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CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER

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Evansville, IN

Youth First, Inc. Announces Sullivan As New President/CEO

MARCH 2025
The Board of Directors of Youth First, Inc. has named Holli Sullivan as the new President & CEO. Following an extensive search process, Sullivan will assume her new role beginning May 12 and succeed Parri Black, who retires from Youth First in May after 21 years of leadership.

Sullivan's qualifications and skillset, along with her passion for Youth First's mission, will be an asset to the agency. Sullivan is a dynamic and visionary leader with diverse experience in both the public and private sectors. Sullivan joined the Youth First Board of Directors in 2023 and has been an advocate of Youth First's work for over a decade, championing for the agency's student assistance program and mental health services at the



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Support Red Cross In March

MARCH 2025
The Southwest Chapter of the American Red Cross Indiana Region is kicking off its Red Cross Month celebration on Monday, March 3 at 9:30 a.m. at the local Red Cross office, 29 S. Stockwell Road in Evansville.

Mayor Stephanie Terry will join us during the celebration to issue a Red Cross Month Proclamation and honor those who provide critical support in emergencies when help can't wait. Darla Hoover, Chief of Schools and Instructional Core for the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation and Red Cross Board members will participate in the event alongside local students, community partners, and volunteers.

At this event, students, volunteers, and community partners will work together to assemble comfort kits,

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New Bill Would Force Hospital Price Cuts

Non-Profits, Like Deaconess And Ascension Could Face Status Change

MARCH 2025
One of the bills introduced in this legislative session will crack down on nonprofit hospitals that exploit their tax-exempt status while charging some of the highest prices in the country.

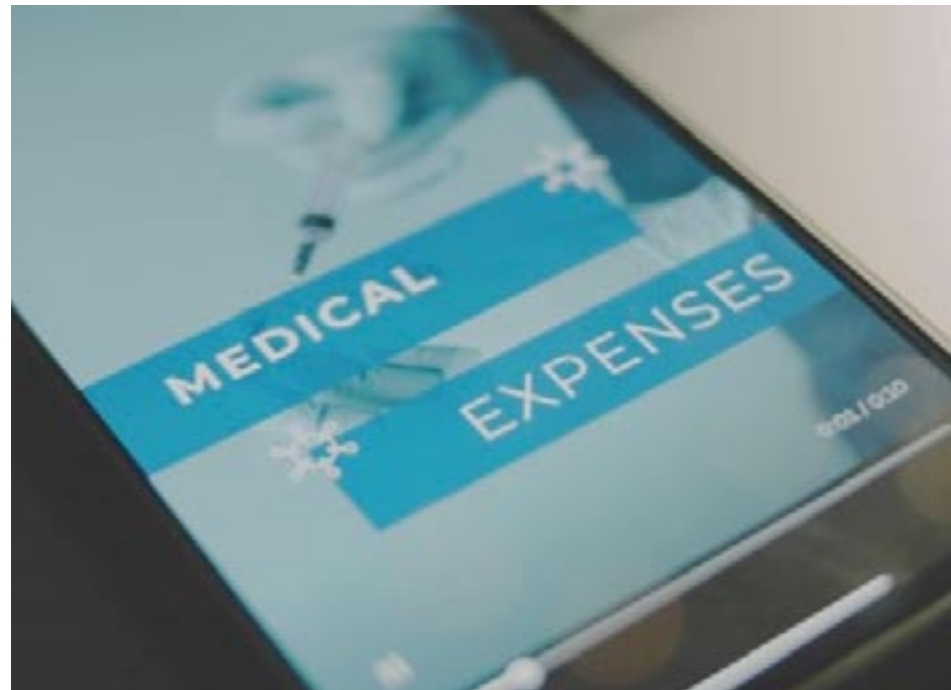
HB 1004 would strip nonprofit status from hospitals that charge more than 200% above what Medicare pays for services.

Devin Anderson, a board member of Hoosiers for Affordable Healthcare, applauded the bill, calling it a bold move to address Indiana's ninth-highest hospital prices in the nation.

"HB 1004 puts real teeth into the effort to hold nonprofit hospitals accountable for the 9th highest prices while having billions in cash reserves," said Anderson. "This bill sends a clear message from the Indiana House of Representatives Leadership: Lowering prices is not optional—a demand on behalf of the Hoosiers they represent who can't afford skyrocketing prices from hospitals who masquerade as nonprofits."

Indiana's Big Five Hospitals Face Major Price Cuts

The bill, authored by Representative Martin Carbaugh (R-Fort Wayne) and co-authored by Representatives Ben Smaltz (R-Auburn) and Julie McGuire



(R-Indianapolis), would force major price adjustments in healthcare. In the Evansville area, Ascension St. Vincent would need to reduce prices by 40.5%, and Deaconess Health System would have to reduce prices by 23%.

"Nonprofit hospitals have enjoyed tax exemptions for years, yet many are charging more than triple what Medicare pays for the same services," said Anderson. "HB 1004 forces these hospitals to decide—either behave as a nonprofit hospital by lowering your prices or lose the benefits of nonprofit status."

Key Provisions of HB 1004

Nonprofit Status at Risk: Hospitals charging over 200% of Medi-

care rates will lose their nonprofit status.

Stricter Community Benefit Standards: Limits what hospitals can claim as community benefits to justify their tax exemptions.

Mandatory Transparency: Hospitals must disclose pricing data compared to Medicare rates and make unredacted Form 990 Schedule H publicly available.

Annual Audits: Nonprofit hospitals will face yearly audits by the Secretary of State to verify compliance.

"This bill is a wake-up call for Indiana hospitals: stop exploiting Hoosiers, or lose your nonprofit status. It's that simple," said Anderson.

City Council Rejects Mayor's Website Funds Request

MARCH 2025
In a Doge-like move, the Evansville City Council voted 5-4 to reject Mayor Stephanie Terry's request for a \$175,000 funds transfer to build a new city website.

The request had its first reading in January and was scheduled for a vote on February 10, but when the administration heard that there was some resistance to the measure, they had the appropriation removed from the agenda. The vote on the measure was rescheduled for last night (11/24), where it hit a wall of resistance.

Missy Mosby, the 2nd Ward City Councilor, took to social media over the weekend to draw public attention to the plan. "I oppose spending these funds on wants when so many people have pressing needs," Mosby said. I believe we need to prioritize needs over wants and be responsible with our resources."

Where did the money come from?

The administration wanted money for the website to come from an interest account that has accumulated from the American Rescue Act Funds. The interest account currently has over \$2.5 million in it. Earlier this year, the Mayor dipped into the fund to pay for a \$114,175 strategic plan for the city government.

When asked who the city planned to contract with for the site, the

mayor's spokesman, Joe Atkinson told us that the job hasn't been put out for bids and they were waiting until the money is appropriated to get bids.

City council members voting against appropriating funds for the website include: Missy Mosby, Tinisha Carothers, Angela Koehler Lindsey, Jim Brinkmeyer, and Courtney Johnson.

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Commentary

Who Is Moving Evansville's Cheese?

MARCH 2025

By Jason Salstrom

For generations, Evansville's economy ran on a strong foundation: factories produced, paychecks arrived, and families built their futures. Our "cheese"—the prosperity of stable industries—was secure. But just as electricity rewrote our way of life a century ago, AI, automation, and digital manufacturing are doing the same today, and it's just the beginning. The shift is happening whether we acknowledge it or not. The only question that matters is: will we

act now and shape our future, or hem and haw, stuck, clinging to a disappearing past?

