

Bloom

December 2022/January 2023

75 Years Ago
BLOOMINGTON
Was the

SEX CAPITAL

of **AMERICA**



The Warmest
Of Holiday Wishes
From Our Family
To Yours.



Personal Injury | Workplace Injury | Co-counsel and Referrals
GreeneSchultz.com | 812-336-4357



Greene
& Schultz

Trial
Lawyers

One World at

Woolery MILL



2250 WEST SUNSTONE DRIVE
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

(812) 334-3663

WWW.ONEWORLDCATERS.COM

WWW.ONEWORLDATWOOLERY.COM

CATERING@BLOOMINGTON.COM



FOR THE LOVE OF THE RIDE



Everything you need for your on and off-road adventures.

Our team of industry experts and ride enthusiasts hand pick **only the very best performance products** in every category.

WEATHERTECH / XD / FUEL OFFROAD / ASANTI / THULE / XD / BLACK RHINO / AMERICAN RACING / KMC / BUMPERS / LIGHTS / TIRES / EXHAUSTS / LIFT KITS
ALARMS, SIRENS, & ANTI THEFT / BODY KITS, AND DECALS / ANTENNAS & COMPONENTS / BED & TONNEAU COVERS / BED ACCESSORIES / BED LINERS & MATS
MIRRORS / RACKS & CARRIERS / SPOILERS / WINCHES & HOISTS / AUDIO & VIDEO / POWERSPORTS, ATV/UTVS ACCESSORIES / JEEP ACCESSORIES & COMPONENTS
TRUCK ACCESSORIES & COMPONENTS / GAUGES & SWITCHES / SEATS & COMPONENTS / SPEEDOMETER CALIBRATORS / PERFORMANCE TUNER ACCESSORIES
STEERING / RACE CAR EQUIPMENT / PEDALS / FUEL SYSTEMS / BRAKES & ROTORS / DRIVELINES & AXLES

2479 W INDUSTRIAL PARK DR
BLOOMINGTON, IN 47404




812-331-0400
DUNNSREVSPTS.COM





RootAdvisors

We'll help keep your
business on the
nice list.



We'll take care of your bookkeeping and help you get the most out of your business.

- Bookkeeping
- Payroll
- Tax planning
- Business advice



rootadvisors.com

ATTENTION **BLOOMINGTON BUSINESS** COMMUNITY

Help Us Celebrate the **100th Edition of Bloom**

BY PLACING AN AD IN OUR **FEBRUARY/MARCH** ISSUE, OUR 100th.



We have survived a recession and a pandemic, and we are still standing while so many other information sources have declined or disappeared. We hope to be here supporting our local community for another 100 issues.

Purchase an ad in the February/March issue and receive a \$100 discount.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT

Cassandra Huskey

812-323-8959 ext. 2 or
cassandra@magbloom.com.

Bloom
MAGAZINE

**Voted #1 in
Bloomington
the last 4 years!**

- Fall/Spring Clean-Ups
- Tree/Stump Removal
- Snow Removal
- Tree Trimming
- Landscaping
- Leaf Removal
- Lawn Care
- Mulching



Satisfaction Guaranteed!



**CALL OR
EMAIL FOR A
FREE ESTIMATE**

(812)345-5694

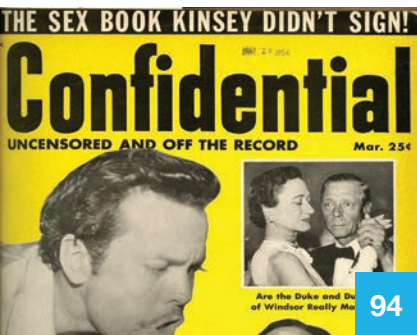
ANTHONYSHOMESERVICES@GMAIL.COM



features

86 The Year in Pictures

With the pandemic behind us, 2022 was the year that everything returned to normal—mostly. Take a look back at some of the highlights as captured by the creative eye of award-winning photojournalist Jeremy Hogan.



94 75 Years Ago Bloomington Was the Sex Capital of America

On January 5, 1948, two books written by two men—strangers to one another yet both living in the same Bloomington neighborhood—were published. Both books reached No. 1 on The New York Times Best-Seller List, and both caused a national uproar. The reason was sex.

By Carmen Siering

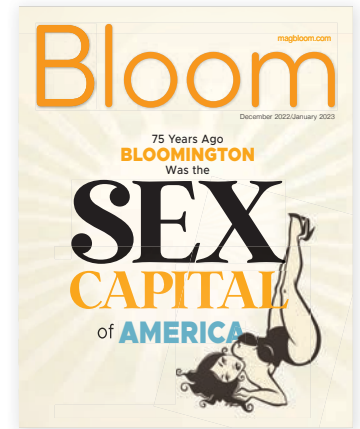


Illustration by iStock.com/tachyglossus

departments

8 Editor's Message

'In Praise of John Mellencamp'

11 Letters

12 Up Front

16 Our Town

A documentary filmmaker, the executive director of Monroe County CASA, and a colorful and an eccentric poet are Bloomingtonians worth knowing.

20 Arts/Entertainment

The youth theater company Stages Bloomington has a new executive director; and a health care professional channels her depression into her paintings.

34 Fashion/Shopping

Toys make their annual appearance center stage and we've got the lineup of what's hot; and a local boutique owner celebrates her 50th year in the retail fashion business.

40 Food/Drink

Meet bartender No. 2 in our series on Bloomington's favorite mixologists; and there's a new coffee shop on the southeast side of town.

46 Home/Family

A local businesswoman has seven—yes, seven!—fully decorated Christmas trees in her home year-round; and whether you're downsizing, moving, or needing to be organized, there's a specialty company in town that can help.

50 Health/Fitness

The Cocuun is a different kind of yoga and massage studio; and a local nonprofit organization is raising money to provide hotel rooms for people experiencing homelessness.

54 Science/Education

The former Margaret McCalla School has a new occupant—Indiana University Collections; and backyard birders can supply data to help reduce the decline in local bird species.

58 Community

Find out how the Ku Klux Klan tried to derail a now-legendary college football game; and learn what fears and concerns keep the university's Gen Z population awake at night.

68 Business/Finance

A small local company is making an impact by creating and selling nontoxic household cleaning supplies; and a family-owned custom countertop and cabinetry business is celebrating its 25th year in business.



Looking for a pediatrician? *Ours draw on the highest level of skill.*

When your kids need everyday, routine primary care—for sniffles, sports physicals and everything in between—you can **see a highly skilled Riley pediatrician at a location close to you.**

It's expert pediatric primary care from Indiana's most trusted name in healthcare for kids.



**Bedford
Bloomington
Martinsville**

Extended Hours | Saturday and Same-Day Appointments | Virtual Visits



Riley Children's Health
Indiana University Health

Find a Riley pediatrician near you.
Call **1.888.IUHEALTH** or visit
[rileychildrens.org/near](https://www.rileychildrens.org/near)





In Praise of John Mellencamp

I had never been a fan of John Mellencamp. In fact, until I moved to Bloomington 17 years ago, I barely knew who he was. (There were a couple of decades when I tuned out popular music and it was during those years, I think, that he became famous.)

But I am a fan of John Mellencamp now. Not so much the music, but the man.

I first met him several years ago and we had a brief conversation about politics. He had recently been a panelist on the political talk show *Real Time with Bill Maher* and had not fared particularly well. He was honest about it, saying he stunk. I also remember him saying that Hoosiers generally vote against their own best interests.

Mellencamp was on the cover of *Bloom* in October 2013 when he was promoting a musical show at the Indiana University Auditorium that he hoped to take to Broadway. Dealing with his people was difficult and the story turned out badly.

That was all my history with the man until November 5 when I read about his remarks at the 2022 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony. He introduced attorney Allen Grubman, who was being inducted into the Hall for his decades of work in the music business. Mellencamp used the occasion to speak out against anti-Semitism.

"Allen is Jewish," he began. "And I bring that up for one reason. My life has been enriched by my relationship with countless Jewish people.

"I urge you to speak out, if you're an artist, against anti-Semitism, against all forms of bigotry, all forms of hatred."

Mellencamp went on: "I don't care if you're Jewish, Black, white, tutti-frutti. I don't care. Here's the trick: Silence is complicity. Can I say that again? Silence is complicity."

Anti-Semitism has been on the rise in America since August 2017 when then-president Donald Trump pronounced, "There

were very fine people on both sides," after white supremacists and neo-Nazis marched in Charlottesville, Virginia, chanting, "Jews shall not replace us!" Ever since, it's been sort of okay for right-wing politicians to mouth subtle anti-Semitic tropes and for nativists to shout them out. Anti-Semites like Kanye West (aka Ye) and NBA star Kyrie Irving, who have millions of followers, are particularly dangerous.

We don't want America ever to be Germany in the 1930s. More good people need to speak out wherever and whenever bigotry of any sort manifests itself.

"Silence is complicity." John Mellencamp got it right. I'm a big fan.

Malcolm Abrams
editor@magbloom.com



John Mellencamp introduces inductee Allen Grubman during the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Saturday, November 5, at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)



Thanks
for shopping local...

no matter what the season!



BLOOMINGTON
HARDWARE

BH BLOOMINGTON
HARDWARE
Same Family
Since 1928



812-339-7575

2700 East Covenant Drive, Bloomington, IN
www.bloomingtonhardware.com

contributors



Carmen Siering WRITER: 75 YEARS AGO BLOOMINGTON WAS THE SEX CAPITAL OF AMERICA Carmen is an independent writer and editor who has been contributing to *Bloom* since 2010. She was honored to serve as *Bloom's* managing editor, then executive editor, from July 2015 to November 2019. While she's written many features in that time, this story offered up several surprises and was more fun (in a nerdy, researcher way) than any in recent memory.



Jeremy Hogan PHOTOGRAPHER: THE YEAR IN PICTURES Jeremy is the editor and publisher of the online news site *The Bloomingtonian* and a contributing filmmaker to Getty Images. His video work has been featured on *The Daily Show*, *Real Time with Bill Maher*, and in a music video for the musician Pink. Jeremy previously was a photographer for *The Herald-Times* for 22 years and has won awards for his work covering everything from national politics to natural disasters. His "Big Picture" images are a regular feature in *Bloom*.

A Sign for the Times



Four years ago, Bloom offered this free sign to businesses in Bloomington. There were very few takers.

We are offering the signs again. The wording is legal. If you would like a sign for your shop, restaurant, or place of business, you can pick one up at the Bloom office, 414 W. 6th St., Monday–Thursday, 8 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Bloom

December 22/January 23 Vol. 17 No. 6

Founder
Editor & Publisher
Malcolm Abrams

Managing Editor
Rodney Margison

Editorial Intern
Lily Marks

Associate Publisher
Cassandra Huskey

Design Director
Stephanie Reeves
(Spectrum Creative Group)

Office Manager
Kat Cochran

Writers

Dave Askins
Jack Baker
Barb Berggoetz
Paul Bickley
Sophie Bird
Susan M. Brackney
Aaron Brewington
Craig Coley
Peter Dorfman
Elizabeth Ellis
Julie Gray

Janet Mandelstam
Linda Margison
Brittany Marshall
Rosie Piga Pizzo
Scott Russell Sanders
Lee Ann Sandweiss
Kristen Senz
Carmen Siering
Greg Siering
Douglas Wissing

Illustrators

Mike Cagle

Joe Lee

Photographers

Paul Baechtold
Martin Boling
Jenn Hamm
Jeremy Hogan
James Kellar

Jim Krause
Kendall Reeves
Kathryn Coers Rossman
Lisa Spencer
Mike Waddell

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.

If you would like a subscription to the magazine for yourself or as a gift for someone else, a subscription order card can be found in this issue, or you may subscribe online at magbloom.com/subscribe.

Bloom Magazine is published six times a year by Bloomington Magazine, Inc., P.O. Box 1204, Bloomington, IN 47402. Street address: 414 W. 6th St., Bloomington, IN 47404 Tel: 812.323.8959.

The contents of this publication may not be reproduced either in whole or in part without the written consent of the publisher. *Bloom Magazine* assumes no responsibility for unsolicited materials. Subscription: \$26.95 per year.



Bloom Honored for Diversity

Bloom Magazine was presented with the Nancy Howard Diversity Award from The Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce at its 107th Annual Meeting held September 29. More than 450 people attended the luncheon held at the Monroe Convention Center. Pictured accepting the award are (l-r) Managing Editor Rodney Margison, Design Director Stephanie Reeves, Associate Publisher Cassandra Huskey, and founder, Editor, and Publisher Malcolm Abrams, along with Chamber presenters Amy Somers Kopp and Eric Spoonmore.

(Photo by Kaytee Lorentzen)



I just wanted to let you know that I am grateful for your Editor's Message [Religion vs. Freedom] in the Oct./Nov. issue. I agree 100% with everything you said. I helped my daughter recently with an essay about the scientific revolution. How can it be that hundreds of years later we are still fighting against the Christian authority of what is true? I'm saddened by our current state of politics and how entrenched so many Americans are with the Christian right. This is not the direction we should be heading. It was refreshing to read your message and have hope that others believe we can do better. Keep up the good fight.

SHAWN MIYA

I thank you for your thoughtful and most touching editorial. I read Sam Harris' book *The End of Faith* and I made a note

in the book that if I could recommend one book for EVERYONE to read and follow it would be this one. Could say more but would just be more of what you said! So, thank you again. Also, back in the '90's when I was in theater department at IU, I was asked to do a reading for a Holocaust play by a woman in Terre Haute, and it was quite a big deal as

I remember. I will never forget the tears and the beauty and the joy of doing that reading and meeting Eva Kor. The Joe Lee article reminded me of that memorable event.

KATHRYN BRAUN

Thanks for writing so eloquently on the current issues of freedom at stake in the U.S. As someone who recently fled a totalitarian government, so much of what we have in America many take for granted, but that doesn't mean there isn't serious work to be done. I can still see the shocked expressions on my coworkers' faces in Hong Kong talking about how there is no legal paid maternity leave on the books in a prominent first-world country such as the U.S. Maybe if politicians seriously considered that, then fewer women would seriously consider abortion. In any case, it is the most personal and

difficult decision a woman can make and the government should, frankly, move out of the way. I can't imagine that it was easy to write, but thank you for doing so.

LIZ ELLIS

Regarding your Editor's Message [Religion vs. Freedom]. I loved it! Speaking the truth brings out lots of opinions. I just want to make sure you have mine.

DEBBIE FISH

First, the magazine is very classy, improving all the time.

I do think you should try to find opposing views on some of the issues. This current issue seems to have only one side on abortion. I am NOT an abortion activist, but your introduction editorial misstates that abortion restrictions are a "Christian" thing. It is not, and they are not the only ones who oppose abortion. The notion of life starting at conception is not new, hardly.

My view is not important, but I do find some of states have taken an extreme position after the Supreme Court [overturned *Roe v. Wade*].

Accordingly, would look for opposing views on an issue you give a lot of coverage to, since it appears you wish to make the magazine a political magazine of sorts.

ROY GRAHAM



Charlotte Zietlow.
Courtesy photo

Happy Birthday, Charlotte

Bloomington's grande dame Charlotte Zietlow celebrated her 88th birthday this fall with a cake made by her good friend of 40 years, Lynn Schwartzberg of One World Catering. The cake is a schwarzwälder kirschtorte, otherwise known as black forest cake. Since moving here in 1964 with her late husband, Paul, Zietlow has been a vital part of the community, serving on Bloomington City Council, as the county's first female commissioner, and in many other political and community roles.



Lynn Coyne.
Photo by Richardson Studio

Lynn Coyne Receives 2022 Ivy Tech Benefactor Award

Ivy Tech Community College–Bloomington named Lynn Coyne its 2022 Benefactor of the Year at a ceremony hosted by the Ivy Tech Foundation on September 29. Coyne, a member of the Bloomington Campus Board of Trustees, was one of 19 individuals across the state who were honored for their impact on Ivy Tech students and communities.

“As a respected leader in the region, Lynn’s advocacy of Ivy Tech has deepened public understanding and commitment to the college, and the vital role it plays in supporting the economic health of south-central Indiana” says Susie Graham, Ivy Tech executive director of development. “



Doris Sims.
Photo by Martin Boling

Doris Sims Honored with Taliaferro Award

Former City of Bloomington Housing and Neighborhood Development Director Doris Sims received the 2022 Judge Viola Taliaferro Award from the Monroe County Democratic Party at its annual Fall Judge Viola Taliaferro Dinner in October.

According to the Monroe Democrats website, the award, established in 2021, recognizes a person who is a trailblazer; a member of the Democratic community who has contributed to the advancement of rights, liberties, freedoms, justice, and equity; and has made the community a better place through their dedication and commitment to personal and professional ethics.

Sims retired in 2021 after 38 years with the City. She volunteers with many local service agencies, is active in her church, and is vice chair of the IU Credit Union board of directors. She holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs and was named a Living Legend at Bloomington’s Black History Month Gala in 2017.



Randy Rogers.
Courtesy photo

United Way Tabs Randy Rogers as President & CEO

Randy Rogers is the new president and CEO of United Way of Monroe County, succeeding Efrat (Feferman) Rosser, who has been the agency’s executive director since 2017 and is stepping down at the end of the year. Rogers recently returned to Bloomington after leading a large Realtor association and charitable foundation in Arizona. “I am honored to join this team, along with the many volunteers and donors who are committed to addressing the needs in our community,” says Rogers, who started on October 31 and is working closely with Feferman and the United Way board of directors to assure a smooth transition.

Nancy Hiller’s Obituary in ‘New York Times’


An obituary for Bloomington woodworker extraordinaire and author, Nancy Hiller, who died August 29, ran in *The New York Times* (NYT) Obituaries section on September 27, an honor reserved for the nation’s—and the world’s—most significant individuals. Clay Risen, NYT obituary reporter, begins Hiller’s obituary by saying: “Nancy Hiller never planned on becoming one of America’s most renowned cabinetmakers and among just a handful of women in that male-dominated trade. She just needed a decent chair.”

Risen goes on to say that actor Nick Offerman, “[H]imself an accomplished woodworker and a member of Ms. Hiller’s legion of admirers, called her an ‘Obi-Wan Kenobi level master.’”

Hiller died of pancreatic cancer not long after the publication of her latest book, *Shop Tails: The Animals Who Help Make Things Work* (Lost Art Press). Over the years, *Bloom* published a number of stories about Hiller, as well as many written by her.

2022 WORLD'S MOST
ETHICAL
COMPANIES[™]
WWW.ETHISPHERE.COM
11-TIME HONOREE



Member FDIC 

You have a vision. We're here to see it through.

You deserve a smart financial partner who knows you. One who's ready to guide you—and your business—to the next level. One who shares your goals and is focused on your success. We're Old National. Let's talk.

| YOUR SUCCESS IS EVERYTHING

 **OLD NATIONAL BANK[®]**
PERSONAL | COMMERCIAL | WEALTH

Serving Bloomington and surrounding areas with six locations
oldnational.com



Bloomington Has Winter Experiences Galore!

When the trees have dropped their leaves and cold air settles in for the gray months, some travelers may retreat to their homes in pseudo-hibernation.



Buffalouie's is a great place to grab a bite and watch an IU basketball game.

But Erin White, director of leisure marketing and media at Visit Bloomington, says winter is still a great time to visit Bloomington and have iconic experiences, like taking in Indiana University basketball games, eating classic comfort food, and exploring close-to-town trails.

White says that IU basketball is a perfect reason to make a pit stop in Bloomington. "Even if you're not able to get tickets to a men's game, there's nothing quite like being in one of our bars or restaurants—like Nick's English Hut or BuffaLouie's or The Tap—to experience game-day camaraderie with folks you don't even know," White says, adding that IU women's basketball is also a great experience and helps kids get excited about the sport.

"The women's games have tons of programming and they're super family-friendly," she adds. "It's hard for a little kid to sit the whole time, but at a women's game, they can really get into the action with fun activities at

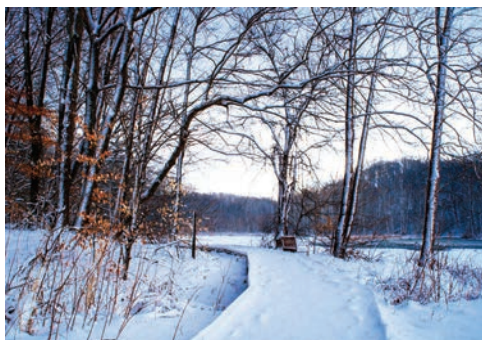
timeouts and breaks. It's a great way to bring kids to the game."

Winter is also an ideal time to visit Bloomington and indulge in the local food scene. "Eating and drinking your way through Bloomington in the winter is never a bad idea—it's a perfect time to take in cozy meals," White says.

White points out that comfort dishes are a mainstay at several local establishments, including coddle and other stews from The Irish Lion, chicken pot pie at The Hive, and international soup dishes such as ramen and noodles from places like Lan Ramen & Aqua Tea, Korea Restaurant, Homey Hot Pot & Sushi, or Mr. Pot.

If visitors have decided to commit to a fitness resolution at the beginning of the year, White says the outdoor trails and hikes in Bloomington are good destinations and activities year-round and should not be discounted when the weather turns cold.

"There are lots of ways to get out and explore even in the winter," White says, adding that she always suggests Griffy Lake Nature



Griffy Lake is close to town and open year-round.



Freezefest will be held January 20-21. Photos courtesy of Visit Bloomington

Preserve to visitors who want to stay close to town or may not have time to venture deep into Hoosier National Forest.

"Griffy Lake is really close to town and a great way to get out, stretch your legs, and take in the winter wildlife without driving too far out of town," she explains.

Another outdoor activity is the third annual Bloomington-exclusive winter festival—Freezefest—on January 20 and 21. Freezefest is a free and family-friendly festival filled with interactive ice sculptures, ice games, live ice carving demonstrations, and fun activities for the kids.

"Freezefest has become an iconic event drawing people to downtown Bloomington," White says. "Locals and visitors alike can get out of the house this winter and be dazzled by frozen art, explore downtown, and create fun winter memories with their crew during this one-of-a-kind Bloomington festival."

For more information on events happening in Bloomington this winter, go to visitbloomington.com. —Linda Margison

ADVERTISEMENT

Bloomington

INDIANA

BUSKIRK
CHUMLEY
BLOOMING
PL
JAN 25-27



SCAN TO DISCOVER THE TOP
THINGS TO DO IN BLOOMINGTON
THIS WINTER.



VISITBLOOMINGTON.COM

"In our town, **we like to know** the facts about everybody." —Thornton Wilder, *Our Town*

Kristin Bishay

Executive Director of Monroe County CASA

by Carmen Siering

While Kristin Bishay didn't set out to become executive director of Monroe County CASA, once she became involved she knew she belonged there.

A Columbus, Indiana, native, Bishay started her education at Indiana University, then visited England where she met Raouf Bishay, to whom she will be married 43 years on December 22, her 63rd birthday. After a year's stay, the two returned to Bloomington to get married.

She soon left school and began working as an optician at Dr. Tavel, a job she kept for 18 years. While working there, she learned about CASA, a volunteer-driven program that provides representation in juvenile court for child victims of abuse and neglect.



Kristin Bishay began as a CASA volunteer in 1996, and in 2007 became its director. Photo by Martin Boling

Dale Steffey

books

SPECIALIZING IN ACADEMIC AND SCHOLARLY WORKS, DRAMA, FICTION, MODERN 1ST EDITIONS, MYSTERY, POETRY, SCIENCE FICTION, U.S. HISTORY

We buy and sell books and related materials, including estates and collections.

315 S. Arbutus Dr. Bloomington, IN 47401
812-333-2903 / steffeyadams@yahoo.com

Member of Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America and International League of Antiquarian Booksellers

"I went to a training, and when I came home, I told my husband that, as cliché as it might sound, at 36 I knew what I wanted to be when I grew up," she says. "I knew I wanted to be part of CASA."

Bishay began as a CASA volunteer in 1996, and later worked as a direct client service provider for five years.

When the director of CASA went on family leave and asked Bishay to step in for three months, she agreed. At the time, CASA was part of Family Service Association. Just as her three months as director were ending, that organization's office manager quit, and Bishay was asked to fill in. She stayed in that position for more than four years.

In 2007, the CASA director took another family leave and stepped down, and Bishay applied for the job. She's now been leading the organization for more than 15 years.

Bishay admits the past few years have been difficult. Caseloads are up and the number of volunteers is down. She credits her staff with keeping the agency on top of things.

"I have an amazing staff," Bishay says. "We work as a team, we make group decisions, and we support each other. That's what keeps me going."

Along with their two children, she and her husband have four grandchildren under the age of 3. Bishay says retirement is on the horizon, but it's not here yet.

"My husband and I love to travel," she says. "He's a photographer and we plan trips around where he can get the best photographs. So, I do look forward to retirement. But I'm going to be here for a few more years."

For more information, visit monroecountycasa.org. *

PDVNCH

Poet, Promoter, Fashionista



PDVNCH is a self-described lyricist, creative writer, music producer, rapper, and more. Photo by Martin Boling

by Brittany Marshall

At just 5 years old, Bloomington native and poet PDVNCH [pee-dove-inch] discovered his passion for words. It was late one night outside an Ellettsville, Indiana, laundromat when a neighborhood friend introduced him to freestyle rap. He began recording his freestyles on cassette tapes he'd purchased at the dollar store, and after winning a boom box at his elementary school fundraiser, he carried it over his shoulder and played his recordings at school for his peers.

Fast forward to Edgewood High School, where PDVNCH was exposed to the literary works of Emily Dickenson, Walt Whitman, and William Shakespeare in English class, and was tasked with reciting speeches aloud. "This class is where I connected the dots from creative to scholastic," he says. "I surprised myself when doing monologues and it's where it clicked together, going from freestyle rap to writing my observations, memorizing, and performing."

High school is also where PDVNCH began to find his personal aesthetic, he says, leading to his signature eyeglass frames, eclectic and colorful fashion choices, and iconic "Beads by DVNCH" hairstyles.

After graduating, he found himself asking the age-old question, "What is my purpose?" and in 2001 began Ghetto-Healthy Productions, a creative arts organization meant as a "positive, creative outlet for healthy collaborations" among artists.

