

Evansville Courier & Press Employees Unionize

FEBRUARY 2024

After nearly four weeks of campaigning, the award-winning journalists of the Evansville Courier & Press have voted unanimously to unionize.

The union campaign was made public Jan. 8, with the staff citing slashed resources and jobs and the prospect that nothing would change without action.

Courier & Press journalists asked its parent company Gannett to voluntarily recognize its union, which would have erased the need for a vote. Gannett refused.

Gannett bought the newspaper in 2016, and since then Courier & Press journalists, who have been repeatedly recognized by their peers for their work, have steadily left the newspaper as resources are reduced. Others have been forced out. The newsroom is a fraction of its former size — but the care and effort shown by the remaining reporters and photographers has not wavered.

All nine of the editorial staff, two sports reporters, six news reporters and one photographer, voted yes to unionize on Wednesday.

As was shared when the effort went public in January, every member of the Courier & Press newsroom wants to continue to provide the top-notch journalism to which this community has become accustomed. And every member deserves respect and fair wages.

Evansville NewsGuild will be a bargaining unit of TNG-CWA Local 34070, which also represents workers of the Indianapolis NewsGuild and Courier Journal Guild.

The NewsGuild is part of Communications Workers of America (CWA), the largest communications and media labor union in the United States, representing about 700,000 members in the US and Canada.

You can find more information on the journey of the past few weeks at the Evansville NewsGuild Twitter – @EvansNewsGuild. The Guild can also be found on Facebook.

Vanderburgh Councilman Goebel To Run For County Commissioner

FEBRUARY 2024

Mike Goebel was caucused into the Vanderburgh County Commission on February 3, 2024. Goebel will resign from his seat as an At-Large member of the Vanderburgh County Council effective immediately, and he will be sworn in as Commissioner on February 5. Goebel had been elected to serve on County Council for 5 terms. Mike has entered the election race for District 1 Commissioner in November.

Mike Goebel is a lifelong resident of Southern Indiana and a graduate of Mater Dei High School. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Studies from USI (ISUE). He received his Master's Degree in History from Indiana State University. Goebel thoroughly enjoys teaching government and history at Mater Dei High School where he served as Social Studies Department Chairman for 17 years. Goebel has also been fortunate to coach IHSAA state championship teams in the sports of football and wrestling.



House Bill 1022 Will Require Automated Trucks To Retain Their Human Operators

FEBRUARY 2024
By John Asplund

The House Roads and Transportation Committee met earlier this week to discuss House Bill 1022. This bill would prevent automated tractor trailers from being used on a highway to transport passengers or goods unless a human operator meeting state and federal qualifications were present.

In Indiana, according to Lee Cossell & Feagley, attorneys at law, all semi truck operators must have a Class-A CDL, or commercial drivers license, and it must be renewed every four years. In addition, they must complete vision, skills and vehicle inspection tests.

On Tuesday, lawmakers discussed concerns regarding the safety and functionality of autonomous vehicles.

"Autonomous vehicles are known to struggle with seemingly common tasks such as taking on or off ramps and turning left in the face of oncoming traffic," said Rep. Cindy Ledbetter, R-Newburgh, author of the bill.

Members of the public also testified and shared stories, including some truck drivers from around the state.

Jay Jackson, executive director of ABATE (American Bikers Aimed Towards Education) of Indiana in Bargersville, shared his concern with the ability of autonomous vehicles to recognize motorcycles.

"There are a number of cases that point to some premature launches with regards to autonomous vehicle technology specific to motorcycles. There was an eight-month period where Tesla was involved in three fatal motorcycle collisions in autopilot," said Jackson.

Jackson said he believes the technology is 90% effective at recognizing motorcycles, pedestrians and cyclists, but he's concerned about the 10% that don't get recognized. He said he looks forward to the day when driverless trucks are proven effective, but for now, he said, it's very dangerous for motorcycles.

"Obviously we hope for the day when driver error is removed by such wonderful technology, but today is not the day," Jackson said.

Jerod Warnock, vice president of Teamsters Local 364 and the Indiana State Building and Construction Trades Council, testified next.

"Driverless vehicles are not what we need to maintain the safety of our families. Story after story, and Mr. Jackson just alluded to some of them, mostly in the West, but I sure do not want them here," Warnock said.

Warnock gave examples of autonomous trucks striking pedestrians, obstructing emergency vehicles, and failing to transport goods and services where they need to go.

"As a representative of men and women trying to safely get to and from work, get children to and from school—my own children travel the roads. Simply as a citizen, Hoosier safety has to come first. I do not want tragedy to fuel legislation as it has in the past," Warnock said.

Rep. Jim Pressel, R-LaPorte, responded to Warnock that he doesn't want to see autonomous trucks either.

"I was a truck driver for 10 years, and probably the last thing I want to see is autonomous trucks. I probably got more miles backing up than most people will ever have going forward, and I don't want to see driverless trucks, but I



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Shoulders Named Area's New Business Development Director

FEBRUARY 2024

As a native Vanderburgh County resident, Ben Shoulders is passionate about serving his community and improving the quality of life for the people who live there. Ben joins our business development team after eight years as a Vanderburgh County Commissioner and 20 years in the banking industry. He looks forward to helping



Southern Indiana clients recognize new opportunities and plan infrastructure and economic development projects. Ben will foster and build relationships with leaders who are passionate about improving their community.

Contact Ben for more information about how American Structurepoint can partner with you to help achieve the goals for your community.

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Commentary

Just Another American Story

FEBRUARY 2024

By John Krull

HOLLIS, New Hampshire—Charles Dean finds a seat in the back row of the stackable chairs set in the Alpine Grove Event Center.

He's here to listen to Republican presidential hopeful Nikki Haley speak. More than that, he's come hoping to find something he hasn't seen for a long time ... hope.

"It's the first time I've ever done this," Dean, 82, tells me after we shake hands.

The event center's sound system blasts songs designed to energize the crowd before the candidate arrives for the 9 a.m. meet-and-greet. Blake Shelton's "God's Country" slips into the Rolling Stones' "Let's Spend the Night Together," the mishmash of musical styles and moral messaging serving as a kind of symbolic homage to the dissonance in American life these days.

It is that dissonance that disconcerts Dean.

"We are too divided," he says, shaking his head. "The whole country is divided."

He has been, he explains, an independent his whole voting life, albeit one that leaned more toward Republicans than Democrats. He voted for Donald Trump

in 2016 and then for Joe Biden in 2020, praying each vote would pull Americans closer so they could begin facing the nation's problems together.

He's traveled through the snow and cold from his home in Nashua

to give Haley a hearing.

He wants to like her. He wants to be impressed by her, to believe that she has the character and the strength to lead.

"I've had a good life," Deans says, then gives me the condensed version of his biography.

He lived much of his life in Boston. He has an accounting background and ascended comfortably in business.

When he retired, he and his wife moved to Florida. They came back to New England when she developed dementia. She since has died.

He stays now in the cold north because of family.

"I've got three kids, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren," he says, smiling.

He notes that the room in which we sit, the room where he waits to see if Haley could be the president he hopes for, is where one of his granddaughters got married. He worries that his children, his grandchildren and his great-grandchildren won't be able to build "good lives" like his because

they won't have the opportunities he did.

He wanted, he says, to see both Trump and Biden succeed. Biden disappointed him by not finding more common ground.

Trump disturbs him. The former president's legal troubles distress him, and the way Trump has treated women offends him, because they show a lack of character.

"A president is supposed to think about the country, not just himself," Dean says.

He can't bring himself to vote for Trump again and he isn't sure he wants to vote for Biden.

When she comes to the small stage as the sound system pounds out Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger," Dean locks in, eager to listen.

Her speech is a greatest-hits medley, a series of assertions designed to stroke her audience. She pounds away at the national debt, noting that \$8 trillion of the \$34 trillion Americans owe was racked up during Trump's presidency. She says the solution to getting the debt down is to shift more of the load to the states. How the states will fund delivering services the federal government now does she does not say.

She calls for an expanded school-choice program and for parental vetoes of any classroom curricula. She demands better care for veterans. She pledges to stand tough against Russia, China

and Iran. She vows to shut both the northern and southern borders.

Most significantly, she lumps Biden and Trump together as agents of dysfunction, a linking that is bound to get under the skin of both men.

After she finished, I ask Dean what he thought.

"Good and bad," he says.

He liked, he explains, that she seemed to focus on what the country needs and not just what she wants. But he wonders if she'll be able to do any of the things she promised she would.

I ask him how he's going to cast his ballot in the New Hampshire primary.

"She's got my vote on Tuesday," he says. "I still need to think about it after that."

Then, he shakes my hand and heads back into the cold, one more American trying to find his way home in a country he thinks has lost its way.

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.

