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Vol. 5 No. 3 March 2024 Evansville, IN

# Terry Names Dauer City Corporation Counsel

**MARCH 2024**  
 A native of Evansville, Sarah Dauer attended Dexter Elementary, Washington Middle, and Memorial High School. She received her bachelor's degree at the University of Kentucky and her law degree from the University of Tulsa.  
 Since moving back to Evansville, Sarah served as In-House Counsel at Shoe Carnival for 8 years and later as Associate Counsel at Reckitt. She cares deeply about Evansville and the overall welfare of its citizens, animals and environment, and has

served on various community and civic boards including YMCA, Holly's House, Ark Crisis Child Care Center, Leadership Evansville and the Board of Parks Commissioners.  
 Dauer's first day with the city was March 4.  
 "I'm thrilled to advocate for Evansville and to work in the Terry Administration," Dauer said.  
 Her hiring represents a departure from the city's legal structure under



recent administrations, in which an external corporation counsel had the ability to delegate legal work as he or she saw fit. Earlier this month, Mayor Terry indicated that her administration would instead hire an in-house Corporation Counsel, a structure used by cities like Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, and Bloomington.  
 "As Corporation Counsel, Sarah Dauer will be an integral part of our

full-time team," Mayor Terry said. "By having her in the Civic Center with us every day, and with her sole focus being the legal needs of the city, both my office and our city department heads will have constant contact and access to counsel."  
 "Sarah brings a deep set of legal expertise and will guide Evansville through the process of forming its in-house legal team. I am grateful to have a fresh legal perspective to help us move forward as a city. I want to thank Marco Delucio of Ziemer,  
**Continued On Page 7**

## 'Kentucky Dom' Is An Ecclectic Mix Of Many Dimensions

**MARCH 2024**  
 "Kentucky Dom" redefines fusion: Country music artist, model, entrepreneur, and patriot. He attributes this eclectic mixture to the many dimensions of his early life. Hailing from both rural and inner-city "Kentucky, Dom's" chill personality evoked a unique gravity to those around him – forging an inner circle that comprised cowboys, punks, athletes, scholars, and friends from the hood. For this reason, he never fit into any one group. Rather, he ran in all groups. This social diversity exposed Dom to both country and urban dialects, philosophies, and almost every genre of music. As such, even he could not have predicted the effect this would have downstream in his professional life.



Country Music Artist. Nothing can replace the authenticity of the experience. Kentucky Dom's upbringing has empowered him to lace the deep beats of Hip Hop with a country soul, simultaneously layering a rich Bluegrass flavor across a singular, collective sound – best sampled in his single "Born and Raised." In his own

**Continued On Page 7**

## Hopefest 2024: A Day Of Celebration And Support For Local Cancer Survivors

**MARCH 2024**  
 Hopefest, a beacon of joy and resilience for everyone affected by cancer, returns to Friedman Park in Newburgh on April 27, promising a day filled with festivities, hope, and solidarity. This year, the organizers have amped up the excitement by introducing an array of new events and activities designed to appeal to the whole family.  
 The event, now in its sixth year, aims to provide a platform for cancer survivors, patients, caregivers, and supporters to come together in a spirit of unity and optimism. Hopefest not only celebrates the courage and strength of survivors but also serves as a reminder of the ongoing battle against cancer.



**Among the highlights of this year's Hopefest are:**  
**Survivor Parade:** The centerpiece of the event, the Survivor Parade, invites individuals who have faced cancer – whether newly diagnosed or long-time survivors – to march in solidarity. Participation in the parade is free for all survivors, and registration by April 5 guarantees a complimentary survivor t-shirt.  
**Cruise In:** Classic car enthusiasts will delight in the Cruise In, where vintage automobiles will line up for display, adding a touch of nostalgia to the festivities.  
**Food Trucks and Vendor Village:** Culinary delights await attendees at the diverse array of food trucks, while the Vendor Village offers a shopping experience featuring local artisans and

businesses.  
**5K Run and 1 Mile Walk:** Fitness enthusiasts can lace up their sneakers for either the 5K Run or the more leisurely 1 Mile Walk, both of which promise scenic routes and a chance to support a worthy cause.  
**Family Fun Activities:** Children and adults alike can partake in a variety of activities, including balloon animals, face painting, and inflatables, ensuring that there is something for everyone to enjoy.  
 Hopefest 2024 also carries a deeper purpose, as it serves to support the mission of Chemo Buddies, an organization dedicated to ensuring that no one faces chemotherapy alone. Chemo Buddies not only provides invaluable support to patients undergoing treatment but also spreads hope and positivity

to all those affected by cancer.  
 In a statement, organizers expressed their commitment to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment where individuals touched by cancer can find solace and strength in each other's company.  
 "Hopefest is more than just a festival; it's a symbol of resilience, community, and hope," said event organizer Vanessa Borgman. "We invite everyone to join us as we celebrate the indomitable spirit of cancer survivors and rally together in the fight against this disease."  
 With Hopefest 2024 just around the corner, anticipation is building for a day of laughter, camaraderie, and, above all, hope. Mark your calendars and join the Newburgh community in this uplifting celebration of life and courage. New for this year's Indiana

## Election Board Overturns Challenge Of Daugherty

**MARCH 2024**  
 With a vote of 2-1, the Vanderburgh County election board has overturned the challenge of Michael Daugherty by county republican chair Mike Duckworth.  
 Duckworth filed the challenge to Daugherty's candidacy for Precinct Committeeman and state convention delegate, using the



two primary rule and Daugherty's run for mayor as the reasons for the filing.  
 Daugherty's attorney, David Jones, successfully argued that the law provides an exception for a candidate who voted non-partisan in a primary and that the law had no provision for eliminating a candidate for running for office with another party.

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# Commentary

## For Every Problem There Is...

MARCH 2024

By John Krull

Sometimes, solutions to problems just present themselves.

Conservatives across the nation have worked themselves into high dudgeon over two developments—Drag Queen Story Hours and the flow of undocumented immigrants across the southern border of the United States.

Drag Queen Story Hours began years ago when LGBTQ citizens in some cities started hosting reading sessions in public libraries.

Conservative critics jumped on the story hours. They said the drag queens were “grooming” children. One might have thought, though, if that were their intent, the readers would have chosen venues where parents, library staffers and other members of the public couldn’t attend, but, nonetheless, the critics felt they had identified a grave threat to the civic good.

The drag queens said they hosted the story hours to let children know that not everyone in the world is heterosexual. The drag queens also wanted to show not just children but all other people that they were, well, also just people themselves.

And if they are people, too, then they have the same First Amendment rights as everyone else. That means telling them they can’t read or say what they wish to any audience that wishes to hear them

violates the Constitution.

Okay, so that’s one problem.

The other is the border.

Conservatives such as Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican, are upset—really, really, really upset—that undocumented immigrants are crossing into the country. Abbott decided to give vent to his anger by threatening to defy a U.S. Supreme Court ruling saying border agents could cut razor wire blocking entry into the state.

Abbott has managed to persuade 25 other Republican governors—including Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb—to sign a statement agreeing with him. Abbott even lured a handful of those governors, including Holcomb, to come to Texas to stand in symbolic solidarity with him at the Lone Star State’s southern border.

Here’s the rub.

The Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution grants the federal government sole authority to conduct foreign policy. What’s more, Article 1, Section 8, clause 4 of the Constitution specifically grants Congress the sole power to determine immigration and naturalization policy.

So, if Abbott, Holcomb and the other Republican governors have their knickers twisted in knots because of their distress over immigration, they should travel to Washington, D.C., and pester Congress to do something about the situation.

Why didn’t they?

Well, probably because U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-Louisiana, has said he and his GOP colleagues in the people’s chamber don’t want to do anything about immigration right now. Johnson said this even though the U.S. Senate just passed—with both Republican and Democratic votes—a new package that would fund the toughest border security measures in American history.

Confused?

That’s forgivable.

Johnson, who also says the border “crisis” is the biggest challenge confronting the United States, is taking his marching orders from former President Donald Trump. Trump wants Republicans to do nothing about the border for now because he doesn’t want President Joe Biden to receive any credit for solving the problem.

Just how Biden would receive credit for solving a problem he had to be prodded and even dragooned into acknowledging, Trump doesn’t say—maybe because figuring that out would require actual thought.

Trump’s intransigence leaves Republicans who have spent decades fulminating over immigration in a quandary.

They don’t want to defy Trump for fear that daddy—whose already shaky hold on his notorious temper erodes still further when he’s facing multiple charges for criminal conduct—will spank them.

So, instead they choose to deny

reality and defy both the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. Supreme Court, while also proclaiming themselves law-and-order governors and strict constitutional constructionists.

This is a problem.

Well, really two problems, if you count the drag-queen drama.

Fortunately, there is a solution.

Instead of having drag queens host story hours at public libraries, why don’t we have them read the U.S. Constitution to the nation’s governors? The text seems to be one with which Abbott, Holcomb and the others who took part in the photo op in Texas are unacquainted.