Now 41, PDVNCH is a self-described lyricist, creative writer, music producer, rapper, and fashion designer, and performs up to 50 live poetry readings annually. He's also a serial performer, social media promoter, videographer, and photographer for the Writers Guild at Bloomington, whose mission is to connect artists and "enhance the vibrancy of the arts."

"My work is organized freestyle—a blend between speaking in a natural voice, freestyle rapping, and written organized thought," PDVNCH says. "Many of my pieces have quadruple entendres

motivated from personal perspective and observation, giving my writing a 360-degree vantage point."

His written works are archived in what he playfully calls his "subliminal hymnal or digital grimoire" on topics ranging from suicide, eating disorders, spiritual motivation, racism, love, and more.

"It's a gift to be able to process difficult situations through this therapeutic outlet, and my artistic pursuits have helped me in such a positive, constructive way to connect with people and express myself," he adds.

PDVNCH's next poetry reading is scheduled for February 23 at the Monroe Convention Center. To view past performances and upcoming events, visit his Facebook page @Pdvnc. ✨

 **STERLING**
REAL ESTATE
I N C O R P O R A T E D



*The Real Estate Brokers
Your Friends Recommend*

509 E. Hillside Drive, #101
SterlingBloomington.com
(812) 333-1966



Mitch Teplitsky

Filmmaker

by Janet Mandelstam

Why did a New York City filmmaker move to Bloomington in 2017? The answer, says Mitch Teplitsky, is simple: “I needed a job, and I like college towns.”

With a background in marketing and public relations, he came here to work at The Language Conservancy while continuing to make films. He also is the marketing director at Morgenstern’s Books.

Filmmaking and marketing have long dovetailed in Teplitsky’s career. While working as marketing director at the Film Society of Lincoln Center in New York, he says, “I got increasingly interested in documentary films and started to think about whether I myself could produce and direct a film.” Simultaneously, he says, “I became friends with a Peruvian immigrant, a folk dancer who wanted to return to her village.” He met a second dancer, quit his job, and headed to Peru to make a film about two dancers who connect with their roots.

That film, *Soy Andina*, took six years to finish. “Like most first-time filmmakers, I didn’t know how hard it would be,” he says. The film debuted in 2007 and was followed by *New American Girls*, about three Dreamers— young women who were brought to the U.S. as children but are not citizens. Then he was back in Peru to make *Return to the Andes*.



(l-r) Doris Loayza met her husband, Mitch Teplitsky, when he was in Peru filming a documentary. Photo by Martin Boling

INDIANA
Members Credit Union
IMCU.COM

DISCOVER THE IMCU DIFFERENCE.

NEW MEMBER OFFER

**\$200
BONUS¹**

**WITH SAVINGS, CHECKING
AND DIRECT DEPOSIT**

Patterson Drive Branch
520 W. Patterson Dr.
Bloomington, IN 47403
812.336.7470

Ellettsville Branch
3647 W. State Road 46
Bloomington, IN 47404
812.935.6200

¹ Membership savings, checking account and net direct deposit required. Account must remain open at least 1 year or bonus will be debited at closing. At account opening, \$5 will be deposited into savings and the additional \$195 will be deposited into the checking account after two payrolls have posted to the account. Offer valid through 12.01.2022.



It was there that Teplitsky, 63, met his wife, Doris Loayza. Although he spoke Spanish, he needed a translator for Quechua, the indigenous language of the country. Today, Loayza is a Spanish teacher at Harmony School.

When the couple moved to Bloomington, he says, “Rick Morgenstern was one of the first people I met.” He began promoting the bookstore on social media and arranging author talks online. And when Morgenstern’s brick-and-mortar store opened in spring 2021, “I finally became part of the staff.”

As a filmmaker, Teplitsky says, “Indiana became my new Peru.” He received a grant from Indiana Humanities to make *The Earth Keepers*, the story of a couple who started a composting business. “Now they pick up our trash at the bookstore. Everything connects in Bloomington.”

There’s another film project underway. “I’m working with Bloomington filmmaker Henry Malone on a series of profiles in Spencer and Owen County.”

And when work at the store and filmmaking feel too hectic, “I do yoga to keep my head on straight.” ✨

We know that dressing the part commands respect, invokes confidence, and helps take you from where you are to where you want to be.

Let the Andrew Davis team help you find the best in value, fit, and style.

andrewdavisclothiers.com

Fountain Square Mall ~ Bloomington, 101 W. Kirkwood, 812.323.7730



**A N D R E W
D A V I S**

THE MEN'S STORE

Hope for Cancer Victims In Mural on N. Rogers St.

by Paul Bickley

The former NAPA Auto Parts building at 106 N. Rogers St., now My Sports Locker, conveys a new message of encouragement. As part of a 40-foot-by-15-foot mural painted by local artist Adam Long, the word “HOPE” stretches across the south outside wall.

Funded by grants the Cancer Support Center South Central Indiana (CSCSCI) received from the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County and Bloomington Health Foundation, the mural reflects Bloomington’s support for those suffering from cancer.

Hands and forearms painted from local photographs displaying nail-polish colors, jewelry, and tattoos associated with family members and friends fighting cancer form the



Artist Adam Long painted this HOPE mural on the south wall of the My Sports Locker building. Photo by Rodney Margison

Chimes of
Christmas
Premieres Sunday, December 18 at 7pm

WTIU PBS wtiu.org/live

letters of “HOPE.” To the left, a 20-foot-tall image from a 1979 photo depicts Long’s father holding up a 1-year-old Long, himself holding up a paintbrush to the letter H. The artist’s father died July 24 from complications of cancer. “It’s a way to honor loved ones,” says Long, 44, “to remember their struggles and to express hope for best outcomes.”

Long collected the hands-and-arms photos and found a location for the mural through social media. LeeAnna Powell, who co-owns the building and the My Sports Locker custom T-shirt shop, has lost both a parent and a child to cancer. She offered the site and co-sponsored the mural.

Launched last April at 1719 W. 3rd St., CSCSCI provides free support services to cancer patients, survivors, family members, and caregivers. In its first two months, CSCSCI served 2,466 individuals and families through more than 1,000 virtual and in-person programs and services.

“The Rogers Street mural will be a symbol of what Cancer Support Community SCI does for our community—inspire hope and strength through our programs of support,” says Stephanie Shelton, CSCSCI’s development manager.

Visit cancersupportscin.org. ✨

'Swing Vote'—a Film About Abortion Ahead of Its Time

On April 19, 1999, the made-for-TV drama film *Swing Vote*, directed by Bloomington's David Anspaugh, aired in prime time as the ABC Monday Night Movie. Created by executive producer Jerry Bruckheimer and co-written by Ronald Bass and Jane Rusconi, its cast was bursting with award-winning actors—Andy Garcia, Harry Belafonte, and Ray Walston to name a few. But the telepic didn't garner much recognition at the time.

The prophetic plot imagines what was then a fictional overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. A newly appointed U.S. Supreme Court Justice (Garcia) casts the deciding vote reversing a first-degree murder conviction for an Alabama woman who had an abortion. It also introduces the idea that states that deny or restrict abortion must accept some financial responsibility for the care of the resulting unwanted children.

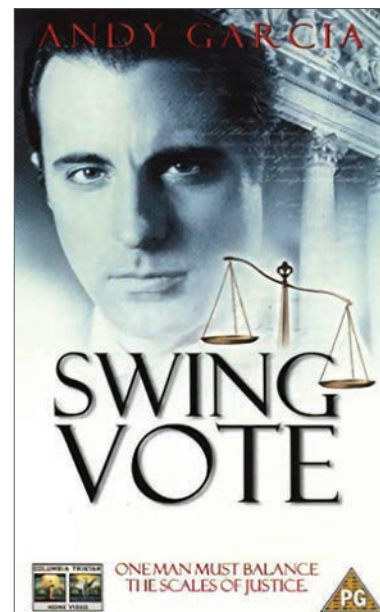
The film stirred controversy during test screenings, as viewers were so divided on the subject that shouting matches nearly halted network support altogether, says Anspaugh. *Variety* magazine noted that the film was "worthy of admiration" for approaching such a controversial topic, yet alluded to the plot's alternate reality as seemingly implausible.

"We have two very passionate and divergent attitudes regarding human rights," says Anspaugh, "And Ron Bass is such a prolific writer, he was able to show

that both sides are right and both sides are wrong, which was very bold. I never dreamed that 20 years later this film would be so on the nose about what we're dealing with in this country, and this ruling and what follows has big implications for our society. I believe what the movie did that's so important is to come about as close as one could get to opening the discussion while not denying the other side their rights."

Following the recent Supreme Court ruling overturning the nearly 50-year landmark legislation, Indiana University Cinema held the first-ever public screening of *Swing Vote* on August 31 with a post-screening discussion.

"We believe in bringing people together to address critical issues facing our communities," says Alicia Kozma, director of IU Cinema. "There's no more important time than now, when the human rights of reproductive persons are severely limited



The VHS cover for the film *Swing Vote*.
Courtesy image

as autonomous medical decisions have been removed from family control and remanded to the states. Regardless of anyone's personal position on abortion, we should all be concerned about the impact this has on our families, friends, neighbors, and communities." —Brittany Marshall



David Anspaugh directed the made-for-TV film *Swing Vote*, which aired on ABC in April 1999. Photo by Shannon Zahnle

bonne fête

112 WEST 6TH STREET

BONNEFETEGIFTS.COM

OPEN SUN-SAT

Fun and affordable gifts and accessories on the north side of Bloomington's square.

bonnefetegifts

@bonnefetegifts



THEATRE & DANCE

JOURNEYS OF JOY
Directed by Robert F. Burden, Jr.
and Elizabeth Shea
DECEMBER 9-10
RUTH N. HALLS THEATRE

THE WINTER'S TALE
By William Shakespeare
Directed by Sam White
FEBRUARY 17-25
RUTH N. HALLS THEATRE

Join us at the
LEE NORVELLE THEATRE AND DRAMA CENTER
on the corner of **7th & EAGLESON**
To order tickets, visit theatre.indiana.edu

Viridian Moon Art Gallery Raising Funds for Ukraine



Irina Shishova is a member-artist and manager of Viridian Moon Art Gallery. Photo by Lisa Spencer

“What’s happening in Ukraine is so heartbreaking!” says Irina Shishova, member-artist and manager of the Viridian Moon Art Gallery, 1600 W. Bloomfield Road. “It’s important not to be indifferent.”

Shishova 45, who moved to Bloomington from Moscow in 1998, exhibited paintings from her Dancing Shapes series at a Viridian Moon fundraiser for Ukraine May 5 through July 2. She sold six pieces and donated 30% of the proceeds to two organizations that have been assisting Ukrainians since February’s Russian invasion: Save the Children, which provides food, funds, child protection, and health services to war victims; and the Cultural Community Center SHELTER+ in Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine, that supplies food, medicine, clothes, and diapers, and organizes evacuations of Ukrainians to other European countries.

The expressionistic Dancing Shapes pieces, all acrylics, feature a central red subject surrounded by diverse and multidirectional geometric shapes of unmixed colors. In Valeria, a flamenco dancer performs in a traditional red dress while the dynamic geometric shapes surrounding her suggest motion and energy. “For 10 years I was very fortunate to be a part of a local belly-dance troupe incorporating flamenco elements,” Shishova says. “That’s why motion and dynamics play such important roles in my art.”

Other Viridian member-artists participated in the fundraiser by selling works or donating. So far, the gallery has raised \$1,600. Viridian artists have also been donating works to silent auctions and selling at other art shows to boost local Ukraine fundraising.

Until the end of 2022, Shishova will continue donating to SHELTER+ half of her print and postcard sales featuring images from Dancing Shapes and other works. She hopes to raise another \$1,000.

“Donating to Ukraine feels very inspiring, making one want to do more,” she says. “I feel very grateful that we are able to make a difference.”

For more information about Viridian, including its current “Middle School Students’ Art Show” and upcoming “Let It Snow” exhibitions, visit viridianmoon.art. —Paul Bickley

UPCOMING EXHIBIT TO THE SOLDIERS OF ALL WARS

RESTORING THE ALEXANDER MEMORIAL

JANUARY 24 TO JUNE 24

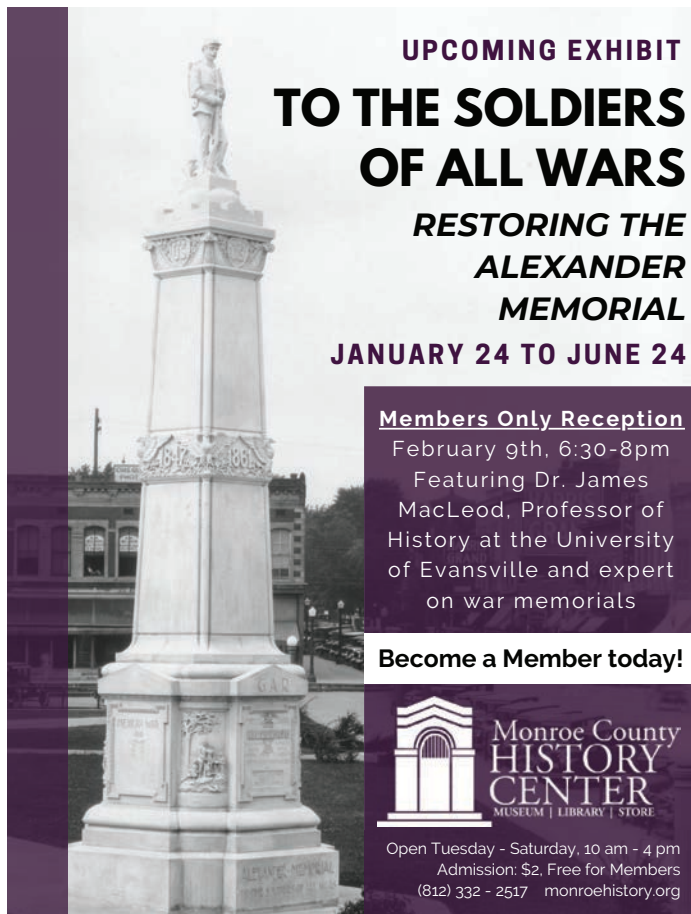
Members Only Reception

February 9th, 6:30-8pm
Featuring Dr. James MacLeod, Professor of History at the University of Evansville and expert on war memorials

Become a Member today!



Open Tuesday - Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm
Admission: \$2. Free for Members
(812) 332 - 2517 monroehistory.org



A FUNDRAISER
TO SUPPORT THE BUSKIRK-CHUMLEY
THEATER

THE BCT 100
INDIANA

BUSKIRK
CHUMLEY

NEON JUBILEE



Centennial

GALA EVENT

January 28, 2023

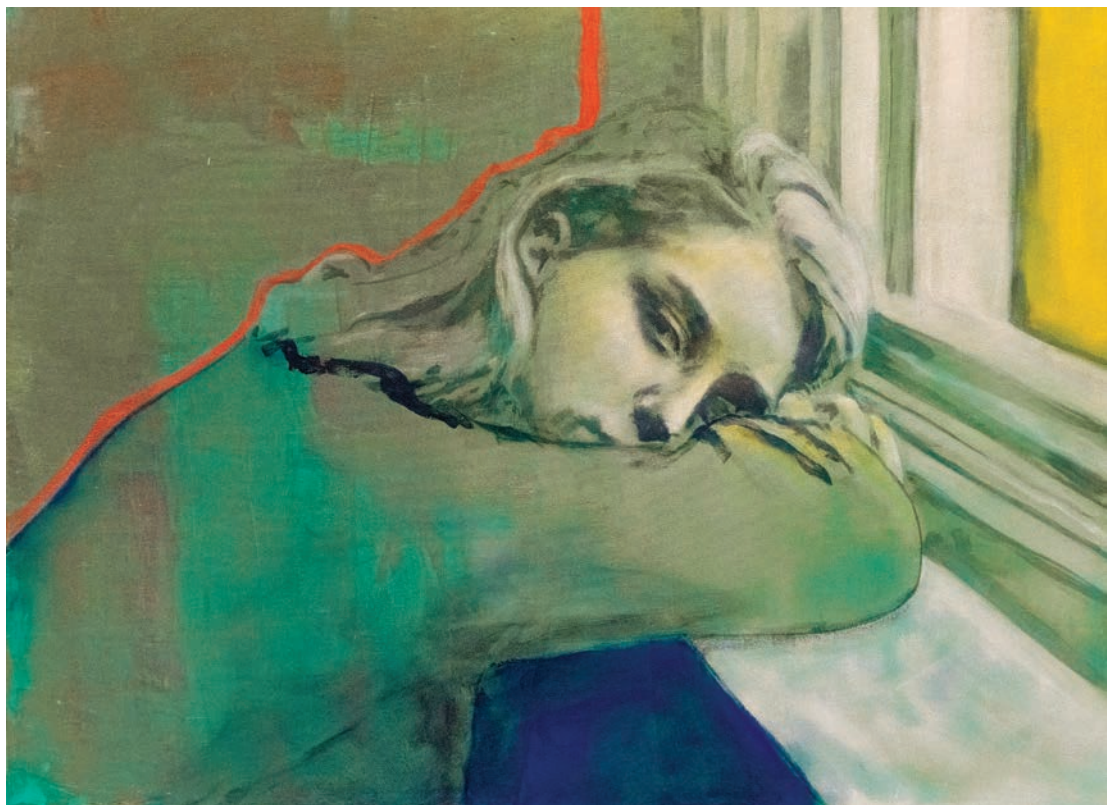
Aprell Kirk

From Pain Came Art

by Linda Margison

Aprell Kirk had been working in the mental health and medical fields for almost 20 years when the COVID-19 pandemic struck and her life shifted dramatically. “The pandemic was a catalyst for a lot of life changes for me—difficult, trying, painful circumstances,” Kirk says. Grieving as her father died, being isolated, and experiencing other hardships—even having her bicycle stolen—plunged Kirk into depression.

Though she always drew and created, Kirk says she was never organized or productive about it beyond making what she calls “hotel art.” That changed when ▶



(right) Artist Aprell Kirk. Photo by Rodney Margison (this page and opposite page) Examples of the artist's work. Courtesy photos



she started painting to cope with her depression. “I really pushed myself to be open and honest and vulnerable and not to pretend like everything’s okay—to express that in painting and then to share that, which was a bold, big new move for me that turned out to be successful.”

Kirk has been exhibiting her emotive portraits and figurative expressionism paintings in spaces like Dimensions Gallery, Bloomingfoods West, and Backspace Gallery. “People reach out and tell me how they connected to a particular work or how it resonated with them, and that’s validating their life experience,” she says. “Taking something difficult or painful and making something productive gives it purpose and meaning.” ✨




LOREN WOOD BUILDERS
 DESIGNBUILD 812.287.7575 • LORENWOODBUILDERS.COM



Constellation to Present 'Elf the Musical' at Xmas

by Carmen Siering

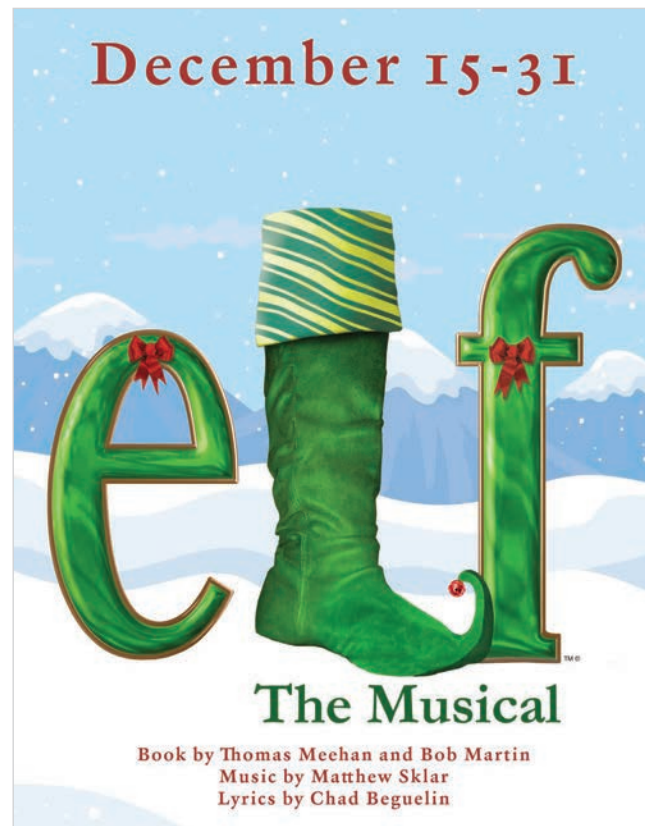
Holiday shows were a Cardinal Stage tradition, and it's one Constellation Stage & Screen wants to continue. For its inaugural holiday show, Constellation chose *Elf the Musical*.

"It's a great first holiday show for Constellation because it's a musical adapted from a movie," says Kate Galvin, Constellation's artistic director. "It fits right in with our stage and screen mission."

Based on the 2003 film starring Will Farrell, *Elf the Musical* is the story of Buddy, an orphan who crawls into Santa's bag of gifts one Christmas Eve. He grows up at the North Pole, but, eventually, Buddy's enormous size and poor toy-making skills force him to face the truth—he's human. With Santa's permission, Buddy sets off for New York City to find his father and discover his true identity.

Part of the Constellation for Kids series, the show will be presented December 15–31 at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater.

Richard Roland, director of the BFA Musical Theatre Program in the Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance at Indiana University, will be directing. Roland says he had been looking for an opportunity to



(left, top) Luke Major and (left) Michelle Zink-Muñoz will star in *Elf the Musical* at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater. Courtesy photos



GOURMET INTERNATIONAL MARKET

Spices Coffee & Tea Baklava
Chocolate Wine & Beer
International Foods
And More

World Foods MARKET



worldfoods-market.com

106 E. 2nd Street
Bloomington, IN 47401
812-333-0502

work with Cardinal Stage since he arrived in Bloomington nearly six years ago and was delighted when Galvin asked him to helm *Elf the Musical*.

"It's a really fun, silly, heartwarming show, and it captures the essence of the film," Roland says. "This material was made to make people laugh and feel good."

Luke Major will step into Farrell's pointy shoes as Buddy. A 2020 graduate of the IU B.F.A. Musical Theatre program, Major and Roland have worked together before.

"I knew him as a student," Roland says. "In fact, his showcase was 'World's Greatest Dad' [a song from the musical]. He's always wanted to play the role." To see the showcase, visit magbloom.com/major.

Major confirms that.

"Buddy is my dream role," says Major, a 25-year-old Columbus, Indiana, native now living in New York City. "I thought it wouldn't happen until I was older, but when I saw Constellation was producing it, I knew I had to audition."

Another IU B.F.A. Musical Theatre graduate, Michelle Zink-Muñoz, will play Jovie. Other key cast members include Eric Olson (Walter), Amanda Biggs (Emily), and Reid Walz (Michael).

Visit seeconstellation.org for more information. ✨

AIM TO PLEASE

PLUMBING & ELECTRIC



812-330-0500
NON-SMOKING HOMES ONLY



Morgenstern's
Books • Café • Artisan

Find the perfect gift this season
at Indiana's largest independent bookstore!



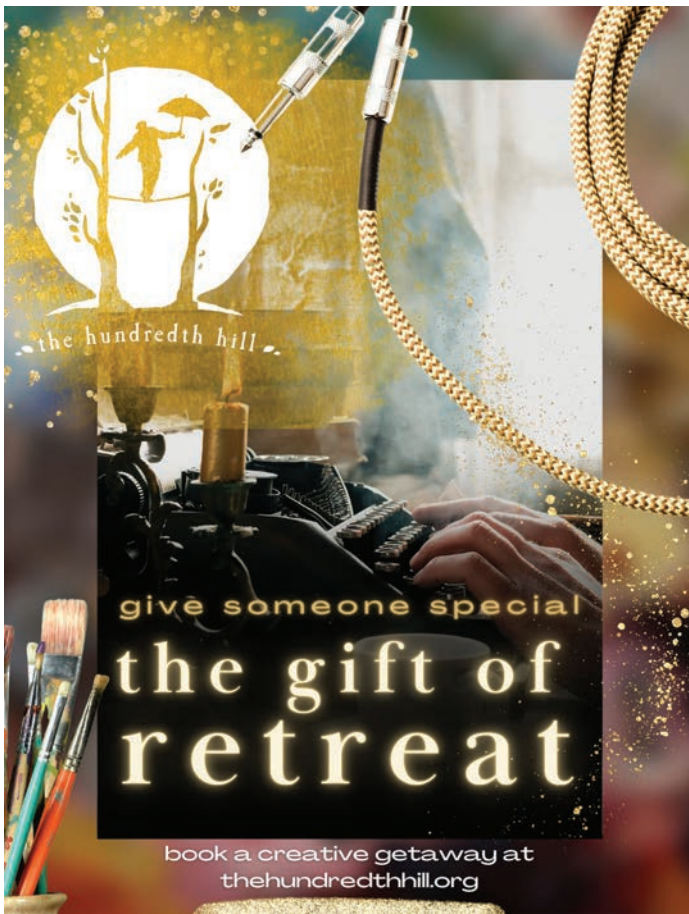
📍 849 S Auto Mall Rd Bloomington, IN
Mon - Sat, 8:30 am - 9:00 pm
Sun, 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

www.morgensternbooks.com
(812) 676-7323
📷 📘 @morgensternbooks



Celebrating **25** Years! **RÄKE**
cabinet & countertop solutions

SHOWROOM: Appointments Suggested
705 E. Dillman Rd, Bloomington, Indiana
RakeSolutions.com • 812.824.8338



Hand Picked Music Series Returns at The FAR Center



Carrie Newcomer performs during September's Hand Picked Music Series at the FAR Center's 505 Theater. *Courtesy photo*

After a nearly three-year, pandemic-induced hiatus, the Hand Picked Music Series relaunched this fall at the FAR Center for Contemporary Arts. The first new events in the series were held in September with two sold-out performances featuring singer-songwriter Carrie Newcomer along with a string quartet from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music.

According to FAR Events Manager and Culture Specialist Silvia Panigada, it all started with the center's intimate, 150-seat 505 Theater, which allows the audience to “truly share the same space with the performing artists,” she says. “The audience, by the nature of their presence, is essential to making the acoustics great. They are a part of the piece.”

