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INDIANA FOOTBALL

2024 SCHEDULE

HOME



AUGUST 31
VS. FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
JUNIOR HOOSIER CLUB DAY

HOME



OCTOBER 19
VS. NEBRASKA
HOMECOMING WEEKEND

HOME



SEPTEMBER 06
VS. WESTERN ILLINOIS
BAND DAY, EDUCATION DAY

HOME



OCTOBER 26
VS. WASHINGTON
HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS DAY,
STAND UP TO CANCER DAY

AWAY



SEPTEMBER 14
AT UCLA

AWAY



NOVEMBER 02
AT MICHIGAN STATE

HOME



SEPTEMBER 21
VS. CHARLOTTE
YOUTH SPORTS DAY, YOUTH CHEER DAY

HOME



NOVEMBER 09
VS. MICHIGAN
SALUTE TO SERVICE GAME, SCOUT DAY,
UNION DAY

HOME



SEPTEMBER 28
VS. MARYLAND
FAMILY WEEKEND, JUNIOR HOOSIER CLUB DAY

BYE WEEK

AWAY



OCTOBER 05
AT NORTHWESTERN

AWAY



NOVEMBER 23
AT OHIO STATE

HOME



NOVEMBER 30
VS. PURDUE
OLD OAKEN BUCKET GAME
COMMUNITY DAY, RECENT ALUMNI DAY

BYE WEEK

MEET THE 2024 INDIANA FOOTBALL

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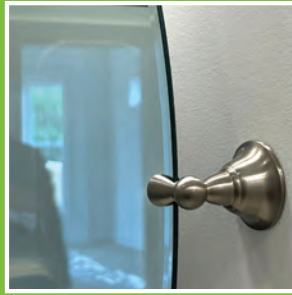
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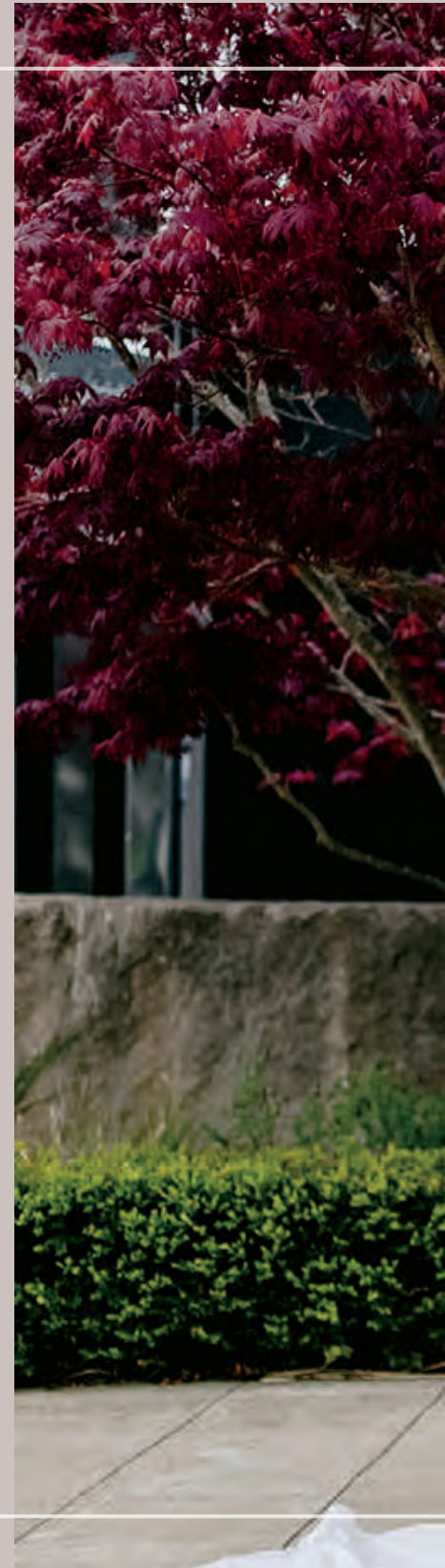
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feature



105 Big Things Are Happening in Bloomington

A movie, an opera, and a stage musical ... oh, my! Bloomington is a hot bed for three big entertainment productions with national scope, including a major motion picture by Angelo Pizzo and Jo Throckmorton that will begin filming here this fall, a collaboration between the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and New York City's Metropolitan Opera Company that makes its worldwide premiere at IU in November, and a stage musical based on Michael Sheldon's book *Melville in Love* that has its roots in Bloomington and is destined to be Broadway bound.

By Peter Dorfman, Janet Mandelstam, and Linda Margison



Screenwriter and director Angelo Pizzo at the stone bridge on the Indiana University campus, where much of the story in his new film takes place. Photo by Martin Boling

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by Jeremy Hogan, *The Bloomingtonian*

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26 Arts/Entertainment

The IU Eskenazi Museum of Art will stage a special exhibition of Bloomington rocker/painter John Mellencamp's art this fall; and The Hundredth Hill hosted a three-day arts camp for local kids.

44 Food/Drink

A small Owen County farm raises heritage breeds of cattle, sheep, goats, and rabbits; and a new ice cream shop on the city's west side specializes in Mexican flavors and desserts.

54 Fashion/Shopping

The latest local gallery in our ongoing series is a popular space to find a variety of different art styles on a rotating basis; and rock hounds will want to check out the new rock and fossil store in Colstone Square.

58 Health/Fitness

A national nonprofit organization that helps train bar staff to recognize, prevent, and react to harmful behavior in their facilities got its start in Bloomington; and Sojourn House provides a safe shelter, health care, trauma therapy, and career development for victims of human trafficking and exploitation.

64 Home/Family

Future homeowners can learn about the buying process and become eligible to apply for assistance programs through the City's Home Buyers Club classes; and after a local woman's dachshund survived a near-death experience, she wrote and illustrated two children's books about her pet.

72 Community

A Bloomington-based group gets together to make and sell beginner-friendly crafts to raise money for social justice causes; and why was our mayor in Washington, D.C., meeting with a member of the president's cabinet?

80 Business/Finance

A new executive director is at the helm of a local senior living facility; and The Warehouse is growing fruits, vegetables, and herbs indoors through a completely closed, waste-free hydroponic system.



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Brandon R. Hood, MD

Wednesday, July 31 | 6 - 7 pm | Bloomington

Monroe County YMCA (Northwest YMCA)
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David J. Licini, MD

Tuesday, October 1 | 6 - 7 pm | Bloomington

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Bloomington Where Arts and Tech Abide

New York is the Big Apple and the City that Never Sleeps, and New Orleans is the Big Easy. Detroit is Motor City and Nashville, Tennessee, is Music City. Chicago is Windy and Austin is Weird. Yada, yada, yada. Even boring Indianapolis has a moniker, the Circle City. So, what, I ask you, is Bloomington?

What *is* our identity? What do we want the world to know about Bloomington?

Twenty years ago, all I knew about the place I now call home is that an ill-tempered basketball coach threw a chair at a referee. I didn't even know he was a good coach. Just a chair thrower. And he coached for the "University of Indiana." (I can explain my ignorance by the fact that I was living in New York City.)

But seriously, folks, Bloomington is more than Indiana University and basketball. We are a serious arts mecca. And we are a burgeoning information technology center, garnering attention even from Silicon Valley.

I kid you not.

The Arts

Bloomington now has five professional theater companies putting on shows all year round, as well as IU's theater and dance company. We have an outfit that makes movies and a company founded here that produces records and has offices in all the major entertainment centers. The IU Jacobs School of Music is renowned for its outstanding opera company (see Page 114), its ballet, and its jazz and classical music performances. Plus, we have music bars/clubs and auditoriums where local and touring acts perform. There's even a big-time comedy club.

IU has a major art museum (45,000 works) designed by I.M. Pei where admission is free, and numerous small galleries showing

the works of Indiana artists. We also have music and arts festivals galore. And we have a ton of talented people who choose to live here because, well, there's a lot going on.

Technology

Just northwest of the downtown, rising like some futuristic mini-metropolis, is the developing Trades District where hundreds of creative entrepreneurs are mapping Bloomington's future in the competitive tech world.

First came The Mill, run since 2018 by the nonprofit corporation, Dimension Mill Inc. In addition to being a cool cooperative workspace, its members also run investment funds, a coding academy, and programs that encourage talent to relocate here.

Following in the footsteps of The Mill is The Kiln. Located nearby in what was a Showers Brothers Furniture Company kiln, it's being converted into fancy office spaces for "graduates" of The Mill.

And presently under construction is the Big Daddy of them all—the Trades District Tech Center, 13,000 square feet of *very* fancy offices designed to entice IT companies to locate here and successful startups to stay here. A hotel, apartments, and restaurants will soon follow.

So, what is Bloomington's identity?

I would suggest that Bloomington is a place "Where Arts and Tech Abide." An identity, I believe, that if promoted robustly would attract businesses, techies, arts lovers, theater goers, meetings, conventions, and talent of all kinds.

Malcolm Abrams
editor@magbloom.com

Bloomington

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to do just that." *Jennifer McCormick*

Jennifer's Top Priorities

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- ★ Ensure a High-Quality Education
- ★ Support High-Wage Jobs and Unions
- ★ Hold Government Accountable for Responsible Tax Spending

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contributors



Peter Dorfman WRITER: SOMEONE SAVED MY LIFE Peter has been a regular *Bloom* contributor for more than eight years. As a freelance journalist, he writes about business, technology, science, education, travel, sports, politics, and the arts.



Janet Mandelstam WRITER: THE MET IS COMING! Freelance writer Janet Mandelstam has been a *Bloom* contributor since the first issue. Formerly an award-winning newspaper reporter and editor, she worked at *The Detroit News* and *The Philadelphia Inquirer* before becoming the communications director at two nonprofit organizations.



Linda Margison WRITER: MELVILLE IN LOVE Linda is a writer, editor, videographer, and photographer who enjoys telling people's stories and writing personal essays. With decades of experience writing and editing for newspapers, magazines, nonprofits, and more, she now writes *Life on Peoples Court* on Substack and produces *Ordinary Hoosiers* on YouTube.



Martin Boling PHOTOGRAPHER: SOMEONE SAVED MY LIFE For Martin, a *Bloom* assignment is not about taking some pictures of folks in our town and moving on to the next assignment; his goal is to capture the unguarded essence of the people we know or would like to know. When he's not busy shooting photos for *Bloom* or taking pictures of clients, Martin loves doing vintage/retro portraiture. See his portfolio at martinboling.com.

Bloom

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Stay tuned...

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Bloom Magazine's

2nd Annual
RESTAURANT
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About Bloom Magazine

Bloom is an independent, free magazine whose target audience is Bloomington's adult population and visitors to the area. Published bimonthly, 12,000 copies are available at more than 200 local shops, businesses, hotels, and restaurants. For a complete list, visit magbloom.com/get-a-copy.

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Great Editor's Message ["Time"] and one with which I identify.

Malcolm, do not retire. Ever. It's neither fun nor restful. Stay at your desk until the gurney arrives.

LINN BROESSEL

Just had to send this message to tell you that I love *Bloom Magazine* and look forward to every issue which comes to me because I have a subscription. In this last issue (June/July 2024) I particularly enjoyed and even had to chuckle at the message "Time." In fact, I wondered if you were writing about me because the name problem has been mine for years and has nothing to do with age. When I was in college and at a dance at the Elks Club in Princeton, Indiana, during Christmas break, when I started to introduce my date to a table of people whom I had known since early childhood, I suddenly went blank on names. Believe me, I heard about it later. LOL. Your editorial absolutely shared this problem with me, and I loved it. I am going to add that not only was this editorial delightful, all articles in this magazine are wonderful to read and look forward to.

MARTHA HUSK

"Nice to see you" is my new go-to reaction when experiencing cluelessness!

JOHN WHIKEHART

Thank you for finally applying a term to our shared condition, "introduction freeze!" Even at 51, I've been a long-time sufferer. I blame it on too many years in the hospitality industry where people are required to wear name tags, but I've long considered it the "Achilles heel" of my social butterfly life. It's always on the tip of my tongue when making introductions!

It's hard to believe it's been 18 years since you, and now-comedian Mat Alano-Martin, sat in my office at the Indiana Memorial Union pitching an ad campaign for the new "Best magazine in Bloomington," but it's been true! Thank you for the beautiful portrait you've painted of my favorite town!

Cheers to *Bloom* and Bloomington,

BRANDI HOST

"Time" column—great. And tell what's-his-name, if he needs any help, I'm available.

NORM CRAMPTON

My issue of *Bloom* arrived today. I always enjoy your Editor's Message and found this one particularly poignant. Keep it going.

JOE GIARRAPUTO

I just received the December '23 issue. As always, much that's wonderful. I was touched you had an article on the macaw and the orientation towards justice and the environment (such as Lauren McCalister's piece, Down Syndrome Family Connection, and the one on light pollution and declining tree population). Loved the artwork at the Indiana Memorial Union. Always great design and photography throughout the edition.

MERLINDA WEINBERG

Loved your editor's note. 18 years! Amazing.

MARGARET PIERPONT

I LOVED your Editorial!!!! No, you must never "ride off into the sunset." I have been having these memory conversations with friends and said I was going to buy all of us t-shirts saying, "I Don't Remember." I adore your humor.

You love your work and the success that you have created with *Bloom* is outstanding! Keep working.

PHYLLIS PANET

Response to Alvin Rosenfeld's guest column "Antisemitism at Our Doorstep"

As members of the Bloomington community who were present at the City Council meetings at which the resolution endorsing a ceasefire in Gaza was deliberated, we write to counter Alvin Rosenfeld's misleading and problematic characterization of those meetings and the questionable conclusions he draws from them. To begin with, the consideration of the ceasefire resolution was not divisive, contrary to what Rosenfeld asserts. It is true that differences of opinion concerning the conduct of Israel's military campaign in Gaza do exist in our community as do divisions on many other civic matters. Among the core functions of political bodies is to take up matters of concern to their constituents and to provide venues for deliberation where differences of opinion are present. That's democracy. The complicity of


the U.S. government in the Israeli war effort makes it appropriate for Bloomingtonians, as for any other American citizens, to ask our elected representatives—in this case, the City Council—to give public voice to our views on this issue. Proponents of both sides, for and against the ceasefire resolution, availed themselves of the opportunity to express their opinions at council meetings. Those in favor of the resolution represented a markedly diverse cross-section of the Bloomington community—Jewish, Muslim, Christian, white, African American, Latino, Asian, young, and old—backed by more than 2,000 signatories of a petition advocating for a ceasefire to stop the killing.

To the manifest shock and disgust of all present, faceless antisemitic and racist speakers took advantage of remote access to the council meetings to voice their hateful sentiments. The members of the City Council were unequivocal in deploring those intrusive and appalling rants, as were citizens present at the meeting. Unfortunately, such sentiments are not new to our country or our city. Both of us have experienced the assault of antisemitism in our own lives. Rosenfeld himself cites antisemitic incidents that have taken place in Bloomington well before this spring's City Council meetings. To blame the council or the citizens who advocated for a ceasefire for unleashing them because they are critical of Israeli policy is disingenuous at best, misleading at worst. Moreover, council members have taken measures to condemn and counter hate speech where it occurs. The most effective way of dealing with political differences in our community, as in any democracy, is to debate them openly and publicly, not, as Rosenfeld suggests, shut down discussion a priori when other citizens hold positions contrary to your own. Above all, we feel it necessary to affirm that the council acted responsibly and honorably throughout the ceasefire discussion and deserves praise for its actions, not accusatory innuendo that blame them for social ills beyond their control.

RICHARD BAUMAN & DAVID THELEN

CORRECTION

In our story about the Bloomington Garden Club's 33rd annual Garden Walk on Page 50 of the June/July 2024 issue, we misspelled the name of Janet Barrows.



Bloomington Parks and Recreation

The Big Picture

Hitting a High Note

Photo by Jeremy Hogan
of *The Bloomingtonian*

Chance Allen, bassist with Bloomington-based hardcore band Velocity, leaps in the air during a performance at the Streetdance Rewind music festival held outside the Monroe County History Center on June 29. The festival was held in conjunction with the History Center's exhibit on Bloomington's punk music scene, "Punk @ the Old Library," which is on display through September 28.





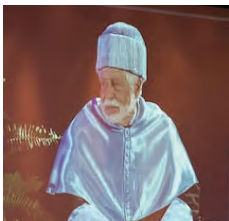
Olympic weightlifter Mary Theisen-Lappen.
Courtesy Photo

Theisen-Lappen Earns Spot on Olympic Weightlifting Team

Bloomington's Mary Theisen-Lappen is one of five athletes representing Team USA Weightlifting at the 2024 Paris Olympics that opened July 26. Theisen-Lappen will compete in the Women's 81kg event at 5:30 a.m. EDT on Sunday, August 11, the final day of the Games.

A former track and field All-American in college, Theisen-Lappen began competing in weightlifting in 2018 and has since won five of the eight international competitions she's entered and earned two Pan American Games gold medals. She is ranked fifth in the world for her weight class and is the reigning International Weightlifting Federation silver medalist.

A story about Theisen-Lappen was published in *Bloom's* October/November 2023 issue.



Robert Arnové.
Courtesy photo

Spanish Honors for Bloomington's Robert Arnové

Robert Arnové, chancellor's professor emeritus of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies at Indiana University, has been appointed an honorary professor at Universidad Intercontinental de la Empresa in Spain. He received the appointment at the university's graduation ceremony on June 12, in Vigo, Spain.

