities that makes it special. And so, we will build on that and ensure all our neighborhoods have a standard of living that starts with being safe and ends with access to beautiful parks.

You told me that our young people are full of passion and promise. So, we must ensure they have access to a high-quality education and the necessary wrap-around support services they need. Through our Mayors Education Roundtable, we will work in partnership with schools, businesses, community organizations, and our faith community to offer opportunities for them to learn, grow, serve, and prosper. And when it's time, we will clear a path for these young people, move over, and let them lead. Ensuring the success of our young people will stay at the forefront of our agenda.

You shared with me that walkable sidewalks, access to public transit, smooth roads, low crime, and clean drinking water make you feel good about our city. And so, we will make sure that those basic city services are not "basic"

but exceptional. And we will work to meet those needs while keeping an eye on doing what protects the environment in our area of southern Indiana.

Finally, in private moments, many of you pulled me aside and confessed that at times, the high cost of your utility bills, and your rent, and threats of crime, and the rest of life, sometimes make things challenging. And so, most of all, my administration, a Terry administration, won't forget that and won't forget you.

We will lead with heart.

The transition is over. We move in tomorrow and we get to work. And, thanks to my transition team, we have assembled a bright, talented staff. Together, from this day on, we will govern with transparency, create a culture of creativity, and work toward not just what is achievable, but all that is possible. We have one thousand four hundred and sixty days to make a difference.

And, this week we will announce our plan for the first 100 days of the Terry Administration. When you read it, you'll see that we intend to move forward in a way that makes sense and in a way that will lay a strong foundation for the next four years.

Evansville Mayor Stephanie Terry Our 100-day roadmap will include details and key goals, and we intend to hold ourselves accountable for making progress in the areas of public safety and

neighborhood revitalization, and in making sure our government works for everyone.

We have high expectations for what we can accomplish and we will bring a sense of urgency to the work.

But as I have said time and time again, it will take everyone if we are to move forward together.

"Team Terry" got me here but now it's "Team Evansville." We are going to address our city's challenges together and make you meaningful partners in our city's progress. Now is the time for us to put aside division and politics. Now is the time to put aside that saying "that's how we've always done it" and work together for the betterment of all of Evansville. When we do we will ensure that E is for Everyone.

From Bosse Field to the Glenwood Leadership Academy. From the University of Evansville to the Howell Wetlands, we are a caring and collaborative city.

And, there is nothing we can't accomplish, together. This Mayor,

This City Council is here to serve you!

And, today, I ask you to join me. Join us.

Give of your time, talent, and expertise. Ask tough questions, and bring your best self to the work ahead...to the work that we must do. Because this historic moment gives us a chance we've never had before. A chance to make good

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OUR NEW STATE OF THE ART OFFICE

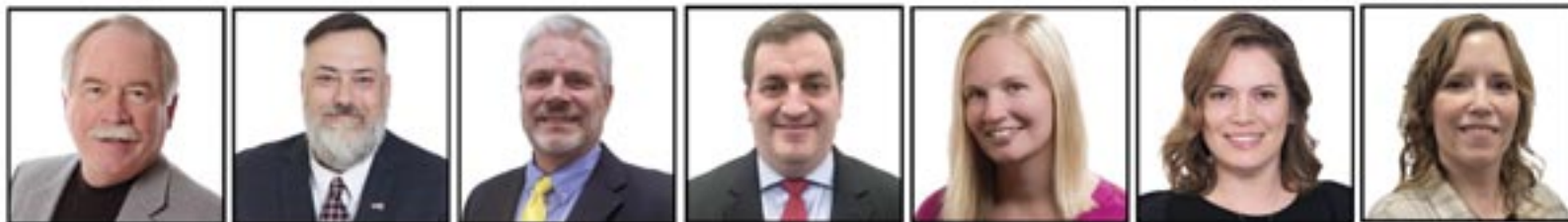


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Community

USI To Honor 2024 Hall Of Fame On Feb. 9

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number of outstanding student-athletes and teams this University has had," said USI Director of Athletics Jon Mark Hall. "The Class of 2024 truly represents our growing tradition here at USI. The six individuals and one team that will be honored in February are truly worthy of this extraordinary honor. I know that the entire USI community is proud of this class and what it accomplished while at USI."

In addition to the induction of the Hall of Fame Class of 2024, USI is inducting Ray and Cindy Bippus and Dave King into the Athletic Hall of Distinction for contributions to the success of the University's varsity programs.

Reservations for the February 9 induction ceremony must be made in advance and on-line by clicking USI Athletic Hall of Fame Tickets. For more information, contact the USI Ticket Office at 812-465-1189.

2024 USI ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME CLASS

Cris Brunson, Men's Basketball: A four-year starter at USI and remains among the Eagles' top players all-time (2001-05). Brunson ranks fifth all-time in scoring (1,562); second in career games (129); fifth in free throws made (317); second in three-pointers made (237); 10th in assists (304); and fourth in steals (132). He was the 2004 NCAA II Midwest Regional Most Outstanding Player; 2004 Elite Eight and Midwest Regional All-Tournament; three-time All-GLVC (honorable mention); and 2002 GLVC Freshman of the Year. Brunson also was a member of three NCAA II Midwest Regional teams; the 2004 NCAA II Midwest Regional Championship team; and the 2004 NCAA II runner-up squad.

Susan Ellsperman, Women's Soccer: A four-year starter who was named College Sports Communicators Academic All-America in back-



to-back years (2011, 2012) and four-time Academic All-GLVC performer. Ellsperman also was a four-time All-NSCAA All-Midwest Region (2009-12) and three-time All-GLVC (2010-12) recipient. She ranks among the all-time statistical leaders in USI Women's Soccer, ranking third in points (68); and fourth in goals scored (23) and assists (22).

Will (Billy) Harris, Men's Basketball: From 1999-2004, Harris was one of the most dynamic and popular Eagles, quietly moving into the top five all-time in scoring and top four in rebounding. The two-time All-GLVC and NCAA Division II Regional All-Tournament selection finished his career as the all-time leader in field goal percentage and helped the Eagles to the 2004 NCAA II national title game.

Michael Jordan, Men's Cross Country/Track & Field: Jordan finished his career as a five-time All-American, earning one award in cross country, two in indoor track & field, and two in outdoor track & field. He owns the top three times in school history in the steeplechase and earned a total of eight All-GLVC honors and eight All-Midwest Region accolades. Jordan was the 2012 GLVC Cross Country Runner of the Year and

the 2013 Midwest Region Outdoor Track Athlete of the Year in addition to winning a combined six GLVC titles. He also was named the GLVC Runner/Track Athlete of the Week a school-record 10 times.

Jeffrey McClure, Men's Soccer: McClure, a two-time team captain, was an All-GLVC and All-Region selection after leading the Eagles to the post-season for the first time in a decade in 2012. The two-time Academic All-GLVC honoree had 73 points in 70 matches and finished his career sixth in goals, seventh in assists, and eighth in points (program records for a defender). He set a program record with five assists in a win over the University of Illinois Springfield in 2011.