Our situation reminded me of Spencer Johnson's classic business fable *Who Moved My Cheese?* The story is about four residents of a maze: two mice, Sniff and Scurry, and two little people, Hem and Haw. Every morning, the four headed out into the maze to get their

cheese, their livelihood, at the Cheese Station. Below is my adaptation, staying true to the spirit of the tale.

Cheese Station E was built during the last great shift in the maze, when electricity, the primary driver of the Second Industrial Revolution, changed how we worked, and where we lived, and triggered the growth of government.

In those days, the mice and the little people were more alike than they are today. Mice, being mice, were always on their toes, ever alert to any change, threat, or new opportunity. The little people, born at a time of change, had the pioneering culture of self-reliance to lean into a changing maze, learn, make hard choices, and adapt.

However, as time went by and the maze stabilized into the economy we know, getting cheese from Cheese Station E became a way of life. Mice, being mice, remained vigilant, ever ready for any disruption or new opportunity. Most of the little people, being little people, grew comfortable, even complacent, and developed beliefs to justify a sense of entitlement to their way of life.

One day, Sniff and Scurry began noticing that slight changes in the maze were multiplying. The corridors that brought skills and



material into Cheese Station E and moved product out, once a miracle of efficiency, began slowly tilting against the flow of inputs and outputs. Productivity was in decline, as was the supply of cheese—the prosperity of stable industries.

In fact, Sniff and Scurry noticed changes multiplying across the maze. Some seemingly insignificant changes proved to be weak signals of change coming. Some change came out of nowhere. New corridors emerged, some steep, some dark, and old ones shrank, grew steep, or even sloped down to a sudden cliff.

The mice, being mice, remained vigilant, probing for threats to their well-being and new opportunities to prosper. Many of the little people, fearing the uncertainty, blamed others for the changing maze, expected the government to re-level the corridors back to their favor, and otherwise disregarded the accelerating change to the maze where their livelihood had long been found.

Sniff and Scurry were not surprised when Cheese Station E suddenly stopped producing cheese. They quickly moved on, having been probing the changes to the maze in their trial-and-error way.

Hem and Haw were unprepared. Hem protested, "Who moved my cheese?" Denial turned to anger, as he demanded that someone "make things right again."

Haw, initially side-by-side with Hem, increasingly thought of the mice, always pioneers, reflecting on the enterprising spirit he once dismissed. But he still felt stuck. Much like America experienced a century ago, uncertainty, anxiety,

and fear drove questions and fueled protests. "Why weren't we warned?" "Why aren't we prepared?" "Who's responsible?" Mobs soon surrounded City Hall, until the mayor emerged and pointed her finger down Main Street at the office where decades of economic development strategic plans sat on shelves collecting dust.

The pointing of fingers may soon begin. The future of Cheese Station E is at a turning point, actually unprecedented, due to the never-before-seen rate of technology-driven change to the maze. The many hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars in "strategic plans" sitting on shelves (no Return On Investment) sit there collecting dust largely because the business model of consultants is incompatible with solving complex challenges.

Lots of data from government websites or other sources made pretty, is largely useless. Given that it is backward-looking, it often fuels biases, false assumptions, and strategic blind spots.

Strategic (enabling) management systems are what is needed. For this, we must start with clarity on the actual living system whose assets, capabilities, and constraints interact to shape outcomes here every day.

What are the enabling and inhibiting factors shaping outcomes, today? What is or is not possible to change today? What is or is not easier to change, today? Where are we vulnerable and where are we feeling the pressure to change today?

Understanding this is what informs us where to start to create the desired outcomes for tomorrow. In other words, given the

state of the maze, what could we actually do? What should we do? What will we do? Then, measure progress. Monitor for change. Learn. Adapt. Prosper.

Strategic management is necessarily agile, constantly sensing and making sense of change. In instead of hiring another consultant to "create" (pay them to repurpose) another strategic plan or roadmap—that fails to inform even the first step—we need to start by accepting the fact that five-year plans and roadmaps are only useful when the destination is known; for example specs for roads and bridges are largely known, as well as segments of energy (2030 is 60-80% knowable), automaker supply chains (50-70% knowable), and Healthcare (40-60% knowable). The unknowable percentage is being disrupted by 2030.

Like a century ago, the "pioneers" among us must lead the way. Necessity is the mother of invention. Small (safe-to-fail) experiments (opportunities) emerge out of real understanding of our living ecosystem (especially its constraints)—the maze on which our well-being depends.

Effective experiments are developed into pilots, some of which are developed into new economic assets that establish a competitive advantage for regional industry and workers—a cheese station that adapts to an evolving maze as a feature of its operating system. The challenges are complex. Five-year plans to address "complex" challenges, fail. But the consultant will point his finger at you, "failed execution." It is a mismatch of a strategic approach.

A complex challenge is when you are building toward an uncertain outcome; critical future specs are unknown, like raising a kid, moving to a new country, launching a new product, or integrating AI into your value chains. This necessarily requires an agile approach and must be developed internally.

A merely complicated challenge is like building a car, requiring special expertise, but you are building something that was designed in the past, can be disassembled and reassembled, and can continue to be what it was

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Commentary

Musk Derangement Syndrome: When Ideology Trumps Fiscal Responsibility

MARCH 2025

By Joe Wallace

Elon Musk has become one of the most polarizing figures in modern America. To his supporters, he is a visionary entrepreneur who has revolutionized industries ranging from electric vehicles and space travel to AI and neural interfaces. To his detractors, he is a billionaire menace—an egotist with too much influence, a reckless tweeter, and an alleged threat to democracy. The fervor surrounding Musk has become so extreme that it seems we now have a new political condition: Musk Derangement Syndrome (MDS).

The symptoms of MDS include an automatic opposition to anything Musk supports, regardless of merit, and an uncritical acceptance of any criticism against him, regardless of accuracy. The latest example of this phenomenon is the backlash against the Department of Defense's (DOD's) initiative to cut spending, a move partially inspired by Musk's critiques of government inefficiency. Predictably, the response from some corners of Washington has been less about the policy itself and more about attacking its perceived association with Musk.

A Push for Fiscal Sanity

The effort to rein in federal spending is not a fringe concern—it is a necessity. The national debt now exceeds \$34 trillion, and the interest on that debt is rapidly becoming one of the largest expenses in the federal budget. Despite this, when the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) proposed cost-cutting measures—many of which align with common-sense reforms Musk has long advocated—opponents rushed to discredit them.

Some of the proposals include:

Eliminating Redundant Programs – The federal government is notorious for duplication. Reports from agencies like the Government Accountability Office (GAO) routinely identify billions in wasteful overlap.

Streamlining Military Procure-



ment – The Pentagon's procurement system has been criticized for its inefficiency and bloated bureaucracy. SpaceX's success in cutting launch costs compared to legacy contractors is a clear example of how the government could operate more efficiently.

Reducing Regulatory Bloat – Musk has long warned that excessive regulation stifles innovation and leads to unnecessary expenditures. Simplifying the compliance process could save billions without sacrificing safety or oversight.

These proposals are not radical, nor are they inherently tied to Musk. Yet, because they resemble ideas he has championed, they have been met with hostility—particularly from the left.

The Democratic Backlash: Ideology Over Economics?

Democratic opposition to cost-cutting measures is nothing new, but the intensity of the reaction to DOGE's efforts suggests that opposition to Musk himself may be a driving factor. Several prominent Democrats have dismissed the plan outright, citing Musk's personal political views and business dealings as reasons to reject any policy associated with him.