Letter To The Editor Regarding Senate Bill 57

FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Editor:

As one of the thousands of professional truck drivers in the state of Indiana, I am writing to call on Senate Homeland Security & Transportation Committee Chairman Michael Crider to hold a legislative hearing this year to consider Senate Bill 57, legislation introduced by Senator Jim Tomes to require a human operator is present in any autonomous vehicle operating on Indiana roadways. I was dismayed to learn that this important bill will not be considered by the Senate this year, and believe that is a huge mistake for Indiana.

Driverless cars and trucks are not

some sort of crazy, pie-in-the-sky idea. Big Tech companies are working overtime right now in hopes of bringing fully autonomous semi-trucks onto public roads in the near future. They are already in Texas and California, and no doubt eager to use Indiana's public roads as the testing ground for their dangerous technology.

Small, driverless cars have already proven to be a danger to public safety. In just the past year, they have caused mayhem in cities across the country by interfering with first responders, blocking traffic, and making risky maneuvers on roadways resulting in accidents.

Take it from me: a human being needs to be behind the wheel of any vehicle. I have driven tens of thousands of miles across our state, and know how things can change in the blink of an eye on the road. I have personally seen countless incidents where catastrophe was averted solely because of human instinct and training behind the wheel. Whether it was someone navigating a dangerous tire blowout on an 18-wheeler or avoiding a tree branch in the road, human drivers save lives.

It is downright frightening to think about some computer controlling a vehicle traveling at high speeds on the open road. That is a catastrophe

waiting to happen.

Driverless cars would not only be a hazard to the public, but they would put drivers like me out of work. Automation will make it impossible for me to put food on the table and support my family. Dangerous technology should not be prioritized ahead of our safety and our livelihoods.

I hope Senator Crider will give Senate Bill 57 the hearing it deserves this year. This issue is too important to kick the can down the road for another year.

Sincerely,
Earl Brown,
Secretary-Treasurer
Teamsters Local 215

Sen. Braun Celebrates Resolution To Impose Term Limits

FEBRUARY 2024

WASHINGTON – Senator Braun released the following statement after the Indiana House of Representatives approved a resolution endorsing a Convention of States to be held to add a Congressional term limits amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Senator Mike Braun signed the Term Limits Pledge before being elected to the Senate, and introduced the bill in the Senate to limit Senators and Congressmen to 2 terms and 3 terms, respectively.

Senator Mike Braun has called for a Convention of States to pass constitutional amendments for Congressional term limits and a balanced budget. Braun authored an amendment in 2022 that would direct the Archivist of the United States to collect petitions from states and send an official message to Congress to call a Convention of States when 34 states – the two-thirds required by the Constitution – had passed petitions, citing that career politicians have relied on the lack of a formal system for these

petitions to avoid term limits and spending accountability that would likely result from a Convention of States.

"The American people want term limits in Congress. I signed the Term Limits Pledge and introduced the bill to term limit Senators and House Reps in the U.S. Senate, and I applaud the Indiana House of Representatives for taking strong action on this solution that Hoosiers from all 92 counties tell me we need." – SENATOR MIKE BRAUN

Article V of the Constitution lays out the two processes for amending the Constitution: through Congress, or through a Convention of States.

A Convention of States is not a "Constitutional Convention" like the one convened in 1787 to write the U.S. Constitution: amendments need to be passed by the Convention of States and then ratified by three-quarters (38) of all states.

Some commentators have incorrectly claimed that a Convention of States would become a "free-for-all"

after convening. Indiana's resolution, authored by Rep. Dave Hall, specifically calls for a Convention of States

for applying term limits to Congress. Nineteen states have passed Convention of States resolutions calling for a

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Community

Robinson Launches Neighborhood-Based Policing

FEBRUARY 2024

Sheriff Noah Robinson has begun assigning patrol deputies to serve as liaisons to select neighborhoods within the County as part of our new neighborhood-based policing initiative.

- The goal of this program is to create and sustain an interactive relationship between neighborhood residents and our sheriff's deputies.

- Your assigned neighborhood patrol deputy will be Deputy Adam Lahanis, you can find his contact information below.



- Neighborhood-based Policing is here!

The duties and responsibilities of a deputy who has been assigned a neighborhood shall include, but are not limited to:

- Facilitate the exchange of information between neighborhood residents and the Sheriff's Office.

- Call upon the combined resources of the Sheriff's Office, Narcotics Task Force, Prosecutor's Office, Health Department, Building Commission, homeowners association (HOA), property management company

(if applicable), social services organizations, and individual residents in order to address crime and quality of life issues within the neighborhood.

- Attend HOA, crime watch, and other community meetings within the neighborhood in order to provide residents with crime statistics for their neighborhood, provide residents with crime reduction strategies, and reduce the perceived fear of crime.

- Establish trust between neighborhood residents, youth, and the Sheriff's Office by fostering positive, cooperative, and productive relationships.

- Routinely review incident reports and field contacts for assigned neighborhoods, ensuring complaints are followed-up on and that resident's concerns and complaints do not "fall through the cracks" without being addressed.

The goal of this program is not to discourage a resident from calling 911, but instead provide an additional method of communicating with our Office regarding non-urgent matters. The hope of this program is that deputies will develop a sense of ownership over their assigned neighborhoods and take pride in the relationships that are built as a result.

State Rep. Hatfield Files For County Circuit Court Judge

FEBRUARY 2024

Evansville, IN – State Representative Ryan Hatfield officially filed for Vanderburgh County Circuit Court Judge today on February 1, the day the United States Supreme Court first officially convened in 1790.

In his full statement Hatfield said the following.

"It is an honor to officially file and run for Vanderburgh County Circuit Court Judge. Choosing this historic day, February 1st, holds a special significance as it commemorates the day our U.S. Supreme Court first convened over 200 years ago. This choice reflects not only my deep respect for our judicial system but also my unwavering commitment to upholding the principles of justice.

Throughout my professional career, I have dedicated myself to the practice of law within this very court.

This experience has provided me with a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities that our community faces. It is with this insight that I seek to uphold integrity, fairness, and a

deep understanding of the law to the bench.

I recognize the importance of fostering an environment in which the community can trust and have confidence in its judges.

If elected, I will tirelessly work to maintain and enhance the integrity of our courts, fostering an atmosphere where justice prevails, and the rule of law is upheld."

As State Representative, Hatfield serves as the Assistant Minority Leader in the Indiana General Assembly. He serves as the ranking minority member of the Indiana House Judiciary and Employment, Labor and Pensions committees. Ryan is also a member of the Public Health and Utilities, Energy and Telecommunications committees.

Hatfield has served as a member of the Indiana House of Representatives, representing his hometown of Evansville, since



2016. He is an accomplished lawyer at Hatfield Law, representing an extensive array of criminal, family, divorce, and business law matters in state and federal courts. He also has served as an

adjunct faculty member at Ivy Tech Community College and as an instructor at the Southwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy.

Prior to serving in the Indiana General Assembly and joining the law firm, Hatfield was a deputy prosecutor in Vanderburgh County, where he prosecuted homicides, sexual assaults and drug offenses.

During his tenure, Hatfield secured one of Indiana's first convictions alleging Munchausen Syndrome by proxy. As a member of the Vanderburgh County Treatment Court, as well as the Veterans Court, he worked to transition drug-addicted offenders into rehabilitation and

back into their community.

Hatfield serves as a Commissioner of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, an organization that provides states with nonpartisan legislation that brings clarity and stability to critical areas of state statutory law. His legal expertise, competency, professional reputation, and ethical standards have earned him distinctions such as Rue's Ratings' Best Attorneys of America, Top 10% in the USA by Lawyers of Distinction, and The National Trial Lawyers Top 40 Under 40. In 2018, Rep. Hatfield was named Farm Bureau's Emerging Leader for his work expanding broadband in rural Indiana and the Indiana Trial Lawyers' Legislator of the Year for championing a fair civil justice system and open access to the courts for all Hoosiers.

Ryan's wife, Kendra, is a nurse and supervisor at St. Vincent's Evansville. They have three children and are active on local boards and committees, particularly for the protection and care of children.

Terry Announces Her Police And Fire Chief Appointments

FEBRUARY 2024

Evansville Mayor Stephanie Terry today announced her appointments for chiefs of the Evansville Police Department and Evansville Fire Department, as well as plans for hiring an in-house City Attorney.

"I know these are high-profile appointments and appointments that the public has been asking about since I took office on January 1," Mayor Terry said. "These are

incredibly important appointments; public safety is a top priority, providing a safe and secure environment, so ensuring that we have the right people to lead those areas has been my focus and the focus of my dedicated transition team who worked alongside me in this process."