Having drag queens read it to them would accomplish two things.

It would remind the governors where their duties lie—hint, not in crafting foreign or immigration policy—and it would acquaint them with the notion that every American has rights guaranteed by our founding charter.

See?

Two problems.

One tidy solution.

**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: GOP Needs To Find Consistent Vetting Criteria

MARCH 2024

By Johnny Kincaid

Last week, numerous Indiana Republicans aspiring to run for precinct committeemen or delegate positions received notification that their candidacies were being contested. These notifications, issued by the county clerk’s office, included copies of the CAN 1 form signed by the county GOP chair.

The accompanying letter mandated attendance at a hearing for candidates wishing to contest the challenge. The CAN 1 form succinctly stated the grounds for the challenge: “Candidate for delegate does not meet the Republican Primary voting requirements and did not seek, nor file, an IRSC/CA-1 form.”

Two significant issues emerge from this situation, both of which demand the attention of county chairs. The first pertains to the notification process, while the second concerns the consistency in enforcing primary voting requirements.

Beginning with the notification process, the tone of the letter from the county clerk’s office fails to foster a supportive environment for candidates. Many of these individuals, stepping into the world of politics for the first time, were recruited by friends eager to expand the party’s base. However, the response they received left them needing more clarity on the requirements.

Volunteers form the lifeblood of a political party, dedicating their time

to various grassroots efforts. Precinct committeemen, in particular, play a vital role in local party operations. Instead of acknowledging the commitment of these potential delegates and committeemen, they are met with suspicion, potentially deterring future involvement.

What if county chairs extended a supportive hand, offering clarity on the process and encouragement to those facing challenges? A modicum of kindness could significantly enhance the GOP’s grassroots efforts.

The second issue concerns the inconsistent enforcement of primary voting requirements. County chairs can overlook a candidate’s voting record and file a waiver on their behalf. This waiver serves as a mecha-

nism to allow candidacy despite failing to meet the primary voting requirements.

Inconsistencies in this process raise eyebrows, mainly when waivers are selectively granted. While some candidates face challenges based on their voting records, waivers have been granted in other cases. Such actions not only breed confusion among first-time candidates but also undermine the integrity of the selection process.

Waivers should be issued consistently and transparently. The recent decision by Vanderburgh Chairman Mike Duckworth to waive primary voting requirements for a specific candidate while challenging others

**Continued On Page 7**

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# Community

## Orr Fellowship Establishes Partnership With ERBC, E-REP

**MARCH 2024**

Orr Fellowship, a premier two-year post-graduate program for entrepreneurial and business-minded young professionals, is putting down roots in the Evansville region.

Founded in 2001, Orr Fellowship recruits rising college seniors from across the nation and matches them with dynamic companies and executives for a two-year fellowship program. The program is focused on developing these high-potential graduates as the next generation of business leaders and entrepreneurs. To date, 550 aspiring business leaders have completed a fellowship since the organization's inception, with 150 Fellows currently in the program.

In partnership with the Evansville Regional Business Committee (ERBC) and the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership (E-REP), Orr Fellowship has taken a significant step toward deepening its impact across the state of Indiana by expanding to the Evansville region. This is the Orr Fellowship's first expansion outside of central Indiana.

"We're thrilled to be taking this next step in our organization's growth and impact on the great state of Indiana. We've been focused on recruiting and devel-

oping the next generation of business leaders and entrepreneurs since 2001 and we now have the opportunity to broaden that impact,

by starting our first chapter outside of the Indianapolis area. A chapter in the Evansville region never would have been possible without the great partnership of ERBC and E-REP," said Steven

Emch, President of Orr Fellowship. "I know first-hand the tremendous impact that Orr Fellowship has had on attracting and developing early career talent in Central Indiana," said James Ryan, Chair-



**Orr Fellowship**

## Hoosiers' Connections Might Boost Voter Participation

**MARCH 2024**

To improve Indiana's voter participation, Hoosiers might first have to get to know their neighbors better.

The recently released 2023 Indiana Civic Health Index highlighted Indiana's lackluster voter registration and turnout numbers and ignited a renewed push to encourage people – particularly those who just turned 18 – to register so they can vote in the 2024 election. But Ellen Szarleta, one of the principal authors of the index, notes the apathy toward voting might be a symptom of Hoosiers having too few connections with their neighbors and communities.

Szarleta, director of the Center for Urban and Regional Excellence at Indiana University – Northwest, cautioned that more research must be done on Indiana, specifically, but, in general, the data indicates that in regards to civic health, low social connectedness is linked to lower levels of civic participation. In other words, people who have strong relationships with other people and organizations in the community are more likely to go to the polls on Election Day.

"I think this is something that we have to take a close look at specifically in the state of Indiana and if we are staying home, if we're lacking that connection to others, not seeing what we call our place in the community or having a sense of community," Szarleta said. "The research is showing that that's going to make

us less likely to participate in those activities that are formal civic activities like registration and voting."

The 2023 index reported that Indiana's voter turnout ranking sank from 41st in 2016 to 46th in 2020 among all states, plus the District of Columbia. In the 2020 November election, 61% of Hoosiers, when questioned through the U.S. Census Current Population Survey Voting Registration Supplement project, said they voted. This compares to the turnout average of 75.2% in the top 10 states with the highest voter participation.

Conversely, Indiana's rankings on social connectedness and civic awareness are much better. Stats, cited in the 2023 index, show the Hoosier state's ranking improved in membership to a group of any kind from 17th in 2020 to 16th in 2022 and in attending a public meeting from 37th in 2020 to 35th in 2022. During that same period, the state's rank for volunteering dipped from 18th to 21st.

However, Szarleta pointed out the higher rankings are not indicative of better participation. Despite Indiana's rise in some rankings, the percentage of Hoosiers belonging to a group or attending a public meeting actually fell from 2020 to 2022. Group membership dropped from 32.7% to 29.4%, while attending a meeting fell from 9.6% to 8.1%.

Even the numbers behind the slip in the volunteer ranking show a steep decline of nearly 7 percentage points, decreasing from

34% in 2020 to 27.6% in 2022.

Moreover, neighborliness dropped in the past decade. The percentage of Hoosiers talking to or spending time with their neighbors plunged from 34.8% in 2012 to 26.4% in 2022, while doing favors for neighbors sank from 13.5% to 9.5% during the same time period.

"The bigger question is, is that satisfactory?" Szarleta asked. "Is that really where we want to be? Forget that we're doing better than some of the states."

### Participation leads to positive outcomes

Standing in the Indiana Statehouse recently, Lana Bose, of Charlestown, was nervous about having to talk to lawmakers, but she was motivated by her own battle with cancer and her desire to help others.

"I'm very nervous," Bose said. "I'm nervous because I've never done this before."

Previously, Bose had not been very civically engaged. She is a member of Southeast Christian Church and connects with neighbors on Facebook. However, she had driven to the Statehouse on a rainy, foggy morning to tell her story of a protracted fight against stage 4 colon cancer that culminated in June of 2016 with a doctor's prognosis that she would die before the end of that year. What enabled her to reverse course and become a five-year cancer survivor, she said, was biomarker testing.

Bose, a member of the American Cancer Society, was in Indianapolis with other cancer survivors to advocate for Senate Bill 273. Authored by Sen. Ed Charbonneau, R-Valparaiso, the bill requires health care plans to provide coverage for biomarker testing.

Bose and the other members of the group began their day at the Indiana General Assembly by listening to remarks of encouragement and advice from a handful of legislators and advocates. Then they gathered for a group photo and enjoyed a box lunch, before attending a legislative committee hearing on SB 273.

"I think that everybody needs to have the ability to have this testing, so that they do have a quality of life, so they do live full lives," Bose said. "So coming up here, I was excited to be part of it, where I never thought that I would be in

man and CEO, Old National Bank and Vice Chairman, Evansville Regional Business Committee. "Expanding Orr Fellowship to the Evansville Region will certainly help shape the future leaders of the region."

"Orr Fellowship is the premier post undergraduate experience in the nation," said Lloyd Winnecke, CEO, Evansville Regional Economic Partnership. "It aligns perfectly with our Talent EVV goal to grow our young adult population."

Orr Fellowship will begin accepting applications in both the Indianapolis and Evansville regions for Fellows and partner companies in the fall of 2024. The Evansville Region chapter will welcome its inaugural class in June of 2025.

this place or even be here. So my story, I hope, makes a difference."

SB 273 has picked up bipartisan support and passed through the Indiana Senate on a 47-to-1 vote. The bill is now progressing through the lower chamber, passing the House Insurance Committee on Wednesday and moving on to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Although the degree of participation in Indiana is not at high levels, Szarleta said Hoosiers are willing to be engaged in their communities. They understand the importance of being socially connected, she said, but, to get more people to advocate like Bose, Indiana should take a deeper look at the opportunities and the barriers to increasing civic engagement.

The benefit of more social connectedness would be improved civic health, Szarleta said. This would, in turn, she said, result in higher levels of educational attainment, better health, lower crime rates, and other positive outcomes.

