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Vol. 5 No. 4

April 2024

Evansville, IN

Massive Fire Site Remains Wide Open In Evansville

APRIL 2024
 One block north of the Lloyd Expressway, at 119 N. Morton Avenue, sits a 13-acre plot of land that some people say looks like a war zone. The lot is covered with piles of bricks and twisted steel. Roadways have been cut through the debris to allow access to trucks and demolition equipment that never seemly arrived. Portions of buildings that have been weakened by fire are still standing but appear to be capable of collapsing at any moment.



that burned down in May 2023. The man was injured when bricks from the chimney fell on him. Like the Morton location, there was no fence around the Pearl Laundry fire scene. A fence was erected around the property after the injury occurred.

The fire on the site on October 17, 2022, was big enough that almost every piece of firefighting equipment in Evansville was dispatched. Intense smoke caused the closure of the Lloyd Expressway during the morning rush hour. When the flames

were extinguished, the massive warehouse complex was destroyed, and all that was left were the bricks and twisted steel beams.

has been erected to keep people out. The lot remains open and has easy to access.

Almost a year and a half later, no work is currently being done to clean up the rubble, and no security fence

Accidents happen on unprotected demolition sites. Earlier this year, a man was injured when he entered the site of the Pearl Laundry building

Evansville Building Commissioner Johnny McAlister says he and other inspectors have visited the site. "We have sent out a notice to the owner of the record and have also issued citations," McAlister stated. "The city's legal department is also looking into options."

McAlister did not give a timeline for when the cleanup will be completed but did share that the property owner is in talks with the Indiana Department of Environmental

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Remembering Life And Legacy Of Evansville's Dr. Melvin 'Mel' Peterson

APRIL 2024
 EVANSVILLE — Dr. Melvin M. "Mel" Peterson H'91, H'14, a remarkable individual who left a lasting mark on the University of Evansville (UE) community, has passed away at age 101. Dr. Peterson was a

dear friend and benefactor, whose generosity and service extended to UE's cherished Harlaxton campus in Grantham, England. Through his unwavering commitment, he transformed lives, uplifted spirits, and empowered everyone at UE.



Dr. Peterson's journey with UE began during a transformative visit to Harlaxton in 1975. This experience deeply impacted him, leading to his continuous return to Harlaxton Manor over the years. During these visits, he formed connections with the UE community and made a pledge to ensure the welfare of the institution for generations to come.

Dr. Peterson's profound commitment led to transformative philanthropy that has shaped UE in extraordinary ways. His generous gifts, including one endowed chair, an art gallery, interactive learning areas, renovations, and support for the arts, have greatly advanced UE's mission. Dr. Peterson went beyond financial contributions, actively embodying service, and care for UE. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees since 1999

Continued On Page 7

Massey, Ball Tackle Food Insecurity In Lesotho And Southern Indiana



APRIL 2024
 EVANSVILLE — An agricultural startup founded by Purdue University alumni is addressing international food insecurity in the Kingdom of Lesotho and rural southern Indiana, to expand domestically and internationally.

Heliponix LLC, doing business as anu™, commercializes fully automated, in-home smart gardens that grow daily servings of produce using aeroponics. Aeroponics is a form of hydroponics, the technique of growing plants without soil.

The anu smart gardens consume less energy and more than 98% less water than conventional field farming. Produce includes most leafy green vegetables, culinary herbs, and fruiting and flowering plants, which Anu manufactures in seedpods.

Purdue Polytechnic Institute alumni Scott Massey and Ivan Ball founded anu, inspired by working on NASA-funded hydroponic research at Purdue led by Cary Mitchell, professor of horticulture in the College of Agricul-

ture. Purdue Innovates has invested in Anu, and the Indiana Economic Development Corp. awarded the company an Indiana Manufacturing Readiness Grant in 2023.

Anu in Lesotho

According to the World Food Programme, Lesotho has a population of 2 million. More than 24% of the population lives in extreme poverty, and around 580,000 people face food insecurity.

In the summer of 2017, Massey

met Fellows from the U.S. Department of State's Mandela Washington Fellowship, who spent six weeks at Purdue for a Leadership in Business Institute. During their Institute, Fellows had the opportunity to learn about hydroponic farming. Massey participated in the fellowship's Reciprocal Exchange component to build the first hydroponic systems in Togo in 2018 and Cameroon in 2019. Reciprocal Exchanges strengthen mutual understanding between

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Commentary

For Every Problem There Is A Reasonable Solution ...

APRIL 2024

By John Krull

PARIS, France—Signs dot the walls of the crypt of the Pantheon.

John Krull, publisher, TheStatehouseFile.com

They depict a man holding a finger to his lips, urging everyone to be quiet.

The signs don't seem necessary. The solemnity of the tombs here encourages silence and inspires respect.

The crypt is the place where France inters the remains of the nation's heroes. Soldiers

and scientists, politicians and poets, philosophers and resistance fighters, teachers and clergy members, revolutionaries and reactionaries all are buried here.

Victor Hugo, Emile Zola and Alexandre Dumas, writers whose often massive books helped define the French experience in the 1800s, found their final resting places here. So did Marie Curie, the only person in history to win a Nobel Prize in two fields of science, and Josephine Baker, the enchantress who symbolized the Paris of the Lost Generation before becoming a resistance fighter in World War II and a civil rights activist.

Even the tour groups from other nations walk through the crypt in hushed silence.

The site encourages that.

The Pantheon began its life in

the waning days of the French monarchy. Construction started during the reign of Louis XV. It was intended to be a church, one of awe-inspiring dimensions.

When the French Revolution occurred, the plan changed.

The Pantheon became a place to honor those who had made great contributions to the nation, its lower realm a place to entomb honored dead.

During the 19th century, as France rotated between reprises of revolutionary spirit and restorations of monarchy and emperors, the Pantheon shifted between serving as church and national monument until the death of Hugo in 1885, when it finally, firmly, became the place the French paid tribute to those who helped define the nation.

It is a stunning structure.

Built on a hill in the Latin Quarter a little bit less than a mile from Notre Dame with a stunning view of the Eiffel Tower from its entry doors, the Pantheon echoes eternity. The high dome in the center, under which Foucault demonstrated the earth's rotation using a pendulum, evokes the majesty of the centuries. The frescoes along the walls, which include religious iconography, depict moments and figures from French history.

All around, the sacred and sec-

ular mingle, striving to unite a nation's often fractious past into a coherent present.

If there is an animating spirit to the Pantheon, it is one of reconciliation, of acknowledging and accepting the strains and tears that went into making France a nation.

That is perhaps the most moving thing about the Pantheon.

One myth—if not a cliché—regarding the United States is that what makes our country exceptional is that we Americans alone do not share a common national identity.

That is not entirely true.

As Graham Robb pointed out in his splendid book, "The Discovery of France," until the beginning of the 20th century the French nation was far from a singular unity. Many French residents considered themselves citizens of their hometowns or provinces rather than the nation.

Part of what changed that was the French eagerness to engage with and embrace the disputes and wrongs of the past.

France's two most recent Nobel laureates for literature, Patrick Modiano and Annie Ernaux, built their oeuvres exploring some of the nation's most painful periods. When Ernaux delivered her Nobel lecture in 2022, she drew the title from a credo she drafted for herself when she first began to write 60 years earlier: "I will write to avenge my people."

The Pantheon is part of that

movement to come to terms with the past, no matter the anguish involved.

In 1998, the remains of Haitian revolutionary leader Toussaint Louverture, who fought against Napoleon's attempts to subjugate that island nation, were interred at the Pantheon, his reburial an opportunity for the nation to confront its legacies of imperialism and racism.

It is impossible for an aware American to walk through this sepulchral site without thinking that we could use an equivalent in our country.

Too many U.S. citizens view American history not just as a product of immaculate conception but the execution of immaculate existence. We have such a hard time coming to terms with and fixing our mistakes because we cannot even acknowledge they have been made.

Those who forget the past, George Santayana said, are condemned to repeat it.

Many of those buried in the Pantheon would agree with him.

