

Commentary Page 2	Community Pages 3-8	Education Pages 9	Sports Page 11-13	Comics Page 10
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Wallace Shares Key Points To Prioritizing Infrastructure Investments

JULY 2024
By Joe Wallace
 City governments face a challenging task: allocating limited resources to a variety of infrastructure projects that serve the diverse needs and desires of their populations. Critical infrastructure such as sewers, roads, and essential services are foundational to the well-being and functioning of urban areas. However, parks, recreation facilities, and other amenities also play a significant role in enhancing the quality of life for residents. Striking a balance between these "needs" and "wants" is crucial for sustainable urban development.



The Imperative of Addressing Needs

Critical infrastructure projects form the backbone of any city. These projects include maintaining and upgrading sewers, ensuring roads are safe and efficient, and providing essential services like water supply, waste management, and emergency response. Without these foundational elements, cities cannot function effectively.

Public Health and Safety: Sewers and water treatment facilities are essential for public health. Proper waste management systems prevent the spread of diseases and contamination of water supplies. Similarly, well-maintained roads reduce the risk of accidents and improve emergency response times.

Economic Stability: Reliable infrastructure supports economic activities. Efficient transportation networks facilitate commerce and reduce the cost of goods and services. Furthermore, businesses are more likely to invest in areas

Continued On Page 7

Mayor Terry Says New Supreme Court Ruling Won't Change Policy in Evansville

JULY 2024
 The Supreme Court ruling in the case of Johnson vs. Grant's Pass, allowing municipalities to arrest or fine homeless individuals for sleeping outside, will not lead Evansville Mayor Stephanie Terry to pursue any policy changes locally.



"Today's ruling sets a dangerous precedent toward criminalizing homelessness by allowing cities to treat sleeping on the streets as a criminal matter," Mayor Terry said. "In Evansville, our goal is to help those who are most vulnerable – to offer the programs, services, and opportunities they need to improve their circumstances. Today's Supreme Court ruling will not change that."

In her first six months in office, Mayor Terry has made affordable housing a centerpiece of her administration. During her first State of the City address, she committed to adding \$250,000 to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, bringing

the total allocation to that fund to \$750,000 in 2024. She also recently announced the creation of the \$500,000 Forward Together Grant Fund, where qualified nonprofits can apply for up to \$35,000 each to support programs that help revitalize neighborhoods and lift people out of poverty.

She also has continued to work alongside the Evansville-Vanderburgh Commission on Homelessness, which also expressed disappointment at today's Supreme Court ruling.

"The Evansville-Vanderburgh Commission on Homelessness is disappointed in the decision by the United States Supreme Court to deny Constitutional protections from arrest for those sleeping outside due to not having other housing options," said Chris Metz, administrator of the Commission. "This only raises the stakes for local leaders, in Evansville and communities and across the country, to

continue developing housing solutions for our most vulnerable community members. Homelessness is not a crime; it is a social problem that requires humane and compassionate solutions."

In the wake of the ruling, Evansville will continue to work in partnership with the Commission and the numerous local organizations who serve the homeless to further those humane and compassionate solutions. Meanwhile, the Evansville Police Department will continue to do outreach to the unhoused population through its Homeless Liaison Officers, who spend time on the streets every day attempting to work with the unhoused.

"Through our Crime Prevention Unit, we have created the E3 initiative, which means that we approach the populations we serve through education, encouragement, and then enforcement," said Officer Mario Reid, homelessness liaison officer for the EPD. "That will continue to be our philosophy and mode of operation for serving our population of individuals who have scarcity of housing."

Morton Ave. Demolition Site Remains Open

JULY 2024
By Johnny Kincaid
CCO Staff Writer

Over the weekend fire crews were dispatched to 119 N. Morton Avenue, a 13-acre plot of land that has not been cleaned up from the fire that destroyed the Morton Avenue Warehouse 20 months ago.

While the weekend fire was small and extinguished quickly, it is a reminder of the dangers on the property. 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

The property on Morton Avenue is treated as a dump.

equipment that never seems to arrive. Portions of buildings that have been weakened by fire are still standing but appear to be capable of collapsing at any moment.

Sources tell us that the fire started in furniture dumped at the



site, which has become a dumping spot for mattresses, sofas, and chairs in recent months.

No action has been taken in the months since the City-County Observer brought this dangerous situation to the attention of the city. No work has been done to clean up the rubble, and no security fence has been erected to keep people out. The lot remains open and easy to access. The one change in the location is the lone "No Trespassing" has been ripped down.

The only No Trespassing sign on the property has been destroyed.

On any given day, you will still find pickup trucks driving through the property to collect scraps of steel.

Evansville Building Commissioner Johnny McAlister previously told CCO that he and other inspectors had issued citations, but when asked for copies of the citations, the city was unable to locate them.

The mayor's office has still not issued a statement on the situation.

Crouch, IHCD Announce Additional Placemaking Funds

JULY 2024
 CreatINg Livable Communities, a partnership between AARP Indiana and the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCD), will continue to benefit Hoosiers over 50 for another year. To further the missions of AARP's Livable Communities program and IHCD's CreatINg Places crowd-

granting program, CreatINg Livable Communities assists Indiana communities in funding place-based projects for aging in place. This year, AARP Indiana has committed an additional \$25,000 to the CreatINg Livable Communities program to support CreatINg Places projects that benefit Hoosiers 50 and up.

Continued On Page 4



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INSIDE

Commentary Community News	Page 2 Pages 3-8	Education Sports	Pages 9-10 Pages 11-13
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Commentary

The Efficacy And Value Of Developing Local Skill Programs

JULY 2024

By Joe Wallace
Guest Columnist

In the rapidly evolving landscape of the global economy, the development of local skill enhancement programs emerges as a pivotal strategy for fostering sustainable community growth and economic resilience. The focus on empowering local populations to improve their skills and secure better jobs offers numerous advantages over the alternative of importing outside labor. This article explores the efficacy and value of such programs, highlighting the long-term benefits they bring to communities and the potential drawbacks of relying on external labor sources.

Building a Skilled Workforce

Investing in local skill development programs creates a skilled workforce that is not only capable but also deeply rooted in the community. These programs offer tailored training that meets the specific needs of the local job market, ensuring that residents are equipped with relevant skills. This alignment between training and market demands enhances the employability of local individuals, leading to higher employment rates and economic stability.

Moreover, local skill development fosters a sense of ownership and pride among residents. When people see tangible improvements

in their lives and communities as a result of their efforts, they are more likely to remain engaged and committed to ongoing personal and professional development. This creates a virtuous cycle of continuous improvement, benefiting both individuals and the broader community.

Economic and Social Benefits

Developing local talent has profound economic and social implications. Economically, a skilled local workforce attracts businesses and investors, driving economic growth and creating additional job opportunities. Companies benefit from reduced recruitment and relocation costs, as they can draw from a pool of qualified local candidates. This also minimizes the risks associated with high employee turnover, which is often a challenge when relying on outside labor.

Socially, empowering local populations through skill development programs enhances community cohesion and reduces socioeconomic disparities. Access to better job opportunities leads to improved living standards, which in turn contribute to better health outcomes, reduced crime rates, and increased civic engagement. These positive social outcomes create a more vibrant and stable community, further attracting investment and development.

The Drawbacks of Importing

Labor

While importing outside labor can provide a quick fix for skill shortages, it often comes with significant drawbacks. One of the primary issues is the lack of long-term commitment from external workers. Without strong ties to the community, outside laborers may not have the same level of loyalty or investment in the local area's success. This transient nature can lead to higher turnover rates, resulting in increased costs for businesses and disruptions in service continuity.

Furthermore, reliance on imported labor can exacerbate social tensions. Local residents may feel marginalized or overlooked when they see job opportunities being given to outsiders. This can lead to resentment and a sense of disenfranchisement, undermining community cohesion and stability. In contrast, investing in local skill development ensures that the benefits of economic growth are more equitably distributed among residents, fostering a more inclusive and harmonious community.

Long-Term Sustainability

Sustainable economic development hinges on the ability of a community to adapt and thrive in a changing environment. Local skill development programs are inherently more sustainable than relying on outside labor, as they build a re-

silient workforce capable of meeting future challenges. These programs can be continuously updated to reflect emerging industry trends and technological advancements, ensuring that the local workforce remains competitive in the global market.

Moreover, by investing in the local population, communities can retain and attract talent. People are more likely to stay in or return to areas where they have strong social connections and a sense of belonging. This retention of talent is crucial for maintaining a stable and dynamic local economy.

Conclusion

The efficacy and value of developing programs to encourage local people to improve their skills and secure better jobs cannot be overstated. Such programs offer numerous benefits, including economic growth, social cohesion, and long-term sustainability. While importing outside labor may address immediate skill shortages, it fails to provide the same level of commitment and community investment as locally developed talent. By focusing on local skill enhancement, communities can build a robust, resilient workforce capable of driving sustained economic and social progress.

FOOTNOTE: The CITY-City OBSERVER posted this letter without opinion, bias or editing.