Consider the response from Senator Elizabeth Warren, who claimed that "billionaire influence in policymaking is a danger to democracy"—a statement that would carry more weight if her party had not embraced figures like Bill Gates and George Soros in shaping policies they favor.

Others, like Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, have framed the issue as a "power grab" by Musk, despite the fact that he is not directly involved in government decision-making.

It's hard to escape the conclusion that the outrage is more about Musk than about the policy itself. If these same cost-cutting measures had been proposed under a different banner, would they be facing such fierce opposition?

Fiscal Responsibility Should Be Bipartisan

The knee-jerk rejection of any policy associated with Musk is emblematic of a deeper problem in American politics: the prioritization of tribalism over governance. Reducing waste and improving government efficiency should not be partisan issues. Yet, because Musk has been painted as an enemy by certain political factions, even reasonable efforts to cut spend-

ing are being dismissed out of hand.

This is Musk Derangement Syndrome in action—where rational discourse is abandoned in favor of personal animus. But the American taxpayer does not have the luxury of indulging in ideological vendettas. With inflation still impacting household budgets, the burden of federal debt rising, and economic uncertainty ahead, the need for responsible governance has never been greater.

Conclusion: Time to Move Beyond MDS

Elon Musk is not perfect, nor does he need to be for his ideas to have merit. The federal government's spending problems are real, and solutions—regardless of their origins—should be judged on their effectiveness, not on who proposed them. If lawmakers continue to let Musk Derangement Syndrome dictate their positions, it will be the American people who suffer the consequences.

The choice is simple: govern with wisdom, or oppose for the sake of opposition. If Washington chooses the latter, it will prove that the real problem isn't Musk—it's the politicians who put their personal grievances ahead of the country's needs.

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Community

Legislature To Consider Absorbing Some Illinois Counties

MARCH 2025

Indiana House Bill 1008 (HB1008) has been introduced in the 2025 Regular Session of the Indiana General Assembly to establish the Indiana-Illinois Boundary Adjustment Commission. The bill was authored by Representative Todd Huston and coauthored by Representatives Jack Jordan and Shane Lindauer. It was first read and referred to the House Committee on Government and Regulatory Reform on January 21, 2025.

Purpose of the Commission

The primary objective of the Indiana-Illinois Boundary Adjustment Commission is to examine and propose adjustments to the boundary line between Indiana and Illinois. The commission aims to address any discrepancies or ambiguities in the current boundary demarcation to ensure clarity and mutual agreement between the two states.

Composition of the Commission

According to the bill, the commission will consist of ten members:

Five individuals appointed by the Governor of Indiana.

Five individuals from the State of Illinois.

The bill specifies that no more than three members appointed by the Governor may belong to the same political party, ensuring bipartisan representation.

Duties and Responsibilities

The commission is tasked with conducting comprehensive studies and analyses of the current boundary line. This includes reviewing historical documents, geographical data, and any legal agreements pertinent to the boundary. Based on their find-



ings, the commission will develop recommendations for any necessary adjustments to the boundary line.

Reporting and Implementation
Upon concluding its study, the commission is required to submit a detailed report of its findings and recommendations to the governors and legislative bodies of both Indiana and Illinois. Any proposed boundary adjustments would need to be ratified by both states and may require approval from the U.S. Congress, depending on the nature of the changes.



Next Steps

As of now, HB1008 is under consideration in the House Committee on Government and Regulatory Reform. If it passes through the committee, it will proceed to the House floor for further debate and voting. Stakeholders and residents of both

states are encouraged to stay informed and participate in public discussions as the bill progresses through the legislative process.

For more detailed information, the full text of HB1008 is available on the Indiana General Assembly's website.

Riley Gaines To Speak At Mater Dei On March 20

MARCH 2025

NCAA All-American swimmer, Riley Gaines will speak at Mater Dei High School on March 20, 2025, for an event called, "Gender and Truth: A Night with Riley Gaines."

Gaines tied with transgender swimmer Lia Thomas at the 2022 NCAA championships. After witnessing the unfairness of men competing in women's sports, Riley has become a vocal advocate for protecting female athletes. Her advocacy concerning the biblical truth of how God created humans distinctly and uniquely male and female, remained influential in recent developments as President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order, "...to protect opportunities for women and girls to compete in safe and fair sports..."

This event is designed to inspire students from the Tri-State



to remain truth-tellers in their generation and to mobilize concerned parents about the dangerous narrative concerning sexuality confronting this generation.

Following Riley Gaines' presentation, there will be a Q&A session along with a meet and greet where attendees will have the opportunity to meet Riley.

The event is sponsored by Right to Life of Southwest Indiana and USI Students for Life. School groups, church groups, sports teams and families are encouraged to attend this highly anticipated event.

Doors open at 6pm and the event will begin at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$10 for students, \$20 for adults, or \$50 for reserved seating and can be purchased at www.rtlswin.org or by calling Right to Life of Southwest Indiana directly at 812-474-3195.

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Community

USI Communications To Host Annual Social Media Symposium

MARCH 2025

The University of Southern Indiana College of Liberal Arts and the Communication and Media Department is excited to announce the annual Social Media Symposium, happening at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 27 in Carter Hall, located in University Center West. The event is open to the public at no charge and will be available virtually through Zoom as well. Registration is required through

Zoom for virtual viewing.

Kaylee Johnson, Media Relations Specialist for USI, will present Behind the Screens: The Strategy, Wins and Chaos of Managing USI's Socials. Learn about the organized chaos of the social media management world from one of our own USI alums.

Johnson is a communications specialist with experience in media relations, social media management and content crea-

tion. In her role at USI, she manages the University's social media platforms, creates engaging content and works to enhance the University's visibility through media outreach. She is also a member of the University's Crisis Communications Team. Previously, she served as a University Strategic Communication Graduate Assistant, writing for internal University audiences and maintaining web content. She also

worked in multiple student workers roles during her time as a student at USI.

Johnson is a 2020 graduate of public relations and advertising at USI and a 2022 graduate of USI's Master of Communication program.

For more information, contact Mary Beth Reese, USI Instructor in Communication, at reese@usi.edu or visit the Social Media Symposium webpage.

Youth First, Inc. Announces Sullivan As New President & CEO

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state level.

Sullivan joins a thriving organization; Youth First has experienced tremendous growth since 1998. Founder Dr. Bill Wooten's dream was to strengthen youth and families, and today Youth First has grown into one of Indiana's largest nonprofits with a mission of promoting mental health, preventing substance misuse, and maximizing school success. The agency has over 130 employees and is dedicated to caring for stu-

dents, building strong families, and transforming communities. Youth First's programs and services are available to over 53,000 students in 126 partner schools across 14 Indiana counties.

Sullivan will be charged with leading Youth First in fulfilling its mission, collaborating with its Board of Directors to set strategic direction and ensure effective operations, while building and leading a high-performing, mission-focused team.

With a background in engineering,

Sullivan has led manufacturing teams, implemented quality standards, and fostered continuous improvement and operational excellence at General Motors Corporation and Toyota Motor Manufacturing.

Sullivan served as Indiana State Representative from 2014-2021 and Indiana Secretary of State from 2021-2022. Additionally, Sullivan is an entrepreneur, consulting in communications and public affairs to lead clients in strategic planning,

board collaboration, fundraising, and building sustainable partnerships.