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: Mayor Terry's Opioid Funds Use Commended

APRIL 2024

By Johnny Kincaid

Mayor Stephanie Terry's proactive stance on utilizing the \$1.3 million Evansville received from the federal settlement with opioid manufacturers, distributors, and retailers is commendable. Terry's commitment to addressing the opioid crisis is clear.

Under the Winneke administration last year, YouthFirst, Inc. received substantial support to maintain social workers in schools and implement evidence-based prevention programs, while Forefront Therapy received funding to address drug use among pregnant mothers and bolster their clinic's resources.



Mayor Terry's decision to allocate all settlement funds toward combating the opioid crisis is a commendable move. By inviting proposals across

various areas such as education, prevention, treatment, and enforcement, Terry uses her knowledge from past involvement with the Substance Abuse Council and demonstrates a comprehensive approach to tackling drug abuse in Evansville.

Furthermore, the mayor's establishment of an ad hoc committee, comprising Deputy Mayor Lindsay Locasto, Communications Director Joe Atkinson, State Representative Ryan Hatfield, Superior Court Judge Wayne Trockman, LaRissa Madison, and Lisa Seif, to evaluate program effectiveness aligns with principles from Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health.

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Community

Gov. Holcomb, IEDC Secure Largest Quarter of Capital Investment In Indiana State History

APRIL 2024

Governor Eric J. Holcomb announced today at the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) board of directors meeting that the IEDC has secured \$20.68 billion in committed capital investment so far in 2024, marking the highest quarter on record for capital investment in the agency's nearly 20-year history.

"This is a significant time in Indiana's history," said Gov. Holcomb. "Decades from now, we'll look back on these years as a critical turning point that transformed Indiana's future, cultivating the growth of future industries and creating high-paying, in-demand career opportunities for Hoosiers for generations to come. We are proud to share that Indiana has secured another \$20.68 billion in committed capital investment in just the last three months, and that, most importantly, this will positively impact our communities and our residents."

The governor, along with Secre-

tary of Commerce David Rosenberg and IEDC Chief Strategy Officer Ann Lathrop, unveiled at the board meeting that in the first quarter of 2024, 45 companies committed to locate or expand in Indiana, investing \$20.68 billion in their operations and creating 5,158 new jobs with an average wage of \$33.79/hour – or more than \$70,000 annually (over 20% the state average wage and approximately the national average wage). This committed capital investment already totals 72% of the capital investment committed in all of 2023 (\$28.7 billion), which was an all-time high for the IEDC.

Indiana rolled out a new, comprehensive economic development strategy in 2021, marking an intentional shift to a more proactive organization with a focus on building a high-growth,

high-tech economy of the future. In partnership with Gov. Holcomb and the Indiana General Assembly, the IEDC has made significant modernizations to the state's economic development toolkit and committed unprecedented investments to innovation, entrepreneurship and quality of place, equipping the organization to better compete for and win large, critical industry investments.

Since that time, the IEDC has celebrated two consecutive record-breaking years in 2022 and 2023, securing a total of \$71.57 billion in new committed capital investment since the beginning of 2022. This includes the growth of new-to-Indiana sectors like electric vehicles and semiconductors, as well as transformational, high-impact commitments such as Canadian Solar (Jeffersonville), Eli

Lilly and Company (Lebanon), ENTEK (Terre Haute), General Motors and Samsung SDI (New Carlisle) and StarPlus Energy (Kokomo).

"Indiana's strategic focus on creating the economy we want is working," said Sec. Rosenberg. "In partnership with Gov. Holcomb and the Indiana General Assembly, we've created a more competitive environment in Indiana, attracting once-in-a-generation investments from companies that will be at the forefront of the future economy. This historic economic momentum will bring new life to our communities – both urban and rural – and create more quality career opportunities for current and future Hoosiers, ensuring all residents can prosper and succeed."

IEDC board approval is often a necessary step in a company's decision to announce a project. With the board's approval today, these companies are expected to begin making announcements in the coming weeks and months.

EPA Warns Farmworkers About Risks Of Dacthal

APRIL 2024

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is announcing its next steps to protect people from the herbicide dimethyl tetrachloroterephthalate (DCPA, or Dacthal). EPA is warning people of the significant health risks to pregnant individuals and their developing babies exposed to DCPA and will be pursuing action to address the serious, permanent, and irreversible health risks associated with the pesticide as quickly as possible. EPA has also issued a letter to AMVAC, the sole manufacturer of DCPA, restating the risks the agency found and stating that due to the serious risks posed by DCPA, the agency is pursuing further action to protect workers and others who could be exposed. EPA is taking this rare step of warning farmworkers about these concerns while it works on action to protect workers because of the significant risks the agency has identified.

"DCPA exposure represents a serious risk to pregnant workers and their children, so it's imperative that we warn people about those risks now," said Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution

Prevention Michal Freedhoff. "We're committed to taking action to protect the health of children, workers, and others who are exposed to DCPA."

DCPA is an herbicide registered to control weeds in both agricultural and non-agricultural settings, but is primarily used on crops such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and onions.

DCPA is currently undergoing registration review, a process that requires reevaluating registered pesticides every 15 years to ensure they cause no unreasonable adverse effects on human health or the environment. In May 2023, EPA released its assessment on the risks of occupational and residential exposure to products containing DCPA, after the agency reviewed data that it compelled AMVAC to submit, which had been overdue for almost 10 years. The assessment found concern-

ing evidence of health risks associated with DCPA use and application, even when personal protective equipment and engineering controls are used. The most serious risks extend to the developing babies of pregnant individuals. EPA estimates that some pregnant individuals handling DCPA products could be subjected to exposures from four to 20 times greater than what cur-

rent DCPA product label use instructions indicate is considered safe. EPA is concerned that pregnant women exposed to DCPA could experience changes to fetal thyroid hormone

levels, and these changes are generally linked to low birth weight, impaired brain development, decreased IQ, and impaired motor skills later in life.

Also of concern are risks to developing babies of pregnant individuals entering or working in areas where DCPA has already been applied (especially post-application workers involved in tasks such as transplanting, weeding and harvesting). Current product labels specify that entry into treated fields must be restricted for 12 hours after application. However, the evidence indicates that for many crops and tasks, levels of DCPA in the previously treated fields remained at unsafe levels for 25 days or more. EPA also identified potential risks for individuals using golf courses and athletic fields after DCPA was applied. Spray drift from pesticide application could also put developing babies at risk for pregnant individuals living near areas where DCPA is used.

Since the release of EPA's 2023 assessment, AMVAC has proposed several changes to the DCPA registrations, including the recent cancellation of all DCPA

products registered for use on turf. Those cancellations eliminate exposures to DCPA from recreational activities on and around turf. However, according to EPA's analysis, other proposals submitted by AMVAC do not adequately address the serious health risks for people who work with and around DCPA. EPA is therefore preparing to take further action under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) as quickly as possible to protect people from the risks of DCPA.

When serious risks are identified, EPA can take action under FIFRA to suspend or cancel a pesticide. These actions are resource-intensive and take time to implement, partly due to the procedural requirements of FIFRA. A cancellation proceeding would take at least several months (if uncontested by the registrant), and potentially several years to accommodate a potential administrative hearing and any subsequent appeal of an order of cancellation (if the registrant contests the action). FIFRA also allows EPA to seek a suspension of a pesticide product while cancellation proceedings are ongoing if the Administrator determines it is necessary to prevent an imminent hazard. An administrative hearing and final order on a suspension proceeding (if the action is contested) would likely take several months to conclude. However, the Administrator may also issue an order of suspension—effective immediately on issuance—if he determines that an emergency exists such that an administrative hearing cannot be held before suspending. Any final order of suspension would remain in effect until cancellation proceedings end. EPA is considering these tools as it moves forward with the DCPA registration review, but in light of the serious risks posed by DCPA, chose to warn the public of them at this time as it continues its work.



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Terry Announces Application For Opioid Settlement Funds

APRIL 2024
Evansville Mayor Stephanie Terry today announced a request for proposals for approximately \$1.3 million in Opioid Settlement Funds designated for use in the Evansville area.

