



# 'Truly Overwhelmed'

Hospital staff describe their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Joey Sills**  
Associate News Editor



It was Thanksgiving 2020, and Kari Malloy was working as a charge nurse at Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital when she first noticed a tickling feeling in her throat. She turned to her secretary.

"Gosh, my throat has just been dry all day," she said. "I'm sure it's just allergies."

Everybody in the room looked at each other and laughed. Eight months into the COVID-19 pandemic, each one of them knew it wasn't just allergies.

After taking a test, Malloy found she was positive for COVID-19.

▶ See **PANDEMIC, 06**

Warren Gavin dresses in personal protective equipment before entering a patient's room Feb. 8 at Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. Gavin said about 70 percent of the patients he treats are unvaccinated. RYLAN CAPPER, DN

02.10.22

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Did you miss it? Catch up on the news from Feb. 3-8 ...

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## From The Easterner to The Daily News

► On Feb. 10, 1989, The Daily News reported at least \$150,000 had possibly been embezzled from the Ball State Bookstore. There were no suspects or leads at the time. The discovery came after the bookstore reported operating on a loss the previous year. If you have any Daily News memories you'd like to see highlighted, email [news@bsudailynews.com](mailto:news@bsudailynews.com).

## Winter storm forces campus closure

► **Feb. 3:** Ball State closed its physical campus Feb. 3-4 due to the winter storm that spread across Indiana and several other states. Campus activities resumed 7 a.m. Feb. 5, and in-person classes resumed Feb. 7. As of Feb. 3, about 7.9 inches of snow were reported in Muncie. As of Feb. 9, the U.S. has reported more than 375,000 power outages because of the storm.



Hope Kleitsch, Weather forecaster, Benny Weather Group

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<b>MOSTLY CLOUDY</b>	<b>RAIN AND SNOW</b>	<b>PARTLY SUNNY</b>	<b>MOSTLY SUNNY</b>
Hi: 32° Lo: 24°	Hi: 40° Lo: 25°	Hi: 29° Lo: 10°	Hi: 25° Lo: 16°

**THIS WEEK:** Dry conditions and above freezing highs start off the week. A wet end of the week looks to be in store, especially for Thursday and Friday where we could see some accumulating snowfall.



## Becki named MAC Player of the Week

► **Feb. 8:** Ball State freshman Ally Becki earned her first career Mid-American Conference Player of the Week award. In the Cardinals' 84-74 win against Ohio Feb. 2, Becki scored a career-high 27 points. She made seven 3-pointers and totaled eight assists and six rebounds. She then scored 15 points in Ball State's 91-80 victory against Bowling Green Feb. 5.

## Elliott hired to fill roles for Ball State

► **Feb. 8:** Ball State Football hired former Western Illinois head coach Jared Elliott as its new passing game coordinator and tight ends coach. Elliott spent six seasons with the Leathernecks, including the past four as head coach. During his four seasons at Western Illinois, Elliott produced 16 All-Missouri Valley Conference players and six All-Americans.



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## CORRECTION

The Feb. 2 edition of The Daily News used the wrong first name for Erica Robinson Moody's husband in a lifestyles story. Her husband's name is Mel Moody, not Neil Moody.

To submit a correction, email [editor@bsudailynews.com](mailto:editor@bsudailynews.com).



Special Anniversary Edition  
Coming March 31, 2022

# GIVEN THE GREEN

David Letterman poses for a photo with Charlie Cardinal Feb. 9 in the Robert Bell Building at Ball State University. Letterman visited campus to celebrate the Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing esports partnership with Ball State. ELI HOUSER, DN



Check out a gallery of the event by scanning here.

## Cardinal Esports announces partnership with Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing.

and future students opportunities,” Varsity Esports head coach Dan Marino said. “One of the things I hit on is that, oftentimes, we’ve grappled with the legitimacy of esports – there are a lot of naysayers even, still. Being able to have an organization like RLL behind us saying, ‘No, we’re looking for students involved in esports and video games’... helps to legitimize what we’re doing here in our program.”

Paaige Turner, dean of the College of Communication, Information, and Media, detailed highlights of the partnership.

“The future is unlimited,” Turner said. “This is just one aspect of connection that we’re working on with the industry. We’re very thrilled ... We’re also working with some other industry partners, and I look forward to sharing their names and the projects we’re going to have with them in the near future.”

The scholarship will allow Ball State Esports to market itself to students across the country, she said. Freshman Hailey Hicks stumbled upon the opportunity to play video games in college, much like she stumbled upon the Esports Center during the fall 2021 semester.

“[It’s] absolutely mind-blowing in my

opinion,” Hicks said. “Literally getting paid to go somewhere and play video games is absolutely shocking. Never once did I ever think that would be an opportunity.”

RLL racers Jack Harvey and Christian Lundgaard attended and tested the Esports Center’s simulated racing system before competing in the IndyCar-Motorsport Games Pro Challenge.

David Letterman, an owner of RLL and 1969 Ball State alumnus, expressed feelings of gratitude for the pioneering program and the university as a whole.

“To have the two of these organizations meet together, in what I fully believe is pioneering a new world, a new culture, a new way of life for not only sports, but any other endeavor,” Letterman said, “I am so pleased, so delighted and so proud of this association and by God, we’ll do whatever we can to make you proud.”

The program will immediately begin accepting applications for the Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing Scholarship and will continue to accept applications until its March 15 priority deadline.

Contact Daniel Kehn with comments at [daniel.kehnl@bsu.edu](mailto:daniel.kehnl@bsu.edu) or on Twitter @[@daniel\\_kehnl](https://twitter.com/daniel_kehnl).

### Community

## City announces housing project

The City of Muncie has secured a partnership with the housing developer Miller-Valentine Construction for an \$11.8 million housing project, “City View 2.” The project will mostly consist of single-family homes on scattered sites throughout the city that previously housed dilapidated properties. The houses will initially be rental properties, with an option to purchase later for renters.

### Indiana

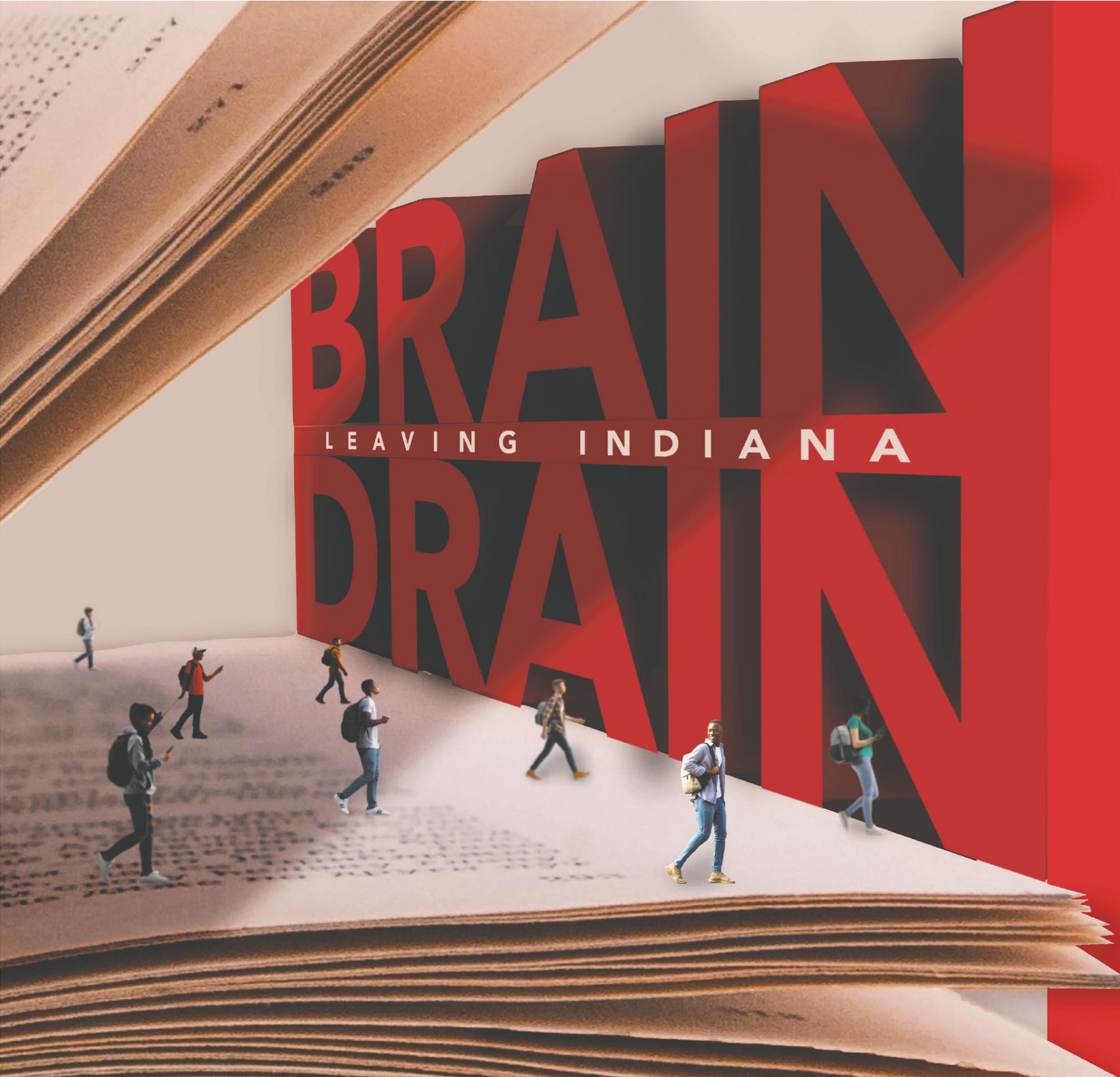
## Reporter banned from news conference

Abdul-Hakim Shabazz, nine-year WIBC radio host, editor and publisher of the website Indy Politics, was barred from entering Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita’s office for a news conference, despite covering Indiana government since 2004 and having a media credential. The American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana filed a lawsuit against Rokita on behalf of Shabazz Feb. 7.

