



# Patrick

200 N. Green River Rd. • Evansville



FOR THE PROGRESS OF OUR REGION...

THE CITY-COUNTY

# Observer

Happy Holidays and a Great New Year!



Vol. 5 No. 12

December 2024

Evansville, IN

## Santa To Greet Evansville's Youth At Simplicity Furniture

DECEMBER 2024

There's nothing like the excitement of a child when they come face-to-face with Santa Claus. You might not expect that encounter to happen in a furniture store, but Pat Coslett has arranged for boys and girls to meet Santa at his Simplicity Furniture store. More details about Santa are on page 5.

The City-County Observer moles have been helping Santa with his naughty and nice list. Quite a few names are being

added to the naughty list, especially in the ranks of our elected officials.

The reports from the moles are making their way to Santa via the weekly IS IT TRUE column in the online version of the



our article on surviving the holi-

days on page 3.

While many people find great joy in celebrating the birth of Jesus, there are some who find themselves fighting depression during Christmas.

Check out

Local sports fans are asking Santa for a winning season. Check out our daily coverage in our online sports section.

And, we have a special gift for all of you who look forward to the crossword puzzles in this paper. The CCO online now has daily crossword puzzles.

Enjoy your holidays and be sure to subscribe to the online edition, it's free! You could win a dinner for two at Cavanaugh's Steak House.

## Old National To Merge With Bremer Financial

DECEMBER 2024

Old National Bancorp (NASDAQ: ONB) ("Old National") and Bremer Financial Corporation ("BFC" or "Bremer") jointly announced today that they entered into a definitive merger agreement. Founded in 1943, BFC is the bank holding company for Bremer Bank.

As of September 30, 2024, Bremer had \$16.2 billion in total assets, \$11.5 billion in total loans, and \$13.2 billion in deposits. After the partnership is completed, Old National will become the third-largest bank in the Twin Cities. In addition, the partnership expands Old National's reach into several other vibrant markets throughout Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin. Once combined, the new organization would have over \$70 billion in assets (based on September 30, 2024 asset figures), a significantly larger footprint, and offer additional banking capabilities and enhanced resources to serve customers.

"This partnership represents an outstanding fit between two highly compatible, relationship- and community-focused banks," said Old National Chairman and CEO Jim Ryan. "When you look at what has made Bremer Bank a leading institution since 1943, what you quickly find are the same strategic priorities and cultural principles that have guided Old National's success for 190 years: a strong deposit franchise, a diversified loan portfolio accentuated by exceptional credit quality, and a

Continued On Page 5

## Braun Shares Agenda With State Assembly

DECEMBER 2024

Following is the open letter that Governor-elect Mike Braun sent to legislators at Org Day:

"As Governor-elect, I am honored to share an update on our transition efforts and outline the key areas of focus for the agenda we will pursue together. Indiana has a proud tradition of leadership and innovation, and as we prepare to govern, I am committed to working in partnership with you to deliver bold and meaningful outcomes for Hoosiers.

"As I've traveled the state over the last several months, Hoosiers have shared their hopes for Indiana and the challenges they want us, as elected leaders, to address in the upcoming session. Their input highlights a diverse set of challenges and opportunities, underscoring the need for thoughtful collaboration between the executive branch and the legislature to deliver real results.

"Our transition is progressing well, and I am deeply encouraged by the hundreds of Hoosiers who have stepped up to serve our state by joining the transition effort. These dedicated individuals, representing a wide range of expertise and backgrounds, are serving on 12 transition councils tasked with evaluating key areas of state government and developing thoughtful recommendations. Their work will help shape our policy priorities, but true success will require strong collaboration between the administration and the General Assembly.

"As part of this collaboration, I look forward to working closely with each of you to refine and implement our shared priorities. In the coming weeks, I will release a detailed agenda that will outline my administration's primary initiatives for our work together. Below are several key areas that I look forward to working on with each of you to deliver solutions for



Hoosiers:

- "1. Cut, Cap, and Reform Property Taxes – Provide relief to taxpayers and ensure a fair, predictable system.
- "2. Pass a Balanced Budget – Promote fiscal responsibility, government efficiency, and sustainability.
- "3. Improve Constituent Services – Deliver faster, more efficient services to Hoosiers.
- "4. Universal School Choice and Education Quality – Expand opportunities, improve quality, and increase accountability.
- "5. Public Safety – Protect Hoosiers from violent crime and drugs, and support law enforcement.
- "6. Lower Healthcare Costs – Tackle rising costs through competition, transparency, and innovation.
- "7. Economic Development – Focus

on wage growth, workforce development, and measurable outcomes.

"8. Energy and Water – Develop comprehensive strategies for reliable and affordable utilities.

"These key areas reflect the shared priorities of Hoosiers and provide a strong foundation for our work together. I am committed to maintaining open lines of communication and fostering a spirit of collaboration as we address these challenges.

"My door will always be open to you, and my team stands ready to work with the General Assembly to advance legislation that serves the best interests of our state. Thank you for your service to Indiana. Together, we can ensure that our state remains a beacon of prosperity, innovation, and Hoosier values."

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EST. 2002

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# Commentary

## Indiana Democrats Accused Of Not Having A 'Winning Message'

DECEMBER 2024

By Joe Wallace

Inflation in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic stemmed from a complex interplay of supply chain disruptions, increased consumer demand fueled by government stimulus, and rising costs across sectors. While these traditional economic narratives dominate the conversation, subtle and often overlooked factors also contributed to inflationary pressures, particularly costs absorbed by businesses that did not necessarily translate into value for consumers.

Among these costs were initiatives that, while well-intentioned, arguably added to corporate expenses without directly enhancing product quality or availability. One such example is the widespread adoption of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs. As companies like Walmart now roll back their DEI initiatives, it raises questions about how these efforts and other non-core expenditures may have indirectly influenced inflation.

### The Rise of Corporate DEI Programs

The DEI movement gained significant momentum in the wake of social justice protests in 2020. Many corporations invested heavily in DEI initiatives, ranging from hiring dedicated DEI officers and creating specialized departments to funding training programs, outreach campaigns, and supplier diversity efforts. While these initiatives aimed to foster workplace inclusivity and equality, the associated costs were substantial.

**Hiring and Training:** DEI officers often command six-figure salaries, and rolling out mandatory training sessions across large workforces requires significant time and resources.

**Supplier Diversity Programs:** Some companies shifted procurement strategies to prioritize diverse suppliers, which sometimes led to higher costs if those suppliers lacked economies of scale.

**Public Relations and Branding:** Companies spent millions on campaigns to highlight their DEI commitments, diverting funds from product development or operational improvements.

While these efforts may have improved corporate reputations and employee satisfaction in some cases, they rarely addressed core operational efficiencies or product value. Moreover, the cost of these initiatives often had to be absorbed by customers in the form of higher prices.

### Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Investments

Beyond DEI, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) commitments also added a layer of cost to many businesses. ESG goals encouraged companies to adopt greener practices, improve worker conditions, and enhance governance transparency. While noble in their intentions, these initiatives were not without financial consequences:

**Sustainability Overhauls:** Transitioning to renewable energy sources or adopting sustainable materials required significant upfront investments.

**Compliance and Reporting:** Companies faced growing regulatory pressures to disclose ESG metrics, leading to increased administrative and auditing costs.

**Market Pressures:** Public companies felt compelled to align with investor demands for ESG commitments, even when such commitments didn't align with operational priorities.

These expenses, like DEI initiatives, often did little to enhance product

functionality or availability for the end consumer. Instead, they added to the overall cost structure, which contributed to upward price pressures.

### Labor Market Challenges and Non-Core Compensation

The labor market also played a critical role in post-pandemic inflation. Companies scrambled to attract and retain workers in an era of labor shortages, leading to enhanced compensation packages that extended beyond traditional wages. These often included perks such as tuition reimbursement, extended parental leave, and mental health resources—valuable to employees but not directly related to product or service delivery.

Similarly, remote work accommodations created hidden costs. Corporations invested heavily in upgrading digital infrastructure, providing stipends for home office setups, and maintaining unused office spaces. While these measures were necessary to adapt to new work paradigms, they added to operational costs without increasing the value of goods or services.

### Legal and Regulatory Pressures

The post-pandemic period also saw heightened regulatory scrutiny and litigation risks, especially around workplace safety and employee rights. Businesses faced lawsuits related to COVID-19 exposures, vaccine mandates, and wrongful terminations, leading to higher legal expenses and insurance premiums. Additionally, regulatory compliance costs rose as governments imposed stricter health and safety standards.

### Advertising and Market Realignment

The pandemic disrupted consumer behaviors, forcing businesses to rethink how they engaged with their audiences. Massive spending

on digital advertising and rebranding efforts aimed at capturing new customer segments added further to cost structures. Companies invested heavily in analyzing shifting trends and launching campaigns, with much of this spending focused on maintaining market share rather than creating tangible product improvements.

### Hidden Costs: A Collective Burden

Individually, these factors—DEI initiatives, ESG investments, enhanced compensation packages, legal expenses, and marketing realignment—may seem minor compared to traditional inflation drivers like supply chain bottlenecks or stimulus-driven demand surges. However, collectively, they represent significant costs absorbed by businesses. When passed down to consumers, they contribute to inflation without necessarily enhancing the value of goods and services.