Ellen Young, Women's Basketball: The three-time All-GLVC honoree finished with 1,607 points and 486 rebounds during her collegiate career. Young, the Division II Bulletin National Player of the Month in December 2009, finished her career as an Eagle ranked third all-time at USI in made three-pointers (150), third in three-pointers attempted (399), and third in free throw percentage (.780). She also was eighth all-time at USI with 1,249 points in a USI uniform and 24th in rebounding (380).

1982 Men's Soccer (1st NCAA II Tournament Appearance): The 1982 Men's Soccer Team won the fourth of six consecutive GLVC championships that season. The '82 team also advanced to the NCAA Division II Tournament as the top seed in the region, earning a first round bye. The team hosted the first-ever regional championship, recording the men's soccer team's first elite eight, missing the final four by a first half penalty kick. The Eagles finished the season ranked seventh in the country and produced two USI Athletic Hall of Fame honorees and the program's first All-American and honorable mention All-American recipients.

Mayor Terry Thanks Voters

Continued From Page 5

on all that we can dream, but only if we are united not just in our hopes and our aspirations, but in our purpose and our actions.

I've been sharing lately that one of the last times I was on this stage, I was a senior in high school. I am proud to say I played Dorothy in the Bosse High School Musical production of "The Wiz." I remember like it was yesterday ((sing- when I think of home, I think of place)). And, of course, you know, one of the lessons of The Wiz...was.. there's no place like home. I certainly feel that today. I love our city and I promise I will work to make sure everyone feels there's no place like our home here in Evansville, Indiana.

Finally, in thinking about this day, I keep coming back to the idea that a community is a collection of individual stories. Those stories are intertwined, and together, over time, they make up the history of a city.

So, on this day, with gratitude and a profound sense of awe, and responsibility, I humbly offer up my story and more importantly, what my story means and represents, to the history and people of Evansville.

I look forward, with great anticipation, to rejoicing in all of the stories that will follow mine as we begin on this day, in this place, to write a new chapter in our city's history.

Thank you to the people of Evansville. Thank you for the trust and responsibility you have placed in me. I am honored and extremely proud to serve as the 35th Mayor of the City of Evansville! God Bless you all!

Burton Seeks Nomination

Continued From Page 1

for everyone.

"Indiana has a lot of potential. Rational and forward-thinking legislation must be both proposed and passed. I look forward to campaigning and earning the votes to serve District 77."

Burton believes that big ideas are important, but so is being able to address the basic things that impact Hoosiers every single day.

\$31 Million In Trails Grants Awarded Across Indiana

Continued From Page 3

Family Rail-Trail Champion for his leadership in accelerating trail development across the state.

The grants awarded in the fourth round include seven regional projects and seven local projects. The list of awards, project descriptions and a map are posted [HERE](#).


The fourth-round grant recipients are contributing \$15.5 million in matching value, resulting in a \$46.7 million total invest-

ment in trails. The program requires a minimum 20% project match, which can include monetary contributions, land value, and in-kind donations of materials and labor.

NLT is part of Gov. Holcomb's \$1 billion Next Level Connections infrastructure program, which accelerates the completion of major highway projects, expands access to rural broadband services, and pursues the expansion of rail projects in northwest Indiana. The initial

program received funds totaling \$90 million; \$60 million more was appropriated in the 2021 biennial budget. An additional \$30 million in the most recent budget brought the NLT investment to \$180 million.

Including the newest projects in the fourth round, NLT has awarded grants to 89 different projects across the state. Of the now 89 projects, 32 are complete, adding more than 97 miles of new trail for Hoosiers to access.