The music series began originally in November 2019 with a single sold-out show featuring local group Hawktaill. Then the pandemic shut it down. Since then, new safety measures—including an air purification system—have been added in hopes of coaxing the community back to the space.

That effort was not in vain. A performance held on October 29 featuring Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas attracted 100 attendees with another 150 watching via Mandolin, a music livestreaming service co-founded during the pandemic by Newcomer and her husband, Robert Meitus.

The Hand Picked Music Series is organized by Bloomington Roots—a local promotion company whose website says its mission is to bring locally and internationally renowned acoustic, roots, folk, and America artists to some of the city's more intimate performance venues.

“This is our example of how you can fill spaces without building new spaces—utilize your resources,” says Meitus, a partner in the law firm Meitus Gelbert Rose, which helps subsidize the series.

Meitus says they hope to attract younger audiences to the shows by building their relationship with the Jacobs School, promoting shows to student groups like IU's Bloomington Delta Music Club, and offering financial assistance to students interested in attending.

Learn more at bloomingtonroots.com. —*Elizabeth Ellis*

The Tivoli Theatre in Spencer Just Like the Good Old Days



The interior of the historic Tivoli Theatre resembles a Spanish courtyard. Photos by Martin Boling

Stroll by the historic Tivoli Theatre on the square in Spencer, Indiana, and notice its Mission Revival facade. Enter the auditorium that resembles a Spanish courtyard and look up at the star-filled ceiling. That was the Tivoli in 1928—and that is the Tivoli now, after a near total restoration.

Today the single-screen theater offers movies and live performances and “strives for a family friendly” vibe, says Director Andrea White. That means first-run movies on the weekend with \$5 tickets for adults, \$3 for children. A small popcorn and a drink will set you back \$4. The Tivoli also shows classic movies, “and once a month we show a feature film or several shorts written or produced in Indiana,” says White. For children there will be a free showing of *The Grinch* on December 18.



Tivoli Theatre Director Andrea White.

But the theater has seen some rough patches over the years.

The Tivoli opened on New Year’s Eve in 1928. More than 1,200 patrons attended the two silent showings of *Shopworn Angel* starring Gary Cooper. An organ and piano accompanied the silent films.

The theater survived two fires in the 1980s but closed in 1999. In disrepair, it was scheduled for demolition when Owen County Preservations bought it in 2005. Restoration, funded by the Cook Group, began a few years later, and the

fully restored Tivoli reopened on April 11, 2013. “We tried to find a copy of *Shopworn Angel* for the reopening, but we couldn’t,” White says.

“There was a lot of research to find out what the original building looked like,” she says. To replicate the starry ceiling, “we got help from the Indiana University Astronomy Department. They researched what the night sky was at 9 p.m. on December 31, 1928.” Now theatergoers can look up and see the constellations as they were back then.

The theater was shuttered when COVID-19 arrived in 2020 but soon partially reopened for private rentals with limited seating. “Watching a movie with your family felt safe,” White says. The Tivoli is fully open now.

Live performances usually feature bluegrass or country musicians, and last year the theater hosted a national ventriloquist festival. “And they’re coming back in June 2023,” White says.

For a schedule of events, check out historic.spencertivoli.org. —Janet Mandelstam

An advertisement for Crazy Horse Tavern on Kirkwood. The background is a blurred bar scene. In the foreground, there is a white plate of food, including a burger, a steak, and a salad, next to a glass of whiskey. A white silhouette of a horse is on the left. Text on the right says: "Get downtown. Get dinner. Get that feeling. Get together. Get social. Get crazy. on Kirkwood." At the bottom, the logo for "Crazy Horse" is shown, with "TAVERN ON KIRKWOOD" underneath. At the very bottom, the address and phone number are listed: "214 West Kirkwood | 812.336.8877 | www.crazyhorseindiana.com".

Wishing You a Joyful Holiday Season!

72 Right Coverage. Best Value. Real People.

1327 N Walnut St | (812) 334-2400 | MayAgency.com

Insurance Services
The May Agency
ACRISURE Est. 1949

OFFICE SPACES

Build-Out Opportunities

Attract & Retain Talent

To attract and retain the best talent, consider an office build-out with CFC Properties. CFC can work with your budget to help optimize the space for success. Discuss your options today by calling 812.332.0053.

cfcproperties.com

CFC PROPERTIES
A COOK GROUP COMPANY

Rick Armstrong

Director of Stages Bloomington



Bloomington native Rick Armstrong is the new executive director of Stages Bloomington.
Photo by Lisa Spencer

Growing up poor on the west side of Bloomington, Rick Armstrong would not have been able to participate in local youth theater programs—had they existed back then.

An evangelical minister's son, Armstrong took piano lessons so he could play during services at Morgantown (Indiana) Wesleyan Church, where he also joined the choir. Later, during his more than 32-year tenure as a chemistry teacher at Martinsville High School, Armstrong became increasingly involved in school and community theater.

"I'm one of those people who doesn't mind taking on projects, especially when there's a need," He says.

After accepting an early retirement offer in March, Armstrong had more time. When he learned that Stages Bloomington—the youth theater program that his husband, Brian Samarzea, had helped found in 1998—was looking for a new executive director, he applied.

"I came to education to be a teacher, and what I taught was really secondary to the act of teaching," says Armstrong, who received his bachelor's and master's degrees in secondary education at Indiana University. "I had never thought in terms of teaching theater as a possibility, because my school didn't have a theater program."

Armstrong began his role as executive director in July and hopes to find a permanent space where Stages can host classes, showcases, rehearsals, and performances, instead of using temporary rental spaces. He's excited about the development of Adventure Club, a creative play program starting this spring for students in grades K–5, as well as the organization's lineup of ticketed productions.

"Our overarching mission is to educate students in good theater practices," says Armstrong. "We want to do good, high-quality theater, but instead of bringing in adults, we're working with kids—and we want people to know that when they come to our shows, they're going to have a good theatrical experience."

Stages' production of *13 the Musical*, co-produced with Jewish Theatre Bloomington, is set to run December 8, 10, and 11 at the John Waldron Arts Center. Visit stagesbloomington.org. —Kristen Senz

Heading Home of SCI



Learn more about Heading Home of South Central Indiana, our region's new community collaborative working to strengthen housing security and make homelessness rare, brief and non-repeating.



HeadingHomeIndiana.org



[@headinghome_sci](https://www.instagram.com/headinghome_sci)



[@Heading Home of South Central Indiana](https://www.facebook.com/HeadingHomeofSouthCentralIndiana)

Sign-up for our newsletter!



argentum
Jewelry

812.336.3100
205 N. College Ave.
Bloomington, IN 47404
[argentum-jewelry.com](https://www.argentum-jewelry.com)



FINE CONTEMPORARY JEWELRY SINCE 1973

Electricity costs are rising with carbon emissions.
When will you go solar?

MPI SOLAR

YOUR HOMETOWN SOLAR PROS

mpisolar.com • 812-334-4003

Backspace Gallery A Place For Artists Young and Old



Sarah "Pixie" Conway is art director and events coordinator for Backspace Gallery, located on the downtown Square. Photo by Rodney Margison

by Linda Margison

Shoppers browsing through Bonne Fête on the north side of the downtown Square may find themselves drawn to the moving images of soaring birds projected on the back wall—then notice an open doorway to the right and meander into the rooms of the Backspace Gallery. Sarah "Pixie" Conway, art director and events coordinator, says that scenario happens often—just like she planned.

Before Conway started managing the retail space, Backspace Gallery, 112 W. 6th St., was used for inventory storage. But Conway had a vision to develop it into a community space and gallery, hosting events and art shows for artists at all age, skill, and experience levels.

"We welcome you if you are an emerging artist, we welcome you if you've been making art for 30 or 40 years," she says. "We want you to feel seen—that's why this space was created."

The gallery opened in August with an exhibit by artist Karen Holtzclaw and has since hosted "The Wild Woman Within" by Juliana Burrell and Lynn Barrett and the collective showcase "Something Figurative, This Way Comes." It has also hosted films, a fashion show, musicians, and a talk for the Be Golden Empowerment Conference.

"Backspace Gallery is not here for one specific reason," she says. "It is here for what you need it, so the spaces are constantly changing and evolving like we are. You could have yoga back there, use it as a retreat or lecture space, or teach art classes. I want this to be a community space."

Having been involved in the former Rhino's Youth Center, Conway says it's important to create a safe space for tweens and teens, so she's looking at all-ages shows and art classes.

"I want kids to have the opportunity to be in a big gallery space, because a lot of kids don't get that opportunity until they're adults—if ever," she explains.

Learn more at backspacegallery.com. ✨

Liz Kirsop-Brown, Interior Operations Manager, has worked at Nature's Way since 2008.

"The things I love most about working at Nature's Way are the wonderful relationships I've been able to build over the years with both colleagues and clients, and the constant learning. Being a part of an industry where there are always new skills and ideas to learn makes every day a new adventure. Having the opportunity to learn and grow in an environment like Nature's Way has not only allowed me to cultivate a career I love but also give back to the community that has given me so much."

Nature's Way, inc.
Interior and Exterior
Landscaping and Design
812-876-7888 | naturesway.net

CONSTELLATION

STAGE + SCREEN

MUST-SEE PROFESSIONAL THEATER

Find Tickets Today!

SeeConstellation.org

812.336.9300

December 15 - 31

at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater



The Musical

Book by Thomas Meehan and Bob Martin Music by Matthew Sklar Lyrics by Chad Beguelin

Death trap

by Ira Levin

January 26 - February 12

at the Ted Jones Playhouse

SeeConstellation.org + (812) 336-9300

Toys for the Holidays, Birthdays, or Any Days!

Photography by Martin Boling & Jenn Hamm

With the holidays fast approaching, Hilary Key, owner of The Toy Chest in Nashville, Indiana, says toys for children of all ages—even the grownup variety—are always a good gift option.

“The power of play is really at the root of what we do,” Key says. “We believe you shouldn’t outgrow playing. We want to make sure we’re bringing smiles and play to people of every age.”

Crafts, fidget toys, puzzles, and board games are among the favorites, she explains, adding that weighted sensory plushes and fantasy figures like mermaids, dragons, and unicorns are also popular. “Any sensory toys and any plush are doing really well.” ▶



2 O'CHILD CHILDREN'S BOUTIQUE



BONNE FÊTE 1



4 BOOK CORNER



THE TOY CHEST 3

1. Popular games at Bonne Fête, 112 W. 6th St., include Like Herding Cats (\$20), I Moustache You a Question (\$25), and Cat Trivia 2023 (\$16.99). 2. Alison plays with the Maileg Mouse collection, including Mum and Dad Mice in Cigar Box (\$62), a baby mouse from the Baby Mice Twins set (\$32), Baby Mouse Cradle (\$26), Dining Table (\$26), and Gold Chair (\$15), available at O'Child Children's Boutique, 101 W. Kirkwood, Suite 108. 3. Vada and Jasper sit outside the Constellation AirFort (\$64.99) playing with Schleich Elrador and Bayala figurines (\$14.99–\$34.99) from The Toy Chest, 125 S. Van Buren St. in Nashville, Indiana. 4. Book Corner, 100 N. Walnut, has a variety of toys, books, and puzzles for children. 5. For kids and adults alike, Bonne Fête has Magical Activity Calendar! 2023 (\$16.99) and a selection of Mad Libs (\$4.95 each). 6. Hilary Key, owner of The Toy Chest, tries out the Hape Rocket Ball Air Stacker (\$29.99). 7. O'Child Children's Boutique offers the Floss & Rock Rainbow Fairy Musical Kitchen Set and Enchanted Musical Tea Set (\$37 each).



BONNE FÊTE 5



THE TOY CHEST 6



O'CHILD CHILDREN'S BOUTIQUE 7

Inflatable Air Forts are another favorite. “We love Air Forts,” Key says. “I like it for the kids because they can have a fort all the time and for the parents because the clean-up is next to nothing.”

For families, Key suggests board games, and for grownups—or “anyone who is trying to keep their mind sharp”—she recommends single-player brain games. —*Sophie Bird*



Plan for the future, live in the moment.

You have unique financial goals. Our experienced private banking and wealth advisory team has strategies and solutions to help you gain greater confidence in your financial plan. We pride ourselves on delivering customized service to help our clients confidently build a financial plan to last for generations.

Experience the difference with German American.



Dawn Craft
Vice President
Portfolio Manager
(812) 355-6038

Laura Hash
Vice President
Wealth Advisor
(812) 668-2519

Ilene Schaeffer
NMLS #439486
Vice President
Private Banking
(812)330-5523



German American Bank

Banking | Insurance | Investments
Member FDIC

504 N College Ave • 3930 S Walnut St • 2614 E 3rd Street
Bloomington, IN • germanamerican.com

Advertise in Bloom's

16TH ANNUAL

Wedding Guide

COMING IN THE
FEBRUARY/MARCH ISSUE

The most beautiful, most informative wedding guide in southern Indiana,
in the magazine voted "Most-Liked Publication" in Bloomington.*

We invite **YOU** to be
part of something special.

DEADLINE
FOR AD
CONTRACTS:
**DECEMBER
30**

Reserve your place soon.
Space is limited. Ads are placed
in the order they are received.

Bonus: Stand-alone copies
of the Guide available at wedding
businesses year-round.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT

Cassandra Huskey
812-323-8959 ext. 2 or
cassandra@magbloom.com.

Bloom
MAGAZINE

*In a survey conducted by the Kelley School of Business.

Cheryl Nichoalds of Tivoli Fashion Half a Century in the Business



Cheryl Nichoalds, owner of Tivoli Fashions, says part of her job is to help people understand their personal style. Photo by Martin Boling

Cheryl Nichoalds, owner of Tivoli Fashions, is about to mark 50 years in the fashion business. She always seemed destined for that world.

Her parents owned a fabric store in Bedford, Indiana, where she grew up and still lives. Her mother, she says, “was a seamstress extraordinaire. She would come home with *Glamour*, *Seventeen*, all the latest fashion magazines.”

Nichoalds worked in the family store for a while after college. When a storefront opened up on the town square, she recalls, “My dad said, ‘You ought to open a boutique.’ So I did.”

That was 1973, and for 14 years that store in Bedford was her only shop. But she says she always wanted to have a store in Bloomington, too. “When the renovation of Fountain Square was happening, I decided the stars were aligned.” She opened Tivoli Fashions on the downtown Square in 1987 and has been there ever since. An adjacent shop selling fine jewelry was added two years later and is run by Nichoalds’ husband, David.

She operated both clothing stores for a number of years before closing the Bedford shop in 2003.

Nichoalds says she has seen attitudes toward fashion change over the years. “People used to feel compelled to go with whatever was in style rather than what best suited them. People are past that now; everybody has their own style. It’s my job to help them understand their own style.”

To do that, Tivoli has always offered a range of clothing from casual to business to dressy—“although not as dressy as in the past”—and accessories. The curated collection includes such labels as Geiger and Pendleton as well as a special line of UBU raincoats that feature the artwork of her sister, Janet Barnette.

Because she has been in the same location for many years, her customers now include “a lot of mother-daughter combos.”

When customers began to return after the easing of pandemic restrictions, she says, “There was a whole different feeling about fashion. For a while you couldn’t give away business clothes.”

As she looks beyond 50 years in the fashion business, Nichoalds says, “I’m just going to keep on going. I can’t think of anything I’d rather be doing.” —Janet Mandelstam



Organizational experts specializing in custom heavy glass and organizational systems for the home.



ClosetsToo.com
812-332-2233
closetstoo@gmail.com

Global Gifts

Fighting for Fair Trade

by Paul Bickley

Wool knitters in the Andes Mountains. Kenyan backpack makers. African-Colombian flying mobile makers. Vietnamese greeting-card makers. These are some of the people whose products fill Global Gifts, 122 N. Walnut. “We’re in the fight for fair trade,” says Sarah Swank, Global’s marketing director, “and our customers make it possible for us to keep supporting these makers!”

Indianapolis-based nonprofit retailer and Fair Trade Federation member Global Gifts opened its first storefront in Indy in 1988. Its Bloomington location, opened in 2009, offers handcrafted, ethically and sustainably produced, and culturally representative goods from 40 countries: jewelry; clothing, socks, woven wool and Tula hats; scarves, mittens, and slippers; home décor; backpacks and bags; coffee, tea, and chocolate; bath and body products; holiday items; toys, games, and musical instruments; and books and greeting cards.

Bestsellers include butterfly wing jewelry from Peru, chocolate with cocoa from Ghana, wood-and-vine peace wreaths from the Philippines, carved balsa wood animal crayons from Ecuador, and sugar skull mugs from Guatemala.

Global’s products are typically grown or crafted by farmers and artisans living in poverty in low-income countries who lack access to local markets or the power to self-advocate in them. “For example,” Swank says, “outside of fair trade, there are very few



1



2



3



4



5

1. A selection of Christmas tree ornaments including Dr. Anthony Fauci, Grinch, and a Black Santa Claus. 2. Carved balsa wood animal crayons made in Ecuador. 3. A wood-and-vine peace sign wreath from the Philippines. 4. Sugar skull mugs made in Guatemala. 5. Global Gifts is located on the east side of the downtown Square at 122 N. Walnut. 6. Bloomington-based and Black-owned Jada Bee’s Black Witchery makes body scrubs and face masks, as well as teas, candles, salts, and lip balm. 7. These socks by ConsciousMade are organic and vegan certified.

Photos by Rodney Margison

avenues for farmers in those countries to receive a fair price for their goods at market. They often lose money by the time their goods are purchased.” In contrast, Swank says, Global’s Fair Trade Federation distributors, such as Pennsylvania’s Ten Thousand Villages, create markets for producers by selling their products to outlets like Global and pay them fairly for their goods.



6



7

Swank adds that Global’s distributors collectively help producers create marketable products, build their businesses, and even access medical treatment and education for themselves and their families.

Some of Global’s makers live and work in the United States—Massachusetts’ Prosperity Candle employs Asian and African women refugees. And Global sells face masks and body scrubs produced here in Bloomington by Black-owned Jada Bee’s Black Witchery.

Says Swank, “You are truly part of a global community when you shop at Global Gifts. It’s a wonderful feeling to find the perfect gift or treat and know that you’re also supporting a network who care about the planet and its people.”

For more information, visit globalgifts.com or [GlobalGiftsBloomington](https://www.facebook.com/GlobalGiftsBloomington) on Facebook. ✨

Andy Mohr
Honda

AndyMohrHonda.com

812-203-2123

Andy Mohr
HYUNDAI

AndyMohrHyundai.com

812-203-4759

LIBERTY DRIVE
BLOOMINGTON, IN

food/drink

Verona Coffee House Features a Family Vibe

by Sophie Bird

When Hilary Elliott decided to open a coffee house with her husband, Chris, the reason was simple: “I just like making coffee,” Elliott says. “Coffee makes everybody happy. It can make a bad day good.

Avid coffee drinkers, the Elliotts like to stop at local coffee shops wherever they travel, and a 2021 trip to Hawaii is what finally sealed the deal on their dream to open their own.

“Everybody was just relaxed, drinking coffee, and it was such a peaceful place to be,” Elliott recalls. “We always said we’d love to bring that back. So, we decided, why not?”

To learn the ropes, Elliott attended a weekend course at the Texas Coffee School



(above) A selection of cookies and muffins baked in-house; (top, right) Hilary Elliott, co-owner with her husband, Chris, of Verona Coffee House on South Sare Road; (right) coffee and tea is locally sourced. Photos by Jenn Hamm

FAR CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Great Things Happen Here!

Check out our calendar of events, exhibits, workshops and performances: thefar.org/events.

Speak with an events coordinator about renting FAR: events.thefar.org | 812.336.0006

202 S Rogers, Bloomington, IN
Tues - Sat 11am to 5pm

in Arlington, Texas, and on July 12, 2022, the Elliotts opened Verona Coffee House in the Verona Park Neighborhood just off South Sare Road.

Like the rest of Verona Park, Verona Coffee House sports a warm-toned, European-inspired aesthetic. There, Elliott and her staff of 11 serve up traditional and specialty coffee drinks, loose-leaf teas and tea lattes, flavored lemonades, baked goods, ice cream, and light breakfast and lunch fare.

The menu was crowdsourced from family and friends, says Elliott, and strives to be as local as possible. To that end, Verona Coffee House serves coffee from local roasters Partridge & Quigley, loose-leaf teas and chai concentrate from Midwest brand Rishi, ice cream from Hartzell’s Ice Cream, and

breakfast sandwich bagels from Gables Bagels.

“We also bake all of our stuff in-house,” Elliott adds, using eggs from The Flying Pig Farm.

Muffins, bread, scones, cookies, and cinnamon rolls are a few favorites, and Elliott says the Verona Coffee House staff is always looking for tips on new recipes to make.

“We really involve the staff in helping us come up with new coffee creations, too,” she explains. “We wanted this to be a place where families could come or anyone in the neighborhood could come and get whatever they wanted, whether it’s coffee or ice cream or lemonade.”



Visit veronacoffeehouse.com. ✨



THE ELM

Drop in. Branch out.

EXPLORE NEW CULINARY HEIGHTS IN THE HEART OF BLOOMINGTON.

614 E 2nd Street Bloomington, IN 47404 | 812-407-4339 |   @elmbloomington

Dinner Wed - Sat 5pm to 10pm

All things Sewing





Christmas Fabrics

the perfect present for the maker in your life!

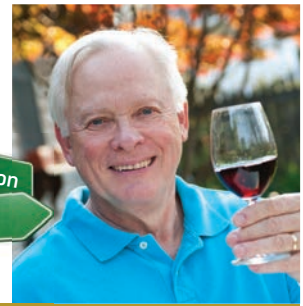
Gift List...

- BERNINA Sewing Machines
- Creative Sewing Classes
- Unique Fabric Inventory
- BERNINA Service & Repair

University of Sewing
611 W. 11th Street Bloomington, IN
(812) 323-2665 Universityofsewing.com

bloomington & vine

BY JACK BAKER



Sauternes: A Favorite of Washington & Jefferson

Sauternes is a wine made for special occasions. It adds a sense of elegance to an anniversary, birthday, graduation, holiday get-together, or as a solitary drink in front of the fire.

It comes from the Graves region of France, about 25 miles south of the city of Bordeaux. The soil along the Garonne River is gravelly (hence Graves) and has, since the 17th century, produced a type of sweet white wine from a mix of *sémillon*, *sauvignon blanc*, and *muscadelle* grapes. The climate along the river is damp and forms a mist that collects on the grapes in the evening and early morning hours. This allows a fungal rot—*botrytis cinerea* or “noble rot”—to grow on the thin skins of the *sémillon* grapes, causing them to dehydrate and shrivel with concentrated sugar and flavor. Not all the grapes are suitable for wine production, so picking and sorting must be done by hand.

There are many sweet wines out there: port, sherry, madeira, late harvest muscat, and riesling. Each is good in its own way but can sometimes be too sweet and cloying. Sauternes, with acid from the *sauvignon blanc* in its mix, stops short. Its flavor profile is usually described as elegant with fruity, floral, nutty, and spicy tones, and sweetness offset by the sharpness of acid.

When in the holiday spirit I enjoy a small glass by itself. Recently I sampled a *Carmes de Rieussec* 2012 and a *G. Chevalier* 2011 from bottles that had been opened years ago. They were still fresh and tasty. Sauternes can age in the bottle for more than a century. It’s one of those wines that can be opened at a child’s birth and kept for congratulations at age 21 or college graduation.

I particularly enjoy sauternes with Roquefort cheese and, sorry if I offend my



Photo by iStock.com/IgorDutina

vegetarian friends, with foie gras. Both are classic pairings in France.

As you might expect, losses from rot in the field, hand labor involved in picking and sorting fruit, and small production quantities make sauternes scarce and expensive. For standard 750 milliliter bottles, costs range from \$44 for *Château Suduiraut Sauternes (Premier Grand Cru Classé) 2007* to \$536 for *Château D’Yquem Sauternes U.V.* Of course, you get what you pay for. *Château D’Yquem* is the best of the best. But the others are good, just not as good. One way to keep the cost down is to buy half bottles—375 milliliter “splits”—at half the price of the 750 milliliter.

Thomas Jefferson was a huge fan of sauternes. When he shared *Château D’Yquem* with President George Washington, Washington immediately ordered 30 cases from the winery.

Good company—and I’ll drink to that. ✨

Bartender Nick Farid A Student of His Craft



SECOND IN THE BLOOMINGTON BARTENDER SERIES



Nick Farid, bartender at The Uptown Cafe, enjoys creating drinks entirely from spirits and liqueurs. *Photo by Rodney Margison*

by Kristen Senz

The functional artistry of crafting fine cocktails inspires Nick Farid, bartender at The Uptown Cafe—but just as motivating for him are the calculations and physicality needed to produce high-quality drinks at scale.

“I like cocktailing because it’s a little bit like a puzzle,” he says. “Some drinks need to be shaken and some need to be stirred.” The puzzle, he explains, is in figuring out how to mix drinks efficiently as the tickets pile up, also known as “the challenge of the well.”

Farid, 34, earned a master’s degree in kinesiology at Indiana University. His keen interest in a bartender’s moves behind the bar—including how angling one’s body away from a talkative patron can prevent getting mired in difficult conversation—are rooted in his longtime interest in how human body movement affects behavior. But since he started bartending at The Uptown 2 1/2 years ago, the process of inventing new drinks has sparked his creative side as well.

“I try to bring a little bit of myself into each cocktail I make,” says Farid, a Bloomington native. “My family is from Iran, so I like to use spices like saffron and allspice and turmeric that I remember from my childhood and visiting my grandfather’s house.”

Farid acquired most of his bartending skills on the job. He completed an online “Bar Smarts” course and has studied extensively under Uptown bartender and assistant general manager, Vivi Szalavari, who he says provided him with “more structure and confidence” in cocktail creation.

Concocting tasty beverages entirely from spirits and liqueurs is his specialty, and he likes to riff off the classics, particularly those with a whiskey base (he prefers a sour mash build). He has also taken an interest in sourcing ingredients for the bar, with an eye toward sustainability and supporting small businesses.

“Alcohol just fascinates me, and it’s something people get together around,” Farid says. “Social gatherings are created based on alcohol, and as a bartender, there’s the creative aspect of it where I get to share something that I’ve made with somebody else.”