Arnové was also chosen from among more than 100 nominees in nine countries to be awarded the inaugural International Award for Educational Research from the cultural and educational foundation, Afundación. "[Arnové's] specialization in the field of comparative education has led him to be one of the world references in this field," a press release stated, adding that Arnové is dedicating the "substantial monetary award" to a major Spanish educational research society to support the ability of graduate students and faculty to attend national and international conferences in the field of comparative and international education.



Todd Gould.
Photo courtesy of WTIU-TV.

WTIU-TV's Todd Gould Receives "Major" Award

Todd Gould, senior producer-director at WTIU-TV, has received the Marshall "Major" Taylor Trailblazer Award for his work on WTIU's documentary *Major Taylor: Champion of the Race*. Taylor is recognized as the first international sports superstar, setting more than 20 world records in track cycling at the turn of the 20th century. He was also an early civil rights pioneer who fought for greater social and economic opportunities for African American citizens during the heart of Jim Crow America.

Gould and WTIU are the first to produce a full-length documentary about Taylor. "Our mission at WTIU PBS is to share these important stories of art, history, and culture in the United States," Gould says.

Bloom published a story about the documentary in our February/March 2024 issue.



The IU Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology will reopen October 19.
Courtesy photo

IU Museum Reopening Set for October 19

The Indiana University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (IUMAA) will celebrate its grand reopening October 19, combining the collections from the former Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology and the Mathers Museum of World Cultures as was announced by then-IU President Michael A. McRobbie at his September 2019 "State of Indiana University at the Bicentennial" address.

The IUMAA brings together more than 5 million objects that tell the story of humanity—from the rich heritage of Indiana's First Peoples to contemporary Hoosiers to cultures around the globe. It also contains the fourth-largest ethnographic collection in the U.S. For more information and details on grand reopening events, visit iumaa.iu.edu.



Eric Spoonmore.
Courtesy photo

Chamber of Commerce Earns Awards for Excellence

The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce was awarded three Innovation Excellence Awards at the Indiana Chamber Executive Association 2024 Annual Conference. Awards were received for its Chamber Insider Updates, a video communication delivering bimonthly updates from the Chamber president and CEO; New Member Onboarding and Retention Pipelines, a communication strategy integrating personalized interactions and multimedia elements for new and returning Chamber members; and *Connect Bloomington*, an annual publication combining a business directory within the appearance of a magazine.

"This recognition is a testament to the innovative spirit and hard work of our staff, volunteers, and members," says Eric Spoonmore, Chamber president and CEO. "These awards highlight our commitment to enhancing the value we provide to our members and our dedication to fostering a thriving business community in Bloomington."

George Walker Inducted Into Broadcasting Hall of Fame



George Walker.
Photo by Eric Rudd,
Indiana University

For decades, George Walker's voice transitioned local public radio listeners from the morning news into a few hours of relaxing classical music. Walker's legacy will live on as the now-retired

broadcaster was recently inducted into the Indiana Public Broadcasting Stations (IPBS) Hall of Fame.

Walker originally came to Bloomington in 1967 for a master's in teaching English. During his first year on campus, he began working for WFIU-FM as a part-time classical music announcer. He became a full-time staff member in 1977.

Throughout his time at WFIU, Walker witnessed how both the station and his job evolved from their classical music beginnings. He was present for the creation and growth of the NPR network, which wasn't in existence when he first began working at WFIU as a student.

"George was a model of consistency across what might have been a record tenure," says John Bailey, station operations director for WFIU and WTIU-TV. "We can't find any evidence that another daily music host in the history of U.S. broadcasting served one station for longer in that role."

Walker is the second WFIU staff member to be inducted into the IPBS Hall of Fame. Last year, former WFIU/WTIU general manager Perry Metz was inducted into its inaugural class.



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Drew Johansen Olympic Diving Coach

by Greg Siering

When Drew Johansen steps onto the deck at IU's Counsilman-Billingsley Aquatic Center, he knows this is where he is meant to be. While he had his own collegiate diving career, he admits, "The only thing I ever wanted to be was a coach."

Johansen, 55, became IU's head diving coach in 2013, part of a rich career that has included coaching the USA Diving National Team in multiple world championships and at the Olympics in 2012, 2016, 2020, and 2024. For a man with so many accomplishments in diving, though, his own start in the sport came as a surprise.



Drew Johansen, Indiana University head diving coach, is also the head diving coach for the 2024 U.S. Olympic diving team. Photo by Martin Boling

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Growing up, Johansen played multiple sports and only dove recreationally during his summers as a lifeguard. He went to college to run track, but wandered into the pool one day where he met the diving coach. Johansen started working out with the dive team, "and from there I never looked back." But it wasn't the diving itself that hooked Johansen, but his introduction to coaching.

Legendary IU diving coach Hobie Billingsley—a later mentor to Johansen—had pioneered a new coaching technique that uses a belt connected to a series of pulleys and ropes that allow divers to practice flips and twists in a controlled environment. As part of the team, Johansen helped manage those ropes for his teammates, learning as much about coaching as he did diving. And when his college program shut down, he was able to transfer to the University of Arizona team based on that experience. "I was not that

good of a diver," he says, "but I got myself on the team by telling the coach that I would pull all the kids on the rope." And his career as a "player-coach" continued.

Johansen says he recognizes that a significant part of working with high-performing athletes involves helping them learn to manage expectations and pressures. He recognizes that need for balance in his own life with his wife, Jenny—herself a successful coach and two-time Olympic diver—and their 14-year old daughter, Lina Mei, who fueled his decision to come to Indiana.

Lina required emergency heart surgery and would need long-term care. The move to Indiana gave them close access to Riley Hospital in Indianapolis and its highly ranked pediatric cardiology department. "The decisions that we've made have been family first," he reflects, "and professionally they turned out to be winners as well." ✨

Renee Bridgwaters Carter Toby Strout Award Winner

by Carmen Siering

When Renee Bridgwaters (Hill) Carter received the 2024 Toby Strout Lifetime Contribution Award from the City of Bloomington's Commission on the Status of Women, it recognized a tradition of care long associated with her family.

"Historically, the Bridgwaters family has done so much in the community," she says. "It's an incredible legacy that I've walked into."

Carter is the daughter of Mary Maxine Chandler Bridgwaters and David Preston Bridgwaters, and the granddaughter of Elizabeth Bridgwaters.

A Bloomington native, Carter lived most of her adult life in Ohio with her husband of 34 years, Ronnie Lee Hill. The couple have three children. Ten years ago, Hill died from cancer. Carter reconnected with Vernon Carter, her high school sweetheart. The two married in 2016 and decided to move back to Bloomington.

"We grew up here," she says. "It was home."

Even as they made plans to return to Bloomington, Carter contacted her sister-in-law to ask about needs in the community and applied for the After School Program Specialist job at the Banneker Community Center. She started the position in 2016.

"I worked to build a strong infrastructure for the program," she says. "I put in systems that work."

She and Vernon purchased a small home right across the street from the center. Then, in 2020, Carter's father died.

"Never in a thousand years did I think I would move back into the house I grew up in," she says. "But it was the house my Aunt Frank [Frances Marshall Eagleson] bought in 1935. Then my parents purchased it. I'm the oldest of six, so after my dad passed, I purchased it. We've kept it in the family."

The family home is in the same Near West Side neighborhood as the Banneker Center.

"I can see it from my window," Carter says.

Although Carter went to St. Charles Catholic School as a child, she says, "Banneker was where we all got together. That's where we spent our days."

Carter is once again spending her days at Banneker, meeting the needs of the children and families in the community.

"I deal with a lot of single parents, grandparents, guardians," she says. "I've been told 98% of our participants have been through some type of trauma. We deal with food insecurity, with homelessness. So I try to build strong relationships with families and provide resources. If I don't know something, I find out. And I meet people wherever they're at." ✨



After moving back to Bloomington in 2016, Renee Bridgwaters (Hill) Carter started working as the After School Program Specialist at the Banneker Community Center. Photo by Martin Boling



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Josefa Madrigal

A Life of Service



(l-r) Josefa Madrigal and her son Cristián, 11. “I really wanted my sons to have somewhere they could call home,” Madrigal says of living in Bloomington. *Photo by Martin Boiling*

Josefa Madrigal came to Bloomington from East Chicago, Indiana, in 2001 to attend Indiana University. In 24 years, she’s never really left.

“My mom was in Mexico and my father was absent while I was growing up,” she says. “So I didn’t have a home to go back to.”

Bloomington became her home. She attended IU Police Academy, graduating in 2006, and worked for the IU Police Department until she received her degree in 2008. She and her husband, Nick Luce, met at the police academy.

After graduating from IU in 2008, Madrigal served as a patrol officer with the Bloomington Police Department.

“As a patrol officer, I responded to calls for services—everything from domestic violence and crime scenes to non-crime incidents like traffic control,” she says. “What had an impact on me was the survivor. As officers, we would refer them to an emergency shelter, we would give

them basic information. But I wanted to do more.”

That led Madrigal to work as an advocate for survivors of domestic violence at Cobern Place Safe Haven in Indianapolis and, later, as a victim assistant with the Monroe County Prosecutor’s Office.

In 2017, Madrigal began working as the Latino Outreach Coordinator for the City of Bloomington’s Community and Family Resources Department, connecting Spanish- and English-speaking Latinos to community resources.

In February 2023, she stepped into the role of chief of staff for the Office of the Mayor, a position she held until June.

Now, Madrigal is working as a bilingual social worker for HealthNet Bloomington Health Center, a nonprofit that provides medical services to underserved community members, many of whom are Spanish speaking.

“My passion has always been to be of service, to facilitate communication, and to bridge the gap, whatever that is for anyone,” she says.

“I’m a faithful person, and I’ve prayed about this,” she says. “I feel like I’m called to be of service to others. I’m following my calling. I’m where God wants me to be.”

Today, her husband is director for professional standards and education at IU. They have two sons—Fernando, 19, and Cristián, 11.

“Both of them were born in Bloomington and raised here,” she says. “It’s so different from the way I was brought up. I really wanted my sons to have somewhere they could call home.” —*Carmen Siering*



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The Paintings of John Mellencamp Eskenazi Exhibit Opens Sept. 5



Fairmount, 2017, mixed media on plywood, courtesy of Jason Millican.



Under the Lights, 1991, oil on canvas, from the collection of John and Michelle Vickery.

by Rodney Margison

John Mellencamp may be a small-town guy, but he'll be getting the big-city treatment when an exhibition of his artwork opens September 5 at the Indiana University Eskenazi Museum of Art.

Crossroads: The Paintings of John Mellencamp will feature 49 oil paintings and multimedia pieces created by the artist. It was curated earlier this year by 18 students enrolled in a one-of-a-kind class on the making of the exhibition, co-taught by David Brenneman, the Wilma E. Kelley Director of the Eskenazi Museum at the time, and

Caleb Weintraub, associate professor in painting and drawing and the director of undergraduate studies at the Eskenazi School of Art, Architecture, and Design.

"I saw this as an opportunity to think about and have students engage with the artist's work directly," Brenneman says about creating the class. "Part of the motivation was to get the students directly thinking about Mellencamp's work. And then the other was to figure out what is it that would resonate with 18- through 21-year-olds.

"One thing we learned is that they consider Mellencamp's music to be 'dad'

music," he continues. "So that was a big part of the class project, figuring out what is it about this artist's work and this artist's vision that is resonant."

Weintraub explains that the students saw Mellencamp's art as being "somewhat inward looking. And in the similar way that the world we're in, the immediate area, is not all that exciting, people want to escape—the idea of someone escaping inward, directness and physicality."

"Ultimately, [Mellencamp] views this, and we do, too, as an important opportunity to not only look at some work that the artist did ▶



Twelve Dreams, 2005, mixed media on canvas, courtesy of Jason Millican.



Elizabeth Martin, 2023, mixed media on cardboard, from a private collection.



American Odd, 2020, house paint, oil, and charcoal on Masonite, from a private collection.

30 years ago, but to also look at more recent work, work that he made during the pandemic, for instance,” Brennenman concludes.

The exhibition opens September 5 and runs through December 15. In addition to the Eskenazi exhibition, Mellencamp will be taking over CLASH Gallery, 120 E. Kirkwood, with a print show during the same period.

Although his music tour schedule won't allow him to attend the September 5 opening reception, plans are for him to attend the exhibition later in October. ✨

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Moon Buggy: Playing Hopeful Music & Having Fun

“I’m really excited to hear people say they can’t describe exactly what we sound like, that our music is unique,” says Wade Van Orman, founder of and songwriter, vocalist, guitarist, and pianist in the local band Moon Buggy. “It’s good to be a little left of center.”

Van Orman describes the music as “pop-sparkle-grunge: three-minute, catchy, upbeat pop songs with some dirt, some grunge, accentuating lyrics.”

Those lyrics drive Moon Buggy’s songs. They celebrate achieving “freedom from anxiety or self-imposed limitations and transitioning from or transcending situations. For example, “At the Edge” is a breakup song, but rather than agonize over loss or bitterness, the singer rejoices over standing at the edge of a new life.

Formed in 2020, Moon Buggy also includes guitarist Rory Derryberry,

drummer Al Jarvis, and bassist and vocalist Logan Davis. “They’re all seasoned musicians,” says Van Orman, “both here and elsewhere.” Van Orman played with all of them before putting this band together. Derryberry played on Van Orman’s 2019 solo CD *Zen Lullabies and Other Songs* (self-produced), a collection of ambient electronic music and pop songs.

The band’s name developed during a group discussion. A former member said that the music made her feel weightless, as if she were floating. Van Orman says he responded, “Like in space ... Moon Buggy.” An animated video on YouTube, “Moon Buggy Touch the Ground,” depicts the band riding in such a vehicle.

Moon Buggy has played Bloomington Community Farmers’ Markets, WFHB-FM’s *Saturday’s Child* and *Local Live*



Moon Buggy, with (l-r) drummer Al Jarvis; songwriter, vocalist, guitarist, pianist, and founder Wade Van Orman; guitarist Rory Derryberry; and bassist and vocalist Logan Davis, performs at the Orbit Room on June 26. Photo by Rodney Margison

programs, Food Truck Fridays at Switchyard Park, the Fairfax Inn, and Indianapolis Melody Inn. They have performed most frequently at the Orbit Room and at Blockhouse Bar. They staged their biggest gig at Switchyard Park’s 2024 Solar Eclipse Festival, where they transitioned from playing small venues to performing before 1,000 festival attendees. “It was a kick in the pants to do that show,” Van Orman says.

Currently finishing its first CD, *Revelry* (self-produced), the band will play a release party next month.

Van Orman says that part of Moon Buggy’s draw is “our unbridled enthusiasm. We’re having fun, number one. And our music is accessible and hopeful. If there was ever a time to be hopeful, it’s 2024.” —Paul Bickley

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Tuesday, July 30 at 7:30 pm

The Glenn Miller Orchestra was formed in 1938 and quickly became a hallmark of the Swing Era of the 30s & 40s. Today, the 18-piece ensemble honors Miller's legacy, captivating audiences with original arrangements and modern tunes in true Miller style.

"NOW AND THEN"

Wednesday, July 31 at 7 pm

Beatles hits reborn: the 2024 Dance Alliance Tour promises a nostalgic and vibrant homage to the fab four's 60th.

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Saturday, September 21 at 7:30 pm

An evening of laughter awaits with Henry Cho, where his Southern upbringing collides with a universally relatable humor. His clean comedy sketches are packed with a charming wit that will entertain, resonate, and leave audiences of all ages in stitches.

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Saturday, September 28 at 7:30 pm

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EXPLORE: An Arts Camp for Kids At The Hundredth Hill Retreat

Twenty-eight children ages 10–13 pursued their artistic potential June 11–13 at EXPLORE, a youth arts day camp co-hosted by The Hundredth Hill and the Arts Alliance of Greater Bloomington.

Krista Detor, resident artist director of The Hundredth Hill, says she approached the Arts Alliance about collaborating on the camp with a goal of giving students a chance to express themselves artistically in a natural setting and to be taught by working and teaching artists.

“As I look at curriculum and what schools are doing, the arts seem to be getting shoved more and more to the periphery,” says Henry Leck, president of the Arts Alliance. “I think kids in general are getting less arts experience than they used to or than they should, so this is a way for us to help fill that gap a little bit.”

Each day began with 30 minutes of morning yoga to encourage mindfulness, followed by a variety of small group activities such as building a sculpture with things they found while foraging in the woods, drawing elements found in nature, silk-screening their own designs onto t-shirts, a drum circle, and even painting a mural on the side of a barn.

“As soon as the kids heard that painting the side of the barn was an option, they were running for the paintbrushes and running for the paint,” Detor says. “It was so much fun.”

On June 15, the Arts Alliance Center in College Mall displayed the children’s art made during the camp. “The idea that here you get the opportunity to completely, freely express yourself and have it publicly acknowledged, I think is so ▶



(above) Campers at the EXPLORE arts camp participated in several small group activities over the course of the three-day camp, including creating their own designs on silk screens and transferring them onto t-shirts; (below, left) with some of their free time, campers were allowed to paint freely into a group mural on the side of this barn. “As soon as the kids heard that painting the side of the barn was an option, they were running for the paintbrushes and running for the paint,” says Krista Detor, resident artist director at The Hundredth Hill; (below) a camper reacts after revealing his silk screen design on a t-shirt. Photos by Rodney Margison





(above) As part of one of the activities, campers were led on a nature hike to find items of inspiration to take back and convert into drawings; (below) drum circle sessions were taught by Jenna Sears (striped shirt), conductor of the Indiana University Children's Choir; (bottom) using elements of nature found in the woods as inspiration, a camper works on a drawing.



validating," says Detor, who adds that the camp would not have been possible without support and donations from the community.

