E-REP MARCH 2024

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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www.evansvilleregion.com



## March Madness and Advancing Our Mission

ndiana in March is hoops heaven! And that means basketball and more basketball at the Ford Center. The excellent work of the Evansville Regional Sports Commission goes public beginning March 6, with the opening of the Ohio Valley Conference Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments. Brandon McClish and Kali Mayes are developing meticulous plans to ensure that the student athletes of the OVC get the redcarpet treatment as teams vie to become the first entrants into the NCAA Men's and Women's Tournaments. And just three weeks later the NCAA Division II Elite Eight tips off at the Ford Center, with the national championship game broadcast live on CBS Saturday, March 30.

As the calendar rolls from March to April, we move from the bright lights of basketball courts to the not-so-bright skies of a total solar eclipse. The Greater Evansville Region will be in the path of this astral spectacle on April 8. If your business needs safety approved solar glasses, the Downtown Evansville Improvement District has an inventory for sale at just \$2 per pair. You can place your order at laura@downtownevansville. com. This celestial event presents a remarkable opportunity for our community to shine as we welcome visitors from far and wide. Our region is diligently preparing with watch events and activities to ensure an unforgettable experience for all who gather to witness this rare phenomenon. Discover more about this exciting event on pages 4 and 5.

Also in this newsletter, on page 6, find out how a collaboration of two regional facilities are helping our youth. Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare and Easterseals Rehabilitation Center recently celebrated the opening of the Neurodevelopmental Center of Southwestern Indiana (NDC). As Indiana's FIRST integrated outpatient neurodevelopmental center for youth with co-occurring psychiatric conditions and intellectual/ developmental disabilities, NDC exemplifies our region's commitment to providing accessible and comprehensive health care services to all members of our community. In less than two months since its inauguration, NDC has already processed over 40 referrals, highlighting the crucial role it plays in supporting the well-being of our region's youth.

More good news from around the region includes an initiative spearheaded by the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership (E-REP) and the Tri-State Manufacturers' Alliance (TSMA) – the Evansville Regional Strategic Manufacturing Roadmap. This strategic roadmap offers invaluable insights and

recommendations aimed at propelling the manufacturing sector forward, fostering growth, innovation and global competitiveness.

The Evansville Region is also poised to benefit from the recent partnership between E-REP and the Evansville Regional Business Committee — the launching of the Orr Fellowship. This prestigious fellowship program, which recruits top college seniors from across the nation, is focused on cultivating the next generation of business



LLOYD WINNECKE CEO, E-REP

leaders and entrepreneurs. Launching this fall, the Evansville Region will be the first chapter outside of the Indianapolis area, positioning us well to foster and empower young talent and economic growth in our region.

These projects among many others are not just standalone endeavors; they are integral components of our overarching Talent EVV goals. By attracting newcomers, expanding health care access, enhancing manufacturing capabilities, and cultivating young talent, we are advancing our mission to grow our population, foster a thriving workforce and improve residents' lives.

Regards,

**LLOYD WINNECKE** CEO. E-REP

#riverofopportunities





Impact Investors are the voice of business in the Evansville Region. This select group of Evansville Regional Economic Partnership (E-REP) Stakeholders guides E-REP's mission and priorities, its affiliates and its lines of work. It drives the Region's greatest opportunities for progress and addresses significant community challenges.

Above all, this leadership investment affords E-REP the capacity to employ and retain a high-quality staff to execute the work of the organization and to ensure that it has sufficient resources to provide leadership for the Region's greatest opportunities.

THANK YOU!













EVANSVILLE REGIONAL BUSINESS COMMITTEE















n April 8, 2024 at approximately 2:02 p.m. CDT, the Evansville Region will bear witness to a remarkable celestial event — a total solar eclipse. This rare occurrence where the Moon passes between the Earth and the sun, casting its shadow on our planet, promises to captivate people across the region. Positioned in the path of totality, the Evansville Region will experience a moment of awe-inspiring darkness as the moon completely blocks the sun, transforming day into an eerie twilight.

#### **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

Beyond its astronomical significance, the solar eclipse carries economic implications for the Evansville Region. As word spreads about this celestial event, tourism is expected to surge, drawing visitors from far and wide to experience the phenomenon firsthand. Hotels, restaurants and local businesses stand to benefit from increased foot traffic as eclipse enthusiasts flock to the region.

The economic impact extends beyond the immediate surge in tourism. Studies of past solar eclipses, such as the 2017 event across the United States, have shown a boost in local economies as visitors explore the region, patronize

businesses and contribute to the local economy. Evansville can expect a similar boon as it plays host to this celestial spectacle.

#### SAFETY FIRST

While the solar eclipse promises to be a breathtaking sight, it's essential to prioritize safety when observing the event. Staring directly at the sun, even during an eclipse, can cause permanent eye damage. Specialized solar viewing glasses or handheld solar viewers are a must for safe viewing. Additionally, telescopes equipped with solar filters provide a close-up look at the eclipse without risking eye injury.

#### You can get a pair of Eclipse Glasses in numerous locations! Here are a few:

- Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library Central
   free while supplies last
- www.downtownevansville.com
- Nick Nackery
- Evansville Museum
- Mesker Park Zoo
- Wesselman Woods
- Regional Happenings

The 2024 solar eclipse presents a unique opportunity for the community to come together in celebration of science, wonder and the beauty of the cosmos. Plan to attend one of these events:



#### **Total Eclipse at Angel Mounds | April 8** www.indianamuseum.org/eclipse

Join your fellow eclipse enthusiasts and experience this amazing celestial event at a site specifically designed to align with the sun and moon! We will have everything you need to watch the eclipse in style, including the glasses, which can be purchased in the gift shop, and a spectacular view.