A Divided Party Is A Losing Party

JULY 2024

By Johnny Kincaid

As the 2024 election looms, both major political parties are facing division. As fed up as Americans get, the majority stick with the candidates from the Republican or Democratic parties. Instead of considering an alternative candidate, uninspired voters will stay home on Election Day.

On the national level, a fissure has developed among Democrats regarding Joe Biden's candidacy. On one side are Biden loyalists who believe that he is competent and has earned the right to run for reelection by winning the delegates in the primaries. On the other side are the Democrats who saw the debate as a sign that Biden isn't fit to serve another four years.

If Biden is convinced to remove himself from the ticket, his loyalists may decide not to vote in the fall election, affecting all of the down-

ticket races. If Biden stays in the race, voters must be convinced that he is not having cognitive problems. Either option will affect voter turnout.

In the run for Governor, Indiana Republicans were divided going into the state convention. By a narrow margin, they chose Micah Beckwith as the Lieutenant Governor candidate over the gubernatorial candidate Mike Braun's choice of Julie McGuire. The GOP will be faced with numerous attempts by Dem-

ocrats to exploit and widen the divide in the party. Democrats have already latched on to some statements made by Beckwith in an attempt to convince moderate Republicans that he is a radical who will bring doom to the state.

While Democrats have been the minority party in Indiana, they appear to be more united than the GOP. If they can stay united and take advantage of problems in the GOP, they could draw votes from independents and moderate Republicans, jeopardizing the long-term GOP hold on the governor's office.

Republicans will need to present a united front to stay in office. The battles that led up to the convention must be laid aside. The Braun-Beckwith team has to speak together about their vision for the state. Braun's agenda has to be Beckwith's agenda, and Braun would be wise to consider some of the policies that Beckwith talked about during his run for lieutenant

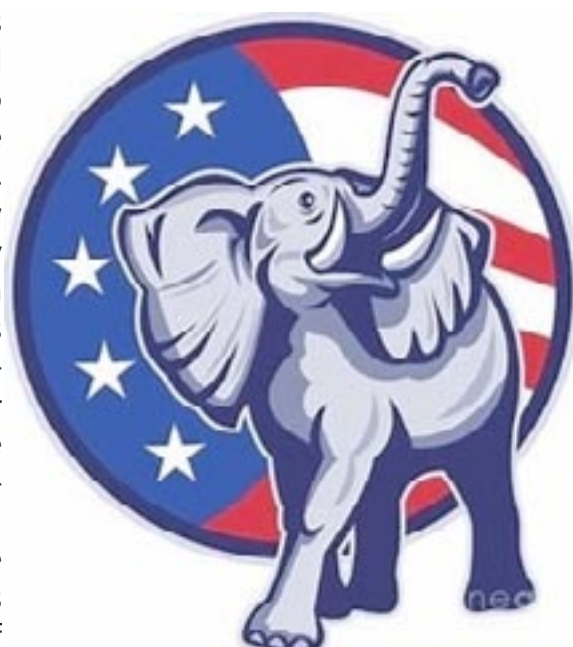
governor.

For the Indiana GOP, victory in the fall will require members at all levels to stop bickering and focus on winning the election. Leadership needs to reach out to the record number of new precinct committeemen who were elected in the May primary. These PCs are waiting for leadership to communicate with them in any form. If these members sense a lack of leadership within the party, they will fill the leadership vacuum, even if it's filled with someone outside of the party.

In Vanderburgh County, there has been talk of long-time party member Marsha Abell Barnhardt facilitating a social event to give all PCs an opportunity to gather and feel welcomed. Such an event would be a welcome start to uniting the party and making new PCs feel welcome.

Republicans throughout the state are very aware of the problems in Vanderburgh County. If members of the Central Committee or people with leadership skills in the party step forward to unite the party, it would set an example for the rest of the state and present the unity necessary to win elections.

A united group of enthusiastic volunteers will excite the voters and get a higher turnout. A divided party will struggle with voter turnout and lose elections.



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Community

A Walk Among The Tombstones

JULY 2024

By John Krull

MARION, Indiana—The long rows of white headstones stretch out straight and true in every direction.

My sister and I, along with our spouses, are here at the Marion National Cemetery to leave flowers at our father's grave.

Yesterday, we did the same at a church graveyard in southern Indiana that has been the final resting place for our mother's people for two centuries. Now, it is home to the headstones and remains of our mother and our younger brother.

Mom and Dad died on the same day one year ago. They had been divorced for almost a half-century, but two things kept them tied long after their marriage ended.

One was that they had children together. I was the first born, followed by my sister almost two and a half years later. I was almost eight years old when our brother came along.

Both Mom and Dad were devoted parents. They cared about their children, worried about us, pushed us and, in ways they couldn't always express, loved us.

The other great tie came near the end of their lives.

It was grief.

When my brother was diagnosed with the cancer that would kill him, his illness pounded Mom and Dad.

Even though she was almost an invalid by that point, Mom insisted that, if she could just get close to our brother, she would summon the strength to nurse him back to health. When we convinced her that was not possible, she began to pray incessantly, offering to trade her life for her son's.

I went with my brother to his doctors' visits. Mom always wanted a full report.

At the call's end, she would ask me, "Do you think maybe there's a chance he could get better?"

I told her the truth—that the best we could hope for was stretching out the clock. She would hear me. She'd accept it for a time, but she found the prospect of her youngest child's death too painful to acknowledge for long.

I knew that we'd have the same conversation the next time I called.

Dad's denial was different. He and my brother lived together during the last years of my brother's life. They both had health challenges and kept an eye on each other.

My father had spent formative years of his childhood in an orphanage, an experience that taught him to deal with pain by pretending it didn't exist. He spent his life shrugging off the deepest hurts, assuring everyone always that he was all right.

Whenever my brother's cancer came up, Dad would say, "I think he's turning the corner."

Then, he'd change the subject.

When my brother did die on a frigid January morning in 2022, both my parents fell into a despair from which they never recovered. Mom raged from her wheelchair against the cruel fates that had taken her youngest child. Dad, blind and hearing-impaired, struggled to pretend he was tough enough to absorb this blow, too.

It was in quiet moments their grief most revealed itself.

Sometimes during one of my visits, Mom would go silent. Then she would look at me and say she wished my brother were still here before crying.

For most of his life, my father wouldn't talk about the past. After my brother died, though, Dad grew more reflective.

He expressed regret that he and Mom had not been able to work through their differences. Often, he would ask me if I thought my brother could have done anything different that would have made a

difference. Behind that question was one Dad didn't ask—what could he have done that might have changed things?

Death was something both my parents welcomed, a release from a pain that cut right down to their souls. My sister and I felt sadness when they died, but also relief that their suffering was over.

Their deaths, though, left us feeling isolated, the last surviving members of our birth family, the only two people left on earth who know what it was like to grow up in our house.

The oldest links in our family chain.

There is no quiet so still as that of a graveyard. It's like eternity whispering.

As we walk among the headstones, my sister and I think of hearts broken and loved ones lost.

And we pray that they rest in peace.

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.

How Does Consignment Help Our Economy?

JULY 2024

By Hope Drake

CEO Of Molly's Upscale Boutique

Have you ever looked in your, or a family member's, closet, garage, or storage area and thought you might run screaming into the street if you must sort, store, or move those items again? You are not alone. According to a Harvard Business Review published in December 2023, in 2021 the research and consulting firm Global Data estimated that each U.S. household holds on to a trove of potentially reusable goods worth \$4,517, on average—and a similar pattern holds internationally. How much furniture, computers, cables, books, clothing items, and dare I mention my flaw, purses do you have hidden away? Why do we hold on to these items? Sometimes to the point where all value is lost. For some, it is an emotional attachment, or the mountain is too overwhelming to face. Then, of course, there are the various monetary aspects. We are capitalists. Items

are tangible representations of our memories, emotions, and status. Whatever your reason, there is a solution for you and chances are you drive right past it every day!

Consignment. The process of allowing a connected reputable dealer to resale your goods, based on fair market value for a split of the proceeds. Hang on! Don't turn the page yet! Consignment and thrifting do not hold the stigma they did for your grandparents. It is no longer just for those struggling to get by, rummaging through smelly bins and racks in sketchy rundown buildings. Consignment stores today are as varied as any other form of retail establishment. From local brick-and-mortar to entirely we-based and extremely clear-organized boutiques that only take certain items to those that take items from furniture to children's clothing. Each offers different services, a level of attention to your goods, and varying levels of turnaround, so make certain to ask ques-

tions to find the best one for you. You are probably saying, "Great! But how does this lower the cost of my eggs and milk?" It is all about the resources.

If you shop for consignment or utilize it to sell your items, you give them a second life. You are doing so much more than collecting some cash you are helping someone on a restricted budget look nice, get a better job, or just feel good about themselves. Consignments help to protect the environment, democratize luxury goods, and most importantly bring down inflation.

We are all being strangled by the increased prices of everything from a McDonald's Big Mac to eggs, gas, and interest rates. As a shopper, you are utilizing one of the only retail spaces that are minimally impacted by the inflationary prices you see currently from the gas pump to the grocery.