Szarleta reiterated that voting participation is intertwined with civic participation. Voters, she said, should not see voting as a means to get what they want politically, but, rather, as part of their responsibility as members of a democracy.

"It's not just voting and voter registration," Szarleta said. "We can't separate those out from civic awareness, which is that knowledge which gives you the ability to participate, and social connectedness, which gives you the intent, the motivation, that willingness to be part of the whole. When you don't see those coming together, that's, I think, how we get to the result that we have right now with voting and voter registration being at 50 and 40 in our rank."

This article was published by TheStatehouseFile.com through a partnership with The Indiana Citizen, a nonpartisan, nonprofit platform dedicated to increasing the number of informed, engaged Hoosier citizens.

**Indiana Citizen Editor Marilyn Odendahl has spent her journalism career writing for newspapers and magazines in Indiana and Kentucky. She has focused her reporting on business, the law and poverty issues.**

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# Indiana Senate Sends Controversial 'Puppy Mill' Bill Back

MARCH 2024

Sen. Fady Qaddoura, shares his views on HB 1412 in the Senate Monday. The Indiana Senate approved House Bill 1412—called by some the “puppy mill bill”— but amendments required the bill to go back to the House for approval. Photo by DeMarion Newell, TheStatehouseFile.com.



A bill that would regulate the sale of dogs across the state is on its way back to the House.

HB 1412, authored by Rep. Beau Baird, R-Greencastle, provides new regulations for the retail sale of dogs. Pet stores, animal care facilities and animal rescue operations would be required to register with the Board of Animal Health. Other new regulations would include mandatory disclosures and warranties for retail pet stores selling dogs and a random inspection program for commercial dog breeders, commercial dog brokers and retail pet stores. If passed, the new rules would begin July 1, 2025.

Opponents of the bill fear HB 1412 would limit local regulation of dog breeders and pet stores.

In a Senate session Monday, Sen. Blake Doriot, R-Elkhart, said provisions of the bill are being misunderstood. Rather than limiting local regulations, he said the bill increases breeding standards. Dogs will have to be bred according to the canine care certifications by Purdue University.

He mentioned his family's generational experience breeding and showing dogs and said he “would not impune” his and his family's reputation as “man's best friend.”

“House Bill 1412 is not a puppy mill bill. The reason I know this is

because my family history has a lot to do with dogs,” he said.

In puppy mills, dog breeders sell puppies for profit, mother dogs breed until they are no longer physically able to, and dog are raised in cruel living conditions.

Many animal welfare organizations have spoken out against House Bill 1412 because it will remove local ordinances prohibiting the sale of dogs at pet stores, which opponents have said will discourage from adopting shelter animals. Others claim the bill provides no guarantee that funding or support will be given to help the Indiana Board of Animal Health to handle the expected increase in monitoring breeders and facilities.

Sen. Fady Qaddoura, D-Indianapolis, said the language in the bill reflects a divide between rural, urban and suburban communities.

“If we preserve the law the way that it is today, then let local communities control,” Qaddoura said. “If you live in a community that wants to do this, they can do it. If you live in Columbus, Indiana, and you don't want to outsource puppies from puppy mills, they will ban it.”

He said it's not a commerce argument, it's a local control argument.

Social media posts from opponents of the bill also expressed concerns with losing local control and urged people to “take action” by calling and emailing legislators. The Humane Society of the United States – Indiana posted on its social media feed encouraging people to stop the passing of “this dangerous bill that protects puppy mills by allowing pet stores to continue sourcing from inhumane commercial breeders. The bill also voids 21 local ordinances that regulate the sale of cats and dogs in Indiana communities.”

Jill Ellis, executive director of Hoosier Fix, a nonprofit focused on providing low- to no-cost spay, neuter and vaccines for cats and dogs in Indianapolis and surrounding areas, opposes the bill.

“HB 1412 is taking away local control to regulate what is being sold in pet stores in places like Indianapolis and Carmel. Indianapolis is overflowing with dogs who need homes,” said Ellis.

She said there aren't enough inspectors in the state to go out to the facilities, and there's no money involved in the bill to add additional people.

Candace Crony, director for Center for Animal Welfare Science

at Purdue University who created the standards for Canine Care Certified, a voluntary program addressing the health and overall welfare of dogs in the care of breeders, took no position on the bill.

Instead she highlighted the complexities of regulating dog breeders in the U.S. and the demand for dogs exceeding the supply in shelters.

“The data shows the problem is the U.S. public wants choices on where they can get dogs from because there's a supply and demand imbalance,” Crony told The Statehouse File. “If people are told they can only get dogs from a shelter or rescue, but they decide for whatever reason they do not want a dog from that source, they go and find other places to get dogs, some of which are not regulated at all. Some people go to the internet.”

In Doriot's closing remarks, he said the Indiana General Assembly is “not breaking new ground” as other places have passed similar bills.

In the end, the bill passed the Senate 31-18. Nine of the 18 nays came from Republicans, and no Democrats voted for the bill to pass.

Because the Senate committee that heard the bill opted to amend it, those changes must be approved by the House Chamber, either through a concurrence vote or through a conference committee, according to The Indiana Capital Chronicle.

*DeMarion Newell is a reporter for TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.*

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# Community

## Celebrate Easter With Brunch At Old National Events Plaza

**MARCH 2024**

The Old National Events Plaza has opened reservations for a new annual guest experience, Easter Brunch at The Plaza, set to take place on Easter Day, March 31, 2024.

After the morning Easter egg hunts and events are wrapped up, Old National Events Plaza invites families and parties of all sizes to enjoy a bountiful Easter meal together. Easter Brunch at The Plaza will celebrate Easter Sunday with a diverse menu of culinary selections, a visit from the Easter Bunny, dining music and a children's craft for the little

ones.

Easter Brunch at The Plaza offers a variety of traditional brunch dishes, plus a selection of specialty items like house-made Hashbrown Casserole, Smoked Salmon and Shrimp Cocktail displays, and build-your-own stations for Omelets and Waffles. Lunch items include Fried Chicken, Sweet Potato Casserole, and so much more! Treat the kids to something special with our Knee-High Buffet featuring kid-friendly items like Mini Corn Dogs and Kraft® Mac and Cheese. Bottomless Mimosas and Bloody Marys are available as an add-on for guests 21

and up.

"Holiday brunches are a beloved tradition for many families. We look forward to welcoming the local community to annual brunches where their traditions can grow, new guests can join, and folks can come back year after year," said Old National Events Plaza Director of Food and Beverage, Brittany Shouse.

Easter Brunch at The Plaza will take place in the Ballrooms of Old National Events Plaza from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Parties of all sizes are welcome to make reservations during the dining window. Children under 2

eat free.

**Ticket Information:**

Easter Brunch at The Plaza  
Sunday, March 31, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Old National Events Plaza Ballrooms | 715 Locust Street, Evansville, IN 47708

Reservations are \$45.00 per adult, \$15.00 per child age 3-12, Children under 2 eat free, all reservations are plus 8% tax. Reservations are required to attend.

For the complete menu and additional information, visit [oldnationaleventsplaza.com](http://oldnationaleventsplaza.com).

## Vanderburgh County Health Dept. Receives Performance Award

**MARCH 2024**

The Vanderburgh County Health Department is proud to announce that it has been awarded the 2024-2025 performance award from the Safety PIN grant. This grant, established in 2018 to support local home visitation, is part of ongoing efforts to enhance the wellbeing of our community.

In 2022, the Indiana Department of Health initiated a grant cycle that allocated \$1,400,000 to the Pre to 3 program, which aims to enhance maternal and child outcomes, foster positive parent-child interaction, create a healthy environment for early childhood development, and empower families towards self-sufficiency. This award recognizes the Health Department's success in these areas and provides additional

funding to further its mission of improving health outcomes for vulnerable families and infants who may otherwise face adverse health challenges, including potential loss of life.

We are grateful for the opportunity to review the Pre to 3 program at the Vanderburgh

County Commissioners meeting on February 20th at 3pm. The Commissioners play a pivotal role in supporting this vital work, enabling program expansion within Evansville and the unincorporated county. For instance, a key problem the Health Department is working to address is the gap in the 5-year black infant mortality rate in Vanderburgh County. Infant mortality for black children stands at 19.1 per 1,000 live

births, compared to the white infant mortality rate of 5.0 per 1,000 live births. With the backing of Safety PIN funding and the community, we will implement programs to en-

hance access to crucial services and improve the outcome for black infants.

At the core of these initiatives are the dedicated members of the Pre to 3 team. They offer a wide range of services aimed at ensuring healthy pregnancies and fostering thriving families. Through a hands-on, evidence-based curriculum, our staff delivers consistent, long-term support to families through home visits. These visits are designed to assist families in overcoming various challenges related to the social determinants of

health and adversity. By meeting families in their own homes and providing non-judgmental, strength-based support, the Pre to 3 program offers a collaborative approach that effectively addresses early learning gaps in the targeted area. This approach empowers new parents to build confidence and acquire the necessary skills to fulfill their crucial role as their child's first nurturer, teacher, and health advocate.