#### Total Eclipse at New Harmony | April 8

www.indianamuseum.org/programs/total-solar-eclipse-at-new-harmony/

Experience the quaint and historical town of New Harmony in a totally new light during the total solar eclipse. Visitors can enjoy multiple prime viewing locations, glasses available for purchase (while supplies last) and activities for the whole family, including making a horizontal sundial and a pocket solar system.



#### **Downtown Evansville | April 8** www.downtownevansville.com/events

Save the date and make plans to join us along Riverside Drive for a viewing party of this spectacular celestial event! Riverside Drive will be closed for a prime viewing spot. Don't forget! You must wear protective eyewear to view the eclipse.



Eclipse Celebration
April 5 - 8
Gibson County
www.gogibson.org/play/
visitors-and-tourismbureau/2024-eclipse

Four days of festivities will include a student art and science fair, live local bands, carnival rides, food trucks, fireworks, eclipse presentations and concert featuring Resurrection – A Journey Tribute and the Eagles tribute band Hotel California. Plus, guided viewing of the eclipse process in real time on Monday, April 8!



#### Solarpalooza | April 4 - 8 University of Southern Indiana www.usi.edu/solarpalooza

USI will offer unobstructed sky views and learning opportunities to educators, students and the community that uniquely position the University as the prime location for viewing the eclipse.



Wesselman Woods Multicultural Festival | April 8 www.wesselmanwoods.org/ eclipse2024

Event Mission: To bring together diverse communities in a safe space to enjoy nature's greatest sight as well as food, performances and music. Commune with the eclipse; enjoy as one. The festival will begin at 11 a.m. and it will feature activities, musical performances, food trucks and more!

As April 8 approaches, anticipation continues to build. This rare cosmic event promises not only to leave a lasting impression on those who witness it but also to leave a positive mark on the local economy. From historic significance to economic opportunity, the solar eclipse of 2024 will undoubtedly be a moment to remember for the Evansville Region and for all who journey to experience its magic. Go to <a href="https://www.exploreevansville.com/eclipse">www.exploreevansville.com/eclipse</a> for more eclipse happenings and events.





## Neurodevelopmental Center of Southwestern Indiana

he Neurodevelopmental Center of Southwestern Indiana (NDC), a collaborative program of both Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare and Easterseals Rehabilitation Center, hosted an open house at 19 E. Chandler Street, Evansville.

In January 2023, NDC opened as Indiana's first integrated outpatient neurodevelopmental Center for youth with co-occurring psychiatric conditions and intellectual/ developmental disabilities. Located in downtown Evansville, NDC, in less than two months of opening, processed over 40 referrals.

The program is designed for youth who are dually diagnosed with a mental health disorder along with autism, intellectual or other developmental disability. These youth are assessed by a multidisciplinary cohesive treatment team, which includes psychology, psychiatry, occupational and physical therapies, speech pathology, audiology and nutrition. NDC utilizes a care coordination approach to address youth and family needs that are more complex, connecting families to resources and providing ongoing services and support.

Members of a Project Advisory Council, who represent community organizations and consumers, are appointed through their partnership with NDC to provide feedback related to treatment experiences, workflows, and external communications to assure the program is meeting community needs.

The Neurodevelopmental Center of Southwestern Indiana began as a pilot program and is funded in part by a Division of Mental Health and Addiction Community Catalyst Grant.

"What a wonderful year we have experienced together at NDC. Collaboration has been a key factor. With the support of so many, a forward-thinking advisory committee, and our professional staff, we have been able to provide a unique



service that was the first in the state to be developed. What an accomplishment!" stated Kayce Smith, Clinical Manger of the Neurodevelopmental Center of Southwestern Indiana.

"Collaborative mental health care is a vital piece to a healthy community. Easterseals is proud to be a part of this collaboration to provide the youth of our area these muchneeded services from one location. This is the first facility of its kind in the state of Indiana. As the need continues to expand, we will be here to grow with it," stated Emily Reidford, VP, Community Outreach and Education at Easterseals Rehabilitation Center.



**Martial Hearts** 

Let's welcome Martial Hearts as a new member of the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership. Damien Burge, board president, gives us insight about Martial Hearts. Damien can be reached by calling 812-746-8615 or email damien@martialhearts.net. Visit them online at martialhearts.net.

#### Tell us about Martial Hearts and the services you offer.

We seek to provide martial arts training to youth who can't afford it by connecting them with local martial arts schools.

#### What inspired you to invest your time and resources in this business?

I have been a lifelong practitioner of martial arts and know the impact it can make in a child's life. I have also seen the numerous amount of youth that don't have access or resources to begin a life of martial arts.

#### What career advice would you give the younger generation interested in this type of

Be ready for long hours that come with enriching successes.

#### In your opinion, what are three ingredients for

Diligence, kindness and being open to opportunity.

#### What has been one of your toughest challenges?

Getting all the pieces together to kick off this project.

#### Why is the Evansville Region a great place to operate a business?

Evansville fosters an environment that creates a lot of loyalty to local businesses and people.

#### What do you like most about the community in which you live?

They are always supportive and willing to help you

Is there anything else you would like to share? We look forward to the impact that being a part of E-REP will make on the nonprofit and the youth we hope to











## Ports of Indiana ships 12.6 million tons of cargo in 2023, second-highest total in 63-year history

orts of Indiana shipped 12.6 million tons of cargo in 2023, the second-highest tonsection 2023, the second-highest tonnage in its 63-year history. This is a 6-percent increase over 2022 and second only to 2018, when Indiana's three ports handled 14.8 million tons of cargo. The largest single cargo increase in 2023 was coal exports from Mount Vernon, which jumped 78 percent. Fertilizer increased more than 11 percent overall, with double-digit gains at Mount Vernon and Jeffersonville, while soy products, minerals, ethanol, DDGs and cement also increased.