"We are thrilled to welcome Hollis as Youth First's new President & CEO. She is passionate about public service and committed to the care and support Youth First provides to kids and families. She will ensure our employees, donors, and community partners are aligned as we look ahead to the next 25 years," says Board of Directors Chair Dan Hoefling.

March Is Red Cross Month; Consider Giving Blood Or Financial Donations

Continued From Page 1

which will include brand-new stuffed animals donated by local students. These kits are distributed to families impacted by disasters, such as home fires, offering support and comfort in their time of need.

"During Red Cross Month, we proudly recognize the individuals who represent the best of humanity by stepping up to care for our neighbors in times of crisis," said Beth Sweeney, executive director of the Southwest Chapter of the Indiana Region Red Cross. "As disasters become more intense across the country and families face everyday threats like home fires, the support of these local heroes is critical to the health of communities. You can join them to help ensure no one faces an emergency alone by volunteering, donating blood, taking a class to learn lifesaving skills, or making a financial gift."

Red Cross Month is a national tradition that began in March 1943 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the first Red Cross Month proclamation — and each U.S. president has followed ever since.

Blood Donation and A1C Screening

During the month of March, the Red Cross is helping to bridge access to health care for blood donors by providing free A1C testing, com-



monly used to screen for diabetes and prediabetes, on all successful blood, platelet and plasma donations in March.

According to the CDC, some 90% of people living with diabetes in the U.S. have Type 2, a largely preventable and often reversible insulin-resistant condition that can cause dangerously high blood sugar levels. Left untreated, Type 2 diabetes can lead to serious health complications, such as kidney failure, stroke and heart issues.

The Red Cross will begin the

month-long free A1C screening for successful donations starting on March 1. Donors can expect to receive the results of their test within one to two weeks through the Red Cross Blood Donor App or online donor portal, and they are encouraged to consult their health care provider if their A1C level is elevated. A1C is the latest health insight that the Red Cross provides to blood, platelet and plasma donors, who can already access ongoing donation information such as pulse, blood pressure, body temperature

and hemoglobin levels.

One-third of people lack access to regular primary care in the U.S., where diabetes affects 1 in 10 people and nearly a quarter of those living with it have been undiagnosed, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The free A1C screening aims to help address this gap by empowering blood donors with valuable information to maintain their health and well-being. This new offering is among the longtime work of the Red Cross to support the health of communities, which also includes disaster relief efforts such as basic disaster health and mental health services among other assistance.

Visit RedCrossBlood.org, use the Red Cross Blood Donor App or call 1-800-RED CROSS to book a time to give in March and learn more about your health. Additionally, all who come to give blood, platelets or plasma March 1-31 will receive a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See RedCrossBlood.org/March for details on both offers.

You can also make a financial donation at redcross.org/GivingDay on March 26 to support people with disaster services such as emergency shelter, food, relief supplies, basic health care, emotional support and financial assistance.

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Community

Fundraiser For Granted Takes You To New Heights

MARCH 2025

You can put your daredevil spirit to the test and help support Granted. On April 26, daring souls can rappel down the nine-story CenterPoint Energy building in downtown Evansville.

This isn't just about adrenaline; it's about standing beside local children with terminal or life-threatening conditions. They face unimaginable challenges every day—now's your chance to be their hero.

To participate, commit to raising a minimum of \$1,000 by April 18, 2025. Rally your friends, family, and co-workers to support your mission fundraising, or start a team and encourage them



to sign up and go over the Edge for granted with you.

The success of our past events has supported our mission of granting Wishes and Beyond the

with life-threatening and terminal illnesses has made the following possible:

Ensure that no child will ever be placed on a waiting list.

Expansion of our Beyond the Wish programming and benefits to Wish kids and their families.

Provision of Hardship Grants to Granted families facing extreme financial difficulties.

Increased awareness of Granted's services, reaching the children and families who need our support.

USI Accepting Applications For Summer Enrichment Camp

MARCH 2025

The University of Southern Indiana Summer Enrichment Camp (SEC) is again being offered to children entering kindergarten through grade six (based on the grade they will enter in Fall 2025). The camp will begin on June 2 and will run through July 25 with hours of 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Summer Enrichment Camp offers an environment encouraging children to develop their capabilities and interests at their own pace based on individual needs. It recognizes the uniqueness of children

and provides positive encouragement for continued growth with a focus on having fun.

This year's camp activities include crafts, swimming, games, on-site opportunities (utilizing the entire campus) and more. Enrichment experiences will be offered in art, science, fitness, technology and other interests staff bring to camp. Every activity is tied to a weekly theme communicated to participating families. Children will take part in engaging events on campus along with four field trips throughout the summer.

Full- and part-time spots are available, but priority is given to families requiring full-time, full-summer care. Early enrollment was offered to 2024 campers last fall, so several spots have already been filled. Enrollment will be capped at 130 campers.

Total Summer Enrichment Camp fees for all USI employees and students are:

Full-time (M-F): \$1,482.33

Part-time (3 days): \$1,116.04

Part time (2 days): \$815.04

Total camp fees for community members (non-USI employees) are:
Full-time (M-F): \$1,584.56

Part-time (3 days): \$1,167.80

Part time (2 days): \$ 866.38

Fees include all costs except for lunches (parents send) and the cost of a life jacket for swimming (if needed).

A \$60 pre-enrollment fee (per child) is required and can be paid online.

For more information, to enroll your child in the Summer Enrichment Camp or learn about childcare for younger children, contact Dr. Rob Carroll, Assistant Professor of Education, at 270-454-3184 or by email at recarroll@usi.edu.

Who Is Moving Evansville's Cheese?

Continued From Page 2

designed to be perpetually (being a contained, ordered system)—even if suddenly obsolete.

A social-economic-political-workforce-industrial system is not complicated, it is complex, and, like a teenager, is best developed indirectly by shaping the maze shaping their future.

The complexity we face is made exponential by the added complexity of emerging, cascading, recombining technologies changing everything—whether we like it or not.

A century ago, electricity combined and recombined with steel, petroleum, and the telegraph, to remake society, the economy, and government—our maze. Henry Ford dominated because he led in leveraging four of the five transformational technologies of the day, enabling everything from mass production to vertical integration—and 5X wages. Corporations that did not,

fail.

Henry Ford collaborated with other leaders to shape their maze into an ecosystem that enabled adaptation and innovation. Activating an ecosystem takes leadership. "When everybody boosts everybody wins," repeated Mayor Benjamin Bosse as he rallied

Evansville's pioneers as they adapted to the Second Industrial Revolution and shaped the maze on which we prospered for generations.

Today, in the near term, AI and automation alone will impact the US manufacturing base at a pace faster than any mass industrial shift in history. The cliff is coming for Hem and Haw. The impact of emerging technologies is hard to imagine given the exponential unknowable

unknowns—and Quantum Computing and Fusion Energy may be around the corner. Decades of transformation comparable to the Second Industrial

Revolution may be compressed to years—for the places that survive.

A century ago, it took decades for emerging technologies to affect most Americans. Today, ChatGPT had one million users in 5 days, one hundred million in 2 months, with AI already transforming every industry—whether Hem and Haw are paying attention or not. In Who Moved My Cheese? Haw eventually realizes, "The quicker you let go of old cheese, the sooner you find new cheese." Strategy is about hard choices. Hem is left to his fate. Like a century ago, we face social, economic, and political disruption. The question is not who moved our cheese, but who is leading our adaptation to the new maze?