### A Path Forward

As companies reassess priorities in a challenging economic climate, many are scaling back on initiatives that fail to deliver measurable returns. Walmart's decision to eliminate its DEI programs reflects a broader trend of returning to basics—focusing on core operations and efficiency. While inclusivity and sustainability remain important societal goals, achieving them without imposing undue costs on businesses or consumers is critical.

The post-pandemic economy offers an opportunity for businesses to balance social responsibility with financial prudence. By aligning initiatives with operational goals and consumer expectations, companies can minimize inflationary pressures and focus on delivering value—a shift that benefits everyone in the long run.

## Indiana GOP Should Consider Grassroots When Selecting New Chair

DECEMBER 2024

By Johnny Kincaid

When Randy Head stepped down from his job as chairman of the Indiana Republican Party this week, he left Governor-elect Mike Braun and the state party with a unique opportunity to build a vibrant, engaged party.

"We don't need to build the party," leadership might say, "Did you not see the election results?" While the party credited Head's leadership for the wins in the election, I would contend that Indiana Republican

candidates won despite the party leadership, not because of it. The momentum, excitement, and high voter turnout came from the very top of the ticket with the high interest in the presidential campaign. Donald Trump should get the lion's share of credit for getting voters to the polls.

Braun and the Indiana GOP would be wise to embrace the movement that encouraged a record number of people to run for Precinct Committeeman and brought a wave of conservatives to the state GOP

convention. The message these newly engaged party members sent was that they are tired of the top-down approach that keeps the party power centralized with a select committee of the upper class.

The grassroots have flexed their muscles as delegates at two Indiana GOP conventions. In 2022, the delegates voted to replace Governor Eric Holcomb's Secretary of State, Holly Sullivan, with Diego Morales, and in 2024, the conservative delegates decided to pair gubernatorial candidate Mike Braun with Lt.

Governor candidate Micah Beckwith.

I wonder whether Braun and party leaders have been paying attention to the grassroots members or will they be tone-deaf to the voices of those who believe that power belongs in the hands of the people.

I suggest that the Indiana GOP look outside of the swamp and select a leader that can communicate with all sectors of the party. One such leader is Dubois County GOP Chair Jan Hicks. Right after the GOP

Continued On Page 5

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# Community

## How To Deal With Stress And Depression During The Festive Season

DECEMBER 2024

By Johnny Kincaid

The holidays are supposed to be “the most wonderful time of the year.” Yet, for many people, they feel like anything but. Between juggling family commitments, shopping for gifts, managing finances, and dealing with the general hustle and bustle, the holidays can bring on a level of stress that rivals even the busiest workdays. For others, feelings of loneliness, grief, or seasonal depression can take center stage, making this time feel particularly isolating. If you’re nodding along, you’re not alone—and there’s hope.

Experts agree that while holiday stress and depression are common, there are ways to navigate this tricky time of year with more ease and emotional well-being.

This year, we have to take politics into consideration

Dave Bowersox, a pastor at The Hills Church in Evansville, says that differing beliefs can cause a lot of friction at family get-togethers. “I’m doing a lot of work with folks to just help bridge the gap between whether you disagree politically or even just with life choices,” Bowersox said, “Like, can we put those aside?”

According to Bowersox, some notable voices are suggesting that isolation is a good way to deal with these differences. “I’m really saddened by the conversation going on out there,” he said. “Respected professionals are saying, hey, it’s OK to just isolate this season. I don’t remember a time when I’ve seen somebody say it’s a good thing to isolate this year because you’re upset with somebody or you disagree with them.”

### Understanding the Roots of Holiday Stress

Why are the holidays so stressful? Dr. Carla Manly, a clinical psychologist and author of *Joy from Fear*, says that much of the pressure stems from unrealistic expectations. “We often idealize the holidays,” she explains, “but life isn’t perfect, and neither are the holidays. When we expect everything to go smoothly—perfect meals, happy family gatherings, flawless gift exchanges—we set ourselves up for disappointment.

The holidays also come with a significant financial burden. According to the American Psychological Association (APA), 62% of Americans report that money is a source of stress during this season. Whether it’s the pressure to buy expensive gifts, travel, or host parties, the financial toll can leave people feeling anxious and overwhelmed.

And then there’s the emotional side. For those who have lost loved ones, this time of year can be a painful reminder of who’s missing. Similarly, people who are estranged from family or living far from friends may feel especially lonely.

### Recognizing Signs of Holiday Depression

While stress during the holidays is common, for some, it goes deeper. Depression can show up as persistent sadness, lack of energy, changes in appetite or sleep, and loss of interest in activities you usually enjoy. For those who already struggle with depression, the holidays may exacerbate these symptoms.

“Seasonal depression, or Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), is also something to be mindful of,” says Dr. Norman Rosenthal, the psychiatrist who first described SAD in the 1980s. “The shorter days and reduced sun-



light in winter can trigger depressive symptoms in vulnerable individuals.”

Understanding that these feelings are valid—and that you’re not alone in experiencing them—can be the first step toward finding relief.

### Practical Tips for Managing Holiday Stress

#### Set Realistic Expectations

Let go of the need for a Pinterest-perfect holiday. Focus on what really matters to you and your loved ones. “Ask yourself: What do I want to feel during the holidays?” advises Dr. Manly. “Once you identify that—whether it’s peace, joy, or connection—you can make decisions that align with those values.”

#### Create a Budget (and Stick to It)

Financial stress can be a major contributor to holiday blues. Set a spending limit and stick to it. Remember, meaningful gifts don’t have to be expensive. Sometimes, a heartfelt note or a handmade present can mean more than something bought from a store.

#### Prioritize Self-Care

It’s easy to neglect yourself when you’re busy with holiday obligations, but taking care of your physical and mental health is crucial. Try to get enough sleep, eat nourishing foods, and make time for exercise—even if it’s just a brisk walk around the block. “Exercise is a powerful mood booster,” says Dr. Rosenthal. “It helps combat stress and depression by releasing endorphins.”

#### Learn to Say No

You don’t have to attend every holiday party or participate in every Secret Santa exchange. Saying no to obligations that don’t serve your well-being is not only okay—it’s necessary.

#### Delegate Responsibilities

You don’t have to do it all. Ask family members to pitch in with cooking, decorating, or shopping. Sharing the workload can help ease your stress and make everyone feel more involved.

### Navigating Emotional Challenges

#### Acknowledge Your Feelings

It’s okay to feel sad, lonely, or overwhelmed during the holidays. Suppressing those emotions will only make them worse. Allow yourself to grieve if you’ve lost someone or feel disappointed if the season isn’t shaping up as you’d hoped.

#### Reach Out for Support

Talking to a trusted friend, family member, or therapist can help you process your emotions. Sometimes, just sharing your feelings with someone who listens can be incredibly healing.

#### Create New Traditions

If old traditions bring more pain than joy, consider starting new ones. Whether it’s volunteering at a local

shelter, hosting a game night with friends, or taking a solo trip, creating a fresh approach to the holidays can help shift your perspective.

#### Practice Gratitude

It’s easy to focus on what’s missing during the holidays, but shifting your attention to what you do have can be a powerful antidote to sadness. Keeping a gratitude journal or simply taking a moment each day to reflect on something you’re thankful for can improve your mood.

### Tackling Loneliness During the Holidays

For those spending the holidays alone, finding ways to connect with others—even in small ways—can make a big difference. Consider reaching out to community groups, attending local events, or volunteering. Helping others often provides a

sense of purpose and connection.

Dr. Manly also suggests planning ahead to create a holiday experience that feels meaningful to you. “Being alone doesn’t have to mean being lonely,” she says. “Use the time to reflect, recharge, and engage in activities that bring you joy.”

### When to Seek Professional Help

If you’re feeling overwhelmed to the point where it’s interfering with your daily life, or if you’re experiencing thoughts of self-harm or hopelessness, it’s important to seek professional help. Therapists and counselors can provide tools and strategies for managing your emotions, and sometimes medication may be helpful.

Dr. Rosenthal emphasizes that reaching out is a sign of strength, not weakness. “The holidays are hard for many people,” he says. “There’s no shame in seeking support to help you get through them.”

### Conclusion

The holidays may never be perfect, but they don’t have to be a source of dread, either. By setting boundaries, prioritizing self-care, and leaning on support systems, you can navigate the season with more resilience and joy. Remember: It’s okay to put yourself first and redefine what the holidays mean to you.

So take a deep breath, let go of unrealistic expectations, and embrace the season for what it is—messy, imperfect, but also full of opportunities to connect, reflect, and grow. You’ve got this.



## Cork and Fork

An evening benefiting Chemo Buddies  
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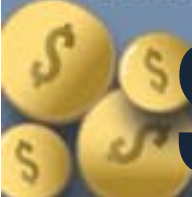

# EXPLORE EVANSVILLE

EXPLORE EVANSVILLE SERVES AS THE OFFICIAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION FOR EVANSVILLE AND VANDERBURGH COUNTY DEDICATED TO MARKET AND SUPPORT THE LOCAL HOTELS AND ATTRACTIONS BY DEVELOPING AND FACILITATING THE CONVENTION AND VISITOR INDUSTRY IN EVANSVILLE.