"At Ports of Indiana, we are privileged to partner with a group of world-class companies that ship critical cargoes to and from our regional economies," said Ports of Indiana CEO Jody Peacock. "The dedication and hard work of these businesses is why Indiana ranks 12th in the nation for maritime shipping and why our maritime economy is booming. The 2023 cargo volumes were even more impressive considering some of the major challenges facing our industry this past year with low water levels and lock closures."

Indiana's three-port system maintained substantial tonnages despite several factors that stymied the U.S. inland maritime industry as a whole: an extended lock closure on the Illinois River, near-record low water levels on the Mississippi River, and a weeklong work stoppage by Canadian St. Lawrence Seaway employees.

Ports of Indiana also experienced significant growth in rail shipments during 2023, with rail carloads increasing 28 percent year over year. All three ports increased rail shipments as Mount Vernon led the way with 39,909 rail cars, a 42 percent increase from 2022. Overall, Ports of

At Ports of Indiana, we with a group of worldclass companies that ship critical cargoes to and from our regional economies."

JODY PEACOCK

Indiana handled 65,141 rail cars in 2023

The 2023 business results also indicate that Ports of Indiana's economic impact increased year over year. A 2023 study found that Indiana's three ports supported more than 49,000 jobs and generated \$8.7 billion annually for the state's economy, \$3.5 billion in annual wages, and \$536 million in state and local taxes.

"This is an exciting time at Ports of Indiana," said Peacock. "We're going through a transformational period as we build up our internal resources to spur port growth and work through transitions of key terminal operators at all three ports. We're cautiously optimistic about the 2024 cargo outlook, but we're more excited about how our team is positioning Indiana's port system for long-term future growth."

are privileged to partner

PORTS OF INDIANA

Breeze Airways Inaugurates Service to Orlando from Evansville - FVV Twice-Weekly Flights with Fares from \$49\* One Way reeze Airways, the U.S.' only NLCC, or "Nice Low

**Evansville Regional Airport** 

Cost Carrier," inaugurated new service to Orlando from Evansville. The new route will operate twice a week with service on Mondays and Fridays, with fares starting from \$49\* one way.

"We are thrilled to officially welcome Breeze Airways to Evansville, as we partner to further augment air service at EVV," said Nate Hahn, EVV Executive Director. "The addition of Orlando International Airport is a testament to Breeze Airways' commitment to expanding connectivity and enhancing the passenger experience to in-demand destinations, ultimately providing more options for our region's leisure and business travelers."

"Breeze looks to connect underserved markets with nonstop flights, and our new service from Evansville to Orlando perfectly fits the bll," said Breeze Airways' President Tom Doxey. "Orlando is a great family-friendly destination and a great winter getaway. Breeze is excited to launch from Evansville today bringing flexibility, affordability and convenience."

Recognized by Travel + Leisure readers as one of the Top 5 Best U.S. Airlines for the second consecutive year, Breeze offers Guests both bundled and a la carte options known as Nice, Nicer and, on flights operated with the Airbus A220-300, Nicest. The Nicer bundle includes a checked bag, a carry-on, and free inflight WiFi as well as a premium economy seat in its "extra legroom" section. The Nicest bundle includes two checked bags, priority boarding and Breeze Ascent—the carrier's inflight experience featuring 2x2 recliner seating, free inflight WiFi, and complimentary snacks and beverages, including alcohol.

Breeze doesn't charge change or cancellation fees up to 15 minutes prior to departure and offers other benefits such as

free family seating and a la carte pricing. With seamless booking, no change or cancellation fees, up to 24-months of reusable flight credit and customized flight features delivered via a sleek and simple app, Breeze makes it easy to buy and easy to fly. Learn more about Breeze's flight offerings via our site, www.flybreeze.com/home, or the app.

\*\$49 Nice promotion is available only when booking a new reservation. Promotion is valid only for travel from May 7 to May 21, 2024. Promotion must be purchased from February 23 through February 27, 2024 (11:59 pm ET). Price displayed includes taxes and government fees. Fare prices, fare classes, rules, routes, and schedules are subject to change or exemption without notice. Any changes or modifications to qualifying promotional reservations will be subject to fare repricing. A difference in airfare at the current fare price may apply. Other restrictions and blackout dates may apply.



## E-REP, Tri-State Manufacturers' Alliance Unveil First-Ever Regional Strategic Manufacturing Roadmap

he Evansville Regional Economic Partnership (E-REP) and the Tri-State Manufacturers' Alliance (TSMA) are thrilled to announce the release of the Evansville Regional Strategic Manufacturing Roadmap, a groundbreaking initiative that marks a significant milestone in the advancement of the manufacturing sector in the Evansville Region.

The Evansville Regional Strategic Manufacturing Roadmap provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of manufacturing in the region and offers strategic recommendations aimed at fostering growth, innovation and global competitiveness. Developed in collaboration with more than 50 local businesses and drawing insights from over 25 subject matter experts across the manufacturing sector, this roadmap is a groundbreaking effort to propel the Evansville Region to the forefront of manufacturing excellence.

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVANSVILLE REGIONAL STRATEGIC MANUFACTURING **ROADMAP INCLUDE:**

**Technology Adoption:** The roadmap outlines a strategic plan for the adoption and integration of cuttingedge technologies within the manufacturing sector. This initiative aims to enhance efficiency, productivity and overall competitiveness in a rapidly evolving global market with a keen eye to the importance of digital change management related to healthy business processes.

#### **Growing and Aligning Talent Pipelines:**

Recognizing the critical role of skilled workforce in manufacturing, the roadmap puts forth recommendations to cultivate and align talent pipelines. By investing in education, training programs and partnerships with local institutions, the Evansville Region seeks to develop a robust workforce ready to meet the demands of modern manufacturing.