"There's not a way that this could have happened in just any community, because in the Bloomington community, you can't throw a rock without hitting an artist," she says. "The support for the arts, and not just endeavors like this but just for the arts in general, is so high and so solid. I'm incredibly grateful to be here and to be part of it, and I have been for all these years. It never fails to inspire me." —*Lily Marks*



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Women-Led Theater Group Presents 'Steel Magnolias'

Off-Night Productions, a women-led nonprofit that produces contemporary theater and music on the off nights of traditional theater, begins its fall season with a production of *Steel Magnolias*. The show, which runs August 11–20 at the John Waldron Arts Center, is co-directed by Off-Night's Artistic Director Aubrey Seader and board member Cassie Hakken.

"It's a beloved classic, especially due to the popularity of the 1989 film adaptation," Hakken says. "There is something so special about female friendships, and I think the play does an incredible job of representing that bond in a relevant and universal way."

Off-Night's second-ever full-stage production features an all-female cast, starring Greta Lind, best known for her role in the film *Rudy*. Also featured are Mikelle Miller, Jillian Hurley, Maggie Lynn Held, Maria Walker, and Claire Mahave.

"Although women make up the majority of

theater audiences and donors to arts organizations, we make up a smaller percentage of the folks producing, designing, and performing in live theater," says Seader.

"Everyone planning the show understood the visceral experience that Catherine [played by Lind] was having when no one in her life believed she could write a groundbreaking mathematical proof," she continues. "That experience of having your talents underestimated is not gender-specific, but it's a common experience for women. Our team's ability to identify with the experience of the female lead character influenced the way our team shaped the core narrative of the play and showcased her inner life through lights, sound, and direction."

Off-Night recently held the Sweet Magnolias Bash, a fundraiser for the play that



raised more than \$2,000 for its production.

"We are committed to compensating artists, as we believe that economic equity is an important part of the fight for gender equality," Hakken adds. "Ticket sales are not enough to cover the costs of production, so we count on the support of generous individuals."

Purchase tickets at buskirkchumley.org or make a tax-deductible donation at offnightproductions.org. —Brittany Marshall



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“After the Uprising”—a B-town Crime Podcast Explores the Ferguson, Missouri, Murders

by *Jeremy Price*

Contrary to what you might see on *Only Murders in the Building*, true crime podcasts rarely conclude with everything tied up in a nice, neat bow. However, as much as it's possible, the second season of *After the Uprising* from Bloomington's Ray Nowosielski and John Duffy does just that, minus the actual handcuffs.

It is a prequel of sorts to their first-season dive into the mysterious 2018 death of Danye Jones near Ferguson, Missouri. Season One was picked up by iHeartMedia, and when it was nominated for an NAACP Image Award, a second season was secured.

The next subject was an obvious choice, Nowosielski says.

In 2016, activist Darren Seals was murdered in Ferguson, found shot to death inside a burning car—a crime that had remained unsolved until now. “There are a lot of true crime shows and not many that solve it, but we believe we did,” Nowosielski says, “at least to the extent that libel laws and stuff will allow journalists to say we solved something. It's still up to the listener to decide.”

“While the concept of the podcast is Ferguson activist deaths, the most famous one was 2016 with Seals,” he continues. “We thought we'd look at it.”

Seals was raised in Ferguson by his mother while his father was in jail. He grew up just a few blocks from the apartment complex where police officer Darren Wilson shot and killed Michael Brown in 2014.



Ray Nowosielski says he and co-host John Duffy believe they solved the murder of Darren Seals in Season Two of their podcast, *After the Uprising*. Photo by Martin Boling

After the Uprising can be found on iHeartMedia. Courtesy graphic



Seals got involved in gang activity and drug dealing, including felony charges, before being shot six times in 2013. Surviving that ambush turned his life around and he became more involved in the community, particularly regarding police killings, and especially after the shooting of Brown, whose family Seals had known since he was a kid.

In addition, Seals was a rapper and rap producer with many friends around nearby St. Louis, some of which were involved with connections to a cartel in Mexico.

“It wasn't something we expected to find, but it sort of grows and blossoms the more you listen to the 10 episodes,” Duffy says. “I don't know if there's an episode where somebody isn't being killed.”

“There's definitely twists and turns and details I would never have predicted that make it a more intriguing story at the end.”

Former Missouri senator and current U.S. House candidate Maria Chappelle-Nadal, herself a former Ferguson activist, joins Duffy and Nowosielski as co-host, investigator, and producer.

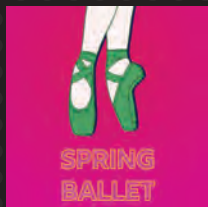
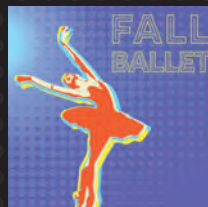
For more information, visit doubleasteriskmedia.com. To find out who may have killed Seals, tune in to *After the Uprising*. ✨

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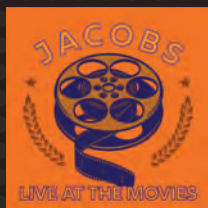


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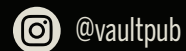
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The 31st annual Lotus World Music & Arts Festival, featuring international, U.S., and local musical acts performing at multiple downtown venues, will take place October 3-6.

Produced by the Lotus Education & Arts Foundation, a Bloomington nonprofit staging world-culture events throughout the year, Lotus Festival presents and celebrates diverse cultures through the arts.

Cuban rapper Telmary and her band HabanaSana will open the festival, combining Afro-Cuban and Latin rhythms with dashes of hip hop, funk, and jazz. Las Guaracheras, a Colombian female sextet, perform salsa, a Cuban and Puerto Rican fusion of rock and jazz, with vibraphone, percussion, bass, piano, and vocals.

Ukrainian singer-songwriter and Eurovision finalist Maryna Krut (aka KRUTЬ) plays the bandura, a cross between a lute and a harp, and sings traditional songs influenced by pop and jazz. Brazilian Luciane Dom and her band, who have appeared at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City, present a mixture of Afrobeats, urban jazz, reggae, and Ijexá, a genre originating in Candomblé ritual rhythms.

"I love all the amazing genres and traditional styles and the diversity that our artists bring to town," says Tamara Loewenthal, the foundation's artistic director.



Cuban rapper Telmary and her band HabanaSana will open the 31st annual Lotus World Music & Arts Festival. *Courtesy photo*

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Renowned U.S. blues man Corey Harris, who has recorded 19 albums and performed with B.B. King, Buddy Guy, and Taj Mahal, will team up with Texan Cedric Watson, a four-time Grammy-nominated Cajun, Creole, and zydeco singer-songwriter, fiddler, and accordionist, to perform blues in multiple styles. Virginia's Ashlee Watkins and Andrew Small, featured on the PBS show *Song of The Mountains*, will perform old-time country music with vocals, fiddle, banjo, mandolin, and guitar.

The complete schedule (including pre-festival events) and ticket information will appear next month at lotusfest.org. Those wishing to volunteer can apply online now.

The festival's namesakes are the late Quinten "Lotus" Dickey, an internationally known traditional singer, songwriter, and musician born in Paoli, Indiana, and the lotus flower, which blooms worldwide.

Lotus is one of the oldest international-music festivals in the U.S. About 8,000 fans from all over the country attended last year.

"If you have a preconceived idea of what global music is, put it on pause," says Loewenthal. "Lotus offers something for everyone: Latin bands who rap, African bands who do hip hop. If you like music, you'll find something to love." —Paul Bickley



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Susan Savastuk

Multifaceted Painter



It wasn't until she retired in 2015 after 36 years as a nurse that Susan Savastuk became a painter. Despite having always held an appreciation for art, she never found the time to create any herself. "I had this wanderlust every time I went into a museum—like, 'Oh wow, I want to paint like that.' I'd go home and try something for a while, [but] then I'd have to go back to work."

After Savastuk retired, her brother-in-law encouraged her to take a beginning oil painting class at Ivy Tech Bloomington that kick-started her passion. "You couldn't have convinced me [then] that I would be where I am today," Savastuk, 66, says.

While her main medium is oil painting, Savastuk also uses watercolor, markers, and pointillism to create her art. "I'm not easily kept in one category," she says. "I just go downstairs ►



(right) After she retired in 2015, Susan Savastuk took a beginner oil painting class at Ivy Tech Bloomington that kick-started her passion. Photo by Martin Boling (this page and opposite page) examples of Savastuk's artwork. Courtesy images





and paint with nothing more in mind than sitting there and putting paint on a canvas.” She paints landscapes, portraits, homes, animals, and more, and nearly all of her paintings are based on photographs.

Local landscape photographer Don Waters has inspired about a dozen of Savastuk’s paintings. She says she also finds inspiration from her partner, Glorianne Leck, and local painter Lynne Gilliat, who encouraged Savastuk to put her work in Bloomington galleries.

Visit magbloom.com/savastuk to see more of her work. —*Lily Marks*



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IU Jacobs School to Celebrate The Music of Charles Ives

by Aaron Brewington

Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music is gearing up for a celebration of the works and legacy of composer Charles Ives (1874-1954) that will be held in Bloomington from September 30 to October 8.

The festival, "Charles Ives at 150," is co-curated by Ives scholar and IU Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Music J. Peter Burkholder and American cultural historian and producer Joseph Horowitz. It will feature performances, talks, and exhibitions highlighting Ives' ongoing influence on American music.

Ives is celebrated for his diverse, innovative music. This diversity drew Burkholder to study the composer—to date, he has written three books on Ives. "One thing I love about his music is how flexible it is," Burkholder says. "It is so different from one piece to another. That's something that we're interested in showcasing at the festival."



(l-r) Charles Ives with a teammate from the Hopkins School baseball team, circa 1893. Courtesy photo

The festival will feature various performances, from orchestral pieces to choral works such as "The Celestial Country" and "Psalm 90." The Pacifica Quartet, faculty and students from the Jacobs School, and other visiting artists will showcase Ives' string quartets, piano and violin sonatas, art songs, and choral and orchestral works. Festival attendees can also look forward to performances by renowned musicians, including pianist Jeremy Denk and baritone William Sharp.

"One of the goals of this festival is to infuse the performances with commentary," Burkholder says. "We want to integrate the humanities with performance and place his music within its American context."

The festival also seeks to introduce Ives' music to new audiences, including younger students. The festival is collaborating with music teachers in the Monroe County Community School Corporation to integrate Ives' music into its curriculum and provide

opportunities for students to engage with Ives' music.

"Ives at 150" is one of four festivals celebrating the composer's 150th birthday funded through grants by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Other universities that are putting on festivals include Yale and Western Connecticut State University. According to Burkholder, the Bloomington celebration is the most ambitious.

All festival events are free. For a complete schedule and more information, visit go.iu.edu/ives. ✨

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J. Peter Burkholder, IU distinguished professor emeritus of music, and historian Joseph Horowitz (not pictured) are co-curating "Charles Ives at 150," a festival celebrating his works and legacy. Photo by Sarah Slover



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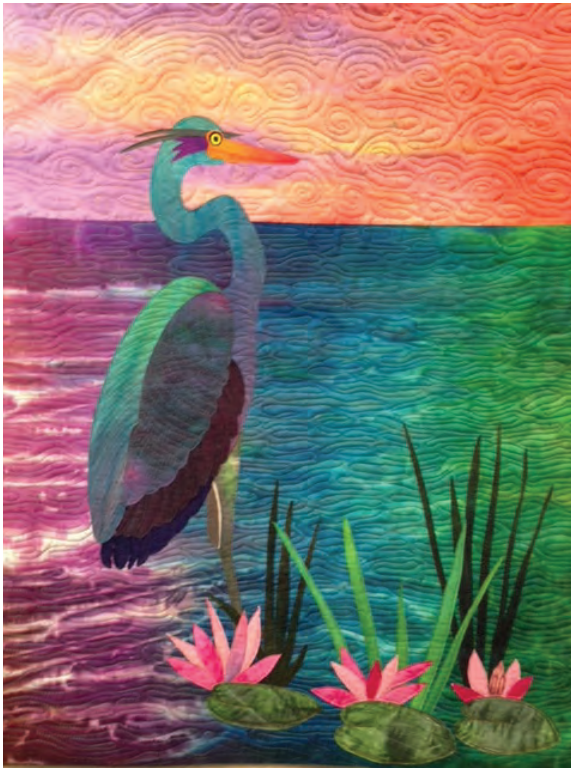


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Quilts from the Heartland Show

Not Just Your Grandmother's Quilts



(above and above, right) These quilts created by Georgia Koushiafes and Dedaimia Whitney are examples of the types of quilts that will be on display at the “Quilts from the Heartland” quilt show at the Monroe Convention Center in October; (below) volunteers hang quilts at the last “Quilts from the Heartland” quilt show. *Courtesy photos*



Legene White and Karen Levay are passionate about quilting, and they are not alone. The Bloomington Quilters Guild has 175 members who also love to create quilts, and their work will be on display at the triannual “Quilts from the Heartland” quilt show on October 4 and 5 at the Monroe Convention Center.

Both White, president of the Guild, and Levay, who is co-chairing the show with Sandy Bonsib, hope that those who attend will move beyond thinking of quilts just as something that their grandmothers used to make, and see the many unique forms they can take.

“Quilts are not only blankets, they’re also art. Within the quilting community there’s lots of different kinds,” says White. She explains that quilts range from the traditional kind you think of that grandmothers put on a bed, to modern or contemporary quilts that often use traditional blocking in unique ways or only bright colors. There are also applique quilts, which are very decorative and detailed; quilts made with silks, netting, beads, or embroidery; and quilts that are made to be hung on a wall rather than put on a bed.

At the quilt show, people can expect to see all of the above and more, including quilts made for the 2024 Quilt Challenge, for which a local quilt store owner chooses a fabric and a theme—this year it is April’s solar eclipse—and each quilter creates their own interpretation of the theme with the chosen fabric.

Members of the guild create and donate “community quilts” to local organizations such as Middle Way House, Habitat for ►



(above) An abstract quilt design made by Joan Hershey; (below) Janice Arveson created this quilt featuring decorative pencils

Humanity of Monroe County, New Hope for Families, Susie's Place, and more. From July 2023 to May 2024, they donated 433 quilts. The Guild also provides funds to the Monroe County Public Library to purchase books about quilting and fiber arts, and it supports the Indiana Heritage Quilt Show held annually in March.

Visit bloomingtonquiltersguild.org for more information. —Rosalie Sherwood



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The Challenges of Operating an Ethical Livestock Farm in Owen County



Phil Lennon spent many years as a network engineer for Mastercard. His wife, Lessie, is an Indiana University professor in American studies and gender studies. But the Bloomington couple's hearts and dreams are deeply rooted in their 100-acre Celtic Glen Heritage Livestock farm in Owen County.

The farm is a financial challenge and work in progress, they say. But they proudly describe their rare breeds of cattle, sheep, goats, and rabbits and environmentally positive practices that put back as much as they take out of the land.

"This kind of farming is good for the environment," says Phil, 58, a Chicago native who runs the farm full time. "We're restoring the soil."

They bought the farm, with 70 acres and 20 buildings, in 2019 and have since added 30 acres.

The Lennons have four children, and the youngest, 17-year-old MacIntyre, works on the farm. They provide quality breeding stock and natural, craft meats that are sold at Bloomingfoods East and Bloomington Farm Stop Collective. They also arrange processing for customers who purchase meat.

Lessie, 57, who is also the IU Campus Farm co-director, says the farm is not just a family business. "We are trying to bring back what is almost lost in American culture—the capacity to feed ourselves and our communities," says Lessie.

As small farmers, they chose to use heritage breeds requiring less chemical interventions, having a lighter land footprint, and providing tender, marbled meat and rich milk. They have 30 Irish Dexter and Scottish Highland cattle, 20 Scottish Soay sheep, 200 American and silver fox rabbits, and 15 myotonic and Arawapa goats.

"Heritage breeds are not just beautiful and great for farms, but they're practical," says Texas native Lessie. ▶



(top) The Lennons bought the farm in 2019 with 70 acres and 20 buildings and have since added 30 acres; (left) they chose to use heritage breeds of cattle, sheep, rabbits and goats on the farm.

Photos by James Kellar



Running a farm comes with many obstacles, such as 50 riverfront acres that flood and the lack of profit from selling meat due to high costs. To overcome this they've developed value-added products—workshops on raising heritage livestock and processing meats, fertilizer, and three rental houses and nine campsites.

“That’s how you make a profit from a small farm,” says Phil, a Navy veteran who employs a veteran paid by Veterans IN Farming, a nonprofit organization providing agricultural training.

Visit celticglen.org or email celticglenheritagelivestock@gmail.com to learn more. —*Barb Berggoetz*



(top) (l-r) Lessie, MacIntyre, and Phil Lennon; (above) heritage livestock breeds require less chemical interventions and provide a lighter land footprint.



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Into Bloomington

BY GREG SIERING



up to 0.5% ABV (alcohol by volume), so they are not completely alcohol-free, but that alcohol level is generally insignificant and far lower than a regular beer's 5–7% ABV. The lack of alcohol mostly impacts the body or mouthfeel of the beer, which brewers can compensate for by adding lactose (the sugar that adds richness to milk stouts).

When You Want a Beer But Don't Want a Buzz!

If you've read my column over the past several years, you know I like beer, but I find times when drinking alcohol is not always a great option—whether it conflicts with medication, driving, or time with my grandkids. Whatever the reasons for wanting a beer but not a buzz, we have an increasing number of satisfying options in non-alcoholic (NA) beers. Now, if you are skeptical because of that O'Doul's you tried in the early 1990s, I ask that you consider that they may have

improved in the past thirty years!

