The Chamber Scene

HUNTINGTON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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YMCA to hold 3rd Annual Swing Inn April 26

The Parkview Huntington Family YMCA Third Annual Swing Inn dance party is slated to take place on Saturday, April 26, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the YMCA. Just as back in the 1950's and 60's, our event will be the place-to-be.

According to the Huntington High year-book, Swing Inn fun was rated as the "best ever" by all the smartest "cats" and coolest "chicks." Those who attended our event the last two years are saying the same thing.

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The event is being held later in the spring so more snowbirds will be back to Huntington and can join them but people of all ages are certainly welcome to attend. This year's Swing Inn dance party event will now feature an area DJ who will be spinning the golden oldies and classic music as attendees twist and shout and dance just like the good ole' days.

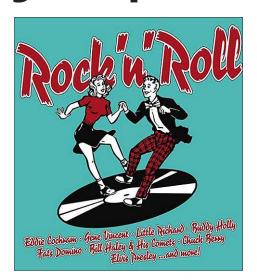
With the paid entry fee, those attending will be treated to a light dinner and old-fashioned sodas during social hour and then will enjoy dancing and entertainment into the evening. There will be a local merchant silent auction with the opportunity to go home with great items and services, during the early portion of the event.

While dressed in their best era outfits from the '50s, '60s and '70s, "cats" and "chicks" will cut up the dance floor; however, attendees are not required to dress-up. The YMCA Swing Inn is a ticketed event with proceeds supporting the YMCA An-

nual Campaign which provides scholarships and financial assistance to allow Y programming to be available for all.

There are still opportunities for supporters and sponsors to help make the Swing Inn a successful event. Please contact Joy at joy.koch@huntingtony.org or Terri at teresa.bartrom@huntingtony.org for questions about how you can support this event.

Presale tickets (registration) is on sale now for \$20 per person at the YMCA. Call (260) 359-9622 or stop by our front desk during Y hours to register and to gain more information about the Swing Inn. Entries purchased on the day of the event will cost \$25 per person. The YMCA is located at 1160 W 500 N, Huntington.



YMCA invites families to Healthy Kids Day scheduled for April 12

The Parkview Huntington Family YMCA, 1160 W 500 N, is holding a free community event on Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to inspire kids to keep their minds and bodies active at the annual YMCA's Healthy Kids Day. Healthy Kids Day is the Y's national initiative to improve health and well-being for kids and families.

This spring, Healthy Kids Day will be celebrated at over 1,500 Ys across the country by over one million participants and works to get more kids moving and learning. The Huntington-community event features free family-friendly activities, obstacle course, balloon pit, games, sports activities, demonstrations, arts and crafts and snacks in the Y's gym to motivate and teach families how to develop and maintain healthy routines at home throughout the summer months.

Huntington area agencies and businesses will be on-hand to provide these kid-friendly activities in addition to resources about services provided within our community. Also, the YMCA will feature a membership special all day on April 12 as those interested in joining the Y can "spin the savings wheel" and save up to \$75 off the enrollment fee.

"When a child is healthy, happy and supported they can make great things happen," says Jody Alsman, YMCA Wellness Director. "We believe in the potential of all children, and we strive to help kids find that potential within themselves. Healthy Kids Day is a great opportunity to educate families and motivate kids to stay active."

The day also features our Underwater Easter Egg Hunt with start times of 10:45 a.m. or 12:45 p.m. Participation in the Underwater Egg Hunt requires an additional cost and registration times are based on child's swim level. Registration for the egg hunt is needed prior to the event. Please visit the front desk or call the YMCA to register for the egg hunt at (260) 359-9622 prior to April 7.

Visit the Parkview Huntington Family YMCA website huntingtony.org for more information about our YMCA youth programs or contact Jody Alsman at (260) 359-9622 for details about Healthy Kids Day events.