**Increasing Ecosystem Connectivity:** To foster collaboration and innovation, the roadmap emphasizes the importance of enhancing ecosystem connectivity. Strengthening partnerships between manufacturers, research institutions, funding streams and government agencies will create a dynamic environment conducive to growth, innovation, and lasting impact.

The Evansville Regional Strategic Manufacturing Roadmap is the result of a collective



THE EVANSVILLE

effort involving diverse stakeholders committed to the prosperity of the region's manufacturing sector with representatives from all aspects of the manufacturing value chain. The insights gleaned from more than 50 unique business survey responses and the expertise of over 25 subject matter experts have culminated in a document that will guide the current and future trajectory of manufacturing in the Evansville Region.

E-REP & TSMA believe that this roadmap will not only elevate the regional manufacturing sector but also position the Evansville Region as a leader among peer and aspirational manufacturing-intensive regions across the Midwest and the country. The recommendations outlined in the roadmap are designed to propel the Evansville Region onto the global stage, enhancing its competitiveness and contributing to economic growth and prosperity.

For more information about the Evansville Regional Strategic Manufacturing Roadmap, please contact Tyler Stock, Executive Director of Talent EVV at E-REP: Email (tstock@evvregion.com) and Cell (812-550-4313).



## Music Therapy of Evansville

Let's welcome Music Therapy of Evansville as a new member of the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership. Kiersten Weyer, owner and music therapist, gives us insight about Music Therapy of Evansville. Kiersten can be reached by calling 812-631-1334 or email musictherapyofevansville@gmail.com. Visit them online at musictherapyofevansville.com.

#### Tell us about Music Therapy of Evansville and the services you offer.

Music Therapy of Evansville offers music therapy services to groups and individuals with various diagnoses such as dementia, autism, stroke, developmental and intellectual disabilities, Down syndrome, TBIs and others. Music therapy uses elements of music to help people accomplish various non-musical goals. These goals may include a focus on comfort for end-of-life care, memory recall. psychosocial well-being, communication regulation, cognitive improvements, motor planning and increased overall quality of life.

#### What inspired you to invest your time and resources in this business?

I have always wanted to own my own business, and once I found out that private practice was an option for music therapy, I never looked back. I love helping others with music therapy while also investing in a new adventure for myself. Seeing the positive impact of music therapy in my clients' lives keeps me greatly invested in this business.

#### What career advice would you give the younger generation interested in this type of

I am still a young professional myself, but to those aspiring music therapists, I would say to follow your passion and find your reason why. If you have a personal and specific reason to come back to your work, you will always find yourself serving with purpose! Music therapy is a fantastic field and can give you a greater mission in life. Be openminded and be a lifelong learner.

#### In your opinion, what are three ingredients for

Hard work, consistency and a positive mindset!

#### What has been one of your toughest challenges?

One of my toughest challenges has been continuing to



believe that I can do this! As a music therapist, I have had very little training in how to run a business. But with help and support I have become more confident in my role as a business owner. There is still a learning curve for me, but I will get there!

#### Why is the Evansville Region a great place to operate a business?

The Evansville Region is a great place to operate a business because I thoroughly enjoy interacting with the people here. The classic Midwestern kindness rings true in this area, and I wouldn't have it any other way. Evansville is also a great place for a music therapy business because there is an opportunity to bring more awareness around music therapy, since it tends to be a lesser known field.

#### What do you like most about the community in which you live?

I like this community because it is continuously growing and changing, always figuring out ways to improve things. This community is open to new ideas and embraces them. I can see myself growing and improving on things myself alongside this community, and that is why I choose to live

Is there anything else you would like to share? I am excited to be a part of E-REP and can't wait to take part in the many opportunities it offers!

## Nine data privacy stats small businesses should know

#### By BBB Serving Evansville and the Tri-State

s a business owner, protecting your company and your clients' data is a huge concern. With data breaches on the rise, it's clear that hackers are consumuy on and lookout for opportunities to steal sensitive information. are becoming more selective about who they trust with their personal information and business in general.

Even if you prioritize protecting your clients' data, you could still be vulnerable to an attack. Keeping an eye on the latest data privacy news and statistics can help you identify ways to protect yourself and your customers. Even if you don't have the security budget of a Fortune 500 company, there are plenty of steps you can take to secure your organization's data.

#### **NINE CRUCIAL DATA PRIVACY STATS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

#### 1. More than 70% of security breaches involved a human element

(Verizon 2023 Data Breach Investigation Report)

Most of these breaches involve employees falling for phishing or pretexting attacks, sometimes in the form of <u>business email compromises</u>. The takeaway for business owners should be that having a strong cybersecurity awareness program for your staff is critical.

#### 2. Only 50% of U.S. businesses have a cybersecurity plan (Forbes)

Many small businesses claim they don't have the resources to put a cybersecurity plan in place, leaving their company vulnerable to attacks. Cybercriminals don't just attack large corporations, so it's imperative more small businesses implement cybersecurity plans. The FTC offers free business guidance for small business owners with practical tips to help you come up with a personalized plan.

#### 3. The average cost of a data breach reached an all-time high in 2023

(IBM Cost of a Data Breach Report 2023)

The average cost of a data breach was \$4.45 million, up by 15% over the past three years. It's worth noting that in the U.S., the average cost of a data breach is much higher, averaging \$9.48 million. Clearly, protecting your business from an attack is worth the expense.

#### 4. Eight out of 10 organizations are likely to have at least one employee fall victim to a phishing

(Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency)

This assessment showed that more people are vulnerable to phishing attacks than you might think. Not only did eight out of 10 organizations have at least one individual fall victim to a phishing attempt, one out of 10 phishing emails had a user interact with a malicious link. In fact, within 10 minutes of receiving a malicious email, 84% of employees took the bait. They either interacted with a spoofed link or attachment or replied with sensitive information. For business owners, this means phishing awareness should be a key part of your cybersecurity program.