Evansville still has opportunities where we can lean in and prosper. Our manufacturing cluster, logistics infrastructure, and healthcare systems can lever-

age emerging technology to give us an edge—if we act now and "everyone boosts." Regional leaders must lead by creating the conditions to collaboratively develop new models of workforce re-training, and scaffolding to enable the leveraging of Industry 4.0, AI, blockchain, etc., etc., etc., and ensure that we are ahead of the curve on building the enabling infrastructure.

Chasing what other places did a decade ago will only slow our pace, in the fog, to a sudden cliff. Those ahead of the curve on electricity dominated for a century. It is time to make hard choices before we have no choices to make.

The future belongs, once again, to the pioneers making the most of what the maze affords them. Evansville, who is leading the way?

FOOTNOTE: Jason Salstrom works at the intersection of strategy and technology, helping organizations shape the maze. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jsalstrom>

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Entertainment

EU Theatre Brings ROMEO AND JULIET To Stage March 21

MARCH 2025

The University of Evansville (UE) Theatre continues its Spring 2025 season with William Shakespeare's ROMEO AND JULIET. This production opens at 7:30 p.m., March 21, in Shanklin Theatre. Additional performances are at 7:30 p.m., on March 22, 27, 28, 29, and at 2:00 p.m. on March 30. In fair Verona, an age-old feud between two powerful families erupts in bloodshed, and a group of masked party-crashers push the envelope, setting in motion a story of both sweeping romance and heartbreaking tragedy. Considered one of Shakespeare's best plays, the chaos and passion of being in love is juxtaposed with the obstacles and limitations that an "ancient grudge" places upon the young lovers. Our star-crossed teens, Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet, make both reckless and feckless choices about who to trust and discover the fruits of their "forbidden" love are not sweet at all. "For never was a story of more woe, than this of Juliet and her Romeo."

ROMEO AND JULIET is directed by Assistant Professor Wes Grantom '03. Don Hooper, guest artist, serves as the scenic designer; Associate Professor Sarah J. Smith serves as the costume designer; Jonathan Roth, a junior design and technology major from Brookfield, Wis., serves as



the lighting designer; Visiting Assistant Professor Jon Robertson serves as the sound designer; Visiting Assistant Professor Liz Jenkins '05 is the cultural coordinator; Diego Villada '06, guest artist, serves as the fight and intimacy director; William Cooper Sanders, a junior performance major from Jeffersonville, Ind. serves as the dramaturg; Katie Lawhorn, a senior stage management major from Louisville, Ky., is the stage manager, and Visiting Assistant Professor Scott Carpenter '05 serves as the technical director.

The cast features Adam Techmanski, a senior performance major from Richmond, Texas, as Romeo; Ashly Chalico, a senior performance major from Magnolia, Texas, as Juliet; Rachel Disney, a first-year theatre studies major from Louisville, Ky., as Friar

Lawrence; Lindsay Perr, a senior performance major from Medford, N.J., as The Nurse; Gavin Ramirez, a junior performance major from McKinney, Texas, as Mercutio; Umbra Person, a junior performance major from Jonesboro, Ga., as Benvolio; Luis Alejandro Gonzalez, a first-year performance major from Midland, Texas, as Tybalt; Joshua Fisher, a first-year performance major from Galena Park, Texas, as Paris; Delaney Ross, a senior performance major from Keller, Texas, as Capulet; William Cooper Sanders, a junior performance major from Jeffersonville, Ind., as Montague; Reese Hickman, a first-year performance major from Conroe, Texas, as Lady Montague; Antonio Cortes Roman, a junior performance major from Metepec, Mexico, as The Prince; Ethan Henry, a junior perform-

ance major from Salina, Kan., as Peter and Apothecary; Sydney Gepson, a first-year performance major from Queen Creek, Ariz., as Gregory; Daniel Perez, a junior performance major from San Antonio, Texas, as Balthasar; Mason Norton, a junior performance major from Bremen, Ind., as Abraham and Watch 1; Elizabeth Wusterhausen, a first-year performance major from Austin, Texas, as Paris's Page; Alex Hattan, a first-year performance major from O'Fallon, Ill., as Friar John; Amanda Pascarella, a first-year performance major from Staten Island, N.Y., as Capulet's Servant and Watch 3; Trace Levens, a junior performance major from Bryan, Texas, as Samson and Watch 2.

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

Louis CK Ridiculous Tour Will Make Victory Theatre Stop



MARCH 2025

Louis CK announced today that his 2025 tour will include Victory Theatre on August 30th. Launching Friday, May 30, the tour will include more than 75 North American dates. This follows three consecutive sold out tours (2019-2021), in-

cluding a historic performance at Madison Square Garden with the first-ever live-streamed comedy show at the iconic venue, drawing in 100,000 viewers.

Tickets go on-sale to the general public beginning February 28 at 10:00 a.m. local time. Tickets start

at \$39.75.

Louis C.K. is a six-time Emmy Award and three-time Grammy

Award winner. He has released over ten stand up specials including his most recent "Louis C.K. at the Dolby," "Sorry," and "Sincerely, Louis C.K." all released direct to fans on his website. In 2023, C.K. live-streamed his sold out in the round performance from Madison Square Garden, aptly named "Back To The Garden," through his website.

C.K. also co-wrote, directed, and appeared in the feature film "Fourth of July," released in theaters nationwide in July 2022. In January 2015, he became the first comedian to sell out Madison Square Garden three times for the same tour.

Fans can go to Louiskc.com for more information.

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FAITH & VALUES †

The Word In 120: Learn To Tame The Tongue

MARCH 2025

By Jerome Stewart

There is a real need today to lower the temperature of the words coming out of our mouths. Words that promote division can be harmful instead uplifting to the hearers of them. The constant anger on display today is doing irreparable harm to our children. The 800 pound gorilla in the room today is that notorious tongue.

In this country today, we must re-think how we talk to one another or else all kinds of un-godly behavior will escalate. There are great words of wisdom throughout the bible on how we are to treat one another.

James chapter 3 vs. 5 says; "the tongue is a little member and boast great things." Vs. 8 says "But no one can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." It cannot

be overstated that divisive talk today needs to take a prolong vacation. Somebody needs to be willing to speak words that are tender, soft and easy on our hearing, words that edify. There are great people doing great things, so there is good happening today. But we hear too much noise! We need to stop and think before we speak.

James addressed the general

congregation of believers. He asked a very important question to be pondered in vs. 11 saying; "Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?" The

answer is no. Vs. 12 he says "Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh." Matthew chapter 7 vs. 15 thru 17 Jesus says; "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs

from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit." Paul said to the brethren (that's church folk) in Ephesians chapter 4 vs. 29 thru 31; "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."



Challenge To Embrace Change

MARCH 2025

As we navigate the evolving landscape of the church, I firmly believe that we're poised on the threshold of a revolutionary transformation. The question is who will be willing to shift?

The old paradigm is yielding to a fresh, God-ordained reality, and I'm electrified by the prospect of where this transformation will take us. Embracing change can be daunting, but I'm convinced that it's a potent catalyst for growth, renewal, and a deeper trust in God. As we journey through this uncharted territory, I'm learning to rest in God's sovereignty, even in the midst of personal struggles.



we'll seek Him with a reckless abandoned hunger, always laying down our old ways and embracing the new.

Let's co-labor with Yahweh, seeking His heart and desires, and aligning ourselves with His eternal

purposes. As we do, I'm confident that we'll experience a revival awakening, one that will propel us toward a brighter future and a deeper understanding of God's love.