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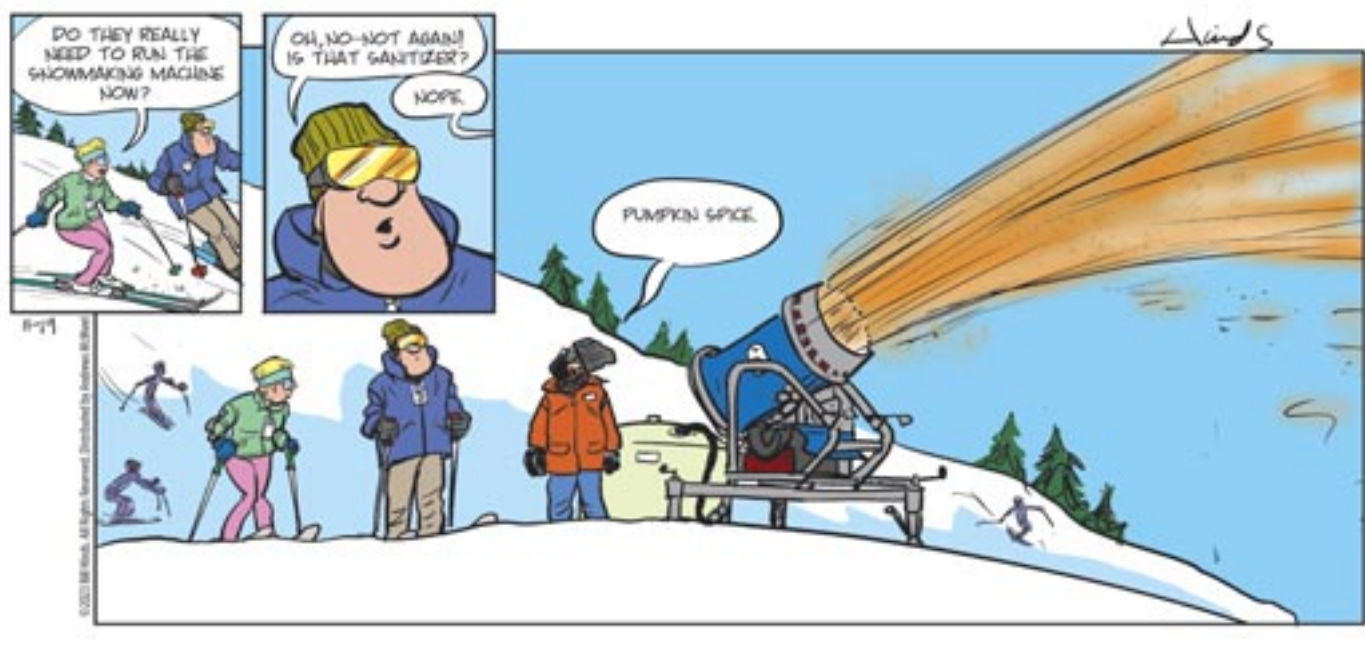
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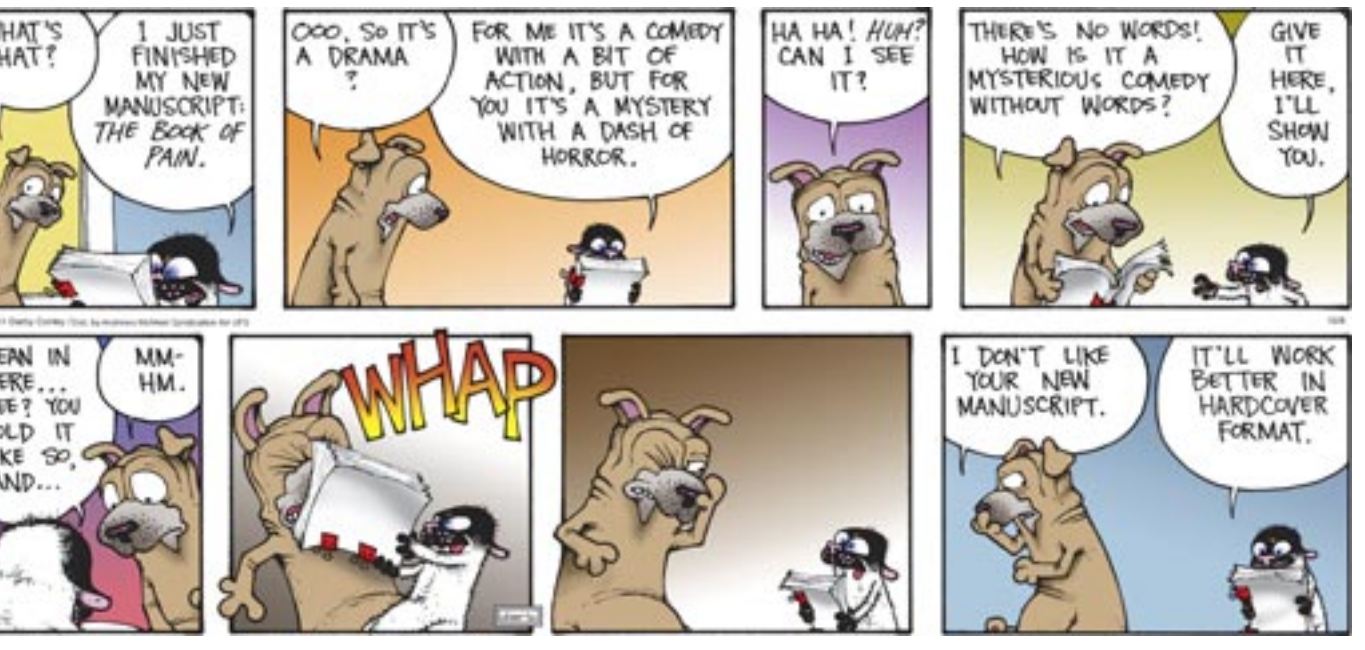
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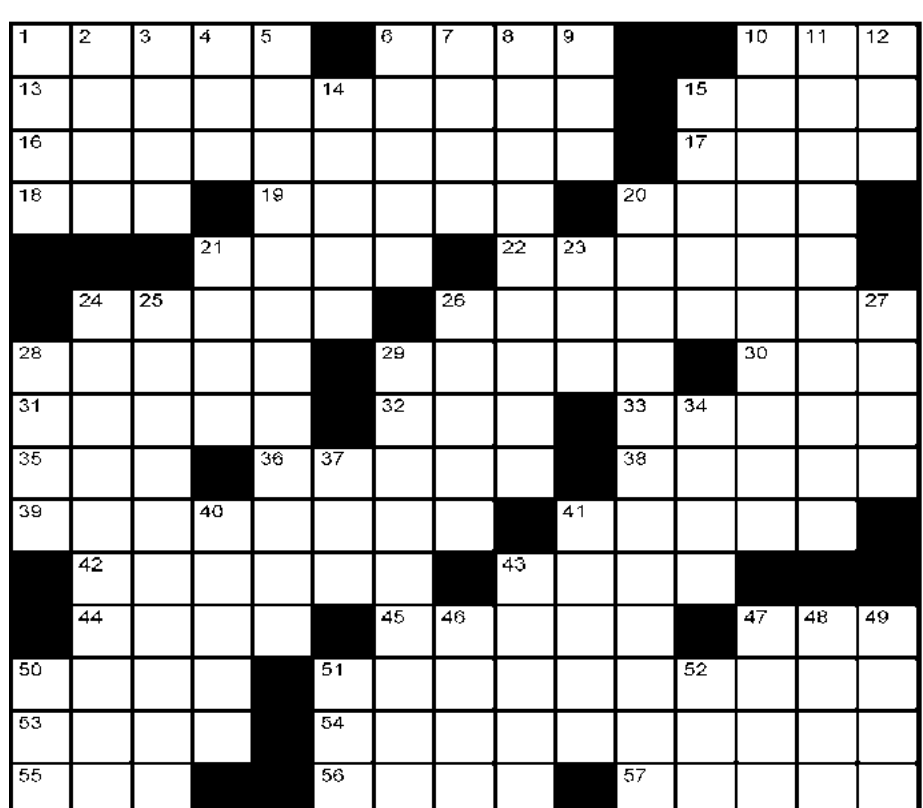


Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg May 14, 2023

- ACROSS**
- 1 Instruments that can be heard up to five miles away
 - 6 Japanese soup paste
 - 10 Old film channel
 - 13 Unwilling toddler's whine
 - 15 Blacken
 - 16 One is heard but not seen
 - 17 It's trapped in a dryer
 - 18 Type "typ" instead of "typo," say
 - 19 Quiver insert
 - 20 Make a loan
 - 21 Husky's bowlful
 - 22 Really weird
 - 24 Crossword clues, essentially
 - 26 Marathon, for one
 - 28 Marina space
 - 29 Belgrade natives
 - 30 Comic's joke
 - 31 Popped up
 - 32 Kit ___ bar
 - 33 Game akin to bingo
 - 35 Kyo (Darth Vader's grandson)
 - 36 Huffs, but not puffs
 - 38 Great Lakes people
 - 39 Cutting rooms?
 - 41 Facial features that may be "double"
 - 42 Like parties and curveballs
 - 43 Before long
 - 44 Got bigger
 - 45 British Columbia neighbor
 - 47 Acrobat's safeguard
 - 50 Sticky stuff
 - 51 Imaginary box above home plate
 - 53 Expense paid in advance
 - 54 Crude stockpile
 - 55 Find a function for
 - 56 What's left of the map?
 - 57 Makeshift sleds from a dining hall
- DOWN**
- 1 Donate to Americares, say
 - 2 Feature of stinky tofu
 - 3 "The Big Sleep" genre
 - 4 Rival of The Vitamin Shoppe
 - 5 Really shine on stage
 - 6 Prefix meaning "large"
 - 7 Passionate about
 - 8 Cold war shelters
 - 9 It steers a dragon boat
 - 10 "Bad idea!"
 - 11 Sweet treats hung on a Christmas tree
 - 12 "The A-Team" actor with a mohawk
 - 14 Bends out of shape
 - 15 Translucent
 - 20 "We should face the facts ..."
 - 21 Red or black insects
 - 23 Seriously overcharge
 - 24 Statement before starting something
 - 25 Ruler's seat in "A Song of Ice and Fire"
 - 26 Accomplishments
 - 27 They might clash in a boardroom
 - 28 Sound from a pound
 - 29 Thin piece of neckwear
 - 34 "The Boys" actress
 - 37 Fresh out of the box
 - 40 Moved stealthily
 - 41 Singer Sam played by Leslie Odom Jr. in "One Night in Miami ..."
 - 43 Alternative to pants
 - 46 Addresses with dots
 - 47 Romance novelist
 - 48 Green with
 - 49 Pegs at a driving range
 - 50 "Despicable Me" villain
 - 51 Female hedgehog or pig
 - 52 Gen (person born in 2000, e.g.)