The funds are part of a \$54 billion federal settlement agreement reached in 2021 with Opioid manufacturers, distributors, and retailers. At the time, Indiana learned it would receive \$507 million of those funds over an 18-year period; the approximately \$1.3 million for which Mayor Terry is seeking proposals includes funds remaining from the city's allocation in 2023, as well as the city's full 2024 allocation.

"As of today, we are requesting proposals for projects and programs that can make an impact on the opioid crisis in our community," Mayor Terry said. "This includes proposals for education and prevention, harm reduction, enforcement, treatment, and any other areas that might make a dif-

ference fighting opioids in our community."

The application form, which is due by May 15, can be found on the city's website at Document Center / Mayor Announces City Opioid Settlement Fund Application / City of Evansville, IN (evansville.gov.org).

In all, the city has \$940,540.27 in "restricted" funds, which must be used for opioid addiction, treatment, and harm reduction purposes. Another \$371,028.44 is in "unrestricted" funds, which can be used for non-opioid purposes.

"It is our intention, though, to put all of these funds toward programs dealing with the opioid crisis," Mayor Terry said.

Last year, city officials allocated more than \$645,000 in restricted funds to Youth First, Inc. (\$257,500) and Forefront Therapy (\$387,642).

"We're grateful for the exceptional work that Youth First and Forefront Therapy are doing in fighting the opioid epidemic at its roots," Mayor Terry said. "These funds will allow us to build on their work as we continue moving Evansville forward."

This year's funding application was developed by an ad hoc committee of individuals representing Mayor Terry's office and various constituencies involved in the fight against opioids, including: Deputy Mayor Lindsay Locasto

Communications Director Joe Atkinson
State Representative Ryan Hatfield
Superior Court Judge Wayne S. Trockman
Assistant Evansville Police Chief Nathan Hassler
LaRissa Madison, MSN-Ed, RN, IBCLC, RLC
Lisa Seif, LCSW

In crafting the application, the group leaned heavily on the five guiding principles published by Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health to ensure that the funds are used in the most effective way. Those principles also will be at the fore when the committee reviews applications and makes recommendations to Mayor Terry and the Evansville City Council regarding how to allocate the funds.

Any committee members with ties to organizations applying for the funds will be required to remove themselves from the review process.



EWSU Scheduled Water Rate Increase Goes Into Effect

APRIL 2024
On April 1, Evansville Water and Sewer Utility (EWSU) will implement the next phase of water rates that were previously approved by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC). An average residential customer using 5,000 gallons of water per month will see the water portion of their bill increase from \$50.05 in 2023 to \$53.15 in 2024.

In 2021, the IURC approved the Utility's plan to increase water rates in phases over a five-year period, from 2022 through 2026. The rate

increases are necessary to pay for the construction of a new water treatment facility to replace EWSU's aging water plant. Part of the current Water Filtration Facility has been in operation for over 125 years and is nearing the end of its useful life. The plant has undergone 10 major expansions and improvements. Additional expansions are no longer economically feasible.

"The water filtration plant that we

have today was built to sustain our city over 100 years ago and is insufficient for sustainably supporting the future needs of our community and our region," EWSU Executive Director Vic Kelson said. He noted the filtration plant provides water to all of Vanderburgh County and surrounding areas in

Posey, Gibson and Warrick counties. "We need to act now to build the new water plant to set ourselves up for continued growth."

Kelson, who was appointed executive director of EWSU in January by Mayor Stephanie Terry, understands that utility rates are a challenge for a significant segment of the community who struggle financially to make ends meet.

"I have asked EWSU staff to evaluate proposals that would enhance our utility bill assistance program for qualifying customers. We hope to present a proposal to our board of directors in the next few weeks," Kelson said.



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Rotary District Conference 2024

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Join us in Evansville for the 2024 District Conference, where Rotarians, Rotaract, and Interact members come together for inspiration and growth! On April 20th, immerse yourself in a day filled with enlightening keynotes and engaging breakout sessions designed to motivate and inform. Discover new strategies for strengthening your club, expanding your membership, and making a greater impact in your community. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow members and ignite your passion for service!



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Community

Remembering Life And Legacy Of Evansville's Dr. Melvin Peterson

Continued From Page 1

and held influential roles as President on various boards. In 1991, he received the Samuel Orr Honorary Alumnus Award, and in 2014, he was granted an honorary doctorate of humane letters.

With a deep involvement in the community, Dr. Peterson served as an honorary board member for the EVSC Foundation, as well as holding positions on the board of Habitat Evansville and the Evansville Mu-

seum. With a passion for education and the arts, Mel dedicated two decades as a docent at the Evansville Museum. Additionally, Mel was honored to be a part of the Honorary Cabinet of the Koch Family Children's Museum. In recognition of his contributions to the arts, Mel was awarded the Mayor's Art Award in 2012.

"In the wake of Dr. Melvin M. Peterson's passing, we gather with heavy hearts to honor a titan of generosity

and compassion. His profound commitment to the University of Evansville, exemplified by his transformative philanthropy and unwavering dedication, leaves an enduring legacy that transcends generations," said UE President Christopher M. Pietruszkiewicz. "Dr. Peterson's imprint on UE and Harlaxton Manor is not merely financial; it's woven into the very fabric of our community, inspiring all who follow in his footsteps. As we bid farewell to

a dear friend and benefactor, we cherish his memory and pledge to uphold the spirit of service and excellence that defined his remarkable life."

Before his notable contributions to UE, Dr. Peterson served in the U.S. Navy for four years and pursued higher education, earning degrees in Business Administration, English Literature, and History. He concluded his professional career as a Financial Advisor for Chevron Oil Corporation before retiring.

Massive Fire Site Remains Wide Open In Evansville

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Management.

When asked if Evansville has an ordinance requiring fences around construction or demolition sites, McAlister said, "No." But the answer isn't quite that simple. Two provisions in the Evansville building code relate to securing a site where hazards may be present. In 2008, the city council passed an ordinance, "Vacant Structures and Land. All va-

cant structures and premises thereon or vacant land shall be maintained in a clean, safe, secure, and sanitary condition as provided herein so as not to cause a blighting problem or adversely affect the public health or safety." In addition, code 15.05.040 states, "No building project shall proceed without the contractor or his authorized agent taking the proper precautions for the protection of life and property.

Where permission is given for the storage of materials, where excavations have been made, or where anything in or about any work or construction is being undertaken, there shall be properly displayed all necessary warning signs, red lights, and danger signals."

The only safety measure that appears to be in place is a "No Trespassing" sign that faces out to Morton Avenue that is not visible from most

likely entrances to the property.

People have been observed driving pickups onto the property to pick up pieces of steel to sell to scrap dealers. One of the scrappers stated that he made \$11,000 last year from metal picked up from the site.

The Vanderburgh County Assessor's website shows that Morton Warehouse, Inc. has owned the property since the mid-1980s.

Massey, Ball Tackle Food Insecurity In Lesotho And Southern In.

Continued From Page 1

the U.S. and Africa and contribute to U.S. public diplomacy efforts. U.S. experts and leaders are encouraged to collaborate with Fellows on critical issues such as promoting peace, stability, and economic prosperity.

In 2022 Massey mentored Tiisetso Sefatsane, a Mandela Washington Fellow and Mosotho, or member of the Basotho people, during her Leadership in Business Institute at Purdue. Sefatsane returned to Lesotho with hardware to create a functional proof-of-concept system of Anu's technology. It was solar-powered to achieve complete off-grid self-sufficiency.

"Having Scott as my mentor has been a true turning point for me and the community," Sefatsane said. "Scott not only assisted me on my business pitch, but he also gifted me a pair of grow-ring aeroponics systems. These have been used as proof-of-concept systems in the mountain kingdom to grow vegetables all year round so Basotho can learn climate-smart agriculture tools and techniques."

Sefatsane, Massey, and Ball received a Reciprocal Exchange grant to increase the capacity of the systems from 250 to 750 plants at a time.