Visit at the-uptown.com. ✨

MORE MOMENTS ARE MADE ON MOHAWK.

Find the perfect flooring for any room in your home. RevWood hardwood flooring combines the beauty of hardwood and the toughness of laminate all in one.

Scratch resistant • Fade resistant
10 year waterproof warranty


MOHAWK

Bounds Flooring Inc.

YOUR TRUSTED FLOOR SPECIALISTS

5005 N. State Rd. 37 Business
812-332-6555
BoundsFlooring.com



REALTOR®
OF THE YEAR

Congratulations

JAMIE MORRIS
812.322.6742



Follow Jamie
on Instagram!



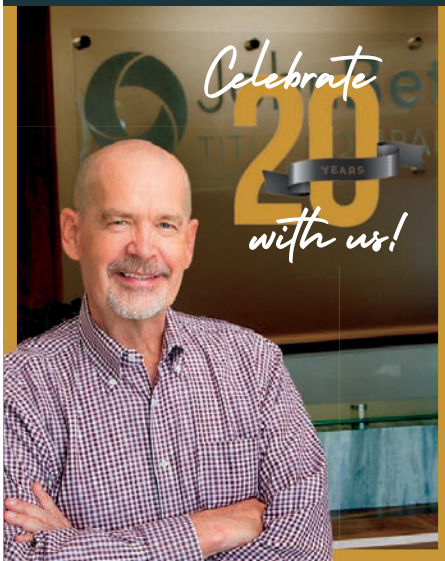
CENTURY 21
Schéetz

Equal housing opportunity. Each office is independently owned and operated.



We're the A-Team of B-Town!

**GIVE YOUR CLOSING
STORY A TITLE!**



TAPPED

Into Bloomington

BY GREG SIERING



Porters Beer That's Like Comfort Food

The cold, dark days of winter often turn a beer lover's tastes to our liquid equivalent of comfort food—dark ales with rich flavors and bodies. One of the classic styles that fits this bill for me is the porter.

This classic ale originated in England in the early 1700s, its name coming from its popularity among the porters who provided the labor in London's markets. The style became dominant across Great Britain, driving the growth of large-scale commercial brewing at the start of the industrial revolution. In America, porters were popular from colonial times through the 19th century—George Washington was a pronounced fan of American porters—eventually losing out to the lager craze driven by German-American brewers. Porters have been revived by the craft beer industry, not only for their own delicious taste, but because they make a good canvas for experimentation with flavors like vanilla, honey, and coffee.

Porters are typically a dark ruby brown to near-black, using darkly kilned and roasted malts to impart both their color and their characteristic chocolate and coffee flavors. English porters tend to use herbal or earthy hops sparingly, while American porters may showcase citrusy or other hop flavors, along with more bitter profiles.

If you want to try an authentic English porter, open a bottle of Samuel Smith's Taddy Porter. The beer pours an almost black color with a thick, long-lasting tan head. The aroma and flavor showcase dark, chocolatey malts with a slight herbal hoppiness and hints of dark stone fruit, toffee, and nuts. It's a complex beer with a good body and sweetness that works with the flavors but isn't cloying. A true classic.

For a good American version, try Bell's Brewery Porter—actually a robust porter that introduces more roasted, coffee-like malt flavors. It's a dark ruby brown, and the aroma is dominated by dark chocolate with a light coffee scent and a little earthy hop. The chocolate and coffee flavors balance smoothly, with the bitter nip of coffee flavor and the hop bitterness being more pronounced at the end of the taste, combining to keep the beer's sweetness in check. If you are a coffee fan, this beer will pique your interest.



Bad Elmer's Porter by Upland Brewing Co.
Photo by Rodney Margison

For a popular local porter, turn to Upland Brewing Co.'s Bad Elmer's Porter. This beer is the heftiest of the three, both due to its higher alcohol content and its richer, almost creamy body. It's a very dark brown—completely opaque—with a nice tan head. The aroma is malty and gentle, and the taste is a smooth balance of dark chocolate and coffee, with neither dominating. It is listed as having 40 IBUs—more hop bitterness than the Bell's porter—but that bitterness is balanced very well by the combination of a medium-rich body, greater sweetness, and less intense coffee bite. It's surprising how such a smooth beer can have such a kick of flavor.

Exploring the rich diversity of porters can be an enjoyable adventure, so break out your favorite pint glass and appreciate the history and ingenuity behind the delightful beer. ✨

INDIANA

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

DECEMBER 1
VS. NORTH CAROLINA

DECEMBER 4
VS. ILLINOIS

DECEMBER 18
VS. MOREHEAD STATE

DECEMBER 21
VS. BUTLER

JANUARY 1
VS. NEBRASKA

JANUARY 15
VS. WISCONSIN

JANUARY 26
VS. OHIO STATE

JANUARY 29
VS. RUTGERS



SCAN TO BUY



INDIANA

MEN'S BASKETBALL

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

DECEMBER 20
VS. ELON

DECEMBER 23
VS. KENNESAW STATE

JANUARY 8
VS. NORTHWESTERN



SCAN TO BUY

home/family

House of Seven Christmas Trees

Margaret Taylor calls herself a collector of color. The kaleidoscope of colors throughout her Bloomington home radiate from seven artificial Christmas trees adorned with thousands of ornaments—glittery, unusual, whimsical, and sentimental.

“I’ve always been fascinated by color and glass, even as a kid,” says Taylor, owner of Book Corner.

Mostly, her trees are full of beautiful glass bulbs along with many Santas, angels, nutcrackers, snowmen, and carousels. There are ballet shoes, clowns, Pinocchio, train and police cars, and animals like owls, hedgehogs, giraffes, and turtles.

Taylor estimates she has 4,000 to 5,000 ornaments collected over 50 years. Some are in boxes to be used later. For four years, the trees have stayed up and lit year-round.

While some people may shake their heads about her collection, Taylor says, she enjoys it



(above, center) Margaret Taylor, owner of Book Corner, has collected 4,000–5,000 Christmas ornaments over 50 years; (this page and opposite page) Taylor’s seven Christmas trees stay up and lit year-round in her home. Photos by Lisa Spencer





greatly. She spends time rearranging ornaments to make them look just right.

“The memories are a special part of this,” says Taylor. She likes to recall where or why she got ornaments or who gave them to her. She has elephant ornaments in memory of her daughter, Jenny, who died in 1999.

Taylor purchased a lot of ornaments on eBay or from Marshall Field’s—at times, she’ll look at some 2,000 online in one evening and only buy a couple. Many are Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, and Italian.

She started buying ornaments for her three daughters. Her family used to decorate one live tree. Her goal was to collect many glass blowers’ works, and her collection kept growing.

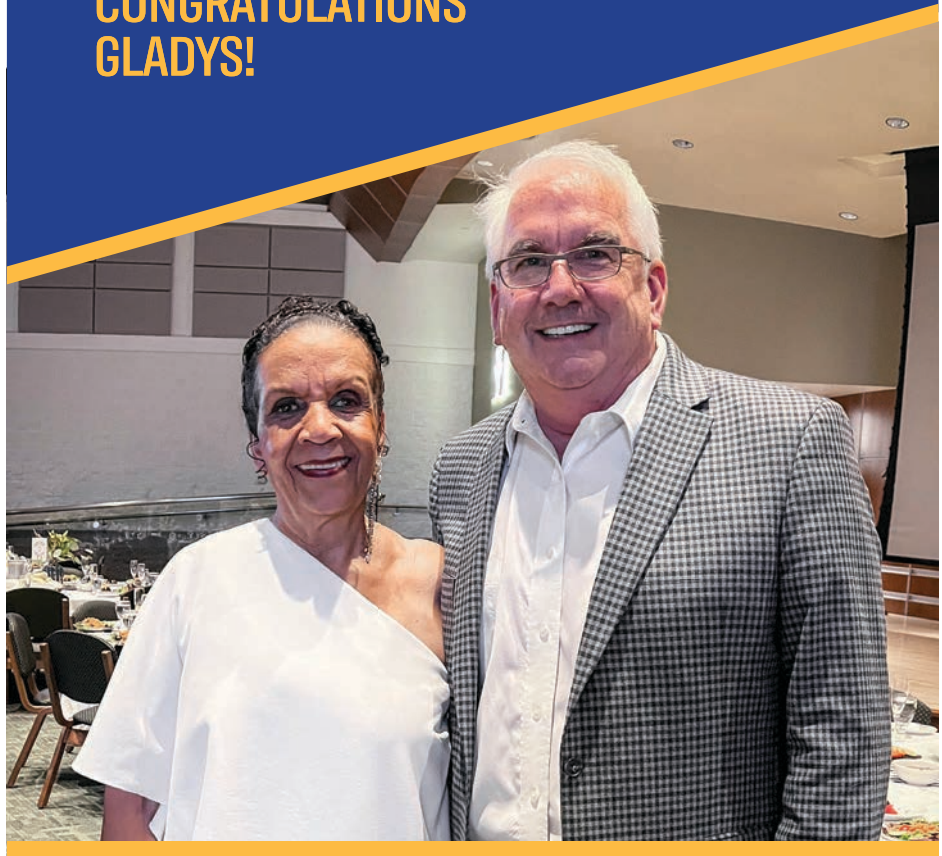
Years ago, she wanted to document the collection and took photos, but lost them when her camera broke. To better see what she had, Taylor arranged ornaments by types on trees that became themed. Now, those themes are miniatures, woodland, kids, polka-dot, houses and angels, fancy, and blown glass.

“It wasn’t that I wanted seven trees in my house,” she explains. “It just ended up this way.”

Yet, she’s glad. “They give me a happy, warm feeling.” —*Barb Bergoetz*

CONGRATULATIONS to Gladys Devane on being the recipient of the **2022 ROTARY TOAST** award. Gladys, an educator, has been an advocate not only for learning but for those with disabilities. Her unwavering commitment to lives in our community deserves applause and the highest accolades.

**CONGRATULATIONS
GLADYS!**



**Curry
Auto Center**

FOR OVER

100
Years



CHEVROLET



2906 BUICK-CADILLAC BLVD

812-339-2227

VISIT US ONLINE AT
CURRYAUTOCENTER.COM

Consider It Done: Helping People Through Life's Major Transitions

by Linda Margison

When Cheryl Smith left education after 20 years, she transitioned from one job to another in search of a different direction. Trying such gigs as barista and grape harvester for Oliver Winery, caterer with One World Enterprises, and digital marketer at Hanapin Marketing, Smith learned new skills that proved useful later.

“You land where you’re supposed to be at the right time—all those jobs were little steps along the way and had an integral part in where I sit now,” she says, adding that a phone call from a headhunter for a funeral home flipped the switch on her future. She declined, but the caller convinced her to have lunch, and by the end, Smith knew the job—family service coordinator—was perfect for her.

Going into homes after a loss and serving as a person’s connection to the funeral home, Smith became more than a liaison; she was vital to the transition, helping them set up social security, file for insurance, and get answers to questions while navigating a new reality. Early on,



Cheryl Smith, owner of Consider It Done Transition Services.
Photo by Rodney Margison

TIVOLI FASHIONS

LADIES CASUAL TO CAREER APPAREL



Shop Tivoli

Sympli

Frank Lyman

UbU

Nic & Zoe

Foxcroft

Renuar

Skovhuus

Iguana

Andria Lieu

TIVOLI FASHIONS

Downtown Bloomington

101 West Kirkwood, # 106

Bloomington, IN 47404

812-339-6239 | 812-327-3277

Smith realized she wanted to do even more for people, so she eventually wrote a business plan, worked with a SCORE business mentor, and started her own company, Consider It Done Transition Services, in 2014.


“We help people move through life transitions,” Smith says of her 21-person team. “Our goal is to get you from wherever you are to where you need to be.”

Consider It Done offers five pillars of service:

- Move management—downsizing, donating, scheduling movers, cleaning, packing, and if local, unpacking.
- Senior move management—similar but specializing in helping senior citizens.
- Professional, business, and residential organization—making spaces functional and easier to manage, like organizing drawers, closets, kitchens, and garages.
- Home and estate cleanouts—downsizing or purging after the death of a loved one, working with auctioneers, selling furniture and treasures, and educating about the resale market.
- Project management—a catch-all that includes packing and moving during remodels, getting estimates, checking on homes, and more.

“We’re going to be available for whatever people need to take things off their plate so they are not bogged down by this transition,” Smith says. “I want them to be able to focus on living life and enjoying their families.”

Learn more at consideritdonein.com. ✨



Spruce Up
for

Spring

COMING IN THE
FEBRUARY/MARCH
ISSUE OF BLOOM MAGAZINE

ALL ADS HALF PRICE

Discounted advertising section for home-related businesses.

Contact **CASSAUNDA HUSKEY** for more information,
812-323-8959 ext. 2 or cassandra@magbloom.com.

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP DECEMBER 30.

Bloom
MAGAZINE

health/fitness

The Cocuun: A Safe Place For Yoga, Massage & More

by Carmen Siering

Owner Molly McDonald admits the name, or at least the spelling, is unusual—The Cocuun. But McDonald says great intention went into naming the yoga and massage therapy studio located at 802 S. Auto Mall Road.

“I wanted people to know this space was nurturing and safe,” McDonald says. “We talk about cocoons that way, and especially this time of year, about cocooning.”

McDonald’s team of a dozen providers offer yoga, movement, and massage services, but also prenatal and postpartum education and support.

“We have childbirth educators who provide classes and support groups, including movement and mindset tools to help clients through pregnancy and birth” she says. There are postnatal groups as well.

“It’s about creating a circle of friends who are in the same phase of life as you,” McDonald says. “We want to help people create community.”

On the other end of the lifespan spectrum, McDonald says she is seeing a lot of excitement around intergenerational classes. One class that is growing focuses on pelvic floor stability and



Molly McDonald, owner of The Cocuun, a yoga and massage therapy studio on Bloomington’s east side.
Photo by Martin Boling



Happy Holidays!



core strength. McDonald says it was started for post-partum moms.

“But then we opened it up to all ages, and now we do have all ages,” she says. “I like that we ended up with this intergenerational weaving. When we quit isolating ourselves, we can see where we are, but we can also see where we are going.”

Each month there are several special events addressing pregnancy, parenting, and life transition topics. The Exploring & Preparing for the First Period workshop, on December 18, aims to help parents and caregivers support their children as they approach menses.

McDonald says she strives to cultivate an internal support structure for her staff, and to practice what she and the other instructors advise to their clients.

“I always ask [new instructors], ‘When are you clearest and when do you work best with clients?’ Then we build their schedules around that, not around what works best for the industry,” McDonald says. “When we teach at the times we love to teach, our clients can feel that. We try to practice as a business what we are teaching. Integrity is so important to me.”

For more information visit thecocuun.com. *

ADVERTISEMENT

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY—MONROE COUNTY



Suzanne O'Connell,
V.P. of Real Estate &
Kristie Charles, former
Cedarview employee



Habitat Homeowners



Elliot Lewis,
CEO of Cedarview
Management

The late Tony Moravec,
Donor of Moravec
Way Neighborhood

Celebrating 50 Years Of INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Cedarview believes those investing in Bloomington should also invest philanthropically, as they see fit, within the city. Everyone is touched differently. That is what triggers a variety of fundraising and other thoughtful initiatives to benefit our town. Habitat has been a cornerstone of philanthropy in Bloomington. And, our dear friend Tony Moravec, who died in November, has been at the heart of Habitat by donating the funds to acquire the land for a Habitat neighborhood!



FROM 1972 TO 2022

Suzanne
O'Connell,
V.P. of
Real Estate

601 N. COLLEGE AVE.
BLOOMINGTON, IN 47404
812-339-8777

TENTHANDCOLLEGE.COM

BLOOMINGTON | INDIANAPOLIS | MILWAUKEE | SARASOTA

Hotels for Homeless

No One Should Have to Sleep Outside

Katie Norris and her business partners founded Hotels for Homeless to make it easier for Bloomington's homeless to get back on their feet.

Since childhood, Norris, 35, has been a person of action for people in crisis. She says she learned the importance of helping those in need from her mother, Robin Pfister, a longtime volunteer at Shalom Community Center who, in 2005, was killed by a drunk driver.

Hotels for Homeless began in 2020 as a creative solution for a family in crisis at the start of the pandemic shutdown. Norris says she usually opened her home to people in times of need but had the safety of her family to consider. Instead, she gathered donations to put the family in a hotel.

"I've been homeless with children," she explains. "It's extraordinarily stressful and people shouldn't have to go through it alone with no resources to help them out."

Norris raised enough money to help the family and worked out a deal with the hotel to accept donations over the phone. In four hours, Norris says she raised enough for the family to stay six nights.



Katie Norris started Hotels for Homeless in 2020. It regularly rents out 50 hotel rooms to provide shelter to the homeless community. *Photo by Mike Waddell*

Since 2018, **\$15 Million**
committed to improving health
outcomes in our region.



Join us for a healthier tomorrow!

bloomhf.org |  | 812-558-3409

Later that year, inspired by the story of Jesus Christ's birth, Norris and business partner Lindsey Dominguez went to Seminary Square and offered a free hotel room to anyone in need of a place to stay for the night.

"No one should ever have to sleep on the street on Christmas Eve," Norris says. "The whole reason this holiday exists comes from letting people sleep inside who would otherwise be in the cold."

Normally, Hotels for Homeless has somewhere around 50 rooms rented. That night, the group rented out 155. "The community was there for these people," she says. "It was my hometown saying, 'No one is ever going to have to sleep outside on Christmas Eve ever again.' It was beautiful."

All she asks in return is to pay the generosity forward. "It's something my mother taught me," Norris says. "It can be paying someone's rent or passing a dollar out the car window. Just help where you can."

Learn more at h4hbloomington.org.
—Aaron Brewington

IU Athletics' Women's Excellence Initiative Takes Off in First Year



Scott Dolson, IU vice president and director of intercollegiate athletics.
Photo by Rodney Margison

Indiana University Athletics announced in August 2021 the launch of its Women's Excellence Initiative to raise private support for IU's 13 women's varsity sports and provide additional opportunities for its 300-plus women athletes to develop athletically, academically, and personally so that they can flourish at IU and after graduation.

"We have come a very long way these last 50 years, but there's still plenty that needs to be done," says Scott Dolson,

IU vice president and director of intercollegiate athletics. "Enhancing the academic and athletic experience for our female student-athletes has been one of my top priorities."

Dolson presented the idea of Women's Excellence to former IU President Michael McRobbie when the two discussed Dolson replacing Fred Glass. Dolson assumed his current position in July 2020.

Funds raised for the initiative will help address issues requiring resources outside the operating budget, such as international competition tours and expanded personal development programs like elite-athlete development, team building, nutrition services, and leadership and life skills.

Dolson says the initiative sprang off the block. "We have been extremely pleased with the response," he says. "Our goal was to raise \$1 million in the first 12–18 months, and we more than doubled that. I give tremendous credit to our team—most notably Kelly Bomba, Anne Crawford, Katie Bates, and Ali Ricker—along with Hoosier supporters."

So far, Women's Excellence has funded new facilities for softball, rowing, and field hockey and a volleyball team trip to the Czech Republic, Austria, Slovenia, and Italy. "Foreign trips are tremendous opportunities for our student-athletes to bond and improve skills," Dolson says. "They also provide our student-athletes with what can be life-changing experiences."

An annual Women's Excellence Symposium will allow supporters to connect and learn more about the initiative and issues student-athletes face today, such as personal branding in the name-image-likeness age and mental health. IU Athletics hosted the first symposium in August with Indianapolis Colts vice chair and owner Kalen Jackson as the keynote speaker.

Visit iuvarsityclub.com/womensexcellence. —Paul Bickley

Presenting the Best of
Bloomington



Expertly
Representing
BUYERS & SELLERS
Since 2002

RE/MAX
REALTY PROFESSIONALS

ONE OF THE TOP REMAX AGENTS IN INDIANA

RON PLECHER



WWW.ROPLECHER.COM 812-320-2142

Shop Local

Invest in **your community** by shopping local—you'll find distinctive gifts and strengthen our economy.



Bloom
MAGAZINE

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL MERCHANTS.

New IU Collections Center At Historic McCalla School

by Sophie Bird

When former Indiana University President Michael McRobbie established IU Collections in 2018, he did so to protect the university's more than 240 collections of physical and digital objects and to preserve them for future research and enjoyment, says inaugural Executive Director Heather K. Calloway.

"Former President McRobbie ... saw that it would be useful to have somebody who was working on stewardship across all these different types of collections," Calloway explains. "Collections are important because they serve as the primary source for research."

IU Collections works with well-known holdings like the Sage Collection, the Lilly Library's rare books archive, and the



The McCalla School was built in 1907 and purchased by IU in 1974. It now houses IU's Collections Teaching Research & Exhibition Center.

contents of the Eskenazi Museum of Art, but Calloway says that's only the beginning. The department oversees millions of objects across all nine IU campuses, including rocks, fossils, microscope slides, pictures, manuscripts, films, plant life, and even living creatures like fruit flies. "We have one of the most important—if not *the* most important—fruit fly collections in the world," she explains.

To make these objects more accessible outside the university, IU Collections was



(above and bottom) An exhibit of geometric sculptures by Morton C. Bradley on display in November at University Collections at MaCalla. *Courtesy photos*

awarded funding from the Indiana State Bicentennial Repair and Rehabilitation Plan, the Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, and Indiana University to renovate the historic McCalla School on North Indiana Avenue and create the Collections Teaching, Research and Exhibition Center (CTREC).

The McCalla School, which was built as an elementary school in 1907 and purchased by IU in 1974, is now home to eight galleries, three teaching spaces with specialized storage environments, a lecture space and multi-purpose room, audiovisual kiosks, and offices for IU Collections staff. The renovation, which cost around \$6 million, also better connected the main McCalla School building with its 1928 and 1957 expansions, increased ADA accessibility, and restored elements of the property's historic character.

IU Collections plans to host regular CTREC exhibits that bring together collections from multiple IU campuses, schools, and disciplines and touch on a

myriad of topics. Current exhibits include "Growing Indiana University: The Legacy of Herman B Wells," "Trashion Refashion," selections from the Stotter Seashell Collection, and a student printmaking exhibit.

"We're just borrowing," says Calloway. "We work on stewardship with all the collections, so we don't need to be a collections institution. We can borrow and tell parts of their stories in our larger space."

Visit collections.iu.edu. ✖





WE SHOULD TALK

Divorce is never easy to talk about, but custody and division of property are issues that cannot be ignored.

With Indiana's only member of the American College of Family Trial Lawyers* and four Certified Family Law Specialists**, we know how to prepare thoroughly and work aggressively to protect your best interests.

We pledge to always treat you with dignity and respect.

Call us for a confidential consultation.

MALLOR | GRODNER
Attorneys

www.lawmg.com

Bloomington	511 Woodcrest Drive, Bloomington, IN 47401	812.332.5000
Indianapolis	101 W. Ohio, Ste. 1600, Indianapolis, IN 46204	317.453.2000

*Andrew C. Mallor is a Diplomate of The American College of Family Trial Lawyers, Fellow American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

**Andrew C. Mallor, Kendra G. Gjerdingen, Carrie L. Batalon, and Lisa A. Anderson are all Certified Family Law Specialists by the Family Law Certification Board.

Citizen Scientist

BY SUSAN M. BRACKNEY



Help Count Indiana Birds At the “Tipping Point”

Chimney swifts, bobolinks, and golden-winged warblers are just a few of the unique birds that breed in south-central Indiana. Unfortunately, they're also on a new list of “Tipping Point” species, according to the “2022 State of the Birds Report” released by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI).

NABCI identified 90 different birds that suffered population declines of at least 50% between 1970 and 2019. Contained within this group are those Tipping Point species,

which are at risk of sustaining an additional 50% population decline over the next 50 years. Breeding in some parts of southern Indiana, the prairie warbler also made that list, as did Indiana migrants like the American golden-plover and the stilt sandpiper, among others.

“These Tipping Point species are high priorities for science and conservation because of their high vulnerability to extinction, high urgency, and steep population declines where known,” the report authors note. By monitoring

these and other bird species, you can contribute essential—and, ultimately, actionable—data. Here are a few ways to help.

Mark Your Calendars!

Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, the Great Backyard Bird Count will occur from February 17–20. To participate, simply count the number and types of birds you see or hear in your backyard (or favorite local birding spot) for at least one 15-minute period between those dates. Then input your data via the Great Backyard Bird Count's online portal. (See

birdcount.org/participate for details.)

Although this community science project began in North America, it went global in 2013, further enabling researchers and conservationists to better track changes in bird populations and ranges. During



A redheaded woodpecker. Photo by iStock.com/BrianEKushner

last year's count, local participants reported 145 different bird species in Indiana—89 were observed in Monroe County.

Woodpecker Cavity Cam Project

Redheaded woodpeckers used to be much more common throughout Indiana and much of the eastern U.S. Loss of critical habitat has contributed to their decline. To learn more about animal competition for valuable cavity nest spots, Minnesota-based researchers have collected thousands of videos from trail cameras positioned in rare oak savannah territory. Now, they're crowdsourcing the analyses of all that footage via the Woodpecker Cavity Cam Project. (Visit zooniverse.org to learn more.)

Duck, Duck, Goose

Researchers are flying drones high above wildlife management areas in New Mexico so that they can monitor the aquatic birds there without disrupting them. They've snapped thousands of overhead views of migratory waterfowl for the Drones for Ducks project, and they need community scientists' help to identify and classify the individual birds pictured. Classifications of ducks, geese, cranes, and seagulls eventually will be used to create and train a machine-learning algorithm that will conduct future waterfowl surveys. (To help Drones for Ducks, get started at zooniverse.org.) ✖

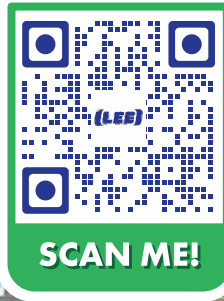
We Welcome All

Bloomington's most Trusted Local Landlord for over 30 Years

Call or Text: 812-333-2280 | Visit Us Online: RENAISSANCERENTALS.COM



LUXURY HAS A NAME



Take a 360 virtual Showroom Tour at gotolee.com/virtual



gotolee.com

1821 W 3rd St., Bloomington, IN 47404

(812) 333-4343

APPLIANCES

LIGHTING

PLUMBING



OUR LUXURY BRANDS

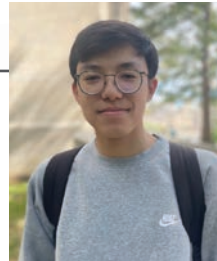


The Concerns & Fears of IU Gen Z Students

by Lily Marks

In October, *Bloom* intern Lily Marks, a freshman at the Indiana University Media School, surveyed students on campus about the things—globally, nationally, and personally—that worry them. The environment, human rights, social issues, and their futures were common concerns among those questioned.