### National

## Several states drop mask mandates

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, a Democrat, announced Feb. 7 the state will end its school mask mandate March 7. Other Democratic governors in Connecticut, Delaware, Oregon and New York announced similar plans. The White House has continued to encourage masks as per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, which recommend masks in areas of high transmission.



# High loss of college-educated talent is a '50-year problem' for Muncie.

**John Lynch**  
Reporter

Indiana is one of many Midwestern states suffering from “brain drain,” an issue through which a region loses its college-educated community members to more financially and physically attractive communities. This loss in highly educated citizens reduces a community’s economic capacity, said Ball State economics professor Michael Hicks.

“In Indiana, there’s an abundance of jobs — there’s always an abundance of jobs,” Hicks said. “The problem is that there’s not a lot of places that people want to live.”

Almost 90 percent of people who move are in the top half of the education distribution, he said, which allows college graduates to seek greener pastures outside of their home state.

The loss of highly educated graduates creates a shortage of skilled, higher-paid workers, Hicks said, that cannot be offset by the remaining lower-income workers. That lack of higher taxable income and money being spent within the abandoned community contributes to a continuing downward economic spiral.

“The best place to be if you don’t have a high school diploma is [to be] around a college graduate, so as you lose college graduates, you also lose productivity in the non-college graduate sphere,” Hicks said. “People with college degrees have higher human capital, are more productive, earn more, experience faster wage growth — take them out of a

community at a higher rate, and you reduce the per capita income and productivity of those who remain behind.”

The City of Muncie’s brain drain problem manifests in its neighborhoods, where as many as 5,000 homes are unsuitable for habitation. Hicks said the community must destroy these blighted houses if the community is going to be attractive to higher-income earners, but Jonathan Spodek, Ball State professor of architecture and ecoREHAB founder, said there’s a more environmentally friendly way to go about the situation. Spodek said he was inspired to create ecoREHAB amid discussions of demolishing dilapidated or uninhabited housing in Muncie and building new houses with federal grant money. ecoREHAB rehabilitates about three houses per year.

Furthermore, Hicks said Muncie’s under-resourced school system makes the city problematic for graduates with families who are unwilling to move their children to schools that will fail them.

“Almost everything else is a waste of time,” Hicks said. “If you’re not improving your amenities, if you’re not making your local public services more effective, almost everything else is a fractional amount of that.”

For this reason, brain drain is a problem that cannot be eliminated in the short term. Hicks said Muncie is suffering the consequences of an unskilled economy.

“The fact is, it’s going to take 30-40 years for Muncie to get out of its hole,” he said. “Everybody who thinks we can get it fixed up this year is just fooling themselves, so the best thing to do is say, ‘I’m going to take a deep breath and try to work on Muncie 2050.’”

Despite the problem’s magnitude, there are still some people trying to alleviate the issue for the state at large.

MakeMyMove, an Indianapolis-based company, aims to fix the issue by recruiting Indiana graduates back to the state from which they graduated. Its CEO, Mike Rutz, said the company partners with Indiana universities to show graduates what the state has to offer.

Rutz said Indiana struggles more in retention than it does with producing graduates. He said two years ago, Indiana ranked fourth in per-capita production of college degrees but 38th overall in degrees held by citizens per capita.

“Our goal was not necessarily focused on stopping kids who are going to college from leaving the state — our goal was to try to bring people back to the state of Indiana, our theory being the individuals who would be most likely to come from out of state to live and work in Indiana would be people who have some affinity or some relationship with the state of Indiana,” Rutz said.

That process involved building a database of some 50 million people who could be considered candidates to move to the state. From there, MakeMyMove uses resources like its university partners to reach out to graduates and make the case for a homecoming.

Remote workers, who have seen a boom since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, have been a particular help to the organization.

“If we recruit a remote worker who makes \$100,000 a year, they’re worth \$83,000 of new economic output in the first year that they live in Muncie, and that comes in the form of tax revenue,” Rutz said.

So far, the organization’s efforts have been successful, recruiting 30,000 graduates to the website’s roster of registered candidates. However, Rutz shared Hicks’ view that this is a long-term project.

“If you’re expecting to move thousands of

people, that’s not [going to happen],” Rutz said. “This is not a silver bullet that’s going to generate 1,000 new citizens in a couple of years because this is a long-term strategy.”

Rutz and MakeMyMove aren’t alone in their goal of addressing the brain drain problem. TechPoint, an Indianapolis-based nonprofit, seeks to retain and recruit Indiana talent to Indiana-based tech companies.

Merillat Flowers, vice president and chief of staff at TechPoint, said the organization views the relative lack of large tech companies in the state as an opportunity for an industry with a long way to grow.

“We really believe that the tech industry is at this really unique moment in time, and Indiana is right in the midst of an opportune moment to really thrive and set ourselves apart, especially from other midsize cities when it comes to our tech hub,” Flowers said. “Our true mission and goal is to create more prosperity and opportunity and equity for the people of Indiana, and we do that through the vehicle of creating the tech ecosystem and making sure that it’s thriving and growing.”

Flowers acknowledged Indiana’s communities are often overlooked due to their reputation for being unattractive but said working in talent recruitment requires honesty and a willingness on the behalf of candidates to work through those flaws.

“I found that with our program, it’s really most valuable when we’re really honest with students about what is thriving in a community and what still has opportunity, and frankly, how cool it is — especially in a place like Indiana — to join a community where you can make an impact, where there is improvement to be made,” she said. “There are the resources there to do it and a whole lot of people who are interested in rolling up [their] sleeves.”

Contact John Lynch with comments at [jplynch@bsu.edu](mailto:jplynch@bsu.edu) or on Twitter @WritesLynch.

# “

The fact is, it’s going to take 30-40 years for Muncie to get out of its hole. Everybody who thinks we can get it fixed up this year is just fooling themselves, so the best thing to do is say, ‘I’m going to take a deep breath and try to work on Muncie 2050.’”

- **MICHAEL HICKS**,  
Ball State economics professor and director of the Center for Business and Economic Research



## brain drain /brān 'drān/

the departure of educated or professional people from one community, economic sector or field for another, usually for better pay or living conditions.

Source: Merriam-Webster

# ▶ PANDEMIC

Continued from Page 01

Eventually, Malloy said she was “the sickest [she’d] ever felt in [her] entire life.”

Aside from the initial scratchy throat, Malloy was in physical pain from her muscle aches. She experienced a fever and chills while losing her sense of taste and smell.

Then, she transmitted it to her 20-year-old daughter, Ashlynn.

“I felt terrible because when I got sick, I got my daughter sick, and that was the last thing I wanted to do,” Malloy said. “I have such a strict regimen on making sure nothing I wear from work goes home. So for me, I felt like I gave that to her, and it was just heartbreaking.”

Even now, Malloy’s sense of smell comes and goes, and her sense of taste isn’t the same as it was before. She still changes her clothes in the garage before she enters her house and wipes her car down every day when she gets home. Malloy, who has been a nurse for 12 years, has been working 12-hour shifts during the pandemic.

## ‘Variant of concern’

The staff at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis described a collective feeling of burnout. Warren Gavin, hospitalist at Methodist, said a recent spike in COVID-19 case numbers has left the hospital staff feeling as exhausted as ever.

“I think fatigue is one of the biggest things that everybody’s been feeling,” Gavin said. “There’s a lot of question — ‘Are hospital systems truly overwhelmed?’ You hear that. And, yes — yes they are.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention first identified a case of the COVID-19 omicron variant Nov. 24, 2021. Two days later, the World Health Organization (WHO) classified it as a “variant of concern.” Five days after that, the variant’s first case was identified in the United States.

According to the CDC, the omicron variant spreads more easily than both the original COVID-19 variant and the delta variant. Although the CDC states the current vaccines administered in the U.S. are effective against the variant, it also reports breakthrough infections in those who are fully vaccinated are more likely to occur.

Regardless, Gavin has found the majority of cases he sees at Methodist, on what he calls the “COVID floor,” are from those who remain unvaccinated.

In early January, there were 166 patients between Methodist and Indiana University Health University Hospital with COVID-19. Of those patients, Gavin said, only about 4 percent were fully vaccinated with a booster shot. About 25 percent had their full vaccination series but no booster. About 70 percent were entirely unvaccinated.

On Jan. 27, a patient ready to leave Methodist after being kept for COVID-19 complications decided they wanted to receive the vaccine. When Philip King, pharmacist at Methodist, readied the shot and brought it to a nurse — a process that took no more than 10 minutes — the nurse informed him the patient no longer wanted it.

“It’s frustrating because we have tools out there to mitigate this, yet you’re still seeing large percentages of unvaccinated populations showing up in the hospital,” King said.

On the other hand, Malloy recalled treating a patient who, after having been in the intensive care unit for about 20-25 days, chose to receive the vaccine after finally being discharged.