"Today, we host students from different backgrounds for capacity building by producing high yields on small spaces and saving water using environmentally friendly tools and techniques," Sefatsane said. "The menu system has proven its sustainability as we grow vegetables throughout the year, even in the winter season's harsh, cold weather conditions. The system also can be used in rural areas where there is no grid power because it can be solar-powered."

Massey said Anu will continue its work with Sefatsane and her farm.

"We will maintain the growth of Tiisetso's farm and we look forward to expanding across the Kingdom of Lesotho and eventually the African continent in parallel to domestic U.S. growth," Massey said.

Anu in rural southern Indiana

Ray Niehaus is a former high school teacher and Vincennes University's Center for Technology, Innovation, and Manufacturing director. He met Massey and Ball when they debuted their smart garden during an event at Purdue WestGate, an economic development accelerator formed by the partnership among WestGate Authority, Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division, Purdue Uni-

versity, and Purdue Research Foundation.

Niehaus kept in touch with Massey after the event to find ways to involve his students in Anu's future work. Niehaus and the faculty at Perry Central High School in Leopold led their students' involvement in bringing smart gardens to the area.

"My colleagues and I were interested in the technology and vertical agriculture, along with the impact they could have on a rural community," Niehaus said. "We thought bringing Anu's smart gardens to Perry Central would be a great experience for students to understand the future of agriculture and the importance of growing our food."

Niehaus said Massey and Ball shared their vision of the technology with Perry Central faculty and students.

Smart gardens from ANU use aeroponic technology to grow fruiting pepper plants at Perry Central High School in Leopold, Indiana. (Perry Central High School photo/Ray Niehaus) Download image


"Partnering with Anu was very valuable to our students and community," Niehaus said. "Scott and Ivan brought authentic experiences and future-oriented technology

that will help our students prepare for the workforce they will be working in." Perry Central students set up three grow towers and designed their structures to contain them. They created a manual that specified the needed materials, explained how to assemble the towers, and included a business plan to make the product sustainable for other high schools.

"The students gave presentations to elementary students about how to grow their food," Niehaus said. "They also designed experiments to determine how much water it would take to run one tower with lettuce, how much lettuce they could harvest out of one pod, etc."

Perry Central leaders are working to redesign the school's greenhouse to include more vertical agriculture options.

"The goal is to produce food for our cafeteria and local food pantries," Niehaus said. "Also, they have worked to get our kitchen certified to process and sell food products in the lab. This will provide an opportunity for our students to not only gain valuable, authentic experiences but teach our community the benefits of vertical planting and self-sufficiency, impacting the world they live in."



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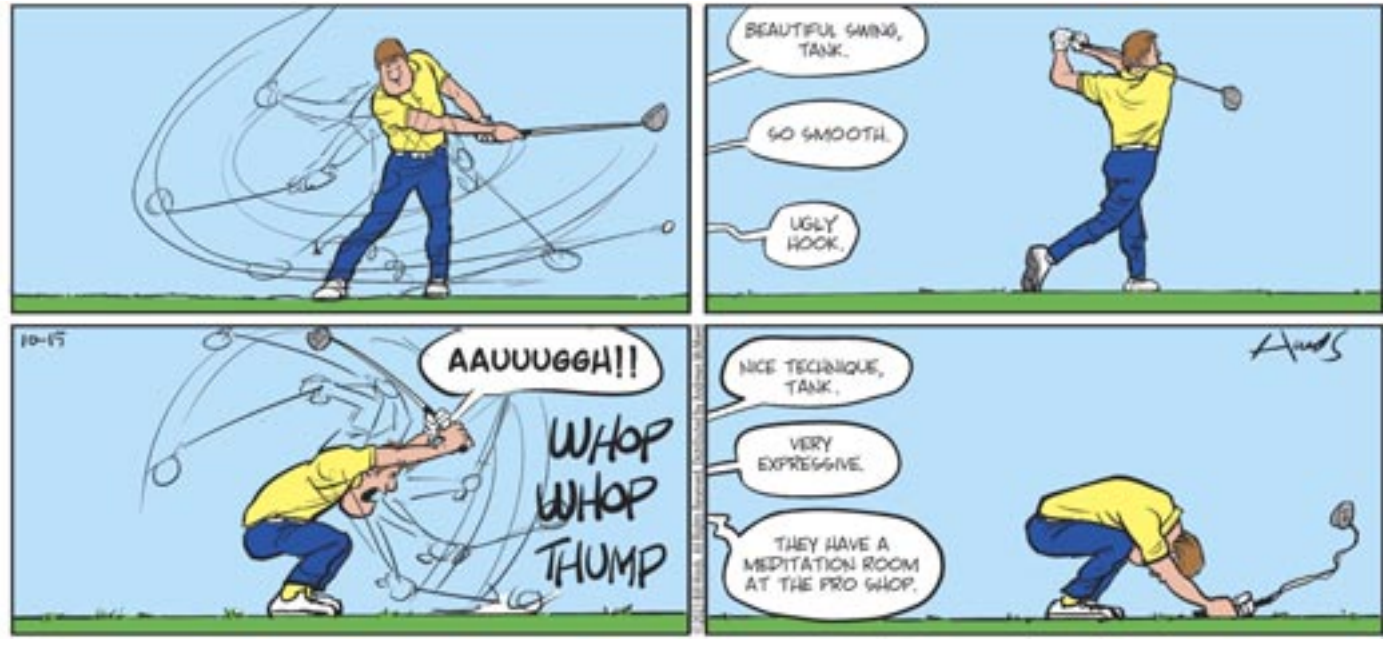
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Comics & Puzzles

TANK McNAMARA
by Bill Hinds



GET FUZZY
by darby conley



Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg January 14, 2024

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fuse together, as metal
 - 5 One of the Musketeers
 - 10 Mortgage adjustment, for short
 - 14 Actress Falco or singer Brickell
 - 15 Person who always gets things?
 - 17 Concept
 - 18 Foundational recollection
 - 19 "What gets wetter as it dries?" is one
 - 21 Singer whose album names are all numbers
 - 22 Go off the ___ (totally lose it)
 - 24 Machines in Nevada airports
 - 27 "Swipe right if you hate pineapple on pizza," say SFO, e.g., for United Airlines
 - 32 Amazon assistant
 - 34 Lavish bash
 - 35 Toy that is very painful to step on
 - 36 Onigiri ingredient
 - 37 Assistants
 - 38 Mouth-related
 - 39 Global: Abbr.
 - 40 "Years and Years" actress Miller
 - 41 Thwart
 - 42 "Much ___ About Nothing"
 - 43 Early funding for a startup founder
 - 45 Shrimper's net
 - 47 Item of footwear with buckles and straps
 - 50 Mane attractions at the zoo?
 - 53 Loose-fitting top
 - 54 Mindless entertainment
 - 58 The "m" of F = ma
 - 59 "Actually, everything's fine"
 - 60 Person from the U.K.
 - 61 Pool surface?
 - 62 Mental mistake
 - 63 Sets eyes on
- DOWN**
- 1 "How strange"
 - 2 Actor Murphy
 - 3 Polygraph
 - 4 Defective spot on a screen
 - 5 Go up
 - 6 However, briefly
 - 7 Hour, in Spanish
 - 8 Left-leaning column, say?
 - 9 "OMG, me too!"
 - 10 Juliet's beau
 - 11 "Xanadu" rock grp.
 - 12 Fragrant tree
 - 13 Like some lakes in the winter
 - 16 "Anybody home?"
 - 20 Name hidden in "middle name"
 - 23 Give meaning to
 - 25 Cry upon finding one's lost pet
 - 26 Cookie ingredient
 - 28 Renovated
 - 29 Second-string groups
 - 31 Make a break for it
 - 32 Solo at the Met
 - 33 Swiss chocolatier
 - 35 Showers with affection in a manipulative way
 - 37 Favored produce grown nearby, maybe
 - 41 Actor Kapoor
 - 43 Boars and pigs
 - 44 "No complaints here"
 - 46 VIP roster
 - 48 Actor and activist Davis
 - 49 What unprepared students dread
 - 51 Simba's partner
 - 52 "Oh, ___!" ("Nice comeback!")
 - 54 Friend 4 life
 - 55 TikTok star Addison
 - 56 Every bit
 - 57 ENTs, OB-GYNs, etc.