Mayor Terry announced the following appointments at a news conference this morning:

Philip Smith, Chief, Evansville

Police Department: Philip Smith has served on the Evansville Police Department since January of 2013. He's served as an officer in motor patrol, worked in the administration's public information office as the department's Special Projects Coordinator, and has served as the department's Assistant Chief of Police since 2021. Smith has been



recognized locally and nationally for his involvement and efforts in community policing. In 2020 he was recognized by then-United States Attorney General William Barr with the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Policing. Before his career in law enforcement, he worked in the EVSC serving the youth of the Evansville community. Smith lives in Evansville with his family and looks forward to continuing his service to the citizens of Evansville under the Terry administration.

Anthony Knight, Chief, Evansville Fire Department: Tony Knight has worked with the Evansville Fire Department for 20 years, most recently as the Chief of Health and Safety. He has been a Licensed Paramedic for the past 21 years, serves as a Curriculum Development Specialist with the Indi-

ana Fire and Public Safety Academy, and was a member of Indiana FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Task Force One (INTF-1) for 7 years as a Hazardous Materials Specialist. Tony enjoys spending his time away from work with his wife Kerri, his children (Chase and Shelby), and his step-children (Kaedin, Gavin, Ava, and Hudson).

In addition, Mayor Terry announced her plans to seek an in-house legal team for the city.

"In the past, the city has hired an outside firm to represent the majority of our legal needs," Mayor Terry said. "In examining our options with my transition team, we concluded that hiring an individual attorney to work out of the mayor's office – and to focus exclusively on issues affecting the city – would be the most efficient option both financially and in terms of serving the needs of our city departments."

Because this option would involve creating a new position in city government, the plan requires approval from the City Council. Mayor Terry said she plans to bring her recommendation to the next Council meeting on February 12, 2024.

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AG Rokita Opens Doors For Neglected Hoosier Tenants

FEBRUARY 2024

Attorney General Todd Rokita and Homeowner Protection team announced a settlement this week with the owners of Willow Brook Gardens Apartments, Wellington Apartments, and Briergate Apartments in Indianapolis after their poor treatment of renters.

Todd Rokita's team jumped on this issue when it was initially reported in order to improve the rights and living conditions of the tenants.

"Our mission is to protect the rights of all people involved in the housing market, including tenants, homeowners, and aspiring homeowners, by investigating deceptive acts involving mortgage lending

violations," Attorney General Rokita said. "We strive to ensure equal access to housing opportunities for regular, everyday Hoosiers. I'm very proud of my team for the good results they continue to achieve."

The owners of the apartment complexes agreed to the following:

A payment of \$70,000 in rent credits to current tenant accounts based on a review of health department notices, rental account discrepancies, consumer complaints, and related maintenance requests. Eligible tenants at Willow Brook, Wellington, and Briergate will be separately notified by mail of their eligibility and 101 eligible tenant accounts will be automatically credited in amounts ranging be-

tween \$250 – \$2,000 within thirty days of entry of the agreement.

A total of \$20,000 in additional restitution for complainants will be allocated by the Attorney General's Office following a review of consumer complaints and the alleged harm. Complainants who are eligible for additional restitution will be directly notified by mail of their eligibility.

The dismissal and expungement of over 150 prior eviction proceedings conducted in Warren and Washington Township Small Claims Courts. Prior tenants of Willow Brook, Wellington, or Briergate do not need to act in order to be eligible for this relief. Cases impacted are listed in Appendix A to the As-

surance of Voluntary Compliance.

A two-year compliance monitoring period in which the Unit will receive ongoing reports related to maintenance and open health department cases.

Litigation against the remaining defendants remains pending. If impacted consumers have questions about the current settlement, they can contact Homeowner Protection Unit at HPU@atg.in.gov.

"We work closely with law enforcement agencies at all levels to ensure justice is served and homeowners and tenants are protected," Attorney General Rokita said. "I encourage Hoosiers to contact our office about any suspected scams or scam attempts."

Safety Concerns Close Hartke Pool For 2024 Summer

FEBRUARY 2024

Due to safety concerns with both the pool and deck areas, Hartke Pool will not open for swimming in Summer 2024.

In order to accommodate, the city will open Lorraine Pool seven days a week during the summer months, with Mosby and Rochelle-Landers pools also open during the summer. Officials with the Department of Parks & Recreation have aspects of all three pools in the past two years, and will also create additional programming – including free swimming lessons to beginning swimmers – at Lorraine Pool this summer.

Meanwhile, city officials will begin moving immediately to commission a study regarding the future of Hartke Pool, looking at designs and costs to repair the current pool; to

create a new pool at Hartke; or to create another kind of recreational space, such as a splash pad, on the site.

"Hartke Pool has been a gem for our community since it opened in 1978," said Danielle Crook, executive director of the Department of Parks & Recreation. "We don't take the decision to close any recreational space lightly – especially not one as beloved, and that holds as many memories for as many people, as Hartke Pool.

"Unfortunately, the structural issues in and around the pool have reached the point where safety concerns require us to take this step and close the facility."

Among the safety concerns with the pool, which was last renovated in 1989, are:

Uneven surfaces on the pool deck,

with many examples of parts of the deck settling or rising due to crushed pipes under the surface leaking water into the ground. These leaks, which also exist beneath the pool itself, eventually create voids under the pavement that have the potential to collapse without warning.

Holes in the pool walls, through which groundwater seeps into the pool and contaminates the water.

Cracks in the pool deck, many of which are around drains and stretch into the walls and even floor of the pool itself, creating a danger to the feet of swimmers.

Slopes around the poolside drains that exceed required maximums which, coupled with the uneven surfaces from the rising and setting deck, create a tripping hazard and an increased likelihood of foot in-

juries.

The pool also faces numerous mechanical issues, including numerous damaged pipes under the concrete deck, significant corrosion on pool pumps and hardware, and near-full thickness corrosion on the steel filters.

A video walk-through of the space, discussing many of these issues, can be found at facebook.com/evansvillemayor.

Closing the pool also will coincide with construction on Division Street, which will connect the Roberts Park area with Boeke Avenue. That construction will begin next week.

The combination of the Hartke Pool closure and the road construction also means that the Department of Parks & Recreation will not hold Camp Swonder in Summer 2024.

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Community

Meet Tony Ricketts, General Manager Of D-Patrick Auto Sales

FEBRUARY 2024

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

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

Tony was born in Evansville, In, and was raised here until the early 70s when his father bought a farm in Spencer County, Indiana next to Lincoln Park, near Santa Clause. Ind. Tony recalled "that the farm that he grew up on was originally the Thomas Lincoln farm. So, I like to tell people that Abraham Lincoln and I spent our formative years in the same place, just separated by time."

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

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

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

After Tony graduated college he wanted to go into sales somewhere. He had a passion for cars, so he thought the natural thing to do

was to apply for a job at D-Patrick. He applied for a management position and 34 years later he's still there!. Tony said, "D-Patrick has grown by leaps and bounds over the year, and how he has been able to grow with the business. "D-Patrick has provided me with a lot of opportunities over the years"

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

Tony has received leadership training in Cincinnati, OH with an interesting group of individuals led by Richard Olivier, son of the famous actor Lawrence Olivier. The entire process of this training session was based around Shakespeare's play Henry V. The point of my bringing up this most interesting training session was to show that I know that my job as a leader is to communicate to my team members what is expected of them, and to show them, to guide them how to get there. It's not about being a boss and yelling at people or making unreasonable demands just because I can, it's about showing people what your

expectations are and how they can meet those expectations. We've all got a job to do, we're all on the same team and we all have the same goal."

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

As the interview winded down, and as the customers continued coming in, I asked Tony if there was one last bit he would like to say before he returned to help his sales team. He pondered the question for a moment, then said, "I'm a person who doesn't change a whole

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Community

House Bill 1022 Will Require Automated Trucks To Retain Their Human Operators

Continued From Page 1
want to make sure that we don't stifle technology," Pressel said.

Rep. Ed Soliday, R-Valparaiso, spoke next, alluding to the huge responsibility that truck drivers have.

"Truck drivers do a lot more than drive a truck. They're really a profit center manager, and the concept that we're going to get rid of them, you're going to get rid of a lot more than just the driver," Soliday said.

William Honey, who's been a truck driver since 2003, shared a scary experience as a driver when he was working on I-65 North as part of a road crew in 2019.

Honey was working road maintenance, and as he was coming up the Lafayette Road exit, his co-worker warned everyone by radio that there was a police chase going the wrong way. Honey hit a drunk driver while attempting to block the driver from hitting his work crew.

"Behind me, not but 100 yards, were 25 workers that had no idea that there was a drunk driver coming towards them," Honey said. "When I realized that all this was going on, I just took it, and when I got set, I braced for impact because I had no other option, and it threw me into the passenger side. And when I got up, I pulled the break as hard as I could. I set the breaks, jumped out and went to see what I could do, and luckily

the driver did survive. Everyone on that crew survived that night,"

Honey said that's one of many possible scenarios one might face as a truck driver.