For example, a Michael Kors purse that is \$398 at Dillard's will typically enter the resale market for 65% to 50 of that cost as a new with tag item. When you buy better quality and longer-lasting items at a reduced cost you stop the influx of questionably sourced, cheaply made, possibly hazardous, items. This fast fashion takes up space in landfills, never breaking down, possibly releasing toxic gases as it is exposed, ultimately causing more environmental harm and requiring more land to be turned into landfills.

Ultimately, you are reducing manufacturing pressure and the demand for new production slows, reducing resource and energy demand from already over-stretched sources. Shopping upscale consignments helps to control unwanted foreign influence and pressure on companies that have traditionally shared a symbiotic relationship with the United States. When pre-loved items are given a second life there is a whole ecosphere around you affected.

Before you think I am just some dealer trying to make a fast buck or conspiracy theorist and run away, look at the following. What do Coach, Levi, Dicks, Apple, Nike, and Gucci have in common? The reclaiming, refurbishing, and resale of their goods are not as new but rather as preloved. In 2021 a new global report by a market research firm GlobalData showed that the secondhand clothing market is growing 11 times faster than traditional retail. True, corporations are capitalist by nature, but they became the behemoths of their arenas because they saw the future and its needs and then adapted to meet them.

Right now, that direction is in protecting resources that represent their brands' expected quality while preserving their cost basis. These companies along with many others are doing this via the reclaiming, repurposing, and resale of their once discarded goods to a wider variety of socio-economic levels with an eye on the protection and renewal of our increasingly more precarious resources.

I could talk about the memories and other emotions we connect to items. Maybe another day I will share some of the stories I have heard as items have come into my shop. I could talk to you about how to be a good person you should do x, y, or z. However, I believe that is a "you" decision. Instead, in an age where we have deep fake news, and misguided reporting I choose to give you facts, insight, and awareness knowing that at the end of the day, every one of you realizes that we are on this boat of life together and we only get one chance to try and keep it afloat. It is simple, reduce, recycle, reuse. Consign, helps your budget, the environment, and the economy. Then, keep making the world great again.

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Community

Firefighter Calls For Change For Disabled Americans

JULY 2024
By Ashlyn Myers
TheStatehouseFile.com

Dustin Pruett's parents never went easy on him. Doctors said they could either "baby" him and worry constantly about his disability or treat him just like any other kid—letting him climb tall trees and make dirty mud pies in the backyard.

Meeting Dustin, it's easy to tell which path his parents chose.

The 24-year-old double amputee has never known a "normal" life. Dustin, a Bellmore, Indiana, firefighter, was born with an unknown medical condition rendering one of his legs all but unusable.

Dustin said his condition didn't show on any ultrasounds, so his doctor was just as surprised as his parents. With this news, Dustin's parents had a few decisions to make—some more difficult than others.

"My parents had a choice: Either wheelchair-bound me or take the leg off that was mangled," Dustin said.

His parents chose the latter, and it wasn't until 2018 that Dustin went from a single amputee to a double. After years of pain in his remaining leg and innumerable treatments and surgeries that failed to help, he said he realized there weren't any other options left.

"I straight-up asked my doctor, 'Have we done everything for this?' and he goes, 'Well, we could do ...' and I said, 'No, tell me. Is this it? Like, have we done everything?'" Dustin said.

When his doctor revealed they had done all they could, Dustin's response was true to his direct, not-sugar-coated personality: "OK, where's the



papers to sign and get it taken off?"

The crew beside him
Dustin hasn't been the only one affected by his health issues.

His mother, Karly Pruett, didn't get any sort of warning during her pregnancy about the trials her son would face. The news hit her at an already vulnerable moment—in recovery from giving birth.

"Everybody else knew because that was when they had the nursery window. I found out in recovery because they didn't necessarily want me to, I guess, like, freak out on the operating table during my C-section," Karly said. "But, I mean, it was instant tears when the pediatrician came down to talk to us."

The first few days of Dustin being earthside were troublesome. He was passed from one gloved hand to another until, Karly said, she finally got to connect with her son on his third

day. A nurse came in with Dustin and explained his condition at length, giving Karly her first chance at really understanding Dustin's health.

Karly said she's had her motherly instincts ever since.

Driving him from one doctor's appointment to another gave Dustin's family plenty of time to grow close, but his main connection to his father grew from their shared desire to serve their community—and to play with fire.

Growing up watching his father work as a firefighter made him fall in love with the fire service. He spent his childhood playing in a fire station, looking with wide eyes at the fiery red engines, dreaming of the day he'd take them on calls of his own.

An unlikely profession
While there are multiple amputee firefighters across the country, double amputee firefighters are few and far

between. Dustin said he's one of the only ones he knows of in Indiana.

Dustin joined Rockville's Bellmore Fire Department in 2019. The department, nestled between Turkey Run State Park and an Amish country store, attracted Dustin with its active training schedule. Dustin loves the education aspect of the job, holding dozens of certifications in everything from medical practice to instructing.

Since joining, Dustin has grown a strong relationship with the men and women in his department. Dustin serves alongside one of his best friends, Cameron Jenness.

Cameron first met Dustin in 2019 after joining the department the same year.

"It's just kind of grown from there of just being good friends with each other," Cameron said. "We take him on hikes and go hiking with him. We've done a lot of stuff together."

Cameron said much of their friendship was fostered from Dustin's integrity and bluntness.

"He's very open and very blunt about things, but in a very appropriate way," Cameron said. "If he thinks you're doing something wrong, he'll tell you and he'll give you the reasons why."

Many tend to question Dustin's ability to do everything the job entails. Being a firefighter involves quick thinking, but it also involves quick action. You may be on the floor tending to a patient on one call and then climbing up a ladder on the next. Cameron makes an effort to destigmatize people's concerns whenever he hears them.

"I just tell people, whenever I tell

Continued On Page 5

Evansville Enters Contract To Create City Strategic Plan

JULY 2024

The City of Evansville has entered into a contract with Crowe LLP, a public accounting, consulting, and technology firm, to create a strategic plan for city government.

The process of creating the plan, which is expected to take approximately five months, will happen in two phases. The first, which has already begun, is for Crowe to engage with city leaders and the various city departments to create an organizational assessment. That information then will be used to create the city's strategic plan, which is ex-

pected to be released to the public before the end of the 2024.

"We're excited to work with Crowe LLP to assess our current city operations, then to use that information to create a strategic plan that helps us continue to move Evansville forward," said Evansville Mayor Stephanie Terry. "That means creating a plan that helps refine our priorities as a city administration, but also a plan that helps us find efficiencies in how we operate as a city government, so that we can both strengthen the services we offer to the people to Evansville, and so we

can ensure that those services are easier for residents to access."

The organizational assessment phase, according to representatives of Crowe LLP, will establish a baseline of where Evansville is today; from there, the final strategic plan will craft a vision for where the city is heading and how to get there.

"We look forward to engaging with the City of Evansville to conduct an organizational assessment that will help develop a strategic plan tailored to the city's needs and aspirations," said Susannah Heitger, managing principal of the public

sector services group at Crowe. "Our goal is to support operational efficiency to improve the delivery of constituent services, while staying true to the mission and values of Evansville."

The full plan will be made available to the media and the public upon completion.

Media with inquiries about the strategic planning process may contact Joe Atkinson, Communications Director for the Office of Evansville Mayor Stephanie Terry, at 812-435-0543 orjatkinson@evansville.in.gov.

Crouch, IHCD Announce Additional Placemaking Funds

Continued From Page 1

"CreatiNg Livable Communities is not just about improving physical

spaces - it is about fostering a sense of belonging and accessibility for all Hoosiers regardless of age," said Lt.

Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "Through CreatiNg Livable Communities, we're ensuring that Indiana remains a place where older adults can thrive."

Projects must provide a clear and tangible benefit to Hoosiers over 50 and satisfy additional requirements around the promotion of diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility, as well as demonstrating a connection to existing community efforts, stakeholder engagement and relevance to AARP Indiana's key priorities for older Hoosiers.

Last year, five communities were awarded \$5,000 each from AARP Indiana in addition to the funds raised from their successful crowdfunding campaigns. With IHCD's matching grants, total community investments for these projects exceeded \$180,000.

"Every year it becomes more and more important to invest in projects that make our communities livable and welcoming for the growing

population of older Hoosiers," said AARP Indiana State Director Sarah Waddle. "Across our state we've seen leaders step forward with exciting ideas that will have lasting impacts. AARP Indiana is excited to partner again with IHCD to help turn these proposals into reality."

Eligible projects must have a total development budget of between \$15,000 and \$105,000. Projects must crowdfund between \$5,000 and \$50,000 according to CreatiNg Places guidelines through Patronicity's crowdfunding platform. Unsuccessful crowdfunding campaigns will not receive grant funding from IHCD or AARP Indiana. CreatiNg Places projects have a high crowdfunding success rate thanks to the one-on-one coaching that Patronicity provides, helping communities crowdfund over \$10 million since the program launched in 2015.

Project applicants will be reviewed and approved on a first come, first serve and case-by-case basis until all funds are exhausted.

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Community

Firefighter Calls For Change For Disabled Americans

Continued From Page 4

people about him, I say, 'He can do everything that I can do,' or if it's another firefighter, I say, 'Everything that we can do, he just has to do it in a way that is different than us,' Cameron said.