#### 5. In 2023, over \$2 billion dollars were lost to cryptocurrency scams, a number that continues to rise.

(CoinDesk report)

With cryptocurrency's rise in popularity, there have been an increasing number of investment scams in recent years, which have caused real financial damage to those affected. Business owners should stay alert to this kind of scam, especially if they deal in cryptocurrency.

#### 6. A fifth of software has a severe security flaw (Government Technology)

According to recent reports, 19% of software scanned in the past year revealed "high or critical" level security flaws, with older software displaying more issues than newer software. Business owners should be aware of this issue and use software that is regularly updated with security patches.

#### 7. 45% of data breaches happen in the cloud (IBM Cost of a Data Breach Report 2023)

Long gone are the days of small businesses keeping all their data in filing cabinets. However, just because your business stores customer data and other important information in a cloud-based service does not mean it's guaranteed to be secure. In fact, nearly half of all 2023 data breaches happened in the cloud. When evaluating and using cloud services, be sure to keep security in mind.

#### 8. 86% of basic web application attacks (i.e. web servers) are due to stolen credentials. (Google Cloud's 2023 Threat Horizons Report)

Stolen credentials are tried-and-true methods scammers use to gain access to an organization. This data shows that <u>password protection</u> should be a serious concern for business owners and their employees.

9. It took an average of about nine months to identify and contain a data breach in 2023 (IBM Cost of a Data Breach Report 2023)

On average, it takes approximately 277 days for a business to identify and contain a breach. This timeline can have a significant impact on a business's bottom line and reputation. Business owners who have protocols in place to spot a data breach early can save a considerable amount of

#### **Protect your business and customers**

Read more about protecting your business from cyber threats in BBB's cybersecurity HQ and check out these online security resources for your business.

To review this article and hyperlinked references in full, visit: https://www.bbb.org/article/business/23661-bbbbusiness-tip-9-data-privacy-stats-small-businesses-should-

Stay up to date on the latest small business news and security threats by checking out the BBB business news feed.

Contact your Tri-State BBB at 812-473-0202 to learn more about BBB Accreditation.

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#### **Orr Fellowship**

## Orr Fellowship Establishes a Southwest Indiana Chapter

in Partnership with Evansville Regional Business Committee and the Evansville Regional Economic Partnership

rr Fellowship, a premier two-year postgraduate program for entrepreneurial and business-minded young professionals, is putting down roots in the Evansville Region.

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

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

"We're thrilled to be taking this next step in our organization's growth and impact on the great state of Indiana. We've been focused on recruiting and developing the next generation of business leaders and entrepreneurs since 2001, and we now have the opportunity to broaden that impact, by starting our first chapter outside of the Indianapolis area. A chapter in the Evansville Region never would have been possible without the great partnership of ERBC and E-REP," said Steven Emch, President of Orr Fellowship.

"I know first-hand the tremendous impact that Orr Fellowship has had on attracting and developing early career A chapter in the **Evansville Region** never would have been possible without the great partnership of ERBC and E-REP."

> STEVEN EMCH PRESIDENT OF ORR FELLOWSHIP

talent in Central Indiana," said James Ryan, Chairman and CEO, Old National Bank and Vice Chairman, Evansville Regional Business Committee. "Expanding Orr Fellowship to the Evansville Region will certainly help shape the future leaders of the region."

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

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

## TRUST YOUR GOALS TO THE RIGHT TEAM.











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**Neal Hagan Business Services Specialist** 

**Rachel Johnson** Commercial Banker

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**Nathan Dack** Branch Manager

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LegenceBank.com



### **MILESTONES**

Milestone celebrations are a benefit of Evansville Regional Economic Partnership membership. To request a milestone ribbon-cutting, click or scan the QR code.





#### MSD OF MOUNT VERNON

Metropolitan School District of Mount Vernon celebrated the grand opening of an athletic practice facility with a ribbon-cutting at 700 Harriett Street in Mount Vernon. As a public school district in Southern Indiana, MSD is committed to fostering a safe and inclusive learning environment where each student can thrive and grow. Their goal is to foster a culture of excellence, innovation and collaboration in the district, and to prepare the students for a bright and prosperous future. Contact them at 812-833-5122 or online at <a href="https://www.mvschool.org">www.mvschool.org</a>.



#### SONDRA POEHLEIN AGENCY LLC, AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

Sondra Poehlein Agency LLC, American Family Insurance celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting at 6219 Vogel Road, Suite 103 in Evansville. Sondra Poehlein has represented American Family Insurance products for 29 years and is a trusted advisor. With her own agency she offers home, auto, life and small business insurance. Her specialty is offering old fashioned customer service, and she is excited about giving back to our community. Contact them at 812-426-3305 or email spoehlei@amfam.com.



#### **GENESIS HEALTH CLUBS**

Genesis Health Clubs celebrated a grand opening with a ribbon-cutting at 555 Tennis Lane in Evansville. Genesis Health Clubs is the Tri-State's new tennis and pickleball facility. With over 50 years of service in the community, Genesis Health Clubs - Tri-State offers a unique fitness experience. From tennis, personal training, pickleball, kids' club, basketball and volleyball, to aquatics, yoga, massage, cycle, group exercise and Pilates, they have something for everyone. Contact them at 812-479-3111 or online at <a href="https://www.genesishealthclubs.com">www.genesishealthclubs.com</a>.