"Automated systems have proven that they have the ability to adapt to real-time situations such as inclement weather or unexpected obstacles. Human truck drivers are better equipped to assess risk and take immediate action," Honey said.

"Ever since I've been a truck driver, every company I've worked for has always told me, rather than taking the life, ditch the truck. I as a driver have a better chance of survival than hurting or harming someone else."

He added: "A robot can only do what it's programmed to do. We are in the infancy of AI technology. We are not prepared to allow AI with or without the truck."

Gary Langston, president and CEO of the Indiana Motor Truck Association, opposed the bill for economic reasons and what he called misconceptions about the technology.

"Indiana is a very important commerce state not only with regard to what we produce but what we move in and out of the state. Eight-five percent of all the nation's population can be reached here in two days on the ground. We have a very robust interstate system unlike any other state, quite frankly, so it makes

sense that Indiana would be a state that looks at the possibility of using this kind of technology," Langston said.

Langston addressed the issue of a serious driver shortage in the country. He believes autonomous trucks could be used to make up for the drivers who aren't available.

"The last couple years, we've reported that there are 80,000 driver jobs unfilled. With the economy that we have going on right now, it's probably down in the mid 70,000s, I'd imagine, but it's estimated by 2031 that number will double back up to 160,000 drivers. If it was tested and proven, it would probably be out on the interstate where trucks don't have to be home every day, and it would probably help with driver shortage," said Langston.

Langston believes traffic deaths are not the result of technology but moreso of human error.

"In 2022, there were 43,000 traffic deaths in the United States. That's approximately 100 deaths per day. Those deaths were overwhelmingly caused by human error," he said.

He added: "The timing is good now to talk about this and get prepared for next year and do something meaningful."

John Asplund is a reporter for TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

Meet Ricketts, General Manager Of D-Patrick Auto Sales

Continued From Page 5

lot. I've worked at D-Patrick for over 34 years, I've been married to my beautiful wife Heather for 31 years, and I've lived in the same house for nearly 30 years. I have two grown sons in their thirties. My oldest is named Alec and he's a funeral director up in Boonville, married to a wonderful woman named Ariel and I am very proud of both of them. My youngest son's name is Adrian, he works in the building trades here in Evansville, and I'm very proud of him as well. I also have a dog named Skipper who I love. I've been blessed with a happy life and a great job."

There you have it, readers. If you need a car, new or used, come on down to D-Patrick Auto Sales and see Tony Ricketts and his team.



Vanderburgh County Receives More Than \$800K For Public Safety

FEBRUARY 2024
BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE WENDY MCNAMARA

Vanderburgh County and Evansville recently received over \$800,000 combined to boost local public safety efforts, including the creation of the new Crime Gun Intelligence Center.

The center's purpose is to develop leads to quickly identify unlawfully used firearms and their sources, and to prosecute violent criminals. Plans for the center include an expansion of an existing joint task force made up of the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office, the Evans-

ville Police Department and the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office.


Evansville also received over \$100,000 through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, which can support a broad range of activities like breaking the cycle of substance use and crime, combating violence, holding offenders accountable, and reinforcing law enforcement efforts.



In total, Indiana received \$62.9 million from the U.S. Department of Justice to support public safety efforts. Over 40 state and local agencies will receive portions of the funding to expand youth violence intervention efforts, grow mentoring programs for youth and re-entry services, and fight substance abuse in our state. Grant awards include:

- Vanderburgh County, \$698,805 to create a Crime Gun

- Intelligence Center;
 - Evansville, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, \$104,146;
 - Indiana State Police, \$1.2 million to reduce DNA backlog; and
 - Judiciary Courts of Indiana, \$900,000, Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Program.
- FOOTNOTE:** As chair of the House Courts and Criminal Code Committee, I'm working daily with various stakeholders like police, prosecutors and victim advocates to ensure Indiana has resources to continue protecting Hoosiers.



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Comics & Puzzles

TANK
McNAMARA

by Bill Hinds

LOOK AT ALL THE POINTS I GOT FOR MY GUY THROWING FLAGS IN THE TEXANS GAME.

BUT YOU LOST POINTS BECAUSE HE PICKED UP TWO OF THEM.

AND THERE ARE NO POINTS FOR OFFENSIVE HOLDING CALLS.

BUT I GOT DOUBLE POINTS FOR AN OBSCURE CALL...

... ILLEGAL WEDGE.

WHAT THE HECK? THEY BELONG TO A FANTASY OFFICIATING LEAGUE.

I GOT 5 POINTS WHEN SHE GOT HIT IN THE HEAD WITH A FOOTBALL AND DIDN'T DROP A POMPOM.

LET ME GUESS...

GET FUZZY

by darby conley

ROB WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU'RE EATING WITH US TONIGHT.

WHAT ARE YOU HAVING?

LET'S SEE... MEDIEVAL GUILD CRESTS, TRIPTYCH PANELS, WORMEGAY PRIORY... OH! WE'RE HAVING PANCAKES!

HUH? WHAT WAS THAT GIBBERISH ABOUT WORM PANELS?

MY MNEMONIC DEVICE? THAT'S HOW I REMEMBER THE DINNER SCHEDULE. MEDIEVAL GUILD CREST MEANS MONDAY GRILLED CHEESE, TRIPTYCH PANELS MEANS TUESDAY PASTA, WORMEGAY—

THAT TAKES MORE WORK THAN JUST REMEMBERING THE MEAL.

NO, NO, IT'S A MNEMONIC DEVICE.

BUT IT'S HARDER TO REMEMBER THAN THE ACTUAL SCHEDULE! IT'S A MORONIC DEVICE!

YOU KNOW THOSE PEOPLE WHO FIND HIDDEN MEANINGS IN BACKWARDS MUSIC? I CHALLENGE THEM TO FIND ANY MEANING IN WHAT YOU SAY FORWARDS.

BY THE WAY, HERETIC DONGLES TOMORROW, WITH FRIES.

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg May 21, 2023

ACROSS

1 Neither a majority nor a minority

5 Just sitting around

9 Woolly female animals

13 Chef who founded World Central Kitchen

15 Fake

16 Avatar 2 setting?

17 Bank that "never sleeps," informally

18 "You can credit me"

19 Engages in a fight

21 Galaxy Tab S8 Ultra competitor

23 Tranquil

24 Ideal course of action

27 World Central Kitchen, e.g.: Abbr.

30 Comedian Ali

31 Unfathomably long time

32 Gets the hang of

35 ____ moco (rhyming Hawaiian dish)

37 "Act normal while we share this special moment"

40 Chain whose showrooms resemble mazes

41 Cough drop brand promoted with a yodel

42 Lawn roll

43 Little devils

45 Whole lot

46 Slow-cooked dishes

48 Pointillist

50 Green of Austin Powers movies

52 Partial floor covering

55 Room for error

59 Aviation prefix

60 Prankster's annual cry

62 Stuff (in)

63 "Family Matters" character with the catchphrase "Did I do that?"

64 Majors in music, say?

65 Suffragist

66 Julia Ward ____

66 Chemicals that sound made-up?

DOWN

1 ____ water (sacred liquid)

2 Sparkling Italian wine

3 Intro

4 Gesture akin to "How embarrassing!"

5 Wedding words

6 AstraZeneca product

7 Jay who cameoed as a mechanic on "Home Improvement"

8 Name hidden in "best estimate"

9 Salad green

10 It's often played in the dark

11 Admitting a mistake

12 Strike, biblically

13 Boysenberry product

14 March

20 Madness org.

22 23andMe offering

24 Foot treatment, informally

25 "Oho!"

26 "Snowbird" singer

28 El ____ (artist from Crete)

29 They might bring you to tears

33 Cochlea's organ

34 Missouri Botanical Garden's city, for short

36 Betting statistics

38 Bars with kegs

39 Grossly extravagant

44 Cutting-edge tool?

47 Word after "music" or "string"

48 Pile of poker chips

49 Dumpster contents

51 Alternative to Cosmopolitan

53 Currently working on

54 Enlarged

56 Ceased slumbering

57 Brews in 38-Down

58 French fashion monogram

61 "____ heard enough"

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

	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				
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	43			44		45				46	47			
48					49			50	51					
52						53	54		55			56	57	58
59						60			61					
62						63								
64						65					66			

Sudoku Pacific

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

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

2/24

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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Education

USI To Host Second Annual Regional Science Olympiad

FEBRUARY 2024

The University of Southern Indiana Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center will host the 2024 Regional Science Olympiad Saturday, February 10. The Science Olympiad, organized by the non-profit Indiana Science Olympiad, is a renowned Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) competition where teams of up to 15 high school and middle school students compete in a variety of challenging events.

This year's competition features a diverse set of events, including anatomy and physiology, astronomy, chemistry lab, codebusters, detector building, ecology, experimental design, flight, forensics, fossils, optics, robot tour and many more.