## 2024 TOURISM REVIEW

EXPLORE EVANSVILLE TOUCHED  WITH ATTENDANCE TOTALING

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## 2025 TOURISM PREVIEW

2025 BRINGS EXCITING EVENTS TO EVANSVILLE!

					
<i>2025 Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors Annual Convention</i>	<i>2025 Indiana &amp; Kentucky Meat Packers &amp; Processors Association Convention</i>	<i>2025 Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses Annual Convention</i>	<i>2025 National Fishing Lure Collectors Club National Convention</i>	<i>2025 International Jugglers' Association Annual Festival</i>	<i>2025 Professional Pickleball Association Tour</i>
DATES: March 14-17, 2025	DATES: March 19-23, 2025	DATES: June 6-8 & June 13-15, 2025	DATES: June 9-12, 2025	DATES: July 16-20, 2025	DATES: September 16-24, 2025
ATTENDEES: 550	ATTENDEES: 300	ATTENDEES: 6,000	ATTENDEES: 500	ATTENDEES: 700	ATTENDEES: 2,000
ROOM NIGHTS: 750	ROOM NIGHTS: 515	ROOM NIGHTS: 6,000	ROOM NIGHTS: 880	ROOM NIGHTS: 1,080	ROOM NIGHTS: 1,345
ECONOMIC IMPACT: \$504k	ECONOMIC IMPACT: \$207k	ECONOMIC IMPACT: \$2.6mil	ECONOMIC IMPACT: \$244K	ECONOMIC IMPACT: \$469k	ECONOMIC IMPACT: \$1.8mil

### RIVERBOAT TOURISM

American Cruise Lines will make stops in Evansville on its journey along the Ohio River, bringing over 1,200 projected visitors to our city.

#### UPCOMING EXCURSIONS

2025 JUN 24	2025 AUG 25	2025 SEP 1	2026 JUN 23	2026 JUL 13	2026 AUG 3	2026 AUG 11	2026 AUG 24	2026 AUG 31
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# Community

## METS Micro Celebrates Year One

DECEMBER 2024

The Metropolitan Evansville Transit System (METS) is celebrating the first anniversary, of its innovative and affordable on-demand public transit service, METS Micro. Since launching on November 27, 2023, METS Micro has completed over 37,000 rides.

METS, with help from Toyota Mobility Foundation, Energy Systems Network and the Evansville Metropolitan Planning Organization, introduced METS Micro as a pilot program to enhance mobility for Evansville residents, offering a \$2-per-ride shared transportation option.

Using an app-based "virtual bus stop" system, METS Micro operated by TransitTech provider Via, matches riders heading in similar directions, to optimize cost, efficiency while also minimizing wait times. Additionally,

the program offers accessibility to persons with mobility impairments.

Todd Robertson, Executive Director for Transportation and Services, said "METS Micro initially began serving the Eastside of Evansville, and then in June 2024 expanded into parts of downtown and now reaches approximately 50% of Evansville's population and 40% of the city's jobs."

As METS Micro marks this milestone, METS is looking forward to continued growth and hopes to make the service a permanent fixture in Evansville's transit landscape. The program's one-year success underscores the need for flexible, affordable, and accessible transit solutions in urban communities.

For more information on METS Micro, visit <https://city.ridewithvia.com/mets-micro>.

## Old National To Merge With Bremer



Continued On Page 1

passion for investing in and strengthening communities. I am incredibly confident that, through this partnership, Bremer and Old National will be even better together."

"For more than 80 years, we've been honored to carry out the legacy of our founder, Otto Bremer," said Jeanne Crain, President and CEO of

Bremer. "When our majority shareholder, the Otto Bremer Trust, reaffirmed its interest in selling Bremer Bank, we appreciated the opportunity to identify a partner through a collaborative process to ensure the best possible outcome for our customers, employees, and our communities. With Old National, we have confidence we found a great fit."

## Indiana GOP Should Consider Grassroots When Selecting Chair

Continued From Page 2

convention, Hicks' was considered for the position, and she should be considered again.

Hicks has the ability to communicate with all factions of the party. She conveys Republican ideals and obviously believes in the party platform. Communicating with a broad cross-section of the party is one of her strengths, whether talking to conservatives or moderates.

Unfortunately, political parties are set up to protect the status quo. The

structure and rules are in place to keep the elites in power and keep people who should be in charge away from leadership rules. The swamp is alive and teeming with swamp creatures who will rule from above.

It's up to Governor-elect Braun to make a recommendation that could transform the Republican Party and up to the state central committee to avoid the temptation to seek a leader who is part of the swamp.



# SIMPLICITY



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SUNDAY	12-4PM

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# Community

## Mayor Terry Announces Program To Fight Blight In Evansville

DECEMBER 2024

Mayor Stephanie Terry announced the launch of the Fight Blight program, aimed at identifying and rehabilitating blighted properties throughout Evansville – and asked for the public’s help in the program’s first phase.

“We have a number of properties across Evansville that are vacant, abandoned, or in other ways beyond repair,” Mayor Terry said. “Fight Blight is aimed at identifying those properties and either rehabilitating or re-developing as many as possible, so that we remove these hazardous eyesores from our neighborhoods and bring them back as safe, stable homes or businesses that residents are proud to have in their neighborhoods.”

Earlier this year, during the budget process, Mayor Terry announced plans to allocate \$550,000 in American Rescue Plan Act interest funds to blight removal. The first phase of Fight Blight will utilize some of those funds to raze 23 properties that the Building Commission already has slated for demolition, but ran

out of funding to take down in 2024.

Over the course of 2025, city officials expect to be able to use those funds raze at least 150 structures – nearly three times as many as will be razed in 2024.

At the same time, Mayor Terry is asking residents to help create a database of blighted properties in the community. If there is a property in your neighborhood that is vacant, abandoned, boarded up, or that otherwise

“exhibits objectively determinable signs of deterioration sufficient to constitute a threat to human health, safety, and public welfare,” please email the property’s address – along with the condition of the house and, if you are able, a photograph – to [blight@evansville.in.gov](mailto:blight@evansville.in.gov). This will get the property into the city’s database, and begin the process

of inspecting it and determining if it meets the qualifications of a blighted property.

“The first step in solving any problem is having a thorough understanding of the problem,” Mayor Terry said. “We’re asking



the public to help us identify as many blighted properties as possible to help ensure we have a full grasp of the scope of this issue, which will allow us to move forward with a strategic and intentional effort to

remediate the blight in our community – which is a critical element in our neighborhood revitalization efforts.”

Once city officials have had the opportunity to inspect the identified properties, those properties that meet the qualifications for either demolition or rehabilitation through Fight Blight will be prioritized based on their condition, as well as by their loca-

tion. Properties in the worst condition, as well as clusters of properties that, when added together, can make a significant impact on a neighborhood, will be first in line for possible remediation.

So while not all properties identified will be able to see immediate cleanup, city officials will use the ARPA interest funds, as well as additional funds budgeted in 2025 for the Land Bank and for land acquisition, to make as large an impact as possible.

“This isn’t a problem we’ll solve in one year, or even two or three,” Mayor Terry said. “But we are committed to neighborhood revitalization, and these properties – along with being a drain on their neighborhoods – are dangers to anyone who enters, including police who may have to enter due to criminal activity or firefighters battling a structure fire.

“They also represent uncollected property tax dollars, which could be invested back into our community.”

## Over \$500,000 In Grants Awarded To Non-Profits

DECEMBER 2024

The Evansville Endowment Fund recently announced total grant awards of more than \$505,000 to assist 23 nonprofits in Evansville. Grants are designated for capital improvement projects, with a requirement that at least 60% of the annual funds be allocated to organizations serving Evansville’s Fourth and Sixth Wards.

The annual grant cycle began in May. The EEF grants committee awards grants through a competitive application and review process.

“Evansville Endowment Fund is excited to continue granting funds to nonprofit organizations directly serving our community,” said board president, Amber Rascoe. “This year we granted to a wide variety of exciting projects. Thank you to the grant committee and board for your time and service. Congratulations to this year’s recipients! I encourage all nonprofits to go to our website for information about how to apply

next year.”