Photos by Lily Marks



Andrew Wittkamp

Age: 19
Grade: Sophomore
Major: Biology
Home: Munster, IN

“Financial stuff. College is expensive. Trying to find scholarships and being able to get those and afford school and rent and food and everything. I want to go to med school, and that’s obviously not cheap.

I think environmental things are definitely a big worry. Like what is going to happen in the next 10-15 years. Especially how big corporations are using fossil fuels and all of these really big pollutants.

I would like people to not be racist. As someone who is an Asian-American, coming from the COVID-19 pandemic, my dad had to sit me down and say, ‘Hey, you’ve got to be careful because people are just hate-criming Asians.’ So you know that was obviously a big worry.”

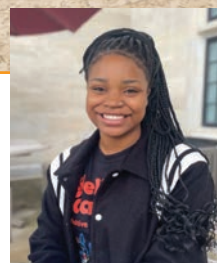


Cassie King

AGE: 19
GRADE: Freshman
MAJOR: Linguistics
HOME: Fort Wayne, IN

“The first thing that comes to mind is what’s happening in Iran right now [protests over the repression of women], and what’s happening to women across the world and the things that are being put into motion to kind of repress women, even in the U.S. with the new abortion bans.

I’m part of the LGBTQ+ community. I don’t have any problems on campus, but there are some worries on a day-to-day basis, expressing myself with that.”



Alayna Kirkwood

Age: 21
Grade: Senior
Major: Political Science
Home: Michigan City, IN

“Climate change. I was just thinking, it’s kind of really blunt, but what if our age group dies of climate change because nobody really knows the stats and data about it.

Discrimination—people turning a blind eye, people starting to tolerate—*just* tolerate—Black people or other races, and they don’t really promote to include everybody; more of an equality problem and going back rather than progressing.

Day to day, I just fear safety-wise. You know, weird men basically.”



Akash Bhabker

AGE: 26
GRADE: Masters student
MAJOR: Neuroscience
HOME: India

“The main threat I’ve been thinking about is global warming. It’s going to take over sometime in a few years, and we’ve already seen the heat waves hitting England.

I fear for the crime rate that’s been going on in the U.S. It’s so damn up.

On my personal level, I would say keeping up with my studies and my internship, that’s what I fear.”



Meredith Cox

Age: 21
Grade: Senior
Major: Neuroscience
and Art History
Home: Westfield, IN

“The instability of all the human rights issues right now is very stressful. I feel like there’s a lot going on like here with abortion, and then in Iran with women’s rights, and France with women’s rights.

On a day-to-day basis, it’s just being a senior. The future is scary, whatever is outside of college, and I feel like the economy is kind of a mess right now—finding a job that’s actually fulfilling is stressful.”



Evan Nayee
 Age: 18
 Grade: Freshman
 Major: Biology
 Home: Granger, IN

"On a global scale, I guess just that people don't really vet what they're hearing, so they believe whatever they hear even if it's not true. I think just how divided we are is worrisome. Just how divisive and consolidated the political power right now is, and so I hope that gets kind of more unified soon."



Sarah Warf
 Age: 18
 Grade: Freshman
 Major: Arts Management
 Home: Carmel, IN

"My biggest concern is probably the environment, I think about it so much. What we are doing to destroy the Earth, just casually, every day.

As much as we say that we're a free country, and we have freedom of speech, I feel like there should be more limitations. Especially all that's happening right now with anti-Semitism and things like that. The way that we treat each other nationally in America feels so wrong right now.

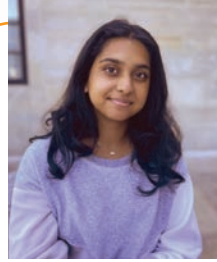
[Personally,] my key thoughts are, 'What am I going to do with my future?' I also think about minor things like scheduling classes and stuff, just what do I need to do to get everything that I have to do done, just to keep my life pretty calm."



Christian Sanders
 Age: 20
 Grade: Junior
 Major: Management
 Home: Indianapolis, IN

"I think climate change and global warming worries me the most. I just hope that we as a society and as humankind can move toward a cleaner and cleaner future.

Social justice issues, like issues that affect immigrants and minorities [and] the mistreatment of those marginalized groups."



Anjana Raju
 AGE: 18
 GRADE: Freshman
 MAJOR: Marketing
 HOME: Naperville, IL

"For me, I guess it's just that there's so much tension in the world right now. There's so many conflicting ideas—fearing that those conflicting ideas are going to get the worst of people and bring out the worst in humanity.

Looking at the economy right now, especially because of COVID, we're getting better, but at the same time there's so many people struggling in the country that a lot of people aren't seeing.

I just completed a project on the environment, so that's one big thing that I'm looking at—climate change and seeing the hurricanes and just the way that the climate is changing for the worse."



Sonny Zuh
 Age: 18
 Grade: Freshman
 Major: Finance
 Home: California

"I fear about national tension, like the Ukraine, and then China supporting Russia and Eastern and Western clashes. I feel like the nation has been growing apart. Rather than everyone being patriotic and having their own sense of how the nation should be

better, a lot of people nowadays are just like, 'This place sucks, I don't want to be here.' And I'm just like, 'Then don't.'

Other than that, just trying to get into some workshops next year, and planning things, but I guess it's good pressure." *

Give the Gift
 of Owner Membership
 this holiday season!



BLOOMINGFOODS
 CO-OP MARKET

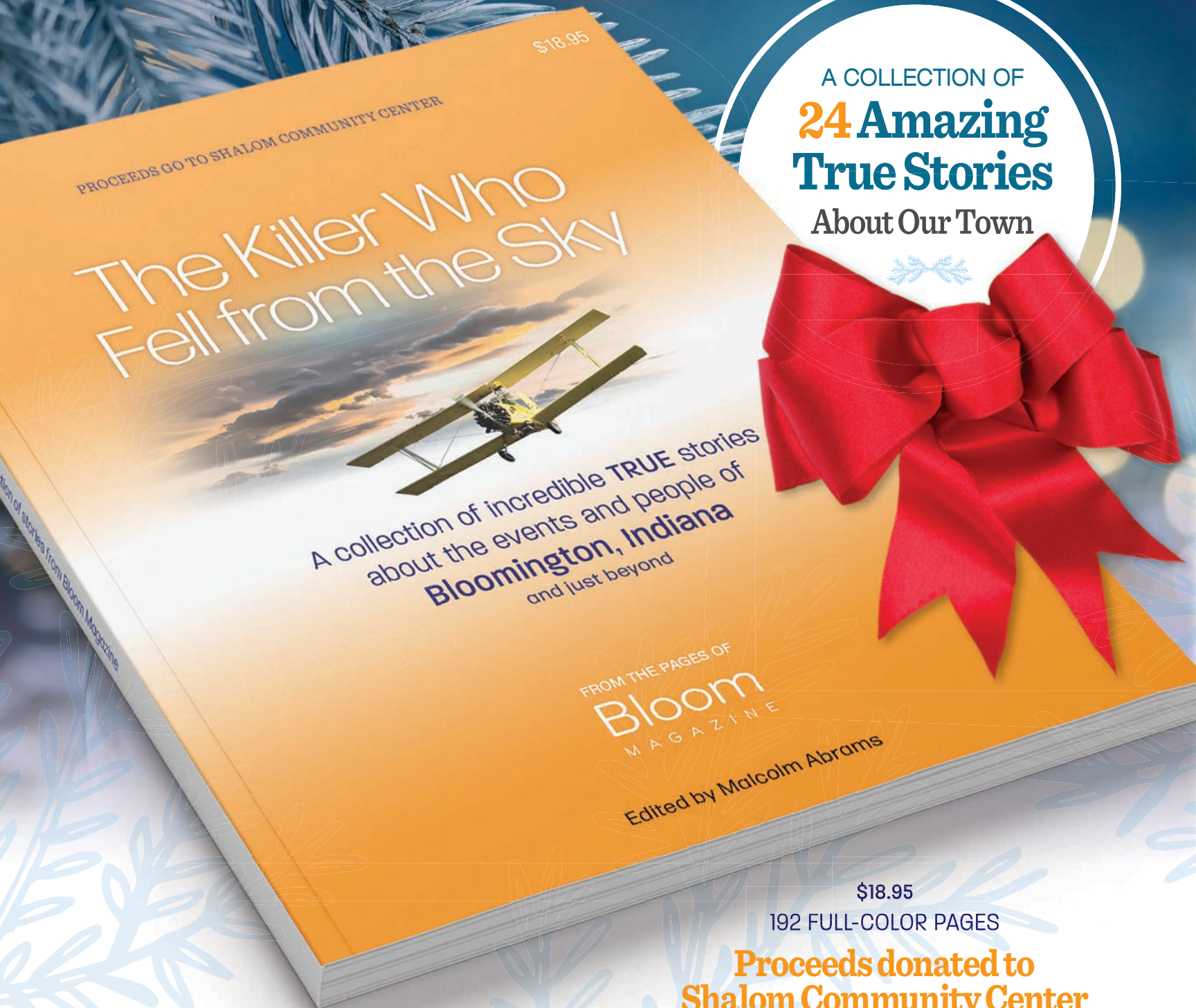
Supporting Local Farms & Businesses Since 1976.

www.bloomingtons.coop



For the Special People on Your List

HERE AND AFAR
Who Love Bloomington



\$18.95

A COLLECTION OF
**24 Amazing
True Stories**
About Our Town



\$18.95

192 FULL-COLOR PAGES

**Proceeds donated to
Shalom Community Center**

AVAILABLE AT SHOPS IN DOWNTOWN BLOOMINGTON, ONLINE AT MAGBLOOM.COM/BOOK,
OR AT THE BLOOM OFFICE, 414 W. 6TH ST.

Correspondence Club

It's More than Just Letters



At each get-together, Rogers provides stationary and writing utensils for free and offers stamps for a donation. He then takes the letters to the post office and mails them himself. The only thing participants need to bring is an address.

Many people—whether they come to Correspondence Club intentionally or stumble upon it when they're out and about—end up writing to grandparents or other loved ones whose addresses they happen to have on hand, he says.

"I've said before that Correspondence Club is your grandma's best friend," Rogers jokes.

(left, top) Addison Rogers, founder of the Correspondence Club; (left) club participants gather to write handwritten cards and letters to be mailed. Photos by Kathryn Coers Rossman

Other attendees have dedicated pen pals or can write to someone on Rogers' list of people who would like to receive mail. The fun thing, he says, is the chance to sit down, remind someone that you're thinking of them, and explore the opportunities for creativity in communication. He considers letter-writing a form of functional art where the paper, handwriting, hurriedness, stains, and ink choice all have something to share.

When asked what he hopes people will get out of Correspondence Club, Rogers says, "I hope they take away a little tenderness. A little special feeling of knowing, 'Hey, people do fun stuff, and it's nice to be together. It's nice to share something with someone else.'"

To learn more, follow @correspondenceclubof on Instagram. —Sophie Bird

To Addison Rogers, founder of the Correspondence Club of Bloomington, sending mail is about more than just writing a letter. It's about connection, opportunity, and art.

"In a handwritten note to somebody, you just get so much more," Rogers says. "There's something to seeing somebody's handwriting and also feeling a little bit of what they're going through in that moment."

Rogers, who frequently sends mail to friends both near and far, founded the Correspondence Club in 2013 as a way to celebrate his birthday. He's hosted it regularly since then—with a hiatus during the pandemic—at local venues like The Runcible Spoon and the Monroe County Public Library. Today, the informal, drop-in club favors Hopscotch Coffee and The Bishop Bar.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Financial advice is more than just investment advice. Our team is here to help you take the right steps in every aspect of your financial life.

FEE ONLY / FIDUCIARY / INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISORS

CALL US AT 812-333-4276 TO SCHEDULE A FREE CONSULTATION

Hurlow
WEALTH MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC.

20
CELEBRATING
20 YEARS

Bloomington & Indianapolis
hurlowwealth.com

Hurlow Wealth Management Group, Inc. is a Registered Investment Adviser. Advisory services are only offered to clients or prospective clients where Hurlow Wealth Management Group, Inc. and its representatives are properly licensed or exempt from licensure.

6



13



20



27



let's experience the magic together
buskirkchumley.org/ghibli

Dave Askins at City Hall

BY DAVE ASKINS



The Importance of Meeting Records

by Dave Askins | B Square Bulletin

Let's say the Bloomington City Council gives enough legal notice to the public that it will hold a meeting about converting Walnut Street to two-way traffic.

And let's say when the meeting convenes, anybody who wants to attend is allowed into the room to watch and make a record of the proceedings.

Should the councilmembers at that meeting deliberate in a substantive way about the public policy question of Walnut Street traffic?

My answer is: Yes. That's because the public has been allowed to "to observe and record" the meeting in a way that serves the purpose of the Open Door Law.

But in recent weeks, the answer to that hypothetical by some City Council members has been: Maybe. For some councilmembers, substantive deliberations should be confined to just those meetings for which the city clerk's custom is to write up long-form narrative meeting minutes.

The custom of long-form minutes does not extend to committee-of-the-whole meetings. For committee meetings, the official record made by the clerk is the statutorily required "memorandum" with just the date, time, location, attendance, and a record of actions taken.

The lack of long-form minutes has been put forward by some councilmembers as an attempted argument for abolishing committee-of-the-whole meetings. Councilmembers can't help but deliberate at such meetings, so the argument goes, and given that these deliberations will not be captured in the clerk's meeting minutes, it's best not to hold such meetings.

I think by focusing on the clerk's official record of meeting proceedings, that attempted argument distracts from the public's right and responsibility to attend, observe, and make its own record of meetings.

Traditionally, the public's responsibility has been outsourced to the press. I think the articles that news reporters write about the City Council's proceedings are just as important as the city clerk's records, because the press is outside the government.

Consider the example of the City Council's decision on May 20, 1956, to convert Walnut and College from two-way to one-way traffic. *The Daily Herald-Telephone* reported that the vote was 5 to 2. (Not until 1960 did the Council's membership increase to nine.)

Here's my beef with the city hall reporter of that era: If you report the vote was 5 to 2, you have to tell us readers which two councilmembers voted no—but you didn't. Why not??

Anyhow, to find out which councilmembers voted no, I looked up the official meeting minutes of the May 20, 1956, City Council meeting. And guess what: The meeting minutes say that the council voted "unanimously" to adopt the resolution on one-way traffic. Huh.

If that kind of discrepancy emerged today, I would bet that it was the city clerk who got it right. But for 1956, I have no idea.

I don't think there's one magically accurate historical record of public meetings. By focusing too much on the city clerk's record, I think we forget that it is the rest of us, especially the press, who are supposed to be making our own meeting records. ✨



B SQUARE BULLETIN



LENNIE'S
FINE FOOD & ALES
Est. 1989

514 E. Kirkwood Ave
(812) 323-2112



MAKE A RESERVATION



lenniesbloomington.com

WFHB
VOLUNTEER POWERED / COMMUNITY RADIO

YOUTH RADIO

SATURDAYS 6-10PM

**AUDIO
THEATRE!**

PODCASTS!

DJ!

ENGINEERING!

STORYTELLING!

**JOIN US
AT WFHB!**



**POETRY
READING!**

JOURNALISM!

**TO RSVP FOR TRAINING AND
MORE INFORMATION,
EMAIL
YOUTHRADIO@WFHB.ORG**

Volunteers Needed To Help Resolve Disputes

A local organization is searching for volunteers to help resolve landlord-tenant disputes; settle workplace, neighborhood, and small claims disagreements; and restore “justice” between offenders and victims.

“We want to make sure next year we get some good pools of mediators,” says Liz Grenat, executive director of the Community Justice & Mediation Center (CJAM), a nonprofit organization that promotes a civil and just community through mediation, education, and restorative justice.

CJAM, created in 1996, works in partnership with county juvenile, probation, and court officials. Grenat says the center’s eviction prevention project, which grew during the pandemic, helps tenants and landlords reach agreements.

The center, which now has 25 mediation volunteers, converted to virtual programs during the pandemic, but volunteer recruitment suffered.

A 40-hour, five-week training program is offered twice yearly—in February via Zoom and in September, in person, during evenings and on Saturdays. Many people get full or partial scholarships to offset the \$300 fee. Through role-playing and lectures, the training teaches skills in conflict resolution, communication, listening, problem-solving, and negotiating.

“Anybody can learn these skills,” Grenat emphasizes. She wants volunteers diverse in race, age, gender, and financial backgrounds, but they don’t need legal or professional experience.

After training, volunteers work with trained mediators until they can function as



(l-r) CJAM Director Liz Grenat and volunteer mediator Wilson Mosky. More volunteers are needed to help resolve disputes outside a courtroom Photo by Paul Baechtold

lead mediators, says Grenat, director since 2016. Volunteers aren’t required to commit to a certain service period, but they average about four to eight hours monthly.

They do need flexibility in their daily schedules, she explains, as teams cover eviction cases in Monroe Circuit Court twice a week and Small Claims Court once weekly. The center served more than 700 clients in 2021, with the largest proportion coming from eviction hearings. Mediators in the center’s restorative justice program meet with offenders and victims to determine how offenders can make amends, she says.

Ed Greenebaum, a 22-year volunteer, program director, and senior mediator sees the center’s impact. “We help our clients resolve matters from how much money will change hands to how they can live together as family, roommates, neighbors, and workers,” he says.

Mediation clients are happier with resolutions they create themselves, rather than with “ones that might have been imposed on them,” adds Greenebaum, a retired Indiana University Maurer School of Law professor.

To volunteer, visit cjamcenter.org/volunteer or call 812-336-8677.

—Barb Berggoetz

THE CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY INDIANA SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE

By purchasing the Cancer Support Community Indiana specialty license plate, you are helping provide free mental health, wellness, education and financial support to everyone facing a cancer diagnosis in Indiana including patients, survivors and their family and loved ones.

Scan the QR code to purchase your plate today!

SUPPORT HOOSIERS FACING CANCER.

Visit IN.gov/BMV, a BMV branch, BMV Connect kiosk, or BMV partial service providers to find out how you can purchase or switch your current plate to the Cancer Support Community Indiana plate.

**For license plates in the state of Indiana only.*

CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY INDIANA



Sports

The Story Behind the Story



BY JEREMY PRICE

The Four Horsemen

Some of sports' most memorable prose came from reporter Grantland Rice, who you might remember for writing, "It's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game."

It was also his description of the Irish backfield from Notre Dame's 1924 showdown with Army at the Polo Grounds in New York City that became the stuff of legend.

"Outlined against a blue, gray October sky, the Four Horsemen rode again," Rice wrote. "In dramatic lore, they are known as Famine, Pestilence, Destruction and Death. These are only aliases. Their real names are Stuhldreher, Miller, Crowley and Layden."

Off the field, a different battle had been taking place for the past year and threatened to derail the big game. The Ku Klux Klan declared its intention to return to South Bend with 200,000 people on the date of the game—October 18, 1924.

The Klan's anti-Catholic rhetoric had been building and culminated in the spring of 1924. On May 17, just three days prior to the Indiana Republican Convention, the KKK planned a mass meeting for its Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois members in South Bend.

Groups of young men, many thought to be Notre Dame students and some rumored to be members of the football team, opposed the Klan presence that day. Robed members were driven from the street and with the city refusing to grant a parade license, the event never got off the ground.

Two days later, the KKK set up an ambush for Notre Dame students who opposed the group in an effort to paint the Catholic students as violent. It was modestly successful and made for nervous moments about an apocalyptic event five months later.

The KKK ultimately ceded to public and political pressure to cancel the October 18 rally, allowing Notre Dame to breathe a sigh of relief and turn its full attention to the upcoming big game in New York.

The Irish (Fighting would not officially become part of the nickname until 1925) responded with a 13-7 win, a dominating effort tainted only by a late Army touchdown. Notre Dame would go on to claim the national championship and a legendary nickname for its backfield. ✘



Notre Dame's 1924 backfield, nicknamed the Four Horsemen: (l-r) Jim Crowley, Elmer Layden, Don Miller, and Harry Stuhldreher. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress

Comfort food,
Creole attitude.

WWW.THE-UPTOWN.COM
102 EAST KIRKWOOD AVE

An Immigrant's Story

Tina Nguyen of Nails and Spa

Tina Nguyen was disappointed when she first arrived in America from Vietnam as a 20-year-old. The United States looked nothing like what she had grown up watching on television. On her ride from Chicago's O'Hare Airport to Bloomington, instead of mansions, fancy cars, and fashionable people, she witnessed soybean and corn fields, lots of farmland, and ordinary-looking houses. It was a shock that nearly broke her dream of America, she says. But that changed.

Now 42, Nguyen is the owner of Nails and Spa on South College Mall Road. In 20 years—the span of a generation—the immigrant and at-times single mother, purchased a business and grew it to what it is today, a multi-service spa.

Nguyen's fast-paced American journey began with her arrival to the United States in 2001, two weeks after 9/11. She spoke no English, and after just 30 days in the country she married a Vietnamese-American



(above) Tina Nguyen is a Vietnamese immigrant who now owns Nails and Spa on South College Mall Road; (opposite page) a selection of nail polishes at Nails and Spa. Photos by Kathryn Coers Rossman

There's no place like hope.

Become a **CASA** Volunteer

Children in foster care who have a CASA volunteer are more likely to succeed in school and adjust to change. They're also half as likely to re-enter the foster care system later. As a volunteer, you can make all the difference for a child who has experienced abuse or neglect in our community.

Get involved today.

CHANGE A CHILD'S STORY.

Monroe County **CASA**
Court Appointed Special Advocates FOR CHILDREN

812-333-2272 www.monroecountycasa.org

Indiana University student, a marriage that lasted 15 years and ended after the birth of the couple's fourth daughter.

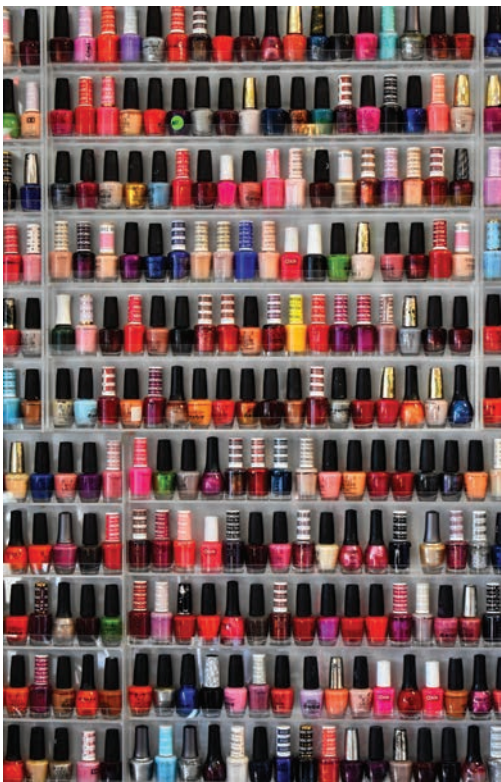
Nguyen had realized that fulfilling her dream depended on having money and resources, so she learned English through an IU second language program. She attended beauty school in Indianapolis and used her textbook to memorize English words and phrases, which she practiced with the customers at her first job in a nail salon.

Nguyen passed the Indiana driving test, which she described as "hard," and took the U.S. citizenship test, proclaiming it to be "easy, because I studied the questions—in English." In 2012, she set out to bring her recently widowed mother to America and took the lead in

bringing five of her six younger siblings to Bloomington and enrolling them in beauty school.

In 2016, she purchased Nails and Spa from her former employer. A friend introduced her to her second husband, Andy, who is also Vietnamese. They married in 2018, and between them, they have six children ages 3 to 18—Sophie, the youngest, is theirs together.

Andy was a master craftsman in Vietnam and has used that skill to make several upgrades to the shop. He also works alongside his wife in the salon as a nail technician, as do four of Nguyen's five sisters. The fifth is opening her own nail salon in Bedford, Indiana.



Introducing Hopewell

A new neighborhood at the former IU Health Hospital site.



“To me, America means freedom. My success would not have happened in Vietnam,” Nguyen concludes. The openness of the U.S. and the friendliness of its people have guided her toward a deeper understanding of the country's complexities—unlike the idealized version she had when she arrived. “America is based on money, and if you don't have it or a way to earn it, life can be hard.”

—Audrey Thomas McCluskey

hopewellbloomington.org



Loren Wood Builders

A Husband & Wife Startup That Grew & Grew & Grew

by Brittany Marshall

Since 2010, Loren Wood Builders (LWB) has provided custom homes, renovations, and commercial spaces in Bloomington. What began as a startup between Loren, a high school math teacher, and wife Lindsay Wood has turned into a full-service design-build company with a team of more than 60 full-time employees, including licensed electricians, painters, carpenters, framers, project managers, and designers.

“We’re a boutique company and very hands-on, physically building every aspect of a home, which is very different than the standard home build you see in the U.S. today,” says Wood. “I knew early on that I wanted to build houses that would stand the test of time by creating high-quality, architecturally significant builds that truly shape the fabric of people’s lives.”



Lindsay and Loren Wood, owners of Loren Wood Builders, and their three children.
Photo by Nolan Calisch

POINT A

Bloomington's Hometown Airport

The fastest and most convenient way from Point A to Point B.

Call **BMG Jet Center** or **Cook Aviation** for details

Charter a flight today

Just 90 MINUTES from the Beaches of Florida.

POINT B

The LWB guiding principles include “attention to detail, amazing client experience, creating a highly positive working environment, a focus on community investments, and a commitment to lowering the environmental impact during construction.” The company recently became a certified passive home builder by following energy-efficient standards set by Phius. It also made the Bloomington Community Innovation Awards Best Places to Work list for the third year in a row.