Teams from Brown County High School, Madison Consolidated High School, North Harrison High School and North Posey High School will compete in the high school division. In the middle school division, participants include teams from North Harrison Middle School, North Posey Junior



High School, Rock Creek Community Academy and South Central Junior Senior High School. In total, 11 teams will be vying for victory.

The USI community, alongside external partners such as SABIC Innovative Plastics, NSWC-Crane and MSD of North Posey High School Science Department, have come together to support the event. This marks only the second

year that USI has hosted the Science Olympiad, and the Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center is proud to continue their mission to promote STEM through competitive outreach events.

"We are excited to welcome these dedicated teams to USI for the 2024 Regional Science Olympiad," says Dr. Allison Grabert, Director of Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center. "This event not

only showcases the exceptional talent of southern Indiana's students but also highlights the commitment of our community to fostering a passion for science and innovation."

The 2024 Regional Science Olympiad promises to be an engaging and educational event, providing a platform for young minds to explore and excel in the diverse fields of science.

For more information and a full schedule of events, visit the USI Regional Science Olympiad website.

Indiana Science Olympiad (INSO) is a nonprofit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science and providing recognition for outstanding achievement by students in grades 6-12. Science Olympiad competitions consist of 23 events that cover almost all of the Indiana science standards. Many teachers use the Science Olympiad events in their classrooms to support rigorous instruction related to engineering and inquiry of science.

Ivy Tech Offers Free Healthcare Academy

FEBRUARY 2024

The Ivy Tech Community College Evansville campus will host a free summer Healthcare Academy, powered by United Healthcare, taking place June 4-July 25, 2024.

The Academy will offer a variety of college healthcare classes and related experiences to current high school sophomore, junior and senior students. Students will earn 4.5 college credits at no cost and can receive up to \$500 for participating.

Classes will be Tuesday-Thursday, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Ivy Tech, 3501 N. First Ave., in Evansville. To apply go to:<https://link.ivytech.edu/healthacademy>

Courses and activities to be included are:

- Success in Healthcare
- CPR/Basic Life Support
- Customer Relations in Healthcare

Stop the Bleed
Nursing Simulation
Career Coaching Workshop
First Aid
Blood Pressure and Pulse
Field Trips
Guest Speakers

Students with perfect attendance will receive \$500. Students with 1-4 absences will receive \$250. Lunch will be provided each day the Healthcare Academy is in session.

This initiative is entering year two and expanding across several Ivy Tech campuses. "Ivy Tech Evansville is excited by the opportunity to engage local rising high school students and recent high school graduates with the opportunity to obtain healthcare education, knowledge, and skills that can lead them to an exciting career in healthcare in the future," said Jamale Thacker, dean of the Frank L. Hilton, M.D. School of Health Sciences.

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A woman with brown hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue police uniform with a star on the shoulder, is smiling at the camera.

Education

VU Renews Residential Opportunity Scholarship

FEBRUARY 2024

The highly sought-after Vincennes University Residential Opportunity Scholarship program has been renewed.

The VU administration has enthusiastically approved the renewal of residential opportunity scholarships for students for the 2024-25 academic year, removing financial barriers for students and families.

Recognizing the critical role of accessible and secure housing in fostering a conducive learning environment, VU remains committed to student well-being and academic success. University Housing provides a safe and convenient

home base for classes, food, fun, and on-campus activities. VU is committed to providing every student with the opportunity to experience the vibrant campus life, which is why the University introduced residential opportunity scholarships in 2021, ensuring that as many students as possible take advantage of a fully residential college experience.

VU Director of Admissions Sarah McLin said, "With this decision, the

University aims to remove financial barriers for students and families and to provide students with the stability needed to thrive in their educational pursuits. These renewed scholarships reaffirm our unwavering commitment to making higher education attainable for all."

Residential opportunity scholarships offer \$1,500 per year, which translates to \$750 per semester, to incoming and returning students on the Vin-

cennes Campus.

To qualify for this scholarship, students must submit a housing application before the May 1, 2024 deadline. The scholarship exclusively covers accommodation within VU residence halls. Apartments are not included in this scholarship program.

Living on campus at VU allows students to immerse themselves in a supportive and diverse community.

This renewal means continued support for VU students' housing needs, ensuring a contented and supported environment for learning and growth.



USI Theatre Presents 'Ride The Cyclone, The Musical'

FEBRUARY 2024

University of Southern Indiana Theatre continues its 2023-24 season with Ride the Cyclone. The book, music and lyrics are by Jacob Richmond and Brooke Maxwell, and the production is directed by Joshua Robinson, Professor of Musical Theatre in USI's Philip H. Hagemann Performing Arts Department. Performances will run from Thursday, February 15 through Sunday, February 18 in the USI Performance Center.

In a dilapidated warehouse at an abandoned amusement park, an aging mechanical fortune-teller called The Amazing Karnak comes to life and brings with him a ghostly choir of five deceased high-schoolers, all members of the Saint Cassian Chamber Choir, who were tragically killed on the park's Cyclone roller coaster. Now, Karnak has the power to return one of these youths to life, but they must all decide among themselves who is the worthiest of a second chance to "ride the cyclone" that is life.



Robinson will be joined by a design team including Paul Weimer, Associate Professor and Chair of Theatre, as Scenic Designer; Shan Jensen, Professor of Theatre, as Costume Designer; Andy Hammond, Theatre Technical Coordinator, as Technical Director; Joshua Stallings, Facilities Coordinator, as Sound Designer; Brandon Bagwell, Assistant Professor of Theatre, as Lighting Designer; as well as students, Grey Miller as Stage Manager, Brady Kolb as Assistant Costume Designer, and Rayn Miller as Assistant Director/Dance Cap-

tain.

The cast of Ride the Cyclone features Michael Woywood as Karnak; Abby Scheller as Ocean O'Connell Rosenberg; Leo Rasche as Noel Gruber; Cooper Craig as Mischa Bachinski; Ethan Hoover as Ricky Potts; Morgan Stauter as Jane Doe; and Blair McKown as Constance; Jaden Crouch as Virgil; Via Ryan as Talia; and Rayn Miller as the Female Swing cast member.

USI Theatre will be using reserved seating, and ticket buyers can choose their own seats when purchasing online on the USI The-

atre website or by calling the box office at 812-465-7110. Tickets are \$2 for USI students; \$12 for USI employees and Alumni; \$4 for non-USI students (student ID required); \$12 for seniors (60+) and \$15 for adults. Tickets are free to USI students with ID one hour before each performance begins based on availability. Shows begin at 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. for the Saturday and Sunday matinee.

Ride the Cyclone is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC (www.broadwaylicensing.com).

Tickets are also now on sale for the rest of the 2023-24 season. Join USI Theatre for the last show of the season, The Wolves by Sarah DeLappe, running April 18-21. For more information on the remainder of the USI Theatre season, visit the USI Theatre website or call 812-465-7110. Follow USI Theatre on Facebook at USITheatre and Instagram at @USI_Theatre.

UE ChangeLab Awarded \$10,000 To Improve Local News

FEBRUARY 2024

The University of Evansville's Center for Innovation & Change is excited to announce that Evansville NewsLab, a UE ChangeLab, has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Listening Post Collective, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting innovative community-driven journalism projects.

The grant will support ChangeLab in expanding its efforts to foster

community engagement and promote civic journalism in Evansville. The funds will enhance the organization's community outreach initiatives in Spring 2024 as they conduct community-wide research through surveys and focus groups to help develop a civic journalism hub in Evansville.

"We are thrilled to receive this generous grant from the Listening Post Collective," said Andrew Carter,

Associate Director of UE's Center for Innovation & Change and coach for the NewsLab course. "We are committed to adding a civic journalism component to local news that promotes a more vibrant media landscape with better informed and engaged citizens." Evansville NewsLab will make more announcements about the initiative as it rolls out in 2024.

The Listening Post Collective focuses on supporting projects that prioritize community voices, encourage civic participation, and foster inclusive and equitable journalism practices. The grant reflects the organization's recognition of the NewsLab's dedication to amplifying diverse perspectives and building bridges between residents, local government, and the media.

"We are excited to partner with Evansville NewsLab ChangeLab and support their goals of making local

journalism more accessible and representative," said Grace Northern, Program Officer at the Listening Post Collective. "Their commitment to empowering citizens through civic information aligns perfectly

with our mission, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact of their projects on the Evansville community."

Evansville NewsLab is proud to partner with Our Times, Evansville's Black-owned newspaper, to establish a community-driven civic journalism model in Evansville and encourage residents of Evansville and the surrounding areas to get involved in shaping the narrative of their community. The grant will facilitate focus groups, listening sessions, and survey distribution to empower individuals to tell their own stories and contribute to a more diverse and inclusive local media landscape.