### 2024 Evansville Endowment Fund Grant Recipients

Ark, Inc. to reroute downspout drainage underground, repair a broken water wall pipe, and construct a retention wall

Carver Community Organization to remove the existing playground surface and install turf surfacing

Community Action Program of Evansville & Vanderburgh County, Inc. to replace eight HVAC units at Paradise Estates

Community One to secure licensed professional services for the restoration of a vacant, dilapidated residential property at 637 Jackson Avenue

Dream Center Evansville to install black-galvanized steel fencing around the playground and improve the parking area fencing

Evansville African-American Museum Inc. to develop and install seven new historical markers along the Baptisttown Heritage Trail

Evansville Christian Life Center for the purchase and installation of new exterior doors

Evansville Museum of Arts, History, & Science for the purchase and installation of twelve security cameras and software equipment

Habitat for Humanity of Evansville to assist with the construction materials to build ten homes in Tepe Park and ten homes in Jacobsville neighborhoods

Hydration Station to install a Hydration Station at Riverfront Park

Impact Evansville to assist with the construction of Bedford Collab

Lampion Center for drywall repair and painting in six bathrooms and painting in two offices

Ozanam Family Shelter to purchase and install 50 windows

Southwestern Healthcare, Inc. to add a drop-off parking area adjacent to the building and remove and install new landscaping

St. Vincent Early Learning Center, Inc. for safety and security upgrades

SWIRCA & More for the renovation of SWIRCA’s current building and the construction of the new Sol and Arlene Bronstein Foundation Center

The Arc Evansville to replace the mechanical component of the sliding entry door

The Isaiah 1:17 Project to remodel a bathroom and kitchen to be accessible and child-friendly

The Potter’s Wheel, Inc. to repair, resurface, and reline the primary parking lot

Tri-State Food Bank for the purchase of steel angles, angle paint, and drywall repairs

Vanderburgh Humane Society, Inc. to assist with roof repair and replacement of the HVAC system condenser and coil

WNIN Tri-State Public Media, Inc. to remove deteriorated caulking and install new sealant

YWCA of Evansville for tuckpointing to the north elevation of the building

For more information, please visit [www.evv-endowment.org](http://www.evv-endowment.org).

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# Community

## Evansville Residents Already Displaying Christmas Lights



**DECEMBER 2024**

Some folks really get in the Christmas spirit and go all out decorating.

Here are a few of our favorites from the Evansville Christmas Lights Facebook page.

Use the QR code below to check out the interactive map to the best displays.



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# Education

## UE Awarded \$41,000 Gift To Enhance School Of Education

DECEMBER 2024

The University of Evansville (UE) is pleased to announce a generous gift from the trust of UE alumna Joyce Short to the School of Education.

Ms. Short saw the importance of investing in our future educators. She dedicated her life to teaching, advocating for every student she encountered. Even in retirement, her passion for education continued as she mentored future teachers, often volunteering her time to support one of her favorite student teachers. Ms. Short spent most of her career teaching third grade for the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corpora-

tion (EVSC).

While Ms. Short enjoyed traveling the world, she always cherished her visits to Evansville to cheer on her beloved Purple Aces.

The School of Education is so very grateful for the generous gift from Ms. Short. The funding will support pre-service teachers by providing continued licensure testing resources and support with licensure fees. The gift will also support efforts to update and replenish their Early Literacy library for our pre-service teachers to use during student teaching, internships, and tutoring opportunities at area schools.



## Circle Of Ivy Awards \$20,000+ For Student Support

DECEMBER 2024

Circle of Ivy, the women's philanthropy circle of the Ivy Tech Foundation, has raised more than \$200,000 to support programs statewide. On the Evansville campus, \$20,000 was raised, the organization announced on Nov. 15. Ivy Tech Evansville is one of 19 campuses to receive funding from Circle of Ivy and will support five programs:

Ivy+ Rise and Thrive: \$3,500

Free Citizenship Program: \$1,500

Student Coffee Bar: \$970

High School Ethics Bowl: \$2,500

Break Room to Great Room – Employee Lounge Renovation: \$11,680

Circle of Ivy has grown to more than 1,000 members over nine years and has raised more than \$1.4 million statewide to help students studying numerous disciplines.

"Having 75 members allows the Evansville Circle to raise funds as well as create awareness of this asset in the Evansville community. Students feel fully supported in all



aspects of their lives, be it education, food poverty or feeling the support of the staff and Circle of Ivy members while they reach financial security and a career they have chosen," said Sharon Bray, member of the Evansville philanthropy. "I have personally heard students say the moment they enter the doors of Ivy Tech they feel this is their home."

"The funding from Circle of Ivy will have a meaningful, long-lasting impact on our students and our

community," said Daniela Vidal, chancellor of Ivy Tech Evansville. "Many of our students are the first in their families to attend college, and the generosity of Circle of Ivy will allow more of them to excel and adequately prepare for their careers. These opportunities make Indiana and our community stronger."

Founded in 2015, Circle of Ivy focuses on the needs of students attending Ivy Tech Community College, the largest singly accredited

community college in the U.S.

Circle of Ivy builds opportunities and diminishes barriers to higher education by raising funds to help with emergency needs as well as sending students abroad for educational opportunities, providing instructional support with classroom technology and textbooks, and other critical programs.

"The commitment of the women who make up Circle of Ivy should be inspiring to everyone associated with Ivy Tech," said Courtney Roberts, President of the Ivy Tech Foundation. "I am personally proud to be part of an organization doing so much good for our students – the future leaders of our communities. Ivy Tech is integral to Indiana's success story, and the commitment and generosity of women who belong to Circle of Ivy help make it happen."

Each campus voted on submitted proposals. To find a list of the projects being funded, visit the Circle of Ivy web page at [ivytech.edu/circleofivy](http://ivytech.edu/circleofivy).

## VU Hosts 'Evening of Exploration: Showcase of Automation'

DECEMBER 2024

The Vincennes University Advanced Manufacturing Robotics & Mechatronics Program welcomed prospective students and their families to an inspiring night at the "Evening of Exploration: Showcase of Automation" event at the VU Technology Center. This special event offered attendees a unique opportunity to experience the world of robotics and mechatronics firsthand.

Around 100 people interacted with cutting-edge technologies

and learned more about the rapidly evolving field of advanced manufacturing.

The showcase, which took place on Nov. 13, was designed as a recruiting and networking event for prospective Trailblazers and their families, allowing them to immerse themselves in VU's innovative educational environment.

Advanced Manufacturing Robotics & Mechatronics Program Director Timothy Hedrick said, "Through interactive demonstrations and exploration in our state-

of-the-art labs and classrooms, we can show future students and their families what a hands-on, industry-driven education looks like. This showcase also strengthens our connections with industry partners, who offer valuable insights and opportunities for students to bridge directly into impactful and in-demand careers. We're excited to demonstrate to the community the exciting future of advanced manufacturing, robotics, and mechatronics and VU's role in preparing the next generation of skilled

professionals."

VU faculty and current students were on hand to introduce guests to various technologies. One of the event's highlights was a demonstration in which two VU students programmed a collaborative robot (also known as a cobot) to play the classic board game Operation, delighting the guests with the precision and agility of modern robotics. This interactive demonstration showcased not only the technical skills of current students

**Continued On Page 11**

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# Comics & Puzzles

## TANK MCNAMARA

by Bill Hinds

AN A.I. COACH WILL SOLVE ALL OF THE 'SMASHERS' NEEDS.

IT CAN STUDY ALL OF THE BEST COACHES OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS AND LEARN THE WINNINGEST DECISIONS.

WHY HIRE BELICKICK, CARROLL, EVEN NICK SABAN? THE A.I. COACH WOULD BE ALL OF THE G.O.A.T.s IN ONE.

THE PROBLEM IS, THE FANS AND THE OWNERS LIKE TO FIRE COACHES.

NO PROBLEM. JUST FIRE THE G.M.

DO YOU HAVE A SHUTDOWN BUTTON, OR MAYBE A SELF-DESTRUCT SWITCH?

## GET FUZZY

by darby conley

LOOK AT THIS! THE WHOLE CITY IS COVERED IN STICKERS!

WALK FOR AWARENESS? WHAT'S THAT?

SOME CHARITY, I GUESS, AND THAT'S FINE, BUT DO THEY HAVE TO WALLPAPER THE ENTIRE CITY WITH THEIR LITTLE LOGOS?

WE'LL HAVE TO HAVE A WALK FOR THE ENVIRONMENT JUST TO CLEAN UP AFTER THE WALK FOR AWARENESS! CAN'T PEOPLE JUST GIVE?

IF YOU DON'T GET THAT FILTHY STICKER OUT OF MY FACE, I'M GONNA DO SOME GIVING UPSIDE YOUR HEAD.

OH YEAH? BRING IT, CHARITY BOY!

OH, I'LL BRING IT! I'LL BRING IT SO HARD ROB'S TAX RETURN WILL FEEL IT!

YOU'RE GONNA NEED A WALK FOR ADVENTURES TO BE ABLE TO EAT AGAIN!

TOO BAD YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GO ON IT SINCE YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED OUTSIDE.

MY FRIEND, YOU JUST GAINED CHARITABLE STATUS, 'CAUSE THAT'S THE MOST NON-PROFITABLE STATEMENT I EVER HEARD...

SAY ANIMAL WELFARE! SAY ANIMAL WELFARE!

### Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg March 10, 2024

- ACROSS**
- 1 Precipitation that can damage windshields
  - 5 Joints swung on the dance floor
  - 9 City near Nevada, Iowa
  - 13 Small business
  - 15 Neighbor of Yemen
  - 16 Wander
  - 17 Region of Monaco with a world-famous casino
  - 19 Not odd
  - 20 \_\_\_ out a win
  - 21 Job-hunting sites?
  - 23 Commitment-phobe
  - 25 Have an \_\_\_ for detail
  - 26 Devices that enforce safe driving
  - 28 Skirts between minis and maxis
  - 31 Way to set the tone?
  - 32 Industry giant
  - 35 Moderate gait
  - 36 Donated
  - 37 Cash App alternative
  - 39 Old T-shirt, say
  - 42 Shopping splurge
  - 43 Credit card marketing strategy
  - 46 Form 1040 org.
- DOWN**
- 1 Zillow inventory
  - 2 Stopped snoozing
  - 3 Word before "peace" or "child"
  - 4 Serve that touches the net
  - 5 Stockpiled
  - 6 "All set on my end"
  - 7 Watercolor board
  - 8 Person who might offer earplugs to a bedmate
  - 9 Zone
  - 10 Person with an important role to play
  - 11 Not just some
  - 12 "This makes absolutely no \_\_\_!"
  - 14 Summarizes
  - 18 Name that sounds like a leafy vegetable
  - 22 Group that might throw a campus party
  - 24 "Am I the problem?"
  - 27 Sty
  - 28 "The Challenge" channel
  - 29 Rage
  - 30 "Stop gawking!"
  - 33 1600 Pennsylvania \_\_\_ NW
  - 34 Word between surnames
  - 38 Honolulu's island
  - 39 Make clearer, as a question
  - 40 NASA program named after a Greek goddess
  - 41 Most dreary
  - 42 Cause of a zap when touching a doorknob
  - 44 "Miss \_\_\_" (musical set in Vietnam)
  - 45 "Couldn't agree more"
  - 46 Relative by marriage
  - 47 Baton \_\_\_, Louisiana
  - 49 Pale with shock
  - 50 \_\_\_ Light (beer brand, informally)
  - 51 Lost, metaphorically
  - 53 Campus courtyard
  - 57 Exam for an aspiring Ph.D.

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

### Sudoku Pacific

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

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

12/24

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

### CCO Crossword by Rafael Musa

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		

## Comics Page Sponsored by

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# Education

## USI Appoints Provost, Announces Changes In Admissions

DECEMBER 2024

The University of Southern Indiana has named Dr. Shelly B. Blunt, Provost for the University, effective December 1, 2024. She has served as Interim Provost since July 1, 2023.

"Dr. Blunt has a dedicated history of service to USI and has been a longstanding, vital contributor in the Provost's Office," said Steven J. Bridges, USI Interim President. "I have made this appointment with stability in mind and look forward to her continued contributions and strategic leadership in our mission of providing exceptional education to our students."

Blunt has a long track record at the University joining in 1999. Before being tapped for the Interim Provost position, she briefly served as Dean of the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education after serving as the Interim Dean for the Pott College since January 2023. Blunt also was Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs and two years later Associate Provost for Academic Affairs between 2012 and 2022. She additionally served as Associate Dean for the Pott College for six years. Blunt is a member of the Science Education Foundation of Indiana Board, the Medical Professions Academy Advisory Board, Joshua Academy Board and has served on numerous state-wide committees for the Indiana Commission for Higher Education.

Blunt is actively involved in STEM education and undergradu-



ate advising, has served as a University Advising Fellow and received the Outstanding Advisor of the Year and the Phenomenal Women of USI awards. Other accomplishments under her leadership include the creation of first year advising centers in each of USI's academic colleges, the successful implementation of a new general education core, the development of a University-wide first-year seminar class (UNIV 101) and the implementation of state-wide articulation agreements.

She earned her undergraduate degree at Truman State University and her doctoral degree in chemistry from the University of Iowa.

As part of the appointment, Blunt will assume strategic oversight for University Division which includes the four College Advising Centers and the Center for Exploring Majors, Career

Counseling and the Academic Success Center (academic coaching, study skills and tutoring).

With the departure of Troy Miller, Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management, for another professional opportunity, Interim President Bridges is appointing Rashad Smith, Executive Director of Enrollment, to Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Admissions, reporting directly to the President effective December 9. Smith will manage Undergraduate Admissions, Student Financial Assistance and New Student and Transitional Programs.

"Rashad Smith has been an integral driver of undergraduate enrollment during his tenure at USI and will continue to do so in this elevated assignment," Bridges said.

Smith has more than 20 years of

experience in higher education and began at USI in April 2016 as the Director of Undergraduate Admissions. Prior to joining USI, he served as the Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness and as the Director of Admissions for Kentucky Wesleyan College. Smith holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Catawba College in Salisbury, North Carolina.

Overall student enrollment and retention will be supported by a senior committee led by the President and composed of the University's Vice Presidents, Provost, College and School of Graduate Studies Deans, Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Admissions, Executive Director of Student Success, Director of Student Financial Assistance and Chief Information Officer.

## Cohen To Present As USI Rechnic Holocaust Series Speaker

DECEMBER 2024

The University of Southern Indiana will host the third annual Edward D. and Regina Rechnic Holocaust Series at 7 p.m. Thursday, January 23, 2025, in the Performance Center, located on the USI campus. The 2025 speaker is Judy Cohen, former Chief Acquisitions Curator at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The presentation is open to the public at no charge.

Cohen's presentation, "My Dearest One: A Wife's Final Goodbye," will explore how newly discovered artifacts and documents deepen understanding of the Holocaust. It will highlight a one-of-a-kind letter written at Auschwitz moments before a woman was murdered, along with other unique archival materials that illuminate the experiences of her husband and child.

As the former Chief Acquisitions

Curator at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Cohen was instrumental in preserving Holocaust history through the Museum's extensive collections. A graduate of Harvard University with a master's degree from Brandeis, she curated numerous web exhibits and authored works that examined distinct facets of Holocaust documentation, including Memento Mori: Photographs from the Grave, Three Approaches to Exploring the Höcker Album and Jewish Ghetto Photographers. Her research brought critical insight into the lives captured by Jewish photographers and the personal artifacts that reflected life in Europe before and during the Holocaust.

Cohen's work has been crucial in helping descendants of Holocaust survivors preserve their family histories. Her dedication ensured these



artifacts remained safeguarded and accessible, enriching public understanding of the Holocaust through deeply personal and often previously unseen materials.

This series is made possible by the USI Foundation through the Edward D. and Regina Rechnic Speaker Series Endowment. The endowment was

established by the late Irene C. Rechnic and honors her parents' struggle to survive the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp during WWII, where 960,000 Jews were executed.

For questions on the presentation, contact the College of Liberal Arts at 812-464-1855.

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## VU Hosts 'Evening of Exploration'

Continued From Page 9

but also the potential applications of robotics in creative scenarios.

Students created and designed all of the demos, including those in the fluid power lab. They showcased different laws of physics and how they apply to real-world applications using pneumatic and hydraulic power.

Throughout the evening, attendees explored the University's first-class laboratories and classrooms, looking inside the hands-on learning experiences that set VU apart and give VU graduates a competitive advantage in today's con-

stantly changing professional landscape.

Beyond the lab activities, attendees engaged directly with VU's industry partners, including representatives from Toyota, Berry, Hershey, Toyota Boshoku Indiana, and Ameriquel, who were present to discuss career paths, internship opportunities, and the increasing demand for skilled professionals in robotics and automation. These industry connections are vital to the VU experience, offering students direct pathways into internships and career opportunities that align with their studies and goals.

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# Sports

## USI Softball Gets Eight Commitments From 2025 Class

DECEMBER 2024

University of Southern Indiana Softball announced that eight student-athletes have signed national letters of intent to compete for the Screaming Eagles in 2025-26.

"Our staff is really excited about the incoming 2025 recruiting class," USI Softball Head Coach Sue Kunkle said. "It is a bigger class with tons of talent, athleticism, and personality."

Anna Kemp (Henderson, Kentucky) is a 5'6" right-handed pitcher from Henderson County High School.

Kemp has been a part of multiple regional championship teams, a state finalist in 2023, and a Kentucky state champion in 2024.

While at Henderson County, Kemp has been all-region twice, was on the Kentucky state tournament team in 2023, and was additionally named Class 3A All-State and MVP in 2024.

In the pitching circle, Kemp set a school record with 25 wins in a single season, hurled a perfect game against Webster County High School, and tossed a no-hitter in a regional final against Union County.

Throughout her high school career, Kemp has recorded a 1.62 ERA, a 53-4 record, and 531 strikeouts in 402.2 innings pitched.

Last spring, Kemp went 25-1 with a 1.26 ERA and 195 strikeouts. Kemp has also done well at the plate with a .319 batting average, 80 RBIs, and 13 home runs in her high school career, including a .409 average, 55 RBIs, and 10 home runs in 2024. Kemp plays club ball for Top Gun National 18u Turner.

Elly Robbins (Farmington, Missouri) is a 5'7" utility who can pitch and play at first or outfield. Robbins has been named all-district, all-conference, and all-region all four years at Farmington High School.

Plus, Robbins earned all-state and 'Dream Team' accolades. The lefty is tied for the school record with 32 career home runs and is first with 504 career strikeouts in the circle.

The Missouri native also holds school records for hits, doubles, triples, and extra bases in a season offensively and pitching strikeouts.