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.

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

4/24 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Themeless Sunday 68 by Rafael Musa and Adrian Johnson

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

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Education

Evansville Promise Neighborhood Celebrates First Anniversary

APRIL 2024

EVANSVILLE – One year after the University of Evansville (UE) secured a \$30 million grant to create the Evansville Promise Neighborhood (EPN), significant work has been taking place behind the scenes to establish a foundation for success.

Launching a Promise Neighborhood is a significant and complicated undertaking that requires multiple steps and approvals. The initial steps involved the team at UE's Center for Innovation & Change, Office of University Advancement, and consultant Dr. Tad Dickel reviewing the entire EPN grant line item by line item, with the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) to work toward full approval. Simultaneously they needed to recruit, interview, and hire a full-time EPN team of five members, and they were successfully hired and onboarded in August 2023.

Shortly after budget approval was received from the DOE, the team immediately got to work connecting with all 22 partner agencies and developed robust Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreements that outline program and service provisions, define data sharing and frequency, and budget approval

procedures for the distribution of funds. The creation, submission, and approval of a data plan and consent forms were also necessary. Completion of these steps are essential for establishing accountability, transparency, and effective methods by which the success of the entire initiative will be measured.

A spokesperson from the DOE has praised the team's progress, stating that EPN has "put forth a sophisticated approach and plan," and serves as a model for other grantees to learn from. Additionally, it is "one of the few new grantees that established a Sustainability Council with committed members in their first year." The Sustainability Council is an integral part of ensuring the ongoing success of the EPN. UE President Christopher M. Pietruszkiewicz leads the Sustainability Council, comprising University administrative members, prominent business figures, and community leaders.

The council has already begun the vital work of developing EPN's funding plan for the next decade and beyond.

"Since the announcement of the Evansville Promise Neighborhood in 2023, we have been gearing up for a substantial investment from our university and the 22 partner agencies, all aimed at assisting families in need. We are working with our community and progressing quickly, all because of the collaboration with our partners," said President Pietruszkiewicz. "UE has been honored to support our partners through servant leadership, and we eagerly anticipate more positive outcomes over the life of this amazingly transformative grant. The Evansville Promise Neighborhood is what being a Changemaker campus is all about and reinforces the strong partnership we have with our community."

EPN recently held its first-ever all-partner meeting with members from all 23 community

partners, including UE on campus, along with Mayor Stephanie Terry and Deputy Mayor Lindsay Locasto. Community partners came together to network and learn more about each other's programs and services. Additionally, a cradle-to-career continuum was developed during the meeting, with each program and service mapped into one of the four areas of focus for EPN: early health and education, student achievement and success, postsecondary education and workforce readiness, and neighborhood and community revitalization.

"I commend UE for its leadership in driving this initiative forward, and I'm grateful to all of the businesses and partner agencies for their unwavering commitment," said Evansville Mayor Stephanie Terry. "This investment, totaling more than \$62 million – including both federal funding and contributions from partner agencies – will have a profound impact on our community's well-being. It represents the culmination of years of collaborative efforts and illustrates how strong we can be when we work together. I look forward to continuing our work, as we strive to move all of Evansville forward together."



25th Annual USI Language Bowl Records Largest Ever Turnout

APRIL 2024

The University of Southern Indiana World Languages and Cultures Department hosted the 25th annual Language Bowl Thursday, March 14 and had a record turnout for the event. One hundred and seventy students and 24 teachers represented 13 local high schools including Boonville, Castle, Forest Park, Harrison, Heritage Hills, Mater Dei, Memorial, North Daviess, North Posey, Perry Central, Reitz, Signature School and Vincennes Lincoln.

"The attendance at the Language Bowl has grown steadily over the last few years. We are delighted to have welcomed a record number of high school students and teachers this year, attesting to the healthy interest in language learning in the region's high schools," says Dr. David Hitchcock, Chair of USI's



World Languages and Cultures Department.

"While on the surface, the Language Bowl is a day of fun and friendly competition—it is so much more than that. It's a day where our high school students begin to fully grasp how their language skills and cross-cultural competencies set them up for success in myriad future career paths," says Dr. Alexandra Natoli, Assistant Professor of French.

Thirty teams representing

French, German, Japanese and Spanish languages competed in a grammar and culture competition followed by a film competition. The winners from the grammar and culture competition are listed below:

- German:** Heritage Hills Team One, Heritage Hills Team Two, North Posey Team Two
- French:** Castle, North Daviess, Boonville

Spanish:

- Heritage Hills Team One
- Memorial Team One
- Perry Central Team One

Japanese:

- Castle Team One
- Castle Team Two

There were six Spanish video entries and one German video entry for the film competition. The winners are listed below:

Spanish Film Contest:

- North Daviess
- Perry Central
- Memorial Team one

German Film Contest:

- North Posey

This event was made possible through generous donations to the USI Foundation.

To learn more about our World Languages and Cultures Department and how to get involved with next year's Language Bowl, contact Hitchcock at dhitchcoc@usi.edu.

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Education

USI Communal Studies To Present Pocket Neighborhoods

APRIL 2024
The University of Southern Indiana Center for Communal Studies will host Ross Chapin, an architect, community planner and author from Seattle, Washington, virtually at noon on Wednesday, April 10. Chapin will present on Pocket Neighborhoods, sharing their origins, key design principles and examples across many locales. Pocket Neighborhoods grew out of

the work of Chapin and his colleagues, but the idea is beyond any one person or style. It is a pattern of housing that fosters a strong sense of community among nearby neighbors, while preserving their need for privacy. Examples can be found across the spectrum, from small towns to suburbs to urban areas.

A viewing room will be set up in Liberal Arts Center 2023 for those

wishing to join in person in addition to those who prefer to tune in via Zoom. This event is open to the public at no charge. Registration is required.

For more information about this event or USI's Center for Communal Studies, contact Dr. Silvia Rode, Director of the Center for Communal Studies and Assistant Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, at sarode@usi.edu.

The Center for Communal Studies promotes the study of contemporary and historic communal groups, intentional communities and utopias. Established in 1976 at USI (then Indiana State University-Evansville or ISUE), the Center encourages and facilitates meetings, classes, scholarship, networking, and public interest in communal groups past and present, here and abroad.

STARTedUP, UE Announce Local Pitch Competition Regional Competitors

APRIL 2024
Ten teams will be competing on April 15 for a spot in the Innovate Within State Finals.

With nearly 3000 statewide sign ups, the STARTedUP Foundation's Innovate Within program is the largest high school pitch competition in the country. During the month of April, sixty-one teams across Indiana will be competing to qualify for the state competition with the top team from each region progressing onto state.

"In addition to having another record-breaking year, we have seen such an improvement in the quality of student's pitches and heard from educators of how they have seen a mindset shift in their classrooms," said Don Wettrick, co-founder and CEO of the STARTedUP Foundation. On April 15, ten student teams will be competing in the Region 1 competition hosted by the University of Evansville, who has removed barriers for students to attend their school by offering scholarships and making connections within their university and community.

In addition to the financial and relational opportunities offered by the University of Evansville, students are connected to business and civic leaders who also have a passion for innovation and entrepreneurship, especially as they look ahead to growing their future workforce ecosystem. Each of the regional qualifiers will receive mentorship from the Indiana Small Business Development Center and from The STARTedUP Foundation. Uniquely, one team from the region will also receive support from Beck's Hybrids, who is offering business feedback for all teams in the agriculture and natural resources industries.