According to the CDC, as of Feb. 9, about 53.5 percent of Indiana’s population is fully vaccinated while only about 43.1 percent of that population have received their booster shots. Nationally, those numbers are 64.2 percent and 42.4 percent, respectively.

To Gavin, the strikingly low percentage of patients he treats who have received their booster shots proves they are effective in preventing severe bouts of COVID-19.

“What that 25 percent tells me is that there’s still ... a good proportion of patients that are vaccinated but didn’t get boosted, that can still get sick,” Gavin said. “It’s evidence to me that the booster does mean something, and it does help.”

## ‘Fear and uncertainty’

When COVID-19 was first declared a pandemic by the WHO March 11, 2020, King said there was almost a common “fear-of-the-unknown” feeling for those at the Methodist Hospital. By virtue of being a novel coronavirus, the disease itself was unknown. Doctors, as well as the public, were forced to figure out the details of the situation as it played out.

“Initially, we were afraid to even look at a doorknob and touch it because you thought that it



“

It’s personal, at this point. And it doesn’t have to go on for this long, in my opinion.”

- PHILIP KING,  
Pharmacist at Indiana  
University Health  
Methodist Hospital

Philip King poses for a photo in an employee lounge Feb. 8 at Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. King works as a pharmacist at the hospital and has lost a grandfather, grandmother and uncle to COVID-19. RYLAN CAPPER, DN

had COVID on it,” King said. “We didn’t know or have any of the tools to effectively treat patients in the beginning, so there were a lot of patients who were in the ICUs. We were running short on equipment and our PPE and everything like that.”

However, while the coronavirus is no longer as novel as it was before, King said the pandemic has still affected aspects of his job he once took for granted. Supply chain issues have led to drug shortages at hospitals like Methodist, and these issues can be directly related back to the pandemic itself. Labor shortages, factory closings, interruptions in global trade and an increase in demand have resulted from pandemic-related shutdowns and led to products across the market being in much lower supply.

King explained this shortage with an analogy of a patient who is in need of painkillers. If the best option for this patient is unavailable due to a lack of staff producing the medicine, the pharmacist naturally turns to the next best option. The more pharmacists who do this, the more quickly that next-best supplier runs out of product. Then, the process repeats for the third-best and, eventually,

fourth-best options. Each time, the patient is left with a less ideal medication.

King also said these shortages are made worse when other hospitals hoard valuable medications by overbuying them whenever another shortage is near. Therefore, smaller hospitals that don’t have the same buying power as larger hospitals are unable to receive the best drugs for their patients.

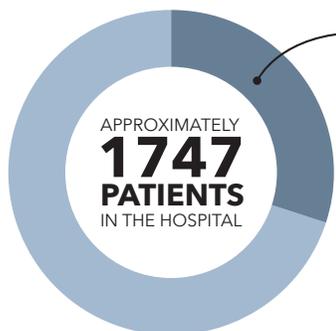
Nevertheless, despite the complications and unpredictability of COVID-19, Gavin said the initial “fear and uncertainty” he felt, while never having gone away, has subsided.

“That initial fear and that initial uncertainty ... has decreased markedly. As we have experience with this virus, I think the uncertainty goes away a little bit,” Gavin said. “As the studies come out, we understand, ‘Hey, these medications may be effective here.’ And that’s obviously still holding, but that uncertainty was lessened due to our experience with it — and the fear was lessened.”

Gavin credited this mostly to the vaccine rollout, which gave him and his colleagues a form of effective protection against the virus.

▶ See **PANDEMIC, 18**

## ALL IU HEALTH HOSPITAL COVID-19 DATA \*as of Feb. 2



**30%** ARE  
**COVID-19 PATIENTS**

**909** TEAM  
**MEMBERS**  
IN QUARANTINE

Source: Indiana University Health

farmers market  
at minnetrista: indoor market

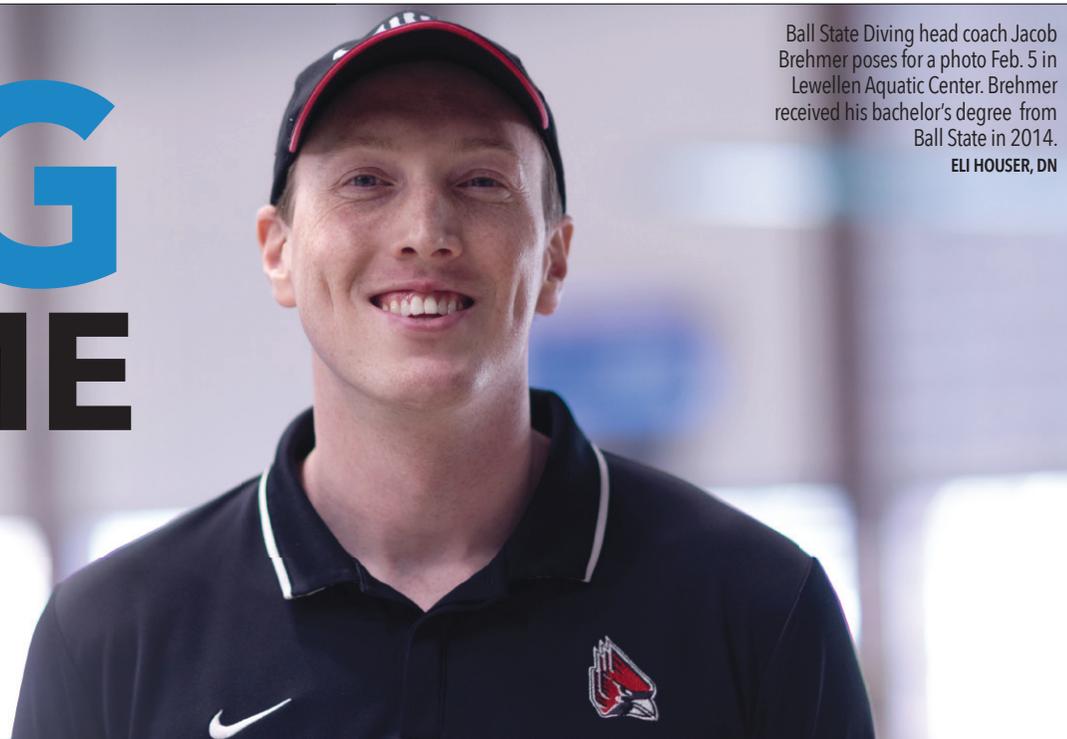
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# DIVING BACK HOME

After years as a graduate assistant, Jacob Brehmer is entrenched as the Cardinals' diving coach.



Ball State Diving head coach Jacob Brehmer poses for a photo Feb. 5 in Lewellen Aquatic Center. Brehmer received his bachelor's degree from Ball State in 2014.  
ELI HOUSER, DN

**Corbin Hubert**  
Reporter

It is Feb. 1, 2014. Then-Ball State senior diver Jacob Brehmer is preparing for his second-to-last home meet as a Cardinal.

Little does Brehmer know, in a few moments, he will set the second-best score for the 3-meter dive in school history with a 356.18.

"I had one of my lifetime-best scores," Brehmer said. "It was really nice to do that and see where I came from as a freshman to my best as a senior at my home pool."

Brehmer's senior year would be his most successful, posting another lifetime-best with a score of 329.10 in the 1-meter dive against Miami (Ohio) a week later. In March 2014, he also placed in both the 1-meter and 3-meter dive events in that year's Mid-American Conference Championships. Additionally, Brehmer became the first male Ball State diver to qualify for the NCAA Division I Zone Championships in almost seven years.

Brehmer first got involved with diving his sophomore year while attending Chesterton High School in Chesterton, Indiana, when he took a diving class taught by the school's former head swimming and diving coach, Kevin Kinel, who retired in 2019.

"My high school swim coach saw the potential in me and recommended I try out [for the team], and I've been going ever since 2008," Brehmer said.

Brehmer had a decorated career at Chesterton High School, receiving multiple accolades. In

Brehmer's first year as a diver, he won the Most Improved award and helped guide Chesterton to conference, sectional and state championships.

In his second and last season as a diver for Chesterton before graduating in 2010, Brehmer led the school to conference and sectional titles while placing third individually in the state championship meet. An all-conference diver, he was also named team MVP.

“

It has pretty much given me everything I have in my life right now. The majority of my friends come from this team. I'm in a career that I love because of diving. Anything of importance, I owe to diving."

- JACOB BREHMER,  
Ball State Diving head coach

After receiving his bachelor's degree from Ball State in 2014, Brehmer joined the Cardinals' swimming and diving coaching staff as a graduate assistant for the 2015-16 season. A few years later, he heard about an opening from a diver he coached in his time as a graduate assistant.

"One of the divers I coached while I was in grad

school gave me a call last year when they let their old coach go," Brehmer said. "He said, 'Hey, this is going on. Are you interested in stepping in and filling that role?'"

Brehmer admitted he tried to get back into athletics after he left Ball State and when the opportunity emerged for him to take the men's and women's diving coach position at his alma mater, he seized it.

As the interim diving coach in 2020-21, Brehmer played a successful role in helping turn around Ball State Men's Swimming and Diving. The Cardinals improved from a 2-4 finish in 2019-20 to a 4-1 finish in 2020-21.

Ball State junior diver Wyatt Blake saw improvement in his team's performance, and that gave him a sense of confidence in both Brehmer and the Cardinals.

"Him coming in with a much better attitude and better insight has allowed us to be able to shine, and you can see with all our [personal records] and our zone cuts and everything," Blake said. "We have progressed significantly since he has gotten here."