So, beloved, let's not resist change, but rather, let's lean into it, embracing the promise of transformation and reformation and the thrill of the unknown as we watch it all unfold before our very eyes. Glory to God!

We've never been this way before. May we all be willing to be challenged so much so that we will be open to going wherever Holy Spirit leads never doubting that He is leading and that He leads us. Challenge Accepted!



10th Tri-State Creation Care Conference Set For Saturday

MARCH 2025

Tri-State Creation Care's 10th annual conference will be held on Saturday, March 8, from 9 a.m. to noon at the C.K. Newsome Center in downtown Evansville. The event is free and open to the public.

Past conferences have focused on practices to mitigate climate change, but TSCC's conference this year will zero in on how individuals and faith communities can prepare for weather emergencies and know how to help families and communities when they occur.

Speakers will include Beth Hall, Indiana's state climate director, to explain weather trends and

how to reduce their risks. Evansville Climate Action Director Lauren Norvell will discuss how our community can build its resiliency. And Cliff Weaver, director of the Evansville-Vanderburgh Emergency Management Agency, to share Vanderburgh County emergency-preparedness plans. Time will be allotted to questions.

Vendor tables will open at 8:30am, when conference registration begins. The actual conference starts at 9:00, with a prayer by the Evansville Catholic Diocese's Bishop Joseph Siegel, followed by a candle-lighting ceremony by local youth. Snacks will be provided.

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Comics & Puzzles

TANK MCNAMARA
by Bill Hinds



GET FUZZY
by darby conley



Universal Crossword

Edited by Taylor Johnson February 9, 2025

- ACROSS**
- 1 Famous ___ cookies
 - 5 Cozy lodging
 - 10 Apple computer that debuted in 1998
 - 14 Couple's night out activity
 - 16 Squish, as potatoes
 - 17 "Could I get another volunteer?"
 - 18 On which Sealy Corp's ticker symbol was ZZ
 - 19 Blend
 - 20 Bespectacled "Scooby-Doo" character
 - 21 Not even tipsy
 - 22 Word after "sleep" or "airplane"
 - 23 Clobbers, biblically
 - 25 "___ Road" (Beatles album)
 - 28 Kind of wave or pool
 - 29 Equipment
 - 30 Competition that led to the Apollo 11 moon landing
 - 34 ___ Reader (digital magazine)
 - 35 Clued in
 - 36 Central Plains tribe
 - 37 Epiphany
 - 39 Big Ben, e.g.
 - 40 What's kept to a minimum in the library
 - 41 Computer plug-in spots
 - 42 Where one may find a Mustang or a Bronco
 - 43 Cheeky
 - 45 Done in a rush
 - 46 Digging tool
 - 48 \$\$\$ exec
 - 51 Bruins' sch.
 - 52 Widely known fact that isn't supposed to be widely known
 - 54 "Better Call ___" (AMC series)
 - 55 Period before sunset that provides warm tones for photography
 - 56 Doesn't share
 - 57 Quite the bargain
 - 58 Common hairstyle for a bridesmaid
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Scott of "Parks and Recreation"
 - 2 Bite-size
 - 3 Black gem
 - 4 ___ Balls (Hostess cakes)
 - 5 Guiding principle
 - 6 "Easy on Me" singer
 - 7 Soothing ointment
 - 8 "Some progress is better than none"
 - 9 Once known as
 - 10 Human-verifying words on a screen
 - 11 "Perhaps in a bit"
 - 12 Donkeys
 - 13 "Believe" singer
 - 15 Diplomatic agent
 - 21 "A" or "B" for a cassette
 - 22 People, to a god
 - 24 Rats' smaller kin
 - 25 Water, in Spanish
 - 26 "2 Broke Girls" actress
 - 27 Yellow gastropod named for a fruit
 - 30 Perfect place to hit
 - 31 Frying vessel
 - 32 Young male horse
 - 33 Snake-like fish
 - 35 "Are not!" retort
 - 38 Greasy
 - 41 Fuss in front of a mirror
 - 42 Chocolate source
 - 43 Bear in the WWF logo
 - 44 '50s Ford flop
 - 45 "Quiet!"
 - 47 Brazilian soccer legend
 - 48 Trim, as a picture
 - 49 Ongoing quarrel
 - 50 Other, in Oaxaca
 - 52 Hip-hop veterans, slangily
 - 53 "Wicked" director
 - Jon M.

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

Sudoku Pacific

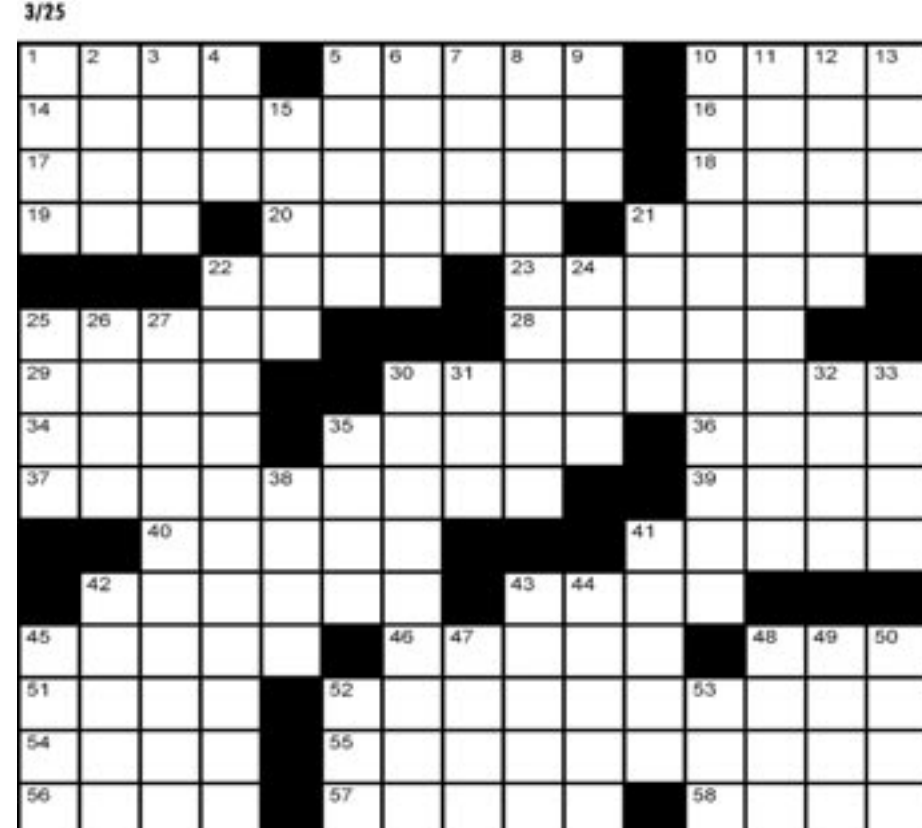
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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

3-25

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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Education

UE Global Changemaker Challenge Winners Announced

MARCH 2025

High school students around the world were awarded significant scholarships at the University of Evansville's (UE) Global Changemaker Challenge, made possible by Toyota Indiana.

The challenge is designed to motivate young people around the world to take a leading role in identifying and solving challenges in the world through innovation and creativity. This competition is the virtual companion to the in-person Changemaker Challenge that took place in January.