Additionally, Robbins owns school career records in hits, singles, doubles, triples, RBIs, and runs scored. Robbins was a district champion in 2021 and a district finalist in the last three years. Robbins plays club ball for Top Gun 18u National.

Laney Schuster (Independence, Kentucky) is a 5'6" catcher and utility out of Simon Kenton High School. Schuster is coming off back-to-back First-Team All-Conference selections.

Schuster has totaled 114 hits toward a .333 batting average with 96 RBIs, 29 doubles, and 16 home runs. Schuster was also a member of two district championship teams in 2022 and 2023. Schuster's club team is Indy Crush 25/26 Schuster.

Peyton Pryor (Tennyson, Indiana) is a 5'7" catcher and infielder from Boonville High School. Pryor was an All-PAC and all-state selection last season as a junior. Pryor also recorded the highest batting average on her squad. Pryor's club team is Fusion 16u National Unruh/Hunt, which won a championship in California in 2023.

Amelia Kiegel (Boonville, Indiana) is a 6'0" left-handed pitcher for Heritage Hills High School. Kiegel is a three-time all-conference honorable mention.

Kiegel's high school squad won sectional championships during her freshman and junior seasons. The lefty recorded a 2.01 ERA as a junior in 2023-24 while also hitting for .304 at the plate.

Last season, Kiegel had 43

strikeouts in 52.1 innings. Offensively, she hit five home runs and tallied 25 RBIs. Kiegel's club team is Fusion National 18u Unruh/Greenwood.

Abigail Booher (Yorktown, Indiana) is a 5'5" utility and left-side infielder out of Yorktown High School. Booher was all-conference and all-county for the last two years and was an all-county honorable mention in 2022.

The right-hander has hit over .370 in the last three seasons, and in 2024, she batted .449 with 32 runs and 20 RBIs. Through three years in high school, Booher has hit .399 while driving in 52 RBIs and scoring 71 runs.

Booher's team has won the sectional championship in the last three years with regional titles in 2022 and 2023.

Booher's travel ball team is Indiana Magic Gold 07 Neace.

Jady Tinsley (Indianapolis, Indiana) is a 5'6" shortstop from Franklin Central High School. Tinsley has been all-county and all-HCC for the last two years while being a county champion in 2024.

The right-hander has batted over .400 with an on-base percentage near .500 in the last two seasons. Tinsley has also totaled nine home runs and 40 RBIs over the 2023 and 2024 seasons. Tinsley plays club ball for Indy Dreams 06 Back/Baird.

Katelyn Sue Marx (Elberfeld, Indiana) is a 5'9" outfielder out of Tecumseh High School. Marx bats left-handed and throws

right-handed.

Marx has been all-conference each year in high school. Marx is a two-time All-State Second Team selection and All-State First Team selection as a sophomore.

Her team won back-to-back 1A state championships and was the 1A state runner-up in 2024. Marx has hit over .400 all three years, including a .409 batting average last year.

Marx also scored 43 runs and 14 RBIs in 2024. Marx plays club ball for Fusion Premier-Gibson.

"Offensively, we will have a mix of power, speed, and gap-to-gap hitters," Kunkle stated. "Katie Sue Marx will bring even more impressive speed to our outfield. Peyton, Jady, Laney, and Abby will add depth and competition to our infield, along with Peyton and Laney working behind the plate."

"With three of our four current pitchers being upperclassmen, the addition of Elly, Mia, and Anna will be crucial in the continued success of the USI pitching staff."

USI Softball heads into its third season at the Division I level and in the Ohio Valley Conference in February.

The Screaming Eagles won 25 games last spring and finished fourth in the OVC to earn a second consecutive OVC Tournament berth.

USI came within a game of making an appearance in the championship round. The 2025 spring championship schedule will be released later.

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# Sports

## UE's Haffner Drops 27 In Win Over Green Bay

DECEMBER 2024

Cam Haffner reset his single-game scoring high once again, recording 27 points on Friday night as the University of Evansville men's basketball team took down Green Bay by a final score of 98-81 at the Ford Center.

Haffner was 10-of-16 from the field while draining five triples. He hauled in a game-high nine rebounds, tying his career mark from his freshman season at Eastern Illinois. Four others reached double figures including Josh Hughes, who tied his season mark of 19. Tanner Cuff recorded 15 while Gabriel Pozzato and Tayshawn Comer finished with 13 and 11, respectively.

"I'm proud of our guys for how they came out and played tonight. We put together a full 40 minutes and showed what we are capable of," UE head coach David Ragland exclaimed. "We showed improvement in each facet of the game and are excited to be back at the Ford Center on Sunday."

Converting 63.6% of its at-



tempts in the first half, the Purple Aces led by as many as 18 points. Five minutes into the contest, Cam Haffner drained a triple to put UE on top at 11-4. Following a basket by Green Bay, Evansville put forth its best sequence of the half.

Haffner's 3-pointer was the first of six consecutive field goal makes

for UE as the Aces went on a 12-0 run to open a 23-6 lead at the 11:22 mark. Tayshawn Comer had a 3-pointer during the rally while Gabriel Pozzato added a pair of baskets.

After the Phoenix cut the gap to 25-15, Haffner and Josh Hughes combined to score the next 13 UE points to push the lead to 38-20

inside of the 5-minute mark. Green Bay would hit a late three to cut the deficit to 15 at the break. Haffner (14) and Hughes (11) both reached double figures in the opening 20 minutes.

Out of the half, Haffner picked up right where he left off, connecting from downtown for the fourth time. Four minutes in, Connor Turnbull drained a 3-pointer while Haffner followed with a pair of free throws to extend the advantage to 20 points for the first time at 56-36. It was all Aces from there as the lead reached as many as 33 points before the final deficit of 17.

Leading the Phoenix was Anthony Roy who scored 31 points. As a team, UE shot 59.7% while holding Green Bay to 40.3%. UE had its best rebounding effort of the year, finishing with a dominating 43-22 edge on the glass. Cuff led the team with six assists as UE accumulated a total of 19.

On Sunday, the Aces are back at the Ford Center for a 3 p.m. game against Campbell.

## Moore Named Evansville Otters' new General Manager

DECEMBER 2024

The Evansville Otters are excited to announce the promotion of Brycen Moore as the 8th General Manager in team history.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity that Mr. Stanley and Mr. Bussing have given me," Moore said. "I couldn't be more excited about the future of the Evansville Otters. We have such a fantastic staff in place and giving back to the community in which I grew up is such a special privilege to me."

At 24 years old, Moore is the youngest General Manager in the Otters' history. He will oversee all day-to-day operations of the Otters, including all baseball and non-baseball events held at historic Bosse Field.

"The Otters operation with multiple events has grown in complexity and we are fortunate to have Brycen overseeing our operations," Otters' Owner Bill Bussing said.

Moore served as a group sales intern in 2021 before stepping up to Assistant Director of Operations in 2022. In 2023, Moore was added to the full-time staff as the Director of Operations

and Food & Beverage. While also overseeing operations, Moore was named an Assistant General Manager ahead of the 2024 season.

"We are thrilled to have Brycen in this critical role," Otters' Team President John Stanley said.

Moore, a native of Newburgh, IN, has always had deep ties to sports. While attending Castle High School, he participated in football, basketball and golf. Despite his athletic success, Moore was also a National Honor Society member at Castle and received academic, athletic, and leadership awards during his high school career.

Following high school, Moore attended Indiana University, where he was a Dean's List member, earning his bachelor's degree in Sport Management while also earning a minor in business.

The Evansville Otters are excited to welcome fans back to Bosse Field in 2025 for the 30th season of Otters baseball! More information on the upcoming season schedule is available here.

Season ticket and group ticket packages are on sale now. Call

(812) 435-8686 for more information. Individual game tickets will go on sale in the Spring.

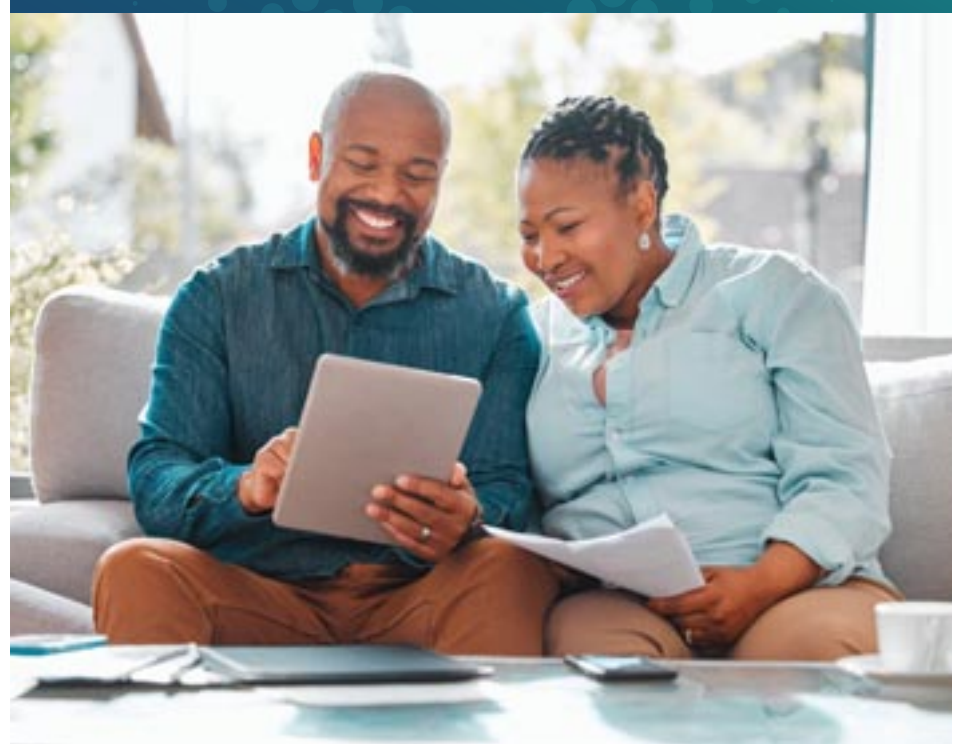
The Evansville Otters are the 2006 and 2016 Frontier League champions.