"I also tell people that he does what works for him, and in all honesty, I trust him more than some people that I've met in the fire service," Cameron said. "I trust him to come inside a burning building, get me out if I'm in trouble."

Seeing him on and off the job, Cameron said Dustin always has a passion for what he's doing.

"He's involved with so many things, and he doesn't just hop into things and then stand in a corner. He hops into things, and he doesn't just take over, but he definitely takes charge and takes on a leadership role. He does a really good job with all of it," Cameron said. "Dustin wants to leave places better than how he found them."

Dustin often goes over to see Cameron and his wife, Emily Jenness, for regular game nights. The couple had Dustin serve as the best man in their wedding, and they've stayed close friends since.

Coming back from the burns

People in the fire service don't always understand Dustin the way Cameron does.

"Cutthroat isn't even the word for it. I've literally had guys say, 'Well, your legs are gonna melt, I don't trust you in a fire,'" Dustin said.

Dustin's legs are made of titanium and fiberglass, which melt at such a high temperature that no firefighter would survive—amputee or not.

Dustin said that while he knows his own limits, he can do everything any other firefighter can do. If needed, he can go inside structures on fire calls, climb ladders and do anything else needed to help a scene.

If anything, the comments and stigmas just motivate Dustin to continue, and he isn't stopping his work anytime soon.

What keeps him going

Dustin said he sees himself in child amputees, and if he can, he said he wants to help them live lives of joy, just like he's learned to.

"I enjoy the kid part of [sharing my story] because to me, if you know anything about education, a kid is gonna learn faster than an adult. You take an adult, someone who has had something their whole life, they're more than likely set in their ways. A kid that has the same issue, you can change [their mindset] for the better," Dustin said.

Years ago, a then 19-year-old Dustin was called by Shriner's Children's St. Louis to meet a young man contemplating whether or not to have surgery to become an amputee.

At the time, Dustin said the child didn't even understand what an amputation was. Dustin talked with him and gave him the tools to understand what would happen to him if he decided to amputate.

Within six weeks after his surgery, the young man was walking again.

"He beat [my record] by about three weeks, walking, and he started playing baseball that summer," Dustin said with a smile.

Dustin said he still sees his mentee whenever he can. The pair live about two and a half hours from each other, and he said he's always willing to drive the distance.

"I've been to St. Louis Cardinals games with him, St. Louis Blues games, his own [baseball] games,"

Dustin said.

Looking forward, Dustin said he hopes to continue to mentor kids.

"Adults are a little more like you got to be really, really serious, I guess you could say," Dustin said mid-laugh. "And the kids you can really, really have a lot of fun with them."

A brighter future

Dustin is tossing around the idea of starting a foundation to help amputees go hunting and hiking more effectively. Dustin said his biggest issue with the hobby is successfully making it down range, something a sport utility vehicle could help with.

"I don't have \$20-30,000 sitting around," Dustin said. "Neither does the next amputee that does hunting and walks miles and miles and miles to get to their hunting spot, which they shouldn't have to. What if I could start something where they could get that?"

He said he wants people with disabilities to be able to enjoy themselves like anyone else, regardless of physical or monetary constraints.

"For me, if there's something that someone needs [to add] for adaptability, there shouldn't be a cost," Dustin said. "Like, if it was up to me, someone should be able to go into a dealership, and if they want a four-wheeler, they can get a four-wheeler. If they want a side-by-side, they can get a side-by-side, something that'll be comfortable for them."

Not the type to complain without action, Dustin said he wants to make a change.

Dustin was featured by the national coffee chain Seven Brew as their July Hero. For every month of 2023, the company picked a hero from across the country to recognize and win a year's worth of free coffee and other drinks.

Seeing his face plastered all over various stands was a lot for him, he said. He's not one to desire special recognition and especially not the type to call himself a hero, but he said he'll use a platform if it means he can push for change for disabled Americans.

The lack of transparency and assistance from the government and prosthetic companies angers Dustin more than anything. Insurance companies give him daily headaches, denying him financial assistance for his prosthetics.

Dustin said his main issue is that to get help, one often has to put oneself in front of a camera, and even those brave enough to do so often aren't completely understood.

"The problem is trying to get those that are holding the camera to understand that I'm not just doing this for gain because I could care less if I'm sitting in front of this camera and doing this. I'm doing it because people need to understand that that wheelchair that that person is sitting in was \$5,000," Dustin said.

If it weren't for his pre-calculus grades, Dustin said he'd be going to school to go into biomedical engineering. Why? Because prosthetic companies don't understand what the average amputee needs from a prosthetic leg.

"They [engineering professionals] probably wouldn't like me because I'd be so brutally honest with them. They're up there designing all these fancy legs that can move, but when they cost the cost of a new vehicle—how's that equal?" Dustin said. "How's it equal that a person like me gets denied [from insurance] all the time, but Joe Schmo speaks in front of a camera and gets it? That's a standard that's not

right."

Dustin said that even if insurance accepted every single one of his requests, he still wouldn't be satisfied.

"If I got approved, OK, great! What about the kid next to me that can't run?" Dustin said.

Dustin said if he was able to talk to lawmakers or talk to those who make prosthetics, he'd want to advocate for lowering the costs of the products. His current prosthetic cost thousands—which Dustin said felt excessive.

"Why does a piece of titanium pipe and some titanium screws and pipe cost that much?" Dustin asked. "If you really think about it, you can order these pipes online for a couple hundred bucks."

More than a number

Regardless of his unique position, Dustin said he just wants to do hard things—things he loves.

One of Dustin's next goals is to visit—and climb—every fire tower across Indiana's state parks. Combining his love for the outdoors and his goal to prove that amputees can be just as active as anyone else, Dustin loves tackling the historic towers, taking in the sights at the top.

The towers range in height but usually all involve slim stairwells with thin, metal stairs.

"Climbing the Hickory Ridge Tower in the National Forest, 110 feet up and you're above the canopy and you can see for miles . . . That's awesome, I love that," Dustin said, shaking his head as he recalled the memories.

Hoping to inspire others to get up and take new steps, Dustin just un-

veiled a new Facebook page—Dustin's Outdoor Adventures. On the page, Dustin said, "I hope to post things that inspire others to be better and that you CAN do anything you set your mind to!"

In just one week, the page gained 200 followers. Dustin said he's by no means a social media expert, but he's tried his best to put out engaging, inspirational content.

Dustin uses the page to show his tower climbs, hikes, and—as the group name suggests—his outdoor adventures.

The page isn't just for him, though. He has deeper motivations for posting. With every post, Dustin said he hopes someone with a disability will realize they can do more than they realize. It may just be the beginning, but Dustin has high hopes that with people holding the ladder around him, he'll be able to make a real change for those with disabilities.

"I knew it could be a thing, but I didn't expect it to hit what it is at this moment. I was not expecting to have that many people following, or caring, or liking," he said with a laugh.

"Just that support that people are wanting to help me help others better themselves [means everything]."

It's easy for Dustin to say he's grateful for the help he has received, but it's much harder for him to describe exactly how it makes him feel.

"Something like that, it's such a special thing that really hit me close to home," he said. "I can't put that kind of feeling into words."

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Community

CenterPoint Energy Foundation Accepting Grant Applications

JULY 2024

The CenterPoint Energy Foundation is currently accepting applications for its second and final 2024 grant cycle through July 26.

Funded separately and financially independent from the utility, the CenterPoint Energy Foundation strives to be a catalyst in the communities it serves by leveraging everyday opportunities and resources to increase the vibrancy of these communities. Grants are awarded to eligible nonprofit organizations whose primary address is located in CenterPoint Energy's footprint and has programs that support community vitality and education. Priority consideration is given to programs that serve low-to-moderate income families and under-resourced communities and provide increased access to nonprofit programs and services.

"We are proud of the impact our foundation has in helping our communities achieve extraordinary outcomes," said June Deadrick, Vice President of community Relations at CenterPoint Energy. "Our focus remains on investing in initiatives enhancing lives today while building a strong foundation for a better tomorrow. We encourage eligible

organizations to apply for a grant during this funding cycle."

In the first cycle of 2024, the CenterPoint Energy Foundation awarded more than \$8 million in grants across Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio and Texas. Some of the projects funded in early 2024 include:

JobSource (Indiana): JobSource's Heartland Scholar House Program received a \$100,000 grant from the Foundation to support expansion of the program into Marion and Muncie, Indiana. Scholar House helps to end the cycle of generational poverty by helping single parents graduate from the post-secondary institution of their choosing while offering housing and high-quality childcare for their children.

Project Build a Future (Louisiana): For more than 20 years, Project Build a Future has helped low-to-moderate income community members purchase homes in Lake Charles, Louisiana. The Foundation awarded a \$90,000 grant to Project Build a Future to help provide supportive services so that homeownership can be within reach for underserved community members. Through support from the Center-

Point Energy Foundation and other community organizations, Project Build a Future is helping break cycles of poverty within the community.