UE has committed more than \$1

million in scholarships to winners of this competition since its inception. Those who choose UE as their college destination will each receive four-year scholarships as listed below:

First Place – Solar-Glide

Team Member: Ronik Sharma; Cooksville, Maryland

A solar-powered electric tricycle that empowers farmers and micro-entrepreneurs with affordable, sustainable mobility-boosting incomes,

reducing costs, and accelerating climate action.

Second Place – Fireguard Pod

Team Member: Oluwadarasimi Moses; Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos, Nigeria

The FireGuard Pod is a compact, heat-activated fire suppression device designed to release fire-retardant materials when exposed to high temperatures. It aims to prevent small fires from spreading in homes, forests, and electrical

hubs.

Third Place – Hunter Kellems Cyber Truck

Team Member: Hunter Kellems; Perry Central High School, Leopold, Indiana

Introducing a specialized plug designed for the Tesla Cybertruck to prevent accidental activation of the emergency exit mechanism when it is not needed. This innovation enhances safety and convenience by reducing the likelihood of unintentional use, ensuring the emergency feature remains accessible only when necessary.



USI School Of Graduate Studies Spotighting Career Development

MARCH 2025

The University of Southern Indiana is proud to announce the Graduate Student Colloquium, an annual event celebrating the innovative research and scholarly achievements of current and former graduate students.

The colloquium will take place Wednesday, March 19 at Roeder Traditions Lounge in University Center East, providing a platform for students to present their research findings to faculty, peers

and the broader academic community.

Presentations will also be available virtually.

Hosted by the School of Graduate Studies, the colloquium is in its eighth year of bringing intellectual exchange to the community, focused on the unique needs and motivations of adult learners and career professionals.

This year's topic will focus on how a graduate education supports career success and improves workforce navigation.



"The upcoming Graduate Student Colloquium is a testament to the thought leadership and innovation that define our stu-

dents and alumni," says Dr. Michael Dixon, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies. "This event will highlight emerging trends in workforce development and showcase meaningful advancements in graduate studies and professional opportunities."

The event is open to the public, and attendees will have the chance to explore new offerings in continuing education, career enhancements and ways to maintain a competitive edge in today's dynamic workforce.

VU Partners In Collaborative Robotics/Automation Workshops

MARCH 2025

Vincennes University continues to cement its position as a trailblazer in advanced manufacturing education through its Center for Applied Robotics and Automation. Home to the largest collaborative robot (cobot) educational program in the United States, the CARA is partnering with Telamon Robotics and the STARTedUp Foundation to offer hands-on workshops centered on cobot technology.

The partners are hosting Innovation Cobot Workshops for high school students and educators across Indiana, focusing on rural and underserved communities.

CARA Director Kimberly Wright said, "The Innovation Cobot Workshops demonstrate VU's commitment to shaping Indiana's future workforce and driving economic growth. These workshops are about creating access and opportunity. By introducing students and educators to cutting-edge cobot technology, we are preparing them for in-demand careers in Industry 4.0 and empowering them to be leaders in an era when technology is constantly evolving."



These immersive workshops provide high schoolers with hands-on experiences at CARA locations on the Vincennes and VU Jasper campuses and Telamon Robotics in Carmel.

Eastern Hancock High School students and staff participated in a recent workshop.

Eastern Hancock Math and Business Teacher Cole Allen said, "Eastern Hancock is always looking to partner

with companies and community leaders to help enlighten students about the opportunities that they could pursue after they graduate. By having the chance to be a part of this workshop, students not only got first-hand experience into what it's like to work with a cobot, but also the career paths they could pursue that they previously didn't know about."

During the one-day workshops,

students interact directly with cobot technology and explore a variety of STEM career pathways in robotics, advanced manufacturing, and more. They also connect with industry partners and explore future career opportunities. In addition to benefiting students, the workshops empower educators like Allen to integrate AI and automation into their classrooms.

Telamon Robotics Vice President of Sales and Operations Paulo Dutra e Mello said, "Through our partnership with the STARTedUP Foundation and Vincennes University Center for Applied Robotics and Automation, we are providing high school students with hands-on experience in collaborative robotics, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to thrive in an increasingly automated world. These workshops serve as an exciting introduction to real-world robotics applications."

By expanding access to advanced technology education, VU and its partners are shaping the next generation of innovators and ensuring a prosperous economic future for Indiana.

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Sports

Aces Fall In Season Finale; Conference Tourney Next

MARCH 2025

Trailing by 18 in the first half, the University of Evansville men's basketball team staged a furious rally to take a lead in the second half before Illinois State fended off the challenge to take a 62-53 win on Sunday inside CEFCU Arena.

Leading the way for UE was Tanner Cuff. Converting six of his nine field goal attempts, he scored 15 points while adding four assists and two boards. Connor Turnbull scored 14 points while grabbing seven boards and Gabriel Pozzato checked in with 13 points and nine caroms.

Illinois State recorded the first basket of the game while Tayshawn Comer quickly tied the score at 2-2. The Redbirds pushed the lead to 7-2 while their defense held the Purple Aces to a 1-of-7 start from the field. Comer knocked down his second shot of the game to end the stretch.

Three-pointers from Connor Turnbull and Gabriel Pozzato kept it a one-possession game at 15-12 in favor of the Redbirds heading



into the final 10 minutes of the half. Illinois State took control at that point, scoring the next 15 points to open a 30-12 lead with three minutes remaining in the period. Evansville was held scoreless for just under eight minutes with ISU holding them to 0-for-9 shooting while picking up three turnovers.

Tanner Cuff hit a jumper at the 2:38 mark to end the stretch, but ISU held a 34-17 advantage going into the final minute. A nice finish by the Aces saw them score the

final six points to trail by just 11 at the half – 34-23.

Out of the break, the Aces connected on their first six shots to make it a 1-point game at 38-37 with just over 14 minutes on the clock. Turnbull accounted for three field goals and a pair of free throws to open the period. Comer made a spin around pass to Cuff, who finished with the dunk to give UE its first lead of the game at 39-38. Going back to the first half, UE outscored ISU by a 27-8 margin as they

turned the 30-12 deficit a 39-38 edge.

Over the next sequence, the teams swapped the lead several times before Comer scored three in a row to tie the game at 45-45 inside of nine minutes remaining. ISU countered with a pair of triples to go back up by six while Pozzato cut the deficit in half with his second triple of the game. Despite his basket, the Redbirds saw their lead creep back up to seven – 55-48 – heading into the final four minutes.

Just when it looked like the Redbirds would pull away, the Aces fought back. With 2:43 left, a driving layup by Pozzato made it a 2-point game at 55-53. ISU fended off the challenge once again and completed the day with the 62-53 victory.

Dalton Banks led ISU with 13 points. The Redbirds shot 35% while UE finished at 45.5%. Illinois State forced 19 UE turnovers, resulting in 18 points.

Evansville enters Arch Madness as the #10 seed and will play at 6 p.m. on Thursday in St. Louis.

Eagles Finish 4th At OVC Indoor Championships

MARCH 2025

University of Southern Indiana Women's Track & Field freshman Hadessah Austin was named the Ohio Valley Conference Indoor Freshman of the Year after winning a pair of titles at the OVC Indoor Championships Tuesday and Wednesday.

Austin cruised to a win in the 5,000 meters Tuesday to claim her first-career OVC championship. She finished the race in 17 minutes, 10.30 seconds, nine seconds in front of teammate Elle Hall, who was second with a time of 17:19.87.

On Wednesday, Austin raced to her second title of the meet as she finished first in the 3,000 meters with a time of 9:47.76.