NA beers are typically brewed the same way as traditional beers, with most of the alcohol removed through a variety of filtering processes and some flavors added back in that might have been stripped away. Most NA beers still contain



Guinness 0 Non Alcoholic Draught beer.
Photo by Rodney Margison

Big brewers have gotten into this quickly growing business, wanting to keep customers with their brands, brewing NA versions of beers like Blue Moon, Heineken, Corona, Dos Equis, Peroni, and Stella Artois. Flavor profiles or body may be slightly different in these NA cousins, but they are close to the originals. I recently tried a Guinness 0 Non Alcoholic Draught, and I found it quite enjoyable and true to brand, with a thick tan head that lasted until my glass was

empty, and the roasted malt profile this stout is known for. The mouthfeel was a bit different—not necessarily thin but lacking a bit of fullness. But is this a Guinness? You bet. And can I enjoy a few of these any time I want? Yup.

Craft brewers are expanding their offerings to engage in the NA world, too. Samuel Adams, for example, offers a golden lager and a hazy IPA, and Brooklyn Brewery has its Special Effects series that offers a pils, an IPA, and a hoppy amber. IPA fans should try BrewDog's AF line, especially Elvis AF, which will please grapefruit-loving hopheads.

My favorite NA beers, though, come from Athletic Brewing Company, a company that only brews NA, and does an excellent job of that. Among their various styles—IPA, stout, lager, and Belgian wit—I am most enamored with Atlética, a Mexican-style copper ale with lightly toasted Munich malt that gives it a good body and malty flavor, and gentle floral hops that add depth and light bitterness. It is easy drinking but complex, pairing well with tacos or just an afternoon on the deck. Easily the best NA beer I've had.

There is a world of tasty NA beers out there, and even if you still turn to regular beers as your go-to brews, their NA cousins offer great alternatives that deserve a spot in your fridge. ✨

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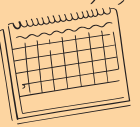
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Ale's Ice Cream Shop

Serving Mexican Delights



Inspired by the flavors of her childhood in Mexico, Alejandrina “Gina” Pani Marquez, opened Ale’s Ice Cream Shop at 309 S. Hickory Dr. on the west side of Bloomington in December 2023. “My parents taught me how to work hard for your dream and don’t stop,” she says.

Marquez moved to Bloomington from Mexico with her family when she was a teenager and later pursued a career with Cook Medical. She continues to work there while also running the shop along with her husband, Zach Spaulding, and occasionally with the help of one of their three children. “After work in the morning, I go home and ‘mom’ for the afternoon and then work in the evenings at the shop,” she says. “My father, who passed away in 2020, instilled this work ethic in me. He is my power.”

Sitting at one of the high-top tables, surrounded by pink and yellow walls and the



(left) “We have plenty of Mexican restaurants in town, but we didn’t have a place for Mexican desserts,” says Alejandrina “Gina” Pani Marquez, owner of Ale’s Ice Cream Shop; (above) Marquez opened Ale’s Ice Cream Shop at 309 S. Hickory Dr. in December 2023. Photos by Kathryn Coers Rossman

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smell of made-from-scratch waffle cones in the air, she describes how happy she is to be here. “I’m not trying to compete with other ice cream shops,” she says. “We have plenty of Mexican restaurants in town, but we didn’t have a place for Mexican desserts.” On the menu are 20-plus flavors of ice cream, plus paletas (ice pops), cakes, flan, and more. She also serves a few savory snack items like esquites (corn off the cob with mayonnaise, Mexican cheese, lime, and tajin) and elote noodles, a fun twist on a popular Mexican street food.

Marquez works with a vendor in Indianapolis to design and produce her flavors. Blackberry queso is her favorite. Others include horchata, mango, and piña colada. “I learned how to make this style of ice cream while traveling in Mexico two years ago with my family, but we are still learning every day,” she says.

“We have a big Latino community here,” Marquez says. “But this is for everyone.” She says she likes providing a happy place for families and students to linger, but mostly, “I love to see the joy on people’s faces.” —Heather Ray



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The Bloomingfoods' Hot Bar Back After COVID-19 Break

The Bloomingfoods East and Near West markets have reopened their hot bar to customers after being closed since 2019 due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Near West bar, which opens at 8 a.m. daily, operates on a weekly menu and serves upwards of 300 pounds of food to customers on a busy day.

Says Near West kitchen manager Ben Witte, “There’s a common saying that the west store is a deli with a grocery store and the east side is a grocery store with a deli. Our prepared food sales are higher, and their product sales are higher.”

Tasked with reopening the Near West bar, Witte collaborated with the kitchen staff to modernize original recipes and develop new dishes for the weekly rotation, he says.

“While the daily menus are something we’re still considering, weekly menus give us enough variation for customers, but gives us more quality control and the ability to perfect recipes,” says Witte.



The Bloomingfoods' hot bars have reopened, and customers can expect staples such as creamy polenta and mojo pork as well as new dishes from around the world. Photo by Rodney Margison



“The main draw to our hot bar is the range of adventurous dishes. Many restaurants have a set menu and cuisine, but at Bloomingfoods, you never really know what’s going to be served until you get here,” he adds. “You can come in one day and get pulled pork and mashed potatoes, and a fancy glazed eggplant the next day.

“It’s been fantastic to see the creativity of the kitchen staff, who come from a lot of different cultural and culinary backgrounds. It also gives us the opportunity to serve traditional dishes from around the world, providing a high-quality product that’s representative of where the recipe originates.”

Customers can expect staples like the creamy polenta with roasted veggies and the mojo pork on the menu, back by popular demand, he says.

Bloomingfoods partners with local farms to use locally sourced ingredients when possible, including Fischer Farm and Miller Poultry as well as smaller providers and farmers like Rhodes Family Farm, which provides poultry and daily egg deliveries.

“Working with local providers gives more of a sense of community but also, it’s kind of cyclical,” Witte says. “Our philosophy is [that] everything we put into the community will come around, and if the community feels supported, we feel our community will support us.”

Learn more about Bloomingfoods hot bar hours and locations at bloomingfoods.coop. —Brittany Marshall



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—Kathy Weller
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BY JACK BAKER



Does Wine Imitate Life Or Life Imitate Wine?

When I went looking for comments appropriate to wine and the state of humanity, I found philosophers, novelists, and poets, from ancient to modern times, with something to say about how wine is important to aging well, to promoting friendship, and to living the good life.

I'm not a fan but, like it or not, we all are aging. What matters is how we live with it. An Italian proverb says, "Years and glasses of wine should never be counted." Actress Joan Collins adds, "Age is just a number. It's irrelevant unless, of course, you happen to be a bottle of wine."

Friendship is one of the most important relationships in our lives. Forming and keeping them is an art. Edward Young tells us, "Friendship is the wine of life," and James Joyce adds, "What is better than to sit at the end of the day and drink wine with friends, or substitutes for friends?"

On love and marriage, Eduardo Galeano says, "We are all mortal until the first kiss and the second glass of wine." Gene Perret says, "Like good wine, marriage gets better with age—once you learn to keep a cork in it."

We are living in turbulent times and tensions are high. There are wars and rumors

of war; our daily lives are fast and furious. We should heed Benjamin Franklin—"Wine makes daily living easier, less hurried, with fewer tensions and more tolerance"—and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, who says, "Life is too short to drink bad wine."

At present (or is it always?), politics is a major source of upset and discontent in our lives. Whichever side we are on, there



"A bottle of wine contains more philosophy than all the books in the world," according to French chemist Louis Pasteur. Photo by Rodney Margison

is worry we are losing our way of life. Paul Claudel says, "Gentlemen, in the little moment that remains to us between the crisis and the catastrophe, we may as well drink a glass of Champagne." Napoleon says, "In victory, you deserve Champagne; in defeat, you need it."

On a personal note, I agree with Richelle Mead, who says, "I'm like a fine wine. I get better with age. The best is yet to come," and with Pope John XXIII: "Men are like wine—some turn to vinegar, but the best improve with age." Unfortunately, I am noticing a dose of vinegar.

My wife, Jan, most likely agrees with Samuel Johnson—"Wine makes a man more pleased with himself; I do not say that it makes him more pleasing to others"—or with this anonymous quote: "Husbands are like wine. They take a long time to mature." Jan, I swear I'm maturing. By 90, I'll be fully there.

Finally, Louis Pasteur says, "A bottle of wine contains more philosophy than all the books in the world." And I can drink to that. ✨

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Camp Creek Stoneworks

A Rock Shop That Rocks!



At Camp Creek Stoneworks, a glass window separates the showroom from owner Joe Cox's workshop, where customers can watch as he cuts and polishes many of his own stones.

Cox says he wants his store to be an "experience in stone," explaining, "I was inspired by glass blowers, other artisans, to show a little bit of a behind the scenes look."

Rocks in the shop are organized neatly in rows of labeled bins: quartz, onyx, carnelian, aventurine. The grander specimens sit above them, individually priced for size, beauty, and rarity.

One box is labeled "Indiana found" and is filled with rocks from southern Indiana.

"It's a really interesting geologic zone," Cox says. "I didn't know as a young kid just sitting in the creek, but I was always fascinated with what came out of it."

He explains Indiana's primordial history as an inland sea and how the erratic looking rocks were deposited by receding glaciers at the end of the last ice age. The region between Martinsville and Bloomington is a geologic transition zone, Cox says, where geodes and plant fossils called crinoids can be found in rare abundance.

These rocks tell not just a part of Indiana's history, but also a piece of Cox's own. He says he even named his shop for the Lawrence County creek where he searched for stones as a kid.

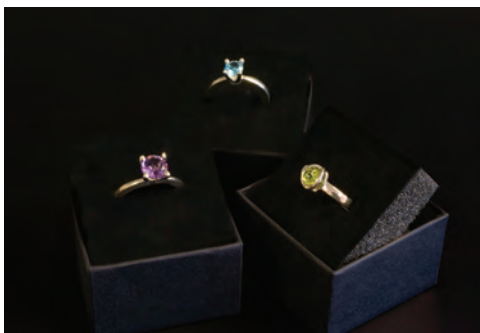
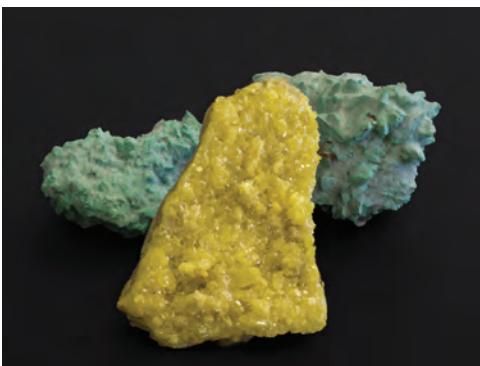
A workplace injury a few years ago provided Cox the opportunity to leave his day job and follow his lifelong interest and become a

professional lapidary: a cutter and polisher of stones. In January, he opened Camp Creek Stoneworks at 421 E. 3rd St., in Colstone Square.

"I always had this experience in my head of old mom-and-pop rock shops, where you could go in and look at a fossil that was cheap enough that your mom or dad could be like, 'I'll spend a dollar or two,'" he says.

Cox says his customers range in age and interests. Many of them are families with children, but there are also hobbyist lapidaries, new age crystal enthusiasts, and curious passersby.

"It's been a great reception in Bloomington. For something niche like this, I don't think I could have opened it anywhere else," he says. —*Ethan Sandweiss*



(top) A few years ago, owner Joe Cox left his day job and followed his lifelong interest to become a professional lapidary—a cutter and polisher of stones; (elsewhere on this page) rocks in the shop are organized in rows of labeled bins: quartz, onyx, carnelian, aventurine. The grander specimens sit above them, individually priced for size, beauty, and rarity. *Photos by James Kellar*

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Backspace Gallery

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Sporting vibrant, spiky hair and electric blue eye shadow, Backspace Gallery’s Art Director and Events Coordinator Sarah “Pixie” Conway seems to be an organic part of the all-ages creative environment she cultivates.

What was once an inventory storage space for Bonne Fête gift shop at 112 W. 6th St., Backspace has been a 1,200-square-foot oasis for emerging artists since opening in August 2022. Accrete Art Collective, The Writers Guild at Bloomington, and Cicada Cinema are just a few of the groups utilizing the gallery.

For Conway, Backspace is all about nurturing a safe space for collaboration—art exhibits switch out about once a month.

“A lot of people that don’t know each other who share an interest then get to connect at the gallery,” she says. “I really like that different groups—from high school students to senior citizens—can find their chosen family here.”

“Creating an all-ages space is a concept very near and dear to my heart,” says Conway, who was involved in the former Rhino’s Youth Center. “The Boys & Girls Clubs [of Bloomington] comes here and records for teen programming and we have a schedule of everything that is going to be airing on WFHB’s *Youth Radio*.”

Learn more at backspacegallery.com. —Elizabeth Ellis



(right) Sarah “Pixie” Conway, art director and events coordinator for Backspace Gallery, says the gallery is all about nurturing a safe space for collaboration; (elsewhere on this page) artwork by multiple artists were on display in Accrete Art Collective’s 10th exhibition—“Hot & Sweaty Summer”—held in July at Backspace Gallery. Photos by Rodney Margison



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THE MEN'S STORE

Challenge Accepted: Kilroy's Creates a Safety Program for Bars

by Craig Coley

The SAFE Bar Network, a multi-state nonprofit organization promoting safety in venues that serve alcohol, emerged from an effort to address problems in Bloomington. In 2017, the Kilroy's-branded businesses were criticized for social media posts and advertisements that seemed to promote sexual predation and overconsumption. Owner Kevin Fitzpatrick recalls then-mayor John Hamilton telling him, "You are either going to come out of this a better organization or a worse one." Fitzpatrick and his late partner, Kevin Duffy, accepted the challenge.

Fitzpatrick, who lived in Kansas City, Missouri, contacted a local rape crisis center that trained bar staff in preventing and reacting to harmful behavior. He met trainer Haleigh Harrold and hired her to train employees at Kilroy's on Kirkwood and Kilroy's Sports Bar. Fitzpatrick participated in the training himself, and when Harrold described the kinds of harmful behaviors that occur in bars, Fitzpatrick says, "Kevin Duffy and



Kilroy's owner Kevin Fitzpatrick and his late partner, Kevin Duffy, founded the nonprofit organization SAFE Bar Network to promote safety in venues that serve alcohol. Photo by Martin Boling

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I shook our heads and said, 'That stuff doesn't happen here.' We looked around the room and all 10 managers were nodding their heads 'yes.' They said it happens several times a week. Our eyes got wide and our jaws dropped."

Fitzpatrick and Duffy became so committed to Harrold's mission that they created a nonprofit organization to expand its reach. Today, 158 venues in 20 states are members of the SAFE Bar Network. Kilroy's Sports Bar General Manager Myles Robinson says that his staff, many of whom are young adults, feel empowered after learning the "tools to be proactive, speak up, and make sure everybody has a fun, safe night. When you do that, the problems tend to stay away."

Network trainers facilitate annual workshops at member venues, with college bars like Kilroy's receiving training each semester. Kilroy's requires every employee to attend. Trainings are conducted in the venue so staff can discuss problem scenarios in the spaces where they occur. They learn about common tactics used by aggressors such as testing boundaries, isolating, and using alcohol to make people vulnerable. They are taught "active bystander" skills—do something direct, delegate, and distract—and then brainstorm using them in their setting. Finally, they discuss prevention as well as creating a culture that promotes a safe atmosphere. "If you're not intentionally setting culture," says Harrold, now the network's executive director, "culture is being set."

Harrold says she is talking with other Bloomington businesses about expanding the network locally. For more information, visit safebarnetwork.org. ✨

Williams Bros. Health Care Pharmacy Empowering You to Best Care for Yourself



Williams Bros. Health Care Pharmacy is where patients of all ages go to receive comprehensive, personalized care, says Scott Sell, director of business development.

"We're a one-stop shop for everything patients need outside the doctor's office," he says of the local, independent pharmacy. "We want to care for you before you have to go see the doctor, we want to care for you after you see the doctor, and then we partner with the doctors to make sure your needs are being met."



Whether a patient has questions for a pharmacist, needs an over-the-counter medication, is purchasing home medical equipment, or is shopping for other products to improve their health, the team at Williams Bros. is there to demystify the process.

"The goal is to take the guesswork out," says Sell. "We want you as the patient to feel empowered to ask questions so you can consult with our experts on how you can best care for yourself."

In addition to prescription and over-the-counter medications, Williams Bros. stocks a wide array of personal care products, including sun protection, medicated shampoos,



compression hosiery, vitamins, supplements, reproductive health products, and more.

"We look at everything to make sure you're staying healthy, from your physical environment to medical equipment you may need to the medications you're taking," says Sell, who refers to this as a "team approach" to health care and customer service. "[Patients] are coming to us because they have a health care need and we get the opportunity to impact their life in a positive way that day. That's profound."

As a pharmacy that cares for patients at all stages of life, Williams Bros. offers a free vitamin club for children, free delivery services for people like busy parents and homebound individuals, and free home safety assessments for those concerned about aging in place.

"Our goal is to keep patients aging safely in their houses," Sell says, noting that equipment like ramps, wheelchairs, and safety bars can increase peace of mind for patients and their families. "We can come out with a certified aging in place specialist and evaluate your home to see what you may or may not need."

For patients in need of medical equipment like ankle braces and chair lifts, Sell recommends visiting the Williams Bros. store in person, where a medical equipment expert can take measurements and provide recommendations.

"We're going to make sure that what you leave with is going to fit you and give you the best chance to have a pain-free



life," he says.