#### **CASEY'S DUGOUT**

Casey's Dugout celebrated a grand with a ribbon-cutting at 2900 Lincoln Avenue in Evansville. Evansville's newest pizza shop will not only be a place to grab pizza or drink at the bar, but the interior is designed with an amazing collection of baseball memorabilia specifically related to Evansville native and NY Yankees first-baseman, #23 Don Mattingly. Contact them at 812-480-6595 or email <a href="mailto:cbkeown@yahoo.com">cbkeown@yahoo.com</a>.



#### STANTON NUTRITION COUNSELING

Stanton Nutrition Counseling celebrated the grand opening of a new location with a ribbon-cutting at 1041 North Royal Ave. in Evansville. Stanton Nutrition Counseling is an insurance-based group practice of registered dietitians providing weight inclusive, evidence-based care for the treatment of eating disorders and disordered eating behaviors as well as many other nutrition-related concerns. Stanton Nutrition Counseling dietitians are licensed in Indiana and Kentucky. Contact them at 812-202-8586 or online at www.stantonnutritioncounseling. com.



#### THYME IN THE KITCHEN

Thyme in the Kitchen celebrated a grand re-opening of new ownership with a ribbon-cutting at 2308 West Franklin St. in Evansville. Thyme in the Kitchen has been in business for 10 years and is a locally owned kitchen store providing quality kitchen and home goods products. They also offer cooking classes and private events in their kitchen. Contact them at 812-437-2726 or online at <a href="https://www.thymeinthekitchen.com">www.thymeinthekitchen.com</a>.

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### **MEMBERSHIP**

JANUARY 2024

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

#### **CASEY'S DUGOUT**

2900 Lincoln Avenue, Evansville, IN 47714 Casev Keown 812-480-6595

cbkeown@yahoo.com

#### **CATALYST HEALTH PLANS**

Matt Healy 618-599-6737

matt@catalysthealthplans.com catalysthealthgroup.net

#### DATA MAIL, INC.

1014 Main Street, Evansville, IN 47708-1848

Adam Miller 812-426-7845

adam@datamailinc.com

www.datamailinc.com

#### **ECHO HOUSING CORPORATION**

528 Main Street Suite, 202, Evansville, IN 47708 Kim Armstrong 812-423-8422

kim.armstrong@echohousing.org www.echohousing.org

#### **HERITAGE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION -LOCATIONS**

www.heritagefederal.org

#### **OWENSBORO**

1819 Frederica Street, Owensboro, KY 42301 812-253-6928

#### **EVANSVILLE SOUTH - WASHINGTON**

812-253-6928

2350 Washington Avenue, Evansville, IN 47714

#### **HAUBSTADT**

803 E. Hwy 68, Haubstadt, IN 47639 812-253-6928

#### **INDIANA AMERICAN WATER**

153 N. Emerson Avenue, Greenwood, IN 46143 **Justin Schnieder** 317-919-8087

www.amwater.com

#### JACOBSVILLE AREA COMMUNITY CORP.

111 E. Columbia Street. Evansville. IN 47711 Ted O'Connell 812-407-4407

jacobsvilleted@gmail.com www.forjacobsville.org

#### **LIBERTY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION -**LOCATIONS

www.libertyfcu.org

#### **HENDERSON**

349 Starlite Drive, Henderson, KY 42420 270-826-3029

#### **VINCENNES**

1395 S. Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591 812-886-9377

#### **JASPER**

4316 N. Newton Street, Jasper, IN 47546 812-481-8620

#### **WASHINGTON**

2103 E. National Highway, Washington, IN 47501 812-610-1747

#### **PRINCETON**

3014 W. Broadway Street, Princeton, IN 47670 812-386-3112

#### **FORT BRANCH**

811 E. Mulberry Street, Fort Branch, IN 47648 812-473-9700

#### **NORTHFIELD**

12225 N. Highway 41, Evansville, IN 47725 812-469-9922

#### **NORTHBROOK**

1100 W. Buena Vista Road, Evansville, IN 47710 812-421-5171

#### **MT. VERNON**

405 E. Fourth Street, Mount Vernon, IN 47620 812-833-0973

#### **WEST EVANSVILLE**

4905 University Drive, Evansville, IN 47712 812-422-8204

#### **DOWNTOWN EVANSVILLE**

728 Locust Street, Evansville, IN 47708 812-213-3500

#### **BURKHARDT**

1900 Hirschland Road, Evansville, IN 47715 812-469-9913

#### **WARRICK**

7697 Park Place Drive, Newburgh, IN 47630 812-858-3033

#### **MARTIAL HEARTS**

**Damien Burge** 812-746-8615 damien@martialhearts.net martialhearts.net

#### **MUSIC THERAPY OF EVANSVILLE**

Kiersten Wever 812-631-1334

musictherapyofevansville@gmail.com musictherapyofevansville.com

#### **NATIONAL YOUTH ADVOCATE PROGRAM**

8145 Wathen Lane, Henderson, KY 42420

Laura Stone 812-459-9455

Istone@nyap.org www.nyap.org

#### **PEOPLE PLUS**

316 Third Street, Henderson, KY 42420 **Jennifer Tucker** 270-869-9060 jtucker@peopleplusinc.com www.peopleplusinc.com

#### **PRIME SPORTS**

4944 Old SR 261, Suite 9, Newburgh, IN 47630 **David Parker** 812-518-3050

primesportsnewburgh.com

#### **SALSARITA'S**

3910 E. Morgan Avenue, #2244 Evansville, IN 47715 **Jeff Kelsey** 812-437-2572 salaritas164@salsaritas.com www.salsaritas.com

#### **SPLASH OF COLOR SCREEN PRINTING AND EMBROIDERY**

PO Box 1053, Newburgh, IN 47630 Julia Dayton 812-217-6961 splashofcolorscreenprinting@gmail.com splashofcolorscreenprinting.com