Junior diver Madison Gatzlaff said Brehmer's age and experience as a student-athlete have helped her and her teammates since he is able to successfully meet their needs.

"It's been really fun to see us grow with a new coach and to see that coach grow into his role on his terms," Gatzlaff said.

Brehmer takes pride in seeing his athletes grow inside and outside the pool and believes it has made his decision worth it.

"[My favorite part is] seeing how much each of them has grown," he said. "Just from the time that I came in and seeing where they are now, in and out of the pool, is one of the coolest things."

Brehmer's presence has allowed freshman diver Ashleigh Provan to feel more comfortable and confident within the Cardinals' environment. Provan said she was hesitant to open up while beginning the season but has become more communicative because of Brehmer's coaching style.

"At the start of the season, I was shy," Provan said. "He's helped me break out of my shell a little bit, and he knows my struggles and he doesn't push me too hard, but he pushes me to the point where I need to be pushed."

The jokes Brehmer makes or when he pulls a diver off to the side before they compete reflects well on his connections with his athletes, Provan said.

"He knows when we are having a bad day, and he always tries to make us feel better," Provan said. "He knows this experience being an athlete here, and he knows what Ball State does."

Diving has allowed Brehmer to shine as an athlete, but it has also given him the opportunity to help new Ball State divers showcase their talents.

"Diving means a lot," Brehmer said. "It has pretty much given me everything I have in my life right now. The majority of my friends come from this team. I'm in a career that I love because of diving. Anything of importance, I owe to diving."

Contact Corbin Hubert with comments at [cchubert@bsu.edu](mailto:cchubert@bsu.edu) or on Twitter @corbin\_hubert\_.



# THE MAN BEHIND *the mic*

Ball State PA Announcer Tom Simpson reads Ball State's starting lineup Feb. 4. at Worthen Arena. Simpson previously worked for 104.1 WLBC-FM in both a sports and sales role. ELI HOUSER, DN

## For more than 30 years, Tom Simpson has embraced his role as PA voice of the Cardinals.

**Connor Smith**  
Managing Editor

On a crisp January Saturday afternoon, fans file into Worthen Arena to watch Ball State Men's Basketball face Western Michigan.

The popcorn has been served. The national anthem has been sung. The lights go out, and the Cardinals' hype video flashes on the jumbotron.

"All right, Cardinal fans. It's game time! Let's show our visitors from Kalamazoo how loud Worthen can be."

As fans stand up and cheer, Ball State public address (PA) announcer Tom Simpson reads the Cardinals' starting lineup. Simpson, sitting at the scorer's table, is about to give himself a vocal workout for the next two hours, announcing everything from scores to fouls to promotional reads.

It's something he's done since 1987.

"I still love doing it ... I love looking back at the different players and a lot of different teams," Simpson said. "I'm hoping that maybe sometime in the near future, we could make a postseason tournament."

### A hometown product

Simpson has lived in Muncie for virtually his entire life. He graduated from Muncie Central High School in 1978 with aspirations of becoming a broadcaster. While studying at Ball State, he majored in radio, television and motion pictures (RTM).

After graduating from Ball State in 1983, Simpson worked for 104.1 WLBC-FM, covering Ball State and high school sports while also working in a sales role. He did everything from hosting a college scoreboard show on Friday and Saturday nights to calling play-by-play.

At the time, the Cardinals didn't have a permanent PA announcer. Every few years, a different student would take the role before graduating. Knowing there was an opening, Simpson approached Earl Yestingsmeier, then-Ball State sports information director.

"[Yestingsmeier] said, 'Have you ever done it before?'" Simpson said. "And I go, 'No ... but I think I could learn.'"

"Obviously, the university was familiar with the fact I was doing on-air work at the radio station, so they were familiar that I had a skill set, and I had a good voice. I wasn't just somebody walking off the street ... I certainly had a relationship with Earl and some of the other folks at the university."

Though Simpson said he had some "butterflies" during his first days on the job, his knowledge of Ball State helped, as well as his relationships with Yestingsmeier and Morry Mannies, former Ball State radio play-by-play voice.

### The gameday gig

For each game he announces, Simpson's goal

is simple.

"I don't want to disrespect the other team," Simpson said, "but I want to make it clear that we're in Ball State's house, and we're going to make sure that we do everything we can, by the rules, to get the crowd fired up."

A couple of days before each game, Simpson visits the opponent's website. He'll scour the roster and view stats while checking phonetic pronunciations of uncommon names. If a name's particularly tough, he'll write it down or practice it himself a few times.

About 30 to 45 minutes before tipoff, Simpson arrives at Worthen Arena. Sometimes, he'll visit with the opponent's sports information director to clarify pronunciations before receiving finalized rosters. While at the scorer's table, he has both team's rosters in front of him. He also keeps his own stats for reference.

"There's not a lot of time once we get started," Simpson said. "Typically, it used to be back in the day, at halftime, I'd have a break — I might have 10 to 15 minutes to stretch my legs, go to the bathroom. That's really not the case anymore. They've got virtually every timeout and every break scripted out. Once I start, I'm pretty much not done until two and a half hours later when the game is done."

Sitting next to Simpson at each home game, Shawn Sullivan, Ball State deputy athletics director of marketing and strategic initiatives, said much of his relationship with Simpson over the years has been based on sarcasm. During a recent game against Buffalo, before Simpson was about to announce the starting lineups, Sullivan turned to

him and said, "Hey, Tom — it's BOO-fallow."

"He might chime back or laugh," Sullivan said, "or he might just play along and be like, 'Are you sure it's not Buh-FA-loh?' We get to have some fun with that."

As a fellow PA announcer, often working Indiana Pacers and Fever and Indy Eleven games, Sullivan described Simpson's voice as "authoritative, but also welcoming."

"That's a tough balance — I think he does such a good job of being unique and variable in his calls," Sullivan said. "That's hard to do without being annoying."

### Creating a legacy

Peyton Stovall, 2010 Ball State alumnus and former Ball State Men's Basketball player, met Simpson during his freshman season in 2004-05. Stovall was introduced to those sitting at the scorer's table, and Simpson would often give him a fist bump before each game.

"He'd say to me, 'Good luck tonight, Stovey,'" Stovall said. "It's those things that I always remember — some of our relationships grew and grew through his voice."

Stovall, now an associate athletics director at Purdue University, said Simpson's commitment to Ball State is what stands out to him compared to other announcers.

"[The announcing] creates memories for families," Stovall said. "They can come back and share it with their kids. Those are legacy points ... I'm sure there are people that have played here like myself, and we're now bringing our kids back. They're hearing that voice."

Simpson said he doesn't take one second of his job for granted, and he's even more grateful for the support he's received from the Muncie community. From attending Muncie Central and watching the Bearcats win a state title in 1978 to announcing Cardinals' home games more than 40 years later, he's thankful for the place he calls home.

"Muncie is probably, in my experience, the most giving community that you could possibly find for a town of this size," Simpson said. "If you look at the nonprofit organizations in town that help people in need of all ages, whether it's kids in daycare to senior citizens to everything in between, Muncie's just a tremendously generous, big-hearted community that likes to help its fellow man."

Contact Connor Smith with comments at [csmith@bsu.edu](mailto:csmith@bsu.edu) or on Twitter @csmith\_19.

SCAN FOR EXAMPLE OF  
SIMPSON AUDIO

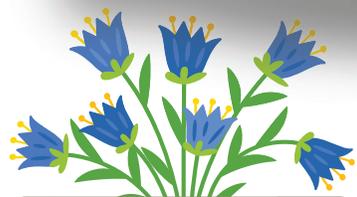




THE WAYS



OF WEAVING



Muncie community members reflect on Forever Baskets and their love of basket weaving. ▶ 13

Byte

'Critical Role' Plays a New Part

The crew of "Critical Role," a show about Dungeons & Dragons with 1,000 Twitch subscribers that has broken Kickstarter records, now has a series on Amazon Prime called "The Legend of Vox Machina." It features a group known as Vox Machina looking to be hired in the city of Emon and was turned into an \$11.3 million Kickstarter fund.

Byte



A Musical Movement

Takamasha Ishihara, who goes by the name Miyavi, started playing guitar after an injury when he was 15 years old. The first group he was in used elaborate makeup and hair, pioneering a visual movement. He became a solo artist in 2002 and toured Asia later that year. His first major album made the top 10 albums in Japanese music charts.

Byte

'Scream': Ghostface Strikes Again

The horror film "Scream" is coming out with a new installment — the fifth in the series. The first movie in the series premiered in 1996 and showcased protagonist Sidney Prescott being stalked by a murderer whose identity is unknown. The new movie takes place 25 years after the original with a new group of students under the mystery murderer's wrath.

# LIVE

National Guitar Day

*A brief history of some musicians who are members of 'The 27 Club'*



## BRIAN JONES

1942 – 1969

Jones was a founding member of The Rolling Stones. After developing a substance abuse problem, Jones was found dead at the bottom of his pool.



## JIMI HENDRIX

1942 – 1970

Known for his electric guitar skills, Hendrix impacted a generation of rock and roll musicians. Hendrix was addicted to using drugs and died from choking on his own vomit.



## JANIS JOPLIN

1943 – 1970

As Joplin's career skyrocketed, dominating the San Francisco music scene, she became increasingly addicted to heroin and alcohol. It would later be her demise.