The Otters play all home games at historic Bosse Field, located at 23 Don Mattingly Way in

Evansville, Ind. Stay up to date with the Evansville Otters by visiting [evansvilleotters.com](http://evansvilleotters.com), or follow the Otters on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

For more information, visit [evansvilleotters.com](http://evansvilleotters.com) or call (812) 435-8686.

We have resources to help you with your winter energy bills.



Using more natural gas during the winter to stay warm may mean an increase in your energy bill. With you in mind, we offer resources to help you manage your natural gas costs this winter.

Visit [CenterPointEnergy.com/PaymentAssistance](http://CenterPointEnergy.com/PaymentAssistance) to find payment arrangement options and community financial assistance programs.

Energy for what matters most.™

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Energy

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**Patsy Hartigan's Irish Pub** Presents **Jim Staley**

**SONGS OF REVELRY AND REBELLION**

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Jan. 8th**  
**6:00pm-8:00pm**

**On the Walkway just off 2nd St.**



# Obituaries

## November Vanderburgh County Obituaries

For complete obituary go to the Funeral Home's Webpage

### ALEXANDER FUNERAL HOME

#### East

Rebecca Warring Sonnemaker	Jul. 21, 1943 – Nov. 11, 2024
Viola Lora Mulzer	Aug. 17, 1926 – Nov. 12, 2024
Robert Owen Bays Sr.	Feb. 08, 1964 – Nov. 15, 2024
Carol Staggs	Dec. 24, 1947 – Nov. 17, 2024
Linda L. Remole	Nov. 25, 1952 – Nov. 20, 2024
Charles "Chuck" David Fields	Mar. 02, 1959 – Nov. 23, 2024
Alan Edward Holtz	Jul. 27, 1932 – Nov. 25, 2024
Edmund Leo Spalding	Apr. 18, 1943 – Nov. 27, 2024
Flora Dean Koob	Jun. 10, 1933 – Nov. 29, 2024
Raymond L. Hawes	May 04, 1945 – Nov. 30, 2024

#### West

Dorothy May Sander	Aug. 19, 1940 – Nov. 03, 2024
Donald Aloysius Paul	Jul. 30, 1933 – Nov. 06, 2024
Steve Holland	Aug. 15, 1950 – Nov. 09, 2024
Anna Marie Oschman	Jun. 05, 1923 – Nov. 14, 2024
Gary Wayne Estes	Jan. 17, 1959 – Nov. 14, 2024
David Franklin Hensley	Jan. 28, 1950 – Nov. 18, 2024
Alvin E Mann	Nov. 05, 1932 – Nov. 19, 2024
Margaret L Hassler	Dec. 30, 1927 – Nov. 23, 2024
Kenneth Ranes	Sep. 15, 1947 – Nov. 24, 2024
Carol E. Gates	Dec. 29, 1943 – Nov. 26, 2024
Carolyn S. Samples	Dec. 29, 1934 – Nov. 28, 2024
Joan F. Forston	Feb. 19, 1943 – Nov. 28, 2024
Tonie L. Duke	Dec. 08, 1961 -Nov. 28, 2024
William Lowel Tison	Jun. 07, 1931 – Nov. 29, 2024

#### North

Bette L. Beard	May 21, 1946 – Nov. 13, 2024
Marjorie Denzil Harris Leonard	Sep. 27, 1928 – Nov. 13, 2024
Victor Eugene Blackwell	Sep. 12, 1946 – Nov. 15, 2024
Frances Diane Wessel	Oct. 19, 1935 – Nov. 16, 2024
Robert R. Miller Sr.	Jan. 14, 1936 – Nov. 17, 2024
Kris A. Neidig	Nov. 17, 1954 – Nov. 20, 2024
Grace L. Simmons	Oct. 26, 1932 – Nov. 23, 2024
Danny Ray Lantrip	Aug. 29, 1951 – Nov. 28, 2024

### BOONE FUNERAL HOME

Kirk Russ	Jul. 07, 1975 – Nov. 04, 2024
Pamela Hardaway	Dec. 06, 1961 – Nov. 05, 2024
Marlain Maun	Dec. 01, 1973 – Nov. 05, 2024
Mildred "Lavell" Cartwright	Mar. 07, 1933 – Nov. 08, 2024
Mary Lou Schultz	May 17, 1927 – Nov. 09, 2024
Vickie Held	Apr. 28, 1954 – Nov. 11, 2024
Jeannette Fleurival	Sep. 09, 1964 – Nov. 11, 2024
Kenneth Griesemer	Feb. 11, 1940 – Nov. 12, 2024
Nataliia Mohylevska	Dec. 11, 1959 – Nov. 12, 2024
Harry Campbell	Mar. 23, 1937 – Nov. 14, 2024
Betty I. Baum	Mar. 19, 1936 – Nov. 23, 2024
June Althaus	Aug. 19, 1927 – Nov. 24, 2024
Doris "Jean" Kerney	1930 - Nov. 24, 2024
Marcelle Puryear	Apr. 17, 1926 – Nov. 26, 2024
Daniel Todd	Apr. 29, 1953 – Nov. 27, 2024

### BROWNING FUNERAL HOME

Joseph Franklin "Frank" Stockton	Feb. 07, 1938 – Nov. 02, 2024
Marie Ward	Mar. 03, 1931 – Nov. 04, 2024
Deborah Ann Bowman	Oct. 29, 1948 – Nov. 04, 2024
Charles Quentin English Sr.	Dec. 21, 1936 – Nov. 05, 2024
Martha Jan Kirkpatrick	Aug. 19, 1927 – Nov. 05, 2024
James Roger Marks	Jul. 16, 1943 – Nov. 09, 2024
Steven "Steve" Lynn Rollings	Sep. 18, 1942 – Nov. 09, 2024
Montie Benningfield	Dec. 03, 1955 – Nov. 11, 2024

Pamela "Pam" Ann Daniels	Jul. 15, 1948 – Nov. 11, 2024
James "Jim" D. Sandberg	Oct. 31, 1934 – Nov. 12, 2024
James Alan Webster	Sep. 25, 1949 – Nov. 13, 2024
Charleen Dorothy Neumaster	Mar. 02, 1943 – Nov. 15, 2024
Irene Powers	Sep. 11, 1926 – Nov. 17, 2024
Loren William Fehd	Apr. 02, 2007 – Nov. 17, 2024
Vicki Lee Lollis	Jul. 27, 1954 – Nov. 17, 2024
Gary Arvin Burk	Aug. 23, 1938 – Nov. 18, 2024
Marilyn Oldenburg Stone	Jul. 07, 1922 – Nov. 18, 2024
James Frederick Schwake	Jul. 13, 1941 – Nov. 18, 2024
Daicy Hale	Jan. 16, 1934 – Nov. 19, 2024
Dustin Scott Campbell	Aug. 12, 1993 – Nov. 19, 2024
Dorothy J. Lutz	Feb. 19, 1931 – Nov. 20, 2024
Grace Marie Hedingwer	Oct. 12, 1930 – Nov. 21, 2024
Joseph Andrew Schutte	May 31, 1933 – Nov. 22, 2024
Carolyn Jean Whitaker	Dec. 25, 1938 – Nov. 24, 2024
Marie Kathryn Wilhite	Aug. 13, 1935 – Nov. 25, 2024
Brian Edward Wessel	Jun. 29, 1976 – Nov. 25, 2024
Carrie A. Starks	Jun. 08, 1968 – Nov. 25, 2024
Jack Lowell Van Hook, Jr.	Aug. 12, 1956 – Nov. 26, 2024
Linda Richard	May 15, 1952 – Nov. 28, 2024

### MASON BROTHERS FUNERAL SERVICES

Elizabeth Ann Haskins	Apr. 15, 1938 – Nov. 01, 2024
Charles R Dixon	Nov. 19, 1925 – Nov. 11, 2024
Celestia Ann Snaden	Nov. 19, 1941 – Nov. 13, 2024
Glenda Reynolds Jarrett	Aug. 21, 1967 – Nov. 13, 2024
Lillie Mae Street	Nov. 10, 1923 – Nov. 15, 2024
Clarence Brigham	Aug. 02, 1958 – Nov. 16, 2024
Arrelia Meriwether Coleman	Jan. 17, 1937 – Nov. 19, 2024