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



Sudoku Pacific

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

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

1/24 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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Education

Ivy Tech To Host Guest Speakers From SIMA At MLK Celebration

JANUARY 2024

Evansville, IN – Ivy Tech Community College will host the Southern Indiana Mentoring Academy (SIMA) as a part of its celebration of the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. The event is planned for Thursday, Jan. 18, at noon, in Vectren Audi-

torium on the Ivy Tech campus, 3501 N. First Avenue, Evansville.

The event is free and open to the public.

SIMA will discuss its mission of providing a safe and supportive environment for youth to explore their potential and build

meaningful relationships with mentors who care about their

success. It's mission statement says, "We believe that every young person deserves the opportunity to grow and learn, and we are committed to making that a reality

for the youth of Southern Indiana.

SIMA's goals are to:
Provide 1:1 mentorship.
Increase graduation rates among disadvantaged youth.
Empower youth to become leaders in their communities.



Forbes Advisor Ranks VU Among The "Best Affordable RN-To-BSN Online Programs" In The Nation In 2024

JANUARY 2024

Vincennes University is pleased to announce its RN to BSN online bachelor's degree program has earned a top national ranking from Forbes Advisor. Forbes has named VU among the top 10 "Best Affordable RN-to-BSN Online Programs of 2024" in the country.

VU is one of only three higher education institutions outside of Florida in the top 10 list and is the only school located in the Midwest.

Nurses with bachelor's degrees earn higher salaries and have additional leadership opportunities. VU's RN to BSN degree offers registered nurses the ability to earn a bachelor's degree 100 percent online, making it a perfect choice for students who need flexibility in their schedules. The RN to BSN Program offers further flexibility with three entry dates in August,

October, and January.

VU College of Health Sciences and Human Performance Dean Michelle Cummins said, "We are proud that VU has been recognized nationally among the best affordable RN to BSN online programs. This achievement reflects VU's commitment to providing accessible and high-quality education, empowering nursing professionals to advance their careers while maintaining affordability. We strive to continue fostering excellence in healthcare education, making a positive impact on both our students and the communities they serve."

Forbes Advisor scored 58 accredited and nonprofit colleges in the U.S. using 18 data points in the categories of student outcomes,

affordability, student experience, credibility, and application process. The rankings are determined by the Forbes Advisor Education team, which is committed to bringing readers unbiased rankings and trustworthy, informative articles covering higher learning institutions, individual degree programs, boot camps, professional credentials, and various career paths. The team sources data from the National Center for Education Statistics and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

VU ensures a supportive learning environment for students enrolled in its 100 percent online programs, offering a range of resources and assistance to facilitate a seamless and enriching educational experience.

VU's RN to BSN degree program allows students the flexibility to continue working while seeking to advance their careers by earning a bachelor's degree. VU students can complete the RN to BSN degree online in as little as 16 months or extend their length of study for up to five years. Students may also be eligible for tuition deferment, potentially delaying tuition payment until the end of each semester. Previously completed general education and pre-licensure nursing courses will transfer without an expiration date. Academic advisors and faculty are available to VU students throughout the week.

This innovative approach enables nurses to enhance their skills and knowledge from anywhere, fostering a diverse and adaptable community of healthcare professionals.



USI Names Trump Vice President For Government Affairs

JANUARY 2024

Aaron C. Trump has been named Vice President for Government Affairs and General Counsel at the University of Southern Indiana. He assumed official duties effective January 1. Trump reports to Dr. Ronald S. Rochon, USI President, and will continue to serve as a member of the President's Cabinet.

Trump has served USI as the Chief Government and Legal Affairs Officer since December 2018. In this expanded role, he will continue to serve as USI's principal representative to local, state and federal government officials, including members and staff of the Indiana General Assembly, the Office of the Governor, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and the

State Budget Agency, as well as related associations, groups and organizations locally and throughout the State of Indiana. As General Counsel, he will provide legal counsel and guidance to the University President, Board of Trustees and other members of the University community on a broad range of legal matters impacting the institution.

"Mr. Trump has demonstrated time and again his expertise in the areas of government and legal affairs in representing our University," said Rochon. "He is a recognized and well-respected face for this institution at the

Statehouse. I applaud him for his dedication and for the work he has done to enhance state funding for this University and to raise visibility and reputation for USI and for higher education in Indiana."

Trump is licensed to practice law in the State of Indiana and has received certifications in trial advocacy skills, advanced sexual misconduct investigation and civil rights investigation. His legal career includes representing municipalities, manufacturers, retailers and other business clients in small claims, Superior, Circuit and Federal Courts, and advising govern-

mental departments on the policy implications of local, state and federal codes. He previously served as a Section Chief/Staff Sergeant – Field Artillery for the United States Army National Guard.

"I am incredibly appreciative of this opportunity and for the support from President Rochon and the University leadership," said Trump. "USI is a special place, and it is a privilege to serve as its representative in forums across the state."

Trump received a Juris Doctor degree from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. He also earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in higher education and student affairs from Indiana University in Bloomington.



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Education

UE School Of Education Awarded \$500,000 Grant

JANUARY 2024

The University of Evansville (UE) has received a grant of approximately \$500,000 from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its initiative, Advancing the Science of Reading (SoR) in Indiana. The grant will support UE's School of Education.

UE is one of 28 Indiana colleges and universities that received grants from Lilly Endowment to support efforts that integrate Science of Reading-aligned principles into teacher preparation programs.

Through the support of this funding, the School of Education's goal is to thoroughly prepare pre-service teachers to implement the SoR principles in their future classrooms. In doing so, this will ensure the increased literacy ability levels of Indiana's elementary-aged students. The grant includes professional development for literacy faculty and pre-service teachers, along with SoR resources that will allow the application of SoR throughout clinical experiences.

"Investing in education is an investment in the future. This grant not only empowers the institution but also signifies a collective commit-



ment to advancing the science of reading in Indiana," said Dr. Sally Busby, Clinical Assistant Professor of Education. "By supporting our programs here in Evansville and across Southwest Indiana, we look forward to a brighter tomorrow through the transformative power of literacy."

"It is imperative that more of Indiana's elementary students learn to read proficiently, and it is essential that current teachers and the next

generation of teachers are prepared to use proven principles to teach reading in their classrooms," said Ted Maple, Lilly Endowment's vice president for education. "We are pleased therefore to help Indiana colleges and universities strengthen the use of these research-based principles to teach reading in their teacher preparation programs."

Lilly Endowment launched the Advancing the Science of Reading in In-

diana initiative in 2022. It complements a statewide effort undertaken in 2022 by the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) to improve reading achievement in K-12 schools by helping current teachers implement Science of Reading-aligned principles in their classrooms. In 2022, the Endowment made a \$60 million grant to the IDOE to support that work with school districts and teachers across Indiana.