## JIM

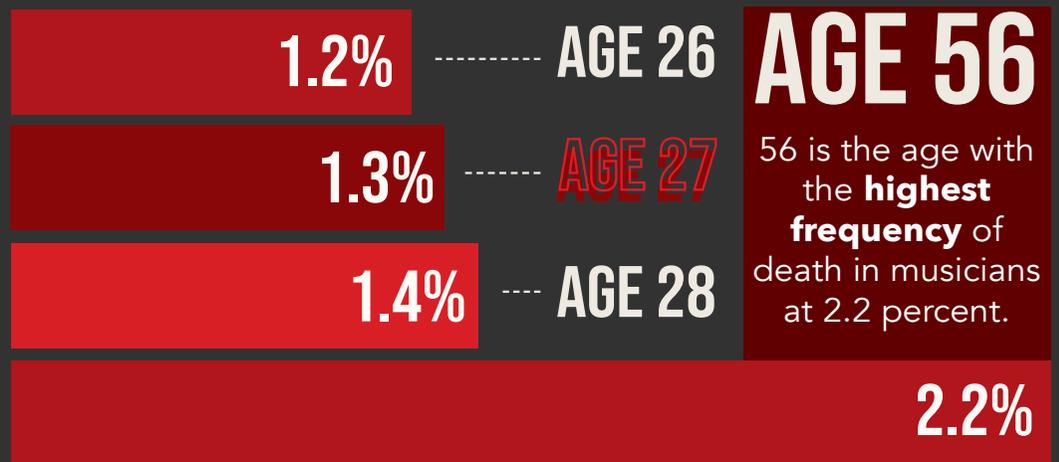
1943 – 1971

Lead singer of The Doors, Morrison fueled his own behavior with a heart of heroin.

## WHAT IS THE 27 CLUB?

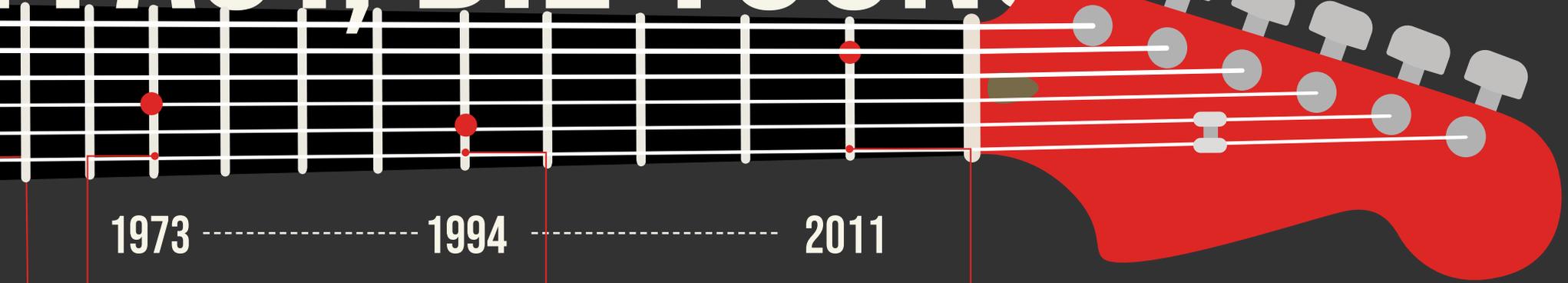
The mythology of the 27 Club gained prominence after Kurt Cobain took his own life in 1994. He died at the age of 27, like other iconic rock musicians that died in the 1970s.

## WHAT AGE ARE MUSICIANS DYING?



56 is the age with the **highest frequency** of death in musicians at 2.2 percent.

# FAST, DIE YOUNG



1973

1994

2011



**JIM MORRISON**

1943 – 1971

Singer and a founder of The Doors, Morrison found himself addicted to alcohol, leading to a ludicrous onstage performance. Morrison died of a heart attack caused by a heroin overdose.



**RON MCKERNAN**

1945 – 1973

Founding member of the Grateful Dead, McKernan wasn't like his bandmates and didn't have an interest in LSD. His heavy drinking caused him to develop cirrhosis, and he later died of a hemorrhage.



**KURT COBAIN**

1967 – 1994

Founder of grunge legends Nirvana, Cobain found himself in the spotlight of the Seattle music scene. He, however, struggled with mental illness and died by suicide.



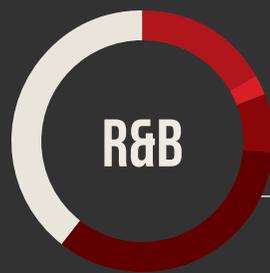
**AMY WINEHOUSE**

1983 – 2011

Singer and songwriter, Winehouse won multiple awards for her musical talents and abilities. Later, Winehouse battled drug and alcohol addiction, which would take her life.

## CAUSE OF DEATH

BASED ON GENRE



- Accident
- Heart-related
- Homicide
- Suicide
- Cancer

### HOWEVER,

musicians have a significantly higher risk of death in their 20s or 30s than that of the general public. This could be linked to lifestyle choices while actively touring.

Staff Reports

# I PICK YOU

The best types of flowers for Valentine's Day and their meanings.

GETTY IMAGES, PHOTO COURTESY

With Valentine's Day right around the corner, it's the perfect time to look for gifts for whomever your Valentine is, and stores are stocking their shelves with all things red and pink. Chocolate, cheesy cards, clothes and stuffed animals are some of the most popular gifts to get your significant other, but there is one gift that remains an outstanding tradition: flowers.

Flowers are a symbol of romance, a way to show affection, effort and love in a relationship. But, behind each type of flower, there is also a meaning. What are the meanings behind each type of flower and where did they come from? Here's a list of the four best types of flowers to get your significant other and the meaning behind each of them:



## Red Roses

Roses are the most popular type of flower, especially during the Valentine's Day season. Each color has a different meaning, with red roses symbolizing love the most. Red roses can mean passion, true love, romance and desire. Dark red roses show a value for commitment and represent passion, two values that are often associated with love and romance.



## Sunflowers

Sunflowers are most common during the summer and warmer months but are still a popular flower for Valentine's Day. Cultures around the world interpret sunflowers differently, meaning anything from positivity to loyalty or strength to admiration. However, when given to a significant other or in a bouquet with another romantic type of flower like red roses, sunflowers can mean love, brilliance and pride.



## Purple Orchid

Purple is a color often associated with royalty, class and wealth, and purple orchids are no exception. But beyond that, purple orchids represent respect, admiration and dignity. Giving these to your significant other can show them how much you value your relationship with them and respect who they are.



## Pink Lilies

Like roses, the meaning behind lilies depends on the color of the flower. Lilies are often seen as a sweet and innocent flower, with the most common meaning being purity and fertility. Pink is often a color representing femininity, love, adoration and admiration, and pink lilies are often sent to female friends, family members and significant others. They also symbolize confidence and friendship.



# Cardinal Kitchen

Hey, Ball State! Did you know there is a food pantry on campus? We'd love to help you if you need it. Here's when, where and how:

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# The owner of Forever Baskets, her husband and a frequent customer talk about the ins and outs of weaving baskets.

**Elissa Maudlin**  
Associate Lifestyles Editor

It starts with the base, a circular slab of wood surrounded by thinner strands, which travel the perimeter of the slab, around and around. Tall strands the size of popsicle sticks reach toward the sky, away from the circular motion of the other strands, almost making a fence. Where the end of the continuous circle meets the sky-reaching fence, the thinner circular strands begin to weave around the taller strands, enveloping them.

This is basket weaving.

In a shop located at 2660 W. Kilgore Ave. in Muncie, Linda Swanger works with a medium-sized basket with strands stretching backward in a curve surrounded by brown strands weaving in and out. On a white table lies scissors and multiple spray bottles while what looks like a crocheted blanket hangs on the back wall reading “Forever Baskets.”

Swanger opened Forever Baskets in June 2015 and sells hand-woven baskets, basket weaving supplies, different types of crafts and also offers basket weaving classes.

Her start in basket weaving goes back to the ‘80s and ‘90s, when everyone was basket weaving, she said.

One of Swanger’s co-workers from the hospital she worked at was taking basket weaving classes and would bring in baskets to work and sometimes weave them during breaks. Swanger became interested and went to class with her, and her love of basket weaving was born.

Around her shop, baskets take up space on counters, hide within other baskets and act as bases of lamps attached to their handles. Floral

arrangements and other crafts also surround the area, and Swanger crafted most of these herself, including the embellishment on the baskets.

The only thing Swanger didn’t do for the baskets or crafts was paint.

“I don’t paint,” she said.

Before opening her shop, Swanger said she taught basket weaving at High Street United Methodist Church in Muncie for older adults. The more she got involved with basket weaving from her first encounter, she said, the more she wanted to teach and open a shop. While her classes and shop focus on basket weaving, she said she welcomes other crafters to spend time in her shop as well.

“[Forever Baskets is] a friendly place to come,” Swanger said. “If [customers] want to come in just to talk, that’s fine, too. It’s a fun place to come to learn to weave baskets.”

Swanger said basket weaving is “addictive,” and it has become her passion. At times, she doesn’t use a pattern to weave her baskets and instead opts to create the pattern as she goes by just looking at a basket.

“We tell people some baskets have secrets — we don’t tell people if you’ve made a mistake,” Swanger said. “We can all be weaving the same

basket, they all turn out different, and we just say that your baskets have their own personality.”

Swanger is currently working on the same type of basket as the first one she created, which she acknowledged as big and challenging because she always said she was going to create it again.