Beginning this year, Williams Bros. also plans to offer on-site testing for common respiratory illnesses.

"Our pharmacies will be able to test any walk-in patient for strep, flu, COVID, pneumonia, or whatever it is you would get [tested for] at a traditional urgent care or your doctor's office," says Sell.

From there, patients will be able to consult directly with a pharmacist to purchase any relevant medications and ask questions about dosage, drug interactions, or whether a medication is safe for infants or elderly family members.

The pharmacy also works with local doctors to make personalized medications through its prescription compounding department. Examples include hormone therapies, topical pain creams, products for wound healing, scar treatments, and medicated lip balms.

"It truly is individualized care for those patients that need that," says Sell. "That's really empowering."

All medications, medical equipment, and personal care products are available for free delivery via the Williams Bros. app, which also allows patients to message a pharmacist, get medication reminders, set and schedule prescription refill requests, identify pills with a pill scanner, and more.

Visit williamsbrosparmacy.com.
—Sophie Bird Murphy

Jeff Mease: Advocate For Legal Use of Psychedelics

by Rodney Margison

Jeff Mease, who founded Bloomington Brewing Company in 1994 and was instrumental in helping legalize craft breweries in the state, is one of the founders of the Bloomington-based Indiana Psychedelic Society (IPS), a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization formed to advocate for changes in Indiana law to allow the responsible and legal use of psychedelics.

Mease, a “psychedelic enthusiast” since he was a teenager, says he knows a lot of other people who share his interest. “But I became aware in the last five to eight years that a lot of people don’t have anybody around them that they can talk to about it.” IPS, he says, provides a community where those conversations can happen safely.

Classic psychedelics—those that are plant- and fungi-based like LSD, mescaline, and psilocybin (magic mushrooms)—have been used for thousands of years by various cultures worldwide for their mystical and spiritual properties.



(left) Research on psychedelics like these psilocybin mushrooms has shown they are useful for treating addiction and end-of-life psychological distress, and they are associated with positive mental benefits. Photo by iStock.com/Michael Workman (above) Jeff Mease is one of the founders of the Bloomington-based Indiana Psychedelic Society. Photo by Martin Boling

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According to the Alcohol and Drug Foundation, it is unlikely that a person can become physically dependent on psychedelics in the way that tobacco, alcohol, cocaine, and heroin are addictive. “In fact, [psychedelics] have shown a lot of promise in being used to treat addiction,” Mease adds. “There’s clearly some massive healing potential with these substances, and they also seem to be pretty darn safe and non-toxic.”

According to the published medical report *Classic psychedelics: An integrative review of epidemiology, therapeutics, mystical experience, and brain network function* (2018), research performed in the 1950s and 1960s showed “promising results” for treating both addiction and end-of-life psychological distress, noting that a number of studies suggested that even recreational use of classic psychedelics “is associated with positive mental health and pro social outcomes.”

Mease says, “There are tons of anecdotal reports about people having made significant life changes or had some healing from a mental illness or solving an addiction from an experience with mushrooms.”

IPS doesn’t anticipate immediate law changes, but Mease says they do see—in a five-year plan—recruiting board members from around the state and initiating steps toward influencing legalization. “I think that people in both [political] parties would say that yes, we believe in freedom. So how do we let people be more free and yet protect the young people and vulnerable populations?”

Find the Indiana Psychedelic Society on Facebook. ✨





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Palliative Care in Bloomington

Supporting Patients and Their Loved Ones

Most communities have only a handful of palliative care providers, a medical specialty that focuses on improving the quality of life for patients of any age who have been diagnosed with a serious and life-limiting medical condition. However, in Bloomington, Indiana University Health Palliative Care has an entire team of doctors, nurse practitioners, and a social worker that provide palliative care, explains Dr. Ivy Lee, an IU Health palliative care physician.

“Our team addresses physical, mental and social issues that matter most to patients and their loved ones,” Lee says. “We provide high-quality symptom management and help with collaborative decision-making efforts.”

Palliative care differs from hospice care, which supports patients who are thought to have a life expectancy of less than six months and are no longer pursuing curative treatment options. Palliative care is provided alongside life-prolonging or curative care at any stage of illness.









(l-r) Doctors Katherine Roza, Melanie Robbins-Ong, and Ivy Lee support patients diagnosed with serious and life-limiting conditions as part of the Indiana University Health Palliative Care team. Photo by Martin Boling

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“In the hospital, we are asked to see patients for symptom management, discussion of goals of care, and supporting the patient as well as their loved ones,” Lee says. “These patients are often admitted for serious conditions such as cancer and organ failure.”

Palliative care providers may also see patients in-office to assist with symptom management, discuss goals of care, and document their wishes through advance directives.

“Understanding a patient’s values and priorities ensures the medical team is supporting the patient’s care preferences and focusing on what is most important to them,” says Lee. “Our goal is for patients and their loved ones to feel heard and supported as they navigate through what can be a scary and difficult time of their life.”

In addition, palliative care can support patients in understanding options should their condition worsen—decisions surrounding resuscitation, dialysis, feeding tubes, and other medical interventions, she explains. Palliative care providers also ensure patients have selected someone to be their health care representative to guide medical professionals if the patient is unable to do so.

“We’re currently expanding our team to further support this community’s palliative care needs,” Lee says. “We encourage individuals to reach out to their insurance provider to better understand their policies and coverage.” —Brittany Marshall

Sojourn House

A Safe Shelter for Women

When Carissa Muncie became a foster parent, she witnessed the ongoing need for safe shelter and support for women in Bloomington, a “hot spot” for crimes of human trafficking and exploitation in Indiana, she says.

Muncie partnered with her friend Amy Meek, and together they established the nonprofit Sojourn House in 2019. With a model of “survivor leadership,” they began accepting residents in 2023 after relocating to a 7.7-acre scenic property.

“Women are vulnerable to exploitation any time that they don’t have a safe place to be,” says Muncie, president of Sojourn House. “If they are in a transitional program but only addressing their addiction, they might also realize that the past trauma from trafficking or exploitation may prevent them from moving forward.”

The residence program is built on a four-phase approach, with residents receiving free on-site housing for two years, health care and trauma therapy, and personalized career development, and building lifelong community.

“Women who come to this point have lived a lot of life in a very short amount of time,” says one Sojourn resident, who spoke anonymously for her safety. “Feeling like you can breathe again in this environment, not just to recover but to discover who you are and

to do that with the personal support ... this healing could be the rest of your life if you choose it.”

Sojourn House partners with many organizations in town, including Middle Way House, Centerstone, and The Stride Center, to connect clients with shelter or recovery services.

“Women will suffer in silence their whole lives. Victims are struggling with issues under the surface and systems within the community are not designed to have eyes on or easily bring awareness to these issues,” says Caitlyn Graber, program director at Sojourn. “Victims are often labeled as homeless or an addict by their communities, but the complexities run so deep.”

On September 20, Sojourn House will host its annual Light Her Way 5k, with all proceeds going to shelter and programming. Visit sojournhousewomen.org or email team@sojournhousewomen.org.
—Brittany Marshall



Carissa Muncie established Sojourn House in 2019 with her friend Amy Meek. Photo by Kathryn Coers Rossman

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Caretaker Koshie Lamptey 'I Like Caring for People'

Caretaker Koshie Lamptey has cared for 5,233 people since founding her company, WellCare, in 1998. Through services like bathing, grocery shopping, companionship, and light housekeeping, Lamptey says WellCare strives to keep clients happy, healthy, and aging in place.

"I like caring for people," she explains. "I don't even refer to my clients as clients, I refer to them as family."

Born in Ghana and raised in England, Lamptey moved to America on a track scholarship to Southern Utah University before transferring to Indiana University in search of a more diverse community in 1995. A single mother of three children, she says she's continued to care for clients regardless of events in her personal life, including a cancer diagnosis two years ago.

"All my time, I spend with my clients, and they will all tell you that," says Lamptey. "I think this is my calling from God. This is my life, and I enjoy doing it."



"I don't even refer to my clients as clients, I refer to them as family," says caretaker Koshie Lamptey, who founded her company, WellCare, in 1998. *Courtesy photo*

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Today, WellCare employs 20 caretakers who are matched with clients based on personality and compatibility. Many WellCare clients find Lamptey through word of mouth, as well as referrals from local doctors' offices and attorneys. Previous clients include well-known Bloomingtonians like renowned opera singer Camilla Williams (1919–2012), who Lamptey worked with for 18 years.

Outside of WellCare's official services, Lamptey also drives clients to appointments in Indianapolis, cares for their homes while they travel, and hosts regular dinner parties to combat loneliness and isolation. At these gatherings, Lamptey serves homemade international food and encourages clients to get to know one another.

"When you work with somebody, you get so attached to them," says Lamptey, who keeps in touch with former clients to provide companionship and celebrate important dates like birthdays and anniversaries. "My clients are never left alone."

In the future, Lamptey says she hopes to acquire an apartment where single clients or those whose spouses have died can live under one roof. The ideal space would feature private bedrooms and a shared living space where Lamptey could visit to care for clients, cook meals, and entertain.

"Instead of moving from place to place, I can build a nice environment for my clients to just move in," she says. "I've been thinking about it and praying over it."

—Sophie Bird Murphy



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Dogumentaries: Kids Books About a Brave Wiener Dog



Shannon King and her dachshund, Delilah. Her first dachshund, Daisy, inspired King to write two children's books. Daisy later died at age 16. Photo by Sarah Slover

by Barb Berggoetz

Inspiration to write often comes from surprising sources. For Shannon King, it was her dachshund, Daisy.

"Almost everybody loves dogs. Kids especially seem to love wiener dogs, too," says King, who has lived in Monroe County 25 years and serves as front-of-house manager at The Uptown Cafe.

But little did King realize when she got Daisy in 2006 the dog would motivate her to write two children's books about adopting Daisy and chronologizing her extraordinary recovery from a stroke that left her immobilized. She calls them "dogumentaries."

"We went through a lot together," says King, who also has Bundy, a basset, and Hank, a Doberman.

King loved watching her daughter, Savannah, now 21, and Daisy play and grow up together, and started jotting down stories about Daisy's daily adventures.

At the time, King says, "I thought this might be something and would be a great series. I had that in the back of my mind."

Writing and reading had been part of her daily life growing up in Brown County, Indiana. "From the time I could read, I always had a book in my hand. I loved to write, mostly fantasy, and enjoyed journaling."

Life and work in time-consuming jobs pushed writing to the back burner.

But in June 2018, she was shocked to find Daisy, 11, barely able to move, apparently suffering from a stroke. King says a veterinarian gave Daisy little hope for survival. She was stabilized and King brought Daisy home to be with family.

King, her mother, and Savannah gave Daisy round-the-clock care. Slowly, Daisy started to wag her tail, lift her head, roll over, and take steps. Within nine weeks, she could walk and run with a slight limp. Daisy lived another 4 1/2 years and died at 16. While King's heart was broken, she says, she decided to get Delilah, another dachshund, last fall.

King says Daisy's willpower to recover gave her determination to revive her dream. She taught herself to draw so she could illustrate her books. *Daisy the Dachshund Gets Adopted* was published in late 2018, followed by *Daisy the Dachshund's Tail of Recovery* in 2019.

"This was all a labor of love," says King.

To learn more and order books, visit daisymaebooks.com or email shannon@daisymaebooks.com. *



Daisy the Dachshund Gets Adopted, published in 2018, and *Daisy the Dachshund's Tail of Recovery*, published in 2019. Courtesy images

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BY ADRIA NASSIM

My Dog, Thomas, and I Find ‘Good’ In a Maximum-Security Prison

“You’re a good boy, Puppy. I’m so proud of you,” I whispered, stroking his soft, golden ears as he nestled next to me on the bed. “You did a wonderful job today, and you’re so talented.”

I glanced out my bedroom window at the rosy-pink sky that dusk had brought and my thoughts drifted to the word “good.” Where does it come from? Where is it found? And that sometimes, good can be found in the most unlikely places, even a maximum-security state prison.

If you know me well you can probably guess that generally, I wouldn’t be caught within 50 feet of a prison, and a maximum-security prison? Nope. Sorry. Not happening. That is, unless you bring in dogs.

A few months ago, I found myself at the Indiana Women’s Prison (IWP) in Indianapolis, and yes, I was there because of a dog. The

Indiana Canine Assistant Network (ICAN) is a service dog training and placement program based in Zionsville, Indiana, that maintains a partnership with the IWP and the Correctional Industrial Facility and Pendleton Correctional Facility in Pendleton, Indiana. ICAN trains service dogs for children, teens, and adults with physical and developmental disabilities throughout Indiana, and veterans with PTSD, military sexual trauma, and traumatic brain injury in the Fort Wayne, Indiana, area.

The men and women who are incarcerated at these facilities are responsible for teaching the dogs everything from housebreaking to how to walk calmly on a leash to lying quietly in a crate. Prior to graduation and client placement at 2 to 2 1/2 years of age, the dogs are also trained in more advanced skills like impulse control and in individualized task-based behaviors such as picking up objects on cue or finding a caregiver for help.

Per the client contract I agreed to when I first received my service dog, Thomas, from ICAN in 2021, clients are required to attend one refresher training session per year. During refresher training, clients can work on reviewing any specific skills or behaviors the dog uses day to day, or even work to teach them new ones. If an individual who worked directly with your specific dog is still incarcerated at the specific facility where you choose to attend refresher training, you will have the opportunity to work specifically with that inmate.

I worked with a young woman named Hannah who trained Thomas as a puppy. She says that her time in prison did not start with training dogs. Prior to her involvement in ICAN, she was part of the college program at IWP where she received three degrees: first an associate and later two bachelors.

“I was incarcerated as a teen and have a pretty lengthy sentence,” she tells me. “I don’t have children. ICAN gave me my first opportunity to be selfless and to be a part of raising and nurturing a dependent. The dog made a mom out of me.” Hannah has now gone from training one dog to eight dogs. Since starting out as a sitter with ICAN, she has now progressed to becoming a lead trainer and handler, meaning she can mentor less experienced inmate handlers as they work with their dogs. She is currently working with a young black Lab named Rab. “Every dog is different,” she says. “Every dog I get, I learn more. I never stop learning.” She says that in the time she has remaining at IWP, she hopes to be a good example to other handlers. “A dog is only as good as his handler,” she adds.

In life, we may be dealt difficult cards sometimes due to the choices we make, and sometimes by circumstance. Yet, isn’t it interesting that, regardless of our situation, life is made better because of the good we find in dogs? ✨



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(left) Program Manager Cody Toothman teaches at the Home Buyers Club, a free two-day class that helps Bloomingtonians navigate the process of buying their first home. *Photo by Martin Boling* (right) Classes include budgeting and loan types, finding a realtor, purchasing homeowners' insurance, home maintenance, and more. *Shutterstock photo by Susan Law Cain*



by Sophie Bird Murphy

Since the 1990s, the City of Bloomington Housing and Neighborhood Development Department has hosted its Home Buyers Club, a free two-day class that helps Bloomingtonians navigate the process of buying their first home with confidence, says Program Manager Cody Toothman.

“The class tries to cover everything from the beginning all the way to the end of the homebuying process,” he explains. “Hopefully it helps people make more informed decisions and have more of a voice.”

The Home Buyers Club is held at City Hall five times per year and spans two consecutive Saturdays. The next classes will be held on September 21 and 28, and November 9 and 16.

“The only thing it costs is time,” Toothman says. “I get from folks who are attending that they just have no idea where to start. If you know where to start, we can build on that.”

Classes are taught by Toothman and a roster of expert guest speakers who cover topics like budgeting and loan types, finding a realtor, purchasing homeowners insurance, home maintenance, and more.

Upon completing the course, participants become eligible to apply for two City-sponsored homeownership assistance programs. The Down Payment and Closing Cost Homeownership Program provides up to \$10,000 in assistance for households at 80% or less of the median area income. For those at 120% or less, the Shared Equity Homeownership Program can cover up to \$15,000 in homebuying costs.

“The hope is that we can get the kind of folks who are really close to that homeownership goal—and just might not have the funding—to get them into the conversation,” says Toothman. “This gives that extra little push that they need to be able to qualify into a good home.”

At each session, the Home Buyers Club welcomes about 30 participants from a variety of backgrounds, including young people, couples, families, and small business owners. Those who don't qualify for assistance programs are also welcome to attend.

“It's a really diverse group,” says Toothman, who adds that his primary goal is to “instill hope that homeownership is viable.”

“I know a lot of people I talk to are scared in relation to how high the interest rates are,” he says. “But there are enough paths to homeownership.”

Visit magbloom.com/homebuyersclub. ✨

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Persisterhood Workshop Crafting With a Cause



by *Sophie Bird Murphy*

At The Persisterhood Workshop, groups of six to eight volunteers gather to make beginner-friendly crafts and raise money for social justice causes. Co-founder Deborah Meader refers to this process as “craftivism,” a combination of crafting and activism.

“We’re making things with our hands,” says Meader, who founded the organization with ceramicist Leanne Ellis following the 2016 presidential election. “But we’re also building this community of volunteers who find it rewarding to make a few crafts and get together. Then we turn around and sell them for a good cause.”

Although not all crafts created at Persisterhood workshops are political in nature, past projects of note include rainbow Pride streamers, sunflower pins in support of Ukraine, and bags depicting women Supreme Court Justices.