Austin's wins were two of three first-place finishes for the Screaming Eagles, who placed fourth as a team with 60 points.

USI's distance medley relay team of freshmen Addison Applegate and Abrielle Richard, junior Emily Rempe and senior Audrey Comastri finished first Tuesday evening. The quartet clocked a time of 11:57.47 to claim the Eagles' first-ever relay title at the Division I level.

Richard nearly came up with a second win on the week as she finished second in the finals of the 800



meters. The Newburgh, Indiana, native clocked the fastest time in the prelims Tuesday and had the lead going into the final turn Wednesday; but she stumbled slightly in the final stretch, allowing Southeast Missouri State University's Erika Mellor to claim the win by a quarter of a second margin.

As a team, the Eagles had six podium finishes. Comastri earned a third-place finish in the mile on Wednesday, while Hall had the second-place showing in the 5,000 meters before finishing fifth in the 3,000 meters.

Sophomore Zoe Seward also scored for the Eagles with a fifth-

place showing in the 5,000 meters.

USI opens the 2025 outdoor season March 27-29 with meets scheduled at the Raleigh Relays March 27-29 in Raleigh, North Carolina, the WashU Distance Carnival in St. Louis March 27-28, and the Pace-setter Sports Invitational March 29 in Terre Haute, Indiana.

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Sports

UE Soccer Alum Sophie Linder Joins TSG Hoffenheim

MARCH 2025

Former University of Evansville women's soccer goalkeeper Sophie Linder has spent the past six months playing in one of the top women's leagues in Europe.

Linder, a goalkeeper for the Purple Aces in 2021 and 2022, signed over the summer with TSG Hoffenheim women's Bundesliga team. Linder is the second UE women's soccer alum to sign a professional contract in 2024. A native of Vienna, Austria Linder is playing closer to home in Hoffenheim, Germany.

Linder comes from a solid youth soccer background playing for teams such as SKN St. Pölten and USC Landhaus. Linder then came to Evansville where in two seasons for the Purple Aces she started five matches in goal with a 1-4-0 record, and a 1.60 GAA in 450 minutes in goal.

During her sophomore season, Linder was second on the team

saves while with the Purple Aces was six stops while facing a sea-

She played twelve games for the regional league team in the Regionalliga Südwest, another German soccer league, last season and was also in goal in the two promotion games to the 2nd league.

Of her signing, Linder says she's looking forward to the new challenge: "For me, the move to TSG is a great step in my career. In addition to the excellent training conditions, I am looking forward to new impulses in training and the opportunity to be on the pitch with top-class teammates every day."

At the midway point of the season, TSG Hoffenheim is in the middle of the league standings in sixth place. The team's highest finish since joining the highest level of Bundesliga was third place in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 seasons.



with 17 saves, while facing 67 shots overall.

She earned a victory in her UE debut, recording a save while facing eight shots in Evansville's 2-1 victory over Morehead State (8/28/22). Linder's career-high

son-high 22 shots in a 2-0 loss at IUPUI (9/11/22.)

After leaving Evansville to pursue a professional soccer career, Linder spent a half-season with Austria Wien, before moving to 1. FSV Mainz 05 in summer 2023.

VU Volleyball Adds Polish Middle Blocker To 2025 Class

MARCH 2025

The four-time defending NJCAA Division I Region 24 Champion Vincennes University volleyball team made another big addition this week to their 2025 recruiting class in six-foot middle blocker Paulina Krawczyk.

Paulina joins the Trailblazers from Strachanow, Poland and attended high school at I LO im. Tadeusza Kościuszki w Turku.

Paulina plays for the Polish club team UKS Piątka Turek under Head Coach Andrzej Malczewski.

Paulina joins the Trailblazers after a very accomplished career for her club team, where she guided them to a silver medal in the 3rd Women's League in 2020-21, a bronze medal in 2021-22, earned semifinals promotion to the 2nd Women's League in 2021-22 and 2023-24 and is playing in the semifinal of the 3rd Women's League currently.

"As I've said before, we do graduate a lot of front row players," VUVB Head Coach Gary Sien said. "I always like to recruit hitters or players who can play multiple positions. Paulina is primarily a middle but she can also hit outside pretty well too. We have position openings in all front row spots, so I just don't think you can go wrong with bringing in players that can fill a number of spots. It also gives us the option to

move players around depending on the system and the players' abilities. If you don't recruit with versatility in mind, you just don't have that option."

"For someone like Paulina, she definitely fits the bill of being someone who has that versatility," Sien added. "She also has a lot of experience. Her first year in the 2020-21 season, she was playing in the Senior league when she was 14 years old. So she's someone who has quite a bit of experience from a very young age playing at a high level and playing against people who were four or five years, if not more, older than her."

"Paulina has been playing with our volleyball club since 2020," Malczewski said. "She is a middle blocker, but her role as a player is significant, making 14-15 points per match. She is characterized by her speed, sportsmanship and power. Her jumping abilities are very good. She moves well on the court and is good at defense. Her spikes are very good and serves high quality."

"She is very ambitious and is a 'warrior type,'" Malczewski added. "Paulina is aware of how important weight training is and is focused on the gym as much as the volleyball court."

Paulina is the daughter of Katarzyna and Tomasz and her major

is still undecided.

Paulina is the third VUVB signee that stands over six feet tall, joining six-foot outside hitter Kenli Sullivan (Bloomington, Ind.) and six-foot-two middle Taryn Thuis (Linton, Ind.) in the 2025 VUVB recruiting class.

This group will have some big shoes to fill at the next for the Trailblazers, joining a VUVB squad coming off a 30-13 season last year and winning VU's fourth straight Region 24 Championship.

"We typically look for players from countries that have a very strong volleyball systems," Sien said. "If you look at the last Olympics, both the men's and women's teams for Poland did extremely well. But that's not a surprise because if you've been following them from the Olympics before, you could see this coming. It's not by happenstance that this occurs. It's the result of a great system that they have. Poland, Italy and Turkey, if you are looking at Europe, I think those are the top three countries in general that have pretty strong systems and professional leagues out there too."

"It's just been a much bigger sport over in Europe for decades," Sien added. "Although the United States is developing. We now have three professional leagues in the U.S. Indianapolis just started their professional team back in January and

they are hosting that league's All-Star game this year. So it's pretty exciting to see all of that happening."

"We do graduate, it's true for anybody at this level anyway, some pretty substantial players," Sien said. "Not only for their abilities but for their leadership and the way they develop the culture of this team. So this year we are going to have to bring in players who are going to have to reestablish that culture. The culture of responsibility, accountability, knowing that this opportunity is great and while we've accomplished some things over the past few years, there are still greater things to accomplish as a program."

"That's been our theme as we recruit this year is, while it's great to have these four Region Championships, it's time to go beyond that," Sien added. "It starts with having players with athletic ability and we've been blessed over the years to always have that. I'm very confident that the culture will be reestablished and I really like the group that we have. We have some really good, responsible players coming in. Winners, players coming from winning programs who have done very well both individually and team wise."

The Vincennes University Athletic Department is excited to welcome Paulina Krawczyk to the 2025 Trailblazer recruiting class.



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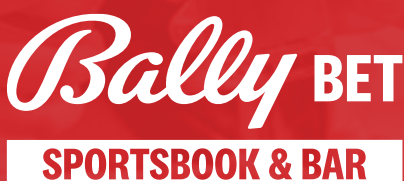
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