The Health Department, in cooperation with the Vanderburgh County Commissioners Cheryl Musgrave, Justin Elpers, and Mike Goebel, look forward to continuing this important work and are committed to making a meaningful impact on the health and wellbeing of our community.



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# Community

## Letter To The Editor: GOP Needs Consistent Criteria

**Continued From Page 2**

casts doubt on the fairness and impartiality of the process.

Waiving the voting record of a candidate for that candidate to run against an incumbent should concern all elected officials. No incumbent should feel that the chair of their party is working against them and the party's best interests. Upholding the rules and

principles of fair play is paramount to maintaining trust and integrity within the party.

In conclusion, the challenges Indiana Republicans face underscore the need for a more transparent and supportive nomination process. By fostering an environment of inclusivity and fairness, the GOP can strengthen its grassroots foundation and in-

spire greater participation from its members.

**FOOTNOTES: Johnny Kincaid is the host of the This Week in Evansville Podcast.**

**<https://www.youtube.com/@thisweekinevansville/podcasts>**

**THE City-County Observer posted this letter without opinion, bias, or editing.**

## Indiana Officials Celebrate National FFA Week

**MARCH 2024**

In honor of National FFA Week, the seven Indiana FFA State Officers, and dozens of FFA members, met in the Statehouse to receive a proclamation and resolution declaring Feb. 17-24 Indiana FFA Week.

"It was a pleasure to have these outstanding young professionals representing the State of Indiana and agriculture so well in the Statehouse today," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "FFA is a dynamic youth led organization and I am excited to celebrate National FFA Week this week and agriculture year-round."

Gov. Eric Holcomb signed a proclamation to name this week National FFA Week in recognition of all the work the Indiana FFA Organization, agriculture educators and FFA advisors do to cultivate the next generation of agriculturists for the state.

During the week, chapters across the state and nation will host a variety of events to educate, advocate and celebrate the agricultural industry. From a school animal experience to a farmer's breakfast, these activities pay homage to the dedication and

commitment of today's agriculturalists. Throughout the week, the Indiana FFA State Officers will travel the state to participate in activities alongside local FFA chapters and their communities.

The Indiana FFA Association also received a Senate Concurrent Resolution highlighting the impact of the FFA Organization, which is preparing more than 14,000 members in 90 of Indiana's 92 counties for the over 250 unique careers in the food, fiber and natural resource sectors. The resolution was led by Sen. Jean Leising, Senate District 42 and Rep. Michael Aylesworth, House District 11.

Indiana FFA State Reporter Carson Rudd was excited to meet with legislators to promote Indiana agricultural education.

"National FFA Week is a week full of celebration and a time to reflect on the significance the organization has across the country and here in over 220 communities across the state," said Rudd. "We are honored to have the support of our state's legislature not only during National FFA Week, but throughout the year as well."

Tamara Ketchen, Director of the Indiana FFA Association, is looking forward to seeing all the work

done this week at FFA chapters across the state.

"National FFA Week is a time for local chapters to highlight their programs showcasing their success and passion for agriculture," Ketchen said. "We also use this as an opportunity to recognize community supporters and broadcast the mission of the organization."

FFA members are agriculture's future leaders, future food suppliers, future innovators and more! Whether it is through service projects or community gatherings, National FFA Week is a time for FFA members to raise awareness about agricultural education and the role the National FFA Organization plays in the development of agriculture's future leaders.

The first National FFA Week was held in 1948, when the National FFA Board of Directors designated a weeklong celebration to recognize George Washington's example and legacy as a leader and farmer. For the past 75 years, FFA members across the country have taken part in agricultural, leadership and service-based activities during National FFA Week.

Visit [www.inffa.org](http://www.inffa.org) to learn more about Indiana FFA.

## New Tax Info For Indiana's Military Service Members

**MARCH 2024**

New for this year's Indiana Individual income tax return is a deduction for military pay earned by Hoosiers who are active or reserve members of the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard.

Retired military service members, or their surviving spouse, may also be eligible for this deduction.

This deduction is equal to the actual amount of military income received (i.e., military pay, retirement pay, and/or survivor's benefits) or \$5,000, whichever is less. If both a service member and their spouse received military income, they may each claim the deduction for a maximum of \$10,000.

Prior to 2023, the exemption was

only for the period that military service members who were mobilized or deployed. Find more information in Information Bulletin #27.

Additional guidance for military service members including due dates and extensions of time to file for those serving in a combat zone, choosing the right form, and paying Indiana county taxes is available.

## 'Kentucky Dom' Is An Ecclectic Mix Of Many Dimensions

**Continued From Page 1**

words, "All I want to do is use my platform and make music that inspires, puts smiles on faces, and allows folks to have a good time. There are so many fascinating, untold stories in Kentucky. I want to be a voice for the people."

Model. Although metropolitan by nature, the fashion world seemed foreign to this urban cowboy. It was only when Wrangler Clothing and Montana Silversmiths reached out, was he compelled to step before the lens. Now, he is a feature on the website of both companies. Recognized for his positive style and impact on sales, "Kentucky Dom" has evolved his portfolio with regular modeling opportunities. He specializes in a rugged, rural look with deep-south urbanity.

Serial Entrepreneur. Dom has a passion for the mixed market which grounds the economy of our great nation. He owns Trinity Tech Solutions and is a managing partner of Ark ND Entertainment and the sole owner of Tennis Bandits.


Patriot. "Kentucky Dom" is deeply reverent to our active military, veterans, and first responders. "Having family who served in the Army, Marines, and the Police Department, I have unwavering respect for any man or woman who is willing to lay down their lives to protect our communities, our nation, and importantly, the freedoms we hold sacred." To capture this profound respect for service and sacrifice, Dom curated his latest single, "We All American." Available now at [apple] and [spotify].

## Dauer Named CC Counsel

**Continued From Page 1**

Stayman, Weitzel & Shoulders LLP for his years of service representing Evansville as our contracted City Attorney."

This does not, however, mean that the City of Evansville would end its relationship with all outside firms. Outside counsel will still be used for subject matter expertise and bid work on an as-needed basis.



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# Comics & Puzzles

**TANK MCNAMARA**  
by Bill Hinds

**GET FUZZY**  
by darby conley

## Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg January 7, 2024

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Just figured it out!"
  - 4 Missing the mark
  - 10 Excavator's verb
  - 13 Hefty competitor
  - 14 Write on a Post-it before heading out, perhaps
  - 16 Cones' partners, in the eye
  - 17 "I see"
  - 18 Santa \_\_\_\_\_ (Michelle Pfeiffer's birthplace)
  - 19 Internet sensation
  - 20 Sore areas for a teething baby
  - 21 Some hunting dogs
  - 23 Hefty ocean animal
  - 26 Spots from a food fight
  - 27 M3GAN or WALL-E
  - 28 They might be clenched
  - 29 "Great!"
  - 33 Certain first responder: Abbr.
  - 34 Like a dirty joke
  - 35 Piglets' mom
  - 36 Examples of AI-assisted trickery
  - 39 Home to Acadia National Park
  - 41 Assisted
  - 42 Evening party
  - 43 Involuntarily made noise while laughing, perhaps
  - 46 Extremely liberal
  - 47 Wax's counterpart
  - 48 Ballet bend
  - 49 Character in a "buddy" movie
  - 50 "Don't do anything weird!"
  - 54 Like an empty cupboard
  - 55 Words after "When the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie"
  - 56 \_\_\_\_\_ mater
  - 57 Jump on one foot
  - 58 Opened, as a champagne bottle
  - 59 Beer such as a tripel
- DOWN**
- 1 Introvert's recharging period
  - 2 Tried a bit
  - 3 Google's main revenue source
  - 4 Glue brand
  - 5 Lots (of paper)
  - 6 Fall tool
  - 7 "Got a Dream" ("Tangled" song)
  - 8 Classic game console
  - 9 Hydrogen, for one
  - 10 Bagel's sweet relative
  - 11 "I'm here!"
  - 12 Honking birds
  - 13 Specification on some organic steak labels
  - 15 Counteract
  - 19 Department for him
  - 22 It's traded for tat
  - 23 States that may be angsty or happy
  - 24 Competently
  - 25 Yoshiyohara who invented the Rush Hour puzzle
  - 27 Pulled one's weight?
  - 29 Encrusted
  - 30 "If memory serves ..."
  - 31 "Nah, I'm good"
  - 32 Botanical term of endearment
  - 34 \_\_\_\_\_ farewell (said goodbye)
  - 37 Field trip chaperone, often
  - 38 In shape
  - 39 Another helping
  - 40 Be sick
  - 42 Traveled with the wind
  - 43 Mowed band
  - 44 Cheesy chip
  - 45 Heading on a bar chalkboard, perhaps
  - 46 Widen, like a trumpet's bell
  - 48 Thing on a set
  - 51 Reptile near the Nile
  - 52 "The of Pooh" (1982 book)
  - 53 One who cries "Foul," for short
  - 54 Sound heard by a shepherd

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.