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Support Riley Children's Hospital with car show and more April 12

Huntington North High School (HNHS) plans to hold a car show that will include food, vendors, raffles and more. The car show will be held on Saturday, April 12 at HNHS from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The group is asking that anyone that would like to show their car to register for the event.

Chelsea Haneline, a teacher at HNHS and adviser for Riley Dance Marathon, stated, "The goal is to raise funds for Riley Children's Hospital. There are over 75 high schools in Indiana that participate in these

fundraising efforts, and typically raise upwards of \$1,000,000 each year."

Haneline went on to say, "Currently we have raised around \$19,000 and have a goal of \$25,000 prior to May 3, 2025. HNHS will also be hosting their annual dance marathon at HNHS that afternoon and will celebrate their total with some Riley kids as their special guests."

If you would like to register, please use the QR code shown above or email hnhsrileydm@gmail.com.



Adding more energy to the Indiana grid.

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Duke Energy is meeting the challenge by modernizing its Cayuga power plant with the most highly efficient natural gas turbines in the world. The new Cayuga Energy Complex will have more generating capacity, enough to power an estimated 1.1 million Indiana homes. This will continue to be a critical source of power for the state for decades to come.





Shown above are several individuals from Bippus State Bank breaking ground for the new Bippus State Bank in Fort Wayne. Pictured from left are Jeff Mize, board member, Bippus State Bank; Ryan Warner, chairman of the board, Bippus State Bank; Juli Johnson, board member, Bippus State Bank; Eric Fawcett, president and CEO, Bippus State Bank; Ryan Johnson, board member, Bippus State Bank and David Cunningham, CFO, Bippus State Bank.

BSB breaks ground on new Fort Wayne location

Bippus State Bank is excited to announce the groundbreaking of its new branch in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This new location marks a significant milestone in their commitment to expanding their services, and enhancing their presence in the community.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place on March 18, with key members of the Bippus State Bank team. The event was a celebration of their continued growth and dedication to providing exceptional banking services to the residents and businesses of Fort Wayne.

"We are thrilled to break ground on our new Fort Wayne branch," said Eric Fawcett, president and CEO of Bippus State Bank. "This new location will allow us to better serve our customers and meet the growing demand for our services in the area. We look forward to becoming an integral part of the Fort Wayne community."

The new branch will feature a modern facility, and a team of experienced professionals ready to assist with all banking needs. From personal banking to business services, Bippus State Bank is committed to offering a comprehensive range of financial solutions.



Amanda Stroup

VP Marketing Director/Mortgage Lending

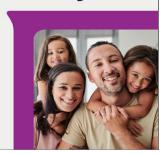




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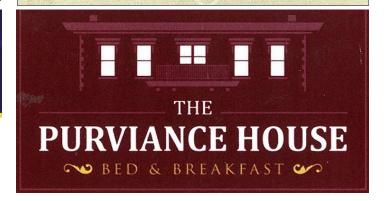


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Pathfinder names Chris Kauffman their new CEO

Pathfinder is entering a new chapter of leadership as Chris Kauffman, right, steps into the role of acting president and CEO. Effective March 11, Danielle Tips is no longer serving as President and CEO. The organization remains committed to its mission and is confident in this transition as it continues to serve the community.



Chris Kauffman

With over 28 years of dedicated service to Pathfinder, Kauffman

brings extensive leadership experience and a deep commitment to the organization's mission. Most recently serving as chief strategy officer, he has played a key role in shaping Pathfinder's strategic direction and ensuring its continued growth and impact.

"Pathfinder remains steadfast in our commitment to empowering individuals and strengthening our community," said Kauffman. "I am honored to step into this role and work alongside our dedicated team to continue delivering meaningful programs and services."

Pathfinder's leadership succession plan is in place to ensure a smooth transition and continuity of services. The organization remains focused on its mission of fostering autonomy, stability, and inclusion for those it serves.