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Sports

Goebel Named 2022-23 National Coach of the Year

FEBRUARY 2024

When Vanderburgh County, Indiana, declared December 7, 2022, “Mike Goebel Day,” it was to celebrate a longtime county council member, dedicated community volunteer – and one outstanding high school football coach. That fall, Goebel had just led Evansville Mater Dei High School to the second Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) Class 2A state championship of his coaching career, which also includes two runner-up finishes, six semi-state championships, 10 regional titles and 17 sectional crowns, nine Evansville city championships and seven Southern Indiana Athletic Conference titles. Goebel has compiled a 263-90 record in his 27 seasons at Mater Dei and boasts a 2022 Varsity Brands “National Coach Award” and a 2023 Indiana Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame induction among his myriad of coaching awards. Goebel was also an NFHS National Coach of the Year for the Mater Dei wrestling program, which won 12 IHSAA state championships and posted a 533-14-2 record in dual meets during his 29 seasons.

Twenty-three high school coaches from across the country have been selected as 2022-23 National Coaches of the Year by the NFHS Coaches Association.

The NFHS, which has been recognizing coaches through an awards program since 1982, honors coaches in the top 10 girls’ sports and top 10 boys’ sports (by participation numbers), and in two “other” sports – one for boys and one for girls – that are not included in the top 10 listings. The NFHS also recognizes a spirit coach as a separate award category. Winners of NFHS awards must be active coaches during the year for which they receive their award. This year’s awards recognize coaches for the 2022-23 school year.

Recipients of the 2022-23 national awards for boys sports are: Kim Nelson, baseball, Orem (Utah)

Timpanogos High School; Steve Hall, basketball, Detroit (Michigan) Cass Technical High School; Joe Tribble, cross country, Atlanta (Georgia) Westminster Schools; Mike Goebel, 11-player football, Evansville (Indiana) Mater Dei High School; Tim Cram, golf, Benton (Louisiana) High School; Rey Ramirez-Alvarez, soccer, Wichita (Kansas) Maize South High School; Paul Winkeler, swimming and diving, Kansas City (Missouri) Rockhurst High School; Darby Norman, tennis, Amarillo (Texas) Randall High School; Spencer Huls, track and field, Corvallis (Montana) High School; and Klel Carson, wrestling, La Grande (Oregon) High School.

The recipients of the 2022-23 national awards for girls sports are: Jan Azar, basketball, Dacula (Georgia) Hebron Christian Academy; Charles Covington, cross country, Saltillo (Mississippi) High School; Vicky Kowalski, golf, Farmington Hills (Michigan) Mercy High School; Patricia Alexander, lacrosse, Raleigh (North Carolina) Cardinal Gibbons High School; Angie Lensing, soccer, Evansville (Indiana) Reitz Memorial High School; Kelli Smith, softball, Chattanooga (Tennessee) The Baylor School; Milton “Butch” Briggs, swimming and diving, East Grand Rapids (Michigan) High School; Donna Roisom, tennis, Portland (Oregon) Grant High School; Shaun Hardt, track and field, Queen Creek (Arizona) High School; and Jessica Burke, volleyball, Lafayette (Louisiana) St. Thomas More Catholic High School.

The recipient of the National Coach of the Year for spirit is Jennifer Marks of Raleigh (North Carolina) Cardinal Gibbons High School. Travis White, an 8-player football coach from Tipton (Oklahoma) High School, was chosen in the “Others” category for boys sports, and Gerald Harris II, girls wrestling coach at Tulsa (Oklahoma) Union High School, was chosen in the “Others” category for girls sports.

The NFHS receives nominations from its member state associations,

which often work with the state coaches association in its respective state. The state association then contacts the potential state award recipients to complete a coach profile form that requests information regarding the coach’s record, membership in and affiliation with coaching and other professional organizations, involvement with other school and community activities and programs, and coaching philosophy. To be approved as an award recipient and considered for sectional and national coach of the year consideration, this profile form must be completed by the coach or designee and then approved by the executive director (or designee) of the state athletic/activities association.

The next award level after state coach of the year is sectional coach of the year. The NFHS is divided into eight geographical sections. They are as follows: Section 1 – Northeast (CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT); Section 2 – Mideast (DE, DC, KY, MD, OH, PA, VA, WV); Section 3 – South

(AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN); Section 4 – Central (IL, IN, IA, MI, WI); Section 5 – Midwest (KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD); Section 6 – Southwest (AR, CO, NM, OK, TX); Section 7 – West (AZ, CA, HI, NV, UT); and Section 8 – Northwest (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY).

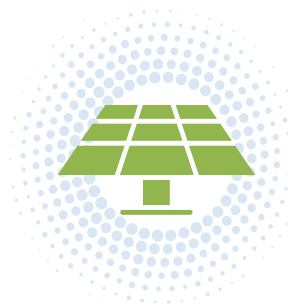
The NFHS Coaches Association has an advisory committee composed of a chair and eight sectional representatives. The sectional committee representatives evaluate the state award recipients from the states in their respective sections and select the best candidates for the sectional award in each sport category. The NFHS Coaches Association Advisory Committee then considers the sectional candidates in each sport, ranks them according to a point system, and determines a national winner for each of the 20 sport categories, the spirit category, and two “other” categories.

A total of 874 coaches are being recognized this year with state, sectional, and national awards



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Sports

Eagles Bounce Back With Win In Play4Kay Game

FEBRUARY 2024

University of Southern Indiana Women's Basketball bounced back into the win column Thursday night with a 70-60 victory against Eastern Illinois University in the annual Play4Kay pink game at Screaming Eagles Arena.

The Screaming Eagles picked up their 15th win of the season against the Panthers, improving to 15-6 overall and 10-1 in the Ohio Valley Conference. USI maintained its first-place lead at 2.5 games going into Saturday's slate of contests. The win was also Southern Indiana's first all time against Eastern Illinois, who had won the four previous meetings. Eastern Illinois, who sought to keep pace with the top half of the conference, dropped to 9-15 this season with a 6-5 mark in the OVC.

Southern Indiana found quick success in the paint after a competitive start with both teams looking for opportunities early in the shot clock. The Screaming Eagles scored 10 of their first 13 points down inside, as USI led 13-9 at the 4:30 mark of the opening quarter. Freshman forward Chloe Gannon (Manchester, Tennessee) led the Eagles' early presence in the post with six first-quarter points, connecting on her first three shot attempts. Southern Indiana led 19-16 through the first 10 minutes of action.

The tempo settled to start the second period, as each side ex-



changed baskets in the first four minutes. With just under six minutes left in the first half, Eastern Illinois tied the game at 23, starting an 8-0 run for the Panthers over the next three minutes. Senior forward Meredith Raley (Haubstadt, Indiana) snapped the drought for USI with a hoop inside at the four-minute mark. Raley reached six points in the game with the made layup, joining Gannon and fellow senior forward Madi Webb (Bedford, Indiana) with six points each. After Southern Indiana brought the game to within one possession in the last 90 seconds of the second quarter, Eastern Illinois converted a pair of trips to the free-throw line late to take a 36-30 advantage into halftime.

Coming out of the break, Raley knocked down a layup and a three-pointer within the first two minutes of the second half to cross into double figures scoring and to

bring Southern Indiana within one possession once again, 40-37. The Panthers responded by holding onto a 45-37 lead at the halfway point of the third quarter. After USI was held scoreless for over four minutes, freshman guard Triniti Ralston (Louisville, Kentucky) canned a right-wing triple to end the scoreless drought. The Eagles organized an 8-0 run to knot the game up at 45 going to the last minute of the third frame. The contest was a two-point difference, 49-47 EIU, heading to the final stanza.

The Screaming Eagles jumped out quickly to begin the fourth quarter. Junior guard Vanessa Shafford (Linton, Indiana) stuck back-to-back shots through the bottom of the net in addition to consecutive makes by Ralston and Raley to push USI ahead, 55-50. The two conversions by Shafford put the junior in double figures with Raley in the scoring column.

With seven minutes on the clock, Raley capitalized on a three-point play to add to Southern Indiana's run, which eventually stretched to a 13-0 span. Webb, who also reached double figures in the fourth quarter, joined Raley in leading USI to a double-digit lead in the middle of the period. The game was an eight-point contest, 66-58 USI, going into the final minute before Southern Indiana sealed the win with four made free throws.

The Screaming Eagles were 28-58 for 48 percent from the field in the game, hitting three treys in addition to going 11-13 for nearly 85 percent at the charity stripe. USI outrebounded EIU by five, 43-38, and Southern Indiana outscored Eastern Illinois 15-6 on the fast break and 40-22 in the paint. Individually, Raley tied a season-high 22 points with 12 rebounds toward her fourth double-double of the season. Shafford also finished with a double-double, tallying 13 points and 10 boards for her sixth double-double this season. Webb posted 15 points on Thursday.