Preston To Serve As USI Director Of Public Safety

JANUARY 2024

Sam Preston has been named Interim Director of Public Safety at the University of Southern Indiana, effective January 6. Preston will serve as Interim Director following the retirement of Steve Bequette, who has served 15 years with USI Public Safety, with six of those years as Director. He previously served 34 years with the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office.



He is a 26-year veteran (retired) of the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office. Preston is a 2016 graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, a certified Master Instructor by the State of Indiana, a peer support and suicide prevention instructor and has experience in crisis negotiation.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University and a master's degree from Indiana State University.

A search for the new Director of Public Safety is expected to be completed in Spring 2024.

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Education

UE's McClain Receives National Recognition

JANUARY 2024

Amelia McClain, Assistant Professor of Theatre at the University of Evansville, has been announced as the recipient of the University Resident Theatre Association (URTA)'s 2023 Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Training in Acting. McClain has been on the faculty at UE since 2018. In the Fall of 2021, McClain took leave from UE as a member of the Broadway cast in Aaron Sorkin's *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD*, at the Shubert Theatre.

She received her BFA from the University of Evansville and MFA from the graduate acting program at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. McClain is a member of the Actors Equity Association and the Screen Actors Guild.

Before returning to her alma mater, she completed a year-long run on Broadway as Sandra in the smash-hit production of *THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG*. Also on Broadway, she worked on *FOOL FOR LOVE*, *NOISES OFF*, *THE HEIDI CHRONICLES*, *THE HOUSE OF*

BLUE LEAVES, and the Tony Award-winning *VANYA & SONIA & MASHA & SPIKE*. McClain has been in over 20 productions off-Broadway and in regional theatres across the country.

Lillian Grace Carlson, a current UE senior, said "I have been lucky enough to work with Amelia as my Acting Professor closely these last two years. She is the one who taught me that no matter how impossible it seems, if you keep going, and keep putting in the work, the impossible is possible. When I have been at my lowest lows as a student, Amelia's teachings continuously play in my head, and they keep me going. She has taught

me what it means to be an incredibly hard-working actor, artist, and human being. I feel prepared

to walk out of college because of the rigor she has taught me to endure. Truly, when I didn't believe in myself as an actor or even a person, Amelia taught me how to re-focus those insecurities into strength

and determination for my art. Amelia McClain is one of the main reasons I now know why I want to be an actor and what I want in my future."

Jack Russell, a 2021 UE alumnus, added this tribute, "Amelia McClain taught me and my peers with strength, heart, and specificity to each of our needs. Amelia

impacted me so much as a student because she led by example. The tools that she was giving to us were the very tools that she uses to book jobs on Broadway. She taught us to be selfless, aware, and precise with our work. She didn't care about creating actors with talent, she cared about creating actors who knew how to work hard and care about the process. Truly, Amelia gave me the education I've always dreamed of. I am eternally grateful for her impact on my life. Without it, I don't think I could pursue this career path."

Founded in 1969, the University Resident Theatre Association works to ensure the continued renewal of American theatre by supporting excellence in the professional training of new artists. The "2023 Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Training" will be formally presented at the URTAs, an audition event in which more than 1,200 candidates pursuing graduate training in theatre take part each year in January.



Bower Announces Retirement After 30 Years With USI

JANUARY 2024

After 30 years with the University of Southern Indiana, 18 years as President of the USI Foundation and seven years as Vice President for Development, David Bower has announced plans to retire effective June 30, 2024, including leave with pay from July 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. His official date of retirement will be January 1, 2025.

"President Rochon and I talked about the need for a capital campaign which would end June 30, 2024. He approved that plan and I thought that would be the perfect date to retire," said Bower. "Although it has not worked out in exactly the way we thought, because of COVID and other factors, we have a great Foundation and Alumni team, an engaged and generous Board of Foundation Directors, and a wise and involved University Board of Trustees. Dr. Rochon will champion all aspects of ensuring private investment as the University continues to flourish. I leave my work content I have done

my best, but with a deep sadness to no longer serve with all my colleagues and donors who make USI the great University it is."

The University plans to launch a national search to fill the Vice President position this spring. The Vice President for Development and Alumni Engagement is responsible for leading the efforts of the Foundation and Alumni Office with the goal of attracting, acquiring and managing donors' charitable gifts to support and sustain the goals of the University and to create lasting ties with its alumni.

"I am both honored and humbled to thank David for his service to USI and to our Foundation," said Dr. Ronald S. Rochon, USI President. "David's unwavering dedication and profound impact will forever remain ingrained in our institution's legacy. As he embarks on this new chapter, we celebrate his immense contributions and I extend my heartfelt gratitude for his invaluable service."

Bower was first hired by USI's

Founding President David L. Rice as a Gift Officer in 1994. He later served as both Assistant and Associate Director of Development. In 2006, he became President of the USI Foundation and Director of University Development. He was promoted to Vice President for Development and President of the USI Foundation in 2017. In 2022, the position was realigned as Vice President for Development and Alumni Engagement and President of the USI Foundation.

During his time at USI, Bower established Reflections, the Planned Giving Society of the USI Foundation. In 1998, he earned the prestigious Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) designation and, that same year, formed a committee of development officers in the Evansville region. Bower was the first and founding president of the Evansville Area Fundraising Council; a local affiliate of Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP); and a member of the National Association of Charitable Gift Planners (CGB) for which he served two years on the Board of Directors.

The year before Bower began his tenure, the USI Foundation cele-

brated its 25th anniversary and reported \$1.48 million in gifts and assets of \$3.8 million. As of September 2023, total assets for the Foundation were \$158 million, and it recorded an endowment of \$141 million.

Bower was instrumental in USI's first capital campaign, "USI: Education Taken Higher," from 1996-98, leading the alumni giving efforts of the campaign which raised more than \$24 million. From 2011-16, he led the Foundation's second campaign, "Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence," which raised \$58.1 million in conjunction with the University's 50th anniversary. Currently, a feasibility study has been completed in anticipation of a third capital campaign for the University.

During his time at USI, Bower has also led a number of University efforts outside of his role with the Foundation, including the inauguration planning for the University's fourth president Dr. Ronald S. Rochon; funeral planning for the University's Founding President Dr. David L. Rice, which was held on the USI campus; and heading up the University's COVID-19 Task Force during the pandemic.



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Sports

Eagles Remain Undefeated In OVC With Win Over Tech

JANUARY 2024

University of Southern Indiana Women's Basketball remained undefeated in Ohio Valley Conference play Saturday night after a thrilling 69-66 win against Tennessee Tech University at Screaming Eagles Arena.

With the victory against the reigning Ohio Valley Conference Tournament champions in Tennessee Tech, Southern Indiana (9-5, 4-0) extended its overall winning streak to five and four straight wins to start the Ohio Valley Conference season. Saturday was USI's sixth win in the last seven contests and the third straight home victory. USI also kept pace with its best start to conference play since the 2021-22 season in the Great Lakes Valley Conference and its best winning streak since the tail end of the 2021-22 campaign.

Following Saturday's action around the OVC, USI sits atop the league standings as the only team without a loss in conference play, as Eastern Illinois University fell to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock during the afternoon slate.