Individuals from across the state are invited to attend their local competition and experience these impressive student pitches. Residents may join in person on April 15 at the University of Evansville from 9:00AM - 1:00PM CST or attend virtually. The Region 1 participating teams are as follows:

Boomerang Learning

Kris Lau, Signature School; Abdul-Aleem Muhammed, Signature

School; Parth Patel, Signature School

Case Flood

Ethan Hilton, Signature School; Emily Rudolph, Signature School; Tolen Schreid, Signature School

Custos Creations

Kaelin League, New Tech Institute; Rylie Schelb, New Tech Institute

Diamond Cuts

Johnna Riger, New Tech Institute

DocuAI

Kyah McLeod, Terre Haute North Vigo High School; Nate Millington, Terre Haute North Vigo High School

Double Date It

Lexi May, Terre Haute North Vigo High School

HHangers

James Belmar, Terre Haute North Vigo High School

Hydroxy (mentorship from Beck's Hybrids)

Lenea Elliot, Perry Central Jr-Sr High School; Matthew McKeenan, Perry Central Jr-Sr High School; Colten Mitchell, Perry Central Jr-Sr High School

Victus Energy

Jacob Barnwell, New Tech Institute; Elie Duff, New Tech Institute; Jeremy Watson Jr., New Tech Institute

Volunteer Bridge

Lily Hagan, Mt. Vernon High School

Spotlight on the School of Arts, Sciences and Education

Drop in to learn more!

Tune in to Facebook's IvyLIVE Tuesdays at 2 p.m. to learn about our programs @IvyTechEvansville

IVYTECH.EDU/TUESDAYS

Education

Vincennes University Announces Historic Faculty Endowment

APRIL 2024

VINCENNES, Ind. - Ro and Charles "Shorty" Whittington of Columbus, Indiana, have announced a first-of-its-kind and groundbreaking gift to Vincennes University. The landmark gift will create a faculty endowment fund made possible by the tremendous generosity of the couple.

The Whittington Endowed Faculty Fund represents VU's first-ever faculty fund endowment, marking a significant milestone in its commitment to academic excellence and advancement. Their \$750,000.00 gift will bolster faculty support and foster agricultural innovation.

"My wife and I have a real desire to build up kids to get them where they need to be," Shorty Whittington said. "Our objective is to invest in Vincennes University faculty and help them make things better."

Ro and Shorty Whittington are long-time philanthropists and have supported 4-H youth through scholarships for several decades. Their recent gift continues their legacy of giving.

Shorty Whittington said, "We want to make things available for young people to help them grow

and help get them jump-started. I farmed for a long time, and if you plant a seed and you take care of that seed it grows."

The transformative gift from the Whittingtons' Landmark Farm Foundation, Inc. represents one of the largest individual donor gifts in recent years, underscoring the profound impact of philanthropy on VU's continued success and growth.

VU Provost Dr. Laura Treanor said, "This historic endowment underscores our unwavering dedication to academic excellence and innovation. Faculty are the lifeblood of what we do, working directly with our students to produce skills and experiences that lead to life-changing outcomes. I and Vincennes University are immensely grateful to Ro and Shorty Whittington for their visionary philanthropy, which will have a profound and lasting impact on our faculty, University community, and beyond."

The faculty fund will address critical challenges in talent recruitment and retention within highly competitive fields of study, particularly agriculture. With an initial focus on supporting faculty positions in the College of Technology and the College of Business and Public Service, the fund will allocate stipends to five positions, enabling VU to attract and retain top-tier talent in these crucial areas.

Ro and Shorty Whittington hope to inspire others to join them in nurturing the next generation of leaders and innovators by following them in their giving spirit. Shorty Whittington founded Grammer Industries, an Indiana-based trucking company, and was also the CEO.

Shorty Whittington said, "I have two things in my life that I go by, and the No. 1 thing is "If you give you get." In addition to providing immediate support for faculty positions, a significant portion of their gift will

be allocated towards establishing a named endowed fund, ensuring sustained support for faculty in perpetuity.

This enduring commitment to agricultural education underscores the University's role as a leader in addressing the evolving needs of the agriculture sector.

Executive Director of VU Foundation and Senior Director of Institutional Advancement Kristi Deetz said, "We extend our deepest gratitude to Ro and Shorty Whittington for their outstanding generosity. It is an honor for VU and the Foundation to be a part of their passion and vision for making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. Their commitment to youth and education is truly inspiring."

This week marks an exciting milestone for VU as it announces the extraordinary philanthropy of Ro and Shorty Whittington, which coincides with the VU Foundation's fourth annual Blazers Give Day. The 24-hour giving day event is on Thursday, April 4, from midnight to 11:59 p.m. (EDT). For more information about Blazers Give Day and how to get involved, please visit vinu.edu/blazersgive.

UE Theatre Presents Waiting For Lefty On April 12

APRIL 2024

EVANSVILLE - The University of Evansville Theatre (UET) announces the final installment of the 2023-2024 season with WAITING FOR LEFTY, by Clifford Odets. This production opens at 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 12, in Shanklin Theatre. Additional performances are at 7:30 p.m., on April 13, 18, 19, 20 and at 2:00 p.m., on April 21. Inspired by true events of a 1934 New York taxicab strike, this fictional retelling creates a powerful mosaic of the trials and tribulations of the working class. First produced in 1935, this play made a sensation of its playwright, who became the theatrical conscience of a generation, and this work remains one of the most celebrated and significant plays of the American Theatre. With the fight for living wages and safe, equitable workplaces continuing to cause political debates, this seminal play illustrates the power of individual protest and the right to reform. Grab your picket sign and get ready to march!

WAITING FOR LEFTY is directed

by Visiting Assistant Professor Stacey Yen. Associate Professor Eric Renschler '83 serves as the scenic designer; Associate Professor Sarah Smith serves as the costume designer; Professor Stephen Boulmetis is the lighting designer; Jon Robertson, guest artist, serves as the sound designer; Visiting Assistant Professor Liz Jenkins '05 is the cultural coordinator; Professor Diane Brewer serves as dramaturg; Blake Elliott '20, guest artist, serves as the production stage manager; Maya Barry '25, a junior stage management major from Marietta, Ga., is the stage manager; and Visiting Assistant Professor Scott Carpenter '05 is the technical director.

The cast features Drake J. Susuras, a senior performance major from Broomfield, Colo., as Harry Fatt; Caden Sevier, a senior performance major from Humble, Texas, as Joe Mitchell; Lillian Grace Carlson, a senior performance major from Minneapolis, Minn., as Edna Mitchell; Owen White, a first-year performance major from Valley Center, Kan., as Miller; Benjamin

Lodge, a first-year performance major from Overland Park, Kan., as Fayette; Spencer John Marfy, a senior performance major from Tallmadge, Ohio, as Sid Stein; Jacovia Young, a sophomore theatre management major from Houston, Texas, as Florrie; Folarin Oyeleye, a first-year performance major from Richmond, Texas, as Irv; William Cooper Sanders, a sophomore performance major from Jeffersonville, Ind., as Agate Keller; Garrett Hale, a senior performance major from Haslet, Texas, as Tom Clayton; Brayden Havard, a first-year performance major from Montgomery, Texas, as Clancy; Amoren Newton, a first-year performance major from Denton, Texas, as Dr. Barnes; Madison G. Conway, a senior performance major from Jeffersonville, Ind., as Dr. Benjamin; Adam Techmanski, a junior performance major from Richmond, Texas, as Gunman. The ensemble includes: Mia Lacy, a first-year directing and dramaturgy major from Frisco, Texas; Emily Proctor, a first-year theatre studies major

from Jeffersonville, Ind.; Evelyn Hipp, a junior theatre studies major from Nolensville, Tenn.; Matthew Manders, a first-year performance major from Houston, Texas; Jonah Charpie, a first-year design and technology major from Noblesville, Ind.; Ellie Neighbors, a first-year chemistry major; Muhammad Khan, a junior psychology major; and Melody Chambers, a first-year psychology major.

Adult ticket prices are \$20 and \$18 for senior adults, UE employees, and non-UE students. UE students may obtain one free ticket to each production online or in person at the ticket office in Hyde Hall. In addition, UE Theatre is excited to continue their "Pay What You Will" initiative again this second season. Every Thursday evening performance in Shanklin Theatre is available for any person to pay any price that best fits their budget. Single tickets may be purchased online at theatre.evansville.edu or by calling the ticket office at 812.488.2031, Monday through Friday, 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.