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

3/24 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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57							58						59	

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# Education

## USI Communication and Media Students Win Six BEA Awards

**MARCH 2024**

Six students from the University of Southern Indiana's Communication and Media Program received Broadcast Education Association (BEA) Festival of Media Arts Awards in February. USI had winners in five areas, one of which is a big first. All students are a part of 95.7 The Spin, USI's student-run radio station.

Jonah Addis won first place in the PSA, Promo or Commercial category for a promo of the Central Bears vs. Castle Knights football broadcast.

Dawson Cochran and Becca Lanham won second place in the PSA, Promo or Commercial category for a PSA concerning USI's Free Admission week.

Tyler Huyser and Jada Hamby won third place in the On-Air Personality category.

Amber Brinton and Ethan Mac-



Cowan won first place in the Comedy and Drama category within the Audio Competition. Their entry was then named the Best of Festival in the entire audio area. The work on the winning production was done in the RTV 356 Advanced Digital Audio Production course. This marks the first time USI has won a Best of Festival Award from BEA.

"The awards these students

won in a prestigious national competition show our talent. Many of the best-known universities enter this competition, and our students produce work that not only is competitive with them, but often will beat them," said John Morris, Instructor in Radio and Television. "I am also very excited about Ethan and Amber winning the Best of Festival in the Audio category. While

we have won numerous BEA awards over the years, we have never won a Best of Festival."

Best of Festival winners will be honored at the 22nd Annual BEA Best of Festival Awards Ceremony in Las Vegas on Monday, April 15 as part of BEA's annual convention. During the ceremony, recipients will be recognized with a screening of their winning project, a crystal trophy and a cash award of \$1,000 from the Diana King Memorial Endowment. The 2024 Best of Festival winners were selected from a pool of over 1,885 entries, representing more than 300 colleges and universities in the following competitions: audio, documentary, film and video, interactive multimedia, news, scriptwriting, sports, and two-year colleges.

## VU Board Of Trustees Approves Honorary Doctorate For Curry

**MARCH 2024**

Amidst discussions of the Vincennes University Board of Trustees at its board meeting on Feb. 27 in Indianapolis, a moment of recognition emerged. The trustees approved the conferment of an honorary doctorate upon longtime Toyota executive Leah Curry in recognition of her outstanding leadership and contributions to the automotive and manufacturing industries and STEM-related education.

During her 26-year-plus career, Curry held several leadership positions. The Southwest Indiana native is proud to serve as a corporate advisor for Toyota Motor North America since an-

nouncing her retirement in December 2023.

An honorary doctorate is the University's highest award and recognizes individuals for their notable achievements, life experiences, and humanitarian efforts.

The trustees acknowledged the profound impact of Curry's career and accomplishments with unanimous enthusiasm, highlighting her dedication to excellence and service, mirroring the values VU upholds.



Most recently, Curry served as president of Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana, Inc. (TMMI), where she led all production and administrative functions at the manufacturing facility in Prince-

ton, Indiana, which produces the Toyota Grand Highlander, Highlander, Sienna, and the Lexus TX. Additionally, Curry serves on the Board of Directors of Deaconess Health Systems. In 2013, she received the Manufacturing Institute Step Ahead Award, which recognizes female

leadership in manufacturing. In 2022, Curry was inducted into the Women in Manufacturing Hall of Fame. She was named twice to the top 100 women in automotive by Automotive News. Indiana Business Journal named Curry one of the 250 most influential people in Indiana in 2022.

The Board and the University community will honor Curry with an honorary doctorate during the Vincennes Campus Commencement on April 27.

In other business, the Board expanded academic offerings with the approval of a Product Design certificate.

**Continued On Page 10**

## UE, USI To Cohost Archaeologist Who Challenges TV Show Claims

**MARCH 2024**

The Department of Archaeology at the University of Evansville (UE) and the Department of World Languages and Cultures at the University of Southern Indiana (USI) will cohost an event aimed at examining the claims made by the popular program Ancient Aliens. The lecture titled Ancient Aliens: A Joke That Really Isn't Very Funny by Andrew White, PhD, is set for Thursday, March 28, 2024, and will take place from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Smythe Auditorium, lo-

cated in the Stone Family Center for Health Sciences. Admission is free and open to the public.

The television program Ancient Aliens argues that there is good evidence that space aliens interacted with ancient human societies and continue to be ac-

tive here on Earth. According to White, a Research Archaeologist for the Illinois State Archaeological Survey who has confronted pseudo-archaeological claims about the human past, most of the archaeological claims made on the program are far-

etched and have been shown to be wrong. This presentation aims to expose the fallacies behind these claims and explore the shared intellectual ancestry of Ancient Aliens, eugenics, the occult, Nazism, Atlantis believers, and other pseudo-scientific belief systems.

By challenging the assertions made by Ancient Aliens, the local academic community hopes to encourage critical thinking and promote a better understanding of archaeology and our shared human past.



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# Education

## UE Theatre Alumni Head To Broadway This Spring

**MARCH 2024**

After a hugely successful Off-Broadway run at Playwrights Horizons, STEREOPHONIC, by David Adjmi, is headed to Broadway in April with three University of Evansville alumni attached to the production. Two 2003 UE classmates are involved in producing this Broadway premiere, Nick Mills is a lead producer along with UE Assistant Professor Wes Grantom. In ad-

dition, recent graduate Miriam Cortes '21 will make her Broadway debut with the production as the Assistant Costume Manager.

Loosely based on Fleetwood Mac and their seminal album "Rumours," STEREOPHONIC mines the agony and the ecstasy of creation as it zooms in on a music studio in 1976. Here, an up-and-coming rock band recording a new album finds itself suddenly on the cusp of superstar-

dom. The ensuing pressures could spark their breakup-or their breakthrough. Written by David Adjmi, directed by Daniel Aukin, and featuring original music by Arcade Fire's Will Butler, STEREOPHONIC invites the audience to immerse themselves-with fly on-the-wall intimacy-in the powder keg process of a band on the brink of blowing up.

The Broadway production of

STEREOPHONIC begins previews at the Golden Theater, in New York City, on April 3 and will open on

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

## Center for Innovation & Change Nominated For Award

**MARCH 2024**

TechPoint, the industry-led growth initiative for Indiana's digital innovation economy, announced the nominees for its 25th annual Mira Awards program presented by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, Salesforce and a host of the state's most innovative companies, universities and organizations. Notably, among the nominees stands the Center for Innovation & Change (CIC)

Neighborhood grant, a \$62 million investment into the city of Evansville.

"The Center for Innovation & Change is honored to be considered for this award," said Executive Director Erin Lewis. "UE is now the only college campus in the world to be both an Ashoka Changemaker Campus and a Promise Neighborhood. We are thrilled about what that could mean for Indiana, as we reimagine an innovation ecosystem for



at the University of Evansville (UE), highlighting its significant contributions to the state's dynamic landscape of innovation and progress.

The CIC was nominated in the Community Impact Award category thanks to its contributions, including organizing the annual High School Changemaker Challenge, directing UE's ChangeLab program, and leading a large, collaborative effort to establish the historic Evansville Promise

a new era."

"We look forward to celebrating the 25th anniversary of Indiana's most prestigious tech and innovation awards at a new venue," said TechPoint President and CEO Ting Gootee. "Even more exciting is the level of excellence, innovation and resilience outlined in each entry and even more so by those whose efforts elevated them to status as a Mira Award nominee. It is truly Indiana's biggest night for inno-

vation."

Panels composed of founders, executives, community leaders and subject matter experts will interview nominees and determine the winners next month. Winners will be spotlighted at the TechPoint Mira Awards gala Friday, April 26, 2024, at the Old National Centre in Indianapolis.

Learn more about the Mira awards by visiting <https://techpoint.org/category/mira/>.

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**western region of Indiana. Established in 1854, UE is recognized across the globe for its rich tradition of innovative, academic excellence and vibrant campus community of changemakers.**

**Home of the Purple Aces, UE offers over 75 majors, 17 Division I sports, and a unique study abroad experience at Harlaxton, the University's very own Victorian manor located in the countryside of England. For more information, please visit [evansville.edu](https://evansville.edu).**

## VU Board Approves Honorary Doctorate For Toyota's Curry

**Continued From Page 9**

Andrew Young, VU's Director of Architectural Services and Facilities, provided a detailed update to the Board on recent contracts approved by the Board of Trustees Finance and Revenue Committee. These contracts are related to the construction of the state-of-the-art Center for

Health Sciences and Active Learning, for which VU held a ceremonial groundbreaking on Feb. 19. Additionally, the approval for furniture replacement in the Clark Residence Hall reflects VU's commitment to providing state-of-the-art facilities and modern amenities for students.

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# Education

## UE, Multiple Partners Benefit From \$2.2 Million Trust

**MARCH 2024**

The University of Evansville (UE) on Wednesday announced the Robert and Patricia Johnson Trust will generously provide over \$2.2 million to eight community organizations, including UE.