(left) Co-founder Deborah Meader refers to The Persisterhood Workshop’s process as “craftivism,” a combination of crafting and activism; (above) once the crafts have been sold at Bloomington boutiques and markets, 100% of the proceeds are donated to a local social justice nonprofit. Photos by Kathryn Coers Rossman

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Once completed, these items are sold at Bloomington boutiques and markets, with 100% of proceeds donated to a local social justice nonprofit. Annually, the workshop has raised up to \$7,000 to support organizations like Planned Parenthood, Moms Demand Action, and Common Cause Indiana. In 2024, The Persisterhood is raising money for All-Options Pregnancy Resource Center.

“Getting together to do something for the common good is very appealing to people in many communities,” says Meader. “But especially Bloomington.”

Most of The Persisterhood’s free workshops are hosted in Meader’s basement and involve skills like painting and needle arts, but in recent years the organization has also partnered with the Pottery House Studio and the Bloomington Creative Glass Center to offer sessions that require special equipment like kilns. Regardless, Meader says the activities are always suitable for novice crafters.

“It’s rare that we ever have a project that would require any kind of prior experience,” she says. “We provide all the materials.”

Since 2018, The Persisterhood Workshop has served as the official Philanthropic Maker for the Bloomington Handmade Market. The workshop also attends the City of Bloomington’s annual Women’s Market held on Women’s Equality Day and has hosted pop ups downtown at Mirth Market and Gather.

Looking forward, Meader and the Persisterhood board are seeking opportunities for growth in terms of venues, volunteers, and donations.

“This year, we’re planning on having a few meet and greets,” says Meader. “Get to know us, have a glass of wine, eat some cheese, and we’ll tell you about The Persisterhood.”

Visit thepersisterhoodworkshop.org. ✨

Mayor Thomson's Meeting in D.C. With Transportation Secretary Buttigieg

by Rodney Margison

Bloomington Mayor Kerry Thomson made her first official trip to Washington, D.C., in June to meet with Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

Thomson and two other Indiana mayors met with Buttigieg as part of the Biden administration's attempt to eliminate red tape and get federal funds for projects directly to where the money needs to go, she explains. Bloomington has several projects that might fit into the Department of Transportation's priorities. "We have a Safe Streets initiative here and they actually have a significant pool of Safe Streets money that's eligible for projects."

Those projects can be as small as a crosswalk or as significant as the College Avenue and Walnut Street corridor, which, Thomson says, is one of highest crash fatality corridors in Bloomington. "We are also looking at Hopewell [the new neighborhood being developed at and around the site of the former Bloomington Hospital], which is interesting because you don't think about going to the Department of Transportation to talk about housing projects.

"But they've really taken a different perspective, one which I have hoped somebody would take for a long time, which is that transportation factors into your total living costs."

Announced in August 2023, the \$13.4 million grant program links public transportation, land use, and housing to help create walkable communities that are connected to transit. "Transit-oriented development helps shape communities where you can conveniently access jobs, groceries, medical care, good schools, affordable housing, and more," Buttigieg said in that announcement.

One grant requirement is that the community be within close proximity of a transportation hub that provides interstate travel. "And we have buses now to Chicago and Louisville that leave from our transit center," Thomson says. "So, we think we might have some good transit-oriented development projects."

While in Washington, Thomson also met with U.S. Rep. Erin Houchin as well as staffers for U.S. Sens. Mike Braun and Todd Young about other federal grant opportunities. One of those "earmark" requests the City has made is for a new water pump booster to help with water distribution, Thomson says. "We learned a lot about how those earmark requests work." ✧



(l-r) Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and Mayor Kerry Thomson met in June to discuss receiving federal funding for various Bloomington projects. Courtesy photo

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Citizen Scientist

BY SUSAN M. BRACKNEY

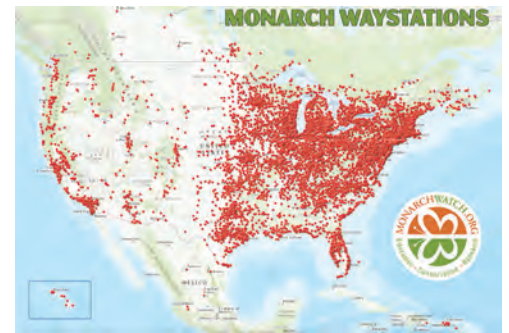
How to Contribute to the Monarch Butterfly Data Pool

Whether they're looking for monarch eggs and larvae or affixing tiny tracking stickers to adult monarch wings, community science aficionados have greatly contributed to the monarch butterfly data pool over the last several years. As a result, conservationists are beginning to better understand the stressors affecting the success of monarch butterflies as a species.

Case in point, after applying mathematical modeling to 17 years' worth of community science data, University of Georgia researchers recently determined, "[Monarch] roost sizes have declined as much as

80%, with losses increasing from north to south along the migration route. These findings suggest that failure during the fall migration could explain the apparent drop in monarch numbers from summer breeding to overwintering populations."

As it happens, the monarch butterflies you see in Bloomington right about now soon will be headed south for the fall migration. Late August and September are critical months for these butterflies as they build fat stores for their long flights ahead. Fortunately, you can help. If you've planted one of the over 100 different types of milkweed that are native to



Deliberate installations of milkweed and many other spring- and fall-flowering plants are sometimes called monarch "way stations," and they are both a rich source of data and incredibly helpful for monarchs. Courtesy chart

North America—along with plenty of flowering plants—you may have useful local data to report from this valuable habitat. (Alternatively, if you come across the monarch's essential host plant, milkweed, outside of your garden, you can still provide valuable observations.)

Milkweed and More

Sometimes called monarch "way stations," deliberate installations of milkweed and many other spring- and fall-flowering plants are both a rich source of data and incredibly helpful for monarchs. Want to make your own way station? Visit Monarch Watch at monarchwatch.org/waystations to learn more or to officially register an existing monarch habitat. (As of May 2024, nearly 50,000 monarch way stations have been registered with Monarch Watch.)

Also worth noting, MC-IRIS—Monroe County Identify and Reduce Invasive Species—is having a native plant sale September 7 in the Switchyard Park pavilion. They'll have common milkweed, swamp milkweed, and butterfly weed, as well as many suitable nectar-rich plants, too.

Submitting Observations

You can submit milkweed- and monarch-related observations via Journey North online at journeynorth.org/sightings. You'll also be able to see where the monarchs are throughout North America in near real-time. You need only register a free account and then use the drop-down menus to report fall sightings of milkweed plants, monarch eggs, larvae, and adult monarchs. Ideally, you should try to report in once each week, and, although accompanying photos are very helpful, they're not strictly necessary.

Journey North also has a "Monarch: Other Observations" category. Use this menu option to report "interesting behaviors," including mating, laying eggs, nectaring (please let them know the flowering plant species if known), basking in the sun, chrysalis, and deceased monarchs." *

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Witch Faire Set for October 12 At Monroe Convention Center

by *Sophie Bird Murphy*

On Saturday, October 12, local metaphysical shop The Burnished Raven will host its second annual Witch Faire at the Monroe Convention Center. Featuring more than 35 vendors, the faire will offer a variety of goods and services, including pagan ritual items, crystals, tarot readings, reiki energy healing, and themed crafts like spooky jewelry, steampunk lamps, and crocheted critters.

Raine Hutchens, who co-owns The Burnished Raven with his wife, Kae, says the free event is designed to bring people together, promote local artisans, and build community during the Halloween season.

“My ultimate goal is for people to have a good time and see that we have so many talented local makers and creators,” says Hutchens, a Nordic Wiccan.

In 2023, the inaugural Witch Faire attracted more than 3,000 visitors, and Hutchens is hoping for an even bigger turnout this year. Attendees



Representatives of the Lothlorien Nature Sanctuary staff a booth during the 2023 Witch Faire at the Monroe Convention Center. Photo courtesy of Danielle West

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will be able to shop, donate to philanthropic causes, purchase snacks from a local food truck, and learn more about the pagan community in Bloomington.

Considered a collection of practices rather than an organized religion, paganism is an umbrella term that encompasses traditions like Wicca, Druidry, Heathenry, and countless others. As a rapidly growing movement, paganism is estimated to have at least 1.5 million practitioners in the United States. Since opening The Burnished Raven in 2021, Hutchens says he’s been surprised by the number of local practitioners who have attended the shop’s monthly meetups and become regular customers.

“I’ve met so many incredible people,” he says. “I’ve never experienced the amount of genuine love and kindness that I have from the pagan community.”

Located in Winslow Plaza, The Burnished Raven shares space with the Hutchens’ tattoo parlor, Seidr & Sigil Tattoo, and sells items like herbs, books, crystals, talismans, do-it-yourself spell kits, ritual supplies, taxidermy, and oddities.

The shop is also home to a community altar where practitioners of various faiths come together to pray and conduct rituals safely.

The Burnished Raven also hosts a Spring Equinox Market, Midsommar Market, and Krampus Bazaar. This year’s Krampus event is scheduled for December 8 at Bloomington Brewing Company.

Visit theburnishedraven.com. ✨

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Bloomington's City Council Bumbling Its Own Budget

Bloomington's City Council is responsible for approving the annual City budget, which is proposed by the mayor.

The budget proposal typically comes in late August.

The current edition of the City Council was sworn in a little more than six months ago. During the first half of 2024, this council has talked way more about the next year's budget than recent previous councils did in the first six months of any year.

That's a good thing.

In mid-June, the council sent a letter about its budget priorities to Bloomington Mayor Kerry Thomson. The letter is organized by topic area.

The general topic areas were: climate action and environment, housing, personnel, planning and economic development, poverty and homelessness, public safety, and transportation.

That's a disappointing list—for two reasons.

First, it's in alphabetical order. The council should have done the hard work to sort the list by priority rank.

Second, the list is disappointing because of what's missing. The letter does not include the idea of making City government more visible and accessible to the public. The topic of "open government" could have found a place right after "housing" and before "personnel" in the alphabetical list.

That's not so surprising. At the very meeting when the council put together its budget priorities, the council managed to violate Indiana's Open Door Law (ODL).

The ODL provision on hybrid electronic meetings requires that at least 50% of the members of a public agency be physically present in order for the meeting to take place. For the City Council, that means five.

But for their meeting about budget priorities, Bloomington's City Council had only four members physically present and five attending remotely.

At the very start of the meeting, I interrupted to object. But the City Council's attorney/administrator indicated that the meeting could be held as scheduled because of a local ordinance the council had enacted.

No local ordinance could possibly supersede state law.

So that was incorrect legal advice. The day after I filed a lawsuit about it, the council's administrator/attorney notified the council he would likely be leaving his position and subsequently gave formal notice. (Those events were pure coincidence.)

The council quickly appointed a hiring committee and advertised the job, with essentially the same job description.

It would have been a good chance for the council to pause and ask: Why do we pay a full-time attorney to give us incorrect legal advice? Why do we employ two full-time attorneys, plus a full-time legal research assistant, when no other similar city in the state employs more than a half-time attorney?

More constructively: What kind of staff would help the council provide great service to the public?

I think the council's and the public's interests would be better served by a communications specialist, or a librarian, than by an attorney.

In its letter to the mayor on budget priorities, the council suggested: "Reconsider staffing structure to explore cost savings ..."

It would be great if the City Council took its own advice. ✨



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Gen215: Regenerative Farm Operation at The Warehouse

The Warehouse, a faith-based nonprofit organization at 1525 S. Rogers St., provides indoor facilities for recreation, education, and the arts. Behind the multipurpose facility's recreational spaces, however, is a regenerative farming operation where workers harvest produce fertilized by fish waste under the glow of a pink light. This project is known as Gen215, taking its name from a verse in Genesis.

The idea for the indoor farm formed in 2019 when The Warehouse Executive Director David Weil needed to find a new way to keep up with the 5-acre building's sizable costs. He says he conceived of Gen215 when he saw a team in the North Central Indiana Tech Challenge in Elkhart, Indiana, create a water system to fertilize plants with fish waste. Weil purchased a larger



(above) Behind The Warehouse's recreation spaces is a regenerative farming operation where produce is fertilized by fish waste under the glow of a pink light; (left) The Warehouse Executive Director David Weil conceived of Gen215 because he needed a new way to keep up with the 5-acre building's sizable costs; (below) at The Warehouse, fruits, vegetables, and herbs are harvested and sold without any processing; (opposite page, top) The Warehouse provides indoor facilities for recreation, education, and the arts at 1525 S. Rogers St.; (opposite page, bottom) the hydroponic system consists of four large tanks that can each hold up to 6,000 yellow perch. Their waste fertilizes the plants being grown. *Photos by Rodney Margison*

version of a similar system from a couple living in Nebraska who originally planned to grow cannabis, but whose plans were dashed by legislation recently passed in the state.

In 2023, the ECSIA Commercial Regenerative Agriculture system was put into action. Fruits, vegetables, and herbs are harvested and sold without any processing. Workers harvest mature produce and place them directly into bags to be sold to co-ops, at farmers' markets, and to other local vendors. The profits keep The Warehouse open and free of charge.

The system consists of four large tanks that can each hold up to 6,000 yellow perch, a species of fish chosen for their large breeding numbers and high levels of excrement, Weil says. ►





Their secretions diminish as they age, and once they weigh 1 1/2 pounds, Gen215 sells them at cost for \$1.25 apiece.

The system is completely closed—no water is ever added or taken away, making for an efficient environment that produces no waste, Weil explains. When operating at maximum capacity, he says, the system can yield 5,000 pounds of produce on 500 gallons of water in a single week—or the equivalent of what three acres can yield in one year with traditional farming methods.

Weil says Gen215 provides an opportunity for young people to start their careers by learning about regenerative farming, hydroponics, aquaponics, and traditional agriculture by working on the project.

Learn more at gen215.com.

—Max Pitchkites



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Missy Pabst New Boss at Bell Trace

In December 2023, Missy Pabst was named executive director of Bell Trace Family-first Senior Living, a 15-acre, independent and assisted living community that some 180 seniors call home.

Pabst has worked in the senior industry for more than two decades, beginning at an independent living community in Terre Haute, Indiana. After moving to Bedford, Indiana, she served as vice president of operations at a Bloomington personal services agency for 12 years before accepting the leadership position at Bell Trace.

“My passion has always been to make a difference in the lives of seniors while helping them stay independent,” Pabst says. “One of the most important aspects of my job is to ensure we as a team are providing topnotch customer service to our customers, including residents, families, staff, and members of the community. I’m grateful to

be part of this fantastic team.

“The Bell Trace mission is, ‘We take care of people with our hearts,’” she continues. “What makes us so unique is our collaboration with home health and companion care services within Bell Trace that allows our residents to stay in independent living while also providing them the support they need as they age in our community. Our goal is to continue to serve as many seniors as we can with the hope that we can expand those services to beyond those who reside at Bell Trace.”

Daily activities for residents include a writing group, garden club, social hour, musical entertainment, and more. Weekly exercise classes are also available. “Our activities department plans several outings each month and we also provide transportation to doctor appointments,



“My passion has always been to make a difference in the lives of seniors while helping them stay independent,” says Missy Pabst, executive director of Bell Trace Family-first Senior Living. Photo by Sarah Slover

shopping, banking, the Farmers’ Market, etc.,” Pabst says. “The residents know our staff on a first-name basis and really trust us to help them navigate through their day-to-day needs.”

Bell Trace is located at 800 Bell Trace Circle. Learn more at cardon.us/communities/bell-trace/. —Brittany Marshall

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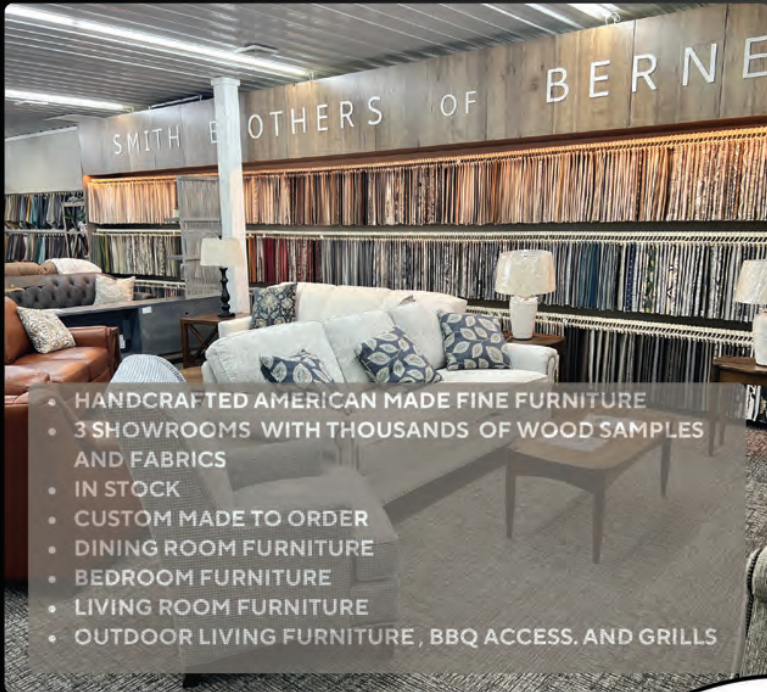
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As a branch of Stoll's Woodworking, a family-owned business, Stoll Furniture Company has been crafting kitchen cabinets and interior furniture since 1980. Recognizing the need for a wider range of quality furniture, they launched their retail outlet and design center in 2019 to better serve customers' needs.

"Our furniture is handbuilt in Indiana," says founder Roman Stoll. "We stock and custom-build furniture of all types at our retail outlet."

Today, Stoll Furniture Company sells dining room tables and chairs, beds, dressers, nightstands, coffee tables, sofas, love seats, wardrobes, chests, built-ins, and other customizable items. Customers can choose from nearly every hardwood species and more than 1,000 different fabrics and leathers for upholstered furniture.