Although Linda made many of the baskets around the shop, “that’s only a drop in the bucket compared to what [Linda and I] have,” her husband, Steve Swanger, said.

## Meeting Steve

Steve, a retired Northside Middle School industrial technology teacher, was also a contractor.

He helps Linda around the shop by building its displays and staining, or adding color to, the baskets from a big workshop in their house.

Steve has always been interested in craftwork, he said. When he met Linda, he saw she liked basket weaving and wanted to give her his support.

“She’s really followed through with it,” Steve said. “We had some people who questioned how long this might last, and it’s gone now almost seven years. And, it’s still growing.”

Other than her passion for basket weaving, Steve also said Linda excels at people management, explaining how to do any craft

thoroughly and teaching with patience. Through his experience as a teacher, he said Linda should have been an elementary school teacher based on her patience when she teaches.

“I have heard from a number of people who say that she was the best teacher they’ve ever had for any kind of craft that they were doing,” Steve said.

## The Business

When looking for a place for Linda to hold her business, Steve’s teaching career came in handy.

“The actual owner [of the building] is a girl that I worked with in the school system,” Steve said. “When she realized who I was, there was no question about whether she was going to rent to us or not.”

In the beginning, Steve said the building was just one big, empty room that ended up turning into Forever Baskets.

Running her own business, the hardest part for Linda has been advertising and taxes.

“[The advertising of it] used to be word-of-mouth and everyone was there,” Linda said. “Now, you search for ways to get recognized on Facebook or whatever.”

▶ See **BASKETS**, 14



Linda Swanger weaves a basket at her store Jan. 14 at Forever Baskets in Muncie. Swanger has been weaving baskets since the late '80s. AMBER PIETZ, DN



We tell people some baskets have secrets — we don’t tell people if you’ve made a mistake. We can all be weaving the same basket — they all turn out different, and we just say that your baskets have their own personality.”

- LINDA SWANGER,  
Owner of Forever Baskets



# BASKETS

Continued from Page 13

Linda also said the community response in Delaware County has been “good, but could be better.” She said children involved with 4-H come to her shop to basket weave from Madison County, Jay County and Randolph County, but she didn’t mention Delaware County. Linda has entered baskets into the 4-H open class in Delaware County herself, she said, to promote basket weaving.

Through the business, Linda and Steve have gotten involved with different groups and participated in different activities. Linda said they are on the Yorktown Council of the Arts, and Steve said they were involved in the Big Showdown in Richmond, Indiana, which is a basket weaving program.

## Meeting Sandy

During one of Linda’s basket weaving classes at High Street United Methodist Church in 2016, Sandy Tharp, who had been doing dollhouse miniatures to one-inch scale for about 20 years, fell in love with a new craft — basket weaving.

“When I took the class, something clicked there that I liked [basket weaving],” she said.

Tharp would become one of Linda’s regular customers, continuing to attend her church classes, traveling to her old shop in Yorktown, Indiana, and eventually attending her shop two days a week in



“

I have heard from a number of people who say that [Linda] was the best teacher they’ve ever had for any kind of craft that they were doing,”  
**- STEVE SWANGER,**  
 Linda’s husband

Sandy Tharp weaves a basket Jan. 14 at Forever Baskets in Muncie. “Some people don’t know that they like weaving until they try,” said Tharp. **AMBER PIETZ, DN**

Muncie for approximately six hours each day.

“If I was doing a small [basket], I get it done [within six hours],” Tharp said. “But of course, we talk, we eat.”

“Talk about the world’s problems,” Linda said.

For Tharp and Linda, there are so many different basket weaving techniques you can’t count them all and some are more challenging than others. They refer to some of those baskets as “one and done-s,” which Tharp said a weaver will

do once and never want to do again.

Tharp often comes up with unique baskets, Steve said. One of her baskets was “a basket wrapped around a basket that ended up being an end table,” he said.

Tharp said she keeps coming back because of Linda.

“Anything I’ve learned, I’ve learned from her,” she said.

“Well, some things, we’ve learned together,”

Linda responded. “There’s a lot to learn when it comes to basket weaving.”

Contact *Elissa Maudlin* with comments at [ejmaudlin@bsu.edu](mailto:ejmaudlin@bsu.edu) or on Twitter [@ejmaudlin](https://twitter.com/ejmaudlin).

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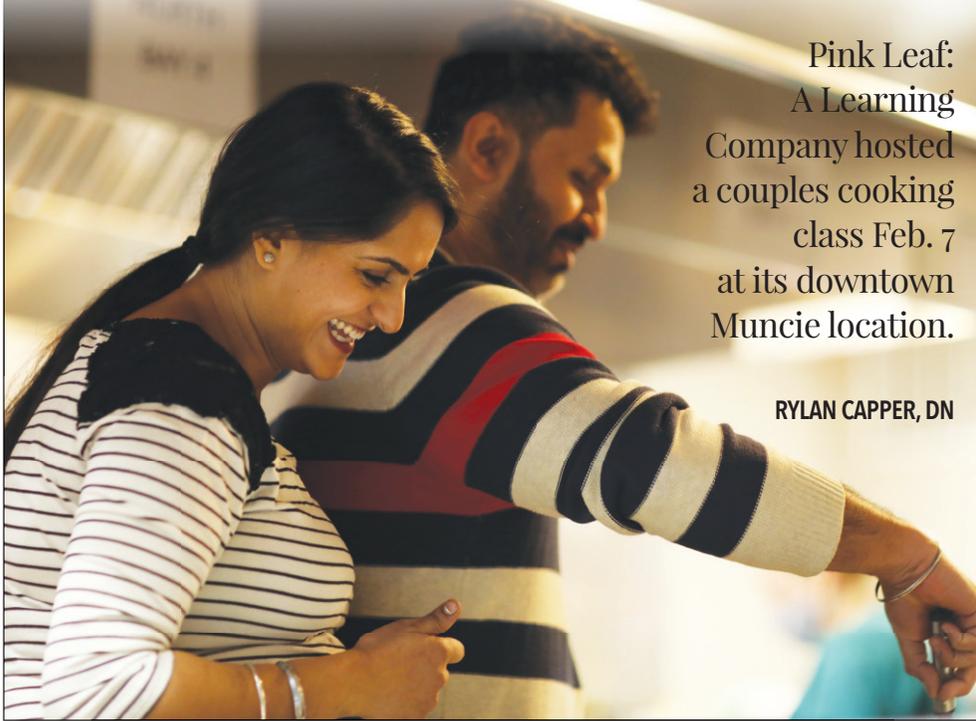
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# 'That's Amore'

Pink Leaf:  
A Learning  
Company hosted  
a couples cooking  
class Feb. 7  
at its downtown  
Muncie location.

RYLAN CAPPER, DN



Simran Cheema laughs with her husband, Sunny, as they make penne alla vodka during a couples' cooking class Feb. 7 at Pink Leaf in downtown Muncie.



Simran Cheema and her husband, Sunny, cook pasta together at a couples' cooking class Feb. 7 at Pink Leaf in downtown Muncie. The couple are expecting their second child in March. "This child is going to complete our family," Simran said.



Four couples participate in a cooking class Feb. 7 at Pink Leaf in downtown Muncie. The class was hosted by Amanda and Kyle Reninger, who own and operate Sea Salt and Cinnamon, a bakery in downtown Muncie.



Eric Funk flambés onions and red peppers while making penne alla vodka during a couples' cooking class Feb. 7 at Pink Leaf in downtown Muncie. Flambé is a French cooking technique used to impart the subtle flavors of a liquor into a dish while burning off the alcohol, which can cause an unpleasant taste.



Julie Funk reaches for a strawberry during a couples' cooking class Feb. 7 at Pink Leaf in downtown Muncie. Funk attended the class with her husband, Eric. The couple met in 1999.

## Black History Month

### BLACK-ING

### OUT

### HISTORY

*America's educational system fails students by not teaching them culturally responsive ways to engage with history other than the accomplishments of white forebears.*

*KwaTashea Marfo is a freshman public relations major and writes "Imperfectly Perfect" for The Daily News. Her views do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*



**KwaTashea Marfo,**  
Columnist

From kindergarten to eighth grade, I attended Gary Community Schools. Transferring to Portage High School after eight years at a predominantly Black school was a culture shock. It sank in my sophomore year as I sat in my dual credit U.S. History class filled with my peers — all white but for four students — and laughter roared in my ears. My teacher asked me to read a complex word, casting me as a victim of the impossible literacy test typically given to enforce a barrier on African Americans to prevent them from voting during the Jim Crow era.

Still, typically anxious, young Tash couldn't say the word correctly.

As I suddenly felt empathetic to the predecessors I had never known, I felt uncomfortable in my skin. As tears ran down my face, I knew my education's structure wasn't right.

It hadn't always been this way for me. Looking back to my time in Gary, Indiana, during my first eight years in the educational system, every February was spent learning about different African American leaders who helped shape the United States. From the enslaved people first brought over from Africa during the 17th century to Black icons in the modern day, I looked forward to the month of February every year because it was my chance to focus deeper on these influential individuals and celebrate their achievements with my teachers and classmates.

In class each day, we would pick an individual to study and analyze their role in creating U.S. history. By the end of February, we were required to complete a project in which we wrote research papers and created interactive posters that covered the timeline of a selected pioneer and the ways they contributed to the Black community or society as a whole, complete with quotes and a memorable lesson. My favorite part was when I could wear my traditional African garments, which I did faithfully for eight consecutive years.