Community organizations benefiting from the gift include Shriners' Hospitals for Children Foundation, R-Men Varsity Club Scholarship Fund, All Saints Parish Church Maintenance Fund, Indiana Masonic Home Foundation, Inc., The Workingmen's Institute, Johnson United Methodist Church, and Willard Library. Each will receive ap-

proximately \$275,000 along with the same gift amount to the University of Evansville Scholarship Fund.

The University of Evansville's Scholarship fund will support student scholarships. This gesture reflects the Johnsons' belief in the transformative power of education and their commitment to uplifting future generations.

The remarkable legacy of Robert A. Johnson and Patricia "Pat" Johnson '45, will continue to make profound impact on the community. Robert and Pat Johnson dedicated their lives to service and

education. Robert, a steadfast farmer, and Pat, an esteemed educator, embodied values of hard work, service, and a deep commitment to community betterment. Their enduring dedication continues to inspire countless individuals.

Their legacy serves as a beacon of inspiration, reminding us of the profound impact of philanthropy and kindness. Patricia's dedication to education is echoed in the trust's contribution to her alma mater, furthering her life's work of shaping students' lives.

"We extend our deepest and

most heartfelt gratitude for the boundless generosity of the Johnson family," said Vice President for University Advancement Abigail Werling. "Their thoughtful generosity will continue to enrich lives and cultivate opportunities for our students and community for years to come."

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## USI Art and Design Students Bring Home Addy Awards

**MARCH 2024**

The University of Southern Indiana Art and Design Department in the College of Liberal Arts is excited to announce that six students won Addys at the annual Addy Awards on Friday, February 16 at Bally's Evansville, hosted by the American Advertising Federation (AAF) Greater Evansville Club. Students entered their own original artwork into the competition that included entries from universities and colleges around the region.

Students, their placings and their submission categories are listed below:

**Molly Durchholz:** Gold – graphic design/magazine design

**Zach Winger:** Silver – photography/magazine design

**Deanna Hardy:** Silver – photog-



raphy

**Megan Raleigh:** Silver – graphic design

**Al Sheets:** Silver – illustration

**Sara Griffin:** Silver – illustration/graphic design

Students were accompanied by Dr. Greg Blair, Assistant Professor of

Art and Design; Chuck Armstrong, Assistant Professor of Graphic Design; Sophia Okotah, Assistant Professor of Art and Design; and Rob Dickes, Assistant Professor of Photography and Digital Imaging.

For more information on our award-winning Art and Design Department, visit the College of Liberal Arts webpage.

The American Advertising Awards, lovingly known as the Addy Awards, are the advertising industry's largest and most representative competition, attracting nearly 35,000 entries every year in local American Advertising Federation (AAF) Ad Club competitions. The mission of the American Advertising Awards is to recognize and reward the creative spirit of excellence in the art of advertising.

## USI Promotes 3 To Director-Level Positions On Campus

**MARCH 2024**

Three individuals have been promoted to director-level positions at the University of Southern Indiana. All three positions are effective immediately.

**Director of the Center for Campus Life**

Jennifer Garrison has been promoted to Director of the Center for Campus Life at USI. She reports to Dr. Khalilah Doss, Vice President for Student Affairs.

In her role as Director, Garrison provides oversight on the overall planning, development, coordination and implementation of all aspects of the Center for Campus Life. This includes policy interpretation and risk assessment for student activities, organizations and the promotion of student in-

volvement. The Director supervises the Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, the Assistant Director of Student Activities and Traditions, a graduate assistant for LGBTQIA+ programming and 10-12 student assistants.

The Center for Campus Life oversees the development of USI's 130 student organizations, fraternity and sorority life, gender and sexuality resources, leadership programs and student traditions and events.

**Director of Academic and Endpoint Technology**

Juzar Ahmed has been promoted to Director of Academic and Endpoint Technology in the Information Technology Department at USI, effective immedi-

ately. He reports to Austin Siders, Chief Information Officer.

In this role, Ahmed provides strategic leadership and operational management for academic and end-user technology. He oversees operations for educational technology, lab management, endpoint computing security and inventory and related academic services activities. This includes managing system planning functions, integrating existing and new systems across IT, recovery and system stability planning and design issues.

Ahmed's team is also responsible for managing campus-wide pay-to-print, campus learning management system (LMS), developing and updating desktop and laptop imaging for all cam-

pus computers and overseeing the computer group policy for all campus computers.

**Director of Educator Services**

Erin Hollinger has been promoted to Director of Educator Services, effective immediately. She reports to Dr. Tori Colson, Assistant Dean of the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education and Associate Professor of Education.

In her role as Director, Hollinger coordinates assistance to teacher candidates and advisors as candidates progress through educator preparation programs, beginning with formal admission to teacher education. She also coordinates licensure for pending graduates and former graduates renewing licenses.

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# Sports

## Otters Fill Out 2024 Roster By Signing Four Newcomers

**MARCH 2024**

The Evansville Otters continue building the 2024 roster with the signings of Clayton Keyes, David Mendham, Chris Davis, and Mitchell Balint.

Clayton Keyes, a native of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, joins the Otters for his first season of professional baseball. The outfielder played collegiately in 2022 at Southeastern University in Florida, helping the Fire win the 2022 NAIA World Series. He hit for a .175 average, stealing 10 bases and drawing 18 walks.

David Mendham hails from Dorchester, Ontario, Canada and joins the Otters for his first full season of pro ball. Mendham spent 14 games in 2023 with the Ottawa Titans, hitting for a .163 average in his first taste of professional baseball. Prior to his stint with the Ti-



tans, Mendham was a three-year Division I player in the SEC and Big 12.

Chris Davis, from Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, joins the Otters after a pair of seasons in the United Shore League with the Birmingham-Bloomfield Beavers. In 2023, he hit for a .325 average with eight doubles, two triples,

seven home runs and 30 RBIs in 45 games. Prior to his time with the Beavers, Davis was a six-year NCAA Division I player. In four seasons with Princeton from 2017 to 2020, he hit for a .248 average and was named team captain in '19 and '20. Despite not seeing the field much in 2021 with Duke, he was named a team captain by

his peers entering the 2022 season and played in 41 games in his final collegiate season. Davis is the son of Rece Davis, host of ESPN's College Gameday.

Kade Lancour comes to Evansville from Nekoosa, Wisconsin and prepares for his first professional baseball opportunity. After a pair of seasons at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Lancour finished his collegiate career with the University of Illinois-Chicago in 2023. In 15 starts for the Flames, he put together a 6-4 record with a 6.72 ERA. In 65.1 innings of work, he struck out 42 and allowed an opponents batting average of .283.

The 2024 season is right around the corner. For information on season or group tickets, call 812-435-8686. Single-game tickets will go on sale in the Spring

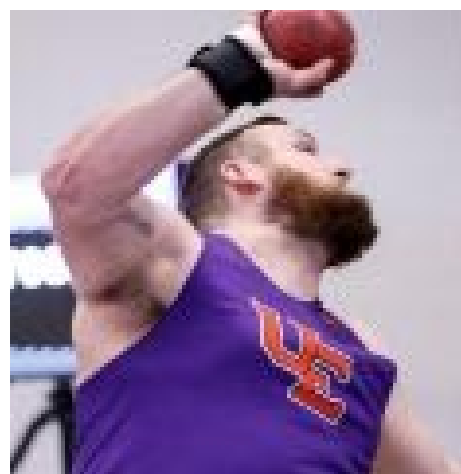
## Aces Track And Field Finishes Indoor Season

**MARCH 2024**

The University of Evansville track and field team set a new program record in the men's 4x400 relay on the final day of the MVC Indoor Championships.

A program record, a personal record, and a fourth-place finish were the highlights for the Purple Aces on the second day of the MVC Indoor Championships. The men's 4x400 relay team of Raymond Felton III (Houston / Clear Brook HS), Austin Liversgowdy (Florence, Ky. / Cooper HS), Alvaro Monfort (Castile Y Leon, Spain), and Cedrik Flipo (Beloeil, Quebec, Canada) had UE's highest finish of the day in fourth place. Evansville won its heat and improved on the program record from earlier in the season by over two seconds with a time of 3:17.14.

The women's 4x400 relay team also had a strong showing on Monday afternoon, coming in just under their program record time at the PNC Bank Bellarmine Classic. The women's team of Eilen Brenne (Skien, Norway), Nicole Prauchner (Neuhofen an der Ybbs, Austria), Nayla Martin (Vaudreuil-Dorion, Quebec, Canada), and Kalina Urbaniak



(Suchy Las, Poland) finished with a time of 3:59.14 for ninth place.

Prauchner ran in the only finals race that required qualification for the Aces. Prauchner finished seventh in the 800-meter race with a time of 2:14.90. UE had two other runners compete individually on Monday as Samuel Lea (Worcester, England) and Sarah Vanderhoof-Dossett (Franklin, Tenn. / Independence HS) ran the 3000-meter race. Lea ran a 8:42.42 for 25th while Vanderhoof-Dossett ran a 10:41.27 for 26th place.