The Works Museum (Minnesota): The Works Museum aims to increase access for students to hands-on science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics, or STEAM, educational opportunities. Through a \$100,000 grant from the Foundation, a mobile STEAM lab will be funded that will remove barriers for elementary school students across the state to participate in education that fosters curiosity and creativity. The CenterPoint Energy Foundation is proud to support the next generation of engineers and problem solvers.

Mississippi Children's Museum (Mississippi): The Mississippi Children's Museum hosts the Read to Succeed Camp to increase student success and their readiness for fourth grade. Through a \$20,000 grant from the Foundation, students from Jackson Public School District who have not successfully passed the 3rd Grade Reading Summative Assessment will be provided literacy-based lessons and one-on-one tutoring to get them

ready to retake this test. The Read to Succeed Camp provides individualized learning and resources to help make third graders to enter fourth grade.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Dayton (Ohio): The Foundation provided a \$125,000 grant to fund one new home build in an underserved Dayton neighborhood. The remainder of the grant will support Habitat's critical home repair program, so older adults can age in place in a safe and secure home.

Neighborhood Strong (Texas): Neighborhood Strong aims to enhance the quality of life for residents within the City of Lufkin, Texas, Angelina County and eight adjacent counties. The Foundation awarded a \$40,000 grant to Neighborhood Strong to help repair, modify and reconstruct homes for underserved homeowners in these communities, helping to benefit seniors, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and lower-income individuals.

With the support of the Foundation and other organizations, Neighborhood Strong is making a life-changing impact for community members.

Wallace Shares Points To Prioritizing Infrastructure Investments

Continued From Page 1

with robust infrastructure, driving economic growth and job creation.

Resilience and Adaptation: As cities face increasing challenges from climate change, investing in resilient infrastructure becomes paramount. Upgrading sewers to handle extreme weather events, reinforcing roads, and ensuring reliable energy supplies can mitigate the impact of natural disasters and help cities recover more quickly.

The Role of Wants in Urban Life

While critical infrastructure is necessary, amenities such as parks, recreation centers, and cultural facilities contribute significantly to the social fabric of a city. These "wants" play a vital role in making cities vibrant and livable.

Quality of Life: Parks and recreational facilities provide spaces for physical activity, relaxation, and social interaction. These areas contribute to mental and physical health, reducing healthcare costs and improving overall well-being.

Community Building: Recreational projects foster community engagement and social cohesion. Public spaces where residents can gather, participate in events, and engage in cultural activities strengthen community ties and promote a sense of belonging.

Attractiveness to Residents and Tourists: Cities with rich cultural and recreational amenities attract tourists and new residents. This influx can boost local economies and generate additional revenue that can be reinvested into critical infrastructure.

Strategies for Balancing Needs and Wants

City governments can employ several strategies to balance investments in critical infrastructure and recreational amenities:

Integrated Planning: Urban planning should consider both needs and wants in a holistic manner. Creating comprehensive plans that include provisions for essential infrastructure alongside recreational projects ensures balanced

development. Prioritizing projects that offer dual benefits, such as green spaces that also function as flood management systems, can maximize resource utilization.

Public Participation: Engaging residents in the planning process helps identify community priorities and ensures that investments reflect the population's needs and desires. Participatory budgeting allows citizens to have a direct say in how funds are allocated, fostering transparency and accountability.

Data-Driven Decision Making: Utilizing data to assess the condition of existing infrastructure and predict future needs can guide investment decisions. Geographic information systems (GIS) and other technologies can help city planners identify areas with the greatest need for upgrades and those that would benefit most from new recreational facilities.

Public-Private Partnerships: Collaborating with private entities can leverage additional resources for both types of projects. Public-private

partnerships can facilitate the development of recreational amenities while freeing up public funds for critical infrastructure.

Sustainable Financing: Implementing innovative financing mechanisms, such as infrastructure bonds or tax increment financing, can provide the necessary funds for large-scale projects. Additionally, seeking grants and subsidies from higher levels of government can supplement local budgets.

Conclusion

Balancing investments between essential infrastructure and recreational amenities is a complex but necessary task for city governments. By prioritizing needs while also recognizing the value of wants, cities can create environments that are not only functional and resilient but also vibrant and enjoyable for their residents. Strategic planning, community engagement, and innovative financing are key to achieving this balance and ensuring sustainable urban development.

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Community

CCO Accepted By The Association Of Community Publishers

JULY 2024

Dear City-County Staff,
Welcome to the Association of Community Publishers! We are thrilled to have you join our vibrant community of passionate publishers who are dedicated to bringing local stories and voices to the forefront. On behalf of our entire team, I extend to you a warm and heartfelt welcome.

At the Association of Community Publishers, we believe in the power of local media to connect, inform, and inspire. Your decision to become a member reaffirms our shared commitment to fostering community engagement, promoting journalistic integrity, and celebrating the diversity that makes each community unique.

As a member, you'll gain access

to a wide range of benefits:

- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with fellow publishers, sales executives, editors, writers, and industry experts through our events, conferences, and online forums. This is your chance to share insights, learn from others, and forge meaningful partnerships.

- **Resources and Training:** We are dedicated to helping you hone your skills and stay up-to-date with the latest trends in community publishing. From workshops on digital marketing to sessions on ethical reporting, we're here to support your growth.

- **Advocacy and Support:** Together, we can amplify the collective voice of community publishers. Our association ac-

tively advocates for policies that support local journalism and guide to navigate challenges in the field.

Recognition: Showcase your work and gain recognition for your contributions. Our awards and recognition programs highlight excellence in community reporting, photography, design, and more.

To start, please visit www.communitypublishers.com and log in to the private member area. Here, you'll find resources, upcoming events, and ways to connect with fellow members.

Remember, the Association of Community Publishers is more than just an organization - it's a dynamic community that values your unique perspective and contributions. We encourage

you to engage, ask questions, and share your experiences with us.

Thank you once again for becoming a member of our association. We look forward to traveling this exciting journey together and making a difference in community publishing.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at douglas@communitypublishers.com. Once again, welcome to the Association of Community Publishers!

Warm regards,
Douglas Fry
Executive Director
Association of Community Publishers

Resources Ready To Help Move To Indiana Pathways Programs

JULY 2024

On July 1, individuals age 59 and younger who had been receiving services through the Aged and Disabled waiver will begin receiving services through the Health and Wellness waiver.

FSSA is also launching Indiana PathWays for Aging, a Medicaid managed care program for individuals aged 60 and over.

Some individuals on the PathWays program will qualify for additional services based on their needs and will be eligible for the PathWays home and

community-based services waiver. Those individuals were previously served by the Aged and Disabled waiver as well.

FSSA is committed to helping individuals and families navigate the transition. Multiple resources, including a guide for who to contact if you are in

need of assistance, are available to help members navigate any challenges faced with the transition.

Information and resources for individuals on the Aged and Disabled Waiver can be found on our website.

Additionally, FSSA is continuing its series of biweekly webinars for individuals on the

Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver or transitioning to the Health and Wellness Waiver. The webinars listed below are from 3 - 3:30 p.m. EDT.

7/10/24 - Planned topics include information on what to expect now that the transition has occurred.

7/24/24 - Planned topics include information on moving forward and how to find opportunities to stay connected.

For more information about Indiana PathWays for Aging visit www.in.gov/PathWays.



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Education

USI's Southern Indiana Review Releases Spring 2024 Issue

JULY 2024

The Southern Indiana Review (SIR), the University of Southern Indiana's nationally recognized literary journal published by the USI College of Liberal Arts and English Department, has released its Spring 2024 issue.

The front and back cover feature a digital painting and oil painting on canvas, respectively, by Paris Fithian '23. This marks the first time a USI alum has been featured and created both covers. Fithian, an illustrator and fine artist currently based in Indiana, works with both digital and traditional media. She often uses self-portraiture to capture a single moment—like the climax or falling action—of a larger narrative, drawing inspiration from creative writing, the supernatural and suspenseful media, focusing on the humanity of action.

"As the Art Director for the Southern Indiana Review, I am thrilled that we were able to include cover artwork by one of our recent graduates from the Art and Design Department," says Dr. Greg Blair, Art Director of SIR and Assistant Professor of Art and Design. "Paris Fithian is an extremely talented illustrator and painter, and her artwork seemed like a natural fit for the type of design that we were looking for in the Spring 2024 publication. The fact that we were able to approach one of the recent graduates of the Art and Design Department to be a cover artist for SIR also speaks to the rigor, quality and exceptional instruction happening in the Art and



Design Department at USI."

This issue of SIR features an impressive range of poetry contributors, including established luminaries like Haryette Mullen, author of 10 books of critically ac-

claimed poetry and a finalist for the National Book Award, as well as several recipients of distinguished honors such as Guggenheim Fellowships and National Endowment for the Arts grants. In-

ternationally recognized writers, including Adadayo Agaru (Nigeria), Anzhelina Polonskaya (Russia) and Raymond Antrobus (Britain), are also featured alongside emerging writers like Matthew Kelsey and Oak Morse.