The Screaming Eagles came out from the start and knocked down their first three shot attempts like in Thursday's win against Tennessee State University. USI grabbed an early 7-0 lead that forced Tennessee Tech into a timeout nearly two minutes into the game. Sophomore guard Ali Saunders (Depauw, Indiana) made her first start of the season Saturday and quickly tallied five points for USI. Southern Indiana built a lead as big as 10 points halfway into the first quarter, 15-5, but Tennessee Tech chipped away. The visiting Golden Eagles outscored USI, 14-3, in the latter portion of the opening period to take a one-point advantage, 19-18, into the second stanza.

Once again, senior forward Meredith Raley (Haubstadt, Indiana) played a big part in Southern Indiana's early offensive success, reaching 10 points in the first 12 minutes of the contest. Raley fought her way to the foul line, hitting her first eight free-throw attempts. Later, Tennessee Tech pushed its lead to seven, 29-22. USI battled back to within two points, as Saunders connected on her second triple of the game. However, the Golden Eagles held USI scoreless for the last two minutes of the first half and used another run to take a 41-32 halftime lead.

Out of the intermission, the



Screaming Eagles got after it defensively and had a burst on the offensive end with a 9-0 run over the first three and a half minutes of the second half. Junior guard Vanessa Shafford (Linton, Indiana) highlighted the run with a tough three-point play off an offensive rebound to pull USI within two, 43-41. Later in the third period, Shafford canned a pair of three-pointers to knot the game up at 49. Defenses ruled in the last few minutes of the third, as the game remained tied at 49 heading into the fourth quarter.

USI's post-play led to a quick four-point lead at the beginning of the fourth period. Senior forward Madi Webb (Bedford, Indiana) had three crucial buckets early in the quarter that extended Southern Indiana's lead to seven, 59-52, with 5:09 left. Over the next two and a half minutes, the Golden Eagles scored seven straight points to make the game all square again at 59. USI carried a three-point lead, 63-60, into the final minute before Saunders drilled a clutch triple to increase the Screaming Eagles' advantage to six. USI cashed in on the necessary free throws in the final seconds to close out the fifth straight victory, as the Screaming Eagles outscored Tennessee Tech, 37-25, in the second half.

As a team, Southern Indiana shot 37.7 percent overall (20-53), including six three-pointers. USI's effort in getting to the foul line led to team season highs of 23 makes and 31 attempts at the stripe. Southern Indiana outrebounded Tennessee Tech, 45-33, and flipped the battle on the offensive glass during the contest.

Individually, USI was led in scoring by Shafford, who dialed in 16 points and a new career-best 15 rebounds after a career-high 26 points on Thursday. For Shafford, the junior reached double figures scoring for a 12th consecutive outing this sea-

son, her best such streak in a USI uniform, and the guard posted her eighth career double-double and the third of the year. Raley also registered a double-double with 12 points and 10 boards. Saturday was the first time two Screaming Eagles recorded a double-double in the same game since January 7, 2023, when Shafford and former USI forward Hannah Haithcock did so against Southern Illinois University

Edwardsville. On Saturday, Saunders and Webb also had notable performances. Saunders notched a season-high 12 points with five rebounds and seven assists, a new individual best for the Screaming Eagles this season. Webb also put up a dozen points with five caroms. Plus, redshirt senior guard Addy Blackwell (Bloomington, Indiana) added eight points.

Tennessee Tech (6-9, 1-3) was held to 35.5 percent (22-62) from the floor with only two made treys. The Golden Eagles also spent significant time at the free-throw line, going 20-25 for 80 percent. Tennessee Tech was led in scoring by senior forward Kiera Hill with 18 points. Preseason OVC Player of the Year and graduate guard Maa-liya Owens was limited to nine points.

The Screaming Eagles will get set for a single game next week, as USI will hit the road Thursday for a 5 p.m. tilt at SIUE. Thursday's contest will be available to watch with a subscription to ESPN+.



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Sports

Aces Comeback Falls Short Against Sycamores

JANUARY 2024

Trailing by as many as 25 points in the second half, the University of Evansville men's basketball team cut the gap to just eight points in the final minutes before Indiana State completed the night with an 87-73 win on Wednesday inside the Hulman Center.

Posting a game-high 19 points, Yacine Toumi led the way for the Purple Aces. He was 9-of-13 from the field and registered 10 boards on the way to his second double-double in the last three games. Kenny Strawbridge Jr. scored 15 points while Cam Haffner posted a season-high of 11. Antonio Thomas ended the game with 10.

"Our league is really good and there is a reason Indiana State is on top of it. It starts in transition, I thought we let them get out in transition early and it really opened things up for them," Purple Aces head men's basketball coach David Ragland said. "I am proud of how we responded in the second half. To be down by 25 and cut that to eight points on the road was a positive for us. We will learn from it and get better."

Five Sycamores reached double figures with Jayson Kent and



Isaiah Swope tallying 18 apiece. ISU shot 48.3% in the game while UE finished at 45.7%. On the boards, ISU finished with a 40-33 advantage.

Indiana State scored the first eight points of the night while the Aces missed their opening four attempts while turning it over once. Cam Haffner got Evansville on the board with a triple at the 16:44 mark. The Sycamores added to their lead with their fourth 3-pointer of the evening pushing the advantage to 20-8 just over seven minutes into the half.

Yacine Toumi picked up consecutive field goals while Chuck Bailey III added his first score of the night to cap a 6-0 run over the next minute of play. With 11:12 on the clock, Kenny Straw-

bridge Jr. connected from downtown to cut the deficit to five - 22-17. At the 7:33 mark, the seventh triple made it a 12-point game once again (35-23), but UE answered once again when Toumi drove to the basket for a bucket to make it a 38-31 contest.

It was Toumi converting his sixth field goal to make it a 40-35 game inside the 4-minute mark before the Sycamores rallied with a last-second basket to take a 48-37 advantage into the break. Toumi led everyone with 12 in the period while three ISU players registered 10 apiece in the opening 20 minutes.

Josh Hughes drained a triple on the opening possession of the second half, but the Sycamores bounced back to take a game-

high lead of 14 points (56-42) inside the first four minutes of the stanza. Antonio Thomas scored on a drive to cut the deficit back down to 12 on the ensuing trip down the floor.

Unfortunately, things continued to go the way of ISU as an 8-0 stretch pushed their advantage to 20 points for the first time at 67-46 inside of 13 minutes remaining. After the Sycamores went up by a 78-53 margin with 8:27 left in the contest, Evansville worked its way back. At one point, the offense hit five shots in a row to make it an 80-64 game before Haffner picked up his second triple of the game to get within 13.

As the clock approached three minutes remaining, Haffner was true from downtown once again and it was Toumi knocking down a jumper to get within eight with just over two minutes remaining. In total, a 19-2 run saw Evansville turn a 78-53 deficit into just an 80-72 game. Despite the strong attempt, the comeback came up short as the Sycamores fended off the challenge to take the 87-73 decision.

UE's first home game of the New Year will see them face Murray State in a 1 p.m. game on Saturday inside the Ford Center.