“I’m so proud of the friendly culture that we’ve developed, and the incredible amount of talent and diverse skillset on our team,” says Wood. “I think it’s a reflection of an amazing amount of ongoing work by every team member over the years.”

Wood attributes his business philosophy to his father and uncle, who both operated their own companies. From a young age, his uncle’s construction business had “a profound impact” on his interest in building, and later inspired his own business model.

The LWB workshop, located at 900 S. Walnut, was built in 1928 by Bloomington Limestone Company, a conglomerate of limestone mills in town. Wood purchased the property in 2019 after outgrowing their original workshop on Bloomington’s east side.

“This space is a reflection of who we want to be in the construction world, and if you can take something that has come to the end of its useful life in its original form and breathe new life into it, it can serve the community for another 100 years.”

To learn more, visit lorenwoodbuilders.com. ✨

Räke Cabinets

Growing with Technology



President and owner Rich Raake showcases some of the sample products on display in the Räke Cabinets showroom. Photo by Paul Baechtold

Rich Raake, 49, second-generation owner of Räke Cabinet & Surface Solutions at 705 E. Dillman Road, says he is filled with pride when he thinks about how the company has grown over the past 25 years.

Since its beginning, Räke Cabinet & Surface Solutions has specialized in the sale and installation of custom-made countertops. It has since expanded to include customized cabinetry, making the business a one-stop shop for kitchen and bath design.

When Rich and his parents, Bob and Margaret Raake, bought the business (then called Laminated Tops) in 1997, the industry was vastly different. They didn't have a computer, so they not only drafted all the designs by hand, but they did their bookkeeping that way, too. And when someone placed an order for a new countertop, it had to be cut out by hand.

Now, what took one person hours to complete is accomplished in just minutes with the help of modern, programable machinery.

The first major upgrade was the computer-aided design software application AutoCAD, explains Raake, a 1995 Purdue

University alum. Eventually, this gave way to photography-based templating, where designs were superimposed into digital images of a given space. Now, they use a laser system that maps out the area in minute detail, giving the designers exact measurements in a fraction of the time.

Still, the goal is the same. "We strive for a great culture and continuous improvement," Raake says. "I want Räke to be a place that people want to buy from. I want to be a place where people want to work at. And I want to be a place that people want to sell to. So from my suppliers to my customers to my coworkers, we strive to provide a better, unique experience.

"With that objective, we have been able to maintain financial stability and be a healthy contributor to the community."

Learn more by visiting the Räke showroom or at rakesolutions.com. —Aaron Brewington

We Promise To Serve



B

BILL C. BROWN ASSOCIATES

INSURANCE · EMPLOYEE BENEFITS · RETIREMENT SERVICES

*Securities offered through OneAmerica Securities, Inc., a Registered Investment Advisor, Member FINRA, SIPC. Bill C. Brown Associates is not an affiliate of OneAmerica Securities and is not a broker dealer or Registered Investment Advisor.

Bloom

MAGAZINE

Makes a nice gift!

WE SEND A NICE GIFT CARD, TOO.

Share with someone you love what makes Bloomington unique—the people, places, arts, culture, entertainment, homes, food and drink, and so much more.



ORDER ONLINE

magbloom.com/subscribe

1 YEAR
SUBSCRIPTION

\$26.95

2 YEAR
SUBSCRIPTION

\$47.95

Driver on Deck

New Local Delivery Service



Nick Harris, co-founder of Driver on Deck, grabs a delivery order from Gables Bagels. Photo by Jim Krause

In 2020, while working as bartenders at BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse, Nick Harris and Tori LaRocca began developing a shift auctioning platform that allowed employees who couldn't work a shift to post it as available, and their coworkers could bid on it to make extra money.

The duo were pitching the platform around the community when they met with Jeff Mease co-owner of One World Enterprises—Pizza X, Lennie's, One World Catering, Kitchenshare, and Hive. While the concept didn't fit his businesses, Mease saw where, with a bit of tweaking, it had potential as a delivery service. Inspiration had struck, and Driver on Deck was born.

Working out of Dimension Mill, Harris, 45, and LaRocca, 32, looked at tech giants like Delivery.com, Grubhub, DoorDash, and others, and knew they had to find a way

to stand out. "Those guys are food resellers, taking the food and charging more for it," Harris said. "We are direct-to-restaurant. You would pay the same price [for the food] if you went to pick it up yourself."

For restaurants utilizing their own online ordering system, Driver on Deck offers three levels of service. Basic Delivery costs \$2 per delivery and is intended for restaurants with fewer than 30 delivery orders per day. Delivery Pro costs \$250 per month and \$1 per delivery and allows the restaurant to schedule a driver up to one week in advance. And the elite service—Delivery Pro Plus—costs \$350 per month and includes everything in the other two levels plus data monitoring and reporting.

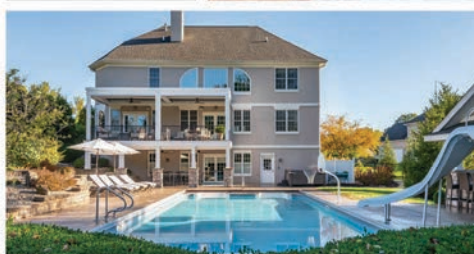
Additionally, Harris explains, a free start-up service is available for restaurants that

connect their ordering directly to the Driver on Deck mobile ordering platform instead of their own.

The company then works with the restaurants to determine an appropriate flat-rate delivery fee for their customers, based on the distance of the delivery, Harris continues. "In addition to receiving 100% of their customer tips, drivers are able to negotiate their own desired amount of the delivery fee in exchange for points redeemable for free and discounted food or merchandise."

"We think this is a good concept that would be able to compete nationally," Harris says.

The service currently has about 30 drivers. Learn more at driverondeck.com.
— Aaron Brewington



WHY WORK WITH KRISTI GIBBS?



Working with Kristi is a breeze. I'd highly recommend her if you're selling or buying! She's professional, knows the market, and will make sure your needs are met. Thank you!

– Seller, Bloomington

CENTURY 21. Schetz



KRISTI GIBBS • REALTOR®

☎ C 812.606.9790
B 812.336.2100

✉ KGIBBS@C21SCHEETZ.COM

🌐 KRISTIGIBBSREALTY.COM



THESE BUSINESSES SUPPORT PEOPLE IN POVERTY

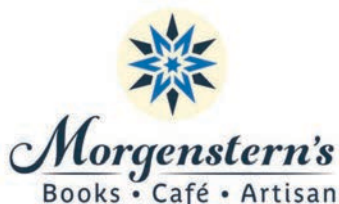
Thank you to all of Beacon's Corporate Sponsors in 2022!



OUR GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS



OUR SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS



OUR BRONZE LEVEL SPONSORS



WE'D ALSO LIKE TO THANK

*The Atlas Ballroom | The Bishop Bar | Bill C Brown Associates | Bloomington Sports and Wellness
The FAR Center for Contemporary Arts and The Elm | German American Bank | Goods for Cooks
ISU Insurance - The May Agency | K & S Rolloff, Inc | One World Enterprises | Sterling Realty | Whole Sun Designs*



SHALOM CENTER
PHIL'S KITCHEN
FRIEND'S PLACE
STREET OUTREACH
RAPID RE-HOUSING
CRAWFORD HOMES

Based in Bloomington, IN, Beacon is a solutions-driven, anti-poverty nonprofit, dedicated to aiding and empowering people experiencing extreme poverty, especially hunger and homelessness



Learn more at beaconinc.org

Drift—a Small Local Company Making Safe Cleaning Products



Kelly Conaway, founder of Drift, refills a bottle of The Multitasker at Bloomingfoods East. Drift is eliminating single-use plastics by bottling in glass and offering refill stations. Photo by Kathryn Coers Rossman

While cleaning is an unavoidable part of life, Drift company founder Kelly Conaway is working to make that process easier on the planet and our bodies by selling nontoxic alternative products.

Conaway, 41, became interested in green cleaning products around the time she created a home cleaning business a decade ago. At that time, she had just given birth to her second child and was looking for work where she could control her own schedule.

Always environmentally conscious, Conaway says she didn't want to buy cleaners filled with carcinogenic compounds. "If you look at the back of these products, it says to use in a well-ventilated area because they have ingredients known to cause lung issues," she explains. "It surprises me that these things are still on the market in the United States. It breaks

my heart how people who care about their health, the planet, their children, and their pets are still using these products with warnings on the back of them."

All of Conaway's products use safe, biodegradable ingredients. For instance, her Multitasker consists of water, vinegar, alcohol, cornstarch, and lavender. Conaway says the product can clean just about anything from glass to mirrors to countertops and more. "This baby is a great all-in-one multi-surface cleaner. People might not realize that these simple ingredients can make a powerful disinfectant."

Drift also sells a Grimebusta' spray that Conaway says does everything that the Multitasker can't. The bottle even sprays upside down, making it an effective toilet bowl cleaner.

With the carbon footprint of her products in mind, Conaway is also focused on eliminating waste. Her dish powder, *Sparkle Sparkle*, uses paper-based packaging instead of single-use plastics. Her cleaners can also be purchased in refillable glass bottles, with refilling stations located at both Bloomingfoods locations as well as the Georgetown Market in Indianapolis.

With her products taking off, Conaway is transitioning out of cleaning and focusing instead on expanding her line of goods and taking them regional.

In addition to Bloomingfoods, Drift products can be found at Gather on the downtown Square and purchased through her website at drift-home.com.

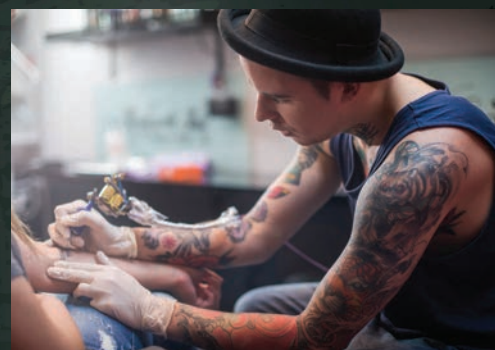
— Aaron Brewington





SMALL BUSINESS Spotlights

PHOTOGRAPHY BY Martin Boling



Lance Like.

Like Law Group LLC Lance D. Like, Attorney



For Lance D. Like, practicing law means serving

clients in many ways crucial to their long-term financial well-being and their families' welfare. "We help people plan for and protect the two most important things in their lives: the people they love and the assets they have," says Like, founder and owner of Like Law Group LLC in Bloomington since 2006.

His firm primarily does estate planning, elder law, and probate and trust administration. "We help people develop plans ranging from very basic ones for young adults to more sophisticated plans for high

net worth people. With Medicaid planning, we also help people protect assets from the high costs of nursing home care," he says.

Like says he realized the significance of these services as his life progressed. "When my wife and I had three sons, estate planning took on a whole new importance. Then, as my parents aged, I looked at the needs of older people."

A native Hoosier, Like graduated from the Indiana University School of Law where he met his wife, Karen. After living in Denver, they moved back to Bloomington in 1993. Like enjoys working closely with clients. "We have clients for whom we've been doing work for a long time. Our clients are like family."

—Barb Berggoetz

Learn more at likelawgroup.com or call 812-323-8300.

Keystone Construction

Jason Shaw, Designer



When Jason Shaw returned to his Bloomington hometown from the West Coast last year, he wanted to

reconnect to his roots, the community, and his family and friends while finding a designer position that fit. He found that in August with Keystone Construction Co., which has provided high-quality design-build, custom home building, and renovation services for 18 years.

"We value pride in workmanship, quality, service, and cost," Shaw says, adding that the community is at the heart of all the Keystone team does. "What's good for the community is good for us, and we take pride in the work we do."

Shaw graduated from Bloomington High School North and earned a bachelor's degree in interior design from Indiana University in 2000. He then moved to Seattle, working as a designer and for international interiors brands. Most recently, Los Angeles had been home for 15 years. While there, his work with custom furniture, lighting, and decorative arts expanded by working for notable A-list interior designers.

Shaw's interest in design started as a child with art and architecture. As a boy, his parents would take the family cross country, from out west to other parts of the nation. It flourished as a late teen when his sister lived in Spain and he traveled across Europe with his twin brother. "A lot of those outside influences in the world solidified at that time," he says.

At his new design home with Keystone Construction, Shaw says he likes the diversity



Jason Shaw.

of projects—from the necessary pre-construction services to construction and design-related services for new builds, larger remodel projects, home additions, and high-quality energy efficient homes.

"We are focused on client satisfaction, exceptional service value, and results," Shaw adds. "Results are our top priority. Our team is strong, reliable, passionate, and made up of hardworking craftsmen."

Keystone Construction is owned by Bloomington native and third-generation homebuilder David Killion, and received the 2021 Building Association of South Central Indiana Builder of the Year award.

Shaw continues providing a high level of service by working closely with clients to find a functional design that works for them. "There's room for everyone in every type of style. It really is more about how people live, what applies to them, and how it works in their own lives," he says.

Shaw is happy to be in his new position and back in Bloomington. "I love how Bloomington has grown," he says. "There are so many new opportunities, diversity, and just a calmer lifestyle." —Linda Margison

For information or to schedule an appointment, visit keystoneconstructionco.com or call 812-668-6767.



Jacey Hammel.

Hammel Psychological Services

Jacey Hammel, Ph.D., Owner



Although clinical psychologist Jacey Hammel earned her first undergraduate degree in business from Indiana University, she had psychology on her mind.

Years later, she earned a second bachelor's from IU—this one in psychology—followed by a doctorate from Auburn University in Alabama.

At the University of Alabama at Birmingham, she wore many hats in research, teaching, and clinical as a faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry and Neurobiology. Then, she chose to focus on clinical practice and, ultimately, to

start Hammel Psychological Services. While working in private practice, the Bedford, Indiana, native had a chance to move back home when PsyPact—an interstate agreement allowing practitioners to treat patients from other PsyPact states—went into effect here, ensuring she could continue treating her Alabama clients.

"I've been gone for about 20 years, but I wanted to return home to family and longtime friends," she says. "I'm definitely looking forward to being a part of the community, both personally and professionally."

Hammel says emotions are a core part of her practice and she aims to help people grow. "We all struggle at different times and can benefit from having help to sort that out, getting connected and being present with ourselves and others," she explains. "Psychotherapy can help alleviate distress, improve relationships, and further personal growth."

—Linda Margison

Visit hammelpsychological.com.



John Porter.

Fenbrook Lane

John Porter, Owner

FENBROOK LANE

In the early throes of the pandemic when some businesses were shuttering, John Porter launched a direct business that has thrived in its two years of operation, and is now serving clients in Indiana, California, Philadelphia, and Tennessee.

Fenbrook Lane offers expertly fitted, made-to-measure custom clothing for men. “Usually I go to my customers,” Porter explains. “The model of the business is meeting them in their environment when it is convenient for them. I take out all the hurdles, all the things that might encumber somebody from getting what they need.”

With master’s and undergraduate degrees in music education and a forte for jazz, Porter has always admired fine clothing and dressing. “Some of my heroes are the folks that I look up to musically, who were also dressed very well,” he says. “A lot of my inspiration comes from that type of clothing and apparel.”

Porter combines that appreciation with his four-year experience at Andrew Davis Clothiers to serve his clients. “My level of expertise and my attention to detail are probably my strongest suits when it comes to custom clothing,” Porter adds. “Nothing is an afterthought. I always look at things from every angle to make sure my clients are served and that they get what they want.”

—Linda Margison

Visit fenbrooklane.com or email fenbrooklane@gmail.com.



(l-r) Heather Ray and Ken Keffer.

Wild Birds Unlimited

Heather Ray & Ken Keffer, Owners



For those interested in backyard bird watching, winter is a great time to start feeding the birds, says Heather Ray, co-owner of Bloomington’s new Wild Birds Unlimited store on South College Mall Road. “Not only does it bring us joy, but it does also help some of the birds get through winter if they’re getting higher fat foods,” says Ray.

Ray and her husband, Ken Keffer, moved to Bloomington a year ago to open a Wild Birds Unlimited, where experienced and newbie bird watchers alike

can come chat with fellow bird enthusiasts and purchase feeders, fresh seed, binoculars, and bird-themed gifts like greeting cards and wine pourers. Keffer and Ray also host events and partner with local organizations like the Sassafras Audubon Society, Brown County Bluebird Club, and Sycamore Land Trust.

For customers without access to a full backyard—like those living in apartment complexes—Keffer recommends solutions like no mess seed and deck- or window-mounted feeders. “Birds are everywhere, and until you start paying attention, it’s easy to overlook them,” he says.

“We have options that are specifically for beginners,” Ray adds. “It doesn’t have to be complicated. You can just start with a feeder and some seed.” —Sophie Bird

Visit bloomington.wbu.com for more information or to order curbside pickup.



Shena House.

House of Paws

Shena House, Owner



At House of Paws grooming, the needs of your dog always come first, says owner Shena House. “I want customers to know that we care about your dog,” says House, who was previously co-owner of Pawsitive Grooming. “It’s not just another client coming in. It’s not just another paycheck. We care about every single dog that comes in here and their special needs and what we need to do for them.”

House of Paws, which is located in Winslow Plaza, offers full grooms, baths, breed-specific cuts, and a la carte

services like spa treatments, nail trims, mat prevention, and tooth brushing in a cage-optional environment. The House of Paws staff also works with customers to recommend products and decide on cuts that fit with the lifestyle and environment of both dog and owner. Some clients even bring their own shampoo or other products.

“Corporate businesses, they usually just put you into a breed specification or weight specification,” says House, who has a degree in animal behavior from Indiana University–Bloomington. “While we do that, we realize that dogs are more than that. They have trauma, they have issues, they have feelings, and we work with the parents and try anything we can do to make this a positive experience.”

—Sophie Bird

To book an appointment, visit hoppgrooming.com or call 812-369-4103.



Eleanor Cook.

EllieMae's Boutique

Eleanor Cook, Owner's Daughter



Inside Ellie Mae's Boutique in Fountain Square Mall, shoppers may notice a new space inspired by 12-year-old Eleanor Cook—the

Kirkwood Candle Bar. "Owners Marcy and Carl Cook thought it would be fun to bring a candle bar and a new experience into the community," says manager Terra Hall.

"People are very into personalization right now, and they want to take that to the next level and be a little more intimate in their gift giving," she says, adding that patrons choose one of 12 candle containers—available in different styles,

sizes, and price points—then choose their own scents and mix the candle themselves.

"There's so many different choices," Hall says, reading off a few of the 80 jarred scents available— leather, chocolate fudge, sandalwood, lemongrass, green tea, cinnamon stick, lavender, and vanilla, as well as more obscure scents like old books, library, tomato leaf, and fallen leaves.

The Kirkwood Candle Bar also can be reserved free of charge for a date night, bridal shower, girls night out, or any other group. "This is another experience that people can actually go out and do and have fun," Hall says. "It's a totally different experience."

Ellie Mae's and Kirkwood Candle Bar are located at 101 W. Kirkwood, Suite 116.

—Linda Margison

For more information and reservations, visit kirkwoodcandlebar.com.

Allison Chopra Law

Allison Chopra, Attorney



Despite earning a Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice from Indiana

University–Bloomington in 2005, Allison Chopra didn't immediately start her career in the law.

Instead, she went on to earn a Master of Science in kinesiology from IU in 2008 and open Urban Fitness Studio, a private personal training studio. It was there that Chopra eventually decided to apply for law school.

"I trained many women [who were] in the legal profession," she explains. "They inspired me to do something I'd always thought about, which was go to law school. I was just so fascinated by their work and their stories and what they did, and I thought they were just the smartest and most interesting women I'd ever met."

Chopra sold Urban Fitness Studio in 2014 to attend the IU Maurer School of Law. That same year, she was elected to Bloomington City Council, a position she filled for the duration of her law degree.

She graduated in 2018 and went on to serve as deputy prosecutor—and then chief deputy prosecutor—for the Lawrence County Prosecutor's Office.

"I really enjoyed the work," Chopra says. "However, I wanted to get back to working in Monroe County and Bloomington because that's where my family and community are. I've lived in Bloomington for 21 years now, but I was missing out on my children's school and sports activities and community events."

To that end, Chopra opened Allison Chopra Law in May, where she focuses primarily on criminal defense. "Because I was a prosecutor, I know that area of the law very well," she says. "I've tried almost every type of high-level crime. I also practice family law, which deals with divorce, child custody issues, and guardianships."

Allison Chopra Law is entirely virtual, something Chopra feels is more effective and convenient for her clients. "During COVID, a lot of courts went online or Zoom only," Chopra explains. "They saw court appearance rates skyrocket. It's easier for people."

Chopra relies on a secure client portal, scanners, and document signing software to keep her client communications streamlined and private. "My clients have overwhelmingly told me that they like that," she says. "It's easier for them to connect with me."

One of her main strengths as an attorney, Chopra says, is her willingness to fight for her clients in court. "My real specialty is litigation,"



Allison Chopra. Courtesy photo

she says. "I want my clients to know that if they don't want to settle or they don't like the compromise, I'll keep fighting for them." —Sophie Bird

Schedule a free consultation at allisonchopralaw.com.

Look **GOOD** Feel **GOOD**

A guide to navigating local health care, wellness, and beauty solutions.

BY Sophie Bird / PHOTOGRAPHY BY Martin Boling



allure

EYECARE
+
AESTHETICS



Changing the Face of Eye Care
Specializing in Dry Eye and Aesthetics

Allure Eyecare
3655 S. Sare Rd
Bloomington, IN 47401
812-727-7444

Schedule online at
www.allure-eyes.com



Allure Eyecare + Aesthetics Not Your Typical Optometry Experience

Dr. Diana Christensen designed Allure Eyecare + Aesthetics to provide an integrated approach to comprehensive eye and vision care, along with custom eyewear, dry eye services, and top notch skin care.

“We care about how your eyes feel, as well as how they see,” says optometrist Christensen, who has practiced in Bloomington for 14 years. She opened her own practice in April at 3655 S. Sare Road, using the best in high-tech, state-of-the-art equipment.

“What sets us apart from everyone is we treat dry eyes and eye lid conditions and offer spa services,” says Christensen, who first dreamed of being an optometrist as a teenager. “You’re not just getting your typical optometry experience.”

To treat dry eyes, Allure offers “low light level therapy,” a non-invasive treatment using a red light mask to stimulate endogenous heating to help eyelids function better. The clinic provides the latest advancement, Lumenis OptiLight IPL—an intense, pulsed-light treatment approved by the Food and Drug Administration for dry eyes and facial conditions such as rosacea.

Christensen created a dry eye spa treatment room to care for the skin surrounding patients’ eyes and their entire faces. A licensed esthetician does relaxing facials using high-end products to give skin a thorough cleansing, exfoliation, and nourishment.

Christensen also says it’s important to provide retinal imaging, which can detect eye diseases and systemic conditions, including diabetes and hypertension.

“We are a very genuine and happy staff,” Christensen says. “We want to make everyone love their vision and their visits here.” —*Barb Berggoetz*

For more information, visit allure-eyes.com.

Vibrant Life

Hormone Replacement for a Better Life

Dr. Clark Brittain has called Bloomington home for 24 years. He opened his medical practice, Vibrant Life, to help patients live a better quality of life. One of the ways he does this is through hormone replacement therapy.

“We choose subdermal hormone replacement therapy at Vibrant Life,” Brittain says. “The results are long-lasting, it reduces the risk of breast cancer, and patients express true satisfaction at the improvements in their quality of life.”

Brittain and his staff use Sotopelle hormone pellets, which are inserted beneath the patient’s skin in a largely painless outpatient procedure that requires no patient downtime. After the procedure, patients report benefits such as relief from hot flashes, night sweats, mental foginess, muscle loss, vaginal dryness, erectile dysfunction, fatigue, and much more in as little as one week. Women also experience reduced risk of death by 30%–50% from all causes. “Many patients seem to change almost overnight,” says Brittain. “It’s truly amazing to see someone become themselves again.”

Brittain and his staff offer additional services for both women and men to help improve intimate health and support the aging process. Treatments for sexual dysfunction, laser hair removal, anti-aging skin treatments, and premium skincare products are all available in the Vibrant Life office. “I truly love seeing the positive changes in people when they can age happily and gracefully,” Brittain says.

Visit drbrittain.com or call 812-331-9160 to schedule a consultation.



BE A BETTER YOU!
HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY
FROM VIBRANT LIFE

.....
 SAY GOODBYE TO HOT FLASHES, FATIGUE,
 MENTAL FOGGINESS, NIGHT SWEATS,
 DIMINISHED SEX DRIVE AND MORE WITH
 SOTTOPELLE SUBDERMAL HORMONES

 AVAILABLE FOR MEN AND WOMEN

DRBRITTAIN.COM **812.331.9160**




YOU DESERVE TO
FEEL YOUR BEST

stress & pain relief / recovery
 energy healing / increased mobility
 esthetics / couples massage /
 yoga and movement classes /
 gift certificates

EXPERIENCE OUR ENERGY HEALING ON A
 DEEPER LEVEL WITH POLARITY THERAPY.



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY FOR SHARING 25 YEARS OF SUCCESS!

Inside Fountain Square
 101 W. Kirkwood Ave.
 Suite 127 / Yoga Suite 122
 812-333-4917
BloomingtonBodyworks.com

FOUNTAIN SQUARE
Same Day & Online Booking
 Mon.-Sat. 10am-8pm
 Sun. 12:30pm-6:30pm

Williams Bros. Pharmacy

Experts at Helping You Age in Place

“The statistics are that two-thirds of people over 65 years old will have a fall this year, and 80% of those falls will be in the bathroom,” says Chuck Williams, vice president of Home Medical Equipment Operations for Williams Bros. Healthcare Pharmacy, an independently owned pharmacy with 12 locations in southern Indiana.

Those statistics are one of the reasons why Williams Bros. employs four teams of home modification experts to install equipment like handrails and grab bars, stair lifts, ramps, accessible showers, and toilet safety frames—all to help individuals age in place. “When we talk about home modifications, we’re talking about access,” says Williams. “We ease the access into your home.”

These modifications, says Business Development Manager Scott Sell, help prevent individuals who want to live at home from being forced to move due to safety concerns. “We’re taking a comprehensive approach to patient care,” says Sell. “Let’s look at your home—your physical space, your physical environment. How can we help you be safe in your home?”