Rosalie Moffett, Assistant Professor of Art, began serving as Poetry Editor for the Spring 2024 issue. She is the author of the poetry collections *Making a Living*, *Nervous System*, chosen by Monica Young for the National Poetry Series Prize and listed by the *New York Times* as a New and Notable Book, and *June in Eden*. Moffett was awarded a Wallace Stegner Fellowship from Stanford University, and her work has appeared in magazines like *The American Poetry Review*, *New England Review*, *Narrative*, *Kenyon Review* and *Ploughshares*.

SIR was founded in 1994 by Matthew Graham and Tom Wilhelmus, both USI Professor Emeriti of English. The next issue will celebrate the 30-year anniversary of the journal.

Readers are encouraged to watch the web interview series *Inside the Issue* by Dr. Casey Pycior, Associate Professor of English and Fiction Editor for SIR, where he discusses each fiction contributor, their stories and the processes they took in crafting them.

The Spring 2024 issue is \$12 and can be purchased on the SIR webpage. For more information, contact Ron Mitchell, Instructor in English and Editor of SIR, at rmitchel@usi.edu or visit the SIR website.

USI Social Work Department To Add Online Master's Degree

JULY 2024

The University of Southern Indiana's Social Work Department within the College of Liberal Arts will offer a fully online Master of Social Work degree beginning in Fall 2024. This new offering is based on the current in-person Master of Social Work degree but will offer the same classes in an online environment that fits any schedule.

Master of Social Work courses will prepare students to provide desperately needed services to help people cope with issues like mental illness, substance abuse, poverty and discrimination. Positions in hospitals, mental health clinics, schools, employee assistance programs, res-

idential treatment facilities, prisons, senior centers, government agencies and many more settings are attainable after degree completion.

"When reflecting on my education at USI, I believe that my professors made more of an impact on my perspective toward the profession than a specific course" says Macie Cox '21, USI Master of Social Work Graduate, Behavioral Mental Health Therapist, Indiana United Methodist Children's Home. My professors did an amazing job at balancing textbook knowledge with their professional experience. I remember most of my classes transforming my perspective on the world."

This online degree is meant to open the doors to higher education for working individuals that need more flexibility to earn their degree. This fully asynchronous program allows students to work on assignments at their convenience with no meeting time each week to plan around. The courses have a student-to-faculty ratio of 12:1, so students will have ample opportunities to interact with faculty and peers.

"The new online MSW program was designed to provide accessible and flexible opportunities for individuals to obtain their MSW at USI," says Dr. Quentin Maynard, incoming Director of the Master of Social Work Program. "The online MSW

program will educate and train social workers to provide clinical, mental and behavioral health services in our community. We are excited to see how this new program option will benefit our community partners and the individuals living in the Tri-state area."

This degree is fully accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, which uses a rigorous process to evaluate Master of Social Work colleges for the quality of their education and student outcomes.

For more information on the Online Master of Social Work program, contact Maynard at qrmaynard@usi.edu, or visit the Master of Social Work webpage.

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Comics & Puzzles

TANK MCNAMARA
by Bill Hinds

GET FUZZY
by darby conley

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg February 4, 2024

- ACROSS**
- 1 Go off like a bath bomb
 - 7 Pal
 - 11 "Knives Out" actress de Armas
 - 14 Pop star Grande
 - 15 Is infatuated, say
 - 17 Actor's reading
 - 18 "Tragic, really"
 - 19 Phrase seen after 1989?
 - 21 Manage somehow
 - 22 1980s TV ET
 - 23 First part of a play
 - 26 Acadia automaker
 - 28 "Hush!"
 - 31 Tolstoy's "The Death of Ilyich"
 - 32 Farewell that's a popular first Wordle guess
 - 34 Shirt for a hot day
 - 35 "Let sleeping dogs lie!"
 - 39 "lck!"
 - 40 Take in or let out
 - 41 Guns, as an engine
 - 42 Opposite of NNW
 - 43 Prefix with "natal"
 - 44 Like a plot fit to plow
 - 47 Gallivant
 - 49 Hosted, as a talent show
 - 50 "So deserved!"
- DOWN**
- 1 Speedy
 - 2 Predator in the Puget Sound
 - 3 Breezy
 - 4 Word after "snail" or "chain"
 - 5 "A little," in Lima
 - 6 Tequila brand, or a sponsor
 - 7 Baked potato herb
 - 8 Abhor
 - 9 "Back in the ____" (Beatles song)
 - 10 Fail to come onstage when signaled
 - 11 Core feature made during crunch time?
 - 12 Tandoori bread
 - 13 Toss in
 - 16 Work hard
 - 20 Address verbally
 - 23 Swears
 - 24 "Isn't it time for us to leave?"
- 25 Blasted stuff
 - 26 Part of the human body that's about 30 ft. long
 - 27 Just OK
 - 29 "____-ho!" ("Everybody pull!")
 - 30 Pronoun on a certain towel
 - 31 Scary time for Caesar
 - 33 "Look at Me, I'm Sandra ____" ("Grease" song)
 - 36 Cooperative board game about fighting diseases
 - 37 Corrida cheer
 - 38 "Gimme a sec!"
 - 45 Haven
 - 46 Handsome guy
 - 48 Tel
 - 49 Like a lion, in terms of hair
 - 50 They'll make you feel lousy!
 - 51 Word before "bridge" or "booth"
 - 52 Hi, in Spanish
 - 53 Gaming ____ (powerful PCs)
 - 54 Exercise with poses
 - 55 "____ Murders in the Building" (TV show)
 - 56 Employs names like "PuzzLe-GIRL"~
 - 57 Site known for display names like "PuzzLe-GIRL"~

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.

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

7/24 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Themeless Sunday 71 by Sarah Sinclair

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	
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42					43				44	45	46				
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61												62			
												63			

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Sports

USI Women's Soccer Welcomes Varga To Coaching Staff

JULY 2024

University of Southern Indiana Women's Soccer Head Coach Eric Schoenstein announced the hiring of Alliyah Varga as an assistant coach ahead of the 2024 season.

"We are extremely excited that Alliyah is joining the USI soccer family," Schoenstein said. "Alliyah will be involved in all aspects of the program."

Before arriving at USI, Varga was an assistant coach at the University of Tennessee at Martin last season while working on her master's degree. Varga assisted the Skyhawks with training sessions, match day setup and preparation, team social media, and other duties.

Varga was also an assistant coach with the Olympic Development Program in the past year. Varga was a Tennessee ODP Age Group Assistant for the 2010 and 2011 Girls' state teams, helping run training sessions and coaching during matches.



Previously, Varga was a U-9 assistant from 2020-22 and was a course instructor for National Soccer Coaches Association of America providing coaching education. Varga is also a United States Soccer Association member.

"Alliyah brings a great deal of experience as a former collegiate and professional soccer player, as well as college coach-

ing experience at the Division I level," Schoenstein added. "Alliyah is a great addition to the family."

Varga's playing career includes professional experience in Kotka, Finland with KTP (Kotkan Tyovaen Palloilijat) in 2023, competing in the Ykkösliiga.

Prior to playing professionally for KTP, Varga spent her collegiate career at Gardner-Webb University, earning a bachelor's degree in Sports Education. At the D-I level with Gardner-Webb, Varga was a Big South Conference All-Tournament and All-Conference Team honorable mention selection in 2022. In four seasons, Varga made 40 starts in 64 games played, racking up over 3,800 minutes on the field and collecting six assists.

Six Aces Recognized As WGCA All-American Scholars

JULY 2024

Six University of Evansville women's golfers were recognized on Monday as the 2023-24 WGCA All-American Scholar Team was announced.

Evansville's honorees included seniors Allison Enchelmayer and Carly Frazier, junior Magdalena Borisova, sophomore Destynie Sheridan and freshmen Trinity Dubbs and Jane Grankina.

The criteria for selection to the All-American Scholar Team are some of the most stringent in all of college athletics and continue to demonstrate the high-level academic achievements of our players. To be selected, a student-athlete must:

Have an overall cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or higher.

Be an amateur and on the team's roster through the conclusion of the team's season.

Have played in 50% of the col-



lege's regularly scheduled competitive rounds during the year nominated through the team's

conference championship.

A total of 1,497 women's collegiate golfers from 412 programs

were recognized on Monday with the prestigious honor.

Shallenberger Earns All-America Honors From D1Baseball.com



JULY 2024

University of Evansville graduate outfielder Mark Shallenberger (St. Louis, Mo./Priory) earned his second All-America honor of the 2024 season on Wednesday morning, as he was named Second-Team All-America by D1Baseball.com. Shallenberger is the first Purple Ace to earn multiple All-America honors in the same season since Kevin Kaczmariski in 2015.

Shallenberger also captured American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA)/Rawlings Third-Team All-America honors in a vote of collegiate head coaches earlier in June. D1Baseball.com is considered by many as the top on-line website focused on collegiate baseball.

Shallenberger earned All-America

honors after a season in which he earned first-team all-Missouri Valley Conference honors and Greenville (N.C.) Regional All-Tournament team honors for the Purple Aces. He finished the 2024 season ranked in the NCAA's Top 100 in 11 different offensive categories, including ranking 13th nationally in on-base percentage, a category he has ranked among the nation's top 25 in for much of the season. Shallenberger set program records for both runs scored (72) and hit-by-pitches (28), while posting the second-highest single-season hit total in UE history with 91.