### PIERRE FUNERAL HOME

Timothy R. Bohleber	Nov. 24, 1947 – Nov. 01, 2024
Rodger Dale Cox	Oct. 18, 1948 – Nov. 10, 2024
James Floyd Droege	Jan. 01, 1950 – Nov. 13, 2024
Elizabeth C. Voelker	Dec. 24, 1932 – Nov. 15, 2024
Ruth Ann Conner	Feb. 11, 1946 – Nov. 17, 2024
Samuel "Dave" Norman	Aug. 26, 1945 – Nov. 19, 2024
Willard "Bill" Nemer	Mar. 30, 1925 – Nov. 20, 2024
Allen G. Halbig	Aug. 28, 1932 – Nov. 22, 2024
June F. Kellough	Jun. 19, 1945 – Nov. 30, 2024

### ZIEMER FUNERAL HOME

Sue Ann Hartig Summers	Apr. 12, 1954 – Nov. 02, 2024
Mary J. Goedert	Mar. 14, 1935 – Nov. 02, 2024
Mark D. Cole	Jul. 09, 1956 – Nov. 03, 2024
Gary Arthur Osborne	Aug. 24, 1950 – Nov. 04, 2024
Mary B. Littrell	Oct. 19, 1942 – Nov. 05, 2024
Sarah Elizabeth Keltner	Sep. 19, 1984 – Nov. 06, 2024
Dr. Martin A. Reed	Nov. 15, 1946 – Nov. 06, 2024
Evalyn F. Hon	Oct. 26, 1937 – Nov. 07, 2024
Mary Louie Mdden	Mar. 06, 1938 – Nov. 11, 2024
Margaret Ann Stucki	Jul. 26, 1932 – Nov. 11, 2024
Virginia F. Barnes	Jun. 22, 1930 – Nov. 11, 2024
Randy L. Thomas	Feb. 23, 1963 – Nov. 13, 2024
Carol A. Engelbrecht Lentz	Dec. 03, 1941 – Nov. 17, 2024
Jack Charles Neth	Oct. 21, 1932 – Nov. 18, 2024
Mary Ida Byers	Aug. 06, 1924 – Nov. 19, 2024
Betty M. Daugherty	Dec. 01, 1930 – Nov. 20, 2024
Henrietta R. "Hank" Tenbarga	Jan. 03, 1942 – Nov. 22, 2024
Sybil A. Foster	Apr. 26, 1936 – Nov. 24, 2024
Daniel Eugene Folsom, Jr.	Jan. 25, 1967 -Nov. 24, 2024
William "Bill" George Nunn, Jr.	Jan. 17, 1947 – Nov. 26, 2024
Anita C. Johnson	Oct. 24, 1947 – Nov. 27, 2024
Dorothy Sharon Schapker	Dec. 09, 1946 – Nov. 28, 2024
Verda E. Cariens	Sep. 28, 1926 – Nov. 29, 2024

### Sudoku Puzzle Answer

Dec. '24

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

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



# JUMP INTO WHAT'S NEW!

OPEN TO ALL BALLY REWARDS MEMBERS  
**EARN ENTRIES**  
**6AM DECEMBER 26 – 9:30PM DECEMBER 28**

**30 REWARD POINTS = 1 ENTRY**  
**LEGEND = 5X DAILY**  
**SUPERSTAR = 3X DAILY**  
**STAR = 2X DAILY**



## DRAWINGS DECEMBER 28

To be eligible, activate your entries by swiping your Bally Rewards Card at any Bally Rewards kiosk between 2PM – 9:30PM on December 28. Winners will be announced from 3:30PM – 10PM.

**24 WINNERS RECEIVE UP TO \$1,000 IN FREE SLOT PLAY!**  
**3 WINNERS PLAY FOR \$1 MILLION!**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

## HOLIDAY CHARITY TOY DRIVE

Bring in a NEW toy, valued at \$10 or more, to the Bally's Evansville Hotel Front Desk and receive a Voucher for \$10 Free Slot Play!\*

Redeem your Voucher at the Bally Rewards Center during club hours.



\*This offer is limited to a maximum of \$50 Free Slot Play per player during the promotion. Free Slot Play is valid for 48 hours.

DECEMBER 6, 7, 25, & 30 • 12AM – 11:59PM CT

## TIER MULTIPLIER



**LEGEND TIER MEMBERS**

**EARN 5X MULTIPLIER**

**SUPERSTAR TIER MEMBERS**

**EARN 3X MULTIPLIER**

**ALL OTHER CLUB MEMBERS**

**EARN 2X MULTIPLIER**

Tier points will be automatically applied to your account.

DECEMBER 11 • DECEMBER 13  
 DECEMBER 15 • DECEMBER 20



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

CHECK IN BETWEEN 5:30PM – 8PM  
 DRAWINGS FROM 7PM – 8:30PM

**5 WINNERS EVERY HALF HOUR WILL WIN \$1,000 FREE SLOT PLAY!**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

CHECK IN BETWEEN 7PM – 9:30PM  
 DRAWINGS FROM 8:30PM – 10PM

**5 WINNERS EVERY HALF HOUR WILL WIN \$1,000 FREE SLOT PLAY!**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

CHECK IN BETWEEN 12PM – 3PM  
 DRAWINGS FROM 2PM – 3:30PM

**5 WINNERS EVERY HALF HOUR WILL WIN \$500 FREE SLOT PLAY!**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

CHECK IN BETWEEN 7PM – 9:30PM  
 DRAWINGS FROM 8:30PM – 10PM

**5 WINNERS EVERY HALF HOUR WILL WIN \$1,000 FREE SLOT PLAY!**

Jackpot Parties are for Bally Rewards Members who receive a hand-paid Jackpot of \$1,200 or more between January 1, 2020 – 5:59AM on the day before the Jackpot Party. Bally Rewards Members will have one entry for each hand-paid Jackpot!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25



**LEGEND MEMBERS RECEIVE 3 ENTRIES**  
**SUPERSTAR MEMBERS RECEIVE 2 ENTRIES**  
**ALL OTHER MEMBERS RECEIVE 1 ENTRY**

Receive PRINTED ENTRIES by checking in at any Bally Rewards kiosk any time between 2PM – 8:55PM CT.

4:15PM – 9PM

**2 WINNERS EVERY 15 MINUTES RECEIVE \$500 FREE SLOT PLAY!**

DECEMBER 28, 29 & 30



**LEGEND MEMBERS RECEIVE 3 ENTRIES**    **SUPERSTAR MEMBERS RECEIVE 2 ENTRIES**    **ALL OTHER MEMBERS RECEIVE 1 ENTRY**

Each day, from 2PM – 8:25PM, receive PRINTED ENTRIES by checking in at any Bally Rewards kiosk.

SATURDAY 3:45PM – 8:30PM

**2 WINNERS EVERY 15 MINUTES RECEIVE \$500 FREE SLOT PLAY!**

SUNDAY & MONDAY 3:45PM – 8:30PM DAILY

**4 WINNERS EVERY 15 MINUTES RECEIVE \$500 FREE SLOT PLAY!**

DECEMBER 31, 2024



24-HOUR CASINO FUN!

## RING IN THE NEW YEAR

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY WITH **THE DUKE BOYS** FROM 8PM – 1AM AT 421 LOUNGE!

FREE PARTY FAVORS WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

**3 DINING OPTIONS**



## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT 421 LOUNGE

WEEKLY LIVE ENTERTAINMENT IN THE CASINO FROM 8PM – 12AM CT.

DECEMBER 6 & 7

HAPPY NEW MONTH

DECEMBER 13 & 14

DVL REVUE

DECEMBER 20 & 21

SAINTS & ANGELS

DECEMBER 27 & 28

GABRIEL KEY



## 2 FIRST-CLASS HOTELS!

## BALLY'S EVANSVILLE HOTEL AND LEGEND'S TOWER STAY AND SLOT PLAY PACKAGE

Black Out Dates may apply. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer(s).



**BOOK DIRECT NOW WITH THIS QR CODE!**



ENDLESS THRILLS AT EVERY TURN

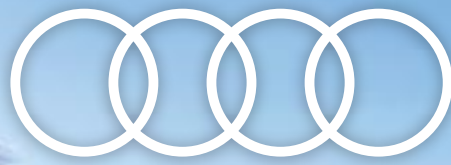


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Make a lasting impression.



# Audi Q5 Plug-in Hybrid

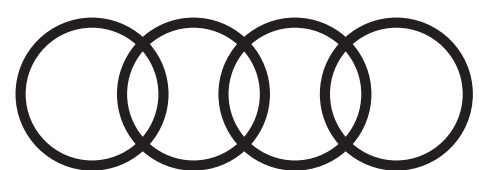
## Everything an SUV should be.

The Audi Q5 Plug-in Hybrid sets the standard for sophistication, versatility, and style with every drive.



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