“Anyone who is approaching their retirement years is already thinking about this,” says Williams. “Their needs look like wanting to continue to live independently.”

Williams mentions an aunt who had a walk-in shower installed on the main floor of her home. “Anybody who visits, she takes them right to the bathroom and shows them that shower,” he says. “It has transformed her living environment to something she’s proud of. It makes her feel good because she doesn’t have to rely on someone to come in and bathe her.”



Mark Buschhorn shows off some of the aging-in-place products available at Williams Bros. Pharmacy.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about Williams Bros. home modification services can visit Williams Bros. Pharmacy, 574 S. Landmark Ave., or call the store at 812-355-0000 to be connected with the home modification department. From there, the department can help schedule a free home safety assessment with the expertise of a certified aging-in-place specialist.

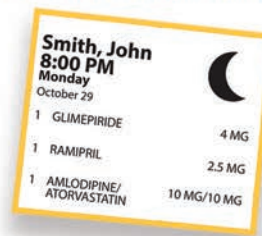
“One thing we have is empathy,” says Williams. “When we come into somebody’s home, we aren’t trying to sell a bunch of products to them. We’re trying to understand the situation. What our team is really good about doing is listening.”

For individuals concerned about the cost of home modification services, Williams Bros. offers information on VA and USDA assistance programs, Medicaid benefits, and other grant opportunities.

For more information, visit williamsbrosparmacy.com.



Download our Mobile App.



Text with a Pharmacist.

Managing your medication has never been easier.



FREE **Express Delivery**

Focused on your health since 1899.	812.335.0000
williamsbrosparmacy.com	574 S LANDMARK

Jenna Dale,
O.D., F.A.A.O.,
F.C.O.V.D.

Brandy Deckard,
O.D., F.A.A.O.
Owner

**Expert eye care and
designer frames downtown.**

Take care of your eyes and your image. Come see **Dr. Brandy Deckard** and **Dr. Jenna Dale** of Precision Eye Group, and the eye fashion consultants at our Vūe boutique. Kirkwood Avenue on the courthouse square.

IU students welcome—call **(812) 954-4565** and we'll work to accommodate your busy schedule.

Vūe
by Precision Eye Group

101 West Kirkwood Ave.
Bloomington, IN 47404
precisioneye.com

Monroe County YMCA

Group Exercise for Health and Community

"The Group Exercise program at the Monroe County YMCA has a newly renovated Mind Body Studio, complete with new equipment like mats, blankets, yoga props, weights, a stereo, and more," says Emily Abbott, Group Exercise program director.

Formerly known as the Yoga Studio, the Mind Body Studio is part of the Y's overarching Group Exercise program, which features classes for people of all ages and abilities, including Power Pump, Arthritis Aquatics, Zumba, Core and Stretch, and Power Cycle. In the Mind Body Studio, members can take classes like Long Life Yoga, Yoga for Every Body, and Full Body Fusion.

"Our new space has an upscale appearance comparable to a high-end boutique yoga studio, says Lisa Weidenbener, Group Exercise assistant. "In fact, the Mind Body Studio features new fitness equipment, a barre, and beautiful custom cabinetry which create an inviting and updated feel."

Across both YMCA locations, the Group Exercise program features several rooms and studios, including pools for aquatics classes, a kickboxing room, and a cycling studio. Part of what Abbott and Weidenbener do is help guide members to the classes that are right for them.

"The Y has something for everybody. For some people, it might be that they need a very soft yoga class to start feeling better, and some people might need a more vigorous, higher intensity workout to reach their goals," Weidenbener says.

The Group Exercise Department at the YMCA understands the importance of looking good and feeling good, Abbott explains. "At



(l-r) Heidi Brown, Jessica Hanna, and Mari Stanger participate in an exercise class with Emily Abbott, Monroe County YMCA Group Exercise program director.

the YMCA, our common theme is community. The nice thing about group exercise is that you have your friends, your group of people who are keeping you accountable to achieve your health and fitness goals toward looking and feeling better."

Abbott adds that the Play & Learn child care is always open during Group Exercise classes, and the Group Exercise program also organizes events to help the whole family stay active. Most Group Exercise classes are included with YMCA membership, but paid programs are also available when space or equipment are limited. "We have classes for all fitness levels and goals, and all of our classes are modifiable for a beginner," she says. "Come try any class for free! We look forward to helping you feel and look your best!"

See the Group Exercise schedule at monroecountyyymca.org/group-ex-schedules







BENEFIT YOUR MIND AND BODY

Mind Body Studio

Strengthen your mind-body connection with classes at the Y!
Join us for yoga, Pilates, barre, and more!

New Mind Body Studio features:

-  Ballet barre, mirrors, mats, and weights
-  Surround sound stereo speakers
-  Custom storage and cabinetry
-  Located in a private, large area of our Southeast Y

MonroeCountyYMCA.org   



Hickory Audiology

Focusing on Hearing Health

Bringing 50 years of experience to Hickory Audiology, Dr. Elizabeth Thompson, Au.D., and Dr. Lisa Goerner, Au.D., are focused on providing the best hearing health to Bloomington residents. "I'm really passionate about getting word out into the community on how essential hearing health is for healthy aging," Thompson says. "The more we can keep your ears active, healthy, and engaged, the more we can reduce the risk of dementia."

Thompson has been both a clinician and a key player in hearing aid manufacturing and development. She understands and is committed to making hearing health affordable to all patients. That includes fair, transparent pricing so patients know exactly what they're paying for, as well as accepting insurance and helping patients navigate costs and benefits. "We unbundle our pricing so patients can make an informed decision and determine how we proceed with their hearing health care and solutions," she says. "Regardless of where patients are going for hearing health care, they need to make sure they exhaust all of their insurance benefits."

When Thompson decided to open the practice, she wanted her mentor and local clinical educator, Lisa Goerner, involved. "Dr. Goerner has shaped the path of hearing care for countless patients over her years of clinical experience including 15 years at Indiana University," Thompson says. "Our motto is 'We listen, you hear,' and that embodies Goerner. She focuses on understanding what the patient needs and what we can do to help them live their best hearing life." —Linda Margison

For information, visit hickoryaudiology.com or call 812-668-2056.



HICKORY
AUDIOLOGY

WE LISTEN... YOU HEAR.

Professional hearing healthcare provided by your Bloomington Audiologists

ELIZABETH THOMPSON AUD
LISA GOERNER AUD, CCC-A

LOCATED AT:

**533 S LANDMARK AVE,
SUITE B IN BLOOMINGTON**

SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT!

812-668-2056
HICKORYAUDIOLOGY.COM



VASECTOMY TIME?

summiturology

VASECTOMY NOW!

- Men's Health
- Low Testosterone
- Prostate Health
- Kidney Stones

SummitUrology.com
812-332-8765
Same Day Appointments Available



Caring for your loved one.

Local · Helpful · Personal



BellTrace.com 812-323-2858



Experience what local, helpful and personal care means for you or your loved one when you choose Bell Trace. With senior living options that consider your life and health - first.

INDEPENDENT LIVING - ASSISTED LIVING - REHABILITATION - LONG TERM CARE

Bell Trace

Learning, Sharing With Intergenerational Programming

At Bell Trace Senior Living Community, residents are encouraged to participate in creative intergenerational programs that help reduce isolation and depression, create a sense of purpose, and provide opportunities to learn new skills, says Barbara Carroll, director of residential marketing.

"Intergenerational activities provide a unique collaboration that gives each the opportunity to give as well as receive," says Carroll. "The collaboration allows us to build on each other's strengths."

One recent activity was Bell Trace's Reading Buddies program, which brought together Bell Trace residents and children from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington for group reading sessions at the Monroe County Public Library. There, the children and their Bell Trace buddies chose books ranging from pop-up picture books to chapter books, found a seat in the library, and practiced reading aloud.

"For some children, it was their first introduction to the library and its many possibilities," says Marilyn Moore, a Bell Trace resident and Reading Buddies participant. "Each child chose a book that was appealing to them."

After reading, the buddies worked together to fill out a report about their experience and what they enjoyed about their book.

"Reports often included pictures that the child drew," says Moore. "As the Reading Buddies worked together, the program

excited children about the library and reading. We all enjoyed the new friendships that were made."

An upcoming program is Kara's Silver Strings, says Carroll. Renowned Brown County, Indiana, musician Kara Barnard will help seniors exercise their minds and bodies while learning to play the mountain dulcimer. Bell Trace musicians will then partner with Monroe County Community School Corporation students for an intergenerational concert.

Creative and intergenerational activities help energize seniors by giving them an opportunity to share their experience and skills, says Carroll. These activities can also help dispel negative stereotypes and encourage bonding between people of different generations.

Visit cardon.us/communities/bell-trace.



Bell Trace's Reading Buddies program brings together Bell Trace residents and children from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington.

NEW APARTMENTS



MOVE-IN

AUGUST 2023



CALL 812-339-8777 TO LEASE TODAY!

STUDIO, 1 & 2 BEDROOM

Bloomington's **newest apartment community** features a variety of floor plans that come with many indoor and outdoor amenities and is close to major employers in Monroe and surrounding counties.

- salt-water pool ▪ covered outdoor patio ▪ fire pit
- clubhouse ▪ fitness center ▪ coffee bar
- fireplace ▪ lounge/entertainment area
- grilling stations ▪ EV charging
- private balconies or patios



FROM 1972 TO 2022

601 N. COLLEGE AVE.
BLOOMINGTON, IN 47404
812-339-8777

WATERSEDGEBLOOMINGTON.COM



BLOOMINGTON | INDIANAPOLIS | MILWAUKEE | SARASOTA

A group of woman flip off pro-birth demonstrators in front of a sorority house on East 3rd Street on October 2. On September 22, an Indiana circuit court temporarily blocked the state's near-total abortion ban, restoring abortion access for now.





The Year in

PICTURES

Photography by
Jeremy Hogan of
The Bloomingtonian

With the two-year pandemic mostly in our rear-view mirror, Bloomington—like much of the world—resumed normal activities in 2022. Festivals, protests, sports, and yes, even hard news looked much like it did in the years prior to 2020’s shutdown—mask-free, crowded, and occurring all around us. Award-winning photojournalist Jeremy Hogan, founder of *The Bloomingtonian* news website, was there to capture many of this year’s happenings—here we present some of the highlights.

THE YEAR IN PICTURES



FREEZEFEST

A dog barks at a person dressed as a yeti—or abominable snowman—during Freezefest, held at Switchyard Park in January.

STREET GETS A NEW NAME

Jason Kerr, of the City of Bloomington Street Department, changes a sign to Eagleson Avenue at its intersection with East Third Street on February 1. Jordan Avenue was renamed Eagleson Avenue in honor of the Eaglesons, a long-time prominent Black family in the community.



ANNUAL POWWOW AT IU

Native American drummers perform during the 10th annual Indiana University Traditional Powwow held at the Ray E. Cramer Marching Hundred Hall on April 9. The event attracts hundreds of visitors each year to celebrate the diversity of contemporary Native American tribal identity.



IU GRAD STUDENTS ON STRIKE

A woman holds a sign with other members of the Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition as they strike for union recognition near the Sample Gates on April 14. Indiana University's administration had said the workers didn't need a union and refused to acknowledge it.



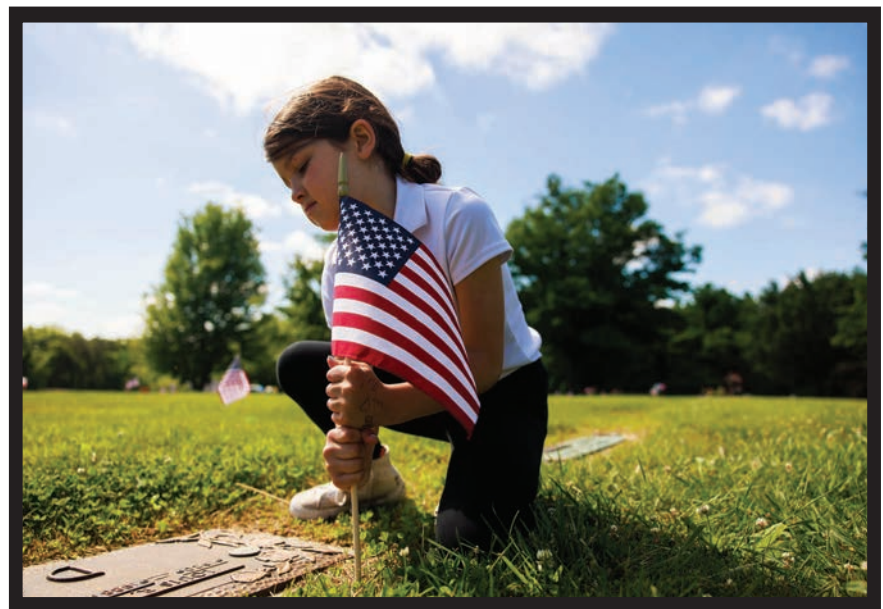


HOMELESS CAMP TO BE DISBANDED

In this May 18 photo, two residents of a large homeless camp behind the At Home store (formerly K-Mart) on West 3rd Street say they fear they will be cleared from the camp, but many there say they aren't leaving and have nowhere to go. The Monroe County Sheriff's Department evicted the residents on June 2.

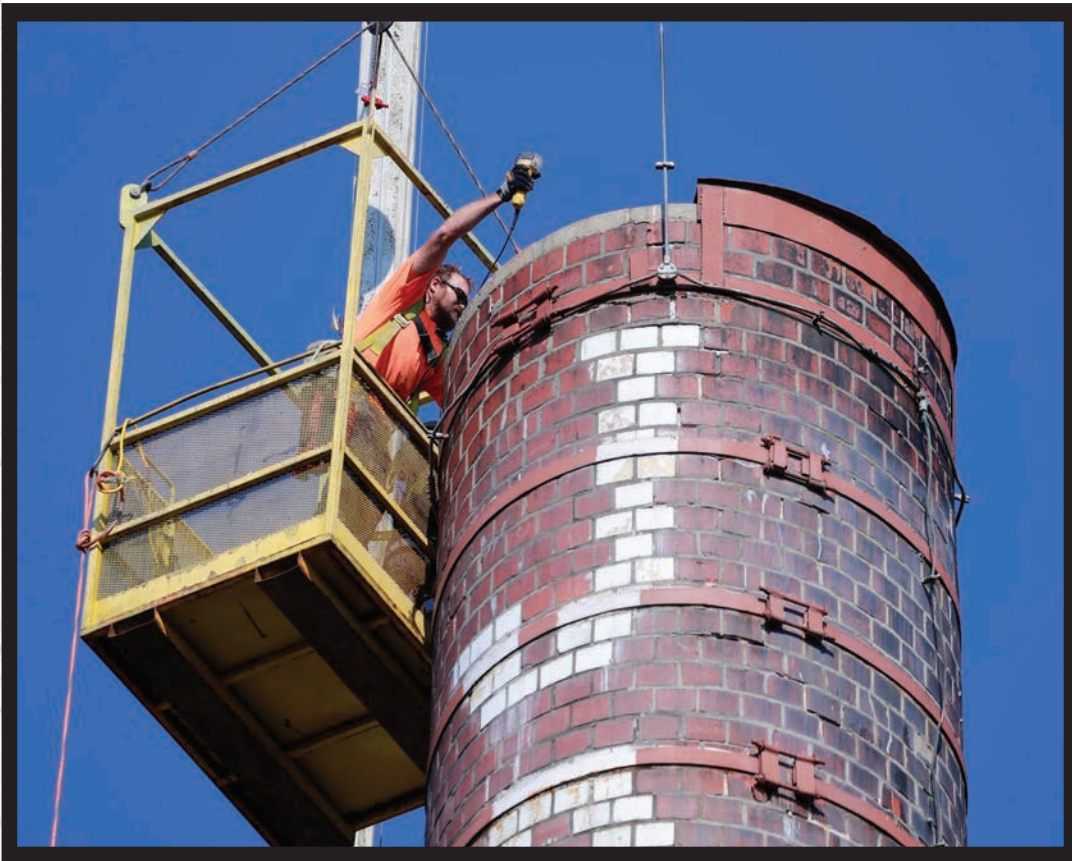
MEMORIAL DAY

Emma Sturgis, 7, places a U.S. flag on a veteran's grave for Memorial Day on May 28 at Valhalla Memory Gardens.



SHORTY JOHNSON CREAMERY

Workers begin taking down the Johnson's Creamery smokestack on August 25. The structure was deemed unsafe by the City of Bloomington, and an "Unsafe Building Order to Repair" was issued to Chicago-based Peerless Development, the owner of the building. Rather than repair the 140-foot-tall structure, the top was removed, leaving only the bottom 60 feet of smokestack.



HOMELESS MEMORIAL VIGIL

Tami Giles places a candle in memoriam for Tyshawn Carter during the Homeless Memorial Vigil held August 2 at the Monroe County Courthouse. At least 38 members of the homeless community died in the past year.





LOTUS FESTIVAL

Lemon Bucket Orkestra performs during the 2022 Lotus Festival Parade on September 24.

HOOSIER HYSTERIA

Indiana University basketball player Trayce Jackson-Davis is introduced to an excited crowd during Hoosier Hysteria on October 7.





CAPTURED!

Police and emergency medical workers check out a suspect who was taken into custody at East 6th Street and North Indiana Avenue on September 14. Police from several agencies worked from late morning until late afternoon to catch the man after he reportedly entered the Bloomington storm sewer system near 1st Street and South Walnut that morning. Police believed the man was armed. *



(l-r) Ross Lockridge and Alfred Kinsey, along with the books each published in January 1948. Courtesy photos

Raintree County

ROSS LOCKRIDGE, JR.

SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN THE HUMAN MALE

ALFRED C. KINSEY
WARDELL B. POMEROY
CLYDE E. MARTIN

75 Years Ago **BLOOMINGTON** Was the

SEX CAPITAL of **AMERICA**

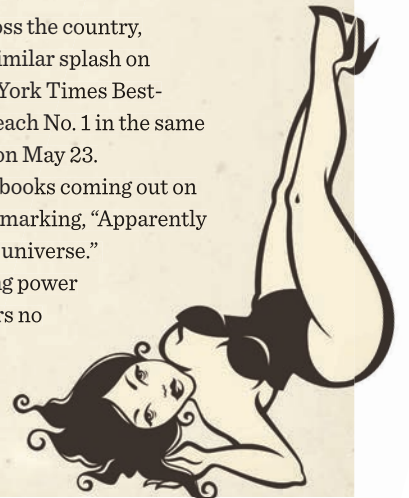
By Carmen Siering

On the same day, January 5, 1948, two incendiary books were published by two very different men, both living in Bloomington, both with ties to Indiana University. Today, the better-known book is *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* by Alfred C. Kinsey and his co-authors Wardell B. Pomeroy and Clyde E. Martin. The second was the “racy” novel *Raintree County* by Ross Lockridge Jr. Seventy-five years ago, both books caused an uproar.

As *Raintree County* was leading fiction bestseller lists across the country, Kinsey’s *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* was making a similar splash on nonfiction lists. By the end of January, both were on The New York Times Best-Seller List. By March, they hit the top 10. Though they didn’t reach No. 1 in the same week, both were No. 1 in May—Lockridge three times, Kinsey on May 23.

Ross Lockridge Jr. made note of the strangeness of the two books coming out on the same day and hitting the bestseller lists simultaneously, remarking, “Apparently Mr. Kinsey and I have made Bloomington the sex center of the universe.”

But in spite of the publicity the books garnered, their staying power on the bestseller lists, and their erotic subject matter, it appears no one in the press made the connection that the authors of the two most scandalous books of 1948 were both from sleepy, small-town Bloomington, Indiana.





Alfred Kinsey had to choose between teaching and research, so he became a sex researcher. Photo courtesy of IU Archives

Alfred Charles Kinsey arrived at Indiana University in 1920 as an associate professor of zoology. A popular professor, in 1938, he was asked to teach a “marriage course” for students who were married or engaged. While teaching the course, Kinsey found many students had questions about sex, and he didn’t always have answers.

Hoping to learn more, he began collecting data from his students on their sexual histories, using a complex coding system to ensure anonymity. That didn’t sit well with many in the community, and soon Kinsey was offered a choice by IU President Herman B Wells—continue teaching or continue his research. Kinsey became a sex researcher.

He applied for, and received, funding from the Rockefeller Foundation, then assembled a research team to begin the arduous task of gathering sex histories. In 1947, to assure the confidentiality of research subjects and to keep the data secure, the project was incorporated into The Institute for Sex Research, now Kinsey Institute Indiana University. *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* was the institute’s first publication.

More popularly referred to as The Kinsey Report, the book was the first scientific study of human sexuality that separated sexuality from morality. A companion volume on female sexuality would be released five years later.

The Kinsey Report generated national controversy. Some members of the scientific community condemned Kinsey’s study for its research methods and choice of research subjects. Some complained volunteers were most often white and college educated. In the decades since, critics have complained that many subjects were incarcerated or involved in criminal activities. Others suggested Kinsey’s conclusions were questionable based on his own liberal attitudes towards sex.

Religious leaders were quick to condemn the report. Monsignor Maurice Sheehy, the head of Catholic University of America’s

Department of Religious Education, famously called it “the most antireligious” book of its day. Prominent Catholic author and public figure Clare Booth Luce went so far as to say, “The Kinsey Report, like all cheap thrillers, would fall into obscurity if so much attention were not paid it.”

That didn’t happen. While the Kinsey Institute admits *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* is an academic tome full of scientific analysis and data tables, it also notes the subject is sex, and that was enough to sell 200,000 copies within its first two months of publication. It was also enough to propel the book to No. 1 on the NYT Best-Seller List on May 23. In total, it spent 26 weeks on the list.

AN UNABASHED ATTEMPT AT THE GREAT AMERICAN NOVEL

On the same day—January 5, 1948—another Bloomington author, Ross Lockridge Jr., saw his first and only novel, *Raintree County*, published.

Raintree County was Lockridge’s unabashed attempt at writing the Great American Novel. Clocking in at 1,060 pages, the book was a pre-publication success. It netted the author a \$150,000 prize (more than \$1.75 million today) from MGM for the movie rights, was chosen as a Book-of-the-Month Club Main Selection, and was excerpted in *Life* magazine. However, the book’s sexual themes and irreverent musings on religion—not to mention its erotic dust jacket, featuring a naked female form drawn into the lush green hills of Raintree County—would soon bring strong criticism from conservative readers.

Ross Lockridge Jr. was born in Bloomington in 1914. His father, Ross Sr., was a historical orator, author, and director of the Indiana Federal Writers’ Project. Ross Jr. aided his father in his historical projects, excelled at his academic pursuits, and later attended



Ross Lockridge Jr. and son Larry in 1945. Courtesy photo

Indiana University, where he earned the moniker “A-plus Lockridge,” graduating with a 4.04 GPA, the highest ever awarded. (IU later abolished A-plus grading.)

With only two years of French, Ross chose to spend his junior year studying at the Sorbonne in Paris. In typical fashion, he finished with the highest academic record among the 1,000 foreign students there that year. Graduating from IU in 1935, he was sidelined for nearly a year with scarlet fever. Upon recovering, he stayed on at IU as an English instructor and master’s student.



Vernice and Ross Lockridge Jr. with their four children.
Courtesy photo

In 1937, at age 23, Ross married Vernice Baker, whom he had dated for a number of years. In 1938, the couple had their first child, Ernest. Offered fellowships at both Yale and Harvard, Ross chose Harvard, and in September 1940 the young family moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts. There, he began working on an epic poem, *The Dream of the Flesh of Iron*, enlisting Vernice as typist. After 2 1/2 years of labor, the couple submitted the work to Boston publishing house Houghton Mifflin, only to have it rejected in March 1941.

“Ross registered no visible disappointment at all,” writes their son Larry Lockridge in his biography, *Shade of the Raintree* (Viking 1994; IU Press 2014). “He would start over. ‘Okay, if they don’t want poetry, I’ll write something they *will* want.’ He laid the poem aside and never picked it up again.”

Ross was supposed to be working on a doctoral dissertation about the poetry of Walt Whitman. Instead, he was working on a novel entitled *American Lives*. Set in Indiana, the novel was loosely based on the life of his deceased maternal uncle, Ernest Shockley. Ross worked on *American Lives* from 1941 to 1943, amassing 2,000 typed pages before recognizing this wasn’t the novel he was destined to write. In the summer of 1943, he abandoned the work and, rather

than throw away 2,000 sheets of paper, turned them over and started a new novel on the other sides.

The new novel was *Raintree County*. It was an ambitious exploration of 19th century United States history, including westward expansion, slavery and abolition, the Civil War, the Industrial Revolution, the labor movement, and early feminism, all set on a single day—July 4, 1892. The story is told through the eyes of its main character, John Wickliff Shawnessy, using extensive flashbacks. Over the course of 40 years, *Raintree County* explores history, philosophy, race, religion, and sex.

Lockridge had begun teaching full time at Simmons College in Boston in 1941. Nevertheless, he worked on the novel in the evenings. It was a family affair, with Ross writing in one room and sending pages to Vernice (via young son Ernest) to type into clean copy in another. On April 24, 1946, the day before his thirty-second birthday, Lockridge divided the manuscript into five punch-hole binders, placed them into a battered suitcase, and hauled the unsolicited 600,000-word, 2,000-page, 20-pound manuscript to Houghton Mifflin, the same publisher that had rejected his earlier work.

THE PRESSURE OF PUBLICATION

While the first readers at Houghton Mifflin thought to reject the novel, upon subsequent examination (and much pressure from the author) the novel was accepted. Larry Lockridge writes that one editor wrote in-house, “Whether *Raintree County* is a great American novel or not is beside the point; we need more of this kind of courageous stab at it.”



A publicity photo of author Larry Lockridge, son of Ross Jr.
Courtesy photo

Although thrilled with the acceptance—and the \$3,500 advance, almost twice what he made in a year of teaching and the equivalent of more than \$40,000 today—Lockridge now felt the pressure of publication. First, Houghton Mifflin asked him to cut 100,000 words



The *Raintree County* movie was released by MGM in 1957. Courtesy photo

from the novel, including an entire 356-page dream sequence he felt crucial to the story. This section of the novel remains unpublished to this day.