When our curriculum centers its lessons on a sanitized version of history, students are not taught how to respect and appreciate cultures different from their own, resulting in insensitivity and distrust toward people of color.”

The fabrics were rich in color with bright textiles and patterns that reflected the Ashanti tribe in Ghana, West Africa — where my father is from. Something about wearing the Ankara garments while reciting information about these individuals allowed me to take pride in my cultural history.

I felt seen. I felt heard. I felt proud to be a young African American woman!

This feeling vanished when I transferred to Portage High School in Portage, Indiana, my freshman year. I soon realized the devotion I had to learning about my cultural history was thanks to Gary Community Schools, an education system that catered its curriculum toward the targeted demographic of its population.

While attending Portage High School, I noticed a pattern in the lessons being taught: much of African American history was missing from the curriculum. Many Black figures hidden from history deserve a long-overdue spotlight to celebrate their contributions to civil rights, politics, arts and more, even outside of a month that has 29 days in a good year.

The curriculum at Portage High School should have been structured to teach African American history in culturally responsive ways year-round. Specifically, white teachers whose only objective was to share the accomplishments of prominent figures such as Rosa Parks, Fredrick Douglass and Martin Luther King Jr. should not have ignored the impactful history of unsung heroes like W.E.B. Du Bois — a sociologist, socialist, historian, civil rights activist, among other things, who led the Niagara Movement and later helped form the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

It’s imperative that predominantly white school systems find a way to connect with all of their students on more than an academic level but an emotional level as well. Far too often, students are presented with a version of history that centers on the accomplishments of our country’s white forebears.

When confronted with a history that does not deify the actions of white America, students are not given respective resources for interacting with said history. Some prominent examples of this are the painful truths behind the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre that resulted in a Black neighborhood perishing at the hands of a violent white mob or understanding the significance of the federal holiday Juneteenth, intended to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved people in the U.S.

When our curriculum centers its lessons on a sanitized version of history, students are not taught how to respect and appreciate cultures different from their own, resulting in insensitivity and distrust toward people of color. Sadly, that type of sanitized history is being made into law — as we speak — in the Indiana State Senate.

Under House Bill 1134, conservative lawmakers are currently constructing a series of proposals that would restrict “harmful materials” concerning the teaching of divisive concepts like of an individual’s sex, race, religion, political affiliation, among other things, in the classroom. Furthermore, the bill also provides parents with a voice to determine whether they

want their students to opt-in or opt-out of specific educational activities.

From the perspective of an African American woman, this bill is absurd. It should not be controversial. Our schools’ curriculum on race is already censored — with this bill, lawmakers practically rewrite history and discourage people from thinking independently and critically.

Even if this bill passes, the fact will remain that America has a long complicated

history with race.

Stopping students from receiving an inclusive, equitable education will not shelter them from news concerning racial discrepancies in the world but rather a delayed response to such events. With bills such as HB1134, the minds of the youth will deteriorate into a cultural and intellectual decline.

Our students’ already little knowledge about well-known African Americans, such as Jackie Robinson or Harriet Tubman, will be erased. You can forget learning about George Washington Carver, an agricultural scientist and inventor who promoted crop rotation to prevent soil depletion and created 300 uses from peanuts and 118 from sweet potatoes. You can forget learning about Ida B. Wells, an American investigative journalist, educator, early leader in the Civil Rights

Movement and a founder of the NAACP.

Teaching lessons about a critical race theory denotes that systemic racism is part of American society and recognizes that racism stems from more than an individual’s

bias and prejudice through embedment of laws, policies and institutions such as education, employment or healthcare. Discussing this philosophy is important because it accurately depicts American history, the good and the bad, no matter how gruesome it may get. If we are willing to censor students’ topics, how will they become the future politicians, doctors or teachers of America? Where will they get their resources to progress into a better society that promotes divisive concepts?

America will no longer be worthy of being known as a melting pot and will crumble as its people struggle to coexist and live together as a nation, because the unbearable weight of holding together a society of entangled cultures with little understanding of one another is inevitably going to collapse atop us all.

When this happens, lawmakers will learn discussing topics that evoke discomfort is beneficial.

It’s agonizing even to imagine the drastic difference my educational experience in

Gary Community Schools would have been if this bill was in effect when young Tash was learning about her favorite unsung heroes. The sole purpose of discussing diverse history topics is to reflect, observe and understand complex dilemmas by examining how the past has shaped our society and its people. Even with politicized issues such as critical race theory, the goal is to teach the true magnitude of the intersection of race and law in the U.S. and how it challenges American approaches to racial justice.

During my high school career, eight years of critical race theory knowledge was challenged by naïvete, discrimination and taboo topics about the cruel history of my predecessors. With education systems following our country’s systemic racism blindly and HB1134 threatening to erase hundreds of years of history, young Black students will wonder why they won’t get the chance to engage with their cultural history, and as a result, lose the self-esteem and empowerment Black knowledge gives.

From where I am standing, discussing these topics in a school environment where information is given, resulting in acquired knowledge on various fields of education, promotes character/mindset development and social cohesion.

After all, I was in a school setting when I learned about Ruby Bridges, a civil rights activist who was the first African American child to desegregate William Frantz Elementary School during the New Orleans school desegregation crisis Nov. 14, 1960, who inspired me to ignore the roaring laughter and prove the naysayers wrong.

Contact KwaTashea Marfo with comments at [kwatashea.marfo@bsu.edu](mailto:kwatashea.marfo@bsu.edu) or on Twitter @mkwatashea.

# HOROSCOPE FOR FEBRUARY 10, 2022

Written by: Nancy Black

## ARIES

March 21-April 19  
Today is an 8 — You can solve a puzzle. The opposition holds out, and it could get tense. Discipline and experience make the difference. Keep written records.

## TAURUS

April 20-May 20  
Today is a 7 — A dreamy income opportunity may not pan out. Adapt plans around a delay or road block. Patience and persistence pay off. Stay in action.

## GEMINI

May 21-June 20  
Today is a 9 — Don't let an obstacle or barrier stop you. Patiently find another way. Steady attention strengthens your situation. Wear power and confidence like an elegant cloak.

## CANCER

June 21-July 22  
Today is a 7 — Consider options and revise plans. Your tranquility could get disturbed. Distractions and interruptions abound. Find a private spot to think. Organize and imagine.

## LEO

July 23-Aug. 22  
Today is an 8 — Pull together to navigate uncharted waters. Social barriers or breakdowns could alter team plans. Determination and persistence get results. Share and provide community support.

## VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
Today is a 9 — A professional challenge requires adaptation. Illusions dissipate to reveal an inconvenient reality. Put in extra effort to handle practical priorities. Discipline pays off.

## LIBRA

Sept. 23-Oct. 22  
Today is a 7 — Reorganize your exploration around an unscheduled deviation. Adapt and adjust. Imagine options and possibilities. Study and research the inside story. Wait for developments.

## SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
Today is a 9 — Work together for practical financial priorities. Adjust around an unexpected expense. Illusions fade to reveal a mess. Support each other to adapt and grow stronger.

## SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Today is an 8 — Compromise and negotiate with your partner to resolve a kink in plans. Things may not go as expected. A sense of humor helps. Pull together.

## CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
Today is a 9 — Prioritize healthy routines. Moderate the pace and tempo to adapt around obstacles. Step lively when the trail is clear. Steady practice gets results.

## AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Today is a 9 — Have fun with an intriguing challenge. Disciplined attention strengthens your game. Reality doesn't match your vision. Practice makes perfect. Take one step at a time.

## PICES

Feb. 19-March 20  
Today is a 9 — Domestic attention provides satisfying results. Handle a breakdown. Make repairs and upgrades. Clean and organize. Enjoy your cozy nest. Share family favorites.

## ▶ PANDEMIC

Continued from Page 06

### 'Science works'

As a pharmacist, King said he has taken the pandemic seriously from the beginning. He's seen what the virus has done to vulnerable patients like his grandfather, grandmother and uncle, all of whom he lost to COVID-19.

"It's personal, at this point," King said. "And it doesn't have to go on for this long, in my opinion."

Malloy, in part, attributed the length of the pandemic to the politicization it experienced near its start.

While an advocate for the vaccine herself, Malloy said she has close relatives who are still hesitant to receive theirs. They've accused her of peddling an ineffective drug, telling her the only reason she believes in it "is because [she sees] it every day." The "us-versus-them" mentality she said she's seen so many people develop has caused her to delete each of her social media profiles.

Even so, Malloy said the hospital that's been the source of her exhaustion has also been a source of comfort. Her colleagues, who can relate to her experiences more than anybody outside of Methodist, have been an outlet for her struggles. Spending nearly every day with each other, they've developed close relationships and have begun to lean on each other.

Another solace, she said, has been the family she goes home to every day. Being a mother and a nurse, Malloy said she's made sure her children are well-educated — they've known the basics of the virus since the pandemic's beginning, she's taught them sexual education since they were young and they regularly perform family



There's a lot of question — 'Are hospital systems truly overwhelmed?' You hear that. And, yes — yes they are."

**- WARREN GAVIN,**  
Hospitalist at Indiana University  
Health Methodist Hospital

science experiments. Her daughter is studying biochemistry at Manchester University. Her 11-year-old son dreams of working for NASA.

After Malloy took her son to receive the vaccine, he attempted to tell everybody in his grade to also get it because "science works." Proud of his encouragement, when he got home, he told his mother what he told all the other children.

"Yes, you're right, buddy," she said, laughing. "Science works."