Outside Hitter Willis Transfers To USI For 2024 Season

JANUARY 2024

University of Southern Indiana Volleyball has signed freshman outside hitter Ashby Willis for the 2024 campaign. Willis becomes a Screaming Eagle after transferring from Purdue University Fort Wayne.

"We're excited to welcome Ashby to our USI family," says USI Volleyball Head Coach, Jeffrey Aucoin. "Ashby made an immediate impact with her previous program garnering All-Conference honors in her first year. She is a stand-out on the court, in the classroom, and connected with our team immediately. We look forward to having Ashby join us this spring."

Ashby Willis | 6'0 | Outside Hitter | Mt. Carmel, Illinois

Willis transfers to USI from Purdue-Fort Wayne after being named to the 2023 Horizon League All-Freshman Team. She played in 29 matches during her freshman year



for a total of 102 sets and finished with 277 kills with 2.72 kills per set for the Mastodons. During her days as a Mt. Carmel High School Golden Ace, Willis garnered IVCA

All-State Honorable Mention, AVCA All-Region, All-Little Illini Conference, and News Gazette All-State in her only season at MCHS. She led the Aces to a conference

and regional championship in 2022 while holding a perfect 4.0 GPA. Willis played club volleyball most recently with Elite Tsunami in 2023.

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Obituaries

December Vanderburgh County Obituaries

For complete obituary go to the Funeral Home's Webpage

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Joyce A Norman May 27, 1931 – Dec. 01, 2023
 Doris Jean Glesige Dec. 19, 1928 – Dec. 05, 2023
 Louise McMasters Apr. 24, 1925 – Dec. 05, 2023
 Dorothy J. Chumley Dec. 23, 1933 – Dec. 05, 2023
 Margaret Eileen Large Sep. 23, 1933 – Dec. 06, 2023
 John Wesley Bledsoe, Jr. May 31, 1949 – Dec. 06, 2023
 Glen L. Ogle, Jr. Oct. 12, 1925 – Dec. 10, 2023
 Peggy Jane Hunt Dec. 16, 1936 – Dec. 12, 2023
 Barbara J. Macke Dec. 08, 1937 – Dec. 12, 2023
 Vanessa Ann Williams Feb. 10, 1957 – Dec. 22, 2023
 Andrew C. "Andy" Osier, Sr. Sep. 12, 1936 – Dec. 24, 2023
 Leilah Taylor Sep. 24, 1976 – Dec. 25, 2023
 Ida Mae Ard Aug. 11, 1934 – Dec. 27, 2023
 Donald Gene Loftus Jan. 01, 1942 – Dec. 28, 2023
 Nita M Voorhees Jun. 20, 1935 – Dec. 31, 2023

West

Edward Kirk Keller Dec. 23, 1963 – Dec. 10, 2023
 Harry William Kellams Jan. 12, 1932 – Dec. 12, 2023
 Brenda Fae Carver Dec. 07, 1944 – Dec. 18, 2023
 Judith Ann (Everett) Conaway May 05, 1943 – Dec. 20, 2023
 Margaret J Courey May 04, 1928 – Dec. 24, 2023
 Desmond Blaine Ashley Sr. Dec. 14, 1936 – Dec. 24, 2023
 Sharon Lynn Wynn Aug. 08, 1946 – Dec. 28, 2023
 Carolyn Susie Scoles Aug. 07, 1938 – Dec. 29, 2023
 Mary L. Lovell Aug. 20, 1924 – Dec. 31, 2023

North

Nina E West Jul. 31, 1932 – Dec. 08, 2023
 Karen J. Mortensen May 08, 1942 – Dec. 11, 2023
 Doris J. Johnson Oct. 06, 1937 – Dec. 12, 2023
 Doris "Jane" J.. Hill May 29, 1938 – Dec. 13, 2023
 Lisa A. Jones-Fluty Aug. 21, 1967 – Dec. 14, 2023
 Deborah "Debbi" L. Hines Nov. 25, 1950 - Dec. 21, 2023
 Sharon Bayer Jul. 03, 1935 – Dec. 26, 2023
 Dr. Charles P. Rhoton Jul. 09, 1968 – Dec. 29, 2023
 Linda S. Richards Jul. 21, 1949 – Dec. 21, 2023

BOONE FUNERAL HOME

Mollie Gerling Sep. 22, 1938 – Dec. 02, 2023
 Mary Steele Aug. 30, 1922 – Dec. 03, 2023
 Marsha Swain May 03, 1939 – Dec. 03, 2023
 Deloris Henson Mar. 24, 1936 – Dec. 04, 2023
 James L. "Sonny" Ward Nov. 02, 1941 – Dec. 05, 2023
 Eric Ginger Aug. 15, 1984 – Dec. 05, 2023
 Emma Conway Jul. 01, 1931 – Dec. 06, 2023
 Cindy Merkley Nov. 15, 1961 – Dec. 09, 2023
 Artie Dareen Jun. 07, 1936 – Dec. 11, 2023
 Patricia Oran Nov. 21, 1953 – Dec. 11, 2023
 Kimberly Campfield May 23, 1964 – Dec. 15, 2023
 Jimmy Hawkins Nov. 08, 1926 – Dec. 15, 2023
 Albert Boulden Aug. 06, 1930 – Dec. 20, 2023
 Bernard Will, Jr. Jun. 22, 1953 – Dec. 25, 2023
 Glenn Heubner Oct. 15, 1939 – Dec. 27, 2023
 Leonardo Eslinger Nov. 22, 2018 – Dec. 31, 2023
 Lacie Sharp Apr. 01, 1981 – Dec. 31, 2023

BROWNING FUNERAL HOME

Jason D. Fonner Sep. 03, 1975 – Dec. 01, 2023
 Betty Ann (Greenwell) Walden Jul. 06, 1938 – Dec. 01, 2023
 Vicki Lee Jaquess Jan. 27, 1943 – Dec. 02, 2023
 Linda (Britton) Shevlin Aug. 25, 1950 – Dec. 02, 2023
 Jacky "Jack" Talbott Stanton, Sr. Feb. 01, 1963 – Dec. 02, 2023
 Rose Marie (Schenetzke) Castrale Dec. 23, 1931 – Dec. 04, 2023
 James "Jim" Oliver Houghton, Sr Jan. 24, 1935 – Dec. 06, 2023
 Ralph Douglas Campbell Nov. 24, 1946 – Dec. 06, 2023
 Robert "Scottie" W. Scott Aug. 10, 1939 – Dec. 07, 2023
 Clement "C.J." Joseph Sauer Dec. 20, 1940 – Dec. 08, 2023
 Sheryl D. (Dodson) Andrecht Sep. 25, 1945 – Dec. 08, 2023