"We are excited about the future of Pathfinder and remain committed to our values, our employees, and the individuals and families we support," Kauffman added







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Heritage Pointe names VP of Human Resources

Heritage Pointe Communities has announced the appointment of Ashli Rice as the new Vice President of Human Resources. Heritage Pointe of Huntington, Heritage Pointe of Fort Wayne and Heritage Pointe of Warren senior living communities are owned and operated by The United Methodist Memorial Home (UMMH), an Indiana not-for-profit organization.

Prior to joining Heritage Pointe



Ashli Rice

Communities, Rice worked for a healthcare recruiting agency followed by a senior living community. In her new role, she is committed to fostering a skilled and engaged workforce.

Rice explained that her focus is on the human resources team training and educating the staff, ensuring they feel self-confident in their roles, increasing employee engagement and helping find ways to contribute to the staff's happiness in their jobs.

"The more consistent our staff is, the more consistent the care is that our residents receive," she said. "We get the best talent, and so our residents get the best talent."

The success of Heritage Pointe senior living communities comes from providing the best possible care for residents, evidenced by its five-star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Meyer attends workshop in Clearwater, Florida

Eric Meyer, president of Big E Promos, recently attended a strategic event in Clearwater, Florida. The event was held from March 3 to 5.

This particular event was an invite only event based on sales volume and limited to 25 industry distributors and was paid for the by 27 participating suppliers.

The three-day event started with a welcome meeting and cocktail networking reception in the evening.



Eric Meyer

The second day began with a networking breakfast for all attendees. Prescheduled one-on-one private meetings between each supplier and the distributors. Each meeting was twenty minutes in length where distributors shared clients' needs, sales and marketing strategies along with product solutions before moving to the next supplier room. The day ended at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium followed by dinner.

For more information on Big E Promos, call them at (260) 200-1051 or email Meyer at eric@bigepromos.com.





David Ball

Director of Marketing and Admissions

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The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting at the new Gracefully Gourmet bakery in downtown Huntington on March 3. The new bakery is located at 37 E. Washington Street, formerly Bear & Beak Bakery. Shown in the photo at center cutting the ribbon is Brittany Renkenberger, executive director, Place of Grace, which owns the business. Others in the photo include Terry Miller, county council, front row at left, and Mayor Richard Strick at right, both holding the ribbon. Others shown are board members of Place of Grace, Chamber Ambassadors, representatives of local churches, family and friends.

Gracefully Gourmet cuts the ribbon on March 3

Gracefully Gourmet officially opened their doors for business with a Huntington County Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting on Monday, March 3. The bakery is located at 37 E. Washington Street, formerly Bear & Beak Bakery owned by Kyle and Sharon Metzger.

"Gracefully Gourmet is considered so much more than a bakery," according to their Facebook page. "Gracefully Gourmet is considered a social enterprise of Place of Grace that provides recovery-friendly employment and vocational training for program participants through the production and sales of our life-changing treats."

Gracefully Gourmet will sell cookies, breads to include bagels, sourdough loafs, pretzels on Friday only, salads, sandwiches, wraps, drinks and their famous popcorn. Gracefully Gourmet will provide lunch for those wanting to pick up or eat-in the bakery.

You can reach Gracefully Gourmet by calling (260) 388-0001 or emailing the bakery at gracefullygourmet@myplaceofgrace.org.



Jennifer Jordan

Government & Community Relations Manager

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HCTPL to host mystery event April 11, 12

The Huntington City-Township Public Library will host a mystery event, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, in partnership with the United Way of Huntington County. The event is to help raise funds for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. The mystery event will be held on Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the library.

Tickets are \$15 person, ages 16 and up, with proceeds going toward the Imagination Library in Huntington County. Tickets can be purchased at the library, cash only, starting Tuesday, March 11. Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

As an added bonus, the first 50 people to purchase a ticket for either Friday or Saturday night will receive a free, exclusive event T-shirt.