#### STANTON NUTRITION COUNSELING

1041 N. Royal Avenue, Suite A Evansville, IN 47715 812-491-0194

office@stantonnutritioncounseling.com www.stantonnutritioncounseling.com

#### TRANZACT CARD

Jerry Rhinehart 812-499-3590 therhino8@hotmail.com irheinhardt.tranzactcard.com

#### **UPGRADED MEMBERS:**

#### STAGE ONE MEDIA

7925 Burch Park Drive, Evansville, IN 47725 **John Colbert** 812-454-2162 info@stageonemedia.com www.stageonemedia.com

#### **VELOCITY FITNESS**

2419 Washington Avenue, Evansville, IN 47714 **Damien Burge** 812-746-8615 damien@velocityft.com www.velocityft.com

#### MEMBER RENEWALS

- Alcoa Warrick Operations
- Alexander Funeral Homes & Cemetery
- Alpha Dog Pest Control
- Beacon Insurance
- Bosse Title Company
- Bovd Electric
- Bruce Woodring Auto Leasing & Sales
- Cash Waggner & Associates
- Crossroads Christian Church
- Deig Bros. Lumber & Construction Co., Inc.
- Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center
- Elizabeth Baier
- Evansville Museum of Arts, History & Science
- Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
- Fibrenew Evansville
- For Evansville
- French Lick Resort & Casino
- Funk Financial Services LLC
- Gibson Water, Inc.
- Hentrup Financial Group
- Home Instead
- Houchens Insurance Group
- Koch Development Corporation (dba Holiday World & Splashin' Safari)
- Matrix Integration
- McMahon Exterminating, Inc.

- Myriad Brewing Company
- Old National Events Plaza
- Pappa Bear's Catering
- Pay It Forward
- Ray's Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc.
- Reitz Electric Service, Inc.
- Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Ohio Valley
- Seal Corp USA
- Servpro West Evansville
- Southwest Indiana Association of Realtors
- Southwind Construction Corp
- StretchLab Evansville
- TaylorMade Golf
- Thyme in the Kitchen
- TOSH, Inc. dba O'Risky Excavating

• Vanderburgh Humane Society, Inc.

- Turpen's Painting
- WGU Indiana



## Newymakens Elberty





#### **LANA BURTON**

The Soul Writers' Guild at the Evansville African American Museum. Inc., presented the 7th Annual Dr. John M. Caldwell Lecture Series Award to Lana Burton, a co-founder of the museum. Burton succeeded EAAM Founder Sondra L. Matthews as president of the Board of Directors

in 2008. The Caldwell Lecture Series is named for the late Rev. Dr. John M. Caldwell, who was pastor of Zion Missionary Baptist Church for over 50 years, and for his many accomplishments. He was the first African American elected to the Evansville City Council as 4th Ward councilor in 1967, president of the Evansville Branch NAACP, author and publisher of his sermons. Additionally, Dr. Caldwell was a teacher in the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education and a graduate of Evansville College (University of Evansville). In March 2020, while students lost access to books as their schools closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, though retired, Burton coordinated book donations to children at EVSC sites and those receiving food from the weekly giveaways by Feed Evansville at Hartke Pool. More than 18,000 books were given away. She has been a member of the UE Alumni Board of Directors and held leadership positions in the University of Evansville African American Alumni Association (UEAAA). A graduate of Bosse High School and Culver and Glenwood elementary schools, Burton has spent the past 40 years educating, empowering, and enhancing children and their families in Evansville. Recipient of numerous awards, Burton was awarded the YMCA 100 Women Award in 2011 and was inducted into the EVSC Hall of Fame in 2020. She was named the Helen Klamer-Phillip Community Service Leadership Awardee by the Junior League of Evansville in 2022.

Burton is married to Rickey Burton and mother of Alexander Burton, 4th Ward councilor of the Evansville City Council, and grandmother to Arrington Burton. Previous winners have been current Evansville Mayor Stephanie Terry; Constance "Connie" Robinson-Blair, formerly 4th Ward City Council president and financial chairperson; Estella Moss, first African American elected Vanderburgh County Recorder; the late Deacon Thomas Pore and wife, Mother Jacqueline Pore, directors of Greater St. James Education & Recreation Center; James and Deborah Wagner, directors of EAAM Summer Theatre Camp, and Rev. Dr. Adrian M. Brooks, Sr., pastor of Memorial Baptist Church and president of Memorial Community Development Corporation.

#### **WELBORN BAPTIST FOUNDATION**

Welborn Baptist Foundation promoted two key personnel:



#### CANDICE PERRY

Candice Perry is now Chief Capacity Building Officer (CCBO). In addition to her continued oversight of the Nonprofit Excellence Impact Area, Perry will lead internal capacity building efforts by working with WBF team members to create tailored professional development plans, skill enhancement programming,

leadership development, and grow our team collaboration and effectiveness.



#### **ANDREA HAYS**

Andrea Hays was selected as the Foundation's Chief Program and Impact Officer (CPIO). As CPIO, Hays will lead the Programs and Impact Team (impact areas, learning, and upgrade) by working to better integrate strategies across impact areas and programs with a holistic view of grantmaking portfolio and partnerships.

#### **TAYLOR PRICE**

The board of directors of CDFI Friendly Evansville Region (CFER) announced the hiring of its founding Executive Director, Taylor Price. Price, an Evansville native and University of Southern Indiana graduate, comes to CFER with more than 11 years of experience in the banking and mortgage lending industry, as well as experience working with and helping lead various Evansville nonprofit organizations. Price is bilingual (English/Spanish) and is dedicated to community development. In her role as Executive Director, Price will coordinate CFER's work with investors, funders, local government, and others, while tracking CDFI priorities, promoting the CFER Evansville Region, and actively seeking financing partners. Her collaboration with existing related community development initiatives and programs will promote CFER's services and goals through advocacy and advancement of its offerings in the Evansville Region. Price will target outreach to and funding for historically excluded populations. CFER estimates that this program could produce more than \$100 million in new CDFI financing for underserved communities and protected classes in the region by year-end 2028. CDFI Friendly Evansville Region is an emerging strategy to connect businesses, housing developers, community organizations, and others in the region with access to CDFI financing. Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) are private financial institutions that exist to meet community financing needs for under-financed people and communities just outside the margins of conventional finance.