Overall, Shallenberger hit a team-best .374 with a team-high 21 doubles, two triples, 17 home runs and 64 RBI. He hit arguably the biggest home run in UE baseball history with

a game-winning three-run home run in UE's 6-5 victory over East Carolina to win the Greenville (N.C.) Regional and advance Evansville to its first-ever NCAA Tournament Super Regional appearance.

Shallenberger now joins an elite fraternity of UE players to earn multiple All-America honors in the same season. Shallenberger joins a list that includes only Andy Benes (1988), Cody Fick (2011), Kyle Freeland (2014), and Kevin Kaczmariski (2015) as the only UE players to earn All-

America honors from multiple publications or groups in the same season.

Evansville went 39-26 this season, advancing on to the 2024 NCAA Tournament by winning the Missouri Valley Conference Tournament title. The Purple Aces won the Greenville (N.C.) Regional Tournament and forced #1 national seed Tennessee to the "if necessary" game three of the Knoxville Super Regional in UE's first-ever NCAA Super Regional Tournament appearance.

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USSSA GREAT LAKES NATIONALS JULY 8-13, 2024

The USSSA Great Lakes Nationals is set to take place July 8-13, 2024, in Evansville, Indiana. This event will host teams across various age groups (8U-18U) in a competitive national championship format. Opening ceremonies include a skills competition, inflatables, and a parade starting at 5 PM CST. Games will be held at Deaconess Sports Park, Newburgh Lassie League Park, William Newman Park, and Jack C. Fisher Park.



EVANSVILLE RAPTOR CON SEPTEMBER 14-15, 2024

Get ready for an epic experience at Raptor Con in Evansville on September 14-15, 2024! This exciting event will feature a variety of panels, celebrity guests, artist alleys, and vendor booths, catering to fans of all things pop culture, from comics and anime to gaming and sci-fi. Whether you're a dedicated cosplayer or a casual fan, Raptor Con promises a fun-filled weekend with something for everyone. Mark your calendar and join the celebration of fandoms, celebrities and cosplay at Raptor Con 2024.



SEATED WOMAN IN RED HAT PABLO PICASSO

Evansville is proud to welcome "Seated Woman in Red Hat" a glass mosaic by Pablo Picasso, now permanently on display at the Evansville Museum of Arts, Science, and History.



Sports

Davis Named UE Women's Basketball Graduate Assistant

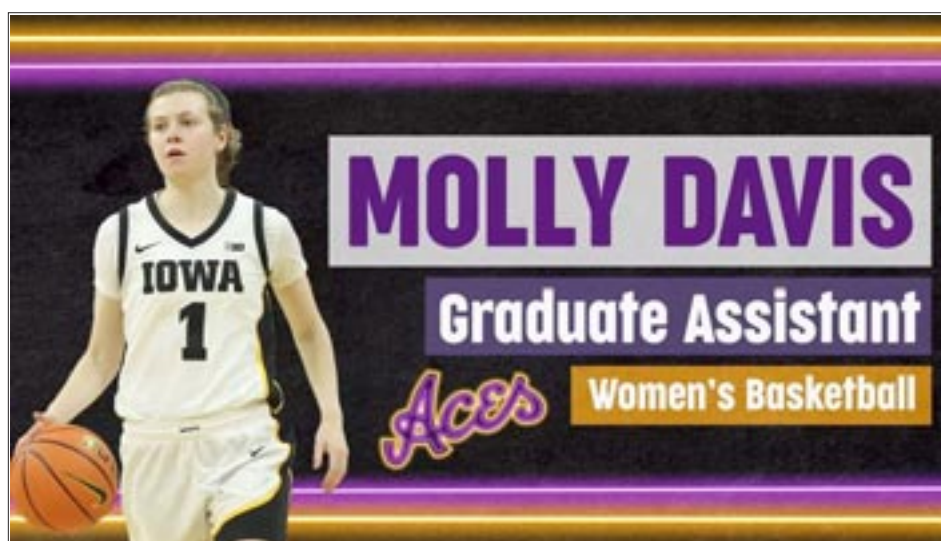
JULY 2024

After back-to-back appearances in the NCAA National Championship game as a student-athlete at the University of Iowa, Molly Davis has joined Robyn Scherr-Wells' University of Evansville women's basketball staff as a graduate assistant.

"I have had the pleasure of watching Molly play basketball since she was a freshman in high school. The thing that has always stood out to me about Molly is the joy that she plays with. Molly loves the game," Scherr-Wells exclaimed. "When her coaches at Iowa reached out to me about Molly's interest in our graduate assistant position, I knew right away she would be a great fit. She has a high basketball IQ and is a hard worker."

"Molly is a winner and has been a part of many successful teams. She will be a tremendous asset to our players in helping them understand all of the things that go into building a championship program. She has a bright future in coaching and I am excited for the opportunity to mentor her in her first coaching role!"

Davis brings a winning pedigree to the Purple Aces from her time at Iowa and Central Michigan. Both of her seasons with the Hawkeyes saw the



program advance to the National Championship game. The guard started 27 games over the course of her final season at Iowa and posted solid numbers, averaging 5.9 points and 2.5 rebounds while shooting 53.9% from the field, 40.7% from outside and 85.7% from the line.

She scored in double figures on eight occasions with her top effort being an 18-point performance in a home win over 14th-ranked Indiana. She added 17 in wins over Illinois and at Maryland. In non-conference action, Davis recorded 13 points against #16 Kansas State in the Gulf Coast Showcase on her way to being named to the All-Tournament Team. In her first season with the Hawkeyes,

Davis played in all 38 games while making two starts. Highlighting her inaugural year at Iowa was a 17-point game in a home win over Rutgers.

Prior to her time in the Big Ten, Davis spent her first three seasons at Central Michigan where she put up some of the top numbers in program history. In her time with the Chippewas, Davis posted 17.7 points per game, setting the program scoring average record. She made her mark across the CMU record book, ranking in the top 11 in four other statistics. Davis was sixth in career free throw percentage (.794), seventh in assists (346), eighth in career 3-point makes (187) and 11th in career points (1,434).

As a junior in the 2021-22 campaign, Davis recorded 18.6 PPG on her way to All-Mid-American Conference Second Team accolades. She matched her career scoring mark with 32 points at Northeastern and versus Northern Illinois. Davis completed the season fifth in the MAC in scoring, free throw percentage and minutes per game.

Davis enjoyed her best season with the Chippewas in 2020-21, finishing 23rd in the nation with a scoring average of 20.8 PPG. The First Team All-MAC honoree led the MAC and was 13th nationally with 76 3-point makes. Davis earned a spot on the MAC All-Tournament Team in a season that included her posting a career-best 32 points at Akron. In her first season at CMU, Davis registered 14.3 PPG on her way to earning All-MAC Freshman accolades.

In the classroom, Davis put forth an equally impressive effort. Majoring in Health Studies at Iowa, she recorded a 3.95 GPA and was named to the Dean's List in each of her semesters at the university. At Central Michigan, she majored in Exercise Science and finished with a 3.92 GPA along with Dean's List recognition in each semester.

Davis Named UE Women's Basketball Graduate Assistant

JULY 2024

University of Southern Indiana Women's and Men's Basketball teams have already been putting in work for the 2024-25 season during summer workouts. Both squads have also been giving back to the community through service work this summer. Recently, the Screaming Eagles partnered and helped serve with Young and Established in Evansville.

Young and Established (Y&E), a local nonprofit started by USI alum Courtney Johnson, is committed to bettering the community through inspiration and motivation of the young. Y&E provides a safe space for young people filled with washers and dryers, food and hygiene pantries, free WiFi, computers, tablets, a clothing bank, community garden and recreational games.

Each Wednesday at 2 p.m., Y&E partners with Wal-Mart to pass out food to the community. On June 19 and June 26, the USI Women's and Men's Basketball teams (respectively) helped pass out food to more than 1,000



people in Evansville! Take a look here to see some

captured moments from the service at Young and Established. Screaming Eagles' community

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Obituaries

June Vanderburgh County Obituaries

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Sharon Barnes Slack Feb. 24, 1939 – Jun. 05, 2024
 Marion Dee Hughes Oct. 14, 1928 – Jun. 06, 2024
 Deborah D. Schaefer Nov. 29, 1951 – Jun. 13, 2024
 Douglas Richard Tingley Jun. 21, 1948 – Jun. 17, 2024
 Donald "Don Allen Cobb Jan. 07, 1947 – Jun. 21, 2024
 Malinda Ann Compton Jul. 31, 1950 – Jun. 23, 2024
 Duane Elise Dickson May 23, 1945 – Jun. 24, 2024
 Wallace Lee Gill Sep. 11, 1942 – Jun. 24, 2024
 Velma Louise Barnabee Jun. 01, 1938 – Jun. 29, 2024

