

Ivy

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is to ensure every student has their textbooks on the first day of class,” Sue Ellspermann, Ivy Tech President, said in a statement. “Ivy+ makes us the only state institution that is not only freezing the cost of tuition, but significantly reducing the cost of attendance at a time when we need many more Hoosiers to earn a quality college credential to launch a high-wage career. Ivy Tech could not implement these innovative student-centered initiatives without the continued support of the Indiana General Assembly ensuring community college is accessible to all Hoosiers.”

As part of the Ivy+ rollout, according to Huskey, Ivy Tech will cover the cost of textbooks for students in the 2021-2022 academic year through the federal government’s Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

Students are encouraged to take 30 credit hours a year to receive the maximum benefit from the Ivy+ tuition model. For those who do not take 15 credit hours in the



Dr. Alex Huskey

fall and spring semester, the Summer-Flex program will allow students to take up to six credit hours in the summer at no additional cost.

“For students, it’s a huge win,” Huskey said. “We are really hoping that students will take advantage of this and be successful with it.”

Ivy+ will take effect beginning this coming fall, and Huskey is excited for the initiative to take hold.

“This is extremely exciting,” Huskey said. “My heart is with the community college and working with students and helping students find that pathway that leads them either to the workforce or a four-year institution with transfer credits. With this process, combined with our direct admits to four-year institutions, it really provides us an opportunity to better serve students in our communities.”

“It touches my heart, and it’s something that I think is very timely and very necessary.”

Fusion Arts Alliance announces series

Born from a belief in the power of art to unite and strengthen our own neighborhoods and communities, the Fusion Arts Alliance is excited to present Sounds of Summer, a free concert series to all residents of Grant County and surrounding areas.

Local and regional musicians will be performing on Monday evenings in June, July, and August, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Matter Park Band Shell in Matter Park, North River Road and North Quarry Road,



Marion. Rain location is Shelter 5, which is located next to the Band Shell.

This week will feature Robbie Rittman. Rittman is a singer/songwriter from Marion who grew up doing musicals, plays, sketch comedy, show choir, and more. Robbie at-

tended Indiana University and studied vocal jazz and filmmaking. He wrote his first song at the age of 23 when his father passed away. The song is called “My Little Man,” and it can be found on Spotify. Since 2018, he has been living in Los Angeles pursuing music.

Artisans and food vendors will be present at some concerts. Watch the group’s Facebook page for updates at <https://www.facebook.com/faasoundsofsummer>.

Email [info@fusionaa.org](mailto:info@fusionaa.org) for more information.

Operation Dry Water to target boating under influence July 2-4

Boaters preparing for Independence Day weekend should be aware that Indiana Conservation Officers will be on high alert for violations of boating-under-the-influence laws as part of Operation Dry Water.

Operation Dry Water, a year-round program, will be in heightened effect July 2–4.

Indiana Conservation Officers, in partnership with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and the U.S. Coast Guard, will focus on educating boaters about safe boating practices, including keeping alcohol off the boat, for both operators and passengers.

Officers will be on the lookout

for impaired boaters. Boaters will notice an overall increase in patrols, both on the water and at recreational boating checkpoints, to remove dangerous and impaired boaters from the waterways.

“Each year we are faced with incidents and tragedies that could have been avoided if it weren’t for the presence of drugs or alcohol,” says Indiana Boating Law Administrator Lt. Kenton Turner. “As a part of the community ourselves, we want to ensure that recreational boaters, paddlers, and anyone else enjoying our waterways have a safe place to spend their time.”

“That is why Indiana Conservation Officers are joining hundreds

of agencies nationwide to do our part in keeping boaters safe and preventing incidents and fatalities related to boating under the influence.”

Operating a vessel under the influence of drugs or alcohol is illegal on all bodies of water and can lead to serious injuries, death, and legal consequences. In Indiana, it is illegal to operate a vessel with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of 0.08% or higher. Indiana Conservation Officers remind boaters to always boat sober and to wear a life jacket when on or around the water.

Visit [operationdrywater.org](http://operationdrywater.org) for more information about boating under the influence.

CASA

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fare system as a funnel, we don’t control the input. We don’t have any control over or say in how many children come into the system. So, our concentration must be the output and how many children we are serving coming through that funnel.

“Our goal is to increase the number of children served versus the previous calendar year. In the 12 years I’ve been here, we have been able to accomplish that goal.”

Along with all of the success inside the organization itself, Hendricks credits the Marion community who has steadfastly supported CASA of Grant County throughout its history. CASA is never short of volunteers looking to make a difference in children’s lives, and that is a testament to the mission they continue to follow.

“Another way [we] have measured success is the belief in the community and the support that we consistently get through volunteers continually walking through our doors. In the 12 years, I have never had a time where there hasn’t been someone in our pipeline wanting to do this work. That, to me, is one of the greatest measures of success.

“We have remained a constant presence in our community for these vulnerable children. While the leadership changes and the



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

funding changes and the situations that bring children into the system change, the heart of our community has not, and that is a huge way that I can say we’ve been successful.”

While CASA is looking to continue to find sources of funding and remain true to its mission, Hendricks also stated that social media will be the key to CASA’s continued growth. In a world that is continually becoming more driven by technology and the Internet,

Hendricks plans to regularly update CASA’s social media accounts in order to gain more engagement from a more wired-in audience.

“We need to be willing and open to spending time making sure that our social media platform is relevant,” Hendricks said. “I have been working in this last week countless hours updating our website, making sure we are streaming the right things...making it fresh and not stale. In the past months, we have been

taking a strong focus on understanding that if we want to reach today’s population of volunteers and potential volunteers, we have to be present in that realm, and we have to be relevant.

“While our mission will remain the same, the way we are reaching people needs to be fresh and new.”

Despite all that, word of mouth, and that personal connection, will continue to be a large part of CASA’s mission. Hendricks believes that it is important to en-

courage community members to take the time to learn about CASA, and to talk to those in the community who may not know about the organization.

Now, with eyes toward the future, Hendricks plans to keep herself, and the organization, moving forward in order to keep serving children in need.

“I challenge my staff and my board and our volunteers that they truly are our best advertisement,” Hendricks said. “The personal

connection, the personal story, the personal conversation is what truly will bring someone to put their foot in this realm. While we can’t discuss specifics of cases, we can certainly talk about the role, and we can talk about the need.

“The best way to support us is to talk about us, and to make sure that people in our circles and in our tribes know that we exist and know why we are here.”

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