Contact Joey Sills with comments at [joey.sills@bsu.edu](mailto:joey.sills@bsu.edu) or on Twitter @sillsjoey.

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# Crossword & Sudoku

CROSSWORD EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE LEWIS; SUDOKU BY MICHAEL MEPHAM

## ACROSS

Clues start here

- 1 \_\_\_ Sciuto; former "NCIS" role
- 5 Actress Dawber
- 8 \_\_\_ Winningham
- 9 Brandon \_\_\_ Jones of "Ghosts"
- 12 "A Day at the \_\_\_"; Marx Brothers film
- 13 "Pearl \_\_\_"; 2001 Ben Affleck movie
- 14 Arthur with a racket
- 15 Reign
- 16 Suffix for event or intellect
- 18 90 degrees from NNE
- 19 Role on "Cheers"
- 20 Flirt with
- 21 Marvin & Majors
- 23 Actress Lindsay
- 24 Mayberry resident
- 25 \_\_\_ Lapira of "The Equalizer"
- 26 "\_\_\_ in Paris"; Doris Day film
- 28 White Monopoly bills
- 29 Guinness or Baldwin

30 "Kakatoa: East of \_\_\_"; 1968 movie

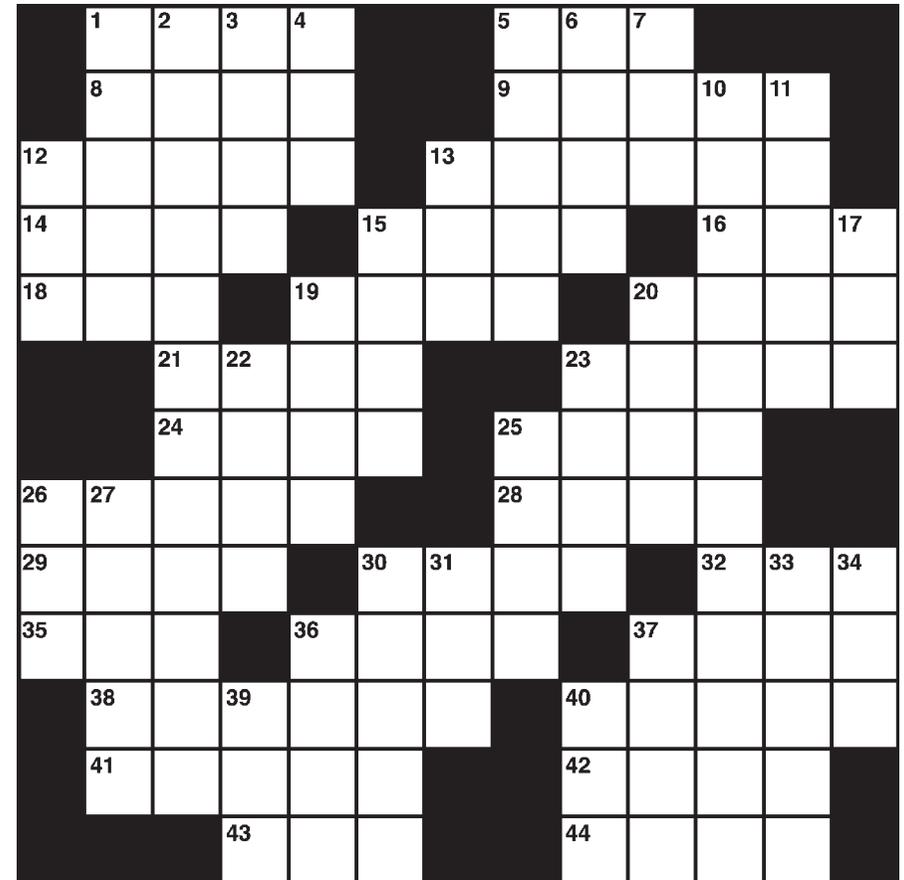
- 32 Capture
- 35 "How I \_\_\_ Your Mother"
- 36 Uncovered
- 37 Actress Rue
- 38 "Star Wars: Episode II - \_\_\_ of the Clones"
- 40 \_\_\_ Morrison of "Dateline NBC"
- 41 Dr. \_\_\_ Shepherd; "Grey's Anatomy" role
- 42 Eric \_\_\_ of Monty Python
- 43 Tax-collecting agcy.
- 44 Cathedral service

## DOWN

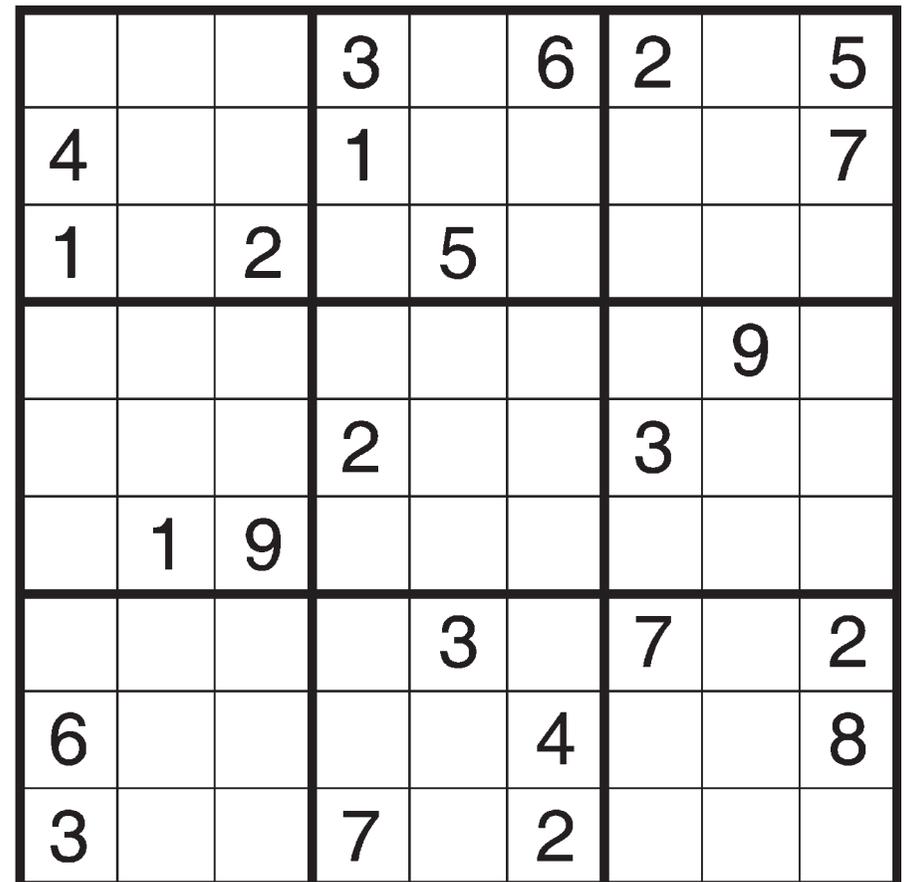
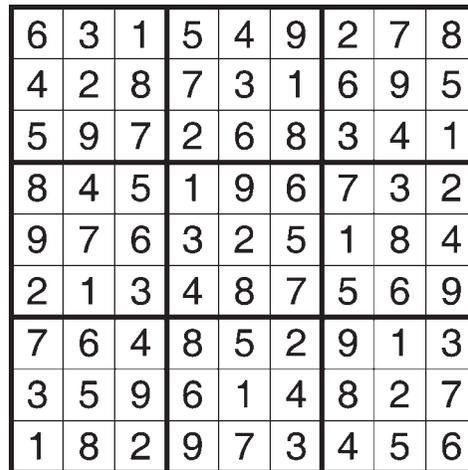
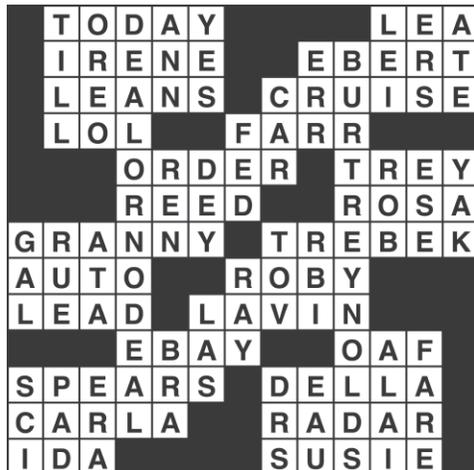
- 1 Pile up
- 2 "The \_\_\_"; reality dating series
- 3 Marcia Cross' "Desperate Housewives" role
- 4 "Say \_\_\_ to the Dress"
- 5 \_\_\_ 23: "The Lord is my shepherd..."
- 6 Unit of farmland

7 Unruly crowd

- 10 Phil Keoghan's reality series
- 11 Refrain syllables
- 12 "Norma \_\_\_"; Sally Field movie
- 13 "Ben-\_\_\_"; Charlton Heston film
- 15 Role on "The Golden Girls"
- 17 Actor Cariou
- 19 \_\_\_ Patrick Harris
- 20 Seep out
- 22 "The Odyssey" or "Paradise Lost"
- 23 \_\_\_ Esco of "S.W.A.T."
- 25 "The \_\_\_ Boat"
- 26 Milne's monogram
- 27 Beg
- 30 Lord & Palance
- 31 Actress Joan Van \_\_\_
- 33 Comedian Johnson & others
- 34 Word from Scrooge
- 36 Jethro Bodine's portrayer
- 37 Jon \_\_, once of "Chicago P.D."
- 39 Prefix for angle or pod
- 40 Darby or Delaney



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