Evansville's other personal best on Monday came in the field as senior Brooke Springer (Henderson, Ky. / Henderson Community HS) threw a 10.13 in the women's shot put. Springer

broke her previous best throw by over half a meter and came a hundredth of a meter shy of the program record set by Antonia Lamond in 2023. The Aces also had Zach Dove (Princeton, Ind. / Princeton Community HS) and Jaden Hayes (Huntingburg, Ind. / Southridge HS) in the men's shot put. Dove threw 14.87 meters for 17th while Hayes threw 13.07 meters and a 21st place finish.

Overall, UE finished in 10th place on both the men's and the women's side. The men were 10th of 10 while the women were 10th of 11.

Evansville will have almost a full month off from competition before beginning the outdoor season in March. The Aces first meet of outdoor competition will be on March 22nd and 23rd at the Margret Simmons Invite hosted by Murray State.



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# Sports

## USI Swimming And Diving Completes Inaugural Season

**MARCH 2024**

University of Southern Indiana Men's Swimming and Diving squad tackled the four-day Summit League Championships this week in Minneapolis, Minnesota with conference implications on the line. USI broke 12 school records this weekend and placed seventh among the highly competitive field.

The inaugural 2022-2023 season ended with both squads placing last place at the Summit League Championships. USI has made tremendous strides in year two of the program's existence putting together an impressive showing in Minneapolis.

**Day 1**

Wednesday featured the one-meter dive and the two relay events. The Eagles representative for 200 yard medley freestyle relay featured sophomore Garrett Crist (Bargersville, Indiana), freshman Demarkus Darensbourg (Overland Park, Kansas), freshman Cole Baker (Springville, Indiana), and Gabriel Groves (New Carlisle, Indiana) who broke the school record (1:31.40).

The Eagles swimmers went two for two breaking records as 800 yard freestyle relay of freshman Sam Smith (Trafalgar, Indiana), sophomore Jack Hannon (Lowell, Indiana), sophomore Creed Loy (Knoxville, Tennessee), and sophomore Connor Harden (Centennial, Colorado) also etched their names in history (6:57.28).

USI missed the A-finals in the one-meter event. However, sophomore



Lane Pollock (Boonville, Indiana) scored an impressive 250.25. Senior Donnevan Banks (Evansville, Indiana) had a big weekend right behind Pollock with a score of 250.15.

**Day 2**

The men finished day two with three standout performances in freestyle events that all broke school records. Smith got the Eagles going making the finals and recording a blazing 500 yard performance (4:35.12) in the B final. Baker continued to get better as the season progressed with an impressive 50 yard freestyle time (20.79).

Moreover, he recorded an even quicker 50 yard freestyle time as the first leg of 200 yard freestyle relay (20.71). The relay team of Baker, Crist, Smith, and Groves teamed up for an epic 200 yard freestyle finish (1:23.42). The Eagles finished day

two in seventh within striking distance of Eastern Illinois University and ahead of St. Thomas University.

**Day 3**

Day three brought two school records, 16 different Eagles recording season bests, and the first diver in program history to reach the Summit League A-Finalist.

Freshman Camden Richardson (Spring Hill, Tennessee), sophomore Colton Agdeppa (Redding, California), Darensbourg, and Baker snatched the school record in the 400 yard medley relay (3:23.92). Richardson wasn't done there as the freshman broke another record in the 100 yard backstroke (50.75).

Banks had a monster night under the bright lights recording a finals score of 266.35 in the three meter diving event. This score earned Banks a spot on the podium at sev-

enth place.

**Day 4**

The final day came, and the freshman Smith did something no other Eagles swimmer has done at the Summit League championships, qualify as a A-Finalist in the 200 yard butterfly (1:50.35). He later outdid himself with a quicker time (1:49.92).

Four additional Eagle records were set in the 1650 yard freestyle event from freshman Alek Bandy (Salem, Illinois) (16:47.97), sophomore Garrett Crist (Bargersville, Indiana) in the 200 yard backstroke (1:52.52), and Baker in the 100 yard freestyle (45.56).

The Eagles final relay standout record was Baker, Darensbourg, Smith, and Groves in the 400 yard freestyle relay (3:05.05).

## Aces' Women's Basketball Falls To Murray State

**MARCH 2024**

The University of Evansville women's basketball team struggled to keep up with the Murray State Racers' physical play in an 85-59 loss.

Freshman forward Neveah Thomas led the Aces in almost every statistical category on Friday night with 23 points, 11 rebounds, and a career-high four assists. UE led for the first quarter in their penultimate road game of the season but couldn't hang on in the following 10 minutes. Three Evansville players ended the night in double figures as Thomas, guard Kynidi Mason Striverson, and forward Maggie Hartwig all had 10+ point games.

The Aces got to a hot start with an

early three from guard Lexie Sinclair. Buckets from outside the arc kept UE in front early as it was an even game in the paint between the two teams. Evansville's largest quarter lead came only three minutes into the game with a six-point advantage. Murray State responded with a brief run but a free throw and a third three from guard Kynidi Mason Striverson had the Aces back up by four. The quarter ended with traded shots until UE had back-to-back field goals in the final minute to head into the second quarter up by five.

Evansville got the first points in the second as well, making it a seven-point lead for the team's largest of the half. But the Racers began to find

their shooting outside the arc, making two threes in 30 seconds to cut the lead down to only one. The lead was traded twice before Murray State ended the half on a 14 to two run putting the Aces at an 11-point deficit.

Guard Julia Palomo had the first bucket of the second half to make it a single-digit game again. The Racers were able to respond with a three and a layup to make it a 14-point game. UE put together a four-point run to get back within 10 before the teams traded points for a minute. Murray State had another quick run that ended with Evansville's last four points of the quarter from forward Maggie Hartwig. The third ended

with a six-point Racer run, making it a 20-point game.

The Aces got most of their early points in the fourth quarter at the line, going four of four in the first two minutes. UE picked up its first field goal of the final frame at 6:19 from Thomas in the paint. The teams mostly traded points down the stretch as Murray State held onto a 20+ lead the entire quarter. Evansville ended the game at the line as Mason Striverson split free throws for the 85-59 final.

The Aces will play their final road game of the season on Sunday afternoon in the Music City. UE visits Belmont for a 1 p.m. tip-off on Sunday, March 3.

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# Obituaries

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Roger Dale Cox Jun. 13, 1957 – Feb. 01, 2024  
 Manson E Warner Feb. 26, 1938 – Feb. 03, 2024  
 Robert "Bob" A. Hofmann May 12, 1947 – Feb. 05, 2024  
 Keven Murphy Dec. 24, 1955 – Feb. 05, 2024  
 Robert "Bob" Watson Mar. 08, 1944 – Feb. 08, 2024  
 Linda Marie Allen Mar. 21, 1950 – Feb. 08, 2024  
 Jerry R. Taylor Jul. 15, 1936 – Feb. 08, 2024  
 Daniel Streutker Aug. 16, 1951 – Feb. 11, 2024  
 Ronald L. Walker Dec. 17, 1962 – Feb. 20, 2024  
 LaNelle Coten Bauer Jan. 17, 1933 – Feb. 21, 2024  
 Luke Andrew Chapman Apr. 07, 2015 – Feb. 21, 2024  
 Joyce Lee Witte Aug. 01, 1929 – Feb. 21, 2024  
 Timothy Charles Moers Aug. 10, 1957 – Feb. 26, 2024  
 Bradley Wayne Hicks Dec. 30, 1953 – Feb. 28, 2024

#### West

Mary Harper Mar. 03, 1927 – Feb. 04, 2024  
 Francis "Buddy" E. Kneer Jan. 06, 1947 – Feb. 13, 2024  
 Aloysius "Al" N. Wigand III Aug. 16, 1951 – Feb. 15, 2024  
 Stephen Ray Coan Jul. 15, 1946 – Feb. 18, 2024  
 Evelyn "Susie" Sue Stepro Jun. 22, 1969 – Feb. 19, 2024  
 Harold Ray Schmahlenberger Jun. 25, 1930 – Feb. 18, 2024  
 Billy N. Lockhart Apr. 05, 1931 – Feb. 21, 2024  
 Edward "Ed" Mellor Oct. 05, 1933 – Feb. 22, 2024  
 Judy Reuter Mar. 09, 1939 – Feb. 23, 2024  
 John O'Neal Hatfield Jan. 02, 1955 – Feb. 23, 2024  
 Rosetta June Duke Sep. 10, 1937 – Feb. 26, 2024  
 Dwight L. Johnson Feb. 12, 1951 – Feb. 24, 2024  
 Joseph "Joe" E. Beck Dec. 29, 1947 – Feb. 27, 2024

#### North

Thomas "Vance" Vogelsang Aug. 21, 1938 – Feb. 03, 2024  
 Alan C Haines Jan. 06, 1936 – Feb. 05, 2024  
 Robert Jack Hahne Jan. 30, 1926 – Feb. 21, 2024