"Like with Stoll's Woodworking, we pride ourselves on using only the best materials, unlike cheap imports that wobble or break," he adds, stressing that their furniture is never made with pressed wood or vinyl. "Our furniture will last a lifetime and can even be passed down to the next generation."



Stoll Furniture Company offers a wide range of customizable designs, including up to 300 different bedroom collections. At the company's showroom, customers can consult with a designer to find the best finishes for their décor.

"Our goal is to fit any aesthetic and any client," says Stoll. "Our website offers thousands of options ready for purchase or customization."

Once customers decide on a design for a custom furniture piece, Stoll Furniture also offers white-glove delivery within two to four weeks for some items.

"[Custom furniture] doesn't take as long as people think," Stoll adds.

Since 2020, Stoll Furniture Company has expanded to include more outdoor furniture, which has grown in popularity.

"With the rise in outdoor cooking, we're offering kitchens with appliances, grills, smokers, outdoor refrigeration, and more," says Stoll.

These outdoor areas often feature durable metal or resin outdoor cabinetry, eco-friendly patio furniture, dining sets, pavilions, pergolas, and more.

"We have hundreds of different types of seating, dining sets, sofas, and loveseats for your little outdoor areas," says Stoll. "The furniture and service we provide come at a fair price, maintaining the quality people have trusted from the Stoll brand for nearly fifty years."

Additionally, Stoll Furniture's Designer Trade Program offers free samples to design professionals who apply, granting them special prices on Stoll products.

"At Stoll Furniture Company, we are committed to providing top-notch service and high-quality furniture that meets the needs of all our customers," says Stoll. "Visit our showroom or explore our website to discover the perfect pieces for your home."

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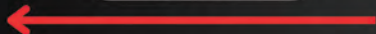
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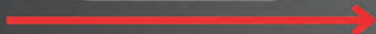


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STOLLS WOODWORKING



ELEVATING DESIGN: THE EPITOME OF KITCHEN AND BATH DESIGN EXCELLENCE

Founded in 1980, Stoll's Woodworking is a family-owned business that blends a century of woodworking design expertise into creating custom cabinets, vanities, bookshelves, entertainment centers, and closets in an array of styles, says Director of Operations Roman Stoll.

"Our designs are not only visually appealing but also fully functional," Stoll says.

Using only the finest hardwoods and metals, Stoll's Woodworking partners with customers throughout the entire design journey, from fabrication to installation. Their portfolio includes projects for kitchens, bathrooms, closets, offices, libraries, and more, extending to commercial spaces such as restaurants and offices.

"We take people's visions and bring them to reality," says Stoll, who inherited his woodworking skills from his father, John Stoll, and older brothers, Reuben and John. "We offer lifelike 3D renderings to help bring their vision to life."

Located south of Odon, Indiana, Stoll's Woodworking specializes in a range of styles from traditional farmhouse aesthetics to modern, sleek designs. Modern cabinetry styles have been particularly popular in Bloomington over the last 10 to 15 years, Stoll says.

"We specialize in the new modern styles and looks," he notes, highlighting high-gloss panel products and metal doors as key trends. "We're excited to introduce new tools and machinery that will enhance our ability to produce quality products and innovative designs."

Employing the latest technology, such as computer-controlled routers, Stoll's Woodworking ensures precise and detail in their woodwork while upholding the craftsmanship and quality that have been their hallmark for more than 40 years.

"We're still delivering that same handcrafted quality with modern equipment," says Stoll.

For homeowners uncertain about the styles that will best suit their spaces, Stoll suggests visiting the Stoll's Woodworking showroom. There, customers can explore samples of wood species, stains, and paint colors, as well as popular and trending finishes. "That is so valuable to come down and see and touch samples," says Stoll. "Clients often find that this simplifies the design process."

In addition to their woodwork, Stoll's Woodworking also offers a selection of countertops in various materials, including granite, quartz, and marble, to complement and complete your project.

While Stoll's Woodworking often works on new builds, they also handle many remodel projects, ranging from small bathrooms to full house renovations.

"[Homeowners] come with their inspiration, and we can visit their home, work with them, and develop a new design," Stoll explains. "Once the design is finalized, our team will handle the installation."

By managing nearly all their installations in-house, the Stoll's Woodworking ensures that every project is assembled correctly and to the highest standard.

"There are many design/build firms, but few can match our level of experience and quality," says Stoll. "With nearly 50 years in the industry, we have developed a profound understanding of wood characteristics, materials, and hardware. Our extensive experience helps us avoid common mistakes and consistently deliver superior craftsmanship."

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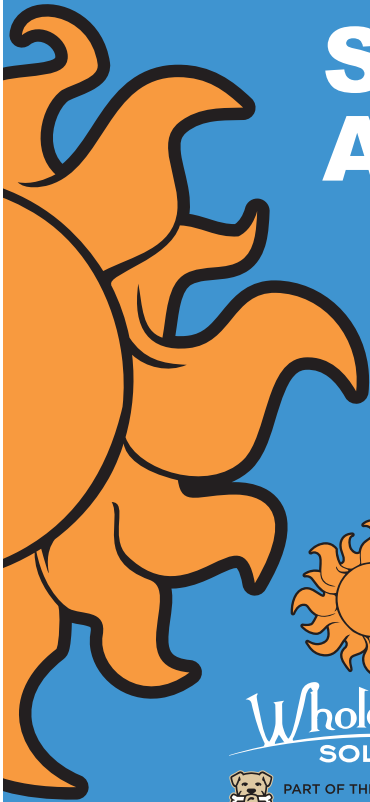
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In 2024, local commercial and residential service company Harrell-Fish Inc. (HFI) was named a Best Place to Work in Indiana, an honor that reflects the company's supportive, family-oriented, professional culture, says Marketing Coordinator Addison Elpers.

"Everyone is proud to work for HFI," she adds. "That sets a standard. Whenever our service techs go into someone's home, they're welcoming, they're always in their safety gear, and they're making sure the quality will be there."

Founded in 1985, HFI's residential services include heating and cooling, geothermal, duct cleaning, air purification, and plumbing. Elpers says investing in quality home maintenance through HFI provides clients with safety, comfort, peace of mind, and cost savings. Regularly caring for mechanical home systems also helps increase their longevity and performance.

"We keep your home comfortable, efficient, and properly maintained," says Elpers, who adds that HFI currently has more than 500 employees statewide. "From the moment we first enter your home, our goal is to ensure you feel valued and confident in our expertise."

HVAC system failures, plumbing emergencies, gas leaks, appliance breakdowns, ventilation issues, and routine scheduled maintenance are a few reasons why homeowners may call HFI for support. To help put clients at ease, HFI offers 24-hour emergency residential services.

"We hope that clients will gain a lifetime relationship from working with our team," says Elpers. "We plan to continue to grow and become the Best in the Midwest."

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Big Things Are Happening in Bloomington And All at Once!



The Movie

Bloomington native Angelo Pizzo, screenwriter and producer of such iconic Indiana movies as *Hoosiers* and *Rudy*, is about to start filming a major motion picture in Bloomington this October.



The Opera

New York City's Metropolitan Opera Company is coming to Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music in the fall to work jointly on the world premiere of the opera *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*.



The Musical

Bloomington author Michael Shelden's book *Melville in Love* is blossoming into a Broadway-bound musical written by Shelden and local songwriters Krista Detor, Travis Puntarelli, and Michael B White.

Read all about it here!

 **The Movie**

Angelo Pizzo's next film, based loosely on his own youth, is set in 1962 Bloomington and will be filmed here beginning this fall; (inset) 14-year-old Pizzo (right) with his then-friend Roy, who inspired a character in the film.
Courtesy photo



Someone Saved My Life

*Angelo Pizzo's
Most Personal Movie
To Be Filmed in
Bloomington*



1962

FALL OF 2024 A NEW FEATURE FILM
SHOT ENTIRELY ON LOCATION IN

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

*On his first day of Jr. H.S.
he had no idea this would
be the most important
year of his life*



*By Peter Dorfman * Photography by Martin Boling*



(above, l-r) Jo Throckmorton, Regional Emmy Award-winning local filmmaker, and Angelo Pizzo, *auteur*, director, and Bloomington native, will start filming *Someone Saved My Life* in Bloomington this fall; (right) Pizzo's best known films include *Hoosiers* (1986), *Rudy* (1993) and most recently *The Hill* (2023).



Motion picture cameras will roll again in Bloomington, starting in October if all goes according to plan. Feature films have been made here before, but this time, *auteur*, director, and Bloomington native Angelo Pizzo is determined to portray his hometown as it truly is—or was in the early 1960s, when Pizzo was a diffident middle schooler undergoing a crisis of identity.

The movie is based on a script that veteran screenwriter Pizzo has had locked away for years. Pizzo is best known for uplifting sports-themed films like *Hoosiers* (1986), *Rudy* (1993), and most recently *The Hill* (2023), a baseball-focused film starring Dennis Quaid that was the No. 1 film on Netflix for eight days earlier in 2024. *Someone Saved My Life* will be different—easily Pizzo's most personal work, based closely on firsthand experience. Some of it could be uncomfortable viewing for his Bloomington contemporaries.



“This is unlike any movie I’ve ever done,” Pizzo says.

“Nobody is going to be carried off a playing field. It’s pretty dark but also humorous and entertaining.”



“This is unlike any movie I’ve ever done,” Pizzo says. “Nobody is going to be carried off a playing field. It’s pretty dark but also humorous and entertaining.”

With Regional Emmy Award-winning local filmmaker (*Over There: Hoosier Heroes of the Great War*) Jo Throckmorton serving as producer, the film will be shot on a small budget by Hollywood standards and with an intentionally small, agile crew. Pizzo expects to sign a name actress to play the lead, but the supporting cast, as much as possible, will be Indiana-based professionals. Extras will be recruited locally.

To the extent that moviegoers know anything about Bloomington, it generally is by way of Peter Yates’ 1979 film *Breaking Away*, a coming-of-age story with Indiana University and its famed Little 500 bicycle race at its center. Compelling as it was, Pizzo and Throckmorton believe their vantage point as Bloomingtonians will help them better represent what is essentially Bloomington.

“I wanted to capture the spirit of what we did with *Hoosiers*, where 98% of the cast and crew were from Indiana,” Pizzo says. “Yates shot Bloomington like a generic college town. All of our locations will be within two miles of each other, places like Southdowns and Bryan Park, and at the Binford Middle School.

Over There: Hoosier Heroes of the Great War by Jo Throckmorton.
Courtesy image



Throckmorton, who teaches a course at IU Indianapolis and is developing a similar course for IU Bloomington, says IU Indy students will get course credit for pre-film work, work on the film, and post production work. “We’ll do something very similar at IU Bloomington,” he says. *Courtesy photo*

We’re shooting a ton on [the IU] campus because a lot of things happen there. I want to capture the beauty of the fall here, the leaves.”

The largely autobiographical film is set in 1962, Pizzo’s eighth grade year. “It’s very personal and very close to the truth,” he says. “Just about every scene actually happened. I’ve been nervous about this because one of my first screenwriting teachers told me, you shouldn’t write what you know. You should write what you respond to emotionally in the outside world, because then you’re with the audience. If you write from what you know first hand, you can fall into the trap that he called ‘the fallacy of primary experience.’ You have no objectivity about those experiences. It was intense for you, but maybe no one else will care.”

Pizzo, 76, wrote the screenplay roughly 15 years ago, as a form of therapy, as he describes it. The actual events took place over a year and a half, but the script compresses them to three months.

“The first people I gave the script to were my brothers and sisters,” Pizzo says, “and they all said the same thing: ‘You cannot make this while Mom is still alive.’ My mom comes across pretty dark and negative. She passed two years ago.”

Pizzo’s mother was Patricia Murphy Pizzo (1927–2021). She had degrees from IU in art history and library science, founded the Fine Arts Bookstore at IU’s art museum, and was a force in the Bloomington arts community. Angelo was the first of her eight children with Anthony Pizzo (1921–2015), a pathologist.

“I was the golden child,” Pizzo recalls. “My mother had had a terrible childhood and wasn’t able to do any of the things that interested her. Only later did I figure out that she was living her unlived life through me. She was a true stage mother. I was in every play that needed a kid my age. I was in *The Nutcracker* every year as one of the parents. I was an extra in operas. But, she really wanted me to be an artist. I took five years of piano lessons.”

Pizzo went along, unaware that he had a choice in any of these commitments. “My father had handed over running the household and raising the kids to her—a very Sicilian thing to do,” he says. “I never questioned her dictatorship, right through my seventh grade year.”

Dictatorship is exactly the way he remembers it. There was zero tolerance for dissent. Discipline could be stern and quite physical. ►



Pizzo says that during his childhood, his mother lived her unlived life through him. She signed him up for piano lessons, every play that needed a kid his age, and operas. “She really wanted me to be an artist,” he says. *Courtesy photo*



Bloomington's downtown Square in September 1963, one year after the film takes place. Photo courtesy of Indiana University Archives

“What I didn’t see, that other people saw, was that he was a true sociopath. I went down a rabbit hole with him and did some really bad things.”



The next year, however, Pizzo became friends with a boy who brought about an extraordinary transition. “He was powerful, charismatic, extraordinarily confident—and everybody was either in awe of or afraid of him, because he was one badass guy,” Pizzo says.

He was at the new Binford Junior High School, which had a tackle football team. Pizzo’s new mentor was, inevitably, the quarterback. While not an accomplished athlete, Pizzo was fast. He finished second in the city track meet as a seventh grader.

“He wanted somebody fast to throw his bombs to,” Pizzo explains. “He came up to me and said, ‘I need you to be a wide receiver.’ I was thrilled that he was even talking to me, but I told him, ‘My mom won’t let me play.’ He looked at me like I was speaking a different language. In essence his response was, ‘Well, why don’t you tell your mom to go fuck herself?’”

Spellbound, Pizzo did just that. “I didn’t use those words, but I did not go to my next piano lesson,” he says. “I joined the football team. I loved football; we had some vicious games. And I blew up my relationship with my mother. The entire family was affected. My dad had to do some triage. It got so bad that I left home—I actually moved in with this guy. What I didn’t see, that other people saw, was that he was a true sociopath. I went down a rabbit hole with him and did some really bad things.”

Really bad things consisted principally of stealing from the university, he says. The boy’s father was in charge of the old steam heating system at IU, which was serviced via underground tunnels to every building on the old campus.

“My friend had his dad’s skeleton key,” Pizzo remembers. “We went to the Kinsey Institute and got crazy. We went into the anatomy building—he loved to play with cadavers. We’d go into the catering building and steal food and silverware and books. He would fence this stuff, and he’d throw me some money. He knew I loved the Little 500 and riding bikes. So, he and I stole some Little 500 bikes from the old stadium. He could jump-start cars, and he did that all around Bloomington.”



A basketball team photo from Pizzo’s youth. Pizzo is standing behind the player wearing No. 51, and his friend Roy is wearing No. 45. (Future Indiana University hall-of-fame football legend Jade Butcher is wearing No. 33.)
Courtesy photo

What makes the story, of course, is Pizzo ultimately pulling himself out of this relationship. Eventually, he returned home. But his relationship with his mother was demolished, and it never recovered until after Pizzo's success with *Hoosiers*.

Pizzo drifted. A poor student in high school, he partied and treaded water in college. Afterward, handed a no-strings gift of \$50,000 from his father, he lived in Aspen, Colorado, for a year, and then went to Hawaii.

"I had a mini nervous breakdown in Hawaii, because I had done some hallucinogen," he says. "My dad flew me home. I decided I was going to get serious and make a life for myself. I had to figure out how to be a grownup. My dad asked me, 'What do you love?' I said movies were the only thing I loved, but I didn't know how to make a living at that. My dad suggested I go talk to the head of the IU Comparative Literature department, who taught classes on the academic approach to film. He said, 'If you get a doctorate from NYU, UCLA, or USC—the only grad schools that were giving doctorates in film studies—I will have a job for you.'"

Pizzo got into USC and excelled in a film production class. But he felt himself tilting toward another breakdown. "I couldn't go to class," he says. "I was having panic attacks. Driving into campus I would have to pull over, sobbing. I had no clue what was happening to me, and I was terrified that I was going to have to drop out."

He found a therapist on campus, who asked about his relationship with his parents and his childhood experiences. Pizzo told him about his middle school adventures.

"He didn't say anything until the very end," Pizzo says. "He said, 'It's very interesting. This boy, who was clearly a sociopath—the paradoxical thing is that he saved your life.' I asked, how so? And he said, 'If you had kept on saluting to the generalship of your mother up until now, it probably would be too late for me to help you. The fact that he gave you the power to individuate from her means you have a shot at coming into your own. You associate failing with being your own person. And now you can let that go.'"

After two years of therapy, Pizzo did let go. "That's where the title of this film comes from: *Someone Saved My Life*," he says. "The irony is that it's a crazy person who saved my life." ▶

"That's where the title of this film comes from: Someone Saved My Life," Pizzo says. "The irony is that it's a crazy person who saved my life."



(above) Bloomington's downtown Square back then. Photo courtesy of Indiana University Archives (below) Pizzo, sitting in the blue chair, dressed to the nines at a middle-school dance. Courtesy photo





(above and below) Bloomington's downtown Square in the 1960s.
Photos courtesy of Indiana University Archives

*“Angelo is a genius at casting,”
Throckmorton says. “I know that
from experience with the short
films we’ve worked on in the past.”*



A professional departure for Pizzo is the planned budget for *Someone Saved My Life*, about \$2 million. His 2015 film, *My All-American*, was budgeted at \$24 million. It was \$6 million for *Hoosiers* in 1985, and \$13 million for *Rudy* in 1994.