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Sports

Fowler, Peplowski Each Earn NCAA Silver For IU Swimming

APRIL 2024

Two silver medals and four All-America finishes pushed Indiana up the team leaderboard Friday (March 22) night at the 2024 NCAA Women's Swimming and Diving Championships inside the Gabrielsen Natatorium on the campus of the University of Georgia.

Indiana moved back into seventh, totaling 138 points through the three days. The Hoosiers are within striking distance of USC, trailing the Trojans by 19 points going into the final day. IU is the highest scoring team from the Big Ten so far, ahead of Ohio State (104) and Michigan (102.5). Last season, Indiana's seventh-place finish tied a program record as the Hoosiers earned 219 points.

Peplowski earned her second medal in two days, finishing second in the 200-yard freestyle in 1:40.97. It was a photo finish with Florida freshman and Olympian Bella Sims, who touched in 1:40.90. The Indiana junior allowed the Gator to take an early lead, intending to finish strong, and nearly caught her in the final 50 yards with a 25.52 final lap.

"It was another good day for the Hoosiers at the NCAA meet," IU head swimming coach Ray Looze said. "Anna was spectacular tonight, and I think she's taken that next step as a swimmer. Although she didn't win the national title, she did everything she could have done - except maybe she shouldn't have cut her fingernails!

I'm so proud of her, and I think that really lends itself to a bright future for Anna."

Peplowski has seen the podium in four of her five races this week - she also led off the fifth-place 400-yard freestyle relay Wednesday night and the eighth-place 200-yard freestyle relay.

Senior Anne Fowler wrote her final collegiate chapter to a memorable conclusion, earning her second-straight silver medal on the 3-meter springboard with a score of 342.45. Fowler qualified for the championship final just four-tenths of a point better than the ninth-place prelim placement. She finishes her career a six-time All-American, two-time NCAA medalist and three-time Big Ten Champion.

"Wow! what a day!" IU head diving coach Drew Johansen. "I'm so proud of Anne showing us one last time how tough of a competitor she is. She is one of our all-time greats.

"It's an emotional thing to be able to perform at anything, at any level. The emotion from the team today was unbelievable. The girls were amazing in the morning swims, and the emotion was with us - excitement, nerves, anxiety all working for us. An injury scare for Skyler (Liu) in the diving warmup for the preliminary created a new emotion for the team - concern, love, thankfulness. Everyone on the team responded and left it all in the pool."

"Anne was awesome," Looze

said. "She had to overcome a lot just to make the A final and then moved herself all the way with grit and determination and perseverance to second. And that really encapsulates our team: grit, determination, perseverance and togetherness."

Junior Kacey McKenna earned her first-career NCAA podium finish, placing sixth in the 100-yard backstroke. McKenna set a program record in 50.23 during prelims to glide into the championship heat. IU's Big Ten Champion is the first Hoosier ever to swim under 51 seconds and has done so four times this season and did so three times Friday.

"Kacey was phenomenal, making her first A final and scoring her first points at an NCAA meet," Looze said. "Her development is truly remarkable. This is a young woman that went 55 at Big Tens last year and is now in the A final - went 50.2 this morning!"

McKenna went 50.97 to lead off Indiana's 400-yard medley relay that finished 15th. The Hoosier quartet of McKenna, junior Brearna Crawford, Peplowski and sophomore Kristina Paegle actually improved the program's season-best time by seven tenths but were perhaps unfortunate to finish below their seed.

"We would have liked to push that baby higher," Looze said, "but I have no doubt we gave everything we could and left it in the

pool. We have one important day left, and I believe it's our best day.

RESULTS

200 FREESTYLE

Anna Peplowski - 1:40.97 (NCAA Silver, All-America, Program Record, Career Best)

100 BACKSTROKE

Kacey McKenna - 50.65 (All-America)

3-METER DIVING

Anne Fowler - 342.45 (NCAA Silver, All-America)

400 MEDLEY RELAY

Kacey McKenna, Brearna Crawford, Anna Peplowski, Kristina Paegle - 3:29.65 (Second-team All-America)

HOOSIER ALL-AMERICANS

Brearna Crawford (200 medley relay*, 400 medley relay*)

Ching Hwee Gan (800 freestyle relay)

Anne Fowler (1-meter*, 3-meter)

Kacey McKenna (200 medley relay*, 200 freestyle relay, 100 backstroke, 400 medley relay*)

Kristina Paegle (200 medley relay*, 800 freestyle relay, 50 freestyle*, 200 freestyle relay, 400 medley relay*)

Anna Peplowski (800 freestyle relay, 500 freestyle, 200 freestyle relay, 200 freestyle, 400 medley relay*)

Ella Ristic (800 freestyle relay)

Chiok Sze Yeo (200 medley relay*)

Ashley Turak (50 freestyle*, 200 freestyle relay)

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Sports

VU Wins District Championship, Osei-Bonsu Tourney MVP

MARCH 2024

INA, Ill. – The No. 4-ranked Vincennes University Trailblazers punched their ticket to the 2024 NJCAA Division I National tournament Friday night by winning over Wabash Valley College 73-67 to claim VU's first District tournament championship since 2018.

VU sophomore Michael Osei-Bonsu (Bolingbrook, Ill.) also took home some hardware of his own, earning tournament MVP honors after scoring 56 points and grabbing 36 rebounds over the three-game tournament.

Vincennes Hall of Fame Head Coach Todd Franklin also received the 2023-24 NJCAA Division I Region 24 Coach of the Year award Friday night.

Friday's game lived up to the big game hype with a Championship on the line, with every possession feeling extremely important all night long.

The Trailblazers were the first to strike out of the gates, opening up the game on an 11-3 scoring run before Wabash Valley would answer back with 11 straight to take a 14-11 lead.

Vincennes would grab the lead back later in the half at 24-23 before Wabash Valley answered with a 6-1 scoring run.

The Trailblazers were able to close out the half strong, evening the game at 29-29 after a pair of free throws with under a minute remaining.

This would be the score at the end of the first half as the two teams headed into the locker room deadlocked at 29-29 after the first 20 minutes of play.

The upset-minded Warriors looked to grab the early momentum in the second half, building a 36-31 lead before VU would capitalize on a 9-0 scoring run to take a 45-39 lead.

Wabash Valley continued to fight and got the game back to even at 52-52 before later taking the lead back at 59-58.

VU would answer back with

seven unanswered to take a 65-59 lead and later get their largest lead of the night at 71-63.

Vincennes was able to hold on to this lead as the Blazers ran down the clock and closed out the 73-67 victory, capturing their first Region 24/Central District tournament Championship since 2018 and earning them a spot in the NJCAA Division I National tournament for the 11th time in 12 years.

"I thought Wabash did a great job," VU Hall of Fame Head Coach Todd Franklin said. "They had a great gameplan and we knew what the gameplan was going to be. It was exactly what we thought they were going to do but they executed it. I thought we had a chance early

to really establish ourselves and we got sloppy. Then we acted like the pressure and the momentum got to us and we got out of character."

"But we did what we had to do," Franklin added. "We leveled up and handled it. They made some tough shots in the second half. But that's going to happen when you are going up against somebody who is playing well. They had a big week,

played two good ball games and now they are playing for their lives and we had to handle it."

"Wabash Valley did a great job," Franklin

said. "They fought us. They battled us and they made us have to earn it. We weren't hitting jump shots and we didn't want to shoot jump shots and that's exactly what they wanted. We'll have to learn from that. It's one of those little lessons, under pressure and all of those things that we have to handle. But we hit two big shots late and that was the difference in the ball game. Ryan hit one on one side of the court and Kent hit one on the other side and at the end of the game, that six-point difference, that's really what it was. We had been looking for those things all night long, didn't get it, but we got it there."