#### **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA**

Three individuals were promoted to director-level positions at the University of Southern Indiana:



#### **JENNIFER GARRISON**

Jennifer Garrison was promoted to Director of the Center for Campus Life at USI. She reports to Dr. Khalilah Doss, Vice President for Student Affairs. In her role as Director, Garrison provides oversight on the overall planning, development, coordination and implementation of all aspects of the

Center for Campus Life. This includes policy interpretation and risk assessment for student activities, organizations, and the promotion of student involvement. The Director supervises the Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, the Assistant Director of Student Activities and Traditions, a graduate assistant for LGBTQIA+ programming and 10-12 student assistants. The Center for Campus Life oversees the development of USI's 130 student organizations, fraternity and sorority life, gender and sexuality resources, leadership programs and student traditions and events.



#### **JUZAR AHMED**

Juzar Ahmed was promoted to Director of Academic and Endpoint Technology in the Information Technology Department at USI, effective immediately. He reports to Austin Siders, Chief Information Officer. Ahmed provides strategic leadership and operational management for

academic and end-user technology. He oversees operations for educational technology, lab management, endpoint computing security and inventory and related academic services activities. This includes managing system planning functions, integrating existing and new systems across IT, recovery and system stability planning and design issues. Ahmed's team is also responsible for managing campus-wide pay-to-print, campus learning management system (LMS), developing and updating desktop and laptop imaging for all campus computers and overseeing the computer group policy for all campus computers.



#### **ERIN HOLLINGER**

Erin Hollinger was promoted to Director of Educator Services, effective immediately. She reports to Dr. Tori Colson, Assistant Dean of the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education and Associate Professor of Education. In her role as Director, Hollinger coordinates assistance to

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

#### **REXING INDUSTRIES**

Rexing Industries announced new hires:



**CHELSEA** 





**SCHLEICHER** 



**TERRY DOBY** 



**RANDY SOSH** 



**TROPP** 



**ROBERT** CARMEN



**ROBERT ASKINS** 

- Russel Aslup, JR's Expedited Freight, Local CDL Driver
- Emma Titzer, PFL Logistics, Logistics Account Manager in Evansville
- Samuel Kinyanjui, PFL Logistics, Logistics Account Manager in Evansville
- Chelsea Schleicher, JR's Expedited Freight, OTR CDL Driver in Evansville
- Zach Curtis, PFL Logistics, Logistics Account Manager in
- Terry Doby, JR's Expedited Freight, Local CDL Driver in
- Randy Sosh, JR's Expedited Freight, Local CDL Driver in Owensboro
- Heath Roy, JR's Expedited Freight, OTR CDL Driver in Evansville
- Micheal Tropp, JR's Expedited Freight, Local CDL Driver
- Robert Carmen, JR's Expedited Freight, Local CDL Driver in Owensboro
- Robert Askins, JR's Expedited Freight, Local CDL Driver

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#### **BLACKSTRAP MEDIA**

Blackstrap Media made a new hire and a promotion:



#### MICAH BRADEN

Micah Braden was hired as Director of Video at Blackstrap Media and will be responsible for leading the video department. Braden has worked at various agencies and media outlets in the area for the past 23 years.



#### **CHRIS VINSON**

Chris Vinson was promoted to the position of Account Manager. Vinson started as an Associate Account Manager in 2023 and handles many social and web-based projects.



#### **COLE ECKERT**

Nix Industrial promoted Cole Eckert to Regional Manager. Eckert has been with the organization since 2020 and has led operations excellence (safety, quality, efficiency) companywide. With this new position, Eckert and his family have moved to the Cincinnati area to be closer to Northend Gear & Machine and

to continue Nix Industrial's growth in this region. He will also help integrate our important corporate culture within this new market.



#### **BROOK KEMP**

Brook Kemp was named Manager of Human Resources at Atlas World Group. Kemp has been an integral part of the Atlas team for more than eight years, starting as an intern and steadily growing into a vital asset within the organization. As HR Manager, she will play a crucial role in driving Atlas's

human resources initiatives forward. She will be responsible for aligning business objectives with employees and business units and serve as a consultant on HR-related issues. Kemp holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Management with a minor in Marketing from the University of Southern Indiana.

#### **LENSING BUILDING SPECIALTIES AND ARCHITECTURAL SALES**

Lensing Building Specialties and Architectural Sales, an Evansville-headquartered building materials distributor, announced the addition of four new team members.



JAMEE PHILLIPS

**SHERRY** 

HOLLEY



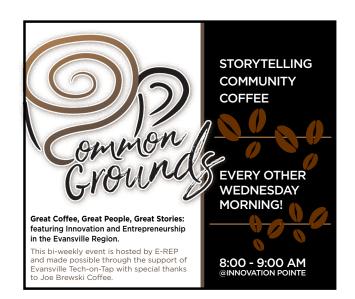
**MATT BEACH** 



- Jamee Phillips, Warehouse Supervisor, Overhead Door and Commercial Glass
- Matt Beach, Field and Warehouse Operations Manager, Overhead Door
- Paul Carmel, Warehouse Associate
- Sherry Holley, Safety Manager



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# \* A LUNCH WITH THE A LT. GOVERNOR

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