The event itself is an interactive mystery, part of the library's "Mischief and Mayhem" series, written and performed by library staff. In this mystery, "LARPing Can Be Lethal," a man is dead and everyone is a suspect. Can you find the truth?

For questions feel free to contact Maddie Shultz by calling the library at (260) 356-0824 or by email at mshultz@huntingtonpub.lib.in.us.

Senior EXPO at the HU Fieldhouse on May 22

The Huntington County Senior Citizens EXPO is scheduled to take place on Thursday, May 22 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Fieldhouse at Huntington University. This event is free to attend and is not associated with Huntington University.



People of all ages are welcome to attend this fun and helpful event that offers exhibitors and information about services for

For transportation needs, contact Huntington Area Transportation (HAT) to schedule a ride at (260) 356-3006.

For more information on the EXPO, call the Council on Aging's office at (260) 359-4410 or email Richard Murray at dmurray@huntingtoncountycoa.org.





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Glo Wild to be held at the Fort Wayne Zoo

The Fort Wayne Zoo will transform into a wild and wonderful nighttime lantern festival with Glo Wild. Join the zoo for Glo Wild on select dates



through May 26. Step into a land of glowing landscapes and stand toe to toe with towering animals in larger-than-life 3D lantern displays.

"The Fort Wayne Zoo is kicking off its 60th birthday celebration with 60 spectacular lanterns. They are thrilled to give guests the opportunity to stand with a pack of hyenas, sit in the petals of a flower and see the Zoo's mission at work in a whole new light," said Rick Schuiteman, Zoo director. "With immersive activities and delicious food, the mile-long Glo Wild path is designed to keep guests of all ages in awe throughout their experience."

Glo Wild will be open 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on the following dates: March 27 to April 6, open daily; April 9 to April 30, open Wednesday through Sunday; May 1 to May 25, open Thursday through Sunday and May 26, last day of the event.

A \$2 discount is available online at fwzoo.com for both Fort Wayne Zoo members and general admission guests. Online member child admission (ages 2 to 12): \$18-\$20; online member adult admission: \$20-\$22; online child admission (ages 2 to 12): \$20-22; online adult admission: \$22-\$24; gate child admission is \$22-\$23 and gate adult admission \$24-\$25.

For more information and to obtain tickets, please visit fwzoo.com/glowild.

All-Access event hosted by TinCaps on April 2

Leading up to Opening Day, the Fort Wayne TinCaps will host a free All-Access event for fans on Wednesday, April 2 at Parkview



Field. The event will start at 5 p.m.

Similar to Meet the Team and Open House events of the past, fans get the chance to watch the TinCaps practice and get autographs afterward. Behind-the-scenes tours of award-winning Parkview Field will also be available. The Korte Kids Zone will be open, too.

Tours will check out areas like the Suite Level Lounge, the PSM x ONE Treetops, US Foods 400 Club, and The Summit presented by US Foods.

Concession stands and carts will feature a new US Foods Family Feast Value Menu, with options like hot dogs, popcorn, and fountain drinks for just \$2, plus fan favorites like nachos, pretzels and cotton candy for \$5 or less.



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Mark Your Calendars

Chamber Coffee Connections

Wednesday, April 2, 2025 Habecker Dining Commons, Huntington University, 8 a.m.

3rd Annual Old-Fashioned Swing Inn

Saturday, April 26, 7 to 10 p.m. Parkview Huntington Family YMCA, 1160 W 500 N

Chamber Coffee Connections

Wednesday, May 7, 2025 Habecker Dining Commons, Huntington University, 8 a.m.

Trails, Beer & Wine Festival

Friday, June 6, 6 to 10 p.m. Huntington County Fairgrounds

Heritage Days

Wednesday, June 11 to Sunday, June 15 Around Huntington

For A Complete Calendar of Events

Visit our website at www.huntington-chamber.com







Contact Tiffanney Drummond P: 260-356-2858

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