### BOONE FUNERAL HOME

Marie Thomas Mar. 16, 1934 – Feb. 02, 2024  
 Richard M. "Rick" Clutter May 17, 1947 – Feb. 03, 2024  
 Dorothy Russelburg May 25, 1930 – Feb. 03, 2024  
 Oscar Luther Oct. 10, 1923 – Feb. 05, 2024  
 Sheila Bruce Oct. 27, 1960 – Feb. 07, 2024  
 James E. "Jim" McLimore Feb. 25, 1944 – Feb. 07, 2024  
 Milton "Pete" Zinn Oct. 24, 1930 – Feb. 11, 2024  
 Timothy Joe "Tim" Cook Mar. 27, 1960 – Feb. 12, 2024  
 Timothy Green Oct. 06, 1960 – Feb. 14, 2024  
 Michael Barr Mar. 19, 1959 – Feb. 15, 2024  
 James Overby Jan. 14, 1952 – Feb. 16, 2024  
 Raymond "Jerry" Hurm Jun. 04, 1937 – Feb. 20, 2024  
 Donald "Junior" Childers Apr. 21, 1934 – Feb. 20, 2024  
 Mark Werner, Sr Jan. 21, 1953 – Feb. 22, 2024  
 Deanna Becker Oct. 07, 1937 – Feb. 24, 2024  
 James "Jim" Krietzer Nov. 07, 1958 – Feb. 24, 2024

### BROWNING FUNERAL HOME

Matthew Cory May May 25, 1973 – Feb. 01, 2024  
 Dr. Norris Branson, DDS Jan. 31, 1931 – Feb. 01, 2024  
 Anthony Lee Hodges Nov. 21, 1951 – Feb. 02, 2024  
 George Thomas "Tom" Brown Aug. 31, 1954 – Feb. 05, 2024  
 Bobby Gene Claybrooks Aug. 02, 1931 – Feb. 06, 2024  
 Mary Jane Vlaholeas Jan. 24, 1951 – Feb. 06, 2024  
 Rickard "Rick" Dean Phillips May 01, 1953 – Feb. 07, 2024  
 Keith Sproat Dec. 19, 1936 – Feb. 08, 2024  
 Rodolfo "Rudy" Montejano Aug. 07, 1938 – Feb. 09, 2024  
 Roxann (Baker) Schmidt Feb. 03, 1951 – Feb. 09, 2024  
 Margie Juanita (France) Epley Sep. 10, 1932 – Feb. 09, 2024  
 Judith Rickard Mar. 31, 1945 – Feb. 11, 2024  
 Danny K. Dowling Mar. 31, 1957 – Feb. 11, 2024  
 Robert "Bob" Edward Mangold Jan. 29, 1946 – Feb. 12, 2024  
 Karen Lynn (Head) Bayer Feb. 02, 1963 – Feb. 13, 2024

Donald Mark Burk  
 Stella Mae Wells  
 Bryan Keith Meeks  
 Kenneth "Kenny" Hurt  
 Diana Marie (skeels) Gossman  
 Charles "Chuck" Meny  
 Joshua Schmett  
 Mary Elizabeth (Joiner) Simon  
 Harry Lee Brown  
 Mary Elizabeth (Joiner) Simon  
 Janna Lynn (Koch) Barnes  
 Dr. Ronald Edwin Hull  
 Roger William Watkins  
 Howard David Ruckman  
 William "Bill" Allen Marks  
 Donald E. "Don" Ramsden

Mar. 30, 1962 – Feb. 14, 2024  
 Mar. 04, 1950 – Feb. 14, 2024  
 Mar. 05, 1974 – Feb. 15, 2024  
 Mar. 26, 1948 – Feb. 15, 2024  
 Jun. 15, 1957 – Feb. 16, 2024  
 Dec. 11, 1929 – Feb. 18, 2024  
 May 14, 1996 – Feb. 18, 2024  
 Feb. 15, 1942 – Feb. 21, 2024  
 Jul. 23, 1933 – Feb. 21, 2024  
 Feb. 15, 1942 – Feb. 21, 2024  
 Mar. 20, 1957 – Feb. 26, 2024  
 Apr. 06, 1933 – Feb. 26, 2024  
 Jun. 23, 1945 – Feb. 26, 2024  
 Nov. 05, 1941 – Feb. 26, 2024  
 Jun. 12, 1951 – Feb. 28, 2024  
 Feb. 27, 1945 – Feb. 29, 2024

### MASON BROTHERS FUNERAL SERVICES

Mary Helen Bailey Jan. 29, 1938 – Feb. 03, 2024  
 Minters "Mennis" Logan Aug. 07, 1958 – Feb. 03, 2024  
 Frank "Peter Rabbit" Gaither Oct. 22, 1952 – Feb. 06, 2024  
 Agnes Marie Taylor Feb. 25, 1949 – Feb. 07, 2024  
 Rene Ardell McCormick Dec. 10, 1942 – Feb. 11, 2024  
 Pamela Kay Carter Mar. 10, 1958 – Feb. 11, 2024  
 Courtney Dixon Nov. 11, 1949 – Feb. 12, 2024  
 Lillie Teresa Moore Jan. 12, 1961 – Feb. 20, 2024  
 David Earl Hopson Mar. 16, 1955 – Feb. 25, 2024  
 Juanita Turner Nov. 21, 1932 – Feb. 27, 2024

### PIERRE FUNERAL HOME

Jaylin Ashley Dunkel Aug. 06, 2010 – Feb. 03, 2024  
 Jack Burdette Sep. 27, 1938 – Feb. 05, 2024  
 Jerry R. Kelle Sep. 12, 1935 – Feb. 06, 2024  
 Stephen J. Pfender Jul. 01, 1939 – Feb. 06, 2024  
 Marjorie E. Cox Oct. 04, 1938 – Feb. 09, 2024  
 Elliott M Gardner Oct. 15, 1935 – Feb. 10, 2024  
 Nancy S Barnett Feb. 14, 1945 – Feb. 11, 2024  
 Sharon L. Barker Jun. 15, 1949 – Feb. 13, 2024  
 Rita A.. Weinzapfel Jul. 08, 1929 – Feb. 14, 2024  
 Ramona Joyce Gehring Feb. 05, 1937 – Feb. 14, 2024  
 Michael A Luigs Aug. 11, 1950 – Feb. 15, 2024  
 Billy Ray Harper Aug. 14, 1939 – Feb. 15, 2024  
 Michael L. Folz Jan. 07, 1951 – Feb. 17, 2024  
 Stanley P. Eickhoff Jul. 22, 1954 – Feb. 18, 2024  
 Viola M. Goebel Mar. 23, 1929 – Feb. 20, 2024  
 Steven Ray Word Aug. 15, 1950 – Feb. 20, 2024  
 Carolyn Louise Muehlbauer Jan. 01, 1936 – Feb. 21, 2024  
 Marilyn C. Deig Aug. 10, 1936 – Feb. 23, 2024  
 Diane L. Dunkel Dec. 08, 1962 – Feb. 23, 2024  
 Shelby J. Stewart Apr. 20, 1938 – Feb. 27, 2024

### ZIEMER FUNERAL HOME

Judith "Judy" A. Unfried Jun. 28, 1936 – Feb. 01, 2024  
 Sarah Ann Wright Aug. 23, 1980 – Feb. 04, 2024  
 Alan Eric Jones Jul. 13, 1943 – Feb. 05, 2024  
 Evelyn Marie Lannert Apr. 21, 1935 – Feb. 05, 2024  
 Helen Marjorie Middleton May 29, 1920 – Feb. 06, 2024  
 Margaret "Joan" Riddle Nov. 24, 1931 – Feb. 08, 2024  
 Chris Pate May 31, 1964 – Feb. 08, 2024  
 Cameron G. Duvall Feb. 26, 1933 – Feb. 09, 2024  
 Randy Puckett Oct. 22, 1959 – Feb. 09, 2024  
 Terry Lee Powers Feb. 20, 1956 – Feb. 11, 2024  
 Lawrence Louis Schultheis Jan. 13, 1927 – Feb. 11, 2024  
 Monna J. Elberhard Jun. 22, 1935 – Feb. 14, 2024  
 Betty L. Alldredge Dec. 06, 1930 – Feb. 15, 2024  
 Robert S. Nemergut May 13, 1941 – Feb. 15, 2024  
 Michael J McFarland Jun. 20, 1964 – Feb. 15, 2024  
 Joan F. Patterson Jul. 21, 1939 – Feb. 20, 2024  
 Barbara Kay Dye Jun. 30, 1938 – Feb. 22, 2024  
 Velman Sullivan Oct. 15, 1942 – Feb. 23, 2024  
 Ronald G. Kemp Jan. 06, 1957 – Feb. 24, 2024  
 Marilyn Ruth Muehlbauer Oct. 26, 1934 – Feb. 25, 2024  
 Joseph "Pete" Rupp Jul. 15, 1948 – Feb. 28, 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

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



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