Clement "C.J." Joseph Sauer Dec. 20, 1940 – Dec. 08, 2023
 Lydia (Sutton) Jennings Mar. 04, 1961 – Dec. 15, 2023
 Sue M. (Barclay) Ryan May 28, 1933 – Dec. 15, 2023
 Harold Barnhart Mar. 29, 1934 – Dec. 16, 2023
 Emmalee (Lynch) Robertson Mar. 27, 1946 – Dec. 18, 2023
 Peggy Janell (Madden) Koehler Oct. 20, 1939 – Dec. 18, 2023
 Connie Jo (Webster) Buell Oct. 31, 1938 – Dec. 18, 2023
 Beverly Jo Morgan Oct. 15, 1950 – Dec. 21, 2023
 Julia "Julie" (Little) Johnson Oct. 26, 1954 – Dec. 21, 2023
 Patricia Carol (Fisher) Reisinger Feb. 27, 1935 – Dec. 21, 2023
 Ruby Lorene (Hoover) Heseman Dec. 20, 1931 – Dec. 21, 2023
 Irene G. (Gilley) Westfall Apr. 21, 1929 – Dec. 25, 2023
 Robert James Davis Sr. Jul. 10, 1950 – Dec. 26, 2023
 Dr. Daniel E. Michel Jun. 12, 1941 – Dec. 26, 2023
 Robert A. Baldock Apr. 30, 1939 – Dec. 28, 2023
 Elsie Lutishia (Gatlin) Weaver Nov. 29, 1928 - Dec. 30, 2023
 Thomas "Tom" James Higgins Jun. 27, 1963 – Dec. 30, 2023
 Charlotte Ann (Horvath) Taylor Jan. 18, 1931 – Dec. 31, 2023
 Barbara (Turnage) Neuendorf Oct. 05, 1957 – Dec. 31, 2023
 Gary Wayne DeLaney Dec. 12, 1948 – Dec. 31, 2023

MASON BROTHERS FUNERAL SERVICES

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 Carolyn Hale May 02, 1939 – Dec. 12, 2023
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 JoAnn Williams Mar. 20, 1955 – Dec. 15, 2024
 Hence F. Brank, Jr. Jun. 27, 1944 – Dec. 15, 2023
 Frank R. Gray Aug. 31, 1943 – Dec. 16, 2023
 Duaine Marion Hall Apr. 08, 1958 – Dec. 24, 2023
 Doris Jean Lee Marlin Jun. 08, 1929 – Dec. 26, 2023
 Alfreda Virginia Slaughter Sep. 08, 1941 – Dec. 29, 2023

PIERRE FUNERAL HOME

Elizabeth Rose Seng Jul. 21, 1998 – Dec. 09, 2023
 James Ralph Wilhite Jun. 29, 1956 – Dec. 09, 2023
 Mary Kae Lehman Mar. 15, 1945 – Dec. 14, 2023
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 Doris M Rutledge Oct. 28, 1938 – Dec. 15, 2023
 Stephen C. Schnur May 02, 1954 – Dec. 16, 2023
 Barbara Ann Adler Jan. 14, 1952 – Dec. 17, 2023
 Donald Thomas Cooper Nov. 02, 1931 – Dec. 17, 2023
 Donald L. Muehlbauer Sep. 28, 1935 – Dec. 19, 2023
 Keith Edward Quinlin Jul. 19, 1943 – Dec. 23, 2023
 Gene Dale Hollencamp Jan. 15, 1949 – Dec. 26, 2023
 Rickey D. Garrett Jr. Aug. 17, 1973 – Dec. 28, 2023
 Kevin Lee Adams Jul. 25, 1971 – Dec. 31, 2023
 Kenneth L. Yellig Oct. 17, 1953 – Dec. 31, 2023

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Doris Brancato Jan. 09, 1932 – Dec. 01, 2023
 Susan B. Libs Apr. 02, 1965 – Dec. 02, 2023
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 Christie Beaven May 27, 1955 – Dec. 08, 2023
 Tracey Ray Dallas Aug. 07, 1936 – Dec. 08, 2023
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 Joan Rae Behme Dec. 31, 1937 – Dec. 14, 2023
 Benedict "Ben" A. Brougham Aug. 19, 1935 – Dec. 14, 2023
 Bonnie Weathers May 05, 1929 – Dec. 16, 2023
 Michael J. Wittgen Jan. 18, 1959 – Dec. 18, 2023
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 Geraldine "Geri" Joy Gerhardt Mar. 11, 1929 – Dec. 25, 2023
 Stanley J. Jochim Oct. 21, 1929 – Dec. 26, 2023
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 Danny Grant Felker Jul. 13, 1946 – Dec. 28, 2023
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 Vicki Jo McNeely Sep. 18, 1957 – Dec. 31, 2023
 Andre A. Aycock Feb. 17, 1933 – Dec. 31, 2023

Sudoku Puzzle Answer

Jan. '24

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

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

WHERE WE'VE BEEN & WHERE WE'RE GOING



A LOOK AT EVANSVILLE'S 2023 HIGHLIGHTS + A LOOK AT WHAT'S COMING IN 2024!

From concerts to riverboats to rodeos and conventions, the hospitality community of Evansville welcomed thousands of visitors to our bend of the Ohio River this year. Here is a look at some of the top events hosted in 2023 and a sneak peek into what's to come in 2024 and beyond.



Evansville welcomed the American Heritage over a series of eight stops in 2023. We care so grateful to our attractions, hospitality partners, community leadership, and volunteers, and we look forward to hosting more stops in 2024.

Deaconess Sports Park and Goebel Soccer Complex hosted a combined 39 sports tournaments in 2023, generating over \$9 million in economic impact.



2023 marked the return of the Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses to Evansville. Thousands of visitors gathered at the Ford Center over two weekends in June. The partnership remains strong, as Evansville will host the event again in 2024.



In late 2022, it was announced that Evansville had been selected as a WWII American Heritage City by the National Park Service. This honor positioned our community to attract new visitors and interest from military and reunion groups.



Your local convention and visitors bureau got a new look. Introducing Explore Evansville, the community's official sales and marketing agency for tourism. We love that our new identity represents us: where history meets modernity.



Evansville welcomed thousands of visitors to the 48th Annual Frog Follies. This massive festival, hosted at the end of August at the Vanderburgh Co 4H fairgrounds, is the largest pre 1949 car show in the world.

COMPANY'S COMING!

Check out this list of newly booked events and conventions coming to River City! Be the first to know about upcoming meetings, conventions and tournaments when you subscribe to our E-Tourism Newsletter. Scan the code to subscribe!

2024 GLVC Swimming & Diving Championships* | February 7 - 10, 2024
 Estimated Direct Economic Impact: \$582,026
 Total Room Attendees: 750

IHSAA 2024 State Wrestling Tournament | February 16 - 17, 2024
 Estimated Direct Economic Impact: \$3,336,280
 Total Room Attendees: 3,000

Indiana Tourism Association 2024 Conference | March 11 - 13, 2024
 Estimated Direct Economic Impact: \$78,361
 Total Room Attendees: 100

NCAA 2024 DII Men's Basketball Elite Eight* | March 30-31, 2024
 Estimated Direct Economic Impact: \$308,506
 Total Room Attendees: 400

2024 Total Solar Eclipse | April 8, 2024
 Estimated Direct Economic Impact: \$7,744,370
 Total Room Attendees: 8,000

Rotary District Conference 2024 | April 19 - 21, 2024
 Estimated Direct Economic Impact: \$138,722
 Total Room Attendees: 300

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