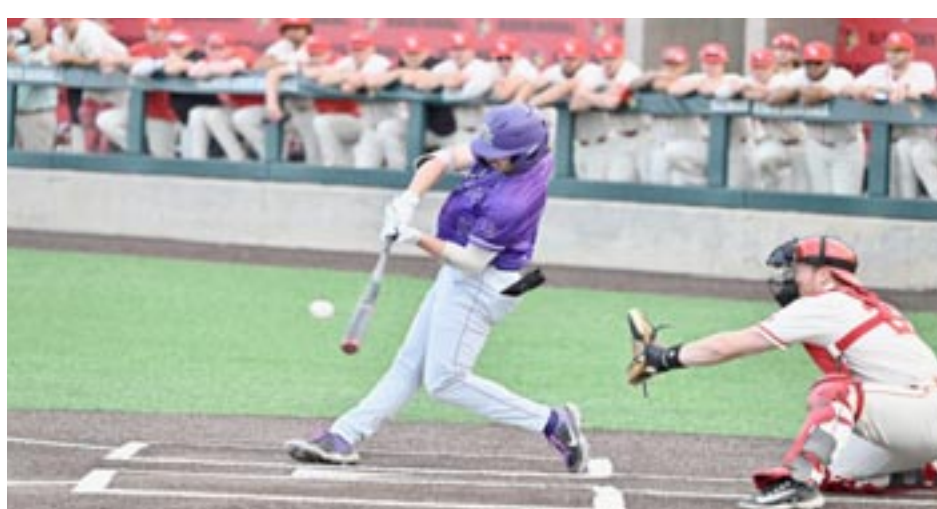
The Panthers were held to 31 percent shooting (21-67) by USI. Eastern Illinois made six threes and went 12-17 for nearly 71 percent at the foul line. EIU had three players in double figures with junior forward Macy McGlone pacing the squad with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

Aces' Hug Named To Preseason All-MVC Team

FEBRUARY 2024

University of Evansville graduate first baseman Chase Hug (Indianapolis, Ind./Olney Central/Pike HS) was named on Tuesday to the preseason all-Missouri Valley Conference baseball team at first base in a vote of the league's head coaches.

Hug, who recently was ranked as the nation's 29th-best first baseman by D1Baseball.com entering the 2024 season, earned preseason all-Valley honors after capturing first-team all-MVC honors a season ago for the Purple Aces. Hug led UE with a team-best .311 average in 2023 with 15 doubles, three triples, 14 home runs, 48 RBI and 51 runs scored. He was also named to the MVC's All-Defensive



Team and MVC All-Tournament team a year ago for the Purple Aces.

As a team, Evansville was predicted to finish third in a closely-contested preseason poll. Indiana State, which advanced to the NCAA Tournament Super Regional

round last year, was predicted to finish first in the preseason poll with 95 points and eight first-place votes, with both Missouri State (89 points) and Evansville (81 points) finishing close behind, with each school receiving a first-place vote. Evansville returns seven position

starters from a year ago, with five of them earning all-MVC honors at some point in their UE career, and 10 pitchers, including 2022 MVC Pitcher of the Year Nick Smith. Evansville posted a 37-24 overall record in 2023 and advanced to the MVC Tournament final against Indiana State.

Season tickets for UE baseball are currently on sale. Tickets can be purchased by phone by calling the UE Athletic Ticket Office at 812-488-2623. Tickets can also be purchased on-line at GoPurpleAces.com/Tickets through HomeTown Ticketing.

The 2024 UE baseball season will kick off on Friday, February 16 at 2023 College World Series participant Oral Roberts.



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2 sides and Drink	



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Obituaries

January Vanderburgh County Obituaries

For complete obituary go to the Funeral Home’s Webpage

ALEXANDER FUNERAL HOME

East

Evagene Nelson	Jul. 06, 1922 – Jan.10, 2024
Kenneth “Kenny” Zirkelbach	Nov. 30, 1958 – Jan. 11, 2024
Glenn Earl Watkins	Dec. 27, 1946 – Jan. 12, 2024
John M Story	Aug. 16, 1944 – Jan. 14, 2024
Waneta “Neta” Hart	Dec. 17, 1934 – Jan. 14, 2024
Barbara “Barb” Ann Runyon	Feb. 02, 1927 – Jaan. 14, 2024
Jana Bonifer	Jul. 28, 1970 – Jan. 15, 2024
Minnie Ann Hallam	Aug. 19, 1940 – Jan. 19, 2024
Donald J. Mosby	Jul. 17, 1931 – Jan. 21, 2024
Donald L. Berning	Nov. 01, 1926 – Jan. 21, 2024
Norma Jean Cobb	Aug. 17, 1927 – Jan. 24, 2024
William C. Roettger	Aug. 23, 1930 – Jan. 25, 2024
Gary Wayne Chism	Nov. 17, 1946 – Jan. 26, 2024
Ruby A. Hochstetler	Mar. 24, 1949 – Jan. 27, 2024
Barbara Williams	Dec. 02, 1938 – Jan. 28, 2024
Margaret Anne Harp	Oct. 31, 1929 – Jan. 30, 2024
Barbara J. Merrill	Oct. 25, 1925 – Jan 31, 2024

West

Shirley J. Lawson Campbell	Jul. 31, 1941 – Jan. 08, 2024
Lucille LeGate	Dec. 10, 1928 – Jan. 09, 2024
Jack Lee Spears	Apr. 03, 1958 – Jan. 10, 2024
Kathy L. Mayse	Jan. 12, 1959 – Jan. 10, 2024
Albert John Umbach Jr.	Nov. 30, 1940 – Jan. 12, 2024
Richard Lewis Knee	Sep. 13, 1930 – Jan. 13, 224
Richard ‘Dick’ Georgette, Sr	May 18, 1934 – Jan. 14, 2024
Lonnie Walter Boeke	Apr. 08, 1944 – Jan 16, 2024
Clarence “Sonny” Zehner	Jan. 26, 1930 – Jan. 16, 2024
Andrew Richard Gulick	Apr. 29, 1948 – Jan. 19, 2024
Pennae Lynn Fuchs	Sep. 28, 1947 – Jan. 22, 2024
Judith Elizabeth Valentine	Nov. 01, 1943 – Jan. 23,2024
Martha J. Schmitz	May 28, 1926 – Jan. 26, 2024
Gerald Reasor	Mar. 04, 1940 – Jan. 26, 2024
Amy Kathryn Dubber	Jun. 07, 1969 – Jan. 31, 2024

North

Joan Faye Phillips	May 29, 1940 – Jan. 01, 2024
James Kamber Stahl	Apr. 10, 1952 – Jan. 11, 2024
James Frank Gentry	Oct. 28, 1939 – Jan. 13, 2024
Bette L. Spray	Oct. 10, 1923 – Jan. 13, 2024
Jimmy R. Kerchief	Feb. 26, 1965 – Jan. 15, 2024
Cheryl L Turner	Jul. 04, 1944 – Jan. 17, 2024
James Arthur Yarber	Jan. 10, 1934 – Jan. 20, 2024

BOONE FUNERAL HOME

Celeste Replogle	Jun. 24, 1965 – Jan. 04, 2024
James Allen Roach Jr.	Jun. 30, 1952 – Jan. 06, 2024
Mildred Utley Bruner	Apr. 07, 1921 – Jan. 06, 2024
Delma F. Campbell	Jan. 24, 1927 – Jan. 08, 2024
Joyce Fortman	Oct. 17, 1954 – Jan. 09, 2024
Wilma Fehd	Nov. 02, 1954 – Jan. 09, 2024
William “Bill” E> Deneke	Apr. 13, 1938 – Jan. 11, 2024
Terry Gander	Nov. 22, 1947 – Jan. 11, 2024
Patricia Judith(Wilson)Mintline	Feb. 09, 1943 – Jan. 12, 2024
Jane Kelley	Dec. 12, 1927 – Jan. 12, 2024
Snow Kathleen Smith	Jan. 12, 2024
Bonita Duley	Jun. 07, 1932 – Jan. 12, 2024
Kathleen Voegel	Oct. 03, 1953 – Jan. 13, 2024
Sandra M. “Sandy” Biggs	Mar. 31, 1944 – Jan. 18, 2024
Mary Helen Cummings	May 21, 1927 – Jan. 19, 2024
Francis R. “Buster” Barnes III	Sep. 23, 1949 – Jan. 19, 2024
Harold Post	Nov. 07, 1936 – Jan. 20, 2024
Lee Anne Koontz	Apr. 10, 1966 – Jan. 21, 2024
Thelma Sides	Nov. 26, 1924 – Jan. 23, 2024
Margaret I. “Susie” Dorsey	Aug. 23, 1931 – Jan. 26, 2024
William Coulter	Aug. 01, 1956 – Jan. 30, 2024