The novel won MGM's literary contest, but the studio was pressuring him to cut another 100,000 words before they attempted a movie script. He had managed to negotiate the cuts down to 50,000 words when Book-of-the-Month Club offered to make *Raintree County* a main

selection, guaranteeing another 50,000 in sales. There was one catch—he would have to make further cuts. The seemingly endless series of cuts led to a series of publishing delays.

According to Larry Lockridge, at this point Ross wrote to Houghton Mifflin: "You understand, I suppose, that I would do anything short of sheer artistic suicide to get out from under this book. So if I don't quite meet these time schedules, you will understand that six and a half years of effort have played me out and I'm not quite up to it physically."

That was true. He was making the edits, but not eating or sleeping. He was also concerned that with all the deletions, the novel wasn't quite as good as he had first thought it to be. Small, domestic disasters—sick children, broken typewriters, unexpected visits from relatives—seemed to conspire to keep him from meeting his deadlines.

Then, at the end of the summer, *Life* magazine contacted him and told him it had decided to publish a spread featuring "The Great Footrace"—a scene where John Shawnessy and his nemesis Flash Perkins consume alcohol before the competition. It was a great coup, but Lockridge was worried his teetotaling family members, and much of Bloomington, would be upset by the drinking and profanity. In a letter, Lockridge writes of his parents' reaction: "[T]hey took it very well, especially Mother. Dad ... is a perfect prude where literature is concerned ... and we think he was

profoundly shocked at first because some of the characters said goddam and took drinks. After he read it ten times, he got over this and said he enjoyed it more each time and was beginning to find it funny."

But Ross' health was beginning to worry Vernice. The two decided to visit California on what she hoped would be a relaxing vacation. They would see the sights, visit MGM, and, perhaps, look for a place to live while *Raintree County* was being filmed. Instead, just a few weeks into the trip, Ross suffered a severe anxiety attack.

Returning home, the couple purchased a newly built home at 817 S. Stull Ave., just north of what is now Bryan Park. Being near family seemed a good idea, but Vernice became increasingly concerned about her husband's health, and his mother's Christian Science beliefs stood in the way of getting him care. It didn't help that Ross presented a good front to everyone except Vernice.

In an interview with *Bloom*, Larry Lockridge says his father's illness took everyone, including Ross, by surprise.



Lockridge signs books during a January 20, 1948, autograph party at L.S. Ayres in Indianapolis, the last known photograph made of the author. Courtesy photo

“It caught him off guard because he had, to his own mind, never been depressed,” Larry says. “The one point about Ross Lockridge Jr. is that he never had, that we know of, a serious depression. He thought there had to be something wrong with his brain. He thought he was the least likely candidate for depression. But obviously, there was a vulnerability.”

One such vulnerability was a family history of mental illness. Ross’ cousin, Mary Jane Ward, had disclosed her own mental illness in her 1946 autobiographical novel, *The Snake Pit*. Ward would go on to become a national spokesperson for greater understanding of mental illness.

Finally, in late December 1947, Vernice persuaded his parents to acknowledge their son could be suffering from mental illness, and, over the holidays, Ross was admitted to Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis under an assumed name.

“His hospitalization was particularly unfortunate,” Larry Lockridge says. “Murray De Armond [his doctor and a neuropsychiatrist] was best known for prefrontal lobotomies. Happily, my father escaped that. But he did have electroconvulsive sessions and told my mother that he did not lose consciousness during them. I remember when we moved to the house on Stull Avenue, he couldn’t touch the on/off buttons for the electric fixtures because he was so terrified of electricity, even the static electricity of a new house.”



Alfred Kinsey lived in this house on East 1st Street. Courtesy photo

Facing such painful and terrifying treatment, Ross soon persuaded his doctor he was better just to escape hospitalization. He returned home January 4, 1948, one day before his novel’s release.

In *Shade of the Raintree*, Larry Lockridge calls January 5, 1948, “the long-sought, now dreaded publication day.” Ross went to the IU bookstore to autograph the new release. That evening, he and Vernice dropped off autographed copies at the homes of friends. It seems Ross was willing to play the role of the successful author, perhaps with the hope that his mind would catch up with him.



The home on South Stull Avenue where Ross Lockridge Jr. lived—and died. Courtesy photo

FEARS LEAD TO TRAGEDY

Reviews for *Raintree County* were generally positive, some quite enthusiastic, and many in full-page spreads with photos of the author. Scott Donaldson of *The Washington Post* wrote that the novel “has a powerful narrative drive that carries even the reluctant reader along.” But there were some who found the book difficult, quite long, and dull. In a UP review that was widely distributed, W.G. Rogers wrote, “The author’s reward for his hard work was well over \$200,000. Our reward as readers for our hard work is boredom; I kept falling asleep.”

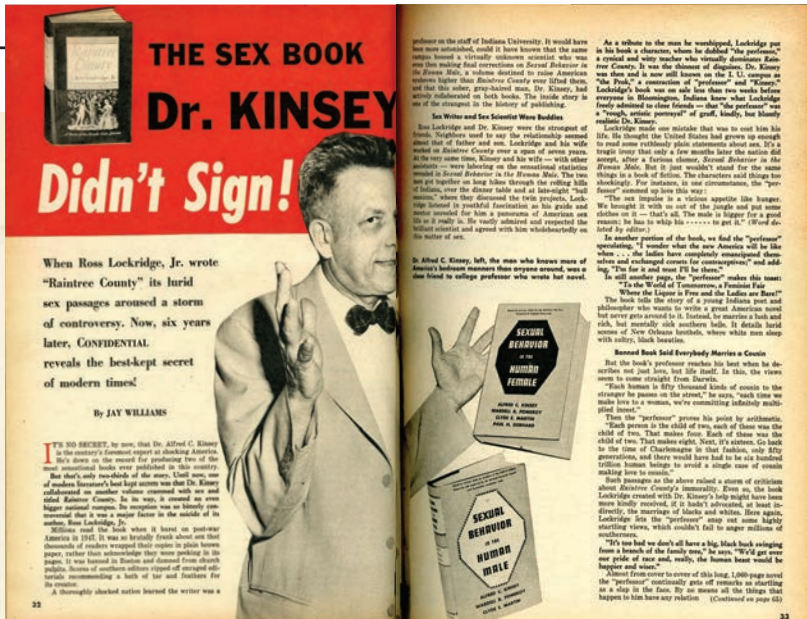
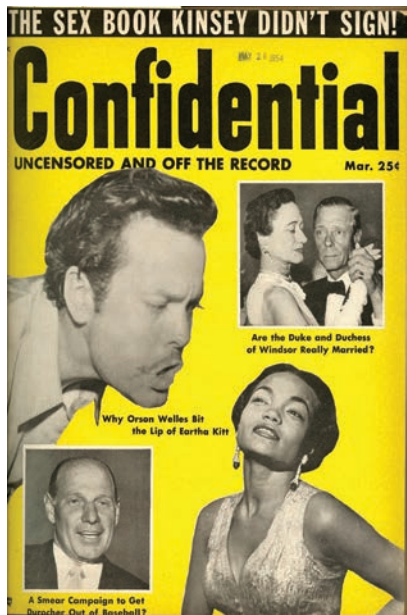
It was those critiques that Lockridge took to heart and led him to believe his worst fears had been realized: He had failed.

Throughout February, he did little to promote the book except participate in two local speaking engagements. Houghton Mifflin wanted more, sending a telegram explaining that the publicity department had plans for him to appear in New York and Boston. Ross wrote back telling them, “[T]he book will have to hobble along on its own merits as I am under doctor’s orders to take it easy...”

It was also in February that the Associated Press carried an attack on *Raintree County* by the Reverend Alfred Barrett, S.J., a Fordham professor, who suggested the “rank obscenity, materialistic philosophy, and blasphemous impudicity” were enough to merit its inclusion in the Catholic Index (a list of books banned by the Church for lay readership).

Vernice intercepted the hate mail as best she could, but the damage was done. Larry Lockridge writes that Ross began to say things to Vernice (but to no one else) that indicated his despair: “I feel no human emotion. I only know that I love you and the children,” and “How did I think I could get away with writing such a book?”

Ross Lockridge Jr. died by suicide on March 6, 1948. That he died in his car in a closed garage with the engine running was well known, but it wasn’t until 1989 that Vernice



In March 1954, a fabricated story in *Confidential* magazine proclaimed that Lockridge and Kinsey were “the strongest of friends” and that Kinsey had contributed in a way to *Raintree County*. From the Collections of the Kinsey Institute, Indiana University. All rights reserved.

Lockridge laid out the actual sequence of events for her son Larry as he prepared the manuscript for *Shade of the Raintree*.

That Saturday evening, after supper with his wife and their four young children (ages 2 to 9), and after bedtime rituals, Ross told Vernice he was going to mail some letters, adding he would probably stop by his parents’ house to listen to the high school basketball regionals on the radio. His wife was apprehensive as he left, but, as Larry writes, “[T]his was a man who his entire life always did what he said he was going to do.”

Hours later, when he hadn’t returned home, Vernice called her in-laws, only to be told Ross had never stopped by. Fearing the worst, she ran to the detached garage to find Ross in the backseat of the running car. He had attached a vacuum hose to the exhaust pipe and ran it through the rear ventilator window, sealing the window up with rags. After turning off the ignition and opening the garage door, Vernice pulled her husband out of the car and through the garage door onto the drive.

She returned to the phone, telling her family to hurry over, Ross was probably dead. She then called the Bloomington Fire Department. By the time the fire department and police arrived, Ross’ sister Lillian had removed the vacuum hose and rags, tossing them into the trash can behind the garage. She did so in an attempt to save the family, and particularly his children, the stigma of suicide. Though Ross seemed most likely dead—his limbs already stiff, his lips cherry red—firefighters attempted to resuscitate him for more than an hour.

The official story, from a *New York Times* front-page obituary, was that Ross was found sprawled in the driver’s seat, his legs hanging out the car door. The assumption could be made that he might simply have lost consciousness or bumped his head while exiting the car. There was speculation that he was listening to the basketball game and forgot to turn off the ignition. The problem with that theory was the car had no radio.

Not knowing the extent of the coverup, the coroner still got it right: “Verdict, suicide by asphyxiation by carbon monoxide gas.” Ross Lockridge Jr. was 33 years old.

The death was a shock; that it was suicide, unbelievable. Flags were at half-mast in Bloomington the day of the funeral. Two thousand people witnessed the graveside service at Rose Hill Cemetery. William Lowe Bryan, IU’s president emeritus, wrote words of encouragement to Vernice.

Nationally, editorials commented on Lockridge’s rising star, and how the suicide seemed to contrast with a novel that was so idealistic.

But, as Ross had suggested in his missive to Houghton Mifflin months before, *Raintree County* continued to “hobble along on its own merits.” It reached No. 1 on the NYT Best-Seller List on April 25, 1948—what would have been Ross Lockridge Jr.’s 34th birthday—and repeated that three times in May. It was on the NYT list a total of 19 weeks that year, hovering at second or third from February through early May.

“The suicide doesn’t seem to have cut into sales,” Larry Lockridge says. “It held its own after March 6, not cresting until some seven weeks later.”

KINSEY & LOCKRIDGE THE BEST OF FRIENDS?!

Both *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* and *Raintree County* were national bestsellers, and both raised a ruckus with their frank depictions of sexuality at a time when conservative Americans would rather such things were left unsaid. But it seems that in 1948 no one in the press made the connection that both books were written by men from Bloomington, Indiana. It would take another six years before anyone did.

In March 1954, *Confidential* magazine ran a sensational banner headline: “The Sex Book Kinsey Didn’t Sign!”

“*Confidential* was a huge deal in the ’50s,” Larry Lockridge says. “It was *the* gossip magazine.”

Author Jay Williams claimed to have uncovered the truth about the two bestsellers that came out of Bloomington in 1948, writing that Kinsey and Lockridge were “the strongest of friends,” and that neighbors said “the relationship seemed almost that of father and son.” He went on to suggest the two got together to discuss Kinsey’s research: “Lockridge listened in youthful fascination as his guide and mentor unreeled for him a panorama of American sex life as it really is.”

The truth is not nearly as interesting. Ross and Vernice labored over *Raintree County* while living in Massachusetts, only coming back to Bloomington permanently once the book was sold. It’s true Kinsey lived on 1st Street, a few blocks away from the Lockridge house on Stull Avenue, and one of Kinsey’s co-authors, Wardell B. Pomeroy, lived a half block away, but Kinsey and Ross met just once, at a faculty tea at Indiana University. There were no late night “bull sessions,” as Williams wrote.

“I can’t think of two more oppositional approaches to sex than these two books,” Larry Lockridge told *Bloom*. “Kinsey’s, which is quantitative and lacking in narrative and, really, disappointing to most readers, and my father’s. Sexuality for my father is fraught with meaning, it’s primordial, it’s the life force. There could be no two more different approaches to sexuality than those of Lockridge and Kinsey.”

Still, he admits it’s a good story.



Kinsey is credited with setting the tone of acceptance and nonjudgement in Bloomington that still exists today. Photo courtesy of IU Archives

“It’s quite a coincidence on the face of it, and I thought it rather clever of Jay Williams to have made this connection,” Larry Lockridge says. “But of course, the whole thing is made up. I rather enjoyed the article, but it’s fiction.”

He goes on to say his mother wondered if she should sue, but her attorney thought it would just draw attention to the article. Maybe that would have been a good idea, as sales increased after publication of the *Confidential* story.

In an interesting twist, Larry writes in *Shade of the Raintree* that he happened to meet Jay Williams at a cocktail party many years later and was introduced as the son of the author of *Raintree County*, a connection he didn’t usually announce. He says he didn’t recognize Williams’ name, but Williams recognized his, blanched, and excused himself, only to return later to say how much he admired the novel and to apologize for the article that had appeared in *Confidential* with his byline. He claimed to have been in Europe at the time and had called his agent asking if he should sue.

“I almost believed Williams,” Larry writes. “Had he fessed up, I’d have been happy to forgive him, and even thank him for the surge in royalties.”

KINSEY’S GROUNDBREAKING WORK

A lot has changed in the 75 years since *Raintree County* and *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* were published. Most people would agree that the books that set the world on fire then wouldn’t be seen as scandalous today. They did, however, help change the way we see the world, and ourselves.

Kinsey’s first report was followed in 1953 with *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*. Those pioneering works were among the most extensive sex research conducted in the early 20th century.

Justin Garcia, today’s executive director of Kinsey Institute Indiana University, says it’s important to acknowledge the foundation Kinsey laid for future research in the field, even if some of his methods or results have been questioned as time has passed.

“Kinsey’s work is still routinely cited by researchers,” Garcia says. “Today, we don’t use the same methods, but that’s not a criticism. If we don’t change, that’s the sign of a stalled research methodology.”

Additionally, Garcia notes that much of what Kinsey did still applies to research conducted today.

“It does remind us of how to do research,” he says. “How to make subjects comfortable, how to get honest answers, and how to think about the difference between behaviors and identities.”

He also credits Kinsey for setting a tone of acceptance and nonjudgement in Bloomington that has remained intact.

“One of the things we recognize is that Bloomington shows up on a lot of lists as an LGBTQ friendly town, and a lot of it is due to this legacy,” Garcia says. “For 80 years, sexual diversity and gender diversity have been studied and respected here.”

“THE KINSEY SCALE”

One important contribution Kinsey’s team made to the study of human sexuality, and one that helped advance the LGBTQ movement, was the development of the Heterosexual-Homosexual Rating Scale—more commonly known as “The Kinsey Scale.”



A bronze statue of Kinsey was installed on the IU campus in September 2022, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Kinsey Institute. Photo by Cassandra Huskey

First published in *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*, the scale is a visual representation of the report’s research findings and shows that people do not fit into exclusively heterosexual or homosexual (the word used at the time) categories. Kinsey sought to normalize the idea that sexual orientation is more akin to a spectrum than a strict binary.

The Kinsey Scale doesn’t address all possible sexual identities, and to address that shortcoming there are now more than 200 scales and tests to measure and describe sexual orientation. But Kinsey’s work and the scale his team created is still important because it was groundbreaking, coming at a time when the idea of sexual orientation as anything but binary was taboo in Western society.

THE RELEVANCE OF RAINTREE COUNTY

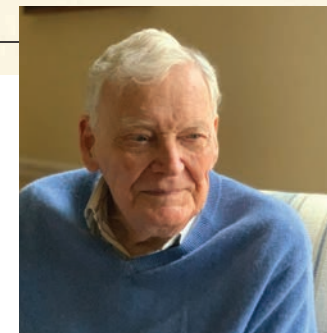
Larry Lockridge was 5 years old when his father died in 1948. Now an 80-year-old professor emeritus of English from New York University, he wrote *Shade of the Raintree: The Life and Death of Ross Lockridge, Jr.* in the early 1990s to better understand his father’s life, and his own. He writes that he and his siblings “grew up with a novel instead of a father,” and after doing his research, he is convinced his father “died for a book.”

Raintree County was a bestseller, called by many a profound attempt at the Great American Novel, and yet it isn’t read much today. Larry Lockridge finds that frustrating.

“After 75 years, for me it’s been a bit of an ordeal to watch the fate of *Raintree County*,” he says. “It’s largely unread, which is sad to ponder. People tend to think of the movie, not the novel.”

When Ross and Vernice Lockridge headed to Hollywood in late 1947, there were plans to make the novel into a movie. Those plans did not materialize in the ’40s; the project was shelved in 1949.

In 1954, however, MGM dusted off their rights to *Raintree County*, and the task of writing the script was given to Millard Kaufman, creator of the cartoon character Mr. Magoo. The movie starred Montgomery Clift, Elizabeth Taylor, Eva Marie Saint, and Lee Marvin.



Donald Gray. Photo by Julie Gray

“To my mind, the film is a disaster,” Larry says. He writes that critics at the time agreed with his assessment: “*Raintree County* begins in tedium and ends, 185 leaden minutes later, in apathy....” said the critic for *Time* magazine. William Zinsser wrote, “To say that it moves at a snail’s pace is to insult the snail.”

One person who has read *Raintree County* is Donald Gray, Indiana University emeritus professor of English. In email correspondence, Gray wrote that he has read, or tried to read, *Raintree County* three times since its publication.

“I read it when it came out, and liked it,” he writes. “I was an avid reader of Thomas Wolfe in those years, and Lockridge’s extravagance was to my taste.” Upon a second reading, he didn’t find the book as



Eric Sandweiss. Photo by Stephen Sproull

favorable. This was when Larry's biography was published (which he *did* like), but somehow, he couldn't finish *Raintree County*.

"Then, for some reason I read it again about 15 years ago and was part of a discussion on the local radio station," he writes. "I liked the book that time, and saw it in the tradition

of Whitman, except that Lockridge celebrated an America that sort of stopped in Indiana, rather than, like Whitman, imagining the westward journey of the idea of the republic all the way across to the Pacific."

That changing perspective, as one reads a novel over the course of a lifetime, is common, says Eric Sandweiss, professor of history at IU.

"It's always great to say, let's revisit something and be aware of the fact that our changed viewpoint as readers will change the novel itself," Sandweiss says. "I don't think you can remind people too much that this was going to be the Great American Novel, and it was written by a guy who was born and lived and died right here."

Sandweiss notes, too, that the novel hits on problems we are still grappling with today, among them environmental issues.

"In our town, he would have been aware of the water shortage, something that went back to his childhood," Sandweiss says. "He



A January 12, 1948, *Time* magazine review of *Raintree County*. Photo by Rodney Margison

would have been aware of environmental limit, the exhaustion of the soil, and the move to create a Hoosier National Forest."

The book also examines issues of race and materialism. Its examination of a nation tearing itself apart during the Civil War might be particularly timely.

In 2011, the Lockridge family established the Ross Lockridge Collection at the Lilly Library. It contains the partial remaining manuscript of *Raintree County*, including those pages typed on the back of *American Lives*, and the hand-drawn sketch that would become the basis for the first-edition book cover, as well



A page from *An Album of Raintree County*, a visionary scrapbook of sorts that Lockridge made shortly after his novel was accepted for publication. Photo by Rodney Margison

as reviews, Ross' personal library, correspondence, family photos, and other related artifacts.

"There is a research opportunity here," says Erika Dowell, associate director and curator of modern books and manuscripts for the Lilly Library. "Just like the book, the collection includes different historical items related to his family from earlier generations. And that's what the book is addressing, so there are opportunities to think about them in parallel."

Dowell read the book in anticipation of a four-month 2014 *Raintree County* Exhibition held at the library.

"I read fast, and it isn't amenable to fast reading," Dowell says with a laugh.

"If you're used to knocking out a novel in an afternoon, *Raintree County* sets up roadblocks with its different timelines and the language. But that shouldn't be seen as a bad thing."

Maybe a leisurely reading is what is called for. James Capshew, historian for Indiana University, read the book almost 40 years ago.



James Capshew. Courtesy photo

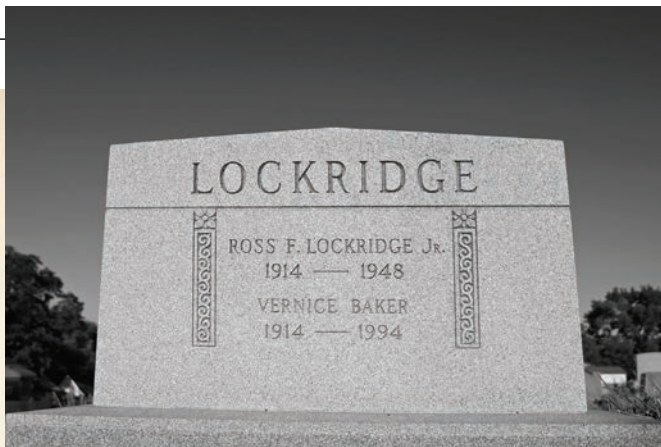


(l-r) Reviews of *Raintree County* published in the *Washington Star* and the *Bloomington Star Courier*. Photo by Rodney Margison

“I read it in graduate school, when my girlfriend and I were housesitting for my professor in the summer circa 1983,” Capshew says. “We took turns reading it out loud for a couple of weeks, for which it was perfectly suited.”

PAYING HOMAGE TO HIS FATHER’S WORK

Larry Lockridge wrote his father’s biography in order to better understand Ross Lockridge Jr.’s life and death. *Shade of the Raintree* offers insight into the Shockley and Lockridge families, taking a step back into their histories, which seems right given Ross Sr.’s vocation as a historian and Ross Jr.’s novel, which spans the entire first



Lockridge and his wife are buried side-by-side in Rose Hill Cemetery. Courtesy photo

the voice of the ‘perffessor,’ the satirist, than John Shawnessy, the dreamer,” Larry says. “I call it meta-farcical. One of the pervasive themes in *The Woman in Green* is suicide. Three of the principal characters attempt suicide and are rescued by their chums.”

He admits to taking liberties with some situations, such as the characters’ exploration of the labyrinth at New Harmony.

“I make it much more complex and confusing in the novel than it is in real life,” says Larry, who after all, wrote a biography of his father, one of the most complex and confusing authors of the last century. “I can do that. But *The Woman in Green* is fiction.” ✱



Kinsey died unexpectedly at age 62. He, too, is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery. Courtesy photo

half of the 20th century. It also offers a look at a different time in Indiana and, more specifically, Bloomington.

More recently, Larry has been writing fiction—a four-novel series called *The Enigma Quartet* published by Iguana Books. The final novel, *The Woman in Green*, will be released on January 5, 2023—the 75th anniversary of the publication of *Raintree County*.

Larry notes the title of his novel echoes the original dustjacket of *Raintree County*.

“It’s a geoglyph form of a naked woman, based on a sketch my father did of my mother,” Larry says. “This painting was above my bed growing up in Bloomington. I didn’t even see the nude in the painting until I was 12 going on 13, reaching puberty. It was only then that I saw there was a naked woman in the landscape.”

“*The Woman in Green* is connected to *Raintree County* in many ways,” Larry told *Bloom*. “The central theme of the raintree, for example, was the subject of the Raintree Pageant that my father wrote in his 20s.”

In 1937, Ross Lockridge Jr. wrote *A Pageant of New Harmony*, which was performed in the southern Indiana town as part of its Golden Rain Tree Festival. In his book, Larry has his cast of characters attend the pageant, where havoc ensues.

“I don’t know what he [his father] would make of it. It’s more in



BOOKS

Raintree County by Ross Lockridge Jr. (Chicago Review Press)

Sexual Behavior in the Human Male by Alfred C. Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy, and Clyde E. Martin (IU Press)

Shade of the Raintree: The Life and Death of Ross Lockridge, Jr. by Larry Lockridge (IU Press)

The Woman in Green by Larry Lockridge (Iguana Books)

WEBSITES

Kinsey Institute 75th Anniversary Historical Review: kinseyinstitute.org/pdf/75th_Anniversary_Historical_Review.pdf

Raintree County/Lockridge Family website: raintreecounty.com

Larry Lockridge website: larrylockridge.com

Recharge and rejuvenate.

THE 2023 LINCOLN AVIATOR BLACK LABEL



Available at participating Lincoln Black Label Dealers only.

LINCOLN BLACK LABEL

Welcome to the highest expression of Lincoln design and service. With a mobile showroom that can come to you,* Premium Maintenance** and a whole host of other benefits, you will quickly discover that it's more than ownership — it's membership.

*Available within 30 miles of participating Lincoln Black Label Dealers. May vary by state. **See your participating Lincoln Black Label Dealer for complete details.



LINCOLN AVIATOR BLACK LABEL THEMES

Rich leathers, real wood details, and soft fabrics compose the unique Lincoln Aviator Black Label themes. The Mahogany Red leather of the Destination theme, the espresso-colored carpeting of the Chalet theme, and the engine-turned aluminum detail of the Flight theme make a lasting impression.



Community Lincoln of Bloomington

2200 S. Walnut St.

812-331-2200 | www.lincolnofbloomington.net



PRESENTING THE CONSTELLATION COLLECTION OF DIAMOND JEWELRY.

The brilliance of the extraordinary Constellation Created Diamond is now available in our exclusive collection of bracelets, pendants, earrings, and engagement rings. Discover the remarkable beauty of Constellation—only from Gold Casters.



Constellation
CREATED DIAMOND