But Pizzo has long wanted to do an entire movie on what industry insiders call a “microbudget.” Pizzo and Throckmorton had collaborated on commercials in and around Bloomington, including five for IU. “We had a very small, mobile crew, and we got a tremendous amount done in multiple locations,” Pizzo explains. “I turned to Jo and said, ‘This is the way I want to shoot a movie. I don’t need five trucks and 200 people sitting around.’”

As a producer for the Bloomington film, Throckmorton had several things going for him: He knew how to put together a budget, he knew Bloomington—the locations and the principals involved—and he could put together an efficient crew.

“One of the biggest expenses on a film is housing and food for people you’re flying in,” Pizzo says. “You keep that to an absolute minimum. Jo’s knowledge of the people and the resources available to make films in this state is critical.”

Someone Saved My Life is deeply personal, and Pizzo was determined to make the film’s funding a friends and family investment.

“I couldn’t ask somebody else to come in with big money, because then they’d have a say-so,” he asserts. “I don’t want anybody telling me what to cut and what to keep. I’ve been with my current agent since *Rudy*, which was my fourth script—I’ve written 44 since then. He thinks this is my best script, and he is by far my toughest critic. He said, ‘If you get a major actor for that role of the mother, with your resume, for a coming-of-age film with a small budget, you know you’ll at least get your money back.’ And I’ve already got commitments [from backers].”

“Angelo is a genius at casting,” Throckmorton says. “I know that from experience with the short films we’ve worked on in the past. When he casts, he knows instantly whether that actor is someone he can work with.”

Everything, Pizzo agrees, turns on successful casting. “The four main roles are the two boys, a girl their age, and the mother,” he says. “If I don’t have the right two boys, I don’t have a movie.”

A lot also depends on the lead actress, who must not only bring box office appeal but have the depth to bring a complex character to life. “The actress who plays my mother won’t be my mother,” Pizzo declares. “I’m not trying to do a docu-drama. She’ll want to know who my mom was, but she’ll bring her own interpretation.”

As for the supporting cast, Pizzo and Throckmorton plan to cast locally. “There are a lot of other parts,” Pizzo notes. “We’re not going the amateur route the way we did with *Hoosiers*. These will all be professional actors.”

There will, however, be numerous opportunities for extras on the film. That’s only one of the ways Bloomingtonians can get in on the fun of having a big-time movie created in their midst.

“I’m going to need the help of Bloomington people,” Pizzo says. “For example, catering. I’m going to ask restaurants to cater a day. The first person I asked was Michael Cassady [owner of The Uptown Cafe], and he said, ‘Count me in.’ Evan Martin of Community Cars is going to help with transportation for us. I need favors like that all around town.”

The cast and crew will be small; Pizzo estimates they will bring in less than 10 people from outside. But they’ll need hotel rooms.

“A lot of memory films are sentimental,” Pizzo notes. “This is not sentimental at all. This is a very strong point of view film, told through the eyes of this boy.”



Professionals will secure assets like 1960s wardrobe, but the production will need vintage cars and bicycles.

There’s a role for IU students as well. Throckmorton teaches a course at IU Indianapolis and is developing a similar course for Bloomington students.

“Everything that Angelo is doing in town, including the commercials, has had an educational component,” Throckmorton says. “Students are paid to work for us. On this project, IU Indy students will get course credit. They’ll do pre-film work, work on the film, and post-production work, and then they’ll be required to write papers on their experience. We’ll do something very similar at IU Bloomington.”

Pizzo also plans to work with film composition students at the IU Jacobs School of Music, who will be guided and taught “from script to the final mix” by Larry Groupé, an A-list composer (*Promiseland*, *The Outpost*, *Straw Dogs*, *Commander in Chief*) and professor of composition at the Jacobs School. “They’ll get the script this fall, and they’ll play with themes,” Pizzo explains. “Normally you hire a composer after the film is finished, but we’ll ask them to think about composing at the script level.”

Veteran videographer and Indiana native Larry Blanford will oversee the shooting as director of photography. “He is very excited about doing this and returning to ‘the true meaning of filmmaking’ by going small, intimate, and personal,” says Throckmorton. Blanford’s credits include *Ghostbusters: Afterlife*, *X-Men: Apocalypse*, *Iron Man 3*, and *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*.

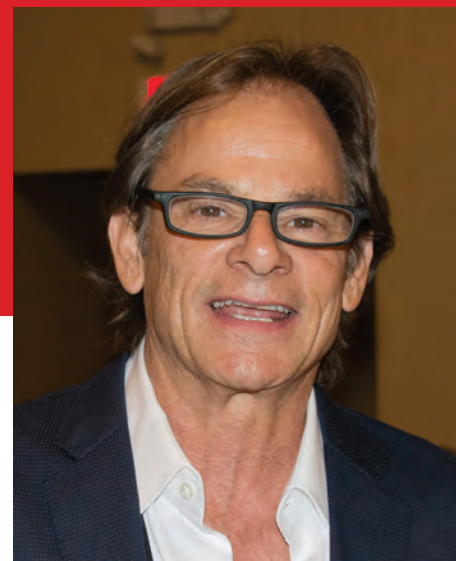
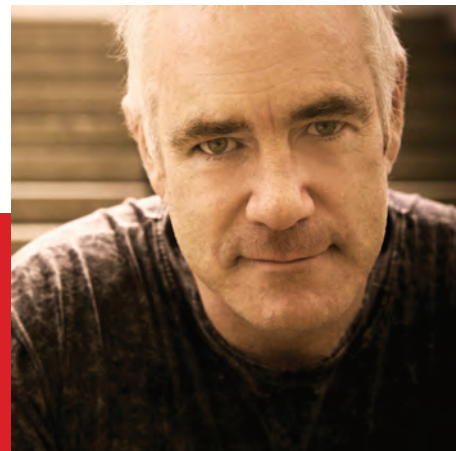
While it is not a typical sports film, there will be football action scenes. They serve to reveal character, Pizzo explains. It’s one of the film’s most violent sequences. “It’s a sort of boy-becoming-a-man segment; it’s not something he’s ever done,” he says.

Pizzo will rely on the look of the film to convey the intensity of the story. “A lot of memory films are sentimental,” he notes. “This is not sentimental at all. This is a very strong point of view film, told through the eyes of this boy. He’s obviously hormonal at 14. He’s going through the most intense crisis of his life. Everything is going to be vivid. The color saturation has to reflect his inner state of mind. It has to be bright and intense. There are going to be some scary-looking night scenes. But we have to do that without making it look stylized.”

As in his previous successes, like *Hoosiers* and *Rudy*, there will be a lot of humor. “That’s how I write,” Pizzo says. “There will be laughter of recognition, and laughter of outrageousness. Because I don’t hold back on my mom. She sings some arias.” ✱



(above) Bloomington’s downtown Square around the time the film is to be set. Photo courtesy of Indiana University Archives (below) Larry Groupé, A-list composer and professor of composition at the Jacobs School, will guide IU film composition students who will help compose the film’s score “from script to the final mix.” Courtesy photo (bottom) Larry Blanford, veteran videographer and Indiana native, will be the film’s director of photography. Courtesy photo





THE MET IS COMING!
THE MET IS

The Metropolitan Opera



JACOBS
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

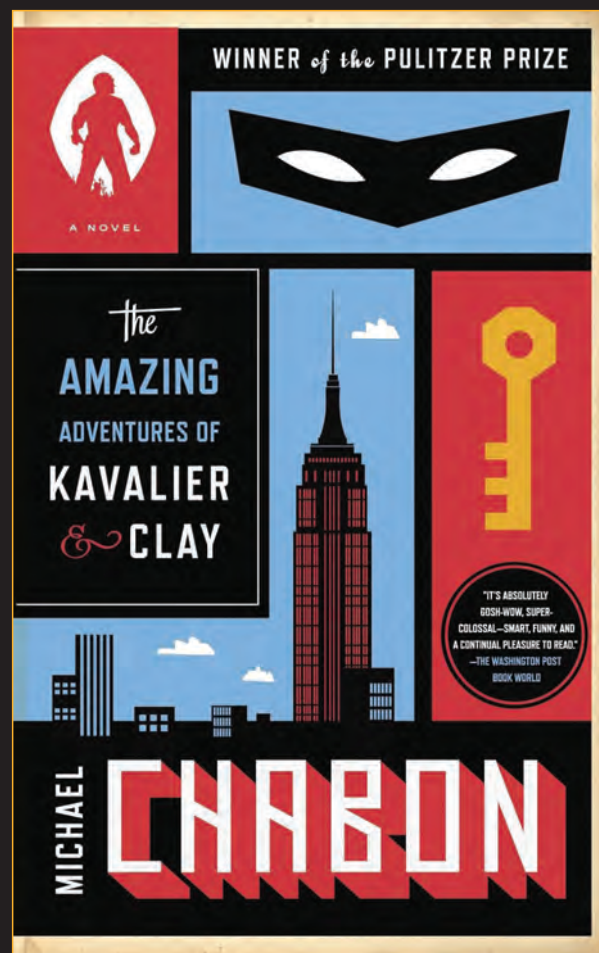


COMING!

NEW YORK'S METROPOLITAN OPERA WILL CO-PRODUCE OPERA WITH IU JACOBS SCHOOL

by Janet Mandelstam

The Metropolitan Opera is coming to Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music this fall for a world premiere of *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*. While the Met will bring sets, costumes, and a full production team, all of the performers—on stage and in the orchestra—will be students at the Jacobs School. ▶





JACOBS SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Indiana University Bloomington

The opera, based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Michael Chabon, was commissioned by the Met and is co-produced by the Jacobs School. It is the first such collaboration.

“We can’t imagine a more exciting and advantageous opportunity for our students,” Jacobs School Dean Abra Bush said when the collaboration was announced. “While we are keen to stage the work, we are equally excited to have the creative team from the Met here in Bloomington to engage with our students in a number of ways.”

The opera boasts a score by contemporary composer Mason Bates and a libretto by Gene Scheer. There will be four performances between November 15 and 22; the week will include master classes, lectures, and other events.

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay takes place in the years before, during, and after World War II. It tells the story of two Jewish cousins—Josef Kavalier, an artist and refugee from Prague, and Sammy Klayman, an aspiring Brooklyn writer and closeted gay. With Sammy writing (as Sam Clay) and Josef drawing (as Joe Kavalier), they become major figures in the fledgling comic book industry, and their anti-fascist superhero, *The Escapist*, becomes a national sensation. Along the way both experience love and loss.

Auditions were held at the Jacobs School over the summer. As with all Jacobs productions, the principal roles have been double-cast. Baritones Chandler Benn and Sam Witmer will share the role of Kavalier. Graduate students in voice, Benn and Witmer will each appear in two performances.

“Chandler and I are friends,” says Witmer, “so it will be easy to work together.” A second-year doctoral student, Witmer says he wasn’t sure he was going to audition



Jacobs School Dean Abra Bush says, “We can’t imagine a more exciting and advantageous opportunity for our students”; (below, l-r) Chandler Benn and Sam Witmer have been double-cast as Josef Kavalier and will each appear in two performances. *Courtesy photos*



for the opera, “and then I heard the music,” which he describes as “identifiably modern, but always accessible.”

Benn, who is working on a master’s degree, says he read the book prior to the auditions and found it “amazing, a fantastic story. I’ve learned the libretto, and it is very well suited to the book.” One major change for the opera: the character

of Kavalier’s brother has been recast as his sister to create an additional female role in a largely male cast.

Benn says the cast includes “six or seven primary roles, three or four supporting roles, and an entire chorus. It’s a big undertaking, but it will be extremely exciting when we put it all together.” ▶

The Metropolitan Opera



(left) Tony Award-winning theater and opera director Bartlett Sher will direct *Kavalier & Clay*. Photo courtesy of International Peace Institute (right) Grammy-winning conductor Michael Christie will conduct the play. Photo by Tim Trumble.



The Met team that will travel to Bloomington includes Tony Award-winning theater and opera director Bartlett Sher, who will direct *Kavalier & Clay*, and Grammy-winning conductor Michael Christie. Some of the costumes are being designed in

Budapest, and video projection work is being done in London.

This production marks a return to Bloomington for the Metropolitan Opera, which first performed *Aida* at the IU School of Music in 1942. The Met returned for several years, bringing

two productions a year to Jacobs through the early 1960s.

Following the premiere, *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay* will be staged at the Met in New York during a subsequent season. ✧

(right) *Kavalier & Clay* boasts a score by Mason Bates. Photo by Todd Rosenberg (far right) Gene Scheer wrote the libretto for the show. Courtesy photo



'Melville in Love'— the Musical

A Bloomington Production Headed to Broadway, Hopefully!

by Linda Margison

Author Michael Shelden's interest in Herman Melville (1819-1891) took root when he read his short story *Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street*. That fascination sprouted into Shelden's book *Melville in Love* (Ecco/HarperCollins)—later adapted as a documentary film—about Melville's secret love affair with his married neighbor, Sarah Morewood, who inspired his classic novel *Moby Dick*.

Now, *Melville in Love* is blossoming into a stage musical written by Shelden and songwriters Krista Detor, Travis Puntarelli, and Michael B White, who wrote the music for the documentary.

"White's music was so good," Shelden says about the soundtrack to the documentary, "I thought, 'What if we turned *Melville in Love* into a full-stage musical with characters and the songs and dancing—the whole bit?'"

Nurturing the idea since 2019, Shelden wants to recreate the imagery he imagines swirling in Melville's mind when he wrote *Moby Dick*. He envisions large screens with vivid 4K images of whales at sea and whaling ships on waves, all moving and interacting.

"What we're trying to give you is a sense of what it was like to create that book, and, at the same time, to be inspired to create it by a love affair that Melville was having with a young woman," he says.

"That's the story we tell, complete with some really fantastic romantic songs and dances and special effects," Shelden adds. "We think it will be a true multimedia experience with very interesting special effects, some great staging, great human actors—just a really spectacular, fun stage experience, and that takes money."

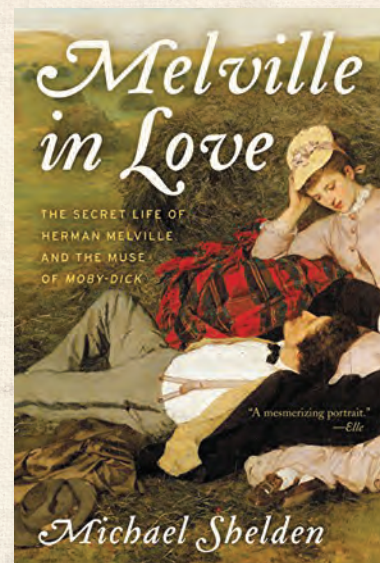
Shelden and the three songwriters created an eight-minute video trailer to present to the Cook family—Carl, Marcy, and Gayle, owners of Bloomington-based Cook Group—who agreed to financially support the project.

"The Sheldens have been close friends to my family for years," says Carl Cook. "I know this project has been in the works for years, and we have been hoping it could reach a point where we could support it and see what it does."

Shelden, a prolific biographer who has published books on George Orwell (a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize), Graham Greene, Mark Twain, and young Winston Churchill, says the generous funding will ensure the musical is a



(above) Oil-on-canvas portrait of Herman Melville by artist Joseph Oriel Eaton, May 1870. Commissioned and presented to the family by Melville's brother-in-law, John Hoadley. The portrait now hangs in the Edison and Newman Room of the Houghton Library at Harvard University; (below) *Melville in Love*, Michael Shelden's book and soon to be musical, tells the story of Herman Melville's secret love affair with his married neighbor, Sarah Morewood, which inspired his classic novel *Moby Dick*. Courtesy photos





(left, l-r) Songwriters Krista Detor and Michael B White (who wrote the music for the *Melville in Love* documentary film adaptation), and author Michael Shelden are creating the stage musical. Photo by Jim Krause (left, below) Travis Puntarelli rounds out the songwriting team with a bardic style he describes as a mix of acoustic, folk, and faux hip hop. Photo by Nicole McPheeters



“There’s such a deep bench of incredibly creative people in all genres here that it always feels to me like the sky’s the limit,” Detor says. “If you’ve got an idea in Bloomington, you’re going to find people that can help you make it happen.”

first-rate production. “We are very grateful to get the support of the Cooks because that makes it possible for us to continue the kind of production that won’t be small scale but *will* be large scale.”

Detor says she was brought onto the *Melville in Love* project by White, with whom she worked on *Wilderness Plots*, a production that aired on PBS. “Michael brought me in to just see what was possible.” Detor says she’s been excited to have vibrant characters to write songs about and imagine into being.

Bringing his bardic style—that he describes as a mix of acoustic, folk, and faux hip hop—to the songwriting team, is Puntarelli, who attended Bloomington High School North and Indiana University but now lives in Oregon with his family. Shelden says he’s back in town to help round out the musical numbers.

The project is special, Detor says, because of its Bloomington-based roots—the financial supporters, author, and songwriters are all from here.

“There’s such a deep bench of incredibly creative people in all genres here that it always feels to me like the sky’s the limit,” she says. “If you’ve got an idea in Bloomington, you’re going to find people that can help you make it happen.”

Shelden plans to bring the musical to stage in Bloomington sometime next year to gauge the response of a live audience, but notes that the timeline depends on finding the right people, which he hopes to do locally. Then, if all goes well, they’ll take the show to Broadway.

Shelden encourages anyone in Indiana interested in participating—whether for acting, singing, musical composition, costuming, staging, or any other talent—to send an email with their interests to melvilleinlove@gmail.com.

“These projects have to be born—they have to be created somewhere,” Shelden says. “My question is, why not Indiana?”

For more information, visit melvilleinlove.com. ✨

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