BROWNING FUNERAL HOME

Alice Faye (Browning) Kick	Jun. 28, 1948 – Jan. 01, 2024
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Deborah K. (Grampp) Gorman	Mar. 10, 1950 – Jan. 02, 2024
Doris Jean (Anthis) Harrison	Jul. 05, 1931 – Jan. 02, 2024
Ronal Wayne Arnold	Apr. 29, 1943 – Jan 02, 2024
Douglas John Link	Jul. 16, 1962 – Jan. 02, 2024
Luther Henry Nixon, Jr.	Sep. 27, 1934 – Jan. 03, 2024
Troy Allen Maggard	Nov. 11, 1978 – Jan. 05, 2024
Alicia J. Hopper	Apr. 19, 1952 – Jan. 05, 2024
Lawrence “Larry” A. Trapp	Feb.08, 1945 – Jan. 07, 2024
Danny Dave Burns	Mar. 30, 1958 – Jan. 07, 2024
Margaret Ilma (Harder) Boyles	Jan. 05, 1941 – Jan. 11, 2024
Alice Anne (Finch) Casey	Apr. 04, 1942 – Jan. 11, 2024
Robert “Bob” Louis Heuer	Dec. 21, 1944 – Jan.11, 2024
John W. Hoover, Jr.	Jan. 14, 1943 – Jan. 12, 2024
Janice Evelyn (Erbacher) MaCurdy	Jul. 03, 1949 – Jan. 12, 2024
Anthony James Adam Chernetshy	Sep. 11, 1946 – Jan. 13, 2024
Ruth Illeen (Alvers) Gorman	Mar. 24, 1928 – Jan. 14, 2024
Christopher Matthews	Dec. 24, 1969 – Jan. 14, 2024
Charles “Tom” Rutledge	Oct. 05, 1925 – Jan. 15, 2024
Sandra June (Riley) Williams	Feb. 19, 1943 – Jan. 15, 2024
Vicki (Scales) Smith	Aug. 06, 1949 – Jan. 16, 2024
David Edwin Helfert, Sr.	Dec. 21, 1953 – Jan. 17, 2024
Dennis L. Schenk	Jan. 08, 1947 – Jan. 20, 2024
William Anthony “Tony” Nellis	Jun. 21, 1958 – Jan. 20, 2024
Billie Rex Mace	Mar. 28, 1927 – Jan. 21, 2024
Eliana Grace Harvey	Jun. 24, 2023 – Jan. 21, 2024
Charlie Dale Hurst	Jul. 12, 1961 – Jan. 22, 2024
Roxanne VanBibber-Wagner	May 22, 1956 – Jan. 22, 2024
Jan Conlan	Dec. 21, 1935 – Jan. 24, 2024
Harold Gansman	Feb. 05 1935 – Jan. 25, 2024
Leila Josey	Aug. 21, 1965 – Jan. 27, 2024
Paulette Ann Blaylock	Apr. 24, 1944 – Jan. 27, 2024
Dollie Faye Wilson	May 15, 1928 – Jan. 28, 2024
Dwight K. Brewer	Mar. 26, 1955 – Jan. 28, 2024
David Owen Fox	Mar. 21, 1960 – Jan. 28, 2024
Ellen F. (Schermack) Vowells	Feb. 23, 1945 – Jan. 29, 2024
Ramon Joseph “Joey” Diaz	Apr. 29, 1969 – Jan. 29, 2024
Matthew Jay Goodin	Jan. 05, 1988 – Jan 29, 2024
Diane (Denzer) Whitsell	Aug. 20, 1941 – Jan. 31, 2024
Patrick “Pat” Lawrence, Sr.	Sep. 25, 1977 – Jan. 31, 2024

MASON BROTHERS FUNERAL SERVICES

Wilma Jean Noel	Jul, 10, 1944 – Jan. 05, 2024
Kenneth Tyrone Murphy	Sep. 12, 1956 – Jan. 08, 2024
Melvin O’Neal	Aug. 20, 1925 – Jan. 09, 2024
Ervenia Ernestine Kendrick	Feb. 24, 1927 – Jan. 09, 2024
Roger Lynch Jr.	May 24, 1952 – Jan. 10, 2024
Elsie Lee Eaves	Aug. 30, 1928 – Jan. 11, 2024
Cherie Renee Woolfolk	Dec. 01, 1956 – Jan. 13, 2024
Daniel T. Hall III	Nov. 30, 1953 – Jan. 16, 2024
Marlena Sue Stevens	Jun. 15, 1974 – Jan 22, 2024
Florence Mae Allen	Jun. 29, 1949 – Jan. 25, 2024
Emma Louise Bowles	Aug. 02, 1934 – Jan. 27, 2024
Juanita Cabell	May 26, 1939 – Jan. 28, 2024

PIERRE FUNERAL HOME

James E. Berry Sr.	Jul 17, 1950 – Jan. 03, 2024
John C. Schmitt	Nov. 20, 1933 – Jan. 03, 2024
David B. Merritt	Sep. 07, 1986 – Jan. 08, 2024
Arthur Austin Werner	Dec. 07, 1937 – Jan. 09, 2024
Ralph C. Seib	Jan. 24, 1933 – Jan. 10, 2024
Kent Duane Hertel	May 10, 1966 – Jan. 16, 2024
Robert A. Brinkmeyer	Jan. 02, 1939 – Jan. 18, 2024
Dorothy E. Niemeier	Aug. 13, 1932 – Jan. 19, 2024
David Michael Emge	Sep. 09, 1946 – Jan. 20, 2024
Kathleen Marie Ann Grosheart	Jan. 11, 1959 – Jan. 23, 2024
Vernita Margaret Koester	Feb. 01, 1925 – Jan. 24, 2024
Leonard Joseph Eichoff	Sep. 16, 1929 – Jan. 24, 2024
Bonnie L. Coleman	Nov. 27, 1941 – Jan. 24, 2024
Steven John Lankford	Jul 13, 1951 – Jan. 26, 2024
Grace A. Richter	Nov. 04, 1929 – Jan. 27, 2024
Donald Eugene Eickhoff	Nov. 28, 1938 – Jan. 28, 2023
Thomas A. Diehl	Aug. 16, 1948 – Jan. 28, 2024
John Raymond Ahlering	Aug. 12, 1940 – Jan. 29, 2024

Sudoku Puzzle Answer

Feb. '24

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

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

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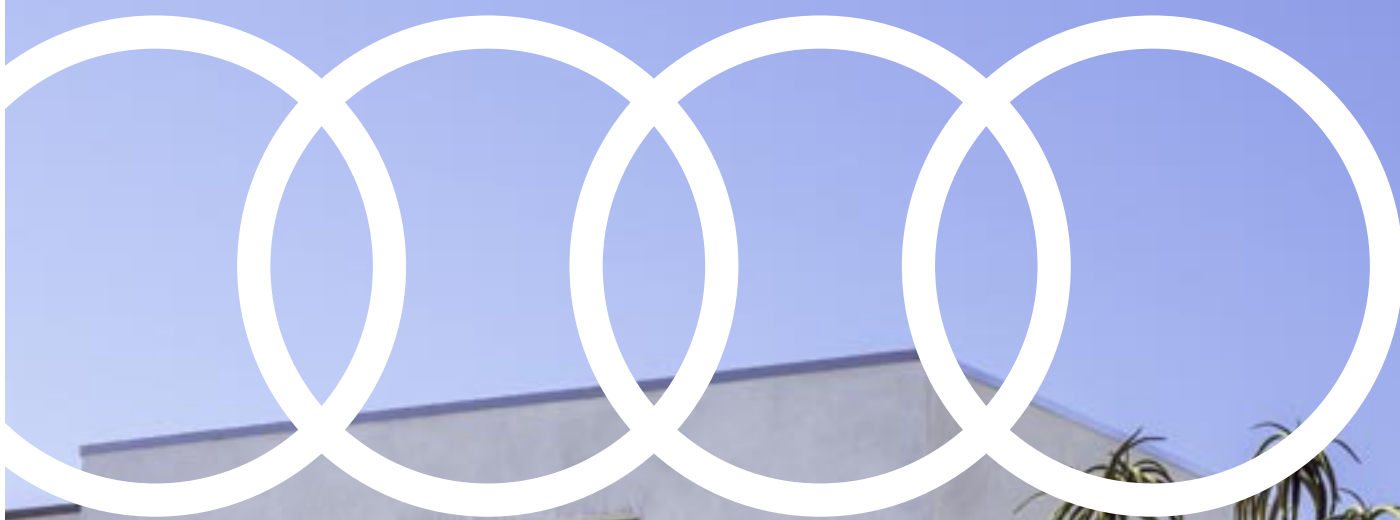
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