The Blazers were led offensively by tournament MVP Michael Osei-

Bonsu, who finished with another big double-double with 17 points and 14 rebounds, his 11th double-double of the season and 17th of his VU career.

Sophomore Ryan Oliver (Antioch, Tenn.) also scored in double figures, ending his night with 15 points, seven rebounds and a team-high five assists.

Sophomore Kris King (Washington, D.C.) came off the bench to add 13 points on the night, including hitting a perfect seven of seven from the free throw line.

Freshman Lebron Thomas (Bishopville, S.C.) closed out his tournament with eight points and five assists, while sophomore Kent King (Washington, D.C.) added seven points and a pair of steals.

Sophomore Karyiek Dixon (Enfield, London, UK) scored all seven of his points Friday night in the second half while also grabbing eight rebounds.

"This is a great win," Franklin said. "Our guys have got to deal with a lot. We're coming over here, traveling four hours round trip just on the bus, not counting the things like getting here early and all of the other schedule things that can really tax you. Three times in five days. It's not fair and it's not fair that we are put in that position and certainly not fair that the best team in the league, who earned that right is doing that. I strongly believe that and we are constantly put in a bit of an unfair situation."



USI Holds On To Defeat Morehead State, 8-7

MARCH 2024

MOREHEAD, Ky. – University of Southern Indiana Baseball stopped a ninth inning Morehead State University rally to win 8-7 Friday evening in Morehead, Kentucky. USI is 12-14 overall and 3-2 in the OVC, while MSU goes to 15-12, 2-3 OVC.

The MSU Eagles plated a pair of runs in the bottom of the third to get the early 2-0 lead. USI junior catcher Logan Mock (Livermore, California) and junior rightfielder Adam Euler (Evansville, Indiana) evened the game at 2-2 in the top of the fourth with back-to-back home runs to lead off the frame.

After a one-out walk to junior third baseman Ricardo Van Grieken (Venezuela), junior second baseman Land Crowden (Jackson, Missouri) blasted a two-run homer to right center to give the Screaming Eagles a 4-2 lead in the middle of the fourth.

Following a two-run MSU rally that tied the score, 4-4, in the bottom of the sixth, USI took the lead for good with a run in the seventh for a 5-4 lead. Euler would strike again with an RBI single to right, plating senior first baseman Tucker Ebest (Austin, Texas).

USI sealed the victory with a three-run eighth inning extending

the margin to 8-4. Sophomore second baseman Caleb Niehaus (Newburgh, Indiana) made the score 6-5 with a run-scoring double down the left field line, while junior centerfielder Terrick Thompson-Allen (Sioux City, Iowa) finished the USI scoring with a two-run home run to right field for the 8-4 advantage.

The MSU Eagles would make a game of it in the final two innings. MSU cut the USI advantage to 8-5 with a tally in the eighth before threatening in the Screaming Eagles in the ninth.

After cutting the USI lead to 8-7, MSU loaded the bases with two

out before the Screaming Eagles' junior right-hander Tyler Hutson (Villa Hills, Kentucky) shut door on the USI victory. The save was Hutson's team-high fourth of the year.

The victory on the mound went to junior right-hander Gavin Wilson (Lee's Summit, Missouri). Wilson (2-1) went 3.2 innings, allowing three runs on three hits in addition to striking out three batters.

USI junior right-hander Gavin Seebold (Jeffersonville, Indiana) started and got a no decision. Seebold gave up four runs on five hits and three walks, while striking out three in five innings.



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- Billy Wayne Townson, Sr. Aug. 18, 1935 – Mar. 17, 2024
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- Danny Lee Rhoades Apr. 26, 1935 – Mar. 20, 2024
- James Daniel Pry Dec. 28, 1950 – Mar. 20, 2024
- Anna Marie Laster-Suggs Oct. 29, 1955 – Mar. 22, 2024
- James S. Voorhees Oct. 30, 1933 – Mar. 24, 2024
- Marla Kaye Thorne-Weller Sep. 23, 1941 – Mar. 25, 2024
- Loretta Coulson Dec. 28, 1925 – Mar. 26, 2024
- Geneva "Jenny" Shourd Sep. 18, 1934 – Mar. 29, 2024

West

- Jaems "Jim" Little Sr. Jul. 10, 1930 – Mar. 04, 2024
- Dannie Joe Keown Jul. 18, 1950 – Mar. 05, 2024
- Jane Ballard Feb. 01, 1939 – Mar. 11, 2024
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- Charlotte L. Young Nov. 23, 1939 – Mar. 22, 2024
- Donnie Joyce Kingsbury Nov. 18, 1931 – Mar. 27, 2024
- Michael D. Clem Sr. Apr. 22, 1968 – Mar. 29, 1024
- Rita Carolyn Evans Aug. 21, 1950 – Mar. 30, 2024
- Athel Paul Sikes Oct. 12, 1934 – Mar. 30, 2024

North

- James E. Fleming Mar. 14, 1956 – Mar. 01, 2024
- Edwin A. Moll Aug. 30, 1935 – Mar. 05, 2024
- Archie E. Ward May 18, 1926 – Mar. 05, 2024
- Shui May Kung Nov. 10, 1934 – Mar. 05, 2024
- Sue "Suzi" DeWig Nov. 22, 1943 – Mar. 05, 2024
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- Jayaben Patel Jun. 01, 1950 – Mar. 20, 2024
- Dana Lancaster Jan. 02, 1969 – Mar. 20, 2024
- David Miller May 08, 1946 – Mar. 20, 2024
- Leroy Smith Feb. 06, 1941 – Mar. 20, 2024
- Byron Courtney Jul. 25, 1949 – Mar. 22, 2024
- Cecillia Howard May 10, 1962 – Mar. 22, 2024
- Jon Dauble Feb. 01, 1956 – Mar. 28, 2024
- Mark DeTalente Feb. 08, 1966 – Mar. 29, 2024
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- H. Wayne Gardner Sep. 22, 1938 – Mar. 31, 2024
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- Anna Louise (Brown) Hancock May 06, 1937 – Mar. 02, 2024
- Harold Drake Pettus Aug. 09, 1925 – Mar. 05, 2024
- Nancy Ann Grisham May 27, 1958 – Mar. 06, 2024
- Paul Edward Hutchinson Apr. 07, 1946 – Mar. 08, 2024
- Ronald Bruce Newmaster Jul. 25, 1941 – Mar. 10, 2024
- Dorothy May (Flick) Hopple Oct. 29, 1977 – Mar. 12, 2024
- Noah Abel Womack Feb. 13, 2024 – Mar. 12, 2024
- Phyllis Kaye (Kares) Alford Aug. 22, 1949 – Mar. 13, 2024
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- Mary Jean (Anderson) Johns May 16, 1937 – Mar. 24, 2024
- Darrel Lee Brooks Mar. 27, 1961 – Mar. 25, 2024
- Steven Roman Sutton Nov. 15, 1952 – Mar. 25, 2024
- Clelia (Pesco) Millstead Feb. 23, 1929 – Mar. 25, 2024
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- Patricia "Pat" J. (Seib) Taylor Dec. 25, 1931 – Mar. 28, 2024
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- James Lewis Phillips Jul. 16, 1959 – Mar. 06, 2024
- Charles Timothy Turpin Sep. 27, 1945 – Mar. 07, 2924
- Carolyn Sue Sumner Oct. 07, 1953 – Mar. 08, 2024
- Michael Blomquist Aug. 10, 1960 – Mar. 09, 2024
- Cheri Coffman Kieffner Aug. 24, 1946 – Mar. 11, 2024
- Barbara Wolsiefer Aug. 04, 1933 – Mar. 11, 2024
- Ronald Lewis Perry Mar. 10, 1947 – Mar. 14, 2024
- Ruby Jean Grebe Aug, 18, 1935 – Mar. 17, 2024
- Nancy A. Mayer Jul. 09, 1949 – Mar. 18, 2024
- Jacqueline Marie Kinsler Jan. 26, 1950 – Mar. 18, 2024

Sudoku Puzzle Answer

Apr. '24

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

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

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