West

Eugene "Gene" Paul Preske Jul. 21, 1039 – Jun. 01, 2024
 Larry Wayne Kalinowski Apr. 02, 1946 – Jun. 03, 2024
 William L. McCoy Jan. 27, 1954 – Jun. 05, 2024
 Edward E. Daub Feb. 03, 1945 – Jun. 07, 2024
 James "Jim" Ashley Dec. 08, 1951 – Jun 10, 2024
 Robert "Bob" Wildt May 04, 1935 – Jun. 13, 2024
 Robert Earl McDaniel Jun. 19, 1952 – Jun. 16, 2024
 Charlene Allen Jun. 09, 1960 – Jun. 15, 2024
 Roger Dale Hunter Jan. 12, 1956 – Jun. 22, 2024
 Steven Robert Reine Oct. 07, 1948 – Jun. 25, 2024
 Terry Lee Magan Nov. 16, 1956 – Jun. 25, 2024
 Tom West Sep. 22, 1959 – Jun. 27, 2024
 James L. Hobby Mar. 25, 1939 – Jun. 28, 2024

North

Joyce Van Vorst Jan. 04, 1937 – Jun. 01, 2024
 Chase Arden Hinton Mar. 29, 1996 – Jun. 01, 2024
 Robert E. Lehman Nov. 13, 1957 – Jun. 01, 2024
 Jennie Ellen Hill Sep. 17, 1934 – Jun. 02, 2024
 Pauline V. Chandley Jun. 25, 1944 – Jun. 12, 2024
 Shelby Carol Small Jun. 25, 1937 – Jun. 16, 2024
 Jing "Andy" Hui Situ Sep. 23, 1956 – Jun. 17, 2024
 Eileen E. Hyde Sep. 25, 1932 – Jun. 19, 2024
 Janice Marie Titzer Jan. 19, 1940 – Jun. 21, 2024
 Briella Marie McCarter Jun. 28, 2024

BOONE FUNERAL HOME

Anatoliy "Tony" Stolyarenko Oct. 31, 1950 – Jun. 03, 2024
 Mary Alice Bertram Dec. 23, 1937 – Jun. 06, 2024
 Rev. Dr. Lynn Longenbaugh Feb. 02, 1938 – Jun. 06, 2024
 William "Bill" Brandenberger Jan. 11, 1950 – Jun. 09, 2024
 Robert Stanton "Stan" Rueger Jun. 26, 1945 – Jun. 10, 2024
 Kyle Hester Oct. 22, 1998 – Jun. 12, 2024
 Gary "Tommy" Carmickle Feb. 04, 1955 – Jun. 16, 2024
 Connie Riley Jun. 02, 1943 – Jun. 17, 2024
 Donald Gray Nov. 24, 1950 – Jun. 19, 2024
 Clara "Louise" Fuquay Nov. 24, 1926 – Jun. 20, 2024
 Michelle Stuard Aug. 23, 1961 – Jun. 21, 2024
 Debra Roehm Sep. 21, 1951 – Jun. 23, 2024
 Linda Hall Feb. 24, 1947 – Jun. 26, 2024
 Debbra Myers Feb. 16, 1951 – Jun. 27, 2024

BROWNING FUNERAL HOME

Judith Theresa Norrington Mar. 09, 1942 – Jun. 02, 2024
 Stephen "Steve" K. Shearer Oct. 22, 1963 – Jun. 05, 2024
 Phyllis Gayle Seals Oct. 22, 1935 – Jun. 07, 2024
 Nick Charles Gossman Oct. 28, 1953 – Jun. 09, 2024
 Donald "Don" L. Rich Jul. 17, 1937 – Jun. 11, 2024
 JoAnn Jeffries May 31, 1932 – Jun. 11, 2024
 David Eugene Baggett, Sr. Dec. 24, 1943 – Jun. 12, 2024
 Lisa Jane Robinson Dec. 04, 1952 – Jun. 12, 2024
 Edna Mirl Vincent Jun. 29, 1936 – Jun. 12, 2024
 Barbara Jean Hendrickson Jul. 30, 1939 – Jun. 13, 2024
 Johnny Lee Ford Dec. 11, 1973 – Jun. 13, 2024

Robert W. Wallace Aug. 08, 1937 – Jun. 14, 2024
 Patsy Lou Ramsey Sep. 22, 1955 – Jun. 15, 2024
 Betty Jane Russell Nov. 28, 1938 – Jun. 18, 2024
 Ray Lawson Cashen Nov. 19, 1936 – Jun. 18, 2024
 Betty Jane Russell Nov. 28, 1938 – Jun. 18, 2024
 Julie Ann Davis Jul. 16, 1964 – Jun. 19, 2024
 Frank Paul Elperman Feb. 28, 1938 – Jun. 20, 2024
 David Brian Schimmell Mar. 20, 1956 – Jun. 20, 2024
 Michael Wayne Brooks, Jr. Jul. 06, 1993 – Jun. 22, 2024
 Ronnie Kay Thomason Dec. 04, 1944 – Jun. 22, 2024
 Corey Michael Fisher Feb. 27, 1980 – Jun. 24, 2024
 Catherine A. Chapman Jun. 29, 1928 – Jun. 25, 2024
 David Niels Georgesen Aug. 07, 1937 – Jun. 09, 2024
 Gregory "Greg" A. VanWinkle Aug. 18, 1958 – Jun. 29, 2024
 Melvin J. Kissenger Oct. 15, 1927 – Jun. 30, 2024
 Dale Harold Weidemann Dec. 05, 1935 – Jun. 29, 2024
 Patricia Schwake Sep. 24, 1941 – Jun. 01, 2024

MASON BROTHERS FUNERAL SERVICES

Jace Elliott Partis May 20, 1997 – Jun. 01, 2024
 Jo'Neisha Ann Ealum May 28, 1988 – Jun. 04, 2024
 Regina Rae Moss Oct. 02, 1965 – Jun. 05, 2024
 Nancy Etta Hunter Dec. 18, 1938 – Jun. 10, 2024
 Barbara Ann Bard Feb. 20, 1941 – Jun. 17, 2024
 Lottie Mae Carter Harvell Mar. 02, 1935 – Jun. 18, 2024
 Lori Ann Wilson Apr. 27, 1961 – Jun. 30, 2024

PIERRE FUNERAL HOME

Wanda L Wilbur Jul. 07, 1940 – Jun. 01, 2024
 Thomas H. Koressel Aug. 30, 1924 – Jun. 04, 2024
 Kathleen Coleman Oct. 02, 1954 – Jun. 05, 2024
 Henrietta "Sally" Overbey Nov. 20, 1922 – Jun. 06, 2024
 Robert L. Webster Sr. Oct. 02, 1934 – Jun. 07, 2024
 Donna D. King Mar. 08, 1962 – Jun. 10, 2024
 Stephen E. Reidford Jun. 22, 1951 – Jun. 11, 2024
 Andrea Rose Zenthoefer Jun. 03, 1975 – Jun. 15, 2024
 Margaret Jean Kruse Dec. 25, 1927 – Jun. 16, 2024
 Alan Darryl Staser Jun. 24, 1946 – Jun. 16, 2024
 Mark A. Hamilton Jan. 21, 1965 – Jun. 17, 2024
 Sherry L. Muller Aug. 30, 1937 – Jun. 18, 2024
 Gary Don Jellison Sep. 08, 1942 – Jun. 20, 2024
 David E. Allen May 06, 1951 – Jun. 20, 2024
 Toni Marie Flamion Dec. 13, 1940 – Jun. 21, 2024
 Mary Rita Grannan Jun. 23, 1948 – Jun. 26, 2024
 Wanda Lee Clawson May 28 1930 – Jun. 27, 2024
 Joyce Brumitt Jul. 20, 1945 – Jun. 29, 2024
 Glenn V. Macke Mar. 26, 1957 – Jun. 30, 2024
 Peggy J. Heugel Jan. 30, 1939 – Jun. 30, 2024

ZIEMER FUNERAL HOME

Patricia Kay Leahy Mar. 23, 1939 – Jun. 03, 2024
 John Andre Mangravite Oct. 22, 1939 – Jun. 11, 2024
 Kathy L. Wilson Jun. 18, 1962 – Jun. 17, 2024
 Rose Marie Simms Jun. 21, 1926 – Jun. 19, 2024
 Ralph M. DeMartino Mar. 29, 1928 – Jun. 22, 2024
 Ron Gold Jan. 25, 1941 – Jun. 26, 2024
 Keith E. Carnahan Apr. 01, 1960 – Jun. 28, 2024
 Joseph "JD" Joergens Sep. 08, 1952 – Jun. 28, 2024

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Sudoku Puzzle Answer Jul. '24

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

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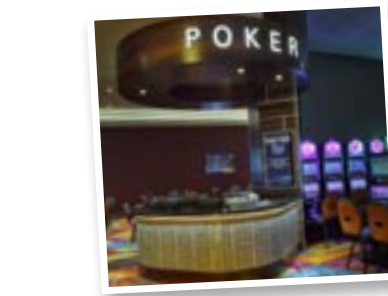
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10:30PM CT
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THURSDAYS, JULY 18 & JULY 25
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Drawings from 2PM - 3:30PM

SUNDAY, JULY 21
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Drawings from 2PM - 3:30PM

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Drawings from 7PM - 8:30PM.

FRIDAY, JULY 19
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Drawings from 8:30PM - 10PM.

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